



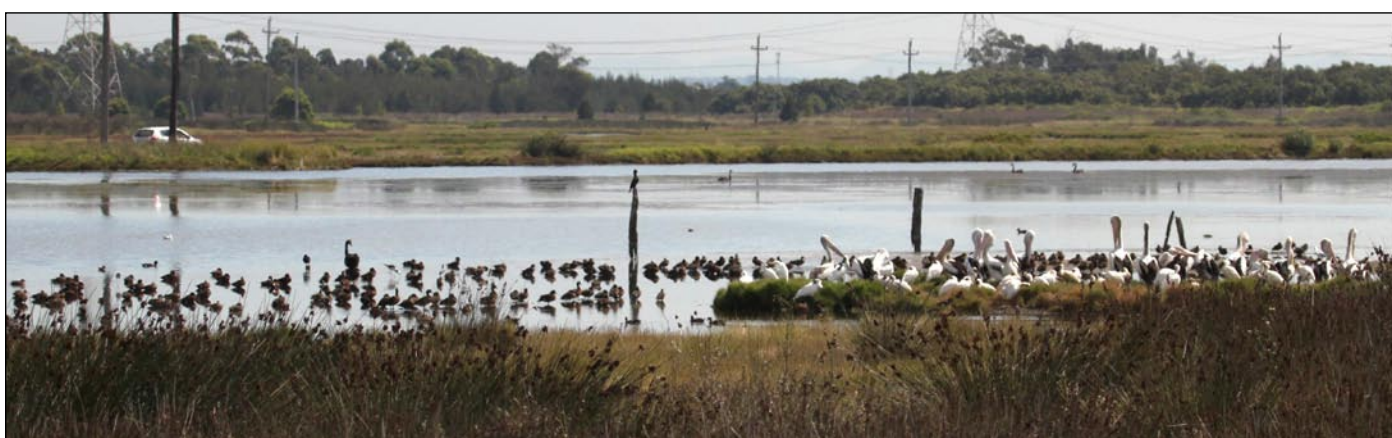
Newsletter

Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

The Club aims to:

- encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat;
- encourage bird observing as a leisure-time activity



Swan Pond on Ash Island wins reprieve from development as Fourth Coal Loader is down-sized (see p. 12). Photos - Ann Lindsey

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Please send Newsletter articles direct to the Editor,
Liz Crawford at: chrisliz@internode.on.net
Deadline for the next edition - 30 May 2013

HBOC postal address:
PO Box 24 New Lambton NSW 2305
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President's Column

I am penning this President's Column with a bit of a buzz in the air as just yesterday (14th April) we found another New Zealand Storm-Petrel on a pelagic trip run off Swansea. Until 2003, when the species was re-discovered off the New Zealand coast, it was only known from a few museum specimens collected during the mid 1800s and was considered likely to have been extinct. The rediscovery in 2003 caused a great deal of excitement in the scientific world, as it was as if an extinct bird had somehow simply come back to life. Subsequently the bird has been found regularly on birdwatching and scientific trips in New Zealand waters.

The first record in Australian waters was actually off the Hunter coastline, on 28 March 2010 when a single bird was recorded on a pelagic trip run out of Port Stephens. A second bird was seen the following day off Ulladulla and there have now been 8 sightings in Australian waters (including yesterday's bird off Swansea) comprising 18 birds. Most exciting however, is that a nesting location was finally found in February this year, when scientists located birds on Little Barrier Island in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, not far from Auckland.

To me, the story of the "NZ Stormy" is one of hope and discovery – with a dash of good and bad management and an element of mystery thrown in. Whilst the bird obviously never went extinct, it must have only just held on because to go unnoticed for 160 years is quite remarkable. One obvious reason was the pressure placed on breeding birds following the introduction of predators to many seabird breeding islands around New Zealand. But following the recent eradication of introduced predators from many of these islands,

including the one where NZ Stormies have been found nesting, they may be making a "comeback" of sorts. The sudden appearance of them on pelagic birding trips suggests that this is happening.

But there is still such an element of mystery and one could probably argue that the increase in the number of boats going to sea to look for birds, coupled with the advent of digital photography, could account for the sudden increase in observations.

Sometimes we just don't know for certain what birds get up to and although I'm an advocate of studying birds and gathering records etc, it is this "mystery" that I find so appealing about birding as a leisure-time activity.

Mick Roderick

Incidentally, that NZ Stormy seen on the recent Swansea pelagic brought up a significant birdwatching 'milestone' for one of our Life Members. It was the 400th species seen by Ann Lindsey in the Hunter Region and by doing so, she has become the first person to reach this impressive total. Congratulations Ann!

New Zealand Storm-Petrel off the Hunter Region.
Photo - Allan Richardson



(Editor's note: In his 2012 book *Shorebirds of New Zealand - Sharing the Margins*, Keith Woodley writes eloquently about the demise of endemic New Zealand birds due to the pressures of introduced predators and habitat modification. But he also writes about the sometimes harmonious relationships between people and birds - and articulates some of the mysteries.)

HBOC Committee for 2013

President	Mick Roderick 0421 761 237	Committee Members
Vice President	Allan Richardson 4977 2508	Paul Baird 4938 5039
Secretary	Kristy Peters 0438 328 049	Hayley Boyce 0421 175 922
Treasurer	Joy Nicholls 4957 3612	Lucas Grenadier 4962 1987
Membership Secretary	Rob Kyte 4961 6211	Rob Kyte 4961 6211
Records Officers	Alan Stuart (Outings records) 4952 8569	Greg Little 4955 6609
	Dan Williams (Club Night and Hunterbirding observations) 0408 023 262	Lorna Mee 4988 6579

Meeting Highlights - JW Lewin Painter and Naturalist

John William Lewin was born in England in 1770, and arrived in Sydney in January 1800. In 1813, as author, illustrator, printmaker and natural historian, he created the first illustrated book ever published in Australia - *Birds of New South Wales*. He died in Sydney in 1819.

During March to May 2012, an exhibition titled '*Lewin: Wild Art*', was held at the State Library of New South Wales. Richard Neville's book, **Mr J W Lewin Painter and Naturalist**, was published by the National Library of Australia in 2012 to coincide with this exhibition.

The National Library of Australia catalogue states:

"Featuring more than 150 exquisite artworks, *Mr JW Lewin Painter and Naturalist* takes a fascinating look at Lewin's life and work, his place in colonial Australian society and the natural history craze that swept the world at that time. When Lewin arrived in New South Wales in 1800, the fledgling colony was by no means a favoured destination for artistic, ambitious Englishmen. Yet to Lewin, Australia was simply 'the finest country in the world', and it offered him the respectability and social standing he could never have found in England. Written by Richard Neville, Mitchell Librarian at the State Library of New South Wales, this book is a visually stunning testament to Lewin's artistic legacy."

[The book is available for loan from Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Public Libraries.]

This book follows Lewin's life, activities, and engagements with others and is liberally illustrated with his paintings, etchings and sketches of birds, plants, other animals and insects, portraits and landscapes. Lewin had a new approach to image-making, locating his subject in the context of its environment. In many ways his work prefigured by a couple of decades the illustrations of ornithologists such as John James Audubon or John Gould. Other contemporary artists are included, providing a comparison with Lewin's style and quality of his work. The text is a lively description of his life and times, and the colony's early history.

Lewin's own naming of birds was charmingly literal, and he relied on others to give Linnaean names to his subjects. Here is a list of some of the bird illustrations in the book with the names Lewin attributed to them, sometimes two names for the same bird in different paintings. Can you guess the names we use today?

Helen Windon



Golden Whistler by JW Lewin

	Name in Lewin's time
1	Botany Bay Creeper
2	Short-billed Tit
3	Black Crown'd Thrush
4	The Night Hawk
5	Yellow-eared Honeyeater
6	Blue Face Honeyeater
7	Golden Crowned Honeyeater
8	Warty faced Honeyeater
9	Australian Nuthatch
10	Crested Thrush
11	Crested Shrike
12	Mountain Bee-eater
13	Variiegated Warbler
14	King Honeyeater
15	Squatter Pigeon
16	Jabiru
17	White-breasted Honeyeater
18	Scarlet Creeper
19	Yellow-breasted Thrush
20	Beautiful Wren
21	Blue Wren

For answers see below

New Members

The Club extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Susan Besant and John Fisher of Seaham
 Mary and Barbara Calcott of Mayfield
 Kath Casey of Warners Bay
 Tom Kendall of Rankin Park
 Trevor Murray of Soldiers Point
 Bob Rech of Hawks Nest
 Kate Simpson of Birmingham Gardens
 Judy Smith of Morisset
 Carol Trevanion of Bolton Point

We hope to meet you at Club meetings and outings.

