



Hunter Bird Observers Club

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1/08

February – March 2008

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Lorna Mee

Conservation Officer

Ann Lindsey

Life Members

Wilma Barden
Sue Hamonet
Ed Hamonet (dec)

The aims of the club are:

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR 2008

Edition	Copy Deadline
April/May	30 th March
June/July	1 st June
August/September	3 rd August
October/November	28 September
December 2008/January 2009	30 November

Membership Fees for 2008 are now due

\$30.00 Single and Family. \$5.00 Junior

Please pay at Club Night or send cheque or money order (payable to HBOC) to PO Box 24, New Lambton 2305.

**MIDWEEK OUTING:
AWABAKAL N.R. 4 December 2007**

Report from Judi Thomas

Our final mid-week field outing for 2007 was to Awabakal Nature Reserve on a day which turned out fine despite the violent storms and rain of the preceding days. Twenty-three people arrived at 7.30am in the parking area at the end of Ocean Road, Dudley. Included were one new member who had travelled from Cessnock, and three visitors who came as guests of members.

The headland was our first destination. Along the way we saw White-cheeked and New Holland Honeyeaters, and a family of Tawny Frogmouth close to the path, but we were surprised at the lack of seabirds as we watched from the headland. Not even shearwaters, which have been abundant in the Newcastle area recently, were visible.

More success followed as we moved down to the lagoon/swamp area where we found Black Swans, Chestnut Teal, Little Black Cormorants and Dusky Moorhen on the rainwater-filled lagoon. Quite a lot of birds were active in the vegetation around the swamp area including Azure and Sacred Kingfisher, White-browed Scrubwren, Leaden Flycatcher, Eastern Whipbird and Scarlet Honeyeater.

After a break for morning tea at the oval near the Awabakal Visitors Centre we walked into the other side of the swampland area and heard a great deal of squawking from two young Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos which flew away as we came upon them, along with the two adults.

The bird-call after the walks produced reports of 66 birds, which is an excellent count for the small area we covered. As this was the last outing in the year's program fourteen people then adjourned to a nearby club for lunch.

The mid-week outings are an extremely friendly and successful part of HBOC's activities and 2007 was no exception. Behind the success is an organising team consisting of Val and Don Moon and Keith Woods who design and publish the program, arrange leaders, submit sightings for recording, and welcome new participants with introductions and information. The mid-week regulars would all like to thank them for their efforts on our behalf throughout the year.

**ANNUAL SNIPE COUNT
16 December 2007**

Report from Di Johnson

On Sunday, 16th December, 12 keen participants turned up at our annual meeting place, the Minmi pub ---no! it was not for a quiet ale, but to decide who was going to volunteer to walk in the knee-deep swamp at Pambalong Reserve to cause the elusive Latham's Snipe to fly over our counters, stationed on the railway line.

As it turned out the water level was very high due to the recent rains and the number of birds low (only 5). Afterwards we all admired Lorna Mee (a brave beater) who was greeted by 2 black snakes quite at home in their environment.

From our positions we got good sightings of a tree full of Tree Martins (only natural) and White-breasted Woodswallows hawking out in the sunshine. Red-browed Finches flitted in the undergrowth and some Reed-Warblers lived up to their name.

During the bird count (approximately 65 species seen) we looked up and saw hundreds of White-throated Needletails. What an amazing sight!

We live in hope that next year the Latham's Snipe numbers will increase.

SOME INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

Reported to and by Alan Stuart

Regent Honeyeaters bred in December on private property near Quorrobolong and at Tomalpin (near Kurri Kurri). The Tomalpin birds were still around in early January.

Tom Clarke saw a Little Tern carrying food from Stockton Sandspit towards Stockton Beach in late December. This and other intriguing sightings from Tom suggest that they may be nesting in dunes behind the beach

Also at Stockton Beach, Richard Baxter and Inger van Dyke found a Yellow Wagtail in the scrub at the back of the beach about 4 km north of the surf club. This is the first report of Yellow Wagtail locally for over a year.

