



Newsletter

Hunter Bird Observers Club

Issue No. 4/17 August 2017

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

- The Club aims to:
- Encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat; and
 - Encourage bird observing as a leisure-time activity

*This photo captures the first moment of a young Black-necked Stork's life out of the nest, following the recent landmark successful breeding event in the Hunter Estuary.
Photo taken by Ann Lindsey at Tomago on 7 August 2017.*



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President's Column

Do you have a favourite bird memory? How about a favourite bird habitat memory? I must admit I've always had a soft spot for rainforest. The first person I ever met that appreciated birds the way I did taught me to take a ground sheet out into the rainforest, find a fruiting fig and lay the sheet down on the leaf litter under it. Then lay down on your back on the sheet, put your bins to your eyes, and without strain to your neck watch as the waves of birds come through for breakfast in the early light.

Topknot, Wompoo, and White-headed Pigeons, Satin and Regent Bowerbirds, Green Catbirds, Australasian Figbirds, Olive-backed Orioles, Koels and fig-hawks (Channel-billed Cuckoos) even Barred Cuckoo-shrike (rarely). All would come through to the chorus of Logrunners, Spectacled and Black-faced Monarchs, Eastern Yellow Robins, Brown Gerygones, Lewin's Honeyeaters and Eastern Whipbirds (at the rainforest edges), with Drongos coarsely cackling in the distance.

Those memories will always live with me, and as my love for the natural world deepened I couldn't but help to share such experiences with my children. My youngest has been messaging images to me over the last week of close encounters of the avian kind at the University of Newcastle, while she fills in time waiting for lectures.

She's been so close to a resident drongo and a pair of Spotted Pardalotes checking out nest hole options that she could take photos with her phone. She's been so thrilled to watch Water Rats swimming around the ponds and the enthusiasm she's feeling during this voyage of discovery comes bubbling through the language of the messages. It is so very fulfilling, and isn't that the purpose of life? To look for the good and appreciate it, then pass that view onto someone else – your neighbour, friends, children or someone else's children. It can be easy to over play your passion with those close to you, but go forward slowly, sharing little special things here and there, not pushing them to boredom and the fire will grow naturally.

As I look back on those mornings laying on the rainforest floor enjoying the spectacle of life with a kindred spirit, and I look at those texts from my daughter I see the circle of life completing before me. Freely I received and having valued the gift it was only natural to pass it on and the gift of receiving has become so much more sweetened by watching it grow in another.

Happy birding.

Allan Richardson

New Members

The Club extends a warm welcome to:

Lyle Harding of Jindera

We hope to see you at club meetings and outings.

Health and Safety Awareness for Activities

When attending field outings, ensure you are wearing appropriate clothing, including wet weather gear in inclement weather, and suitable footwear. It is advisable to bring a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and to carry water.

Please sign the attendance register at field outings and also at meetings. If you leave an outing early, please let the leader know before you go.

Participants attend at their own risk and should refrain from any behaviour that might put themselves or others at risk. That includes assessing whether they have the level of fitness required for the advertised outing. If in doubt, contact the leader beforehand.

Banding on Broughton

As an extension to the HBOC study of Broughton Island land birds which began in 2012, a multi-year banding project has been initiated. Land bird populations on islands have never been studied before in Australia and it is hoped that by banding some of the birds on Broughton Island we will be able to learn about the population dynamics, including whether birds stay on the island all the time or come and go. The Broughton Island bush bird banding group for our inaugural visit included Rob Kyte, Alan Stuart, Susanne Callaghan (NPWS Ranger for Broughton Island), Judy Little and Greg Little.



A Silvereve at the Broughton Island banding station table

We arrived (by boat from Nelson Bay) at the NPWS cabin on Broughton Island on the morning of Friday 23 June 2017 to band some of the island's bush birds, staying until Sunday 25. The weekend is planned to be the first of a future quarterly bush bird banding project for the island, with opportunities for others to also participate.



Some members of the group at the banding station table

Weather conditions during the three days were sunny and comfortable. By early Friday afternoon we had cleared net lanes off the Coal Shaft Track, behind the Helicopter Pad and off the North Beach Track around the big Banksia tree. A banding station, with table and equipment, was set up on the veranda at the NPWS cabin. From there in the quieter moments we could watch Eastern Reef Egrets and Sooty Oystercatchers foraging on the rocks and keep an eye on the many passing whales.