	Current Names	11	Crested Shrike-tit
1	Scarlet Honeyeater	12	Rainbow Bee-eater
2	Buff-rumped Thornbill	13	Variiegated Fairy-wren
3	Golden Whistler	14	Regent Bowerbird
4	Tawny Frogmouth	15	Common Bronzewing
5	Lewin's Honeyeater	16	Black-necked Stork
6	Blue-faced Honeyeater	17	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater
7	Regent Bowerbird	18	Scarlet Honeyeater
8	Regent Honeyeater	19	Eastern Yellow Robin
9	Variied Sittella	20	Variiegated Fairy-wren
10	Crested Shrike-tit	21	Superb Fairy-wren

Meeting Highlights - Flagged shorebirds in the Hunter Estuary

Regular searching for flagged shorebirds in the Hunter Estuary over the last two non-breeding seasons (September to March) has revealed some interesting migration patterns for Bar-tailed Godwit. Since 1990, this species has been regularly flagged in both Victoria (orange flags) and New Zealand (white flags). An international protocol determines the colour of flags for each banding site or country. Birds banded in NSW wear orange-over-green flags. To distinguish individual shorebirds, banders applied colour bands (in addition to flags) in particular combinations from about 2004. Since 2005, engraved leg flags have been used to identify individual birds. These are like small number plates that may be read using a telescope or binoculars in good conditions.

The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds (HANZAB) states that shorebirds on southward migration arrive in eastern Queensland in early August, with temporary influxes on the east coast until November. This suggests that birds may move down the coast to their preferred non-breeding sites in stages. In 2011, the first increase in the over-wintering population of Bar-tailed Godwits the Hunter Estuary (about 190 birds) was noted in mid-September, indicating the first arrival of birds on southward migration. By mid-October 2011 there were about 850 Bar-tailed Godwits in the Hunter Estuary. A similar pattern was seen in 2012.

The first **flagged** Bar-tailed Godwit was detected in the Hunter Estuary on 27 September in 2011 and on 26 September in 2012 – remarkably similar timing! Over the next four weeks, 18 flagged Bar-tailed Godwit arrived in the Hunter Estuary in 2011 and 19 in 2012, along with hundreds of unmarked godwits. Six of these flagged birds were repeat visitors.

The flagged birds generally stayed for one to two weeks before most departed the estuary, presumably continuing their southward migration to Victoria and New Zealand (where the majority had been flagged). Hundreds of unmarked birds must have staged for similar periods in the estuary but without the flagged birds to tell the story, we would not be able to detect this staging as the total population quickly built up to and stayed around 900 birds.

Satellite tracking has shown that Bar-tailed Godwits flying south from their breeding grounds in Alaska usually make a long non-stop trans-Pacific flight direct to NZ or eastern Australia (see Figure 1). If the NZ-bound birds meet adverse weather conditions, they may divert westwards to eastern Australia, staging somewhere before continuing their flight to their final non-breeding destination in NZ. In 2011, only 2 of the

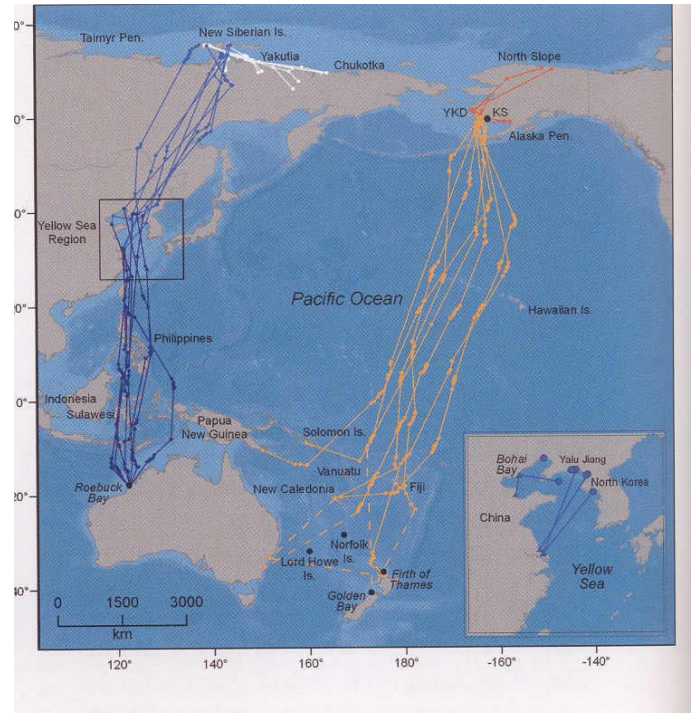
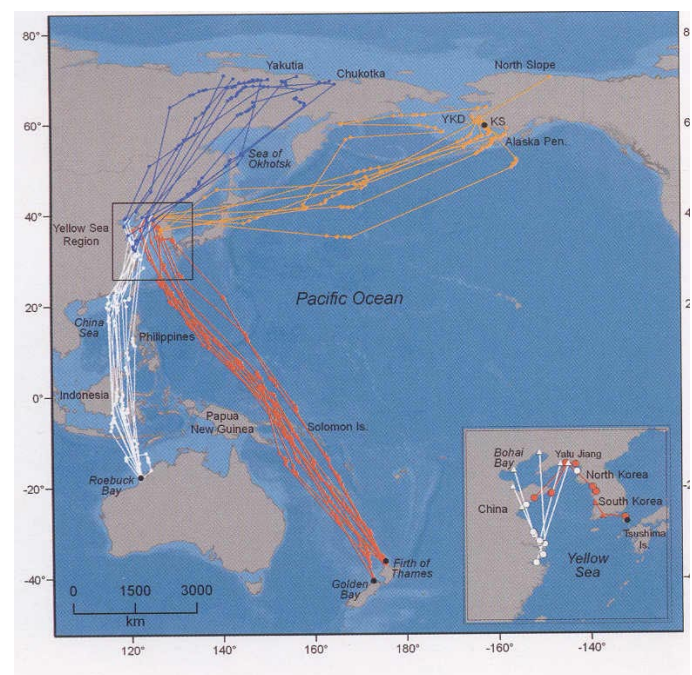


Figure 1 (above): Southward migration routes for Bar-tailed Godwit. *Menzbieri* subspecies follows the white and blue routes; *baueri*, the subspecies that comes to the east coast of Australia and New Zealand, is shown by the red and orange routes. Figure from US Geological Survey

Figure 2 (below): Northward migration routes for Bar-tailed Godwit. *Menzbieri* subspecies follows the white and blue routes; *baueri*, the subspecies that comes to the east coast of Australia and New Zealand, is shown by the red and orange routes. Figure from US Geological Survey



Flagged shorebirds in the Hunter Estuary cont.

18 flagged Bar-tailed Godwits had been banded in New Zealand but in 2012, 6 of the 19 flagged birds had been banded in NZ. Perhaps these birds had been affected by adverse weather conditions during their southward migration, forcing them to divert west to Australia to rest for a while before continuing their migration to NZ.

Only four flagged birds stayed in the Hunter Estuary for the whole 2011-2012 non-breeding season. The same four birds stayed for the whole 2012-2013 non-breeding season, showing strong site fidelity. Three of these birds had been banded in the Hunter Estuary in 2004 for honours research projects; the fourth had been banded in 1996 in Victoria as a young bird - it is now more than 19 years old.

New Zealand researchers have found that mature Bar-tailed Godwits are very site faithful, returning to the same non-breeding site year after year, whereas immature birds may wander between non-breeding sites, not settling on a site until after they have made their first breeding flight to the northern hemisphere, usually in their second year.

During northward migration in March-April 2012, no new flagged Bar-tailed Godwit appeared in the Hunter Estuary, suggesting that birds on northward migration fly direct from their non-breeding sites to the Yellow Sea, the first major staging site en route to the breeding grounds (see Figure 2). This long non-stop flight has been demonstrated by godwits from New Zealand fitted with satellite transmitters to track their progress. However, in March 2013, a new flagged Bar-tailed Godwit arrived in the Hunter Estuary. Fortunately this bird bore an engraved leg flag so its banding history could be revealed - it had been banded in Victoria in December 2012 in its first year. It is unlikely that this young bird will migrate to the breeding grounds this year. Instead, it is probably wandering between non-breeding sites before it makes its first full northward migration to the breeding grounds in March 2014.

Please report your sightings of flagged shorebirds to the Australasian Wader Study Group - their website has an on-line form. Alternatively, report your sightings to me and I will gladly pass them on to the AWSG.

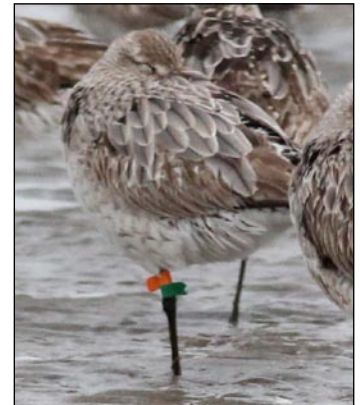
Liz Crawford

Right: Bar-tailed Godwit flagged and colour banded in New Zealand.

Below: Bar-tailed Godwit with engraved orange leg flag SY banded in Victoria. Both these birds passed through the Hunter Estuary in October on southward migration.



Right: These three flagged Bar-tailed Godwit stayed in the Hunter Estuary for the entire non-breeding season in 2011/12 and 2012/13. Two birds with orange-over-green flags were banded in the Hunter Estuary in 2004. The orange-flagged bird was banded in Victoria in 1996 when it was 2 years old. It is now 19 years old. Note the unique notches in the flags which distinguish these birds. Photos - Chris Herbert



Activity Reports

Blue Gum Hills Regional Park, Minmi & Pambalong Nature Reserve

Tuesday 5 February 2013

For our first outing of the New Year we had a large group of 25 birders at Blue Gum Hills Regional Park. We started our walk near the cemetery area and then continued up to the picnic area, finally going down the tracks to the old chimney stack.

