



Hunter Bird Observers Club

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1/09

February – March 2009

Newsletter articles welcome – contact Newsletter Editor Peter Phillips.
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Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.
(affiliated with the Bird Observers Club of Australia)

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Committee

The aims of the club are:

President: Grant Brosie
Vice-president: Paul Baird
Secretary: Tom Clarke
Treasurer: Rowley Smith

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

Committee Members:

Ann Lindsey
Liz Crawford
Robert MacDonald
Craig Anderson
Jack Adams
Colin Goodenough

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR 2009

Edition

April-May 2009
June-July 2009
August-Sep 2009
October –Nov. 2009
December 2009- Jan 2010

Copy Deadline

29 March 2009
31 May 2009
2 August 2009
4 October 2009
29 November 2009

Conservation Coordinator

Ann Lindsey

Activities Officer

Lorna Mee

NEW MEMBERS

The Club extends a warm welcome to Peter Struik and Toni Marsh of Toronto, Tony & Judy Iveson of Stockton and Janeen & Robert Greig of Wollombi. We hope to meet you often at Club Nights and on Club Outings and Camps.

Life Members

Wilma Barden(dec)
Ed Hamonet(dec)
Sue Hamonet
Alan Stuart

Membership Fees for 2009 now due

\$30.00 Single and Family. \$5.00 Junior

Members may pay at Club Night or send cheque or money order payable to HBOC to PO Box 24 New Lambton 2305

Membership forms can be obtained at Club Night or by downloading from the website www.hboc.org.au

Cool rainforest provides hot spot at Myall View.

Camp Australia Day Weekend
Report from Tom Clarke

The Australia Day weekend was celebrated by 26 HBOC members, in style, at “Myall View” near Violet Hill. A huge list of birds was collated as we endured extremes of weather, enjoyed access to several properties containing diverse habitat and experienced some unforgettable birdy moments.

Many of the campers found it totally unnecessary to leave the camp and opted to just set up next to the fence and observe whatever appeared at the edge of the forest. Plenty of entertainment was on hand as Eastern Yellow Robin, White-throated Treecreeper, Golden Whistler and Red-browed Finch were never far away. I can hardly wait till Club Night and some of the images captured by the band of camera operators are projected on the wall.

Each evening, of course, we had those wonderful Glossy Black-Cockatoos coming in to roost, the regular White-throated Nightjar fly-past and hundreds of fruit bat leaving the forest.

The more adventurous would return to camp, having walked great distances, with reports of Latham’s Snipe, Southern Emu-wren, Pacific Baza, Dollarbird and Wedge-tailed Eagle.

But my lasting memory of this camp will be that of the ‘water hole’. You may recall that the Saturday of the weekend was extremely hot until that late change when we all stood about in the rain cooling off. A mid-morning decision to wander up into the rainforest and get out of that heat was one of the best I have ever made. New member Bob came along and just as well because sometimes you need a second person to confirm your story.

For about an hour we made our way slowly into the rainforest and picked along the creek in the best cool shade that you can get; the shade of forest trees. We had seen several bird species, including Yellow-throated Scrubwren feeding fledged young, but finding rewarding observations were proving to be hard work.

The challenging sighting of an immature Pale Yellow Robin was finally “nailed” with the appearance of an inquisitive adult. This was our

most celebrated observation until the discovery of the ‘water hole’.

It very quickly dawned upon us both that on such a hot day there would be plenty of birds heading for this water. Almost immediately we had walked off about 10m or so several birds turned up to drink – how good was that. An hour and a half later, the pair of us were still sitting there, each with a tree to lean against and some comfortable rocks to sit on. What an amazing parade we witnessed.

I think that possibly our first birds were Lewin’s Honeyeater or Black-faced Monarch or Rufous Fantail. These three species just kept turning up every second time. It is hard to understand how many individuals may have visited the water hole but it just had to be dozens. Meanwhile, it was simply a matter of wait-a-while and another species would appear.