WIRREANDA SCHOOL ENVIRO FAIR 7 December 2007

Report from Lorna Mee

Three members from HBOC set up a static display at the Wirreanda Public School at Medowie for their EnviroFair. Stall holders also included Jenny Musica doing Bushcraft, Hunter Botanic Gardens, Port Stephens Council on recycling, composting and worm farms, plus many other fundraising stalls for the school.

In the morning we did a series of half-hour talks to three different classes of 25 children. We then took them outside where we divided them into three groups - each led by a HBOC member showing them how to use spotting scopes and binoculars and generally all about birding.

We had a very rewarding day and many children were very interested and kept coming back to speak to us about birding. We were able to hand out some bookmarks and postcards on birds which I had acquired at the Australian Birdfair in Leeton from BOCA.

Sometimes it was difficult to keep track of binoculars, but all three pairs did come home. The children kept walking off with them. Thanks to my fellow HBOC helpers Jim Smart and Graeme Mee. Our education program for HBOC is very important for the future of the bird club.

THE GREAT SOUTHERLY MIGRATION

In November/ December, several "Senior" members of HBOC joined a tour to Macquarie Island. For those rusty on geography this island is halfway to Antarctica, and, significantly, is Aust. Territory. Tick, Tick, Tick as they say on Sixty Minutes.

Apparently they were involved in daily scrums for position on the bridge, had perfectly natural relationships with baby seals on the beach and saw many many species. Several then returned to New Zealand for various joint and separate Kiwi adventures - for instance I met Alan Stuart in Christchurch and Michael Todd on Stewart Island.

More of this when I get first hand reports. Ed.

FIELD OUTING 20 January 2008 NEWCASTLE ROCK PLATFORMS

Report from Di Johnson

Sixteen people strolled out to the Nobby's Breakwater on this cool, overcast day, pausing lots of times along the way. There were great views of 20 Ruddy Turnstones huddled together below us, their bright orange legs and mottled plumage really distinctive.

However, the walk proved to be a great diagnostic experience as further out we turned to our field guides to identify Crested, Common, Little and White-Winged Black Terns. Later on, looking out to the marker buoys we were all able to recognize the features of the Common Terns while above us, Crested and Little Terns plunged into the river.

Further along at the end of the breakwater, we admired Wedge-Tailed Shearwaters swooping and gliding over the ocean feeding on small fish. Short-Tailed and Flesh-Footed Shearwaters were identified and seen by some of us.

After morning tea, we set out along the path to Newcastle Baths. Prior to this, we'd seen 11 Sooty Oystercatchers and were hopeful we'd spy some more. However, the Crested Terns and one Common Tern ruled supreme. Each lamp post along there hosted a Great Cormorant instead of the usual Pelican. It was a great day with 31 species seen.

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2007—the short version

A very abbreviated summary of our activities for 2007. Di Johnson's full report will be at the AGM.

We did 11 Field Outings, five camps, 11 midweek outings (plus a camp by the mid-week group), held 10 full and well attended Club Nights featuring guest speakers plus the splendid Xmas Club Night. Atlasing continued under Ann Lindsey and Nick Livanos (six excursions) and there were 11 Hunter Wader Surveys. In addition there was the Port Stephens Wader Survey and much representation at local and regional events - most notably the leading role we played in The Australasian Shorebird Conference at the University of Newcastle.

BOLWARRA DIARY 2008

From Harold Tarrant

We are three weeks into another year and in many ways it is so very different here from 2007. Already we have registered over 160mm of rain for the month, most of it in the last four days. Admittedly that is well short of the 280mm that fell in 48 hours when the disastrous floods of June hit the Hunter and the Central Coast, but one would have thought that many birds would have been feeling distinctly uncomfortable, particularly those still nesting and last spring's fledglings.