By late Friday evening six nets were set and we had banded three birds. The nets were furled ready for early the next day. On Saturday, the nets were opened early and we banded nine birds over the whole day. Again, late in the day the nets were furled ready for early the next morning. Very early Sunday morning we had nets opened and had banded 23 birds by lunch time, when the nets were closed and pulled down ready to leave the island.



The banding group awaiting the boat before leaving

34 birds were banded during the three days on Broughton Island. The six species banded included Yellow-faced Honeyeater (1), Silvereve (29), Tawny Grassbird (1), Golden-headed Cisticola (1), Bar-shouldered Dove (1) and Golden Whistler (1). Silvereyes on Broughton Island were determined to be of three different subspecies including *Zosterops lateralis lateralis* (the Tasmanian form), *Z.l. westernensis* (the southern NSW and Victorian form) and *Z.l. cornwalli* (the northern NSW form). It will be very interesting to see whether all of those sub-species are still present in our spring visit.

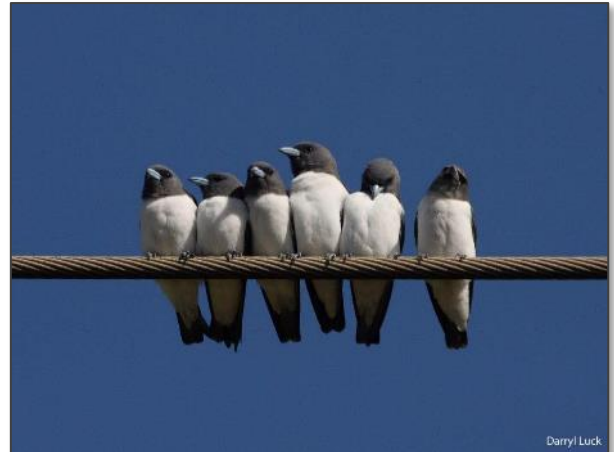
Greg Little

HBOC Bird of the Month

The “Bird of the Month” is a regular feature on the HBOC Facebook Page. If you’re already on Facebook and not following the Club’s official page, then why not?!

June – White-breasted Woodswallow

Just about every sizeable wetland in the east of our Region has one or more families of them for most of the year. It's not unusual to see groups of 6-10 birds together and sometimes larger ones. Like most other species of woodswallow they often huddle together just like in the photo. Although these birds are absent from the Hunter Region in winter they are usually the last species to leave and the first to come back. We've chosen them as our bird of the month to remind us of warmer days!



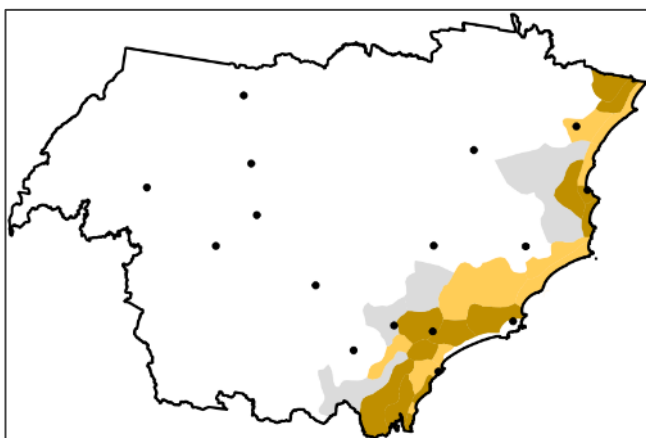
White-breasted Woodswallow by Darryl Luck

July – Double-banded Plover

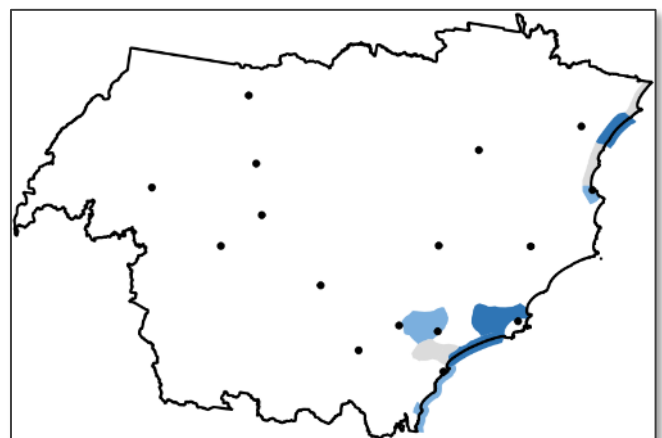
Winter is our peak time for seeing these migratory shorebirds which are slightly larger and bulkier than the endemic Red-capped Plover. The sub-species that come here breeds on the South Island of New Zealand and spends March to September in southern Australia. Our region is towards the northern extremity of their Australian range but we often find 100 or so of them at some beaches particularly along Stockton Bight (the Worimi Conservation Lands) and in the Manning estuary. Shortly before they return to NZ they develop breeding plumage especially a bright red chest band. This is just starting to appear in the bird in the picture (which is locked into a battle of wits with a worm).