Large birds like Satin Bowerbird, Green Catbird, Brown Cuckoo-dove and Top-knot Pigeon would fly in to perches up in the canopy before gingerly making progress from branch to branch down to the water. These birds were all showing signs of extreme thirst but were loath to rush into the drinking spot. Our best large bird of the forest would be a toss-up between the Lyrebird and the pair of Wompoo Fruit-dove. Those Wompooos took forever to get down to the water and still had time to fight over which bird was getting to drink first! The heat effects even the most beautiful of creatures.

Small birds like Grey Fantail, Eastern Yellow Robin, Silvereye, White-throated Treecreeper, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike Thrush, Eastern Spinebill, Brown Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, Brown Gerygone and Yellow-throated Scrubwren flew in to low perches in small cabbage palms. They then would make for any number of exposed tree roots sticking out from the bank before dropping to the water. These little bush birds didn’t muck about like the larger ones; they were drinking in no time. Mostly these birds turned up silently without any fanfare but as a small flock of Silvereyes left they were chirping like mad. Well its only natural to start singing after a few drinks.

The list of ‘water hole’ birds was starting to look impressive when for a moment they all disappeared. To our absolute delight, a dingo walked in, drank from the pool, and vanished again. I am sure this

beast had not realised we were present as it never once looked across at us. Then there were more delights in store as Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Laughing (read gasping) Kookaburra, White-naped Honeyeater, Scarlet Honeyeater and Red-browed Finch made appearances.

With the mid-day over things did quieten down so two very happy birdos eventually decided to make tracks back to camp. On hearing our great account a few others walked out later in the day and added Rose Robin, Eastern Whipbird, White-browed Scrubwren, Wonga Pigeon, Brush Turkey and White-headed Pigeon to the 'water hole' list.

I would like to record here our thanks to Michael and Rose McNeice for allowing HBOC to camp on their property and to neighbour Bob Guthrie for granting us access to his place as well. Both owners showed great interest in the birds and all other aspects of nature thriving at Myall View.

THE WHISTLER

Alan Stuart makes a request for spare copies of Whistler Issue 1 to be donated back to HBOC. Perhaps you do not want to keep your copy. It seems that our original print run was calculated to supply free copies to all members plus a few free copies to some libraries. Since that time we have identified several additional libraries that should be supplied but Alan does not have enough spare copies for the demand. Bring your precious copy to Club Night or hand it to a Committee member. Thanks.

Alan also reports that Whistler Issue 2 is well advanced and he is hopeful of printing in a couple of months

SHOREBIRD CONFERENCE

Members are reminded that the 7th Australasian Shorebird Conference takes place in Hobart 4-6 September 2009. To get on the email list for further announcements email Dr Eric Woehler aswg2009@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Accessing Hexham Swamp via Woodlands Close

A birdwatcher has reported that he went to Hexham Swamp Nature Reserve recently and attempted to access the Reserve by the northern route via Woodlands Close from the New England Highway. He was met by a Mr Mick Hain who explained that all the properties around the Reserve are privately owned by either Mr Hain or the Oak Dairy Factory.

Mr Hain allowed the birdwatcher to park on his property and transit to the Reserve but he expressed concern about people entering the property unannounced as he had been having problems with people cutting and otherwise damaging fences and with theft. This is a working cattle property.

Mr Hain seems to have no problems with birdwatchers generally although he has reservations about large numbers at any one time. So - if you intend to go to Hexham Swamp via this route please use common courtesy and contact Mr Hain first. Mobile 0409 770 790, The Club has a good record of respecting private property rights and it would not be a good result to have the spot lost or to spend valuable birding time in the clink on trespass charges.

Or continue down Woodland close following the rail line to the end of woodland close. Any difficulties experienced should be reported to the Club via the Secretary Tom Clarke.

BIGNET MEETING

Members are reminded that the next meeting of BIGnet (delegates from all birdwatching and associated groups) will be hosted by HBOC at the Wetland Centre 21-22 March 2009.