This month we have had Willie Wagtails, Magpie-larks, Red-rumped Parrots, and White-Plumed Honeyeaters feeding fledged young around the garden. This last is something new, as I have only occasionally seen single birds around the suburb before. Either they are expanding their range in our direction, or the variety of garden plants available here suits them well, as it does in many parts of Sydney.

When we moved here in 1994 we saw few honeyeaters on a regular basis: Red Wattlebirds based in our front garden, Blue-Faced Honeyeaters based one block to the north, and the wintering Yellow-Faced Honeyeaters. Now the call of Spinebills may often be heard, as well as the occasional calls of the recent arrivals, White-Plumed and Striped Honeyeaters.

Spring and Summer 2006-7 had been highly unusual. In the fields there had been the very obvious influx of Rufous Songlarks and a few Brown Songlarks around the October long weekend, followed by the arrival of Singing Bushlark. I had occasionally seen or heard such species in the Phoenix Park area in the previous couple of summers, but it seemed that Spring 2007 had brought an invasion, particularly of Rufous Songlarks.

I was not too surprised since I had been seeing these species with increasing frequency in the area around Jerrys Plains and Martindale where I go atlassing. Were they here because the irrigated Hunter floodplain provided a drought refuge, or as part of a gradual movement towards the coast? And could they breed successfully when they favoured areas of

lucerne or weeds that would inevitably be mowed before too long?

I had been lucky enough to see a Rufous Songlark feeding young, but had no other evidence of breeding success. The Brown Songlarks had also seemed to go quiet after a couple of months. What reason, I asked, had they to come back? But in spring 2007 both Brown and Rufous Songlarks returned at around the same time or slightly earlier, with my impression being that there were slightly fewer Rufous and slightly more Brown.

Both species could also be heard at Walka Water Works, but I did not listen for them much in other local areas when I could occasionally hear them both from the end of my drive on a quiet Sunday morning. I could hear Brown for much longer this year, but not into 2008, while Rufous remain, although singing more faintly and less conspicuous.

Even towards Martindale and Yarrawa I had not come across Singing Bushlark this spring, so I was assuming that this species had been using the area as a drought refuge, while the songlarks had not. However, on the morning of 13th January I heard at least two birds and saw one, so some at least of this species have returned. Clearly Bolwarra had not been purely a drought refuge for them.

The other irruptive species that had gathered on the floodplain from late August 2006 had been Stubble Quail, seen only once but evident from their calls. It is true that I had occasionally heard Stubble Quail in the vicinity for several years, but generally only from summer. Good numbers were clearly present throughout spring, but the decreasing frequency of calls suggested a fall-off in summer. This spring numbers seem to have been much reduced, and though I have still heard calls into 2008 their location is less predictable—presumably because they can enjoy themselves in areas that are not irrigated and not in danger of being mowed either.

I had speculated that the influx of Stubble Quail, or perhaps of the Songlarks too, had been connected with the regular appearance of one or other of a pair of falcons. They seemed to be conducting some kind of territorial flight that took them over our house, or very close to it, probably once every three to four evenings, from 15th October until at least the end of January.

Continued next page

wattlebirds. Its call is a monotonous, incessant whinge.

It is no secret that I am firmly of the belief that they were Grey Falcons, and that I associated this behaviour with breeding. But whatever they were, nothing in the least like it has returned this year, in fact I have seen nothing locally that *could* have been such a bird.

Around once a month I have seen a Hobby in some part of the suburb, and on Jan. 18th I was clearing the guttering at one end of the house when a medium-sized bird, possibly one of the Magpie-larks, gave a startled whistle from my television aerial, flew, and was hit by a wheeling peregrine. The raptor obligingly flew over me with wings and tail spread, giving an excellent view of its barring, and without any prey in its claws. I found no injured bird, so I suspect that it was lucky on this occasion.