Some of the birds seen were Buff-banded Rail, Eastern Rosella, Sacred Kingfisher, Satin Bowerbird, Superb Fairy-wren, Yellow and Brown Thornbills, Eastern Spinebill, Lewin's and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Bell Miner, Crested Shrike-tit, Golden Whistler, Grey Fantail, Rufous Fantail, Silvereye and Red-browed Finch.

After morning tea we proceeded to Pambalong Lagoon, stopping first at the top of the hill overlooking the water. The first sightings were two Wandering Whistling-Duck, followed by Chestnut Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Hardhead, Australasian Grebe, Eastern Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Cattle Egret, White-breasted Woodswallow, Purple Swamphen and Black Swan.

We moved down to the parking area and walked along the roadway where we added to our list White-faced Heron, Straw-necked Ibis, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Australian Hobby, Masked Lapwing, Sacred Kingfisher, Dollarbird, Variegated Fairy-wren, Southern Emu-wren, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Grey and Pied Butcherbirds, Eastern Yellow Robin, Golden-headed Cisticola, Australian Reed-Warbler, Tawny and Little Grassbirds, Brown Quail, and more White-breasted Woodswallows.

A total of 66 species were seen and two heard for the morning's outing.

Val and Don Moon

Port Stephens Waterbirds Survey

11 February 2013

Doesn't time roll around quickly! All of a sudden it's mid February and time once again for the summer survey of Port Stephens waterbirds. For anyone who is not familiar with these surveys, we do a boat-based survey of all the important habitat for waterbirds (especially waders) in the Port. The survey is done in conjunction with the National Parks & Wildlife Service and also assisted by the Great Lakes-Port Stephens Marine Park Authority. Those organisations provide most of the boats and the skippers – we just have to kick back, count birds, and enjoy ourselves! Afterwards, we all assemble at the

NPWS office in Nelson Bay to debrief while enjoying lunch overlooking the marina complex. This year, there were 13 surveyors from HBOC, in 6 boats.

On the eve of the survey, the weather forecast was a bit worrying, with gusty winds blowing and some possibility of rain. On the day itself, although there was a stiff breeze all morning, the conditions were reasonable (not too much spray into the boats) and we had no rain.

Although once again we found large numbers of Australian Pied Oystercatchers, the tally of 123 birds was our lowest since 2008 and a far cry from 2012's exciting summer tally of 194 birds. Just the same, Port Stephens is without doubt still the Pied Oystercatcher capital of NSW. In recent years we've also noticed that it's becoming increasingly important for Sooty Oystercatcher, and this year's count of 42 birds is easily the highest we've had (for either summer or winter).

The situation for migratory shorebirds causes concern. Eastern Curlews and Whimbrels were present in about their average numbers for summer but there were only about half as many Bar-tailed Godwits as we normally find, and hardly any of the small waders except for Grey-tailed Tattlers in reasonable numbers. Port Stephens continues to be an important site for tattlers.

As usual there were lots of cormorants, of all four types, and modest to good numbers of several other waterbirds e.g. Australian Pelicans. Little Black Cormorants were present in the highest-ever numbers we've recorded – almost 500 birds.

Alan Stuart

The Basin, Watagan Mountains

Sunday 17 February 2013

Weather was great for the HBOC field outing to The Basin in the southwest of the Watagan Mountains. We had a great roll up of folk, 24 in all, with quite a few new faces along, and the outing was well supported by regular members. Leeches were around but we were well prepared and only a few found a meal. We followed an easy loop track along the rainforest-lined creek and back through dry sclerophyll forest.

Thirty-eight bird species were recorded, and although we didn't have a huge diversity of birds there was a spattering of birds that don't occur outside mountainous habitats and some nice views of rainforest specialist species for those who hadn't seen them well before.

Highlights were:

- 2 Crested Shrike-tits
- 3 Red-browed Treecreepers
- Large-billed Scrubwrens in good numbers
- 2 Black-faced Monarchs
- Rose Robins

Activity Reports cont.

Logrunner and Bassian Thrush were heard once (a little late in the morning for them to be very vocal)

Conspicuous by their absence:

Raptors

Cuckoos

Cockatoos (although a chewed *Allocasuarina* cone was found indicating recent presence of Glossy Black-Cockatoos)

Green Catbirds (a little late in the morning for them as well I guess)

Fairy-wrens

Cuckoo-shrikes

Other sightings:

My daughter found a Pink-tongued Skink (her cup runneth over)

A couple of the guys saw a rat running up a tree and there were some significant swirls in the creek that looked suspiciously like an aquatic mammal, possibly Platypus - they've been seen here before.

Allan Richardson

Seaham Wetlands and *Wattlewood*

Tuesday 5 March 2013

Some members had to negotiate their way around flood waters, but 24 of us finally arrived at Seaham Wetlands. A good array of birds were seen. On the water - a lone Magpie Goose, 5 Nankeen Night -herons and 4 Royal Spoonbills. One White-throated Needletail and 5 White-headed Pigeons were spotted overhead - 36 species in all.

We then moved on to *Wattlewood*, a wooded property at Seaham which Pam and Norol Hill have preserved in its natural state just for the birds. And they have done a wonderful job! We saw Crested Shrike-tits, Black-faced Monarchs, a Varied Sittella and heard several Cicadabirds and Little Lorikeets calling. The usual suspects - Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, Eastern Yellow Robins and Grey Fantails were also seen. In total we saw 46 species there and heard 6 more. Thank you Pam and Norol for sharing your piece of paradise with us.

Some of us finished the day near Woodville bridge searching for the raptors that Mike Newman had reported seeing the day before. The only one we saw was a Nankeen Kestrel but we were amazed at the number of Straw-necked Ibis present. Our estimates ranged from 800 to 1000.

Margaret Stewart

Myuna Bay

Tuesday 2 April 2013

Upon arriving at Myuna Bay on a sunny autumn morning, we were pleased to see over 100 Black Swans near the water's edge. Soon after we saw a Striated Heron and as we crossed the footbridge behind the Recreation Centre we sighted two Nankeen Night-Herons high up in the trees.

We continued along the walking track up to the power station outlet canal where we saw Bar-shouldered Dove, Australian White Ibis, Galah, Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, King Parrot, Eastern Rosella, Superb Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrubwren, Yellow Thornbill, Spotted Pardalote, Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Eastern Whipbird, Golden Whistler, Olive-backed Oriole, White-breasted Woodswallow, Magpie-lark, Grey and Pied Butcherbird, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail and Welcome Swallow.

Along the edge of the canal were Eastern Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Australian Pelican, White-faced Heron, Silver Gull and Crested Tern. In the dead trees where the canal joins the lake were many cormorants, a Darter, another Eastern Great Egret and two more White-faced Herons. Flying overhead were two White-bellied Sea-Eagles and near the nest in the tall pine tree on the southern side of the canal we had good views of three Whistling Kites.

A good morning with 54 different species seen.

Val Moon

Macquarie Marshes (*Willie Retreat*)

Easter - 28 March to 1 April 2013

Along with 13 other birdwatchers, we arrived at *Willie Retreat* on Thursday 28 March. There seemed to be a lot of birds around the camp and on the drive in, but not much bird watching was done on the Thursday. On Friday a group of us went out to check out the reed beds at Monkeygar Creek, which some of the group had visited the day before. Highlights from this site over the weekend included a flock of over 150 Australian Shelducks seen on multiple occasions with some birds close enough to get photos. Other highlights included Brolga; Spotted, Spotless and Baillon's Crakes; Black-tailed Native-hen; and many more water birds. Also seen there were Black Falcon and Spotted Harrier as well as many other birds of prey.

After a long stop at the reed beds, we went a few

Activity Reports cont.

kilometres further along Gibson Way to look at some woodland. Here we spotted Double-barred Finches, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike and Diamond Firetail. Similar birds were seen here two days later when a bigger group came and looked at the area. On Friday afternoon, after the rest of the 33 people had arrived and while the new ones were setting up, the rest of us went along Carinda Road to the pig dam opposite the property know as *The Mole*. There were heaps of ducks here but most exciting was a group of Red-kneed Dotterels. We organised for most of the group to go out the next day with 11 cars in convoy. Our first stop was the above-mentioned dam, where there were mostly the same birds.

Next we travelled about 30km north and stopped at a place I call the culverts. We were birding along the road when the owner drove past and said we could go onto their property. We continued to bird along the road for a bit, which was showing up some nice small birds like Western Gerygone and our only Grey Fantails. We went down the track into the property and as we got to the gate a small flock of Plum-headed Finches showed up. I decided to go back and tell the people that were back with the cars what was there and most of the group were able to see the flock of over 20 finches. Some came back in the afternoon to get a better look. Others tried in the following days but no finches were seen; instead they spotted some Pale-headed Rosellas.