This is a twice-yearly meeting at which issues affecting the wide range of bird groups are discussed. Papers are presented and a certain amount of socializing will take place. Call Paul Baird 4938 5039 if you want to attend. You may be able to help with organising and billeting

**Hunter Thickheads Romp Home for Twitchathon
2008 Enviro-Prize
Report from Ann Lindsey**

There are just some years when the birds do not pop up at the right place at the right time and this was one such year. Our score of 193 birds seen in the twenty-four hours was well down on the 2007 total of 214 species and, we worked just as hard. Our biggest disappointments were the Rock Warbler and the Latham's Snipe. In our pre-twitch reconnaissance we found a Rock Warbler feeding young, still apparently in the nest under a huge sandstone boulder. We didn't actually search too hard for the nest itself as we did not want to disturb proceedings but we could observe the comings and goings of the parent birds from a safe distance. As a result of this wonderful find, we decided to start our Twitch with the Rock Warblers. But at 4pm on the Saturday, not a sign! Clearly the chicks had fledged that day never to be seen again by us hopeful Twitchers. As for the Latham's Snipe, well, it had already been twitched by another team and it decided not to stick around waiting for us to come by. We did have some good luck however: the White-backed Swallows were flying over the farmhouse according to schedule, the Painted Honeyeater called on cue, a treeful of Wompoos awaited us in the rainforest and incredibly the Emu-wrens were still at the side of the road at exactly the same spot as the previous year. Thanks to a tip-off from the friendly Home Brewers, the day before the race, we found a Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater near Denman which became our rarest bird. This species has found its way into the western areas of the Hunter Region, but is still relatively rare.

Good news is that we won an enviro-prize, a new category, for the most birds over a score of 180, seen in the shortest distance traveled. We drove 404 kilometres from the starting point to the end-point at the Wetlands Centre. The Hunter Thickheads gratefully acknowledge the support we continue to receive from HBOC members, friends, family and colleagues and this year we raised \$1454.60. As you know the funds raised will be shared between the Central Coast Bush Stone-curlew Recovery Program and the Milhams Pond Mangrove Removal Project on Ash Island. Three cheers for our supporters!

**Midweek Outing 2 December 2008
Hunter Wetlands from, Judi Thomas**

The last of our successful series of midweek outings for 2008 was held at the Hunter Wetlands. Twenty-four enthusiastic regulars and one new member met at the entrance at 7.30am in fine warm weather. We had arranged for early entry, as the usual opening time is 10am: far too late to observe early morning bird activity.

For our first walk we hurried past the ponds to avoid their distraction, and headed towards the rainforest. We were rewarded with a special sighting of 2 adult Buff-banded Rail with their immature young. The four were together in grasses in the creek bed so we were able to watch them for some time; unlike the usual sighting when they quickly disappear. The December outing was chosen to coincide with the expected nesting of Cattle, Great, Intermediate and Little Egrets and as we walked on we noticed young egrets in many nests. The usual Australian White Ibis nests remained in amongst the Egret nests. In the same area we observed several Nankeen Night Herons and quite a few Whistling Kites roosting or flying overhead. Plenty of easy prey for them! By the time we returned to the Visitor's Centre for morning tea we already had a growing list of observations including Rufous Whistler and Rufous Fantail.

From our morning tea tables we could see turtles on the bank and a Willy Wagtail's nest with three quite large young being fed by an adult Wagtail. After morning tea some of the group remained around the ponds to observe the water birds while the more energetic dared to cross a very busy road to the wetlands opposite. On arrival we disturbed one Latham's Snipe but were unable to find others. There were many nests of cormorants; Pied, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants plus some Darters and Great Cormorants.

Our total species observations for an excellent morning of birding was 74 plus 5 heard but not seen. As it was the last midweek outing for the year 21 members adjourned to the adjacent Golf Club for lunch. We have had a very successful year of birding and look forward to resuming our Midweek Outings in 2009. Why not join us?

The Birds of Maitland Station

from Harold Tarrant

This title is indeed meant to cause some surprise, but it does have a serious purpose. Railways traverse a variety of habitats and are often associated with patches of land that may not be in pristine condition but are still little used by humans.

A significant proportion of my occasional observations submitted to HBOC relates to train travel to work between Maitland and Warabrook: sometimes on the actual journey and sometimes at one end or the other. The journey passes the country around Wallis Creek at the Maitland end, patches of remnant woodland near Metford, significant swamps between Thornton and Tarro, Hexham Swamp itself, and Newcastle Wetland Reserve.