As for other raptors, I was once again seeing Swamp Harriers and Whistling Kites from time to time towards the end of 2007. Another local bird that had disappeared last year was the Collared Sparrowhawk, but recently it has again put in clusters of appearances, generally timed to coincide with the presence of fledged young, and it was back again this month, no doubt eying the young Magpie-larks.

Another recent addition to the Bolwarra list for Spring and Summer has been the Common Blackbird. It is usually seen and heard in the parts nearest Maitland, after reaching us through Lorn. This year there must have been two or three breeding pairs around, and birds are still being seen. On Jan. 18th we found a female sifting through a pile of rotting grass-clippings in our garden, a 'first' for us.

A feral that we do not see here now is the European Goldfinch, which has left the suburb clear for an expanding population of Zebra Finches, a few Red-Browed Finches, and very occasionally Double-Barred Finches or Diamond Firetail (reported for the second time this spring). Yet the Goldfinch is not too far away, being often seen or heard in the area near Maitland Station—another Blackbird sanctuary, it seems.

At the moment our least welcome resident is not a 'feral' at all, but an immature koel being fed by our

Strangely I've not seen an immature Pallid Cuckoo, which was one of the regular dry-country species this spring, though I have encountered immature Horsfield's Cuckoos in three different places this month. Adults may still be heard calling too.

The floods last June saw much damage to the riverbank vegetation, previously the only place where I could relatively easily find Brown Thornbills, White-Browed Scrubwrens, and Bar-Shouldered Doves. The Thornbills and Scrubwrens have found new homes in the leafier gardens, and I had the latter in my shrubbery on Jan. 12th. However, the principal excitement around the garden this month is the White-Faced Heron's nest in a Eucalypt above our pool enclosure.

Well, I guess there has to be some point in having a swimming pool, compensating for the wet-weather task of removing up to a dozen young Striped Marsh Frogs or their cousins the Spotted Marsh Frogs from the skim-bowl! Our Tree-Frogs (chiefly Green and Bleating) are fortunately less inclined to take a swim.

This month the herons have been feeding a tangle of chicks, probably three of them, flying in from Hands Lagoon or Bolwarra Lagoon, both of which are looking remarkably full of late. At last we have a year when water-dependent birds can do well again. Lagoons dry a year ago are now supporting the usual herons, egrets, ducks, large rails, cormorants, darters, and even pelicans.

Royal Spoonbills are among the birds that often fly over, and they are breeding again at Aberglasslyn this year. Sacred Kingfishers must have bred close by, as an immature appeared in our garden on 20th January.

Every time one gets outside there is usually something new. Today (21 January) it is Musk Lorikeets flying about in flocks of up to 25. One wonders what they are doing, and where they are going. So altogether it's a good year to be out gardening, just as long as it's not pouring, not too hot, and not attracting mosquito activity.

*Lumping and Splitting we lay waste our powers
The List is too much with us, late and soon.*

I know no one is much interested, but there has been some advance information on the revised **Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds** by Christidis and Boles (now available).

That's right, they are changing the lists again!

We have lost the Red Junglefowl and the Mute Swan (cancel that trip to Northam). As part compensation the Canada Goose is now recognised as a vagrant.

Apparently the Goulds Bronze Cuckoo has been subsumed into the Little Bronze Cuckoo and the Lesser Sooty Owl has been lumped in the Sooty Owl (that's minus two for the year for me and it's only just February). Also bye-bye Snares Penguin (now shackled to Fjordland Penguin) and Black-backed Wagtail - now considered to be a White Wagtail – as if!

By redefinition, we gain some rare and far-flung new species - Kalkadoon Grasswren, Short-tailed Grasswren, Western Wattlebird, Kimberley Honeyeater, Pacific Robin (on Norfolk Island) and Buff-sided Robin. That should do wonders for the domestic airline industry and its frequent flyer clubs.

Most of the other new birds merely reflect additions to the list of newly discovered vagrants to optimistically defined parts of Australia and the great Australian ocean - which extends forever. Does the Australian Antarctic Territory count? Why not?