After this we stopped further up the road for morning tea, and then headed to Carinda for some birding near town. On the way there was a sudden stop as a Black-breasted Buzzard flew over! People in the front few cars got to see but the rest missed out. At the next stop, just as we reached town, we turned left along a dirt road and down there in the Leopardwood trees we had Red-capped Robin, Western Gerygone, Singing Honeyeater and Chestnut-crowned Babblers. The next stop was pretty quiet but did have a brief fly-over by 4 Painted Honeyeaters, so we went into Carinda for lunch (I highly recommend the take-away shop) and petrol. Lastly we went to the TSR just east of Carinda. Highlights there were Crested Bellbird, Hooded Robin, Southern Whiteface and Singing Honeyeater.

The next day we went back along Gibson Way, seeing much the same species as on Friday. As there was a lot of driving some birds were seen on the drives, particularly hundreds of Budgies, Cockatiels, Apostlebirds, Yellow-throated Miner, Little Crow and Zebra Finch. Other interesting birds seen while driving included Red-winged Parrot, Diamond Dove, Blue Bonnet, Mallee Ringneck and Peaceful Dove. Around the camp there were 4 highlights: Spotted Bowerbird and its bower, Hooded

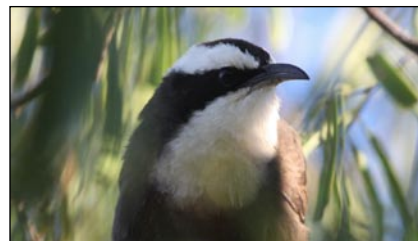
Robin, Brown Treecreeper and Restless Flycatcher. Another highlight was the large number of raptors with 15 species being recorded and large numbers (over 20) of Brown Falcon, Nankeen Kestrel, Whistling Kite and Black Kite. A total of 159 species was seen over the 6 days.

Robert McDonald

Bowra Station

2 - 5 April 2013

Bowra Station near Cunnamulla was the destination for the Post-Easter Migration for HBOC. One was aware of crossing the Queensland border - my car temperature gauge said 37°C on arrival. There were 12 members camping around the homestead lagoon or in the shearers' quarters. The bird life was sparse but for Novocastrians the change was interesting. Highlights for me were: Grey-headed and Painted Honeyeaters; Major Mitchell Cockatoos; Blue Bonnets; Mulga, Bourke's and Red-winged Parrots; Inland Thornbills; Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush; Hall's and Chestnut-crowned Babblers; Brown and White-browed Treecreepers; Crested Bellbirds.



From top:
Grey-headed
Honeyeater;
Painted Honeyeater;
Hall's Babbler;
Spotted Bowerbird.
Photos - Bruce
Hosken

Activity Reports cont.



Overall the area was dry and places familiar to some like Sawpit and Gum Holes Waterholes had low water levels. The numbers of waterbirds were down but most members had seen good numbers in the Macquarie Marshes prior to *Bowra*. Even the seed eaters were few in number. The largest flock of Budgerigar I saw was 15 and Zebra Finches were only seen in small numbers. Pigeons and doves were dominated by Crested Pigeon (27 in one group) but Peaceful and Diamond Doves were frequent in smaller groups. Common Bronzewing was seen rarely. Raptors were of the expected species but again few in number. Unfortunately no Grey Falcons this time.



Clockwise from top: Major Mitchell's Cockatoo; Little Woodswallows; Blue Bonnet. Photos - Bruce Hosken

With the western Queensland heat making us perspire, bird-watching mileage dropped off and sitting around the lagoon in the shade of a gum tree was attractive. Here there were good numbers of Native Hen, attractive to a swooping Swamp Harrier. Restless Flycatchers were fabulous to watch and in an hour one devoured seven dragonflies. White-breasted Woodswallows were showing fledglings how to hunt on the wing. In the evenings the parrots would drink. The biggest flock of Galahs was 10 and Major Mitchells 8. The Red-rumped Parrots seem to have adapted to the homestead area and are commonly seen.

The robins were represented by Hooded and Red-capped but the numbers were low as were the fairy-wrens, Splendid White-winged, and Variegated all seen but all less than families of three.

Overall the *Bowra* experience was fun and HBOC shared it with a group of bird banders using mist nets so it was interesting to see how they operate and discuss how they plan to study the *Bowra* birds

Bruce Hosken

Future Activities

Capertee Tree Planting for Regent Honeyeater Habitat

2013 marks the 20th year of operation of BirdLife Australia's Capertee Valley Regent Honeyeater recovery project, a project which has been dependent for its success on the efforts of our valued volunteers. Why not celebrate the occasion by joining us in the beautiful Capertee Valley at one, or both, of the two tree-planting weekends planned for the year; on **4-5 May** and **August 17-18**. We hope to see as many of you as possible. Assistance is always needed to help in laying out plants the day before the planting, so if anyone is able to come a day early that would be greatly appreciated.

Please email southernsw@birdlife.org.au or contact Pixie on 0429 464403 or 4376 1001 to register .

Iain Patterson

Red-browed Finch Behaviour in an Urban Situation

My first experiences with the Red-browed Finch occurred during the period 1986 - 2006, when they were common in the creek-side paddock of our Glen Oak property (near Clarence Town). They were found frequently foraging in exposed areas and in close vegetation during most of the year. Nests were found in the smaller trees during the breeding season. Walks around the Jerrabomberra Wetlands reserve in Canberra during 2005 - 2006, introduced me to their habit of foraging in open areas near bush shelter and intermittently suddenly flying into the vegetation in large flocks.

The *Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds* (p.528) described the Red-browed Finch as "*the tamest of the Australian grass finches and it has been able to move into parks and gardens in towns and cities*", a characteristic experienced locally since moving to Ashtonfield in 2006. This had probably been recognized as early as the 1930s, in the days of acclimatisation societies when Eastham Guild released 7000 birds of 59 species in Tahiti including Red-browed Finches, reported in Tim Low's (2001) *Feral Future: The Untold Story of Australia's Exotic Invaders* (Penguin Books)!!!!

After moving here, Heather and I used to take walks around the nearby three small wetlands and a mixed open and bushy woodland. We often flushed flocks of Red-browed Finches from foraging along the open grassy shores or open grassy paths to denser vegetation or see them crossing a path between two sides of heavy foliage. However, from about 2009 onwards, our property attracted increased attention from the Red-browed. At first it was mainly a case of flocks feeding on short grass seed-heads in our back lawn, as well the neighbours' front lawns, or feeding on the nature strip with occasional drinking from the perpetually wet gutter and flying into hiding in the garden's shrubbery.

Although I had found nests in the breeding seasons at Glen Oak, I had never seen any specific courting or nesting behaviour until we had moved to Ashtonfield. One day in 2011, during a walk around the nearby wetland, I observed a very small, wren-sized bird, hopping around the foreshore carrying a fluffy duck feather in its beak. Binoculars revealed an adult Red-browed Finch. It took off and flew into a nearby vacant block containing a few trees, shrubs and grassy open spaces. This was a prelude to my observing frequent breeding behaviours up to the present day.

As our front gardens matured, Red-browed Finches made increasing use of the gardens and the nature strip and in the 2011/12 nesting season, a pair nested in *Callistemon Bonfire*. Clear view of the nest was obscured by the density of the foliage. On 2 April 2012, I was able to photograph a fluffed-up adult perched near the nest and later observed two fluffed-up adults perched cuddled together deep in the callistemon. On 4 April 2012 I saw a juvenile on the ground in the garden in front of the callistemon, begging from the nearby adult. I recognised it as a juvenile because of the meagre red



From top:
Red-browed Finches
sheltering in *Melaleuca* after
foraging on nature strip
- September 2009;
Juvenile begging from adult
- April 2012;
Flock foraging on back lawn
- July 2011;
Flock enjoying front garden
bird bath.
Photos - Max Maddock



touch only on the brow and a small red patch under the tail. The adult flew closer to feed the youngster and I caught it on camera as it landed.

From 2012 onwards, Red-browed activity expanded to almost daily visits, from single birds up to significant flocks. They used the two front garden bird baths as single birds, groups, or community bathing with one or more honeyeaters, wrens, Magpie-larks and Willie Wagtails. The common foraging in flocks on the back lawn became far less. They were replaced by increasing visits to the front gardens. Small and large groups foraged in open areas, and to our areas of *Native Violet* ground cover, and tall grassed growth mingled with shrubs along the front of the house, as well as the next-door neighbour's front lawn. Foraging the patches of seed heads on long stalks proved very attractive but I also frequently watched birds struggling to pull off long stalks and fly off with them, suggesting that they were being used for nest building.

Red-browed Finch Behaviour in an Urban Situation cont.

Resorting to the old faithful reference, *Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds* (p.528) I found the following:

"During courtship the male holds a long grass stem at one end while adopting a stiff, upright posture and jumps up and down while slowly approaching the female from the side. The female puts her head back, the male drops his stem and sings and wipes his beak, followed by copulation."