Double-banded Plover by Steve Merrett



HBOC White-breasted Woodswallow Distribution Map



HBOC Double-banded Plover Distribution Map

Club Activity Reports

Hunter Wetlands Centre

18 June 2017

We had our annual New Members Day at the Hunter Wetlands Centre. Everyone who'd joined in the preceding 12 months received an invitation (not all were able to attend) and many of our longer-term members also came along, totalling some 25-30 people all up, despite the rain.

The format involved a walk then a barbecue lunch. We had to dodge the rain a few times and lunch was taken early, with the walk resumed afterwards. However, we all had a great time and we found 49 species in spite of the weather. A bedraggled Spangled Drongo was a highlight for many, as was the Black Swan with cygnets at a nest. There was a pair of Hardhead on the pond in front of the Centre's main building and they gave a great opportunity for everyone to brush up on how to tell male (white eye) from female.



Spangled Drongo by Rob Palazzi

Belmont Lagoon

4 July 2017

Leading a mid-week outing in mid-winter and school holidays could be a flop, but our July outing was perfect. Perfect weather and a great turnout of active birds, with 23 members to enjoy them. Before we left the park on Lake Macquarie foreshore we had seen 11 Bar-tailed Godwits, Swans, Pelicans, Gulls, Terns and a variety of Cormorants and Egrets. The honeyeater highlights for me were the Striped Honeyeaters with their pleasant call and Blue-faced Honeyeaters – adults and juveniles.

After managing the crossing of a very busy highway we walked along the track on the north side of Cold Tea Creek. Along the Creek special birds were three Striated

Hérons. The Eastern Whipbirds were very active, pleasing the photographers.



A young Blue-faced Honeyeater by Rob Palazzi

Belmont Lagoon was a new area to visit for some people but a few people present regularly survey the area. So, we were able to break into groups to cover different areas after reaching the junction at the end of the Creek track. One group stayed in the vicinity or walked through to the beach. A second group took the left turn and with hope continued down the peninsular on the far side of the lagoon, where some of us a few years ago saw a Regent Honeyeater. No Regent, but those people were rewarded by the presence of a Rose Robin.

Another group turned right at the intersection, walked through to the road, through the cemetery and back across the reserve and the bridge over Cold Tea Creek. They reported Red-rumped Parrots and other species. At 11 am we had morning tea and birdcall. Between us we ended three hours at Belmont Lagoon with a count of 72 species.



Red-rumped Parrot by Rob Palazzi

Club Activity Reports

Half of us then moved to Galgabba Point, where we had another pleasant walk, seeing both the Osprey nest in the adjoining oval and two Ospreys; a few people also walked carefully through bushland to see the White-bellied Sea Eagles' nest. The full list for the Belmont Lagoon area can be found on Birdata.

Judi Thomas

Millfield

6 July 2017

July's Sunday outing was to the Millfield/Pelton area, with conditions on the day being perfect. The morning started out quite cool, however, with the sun filtering through the trees members of the club had plenty of time between searching to catch some rays of warmth. We had approximately 15 members join us on the day and were led by Mick Roderick's keen ears.



If you go down to the woods today...

The property visited outside of Millfield was a great example of Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest, harbouring many of the indicative dry forest species that call the Hunter Valley home. The lucky owners of the property had the privilege of sharing their front garden with big communities of both Fuscous and Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters as well as resident family groups of White-winged Choughs, Superb Fairy-wrens, Grey-crowned Babblers and Brown Treecreepers. The most activity on the property was centred around an adjacent creek line where a Speckled Warbler was heard and a couple of Little Lorikeets were seen in the canopy of a Red Mahogany in heavy bloom.