Lots of renaming too. Welcome please the Horsfield's Bushlark (apparently Singing was too "common" for this bird) and the Baudins and Carnabys Black Cockatoo are back. Weren't we supposed to be moving away from human names - could we have Major Mitchell's Cockatoo back too?

The Yellow-bellied Sunbirds has been renamed the Olive-backed Sunbird after its most obvious feature and the Australian Reed Warbler is no longer Clamorous – the bird has been told to pipe down.

I could go on. These changes are not comprehensive. The eighth edition of Pizzey and Knight (ed P Monkhurst) is now the most up-to-date Field Guide.

Judith Wright

Along the road the magpies walk
With hands in pockets, left and right.
They tilt their heads and stroll and talk.
In their well-fitted black and white

They look like certain gentlemen
Who seem most nonchalant and wise
Until their meals is served – and then
What clashing beaks, what greedy eyes!

But not one man that I have heard
Throws back his head in such a song
Of grace and praise –no man or bird.
Their greed is brief; their joy is long.
For each is born with such a throat
As thanks his God with every note.

.....

Raoul Slater (from Wingspan December 2007)

Late last year I went on an Outback Tours bus trip to Western NSW and Queensland (country very dry, company very good) and at journey's end I was asked which bird sighting I had enjoyed most.

I skipped the Bourke's Parrot and Halls Babbler and went straight to the Splendid Fairy Wren. At the time I had difficulty explaining my choice. Then after my return, I discovered words by Raoul Slater

“Best of all, a Splendid Fairy-wren took centre stage. He looked like a hole cut in the red dirt, which let through the sky. The inland, most of our country, is in these two colours, one shimmering against the other so that the eyes hum to see them together. But more than the colour, I love the confiding nature of the male Splendid Fairy-wren. He is so confident in his finery that he perceives no threat, instead assuming that everyone is an admirer.”

The Greeks had a word for everything...

Some interesting names and their origins - (from Birds Queensland Newsletter Volume 38 Number 11 December 2007)

- Cacomantis (one genus of our cuckoos) from Greek *cacos* – bad and *mantis* - prophet;
- Ocyphaps (our Crested Pigeon genus) from Greek *ocys* – swift and *phaps* – pigeon similarly
- Geophaps (Squatter, Partridge and Spinifex Pigeons from Greek *ge* –earth; and
- Chalcophaps (Emerald Dove) - Greek *chalcos* - bronze
- Scythrops (Channel-billed Cuckoo): from Greek *scythros* – sullen-faced.

...and some other folks had words too

AVOCET

The term ‘avocet’ was introduced into ornithological literature by Aldrovandi in 1603 as ‘avosetta’ a name from the Venetian coast, the Italian habitat of this bird. Linnaeus adopted the term in 1758 when he created its scientific name of *Recurvirostra avosetta*. Thomas Pennant coined the expression “scooping avoset” in his monumental tome British Zoology in 1768 but in 1776 he simply put ‘avoset’ thus adopting the exotic term as standard English. The present spelling dates from Selby (1833) under the influence of the French avocette, itself a misspelling of the original. We presume that Pennant preferred this foreign word since the genuine English terms for this beautiful bird were far from flattering – crooked bill, scooper, barker, clinker, yelper and cobbler’s awl.

PLOVER

The name is Anglo-Norman and made its appearance in the early 14th century. It is a borrowing of the Old French ‘plovier’ or ‘plouvier’. The ultimate source of the name is uncertain, but it is widely assumed to be derived from a conjectural Late Latin term ‘plovarius’ meaning ‘belonging to rain’ (Pluvia is latin for rain). Various attempts to identify a connection between plovers and rain, none of them very convincing, have been made. One could be forgiven for suspecting that folk etymology has a role to play here.

The items on **Avocet** and **Plover** are from CBOC Newletters of 2005 and 2006 –author unknown.