During the period from October 2012 to late January 2013, I watched, and occasionally managed to photograph, many dancing performances of a lone bird, or one dancing while under the scrutiny of another bird close by, on the branch above the bird bath immediately adjacent to the vegetation of *Callistemon Taree Pink*. Some dropped the grass and disappeared into the shrubbery, while others flew off and disappeared across the street towards the bush. Often a pair was seen, one carrying a piece of long grass, flying into one of the street trees nearby. A neighbour reported that a pair of Red-browed was nesting in a tree in front of his house. A walk from home of about 100m to inspect trees close to the small wetland, revealed four nests in the one tree. The pattern of collecting nesting material and flying off from our gardens towards the trees near the wetland is compatible with an assumption that at least some of the material originated from our gardens. I watched three adults involved in constructing a new nest in *Callistemon Bonfire* in our front garden using material from close to the dancing branch. Three adults were observed in the activity but failed to complete the nest although it was nearly finished.

On 18 December 2012, I was lucky to be close enough with the camera to the branch over the bird bath to catch a male with his long dancing stalk (see photo). He dropped the stalk, went into the shadowy dark area just behind, the female appeared from the inner depths of the *Callistemon* and the copulation was successfully achieved. The procedure was not quite as rigidly implied in the *Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds* (p.528). Hopefully, future long-term observations will help unravel the various versions. Unfortunately my extreme deafness prevented me from enjoying the behavioural singing.

During visits to Walka Waterworks between June and November in 2012, many Red-browed Finches were recorded in various locations along the track around the lake, performing their typical foraging behaviour in open areas and dense shrubbery. On the 1st August a pair was photographed cuddled together in a tree, suggesting courting behaviour. The *Reader's Complete Book of Australian Birds* states that the Red-browed nest "in the south September-November; and in north January-April". I found their statement obscure: north or south of where? For example, on 28 October 2012, a Red-browed was photographed gathering a beak full of dry grass and flew off across the street. On 8 January



Left: Male Red-browed Finch about to drop the long grass stalk used during courtship and move into the dark shrubbery to copulate - December 2012;
Below: Gathering nesting material from front garden for nest construction - October 2012.
Photos - Max Maddock



2013, one pulled up a long green stalk of grass from the garden in front of the front door and flew off to an unknown destination. The 18 December 2012 dance photo and observed copulation photo in this article clearly demonstrated nesting behaviour. On 21 March 2013, another one gathered a beak full of fine green grass stalks from the same garden, and flew directly across the street to disappear into the foliage of the street tree which had carried a nest before. If the 1st August Walka Waterworks cuddling episode is accepted as a breeding event, the five incidents were typical of nesting behaviours embracing the period August to March. One was in the 'south' category, with one earlier (August) and one later (December). The other two were within the 'north' category.

On 25 March 2012, the flock of Red-browed Finches foraging and bathing in the front gardens included two juveniles (no red on head or face). Since then, there has been an unprecedented continuous foraging for grass seeds, including tall and short stalks and in blankets of low creepers and wide-spread native violets, as well as foraging along the continuously wet gutter beside the nature strip. There has also been puzzling activity for unidentified reasons deep in the dense foliage of trees and shrubs. On 10 March 2013 I watched an impressive hummingbird-type of hovering by an adult chasing unidentified targets at the edge of *Grevillea sericea* before the bird disappeared into the depths of the shrub. The *Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds* (p. 528) states that "they feed on a large variety of ripe and half ripe grass seeds, small herbs, berries and insects". Could the hummingbird hover be a chase for insects? It certainly doesn't fit foraging for ripe and half ripe grass seeds, small herbs, berries. More puzzling questions to answer have been raised.

Max Maddock

Conservation Wins for the Hunter

PWCS Proposed Coal Terminal T4

Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS), proponents of T4, the proposed fourth Coal Terminal for Newcastle Port, announced recently that development of T4 was no longer economically viable. Instead, the company is now investigating expanding its coal-handling capacity at its existing site on Kooragang Island. This is good news for Swan Pond, important shorebird and waterbird habitat on Ash Island, and for Deep Pond, similarly important habitat on Kooragang Island. Both these areas would have been adversely affected by the T4 development. PWCS was committed to provide habitat offsets for destruction of these areas. It has already purchased Ellalong Lagoon to preserve the wetland as a waterbird refuge, as partial compensation for the proposed infilling of Deep Pond. PWCS has also purchased land at Tomago, adjacent to the Hunter Wetlands National Park, for creation of shorebird habitat, as compensation for proposed encroachment on Swan Pond and Deep Pond. It is hoped that both Ellalong Lagoon and Tomago will remain as habitat offsets for future expansion of the existing PWCS coal terminal and that creation of shorebird habitat at Tomago will continue.

Warkworth Mine Extension

The proposed expansion of Warkworth Mine, approved by the NSW Planning Department in February 2012, was disapproved by the NSW Land and Environment Court on 15 April 2013. The court upheld an appeal by the Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association against the NSW Minister for Planning and the NSW Department of Planning. This comprehensive determination is a major win for the environment. It provides a coherent, logical assessment of the inadequacies of the proposed biodiversity offsets (most of which were over 50km away from the area in completely different ecological communities) and other aspects of the proposed open-cut mine extension. Ann Lindsey, HBOC's Conservation Officer at the time of a public Commission of Inquiry into the proposed mine extension, made a passionate and articulate plea for conservation of habitat for the threatened woodland bird species known to occur in the area, habitat already identified as an Endangered Ecological Community. The proposed destruction of a previously agreed 'Non-disturbance Area' at Warkworth made a mockery of the conservation offsets made by mining companies – they are apparently not 'in perpetuity' but only preserved as long as the coal beneath them is uneconomic to mine.

In his determination, the Land and Environment Court Judge stated:

“...the Project would be likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity, including on the four endangered ecological communities, but in particular on Warkworth Sands Woodland, which impacts would not be mitigated by the Project or by the proposed conditions of approval. I am not persuaded, on the evidence before the Court, that the biodiversity offsets and other compensatory measures proposed by Warkworth are appropriate or feasible or would be likely to compensate for the significant biological diversity impacts. I find, therefore, that the Project will have significant and unacceptable impacts on biological diversity that are not able to be avoided, mitigated or compensated.”

“The ecological communities are not the same in the disturbance area compared to the remote biodiversity areas and hence there is not like-for-like offsetting... It is not appropriate to trade offsets across different ecological communities. Where a project impacts on a specific ecological community, any offset must relate to that same ecological community which is impacted. The consequence is that the majority of the biodiversity areas proposed in Warkworth's offset package as direct offsets do not achieve the fundamental objective of improving or maintaining the viability of the EECs impacted by the Project.”

The decision argues logically and coherently against the NSW Planning Minister's previous approval of the Warkworth Extension, which would have cleared a significant area of Warkworth Sands Woodland, would have open-cut part of a previously-agreed conservation area and added considerably to the noise and dust levels of the Bulga-Milbrodale area. In other words, it would have allowed the mining company to dig up a habitat conservation area set aside as an offset for the existing Warkworth Mine! The decision also highlights the inadequacy of proposed offsets that do not support the same ecological communities as those being destroyed.

The Environment Defenders Office, which represented the Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association, deserves our support.

The determination can be found at the following link:
<http://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/action/PJUDG?jgmid=164038>

Liz Crawford

Biodiversity Offsets debate continues

Biodiversity Offsets in the Hunter

Currently NSW Planning has on exhibition a Discussion Paper relating to the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy and under the heading "Biodiversity Offsets" has the following to say:

"Biodiversity offset arrangements are required in many potential urban growth areas in the Region. However, the current suite of legislation, tools and policy mechanisms that govern conservation and biodiversity offsetting processes need to be improved to ensure the efficient and timely assessment and release of proposed new urban areas.

"Time delays, uncertainty and additional costs impact housing affordability and commercial viability of development projects."

Environmental organisations need to continue their vigilance as the push to change the rules just never abates. The discussion paper can be found at:

http://strategies.planning.nsw.gov.au/Portals/0/Documents/LowerHunter_DiscussionPaper.pdf

Tom Clarke

Twitchathon News

Twitchathon 2012 Fund-raising: Indications are that \$31,100 was raised in Twitchathon 2012, of which \$200 is still outstanding. This is the best effort by far for a Twitchathon and I wish to thank all teams for their support and enthusiasm. This year eleven teams raised over \$1000 each, and the following people raised more than \$1000: Warren Chad (\$3895), Tiffany Mason (\$1978), Margaret Harmon (\$1399), Elisabeth Karplus (\$1360), Dan Williams (HBOC \$1327), Peter West (\$1180), Alan Morris (\$1133) & Mick Roderick (HBOC \$1000). These funds will be directed to the **Cowra Woodland Bird Conservation Project**.

Proceeds from the 2013 Twitchathon: This year it was the turn of BirdLife Southern NSW to determine the project to which funds will be allocated. It is proposed that the 2013 funds should again go towards supporting the **Greater Sydney Region Powerful Owl Project**. This Project is a citizen science research project looking at the urban-based population of Powerful Owls throughout the Sydney Basin. The project was initiated by a motivated member of the public, with no formal science-based training and by other interested birding community members. The project is managed by Birds in Backyards, and is currently funded through the NSW Environment Trust & Twitchathon 2011 proceeds and is led by BirdLife Australia. The project is about mapping all the known urban-based breeding territories of Powerful Owls in the Sydney Basin & Central Coast and looking at breeding success and nest-site fidelity in relation to disturbance proximity, environmental variables and incidents such as car-strike. In addition the project is looking at long-term trends in diet based on data

collected over 10 years ago within the Sydney area and the data that is being collected by volunteers currently as part of this project. Courses have been held to help volunteers correctly identify the contents of Powerful Owl pellets and this has led to increased interest.