Morning Tea was prompt and eaten in a sunny patch amongst the native grass in the front of the property, before heading to a secondary site within Aberdare State Forest.



Swift Parrot by Mick Roderick

When arriving at the second site Mick lead us to some blossoming trees to try and find some Swift Parrots. Some Black-chinned Honeyeaters were heard calling off the track. Mick enticed them to show themselves to the group and four individuals were seen. A Spotted Quail-Trush was heard and as the day was winding down we were lucky enough to have four Swift Parrots fly over the group – one stopping just briefly enough for everyone to miss taking a picture of it (aside from Mick who caught it on the wing).

Ben Ellis

Kurri Woodlands

1 August 2017

Birders almost outnumbered the species seen on a quiet day in the Kurri woodlands. After an early coffee at McDonalds, 26 of us set out in convoy. As we arrived at the "Puddles" area, a White-faced Heron landed in a tree – not the first bird that comes to mind in this habitat. After that we were rewarded with good views of several species of honeyeaters – Yellow-faced, White-naped, Yellow-tufted, Lewin's and Fuscous in good numbers. Also, both Brown and White-throated Treecreepers were spotted.



Can anybody see any birds?!

Rankins Springs Birding Weekend

Small bush birds were present, including two Varied Sittellas, a female Rose Robin and female Golden Whistlers. Perhaps the best sighting in this area was a Grey Goshawk gliding overhead. In all 27 species were seen and another 8 heard, including Little Lorikeet.



Varied Sittella by Rob Palazzi

After morning tea we moved on to the cul-de-sac, where we spread out and added a few more species to our list.

Jacky Winters were busy hawking for insects, Double-barred Finches were spotted in a couple of areas and a male Rose Robin was also seen. Although bird species were not abundant everyone enjoyed being in the woodlands on a fine winter day.



Male Rose Robin by Rob Palazzi

Margaret Stewart

Rankins Springs Birding Weekend

6 to 8 October 2017

For just on ten years now, quite a few birders have been making the annual trek to Rankins Springs (in Central NSW) for their October 'Birds of the Bush' weekend festival.

The Rankins Springs area provides great inland birding viewing opportunities including - Budgies, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Black Honeyeaters, Pied Honeyeaters, Painted Honeyeaters, Turquoise Parrot, Crested Bellbird and... perhaps if you're extremely lucky... a Malleefowl.... just to name a few.

The format for 2017 has slightly changed, with the Lachlan Fold Wildlife Action Group (LFWAG) now running the 'Rankins Springs Birding Weekend'. This will be a 'Social Birding' weekend. No formal bird surveys are planned.

The fun begins with a Friday night concert by Australian country music star – 'Fanny Lumsden'. This will be an 'optional' ticketed event – see:

<http://www.ticketebo.com.au/fannylumsden/country-halls-tour-rankins-springs-memorial-hall.html>

On the Saturday, there will be a morning and afternoon bus trips to local birding hot spots (morning and afternoon teas & snacks provided). The Saturday evening will be a casual affair - with a BBQ gathering at the Rankins Springs Memorial Hall. The Sunday morning activity is yet to be finalised, but it will be a birding bus trip of some sort.

NB. Bus trip times and costs will be advised closer to the weekend. For more information and to book your spot on the birding bus trips, email the Lachlan Fold Wildlife Action Group at lfwag@gmail.com NB: Bus spots are limited- book early.

It would be great to see you there - you won't be disappointed.

Regent Honeyeaters in the Lower Hunter

There have been good numbers of Regent Honeyeaters in the Lower Hunter woodlands this winter. On 3 August I set out to establish an estimate of their current numbers.

At a property near Paxton we found at least 15 birds spread across a patch of Spotted Gum Ironbark forest about 250 m long and 75 m wide. The birds were feeding mostly on flowering stringybark (the still-as-yet undescribed Cessnock endemic species) which is consistent with the previous record at this spot, from July 2009. As I found earlier in the week, birds were also feeding in Spotted Gum blossom, but to a much lesser extent.



Banded Regent Honeyeaters at the Paxton property

Some birds were making rather atypical calls and there was a lot of interaction with other honeyeaters and amongst themselves. At one point, we watched eight birds jostling about in a stringybark tree. There were also a few Swifties there too.

Once we'd established the number of birds at Paxton the priority was to get to a property near Quorrobolong to see if birds were still present there (and to get a total count for the day). Without a word of a lie the very first sound we heard when we jumped out of the car was a Regent Honeyeater "mew call"! I was so incredibly happy to hear it and to know the Paxton birds were distinct from these birds.