ZYGODACTYLY

(Now that’s a title you don’t see in every newsletter)

Fossil tracks found in a quarry in China have been identified as belonging to a roadrunner-like bird that lived 110 million years ago. This is 50 million years older than any similar bird.

Reporting in *Nature Online* 13th July 2007, Martin Lockley and Jerald Harris say that the bird weighed about half a kilogram, similar to modern roadrunners, and measured about half a metre from beak to tail.

Importantly, the foot structure of both the fossil and modern roadrunners is zygodactyllic – with two toes facing forward and two facing backwards. There are no zygodactyl birds in the fossil record before about a million years ago, according to the study’s leader, Martin Lockley of the University of Colorado.

He added that the bird was not a direct ancestor of the roadrunner and zygodactyly evolved independently in the different species. It is not known what advantage this confers on birds. “It’s a big enigma,” he said.

The tracks indicate that the bird was running at about 8 kilometres per hour. The tracks were found in a quarry in Shandong Province: they are named *Shandongornipes muxiai*.

The other author added that the modern roadrunner is the only ground dwelling member of the cuckoo family, all of which display the same zygodactyly. “Nobody’s worked out how modern roadrunners got these feet”, says Harris, “but they probably didn’t evolve for running”.

A LAST WORD ON CLIMATE CHANGE FROM SOMEONE WHO SHOULD KNOW

Some of our businesses use more energy than others, but our strategy everywhere is the same...first, reduce our use of energy as much as possible. Then, switch to renewable sources of power where it makes economic sense. And, over time, as a last resort, offset the emissions we can’t avoid.

Rupert Murdoch 2007

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Over the Australia Day long weekend, about 20 club members camped beside Isaacs Creek at Timor Caves and found over 80 species within walking distance of the camp. Highlights included a pair of Tawny Frogmouths found by Bev and David Kibble, and a family of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters nesting in an angophora near John and Leone Storm. As Leone watched, a nestling teetered on the edge of the flimsy nest then plummeted to the ground! She picked it up gently and realised there was another nestling on the ground within inches of her feet. With both nestlings cradled carefully, Leone called to the rest of the group for assistance. Leone knew she had to reconstruct the nest and put the baby birds back in the tree so their parents could continue to feed them. She gave the nestlings to Joan to hold while she found a suitable "nest" - the base of a cherry tomato punnet, complete with drainage holes. Rowley found some string; Ann searched for grass to line the nest; and Chris drove his 4WD under the tree so he could stand on the roof and tie the "nest" to a suitable forked branch. Once it was secure and lined with soft grass, Chris placed the nestlings in their new nest and we all stepped back to see if the parents would find them again. It took about half an hour for them to locate the new position of their "nest", but once they had carefully inspected, pecked and tested the knots, they accepted it and continued to feed

their youngsters. What a delightful close encounter with these tiny birds!

This year, Christidis and Boles have finally published their long-awaited revision of the *Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds*, which means a revision of the order of birds in our Hunter Region Annual Report and on our report forms. There are some changes to common names as well as to a few scientific names. It will take a little while to get used to it all! A copy of their book will be in our library shortly.

This February completes my term of five years as President of HBOC and a new President and Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. We have seen lots of development in the Lower Hunter in the past 5 years and there will be more development in the future as our population continues to expand. This will put ever-increasing pressure on birds and their habitats. We must continue to press for a balance between conservation and development to ensure that the beauty of wild birds continues to give pleasure to future generations.

Thanks to an enthusiastic and active membership and a very active Committee, HBOC continues to campaign effectively for restoration and rehabilitation of bird habitat. Happy birding!