The project is also developing education resources, aimed at land managers, community groups and school children. These resources will engage with the community on protection and management of habitat and education about the value of urban biodiversity. The Twitchathon funds will go towards wages for the Project Officer, David Bain, to keep the project running for another season. This new funding will see him able to continue to collect information and observations through the 2014 breeding season until at least spring, giving him three full breeding seasons of data.

David's tasks will focus on continued management of volunteers and the owl database, continued community and land manager engagement and ensuring that all information gathered through the project is published in some form or another. More details on use of the funds will be available later in the year.

Alan Morris Twitchathon Co-ordinator

(Editor's note: Suggestions for the destination of funds raised during the Twitchathon alternate annually between BirdLife Southern NSW and the bird groups of NSW, represented by BIGnet [Bird Interest Group Network])

Plastics and Seabirds

Plastic and politics: how bureaucracy is failing our forgotten wildlife

Adapted from the website: <http://theconversation.edu.au/plastic-and-politics-how-bureaucracy-is-failing-our-forgotten-wildlife> 8 March 2013

Seabirds: the poster children for ocean health. Fishers use them to identify fishing hot spots. Environmental and marine scientists use them as indicators of the condition of the ocean environment due to their ability to cover vast areas. But in Australia, one such species – the Flesh-footed Shearwater – is declining, while the government delays a decision on listing it as Vulnerable.

The Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes* is a large, conspicuous seabird with a raucous call of “pick me, pick me” that cannot be ignored. But ignore it we do. The birds migrate across wide expanses of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. But their main breeding grounds are on our doorstep in Australia – the largest population is on Lord Howe Island – with the remaining populations spread across South and Western Australia and New Zealand. Those breeding grounds are in trouble. The Lord Howe Island population has declined by around 50% since 1978 (Reid *et al.* in press). New Zealand’s population was revised from 25,000 pairs in 2000 to 11,600 pairs in 2010, with breeding abandoned on ten islands. In Western Australia, a survey I conducted in 2011, the first in almost 35 years, found the population hovering at less than 50,000 pairs. The Flesh-footed Shearwater is under particular threat from improper waste disposal, particularly plastic pollution in the marine environment.

Accumulations of rubbish in the North Pacific Gyre were first noticed 20 years ago. Nicknamed the “Pacific Garbage Patch”, this area now contains up to [40 times more plastic than plankton](#). Each day, our oceans are fed more than [20 million new plastic items](#) – or around ~6.4 million tons per year. Wind and waves send this plastic around the globe, so that one country’s garbage washes up in another’s backyard.

Which brings us back to the Flesh-footed Shearwater. More than [75% of Shearwater chicks](#) on Lord Howe contain large quantities of plastic, fed to them by their parents who mistake it for food. In 2011, one dead chick I examined had more than 275 pieces of plastic in its stomach, equivalent to a human eating around 8kg of the stuff. Clearly, [eating plastic](#) is never going to be a good idea, but new evidence suggests it may be worse than previously thought because plastics bring with them certain chemicals known to be toxic. These include phthalates, which may be added during manufacturing to make the plastic more flexible, and heavy metals and

polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) absorbed from the seawater. Some of these toxins have been detected at worryingly high levels in the tissues of seabirds that have ingested plastics. Flesh-footed Shearwater chicks are often mistakenly fed deadly waste.

So, what can we do? We can continue to apply pressure for [cash for containers](#) schemes in Australia so more plastic bottles go into recycling. And Australia can stop ignoring the plight of those animals it should be trying to preserve. In Australia, threatened species like the Shearwater are supposed to be protected under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, based on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines. But the EPBC Act is proving [wholly inadequate](#) due to cumbersome bureaucracy. Over 50 Australian bird species that merit listing according to IUCN rules [remain unlisted](#).

The Flesh-footed Shearwater likely meets [IUCN criteria](#) for listing as Vulnerable based on an “observed, estimated, inferred or suspected population size reduction of more than 30% over the last 10 years”. Despite the [necessary paper work being submitted](#) to the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in March 2012, the Shearwater remains unlisted. The Department is delaying its decision for two and a half years, until September 2014. New Zealand, meanwhile, flexing its conservation muscles like an All Blacks haka, promptly listed the species as “Nationally Vulnerable” in September 2012.

And time does matter. While an official listing probably won’t reverse the Shearwater’s downward spiral, it could help slow it by making the species a conservation priority, freeing up state and federal funding targeted at threatened species. And it would mean that after decades in the dark, our poster child of ocean health is finally in the spotlight.

Jennifer Lavers
Research Fellow, Marine Biology, Monash University



Plastic debris is a major threat to our seabirds and marine life. This seabird has filled its stomach with plastic over the 80 to 90 days that it lived. Photo - Ian Hutton

Club Night & Hunterbirding Observations

Please note that all sighting reports published in HBOC's newsletter or its on-line forum (Hunterbirding) are unofficial and have not been confirmed by the Club. Such reports are publicised in order that others can be made aware of the sighting(s) reported and have the chance to help verify them. Official records of bird sightings in the Hunter Region appear in the Annual Bird Report, for which written submissions supported by field notes and photographs are a vital part of the process for acceptance of locally uncommon/rare species.

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer	Source
Australasian Figbird	2+1dy	2/1/13	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Australasian Shoveler	28	28/3/13	Leneghans	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Australian Brush-turkey	1	12/1/13	Glen Oak	P. Slack	Club Night
Australian Hobby	2	23/1/13	Raymond Terrace	P. Slack	Club Night
Australian Logrunner	1	17/2/13	The Basin, Watagans	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Australian Pelican	445	13/3/13	Kooragang Dykes	L. Crawford	Club Night
Australian Pelican	171	9/2/13	Kooragang Dykes	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	17	8/2/13	Stockton Beach	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	27	21/2/13	Soldiers Point	T. Murray	Hunterbirding
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	40	12/3/13	Forster	J. Cockerell	Hunterbirding
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	21	26/3/13	Stockton Beach	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Australian Raven	37	10/3/13	Newcastle	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Australian Raven	29	3/3/13	Newcastle	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Australian Shoveler	84	22/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Bassian Thrush	1	9/1/13	Galgabba Point	J. Thomas	Club Night
Bassian Thrush	1	17/2/13	The Basin, Watagans	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Beach Stone-curlew	1	8/2/13	Dowardee Island	T. Murray	Hunterbirding
Beach Stone-curlew	1	21/2/13	Dowardee Island	T. Murray	Hunterbirding
Beach Stone-curlew	2	4/3/13	Dowardee Island	T. Murray	Hunterbirding
Beach Stone-curlew	2	18/3/13	Dowardee Island	T. Murray	Hunterbirding
Black Falcon	1	17/3/13	Lorn	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Black Falcon	1	28/3/13	Aberdeen	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Black Falcon	1	28/3/13	Muswellbrook	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	1	14/3/13	Scone	G. Newling	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	1	23/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	7	25/3/13	Maitland Tip	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	7	25/3/13	Gillieston Heights	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	4	22/3/13	Dungog	D. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	1	28/3/13	Leneghans	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	48+	30/3/13	Maitland Tip	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	6	29/3/13	Bureen	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Black Noddy	1	1/2/13	Newcastle	P. Hansbro	Hunterbirding
Black Noddy	1	4/2/13	Newcastle	R. Nicholas	Hunterbirding
Black Noddy	1	28/2/13	Newcastle	I. Benson	Hunterbirding
Black Noddy	1	2/3/13	Newcastle	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Black Swan	231	22/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Black-necked Stork	1	3/1/13	Raymond Terrace Rd	P. Slack	Club Night
Black-necked Stork	1	31/1/13	Hexham Swamp	J. Smart	Hunterbirding
Black-necked Stork	2	14/2/13	Leneghans	J. Thomas	Hunterbirding
Black-necked Stork	1	14/2/13	Stockton Borehole Lagoon	A. Simple	Hunterbirding
Black-necked Stork	2	20/2/13	Hexham Swamp	P. Davidson	Hunterbirding
Black-necked Stork	1	10/3/13	Shortland	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Black-necked Stork	1	17/3/13	Tenambit	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Black-necked Stork	2	27/3/13	Mount Dee Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Black-necked Stork	1	29/3/13	Louth Park Road	J. Smart	Hunterbirding
Black-shouldered Kite	2	13/3/13	Maryland	E. McKane	Club Night
Black-shouldered Kite	1	7/4/13	Adamstown Heights	P. Pountney	Club Night
Black-winged Stilt	324	9/2/13	Ash Island	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Blue-faced Honeyeater	30	13/3/13	Edgeworth	G. O'Connor	Club Night
Brahminy Kite	1	1/2/13	Stockton Beach	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Brahminy Kite	1	27/2/13	Fullerton Cove	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Brahminy Kite	1	27/2/13	Ash Island	N. McNaughton	Hunterbirding
Brown Falcon	1	20/1/13	Duckenfield	P. Slack	Club Night

Club Night & Hunterbirding Observations cont.