We ended up with 16 birds at Quorrobolong, but of interest they were spread across two distinct sites. And this was all between 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, so not an ideal time to find the maximum number of birds. I'm

confident that at least the 20 birds we'd previously counted are still present there.



Regent Honeyeaters at the Quorrobolong property

Although there is Spotted Gum blossom present we didn't see any Quorrobolong birds feeding in it. Rather they were interacting with each other and occasionally appearing to glean foliage and even come down to head height into small Eucalyptus. Having said this, I'm sure they would have fed on the Spotted Gum earlier in the day.

So we have an absolute minimum of 31 Regents between two sites at the moment. I strongly suspect there are other places in the Pelton/Ellalong/Paxton area that are holding aggregations of birds.

The importance of the Lower Hunter forests cannot be overstated. We are fortunate to have forests that support flocks of Regent Honeyeaters, albeit small flocks by the standards of the species before the population crash. Even if they don't breed here each year (though we know they did last year) the fact that they occur here in flocks enables them to assimilate with other Regents; something that just doesn't seem to happen in many other parts of their range nowadays.

And in a fascinating post-script to the day – when flicking through my images I came across a bird at the Paxton property with bands that we hadn't seen in the field. We were able to identify it as "blue over metal, mauve over black", which was one of the birds that we banded back in 2012 at the Quorrobolong property! At the time of banding she was an adult female (2+ years old), so she's at least 7 years old now.

Mick Roderick

Future Club Activities

Mid-week Camp to Murrurundi

18 to 20 September 2017

We will be based at the Murrurundi Caravan Park, which besides powered and un-powered sites has a Bunkhouse, Camp Cabins (with/without en-suite) and en-suite railway carriages.

Details can be found on the website: www.murrurundicaravanpark.com.au/pricing and when you book, if you mention HBOC, you will get a 10% discount.

There is also a Motel directly opposite the campground – Motel Valley View Murrurundi <http://valleyviewmotel.com.au/>

We expect that most people will arrive on the Sunday night, after a pleasant drive stopping off at various birding spots on the way.

A detailed itinerary will be circulated in August after we have done a second reconnaissance to select which of the great birding spots we will visit.



Bird & Nature Photography Tours

Amazing Destinations!

- *South Africa-Kruger Safari.**
- *Darwin, Kakadu, Katherine.**
- *Cairns, Daintree, Atherton.**
- *Flinders Ranges & Gluepot.**
- *Hunter Valley.**
- *Riverwood Downs Weekends.**

Contact: Dick Jenkin 0407 267207

E: richardnjenkin@bigpond.com

W: www.jenkinphotography.com.au

Clicker's Corner

In this regular Newsletter section, we profile one of our many talented photographers, including some background as to their photographic interests and techniques, as well as exhibiting a selection of their captures.

Belle Ciezak

I studied Graphic Design at University and as part of my degree I learned the art of photography. At the time, digital cameras were just new to the market and the cost was too much for most people, especially uni students, so we all turned up to class with an old fashioned 35 mm SLR camera and rolls of film. I borrowed my Grandfather's Canon A1.



Male Superb Fairy-wren in eclipse plumage

There's nothing like knowing you've only got 24 shots to get it right in-camera. You have no choice but to understand how exposure, aperture and ISO all work.

I'm so glad I had that foundation, but I have to say, when I bought my first second-hand digital SLR I never looked back! It was a Canon 10D and had only 6.3 mega pixels.



Osprey

Now I use a Canon 5D MkIV and a Canon 400 mm prime lens for 95% of my wildlife photography. Mostly handheld. My biggest tip is to know your camera and know how it works. I had originally written several paragraphs detailing what settings I like to use, but when I gave it to my husband to review he said it was waaaaay too technical and his eyes glazed over. So, in order to prevent non-photographers from tuning out, I'm happy to discuss the specifics if you want to email me.



Royal Spoonbills

I've loved animals and nature my whole life, but my specific love of birds began with seeing Hummingbirds in my backyard in Colorado, where I lived from 2009 - 2015. Then there was the Bald Eagles, American Kestrels, Lazuli Buntings and the Woodpeckers just to mention a few. When I got back to Australia it was a whole new world of birds that I'd never really gotten to know before and I'm still learning every day.