Passing the swamps one may observe a variety of heron, ibis, spoonbill, rail and duck species, some larger waders including hundreds of Black-winged Stilts near Hexham McDonalds, and assorted raptors: especially Swamp Harriers. My better sightings include a Black-necked Stork, Square-tailed Kite, and Spotted Harrier. At my stations I have glimpsed Black and Peregrine Falcons at the Maitland end and Barn Owl at Warabrook.

Early this year a journey that began, unusually, with a delayed train from East Maitland caused me to do a scan with my pocket binoculars towards an old industrial chimney. On it, side-by-side, were two greyish-backed falcons, perhaps hobbies. Certainly I found both hobbies and kestrels using the chimney on visits over the next few weeks.

Getting late to Warabrook I was further delayed by the immediate sighting of a Peregrine, flying around with large white prey, almost certainly a Little Corella. It proceeded eventually to feed the bird to its mate. Courtship feeding of Peregrines is not something one often witnesses.

But what of an ordinary journey and an ordinary day?

On December 15th 2008 I missed my train at Maitland because of heavy traffic. I wasn't wasting

25 minutes, so I walked along the side of the railway to Regent Street and back. Railways typically have small patches of virtually untouched wasteland with copious weed species nearby, and by this station there are also damp meadows, ditches, and ephemeral ponds, as well as a variety of scattered trees, native and introduced. As I walked out of the station I heard a twittering that I recognised as one of the many feral species present. It inspired me to note all the species I encountered, and to come back in the evening for a similar walk.

Fantastic Ferals

Normally I am not inspired by feral species, but the European Goldfinch is hardly in danger of becoming a menace in the Hunter. Its red face and deep yellow wing-bar are both endearing features, and this is where I most frequently record it, whether in the Casuarinas of the station car-park or flitting across the platforms. It must nest somewhere in the vicinity, though the only time I have stumbled upon a nest has been on the local property of a Xmas-tree grower a couple of kilometres away, nesting in one of the doomed pines and unknowingly harbouring the egg of a Fantailed Cuckoo. This is a bird I can happily live with as long as it does not multiply to trans-Tasman or Tasmanian levels.

It is true that I am less enamoured of the Mynahs, Starlings, House Sparrows, Rock Doves, and Spotted Doves that were also in evidence, but I'd rather have Goldfinches than many of the native bullies whose numbers have got out of hand since settlement.

The same applies to Common Blackbirds. They have adapted to those areas around Maitland with big established gardens, thick hedges, and manicured lawns. The British garden attracts the British refugees it seems. In New Zealand, Tasmania, and Melbourne they can seem sickeningly common, as in western Europe, but they seem unlikely on their present showing to take over the Hunter, and their evening song is worth listening to. As long as they do no harm they are welcome as far as I am concerned. That song was the first thing I heard on leaving the station in the evening. I could still hear it as I walked back to the car twenty minutes later.

Native Populations

I didn't need to go beyond the Station to record the ferals, but I wanted to see which native were around. Magpie larks and Australian Magpies were no more difficult. In the morning there was the occasional Stubble Quail call from well out in the meadow, and a rather more constant sound of Cisticolas calling and answering. Not much moved in the sky, but a small area of temporary water had attracted two Pacific Black Ducks, a Great Egret, and a Royal Spoonbill, with a few Masked Lapwings nearby.

All but the Lapwings had disappeared in the evening, but two Australasian Little Grebes were enjoying a swim, above and below the water, while a White-faced Heron landed nearby. Both species of ibis seemed to be missing on this occasion. A Willie-Wagtail was in evidence, as were Superb Blue Wrens. A Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike had found cause to hover over an area of weeds, and a medium-sized flock of Galahs was flying noisily about, contrasting with the silent forms of two Australian Pelicans. No raptors were noted, though Nankeen Kestrels and Black-shouldered Kites often do appear here, while I have seen all Hunter-listed falcons, and at least half of our other raptors along this stretch.

A short distance away and just over a year ago I had seen Zebra Finches feeding young at Telarah station, which I use only about twice a year. Red-Browed Finches are also a possibility there, and I have seen Chestnut-breasted Mannikin while standing at Warabrook Station. Why not make sure you turn your trip into work into a bird-watching trip?