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Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer	Source
Brown Goshawk	1	23/1/13	Raymond Terrace	P. Slack	Club Night
Brown Treecreeper	2	17/3/13	Goulburn River NP	D. Jenkin	Hunterbirding
Brush Cuckoo	1	16/2/13	Blue Gum Hills	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Buff-banded Rail	5+3dy	11/2/13	Eleebana		Club Night
Buff-banded Rail	1	28/2/13	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Buff-banded Rail	1+1dy	25/2/13	Eraring	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Buff-banded Rail	1+1dy	30/12/12	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Buff-banded Rail	3	10/1/13	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Buff-banded Rail	1	13/1/13	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Buff-banded Rail	1	2/3/13	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Buff-banded Rail	1	10/3/13	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Bush Stone-curlew	1	30/12/12	Eraring	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Bush Stone-curlew	1	7/1/13	Eraring	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Bush Stone-curlew	1	28/2/13	Eraring	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Bush Stone-curlew	1	5/3/13	Eraring	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Chestnut Teal	664	9/2/13	Ash Island	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Chestnut Teal	1500+	17/3/13	Ash Island	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	4/3/13	Charlestown	D. Raine	Club Night
Common Greenshank	19	9/2/13	Ash Island	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Common Greenshank	17	9/2/13	Kooragang Dykes	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Common Greenshank	14	19/2/13	Tomago	N. McNaughton	Hunterbirding
Common Greenshank	50	9/3/13	Ash Island	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Common Noddy	1	1/2/13	Newcastle	P. Hansbro	Hunterbirding
Common Noddy	1	13/3/13	Newcastle	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Common Noddy	1	14/3/13	Newcastle	J. Smart	Hunterbirding
Common Sandpiper	1	20/2/13	Raymond Terrace	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Common Sandpiper	1	27/2/13	Ash Island	N. McNaughton	Hunterbirding
Crested Shrike-tit	2	1/2/13	Hunter Economic Zone	G. Little	Hunterbirding
Crested Shrike-tit	2	17/2/13	The Basin, Watagans	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Crested Shrike-tit	1	20/2/13	Woodlands Estate	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Crested Shrike-tit	1	4/3/13	Blackbutt Reserve	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Crested Shrike-tit	2	17/3/13	Gosforth	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Crested Shrike-tit	2	17/3/13	Goulburn River NP	D. Jenkin	Hunterbirding
Crimson Rosella	1	13/3/13	Edgeworth	G. O'Connor	Club Night
Curlew Sandpiper	51	9/2/13	Kooragang Dykes	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Diamond Firetail	1	17/3/13	Goulburn River NP	D. Jenkin	Hunterbirding
Double-banded Plover	3	8/2/13	Stockton Beach	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Double-banded Plover	104	26/3/13	Stockton Beach	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Dusky Moorhen	6+3imm	27/3/13	Weston	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Eastern Koel	2	31/1/13	Kotara	J. Nicholls	Club Night
Eastern Osprey	1	9/2/13	Lemon Tree Passage	G. Ayre	Hunterbirding
Eastern Reef Egret	1	3/2/13	Newcastle	I. Benson	Hunterbirding
Eastern Reef Egret	1	27/2/13	Redhead	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	2	31/1/13	Hexham Swamp	J. Smart	Hunterbirding
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	2	6/3/13	Hexham Swamp	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Eurasian Coot	833	22/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Flame Robin	10+	15/2/13	Polblue Swamp	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Flame Robin	12+	12/2/13	Polblue Swamp	T. Clarke	Hunterbirding
Flame Robin	20+	14/2/13	Little Murrays Swamp	T. Clarke	Hunterbirding
Flame Robin	8	1/3/13	Little Murrays Swamp	T. Clarke	Hunterbirding
Flame Robin	3	1/3/13	Edwards Swamp	T. Clarke	Hunterbirding
Flame Robin	3	1/3/13	Junction Pools	T. Clarke	Hunterbirding

Club Night & Hunterbirding Observations cont.

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Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer	Source
Fork-tailed Swift	1	10/2/13	Shortland	D. Williams	Hunterbirding
Fork-tailed Swift	2	10/2/13	Lambton	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Fork-tailed Swift	4	11/3/13	Belmont South	E. McKane	Hunterbirding
Fork-tailed Swift	20	27/3/13	Girvan	P. Alexander	Hunterbirding
Freckled Duck	2	13/3/13	Walka Water Works	J. Smart	Hunterbirding
Freckled Duck	2	22/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Freckled Duck	4	23/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Freckled Duck	3	27/3/13	Morpeth WWTW	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Freckled Duck	2	28/3/13	Leneghans	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Galah	10+2dy	13/2/13	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	19/3/13	Watagans	P. Struick	Hunterbirding
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	5	20/3/13	Newcastle	I. Benson	Hunterbirding
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2+1dy	17/3/13	Wye Point	V. Moon	Club Night
Glossy Ibis	36	19/2/13	Tomago	N. McNaughton	Hunterbirding
Great Crested Grebe	1	26/3/13	Stockton Beach	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Great-winged Petrel	1	2/3/13	Newcastle	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Grey Butcherbird	2+2dy	22/1/13	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Grey Goshawk	1	13/3/13	Edgeworth	G. O'Connor	Club Night
Grey Teal	1000+	17/3/13	Ash Island	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Grey-crowned Babbler	6	16/2/13	Beresfield	J. Thomas	Hunterbirding
Grey-tailed Tattler	36	13/3/13	Fern Bay	L. Crawford	Club Night
Grey-tailed Tattler	124	27/3/13	Port Stephens	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Hoary-headed Grebe	110	22/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Leaden Flycatcher	1	23/3/13	Tighes Hill	T. Clarke	Hunterbirding
Lesser Frigatebird	1	1/2/13	Newcastle	I. Benson	Hunterbirding
Lesser Frigatebird	1	3/2/13	Stockton Beach	P. Alexander	Hunterbirding
Little Eagle	1	9/2/13	Singleton	P. Alexander	Hunterbirding
Little Eagle	1	9/2/13	Shortland	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Little Eagle	1	5/3/13	Wingen	G. Newling	Hunterbirding
Little Eagle	1	9/1/13	Richmond Vale	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Little Tern	140	3/2/13	Stockton	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Little Tern	1+egg	8/2/13	Stockton Beach	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Little Tern	110	9/2/13	Newcastle	J. Thomas	Hunterbirding
Little Tern	70	13/3/13	Newcastle	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Little Tern	120	14/3/13	Newcastle	J. Smart	Hunterbirding
Little Tern	70	17/3/13	Stockton Sandspit	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Long-billed Corella	5	17/2/13	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Long-billed Corella	2+1dy	23/2/13	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Long-billed Corella	4+1dy	18/3/13	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Long-tailed Jaeger	1	23/2/13	Newcastle	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Marsh Sandpiper	12	9/2/13	Ash Island	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Marsh Sandpiper	7	9/2/13	Kooragang Dykes	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Noisy Pitta	1	31/3/13	Watagans	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Olive Whistler	1	12/2/13	Polblue Swamp	T. Clarke	Hunterbirding
Olive Whistler	1	14/2/13	Little Murrays Swamp	T. Clarke	Hunterbirding
Olive Whistler	2	1/3/13	Junction Pools	T. Clarke	Hunterbirding
Pacific Baza	1	2/2/13	Fishing Point	M. Hamonet	Club Night
Pacific Baza	1+1dy	8/2/13	Fullerton Cove	S. Walker	Club Night
Pacific Baza	1	19/2/13	Newcastle	P. Osborn	Birding-Aus
Pacific Black Duck	315	22/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Pacific Golden Plover	404	9/2/13	Kooragang Dykes	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Pacific Golden Plover	431	27/2/13	Hunter River North Arm	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Pacific Golden Plover	120	2/3/13	Manning Estuary	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding

Club Night & Hunterbirding Observations cont.