Collared Sparrowhawk

I'm guilty of taking my camera with me everywhere I go in case I miss an opportunity. I only started seriously

HBOC Bird Image Library

birding in January of 2016 and I'm up to 235 on my Hunter Region bird list, which includes only those birds I have identifiable photos of. They're certainly not all good photos! Some are very poor indeed, but that only makes me want to try harder to capture better shots.



Nankeen Kestrel

HBOC Bird Image Library

HBOC has for many years maintained a photograph library with images contributed by members of the club. This is known as the HBOC "Bird Image Library" (BIL). This has proven to be a significant asset and members' images have been regularly displayed at Club Nights, on the Club's website, on Facebook and in printed publications produced by HBOC, such as our Birding Routes brochures.

Over the last few months the BIL has been "revamped", largely by Jim Smart and a process for management of the images has been developed. This process will soon be displayed on the HBOC website along with the Non-exclusive Licence Agreement now needed to be signed by you before your images can be used by HBOC.

John Cockerell, after many years of skilfully managing the Photograph Collection, has handed over to the capable hands of Rob Palazzi, who in early August was appointed by the Management Committee as the BIL Manager. Jim Smart will continue to be responsible for the Photo Display at Club Night. The Club would like to gratefully acknowledge the significant contribution that both John and Jim have made to the management of the Club's photographs to this point in time.

Please note that Rob Palazzi is the only person now authorised by the Management Committee to distribute

Some of my favourite places to go are Hexham Swamp, Belmont Lagoon and the drive out to Medhurst Bridge. However, good birds, and good bird photo ops can be found anywhere. Those small patches of bushland in between houses in the suburbs can hide some surprising secrets. Watching the Cormorants, Egrets and Terns fishing at Lake Macquarie is also a great way to practice your photography skills.

The last big tip I have is to find a friend! Birding and photography is so much more fun when you can share it with someone else.

Instagram: @belleciezakwildlife

images from the BIL or to receive new items for consideration as additions to the library.

HBOC is always looking for new images and a list of bird species not yet represented in the BIL will soon be circulated. If you would like to contribute your images please contact Rob at palazzi24@gmail.com or Margaret Clarke marg51@tpg.com.au

Recent Observations

Hunterbirding is an email group set up by HBOC that is run through the Google Groups. It is a great way to keep in touch with the latest goings-on in Hunter Region birding. Members are able to report sightings, post questions to the group and get involved with group discussions on bird related issues. The home page of the Hunterbirding group is located at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/hunterbirding> Instructions for joining a Google Group to sign up for Hunterbirding and take part in these discussions and benefit from up-to-date birding news in the region, can be found at <https://support.google.com/groups/answer/1067205?hl=en> and follow the on-site instructions In addition to being a forum for interesting discussions on issues such as bird identification and behaviour it is also a great place to report your observations. Some of the Hunterbirding observation highlights from the last couple of months include:

- A Black Kite observed over Dungog on 31 May;
- At least 20 Regent Honeyeaters reported from a property at Quorrobolong on 13 June and again on 20 June;
- A flock of 31 Cockatiels and two Black Falcons observed on the Liverpool Plains on 15 June;
- At least 24 Whimbrel found roosting in Fullerton Cove on 16 June;
- Seven Southern Whiteface and three dependent young Diamond Firetails seen near Merriwa on 16 June;
- A male Black-necked Stork seen just north of Stratford on 17 June;
- Over 650 Pink-eared Duck and 370 Australasian Shoveler seen amongst other large numbers of waterfowl at Hexham Swamp on 18 June;
- A Black Falcon photographed at Hexham Swamp on 26 June;
- A wintering Rufous Songlark photographed at Martindale on 1 July;
- An Australian Spotted Crake and five Buff-banded Rails reported at Hexham Swamp on 2 July;
- Ten Red-backed Fairy-wrens and a Southern Emu-wren observed at Dungog on 22 July;
- 103 Red-kneed Dotterels counted at Whistler Parade on 25 July;
- Six Swift Parrots photographed in HEZ on 29 July; and
- Two Regent Honeyeaters photographed at Blackalls Park on 31 July.