ARMCHAIR TWITCH Sun. 27 September 2009
from Lesley Beaton the Armchair Twitch
Coordinator (she's the one with the remote)

From parks in Papinya to verandas in Victor Harbor people are watching birds from their armchairs.

Carbon-footprint friendly, the Armchair Twitch encourages birdwatchers to sit in one spot & let the birds come to them, and its amazing how many do. Past winners have counted the amazing total of 90 species in one day. Can you beat that? The rules are simple, record the number of birds seen or heard from the one 5 metre diameter circle. For a great time socializing with friends while indulging in your favourite pastime be part of the Armchair Twitch. or more info check our the website basq.org.au/armchairtwitch or email the

coordinator at armchairtwitch.westnet.com.au

BUSH STONE CURLEW SURVEYS 2008

From Garon Staines
Pygmy Possum Ecological Consulting
pygmypossum@optusnet.com.au

This report dates from early September 2008

This year for the first time we had teams covering parts of Port Stephens as well as teams at Gosford and Pittwater.

At Gosford about 28 volunteers covered 14 separate sites. Unfortunately we had some mixed results probably due to the fact that Mother Nature decided to send a 20-30knot westerly breeze for part of the census period. But we still got 5 unique birds and 1-2 other possible unique birds. A pair of BSC was recorded in Everglades Golf Course near Umina plus one each at Davidstown , near Kincumber, Saratoga Oval and a possible from Empire Bay.

Pittwater recorded their usual pair near Careen Bay

Port Stephens had 4 teams covering 5 locations with a pair recorded at Little Swan Bay.

For those who haven't heard, one of the Umina chicks born last season and leg banded (as BD03) was spotted last week at Balgowlah Heights near Manly and taken to Taronga Zoo after appearing disorientated. This bird has travelled about 33 kms but maybe its in the genes as her mother (also banded as a chick from St Huberts Island a few seasons ago) was also spotted at Swansea , Raymond Terrace and Pittwater before turning up as one half of a new breeding pair at Umina. BD03 will be released back at Gosford shortly and hopefully will team up with one of the bachelor BSC in the area.

Editors Note

This Report is given greater circulation due to its intrinsic interest however the specific locations have been kept vague, which with the delay in the report may prevent unwarranted attention to the birds. This species is subject to breeding disruption. Members should consider to whom and how precisely they communicate locations of breeding birds.

BIRDING IN KENYA

From Phillipa Hodgins

In November 2008, I was fortunate to travel to Kenya on a bird-watching safari with my friend Julianne Schwenke (spouse of our esteemed editor). We used a Tanzania-based company, **Birding and Beyond Safaris**, who I would heartily recommend. They tailored an itinerary to our time restraints and were happy to run a 15 day tour just for the two of us. We travelled in the delightful company of our local Kenyan guide, Cliff and Tanzanian driver, Geitan, in whose care we felt safe at all times.

Cliff has completed the ornithological guiding course at the Kenyan National Museum and is a fount of knowledge and boundless enthusiasm, who went birdwatching during his hours off and is responsible for training a cohort of young birdwatchers in his home village of Lake Baringo.

We used an extended troop carrier with a safari-viewing “pop-top” – our personal mobile bird hide! Accommodation varied from absolute luxury (at Samburu River Lodge, Rondo Retreat and Naoromoru River Lodge) to only-just-reasonable (at Wajee Nature Park). All meals were included and food was of excellent quality and freshness, ensuring we remained in perfect health.

Highlight locations included Kakamega Forest, Lake Baringo, Lake Bogoria, Nakuru and Samburu National Parks, providing a great range of habitats as well as spectacular scenery – Lake Victoria, Mount Kenya, the Rift Valley and its soda lakes, and a magical equatorial rainforest remnant at Kakamega.

I was pleasantly surprised by the climate: as we were never below ~ 1500 metres, the days were in the balmy mid 20s and the nights chilled for good sleeping (and open fires). There were brief periods of rain but nothing seriously discouraging.

And the birds! I saw 390 species and it’s hard to say which were the most memorable. I guess the countless flamingos were the most extraordinary spectacle, but wonderful views of common and Somali ostriches, nesting secretary birds, herons and storks, a huge variety of raptors, coursers, dikkops, owls, owlets and nightjars and so on and so on.....