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Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer	Source
Peaceful Dove	1	13/2/13	Kitchener	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	13/3/13	Stockton Sandspit	L. Crawford	Club Night
Pink-eared Duck	3	15/2/13	Stockton Sandspit	R. & M. Stewart	Hunterbirding
Pink-eared Duck	7	9/3/13	Ash Island	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Pink-eared Duck	98	11/3/13	Tarro Swamp	L. Mee	Hunterbirding
Pink-eared Duck	24	21/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Pink-eared Duck	202	22/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Pink-eared Duck	50	25/3/13	Louth Park Road	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Pink-eared Duck	10	26/3/13	Tarro Recreation Area	J. Smart	Hunterbirding
Plumed Whistling-Duck	25	25/2/13	Charlestown Golf Club	G. Feletti	Hunterbirding
Plumed Whistling-Duck	52	11/3/13	Tarro Swamp	L. Mee	Hunterbirding
Plumed Whistling-Duck	40	13/3/13	Walka Water Works	J. Smart	Hunterbirding
Plumed Whistling-Duck	31	18/3/13	Tarro Recreation Area	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Pomarine Jaeger	20+	2/3/13	Newcastle	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Powerful Owl	1	10/2/13	Blackbutt Reserve	J. Nicholls	Hunterbirding
Powerful Owl	1	21/2/13	Rankin Park	T. Kendall	Club Night
Powerful Owl	1	26/3/13	Rankin Park	T. Kendall	Club Night
Radjah Shelduck	1	27/2/13	Bulahdelah	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Rainbow Bee-eater	c.45	19/2/13	Woodlands Estate	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Rainbow Lorikeet	100	27/1/13	Charlestown	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Red-browed Treecreeper	3	17/2/13	The Basin, Watagans	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Red-capped Plover	36	26/3/13	Stockton Beach	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Red-kneed Dotterel	6	22/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Red-necked Stint	24	17/3/13	Stockton Sandspit	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Rockwarbler	1	14/2/13	Brokenback	J. Goswell	Hunterbirding
Rose Robin	1	17/2/13	The Basin, Watagans	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Rose Robin	1	25/3/13	Newcastle	R. Nicholas	Hunterbirding
Royal Spoonbill	20+	20/2/13	Woodbury	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Ruddy Turnstone	11	9/2/13	Newcastle	J. Thomas	Hunterbirding
Sanderling	15	2/3/13	Manning Estuary	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Satin Bowerbird	2	15/3/13	Kotara	J. Nicholls	Club Night
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	700+	24/3/13	Stockton Sandspit	T. Clarke	Hunterbirding
Short-tailed Shearwater	c.1000+	2/2/13	Newcastle	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Silver Gull	500	8/2/13	Stockton Beach	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Singing Honeyeater	2	25/1/13	Lake Liddell	M. Akrill	Hunterbirding
Singing Honeyeater	3	5/2/13	Lake Liddell	P. Alexander	Hunterbirding
Sooty Oystercatcher	32	9/2/13	Newcastle	J. Thomas	Hunterbirding
Sooty Oystercatcher	44	22/2/13	Newcastle	J. Thomas	Hunterbirding
Sooty Oystercatcher	29	13/3/13	Newcastle	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Sooty Oystercatcher	38	14/3/13	Newcastle	J. Smart	Hunterbirding
Sooty Tern	6	1/2/13	Newcastle	P. Hansbro	Hunterbirding
Spangled Drongo	4	19/2/13	Tomago	N. McNaughton	Hunterbirding
Spangled Drongo	1	21/2/13	New Lambton	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Spangled Drongo	1	6/3/13	Woodlands Estate	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Spotless Crake	1	19/2/13	Tomago	N. McNaughton	Hunterbirding
Spotted Harrier	1	6/2/13	Dungog	D. Jenkin	Hunterbirding
Spotted Harrier	1	4/3/13	Woodville	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Spotted Harrier	1	8/3/13	Kooragang Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Spotted Harrier	1	22/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Spotted Harrier	1	25/3/13	Broke	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Spotted Harrier	1	25/3/13	Gillieston Heights	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Square-tailed Kite	1	2/2/13	Weston	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Square-tailed Kite	1	5/2/13	Rutherford	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding

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Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer	Source
Square-tailed Kite	1	6/2/13	Rutherford	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Square-tailed Kite	1	16/2/13	Greenhills	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Square-tailed Kite	1	16/2/13	Cessnock	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Square-tailed Kite	1	19/2/13	Wangi Reserve	D. Rushton	Hunterbirding
Square-tailed Kite	1	2/3/13	Rutherford	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Square-tailed Kite	1	10/3/13	Singleton	P. Alexander	Hunterbirding
Straw-necked Ibis	1000+	20/2/13	Woodbury	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Streaked Shearwater	2	1/2/13	Newcastle	P. Hansbro	Hunterbirding
Superb Lyrebird	1	14/2/13	Brokenback	J. Goswell	Hunterbirding
Terek Sandpiper	17	13/3/13	Fern Bay	L. Crawford	Club Night
Topknot Pigeon	60+	17/3/13	Maitland Vale Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Topknot Pigeon	3	19/3/13	Shortland	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Turquoise Parrot	1	17/3/13	Goulburn River NP	D. Jenkin	Hunterbirding
Varied Sittella	5	6/3/13	Woodlands Estate	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Varied Sittella	8	17/3/13	Gosforth	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Wandering Whistling-Duck	53	18/3/13	Tarro Recreation Area	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	23/1/13	Raymond Terrace	P. Slack	Club Night
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	2/2/13	Dora Creek	E. McKane	Club Night
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	8/2/13	Kooragang Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Weebill	1	17/3/13	Gosforth	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Welcome Swallow	400	10/1/13	Raymond Terrace	P. Slack	Club Night
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2	19/2/13	Woodlands Estate	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1	6/3/13	Woodlands Estate	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
White-faced Heron	72	9/2/13	Ash Island	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
White-necked Heron	30+	20/2/13	Woodbury	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	7	4/2/13	Singleton	P. Alexander	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	c.70	9/2/13	Shortland	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	30	10/2/13	Singleton	P. Alexander	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	50	10/2/13	Shortland	D. Williams	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	100	10/2/13	Lambton	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	c.120	11/2/13	Singleton	P. Alexander	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	100	16/2/13	Hexham Swamp	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	15	7/3/13	Belmont South	J. Cockerell	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	12	7/3/13	Coal Point	C. Herbert	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	30	7/3/13	Shortland	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	350	10/3/13	Shortland	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	50	13/3/13	Tuncurry	J. Cockerell	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	52+	13/3/13	Shortland	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
White-throated Needletail	40	22/3/13	Nelson Bay	D. Eggins	Hunterbirding
White-throated Nightjar	1+1dy	10/2/13	Raymond Terrace	N. Williams	Club Night
White-winged Tern	1	7/2/13	Newcastle	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Wonga Pigeon	3	10/2/13	Awaba State Forest	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	22/3/13	Louth Park Road	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	3	23/3/13	Luskintyre	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	25/3/13	Louth Park Road	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	14	8/1/13	Raymond Terrace	P. Slack	Club Night
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	2+1dy	13/2/13	Wingen	G. Newling	Club Night
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	2+1juv	29/3/13	East Maitland	J. Smart	Hunterbirding

Club Activities April to July 2013

DATE	EVENT	MEETING PLACE & TIME	CONTACT
APRIL 2013			
Sunday 21 April	Field Outing to: Sugarloaf / Mulbring	7.30am Carpark at Sugarloaf	Joy Nicholls 4957 3612
Sunday 21 April	KWRP Family Day	Ash Island	Paul Baird 4938 5039
Thurs - Sunday 25 –28 April	ANZAC Day Camp	Copeland Common	Robert McDonald 4947 9190
MAY 2013			
Wednesday 1 May	Management Committee Meeting	6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School	Mick Roderick 0421761237 All members welcome
Tuesday 7 May	Mid-week Outing – Galgabba Point and Swansea	8.00am Corner Old Pacific Highway and Marks St Swansea	Max Blanch 4961 1655
Wednesday 8 May	Club Meeting	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Louise Duff - WetlandCare Australia's on- ground work to improve bird habitat in the Hunter Estuary Bird of the Evening: Keith Eastwood - Flamingos
Saturday 11 May	Hunter Wader Survey	8.30am Ash Island 9.00am Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 – Ash Island Chris Herbert 4959 3663 – Kooragang Jack Adams 4971 5334 – Swansea Jenny Powers 4944 7274 – Stockton Sue Hamonet 4958 1023 – Swan Bay
Saturday/ Sunday 18/19 May	Regent Honeyeater/ Swift Parrot Survey	Various locations as desired or directed	Mick Roderick 0421 761237 Please contact for information
Sunday 19 May	Field outing to: Kurri Kurri area	7.00am Neath pub	Steve Roderick 0409 452 921
Tuesday 21 May	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
JUNE 2013			
Tuesday 4 June	Mid-Week Outing – Grahamstown area	8.00am Finnan Park, Grahamstown Dam	Ray McLean 4987 4512
Wednesday 5 June	Management Committee Meeting	6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School	Mick Roderick 0421761237 All members welcome
Sat – Mon 8 - 10 June	Long Weekend Camp	Washpools Camp, Towarri NP (via Middlebrook Rd, Scone)	Robert McDonald 4947 9190
Wednesday 12 June	Club Meeting	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: TBA Bird of the Evening: TBA
Sunday 16 June	Field Outing: New Members Day	9.30am Hunter Wetlands Centre, Shortland	Lorna Mee & Mick Roderick
Tuesday 18 June	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
Saturday 22 June	Hunter Wader Survey	7.00am Ash Island 7.30 am Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 – Ash Island Chris Herbert 4959 3663 – Kooragang Jack Adams 4971 5334 – Swansea Jenny Powers 4944 7274 – Stockton Sue Hamonet 4958 1023 – Swan Bay
JULY 2013			
Tuesday 2 July	Mid-week Outing – Walka Water Works	8.00am Car Park Walka Water Works, Maitland	Margaret and Robert Stewart 4963 2029
Wednesday 3 July	Management Committee Meeting	6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School	Mick Roderick 0421761237 All members welcome