Liz Crawford

OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB NIGHT DEC 2007/FEB2008

Jan -Feb	Latham's Snipe	1	Salamander Waters Estate	L.A.Wooding
Sep-Nov	Latham's Snipe	1	"	"
Sep 3	Great Crested Grebe	24	Grahamstown Dam	M.Maddock
	Hoary-headed Grebe	91	"	"
Sep21	Hoary-headed Grebe	75	"	"
Oct 24	Red-kneed Dotterel	2	Irrawang Swamp	M.Maddock
	Latham's Snipe	4	"	"
	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	10	"	"
	Red-kneed Dotterel	10+2dy	Gosforth	"
Oct 31	Emerald Dove	1	Wingham Brush	Crested Shrike Twits
	Blue-billed Duck	1	Walka Water Works	"
	Red-kneed Dotterel	6	Ash Island	"
	Forest Raven	1	Harrington	"
	Torresian Crow	1	Walka Water Works	"
Oct 31	Baillon's Crake	1	Walka Water Works	G.Brosie et al
	Aust. Spotted Crake	2	"	"
Nov 5	Powerful Owl	2	Adamstown [Army Base]	C.Anderson
	Rainbow Bee-eater	4Pr nests	Gungah	D.Allen
Nov	Aust. Owllet Nightjar	1heard	Green Point	G.Brosie
Nov 14	Dollarbird	20+	Croudace Bay	"
Nov 16	Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo	1	Raworth [garden]	"
Nov 17	Glossy Ibis	1	Swan Bay Rd.	"
Nov 15	Regent Bowerbird	1m	Floraville	T.Clarke
	Rufous Fantail	4	"	"
	Striped Honeyeater1		"	"
Nov 27	Cicadabird	1	Pambalong N.R.	"
Nov 28	Spotted Harrier	1	"	"
Nov 24	Common Blackbird	1	Wallsend [garden]	"

Nov 26	Brown Songlark	1	Wingham Brush	J.Adams
	Aust. Brush Turkey	2	“	“
Nov 8	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	12	Cessnock	
Nov23 on	White-faced Heron	1nest	Bolwarra [garden]	H.Tarrant
Nov 22	Black Kite	1	Woodville	H.Tarrant
Nov 26	Zebra Finch	1ffy	Telarah Rlwy Stn	H.Tarrant
Nov 25	Dusky Woodswallow	12+n	Location purposely omitted	A. Friis
Nov 28	White-browed Woodswallow	12+n	“	“
Nov 23	White-winged Triller	8n	“	“
Nov 28	Rufous Whistler	4n	“	“
Nov 27	Royal Spoonbill	3	Broke	R.Smith
Nov 28	Black-winged Stilt	Pr+3fy	“	“
Nov 21	Little Bittern	1m	Walka Water Works	L.Mee
Nov26-30	Glossy Black Cockatoo	5+1dy	Wyee Point	D. & V. Moon
Dec 1-10	Glossy Black Cockatoo	3	“	“
Dec 1	Grey Goshawk	1	Speers Point [Fairfax Rd]	R.Walker
Dec 3	White-browed Scrubwren	1	Wingen [garden]	G.Newling
	Restless Flycatcher	1	“ “	“
	Willie Wagtail	Pr+2dy	“ “	“
	Noisy Friarbird	Pr. +2dy	“ “	“
Dec 3	Latham's Snipe	1	Brandy Hill	L.Mee
Dec 5	Glossy Ibis	8	Mt. Arthur mine site [dam]	G.Newling
Dec 5	Regent Honeyeater	2ny	Location purposely omitted	A. Friis
	Striped Honeyeater	2n	“	“
Dec 12	Figbird	1	Woodberry [garden]	“
Dec 11	White-browed Woodswallow	10+	Kurri [H.E.Z.]	A.Lindsey
	Noisy Friarbird	Dozens	“	“
Dec 10	Rufous Fantail	1	East Maitland [garden]	J.Smart
Dec 1	Pacific Baza	1	Brandy Hill	L.Mee
Dec 12	Rufous Fantail	1	Brandy Hill	L.Mee
Dec 6	Nankeen Night Heron	1	Brandy Hill	L.Mee
Dec 9	Nankeen Kestrel	2	Ash Island	N.McNaughton
Dec 2	Magpie Goose	18	“	“
Dec 5	Leaden Flycatcher	2	“	“
Dec 21	Striped Honeyeater	1fy	Clarencetown	L. Storm
Dec 20	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	4	“	“
Dec 1	Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	Edgeworth	R.Boyce
	Channel-billed Cuckoo	2	“	“
Dec 3	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	2	“	“
Dec 4	Common Koel	2	“	“
Dec 10	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	3	Heatherbrae	R.Boyce
Dec 11	Eastern Rosella	Pr	Edgeworth	“
Dec 16	Latham's Snipe	1	Bolwarra [Lagoon]	H.Tarrant
Dec 1	White-browed Woodswallow	1ffy	Doyle's Creek	H.Tarrant
	White-winged Triller	1f+2dy	“	“
	White-browed Babbler	~5	“	“
	Whistling Kite	Nest	Bureen	“
Dec 27	White-headed Pigeon	1	Vacy	“
	Regent Bower Bird	3	“	“
	Azure Kingfisher	1	“	“
	Speckled Warbler	1ffy	“	“
Dec 8	Black-tailed Native-hen	1	Mt. Arthur mine [dam]	G.Newling
	Baillon's Crane	1	“	“
2008				
Jan 7	Common Sandpiper	1	Warners Bay [Esplanade]	R.Walker
Jan 13	Royal Spoonbill	11	The Wetlands Centre	D.Johnson
	Grey Teal	6dy	“	“
	Rufous Fantail	1juv	“	“
Jan 16	Regent Honeyeater	3	Clarencetown [garden]	L.Storm