Bird records are obtained by the club through a variety of means, in addition to bird records communicated via Hunterbirding others are received through the BA atlas database, club outing sighting sheets, the club night observations forum and direct communications with the record officers. Of particular interest to the club are those records of regional significance, including sightings of the more unusual species, observations of breeding activity, early and late records of migratory birds and significantly large counts. A selection of records of this nature reported at the club nights and through direct communications is provided below. Unfortunately, space limitations do not enable all of the records to be reproduced here. However, the club is appreciative of all records that are received and all contributors are acknowledged in the Annual Bird Report.

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	60	11/07/2017	Birubi Beach	P. Weinstock
Diamond Firetail	10	10/06/2017	Durrigere Road	T. Kendall et al
Flame Robin	4	13/06/2017	Merriwa Tip	R. McDonald
Gang-gang Cockatoo	7	12/06/2017	Phipps Cutting Rest Area	T. Kendall et al
Hooded Robin	3	10/06/2017	Durrigere Road	T. Kendall et al
Red-winged Parrot	4	10/06/2017	Cassilis Rest Area	T. Kendall et al
Red-winged Parrot	1	10/06/2017	Summerhill Rd Turril	T. Kendall et al
Restless Flycatcher	2	20/06/2017	Bureen Bridge	T. Kendall et al
Restless Flycatcher	1	20/06/2017	Martindale Road	T. Kendall et al

Club Activities August to October 2017

DATE	EVENT	MEETING PLACE & TIME	CONTACT
AUGUST 2017			
Tuesday 15 August	Tomago Wetland Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 Please ring to confirm
Sunday 20 August	Field Outing – Tahlee	8.00 am The Rock Service Centre, RHS Pacific Hwy, 9 km n. of 2 nd Karuah exit	Alan Stuart 0409 978 171
Saturday 26 August	Hunter Wader Survey	11.00 am Ash Island and Tomago 11.30 am Other locations as directed	Alan Stuart 0409 978 171 – Ash Island Dan Williams 0408 023 262 – Kooragang Jack Adams 4971 5334 – Swansea Jenny Powers 4944 7274 – Stockton Sue Hamonet 4958 1023 – Swan Bay Steven Cox 0409 848 390– Tomago Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 - Hexham
SEPTEMBER 2017			
Tuesday 5 September	Mid-week Outing – Walka Water Works	8.00 am meet inside the gate	Marg Clarke 4933 2981 / 0412 616 030
Wednesday 6 September	Management Committee Meeting	6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School	Allan Richardson 0459 806 176 All members welcome
Wednesday 13 September	Club Meeting	7.00 pm The Wetlands Centre, Shortland	Speaker: Yuna Kim “Seabird Bycatch Mitigation”
Sunday 17 September	Field Outing – Bush Haven	7.30 am “Bush Haven” 393 Italia Road	Greg Little 0414 562 169
Mon – Wed 18-20 September	Mid-week Camp	Murrurrundi	Andrzej and Lyn Karpel 4952 3458 / 0427 483 663
Tuesday 19 September	Tomago Wetland Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 Please ring to confirm
Saturday 23 September	Hunter Wader Survey	9.30 am Ash Island and Tomago 10.00 am Other locations as directed	Alan Stuart 0409 978 171 – Ash Island Dan Williams 0408 023 262 – Kooragang Jack Adams 4971 5334 – Swansea Jenny Powers 4944 7274 – Stockton Sue Hamonet 4958 1023 – Swan Bay Steven Cox 0409 848 390– Tomago Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 - Hexham
Thursday 28 September	Biodiversity Day	10.00 am – 3.00 pm Blue Gum Hills Regional Park	Paul Baird 4938 5039 Greg Little 0414 562 169 Mick Roderick 0421 761 237 Robert McDonald 0408 877 827
OCTOBER 2017			
Sat – Mon 30 Sept – 2 Oct	October Long Weekend Camp	Windy Station	Lorna Mee 0499 015 500 Greg Little directions 0414 562 169
Tuesday 3 October	Mid-week Outing – Stockton Sandspit	7.30 am under the bridge	Judi Thomas 4952 2960
Wednesday 4 October	Management Committee Meeting	6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School	Allan Richardson 0459 806 176 All members welcome
Sat – Mon 7 – 9 October	Broughton Island Bird Banding	Nelson Bay NPWS TBA Fit only, numbers very limited: contact Alan for waiting list	Greg Little 0414 562169 Alan Stuart 0409 978 171
Wednesday 11 October	Club Meeting	7.00 pm The Wetlands Centre, Shortland	Speaker: Francoise Lermite “Common Myna Research”