PROGRAM

DATE	EVENT	MEETING TIME & PLACE	CONTACT
Sunday 17 February	Volunteer Day Stockton Sandspit	8.00am to Noon Sandspit Car Park	Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Tuesday 19 February	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
Saturday 23 February	Hunter Wader Survey	10.10am Ash Island 10.30am Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 Chris Herbert 4959 3663
Sunday 24 February	Field Outing Tierney's Lane Martinsville.	7.30am Cooranbong Fire Station	Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Sunday 2 March	Clean Up Australia Day Stockton Sandspit	9.00am to 1.00pm Sandspit Car Park	Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Tuesday 4 March	Midweek Outing Watagans	7.30am Freemans Waterhole Car Park	Don Moon 4359 1670 Please ring to confirm rain affected access
Wednesday 5 March	Management Committee Meeting	7.00pm to 10.00pm Garden Suburb School	All members welcome
Saturday 8 March	Hunter Wader Survey	9.00am Ash Island 9.30am Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 Chris Herbert 4959 3663
Wednesday 12 March	CLUB MEETING	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: David Geering Regent Honeyeaters
Tuesday 18 March	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
EASTER Fri –Monday 21-24 March	Camp at 'Coerheide'	Goulburn River National Park nr Wollar	Di Johnson 4975 1777
Tuesday 1 April	Midweek Outing Murrays Beach	8.00am near playground equipment. Jetty Point Dr Murrays Beach	Max Blanch 4961 1655
Wednesday 2 April	Management Committee Meeting	7.00pm to 10.00pm Garden Suburb School	All members welcome
Saturday/Sunday 5/6 April	BIGnet meeting, Canberra	12.30pm National Botanic Gardens Canberra	Liz Crawford 4959 3663
Wednesday 11 April	CLUB MEETING	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker TBA
Sunday 13 April	Volunteer Day Stockton Sandspit	8.00am to 12 Noon sandspit car park	Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Tuesday 15 April	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
Saturday 19 April	Hunter Wader Survey	7.00am Ash Island 7.30am Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 Chris Herbert 4959 3663
Sunday 20 April	Field Outing Corrabare State Forest	8.00am Millfield School	Lorna Mee 4988 6579
ANZAC Weekend	Camp at Swans Crossing	Turn left at Kew	Tom Clarke 4951 3872