Seeing multiple species of which there are only 1 or 2 representatives in Australia was exciting – bee-eaters, sunbirds, rollers, starlings and of course those species of which we have no examples here – barbets, hornbills, woodpeckers, tchagras, weavers, widows, turacaos.

I guess the rarest birds that we were privileged to see were the blue-headed bee-eater at Kakamega and the Hinde’s babbler at Wajee. My infamous dip was on the grey parrot, a pair of which flew overhead at Kakamega whilst I was taking a pee in the forest! (Ed. Note – this is called an Escap –pee) Somehow seeing a pair in the aviary in Dunedin Botanic Gardens a few weeks later was not consoling.



SOMALI OSTRICH Samburu Kenya.

If I never see another cisticola it won’t be too soon.

“Birds of East Africa” by Stevenson and Fanshawe was a very adequate field guide, but what was a coincidental delight was “A Guide to the Birds of East Africa – a Novel” by Nicholas Drayson, which we had found in Australia a few weeks before our departure. This latter is recommended reading for all birdwatchers regardless of any lack of travel plans.

For the interest of those who have come upon this gem of a book, a hadada is an ibis.

Of course, we also took notice on mammalian species which appeared in our field of view. There were many monkeys, antelope species, huge families of elephants, two species of zebras and giraffes, a solitary rhino, and lots of cranky hippos and crocs. Sadly for Julianne, we saw no big cats.

Of non-birding interest was our timing: we were in Kenya during the US presidential election and in fact at Kisumu, near the home of Obama's grandmother, at the time of his victory. This was huge in Kenya – there was great revelry, an immediate public holiday, huge press coverage, and apparently a dozen new born males named Barack within 24 hours of the result. Julianne wore a selection of Obama tee-shirts which were great ice-breakers.

I would recommend Kenya as a birdwatching destination, as it is accessible, fairly safe, quite economical, there is a fabulous array of species, and English is spoken everywhere. I really endorse Birding and Beyond as an operator, and would definitely use them again if birding in Tanzania or Uganda, which are their other destinations.

www.tanzaniabirding.com
www.birdingsafaris.co.tz

Steve Abbott aka The Sandman is to present a 10-part podcast on birdwatching called Birdbrain. Apparently “its as much about the internal monologue of a disillusioned middle-aged man trying to ignite some enthusiasm for life as it is about birds and those who observe them”. Abbott (who is a genuine birdwatcher) says of himself “ Sometimes you think “Am I still alive?” and then you go out watching birds with people who are really passionate and you see how excited they get seeing something they have seen 100 times before”
abc.net.au/local/podcasts from February 16

Easter Camp

For those of you who wish to book accommodation for the Easter camp @ Macquarie Marshes or the extension to Bowra station south west Qld the types of accommodation, cost and contact details for each of the locations is detailed below.

Macquarie Marshes (Willies Retreat)

Powered sites - \$22 (2 persons per night)

Camping - \$10 per person per night

Woolshed 20 single beds
\$15 per person per night

Bunkhouse 11 bunk beds (22people)
\$22 per person per night

Retreat 10 bunk beds (5 rooms) (20 people)
\$35 per person per night

To book contact Myra and Phillip Tolhurst
(02) 6824 4361
(02) 6824 4301
0428 244 361

For directions and further information about Macquarie Marshes a birding routes pamphlet is also available contact Robert McDonald 4952 2941

Bowra Station Qld

5 powered sites - \$12.50 per person per night

Camping - \$10 per person per night

3 rooms twin bed (2 people)
1 room single & double beds (3 people)
1 room single bed
All above \$30 per person per night

1 room 2 double bunks (4 people)
\$25 per person per night

To book contact Ian and Julie McLaren
(07) 4655 1238
(07) 4655 6904
0438 551 238

For directions and further information about Bowra station contact Lorna Mee 4988 6579

OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB NIGHT DEC 2008/JAN2009

2008				
Nov 20	Royal Spoonbill	>10	Newcastle University	E.McKane
Nov 24	White-faced Heron	1	Bonnells Bay	“
Oct 18	White-bellied Sea-eagle	2	Fennells Bay	J.Maidment
Nov 11	White-faced Heron	1	Merewether [garden]	“
Dec 10	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	1	Merewether [garden]	“
Nov 13	Sooty Oystercatcher	6	Boat Harbour	T.Clarke
Nov 30	Powerful Owl	1	Floraville Reserve	“
Dec 6/7	Satin Bowerbird	3	Wallsend [garden]	“
Dec 8	Torresian Crow	4	Dudley	“
	Pacific Baza	2	Dudley	“
Dec 9	White-throated Needletail	20	Grahamstown Dam	L.Wooding
	Latham's Snipe	29	Medowie [Golf Course]	D.Hatfield
Dec 4	Pheasant Coucal	2	Ash Island	B.Shields
Dec 7	Crested Shrike-tit	1	Butterwick	“
Dec 6	Striped Honeyeater	3	H.W.C.	P.Lightfoot
	Eastern Yellow Robin	1	“ [Rainforest]	“
	Royal Spoonbill	6	“	“
Dec 7	Pied Oystercatcher	5+on	Stockton Beach	A.Lindsey
Dec	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	2-4	Merewether [garden]	K.Woods
	Rainbow Lorikeet	2-4	“	“
Dec 2	White-throated Needletail	>10	Carey Bay	L.Crawford
Dec 10	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	6	Williamtown	“
	Cockatiel	1juv	Fennell Bay	C.McGilvray
Dec 9	Dollarbird	2	“	“
Nov 27	Wedge-tailed Eagle	2 juv	Mt. Arthur mine site	G.Newling
	Brown Songlark	Pr	“	“
	Australian Pipit	B	“	“
Nov	Laughing Kookaburra	2+2dy	Wingen	“
	Blue-faced Honeyeater	2juv	“	“
	Red Wattlebird	2+1fy	“	“
Nov30	Black Kite	1	H.W.C.	P.Lightfoot
	Rufous Fantail	1	“	“
	Striped Honeyeater	1	“	“
Dec 18	Striped Honeyeater	Pr+2fy	Bolwarra [garden]	H.Tarrant
	Royal Spoonbill	Nesting	Newcastle University	“
Nov 19	Latham's Snipe	3-5	Louth Park [Maitland]	“
	Rufous Songlark	3+	“	“
	Australian Little Bittern	Heard	Vacy/Lennoxton billagong	“
Nov 23	Rufous Fantail	1	Bolwarra [garden]	“
Nov 26	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	2	Doyles Creek	“
Dec 14	Latham's Snipe	18	Pambalong N.R.	H.B.O.C survey
	Latham's Snipe	10	N'cle Wetlands Reserve	T.Clarke
	Latham's Snipe	7	Ash Island [Teal Waters]	N.McNaughton
	Latham's Snipe	4	Hands Lagoon	H.Tarrant
	Latham's Snipe	34	Medowie [Golf Course]	Wooding/Hatfield
	Latham's Snipe	2	Soldiers Point	“
Nov 27	Australasian Bittern	1	Tomago Wetlands	N.McNaughton
	Australasian Bittern	1	Tomago Wetlands [Rice Paddy]	“
Dec 21	Eastern Yellow Robin	2	Blackbutt Reserve	P.Lightfoot
	Australian Brush Turkey	1	“	“
	Channel-billed Cuckoo	2	“	“
	Rufous Fantail	3	“	“
Nov 12	Latham's Snipe	5	Craven [The Glen]	D.Hatfield
	Latham's Snipe	5	“Willandia” –Waukivory Rd.	“
Dec 16	Barn Owl	1	Wingen	G.Newling
Dec 18	Australian Owlet-nightjar	1	“	“
Dec 22	Southern Boobook	1	“	“

Dec 19	Barn Owl	1	Mt. Arthur mine site	“
Dec	Wedge-tailed Eagle	2juv	Mt. Arthur mine site	G.Newling
Dec	Crested Pigeon	3dy	Wingen	“
Dec 30	Caspian Tern	2	Canoe Pool – N’cle Beach	J.Thomas
	Little Black Cormorant	2	Rock Pool – N’cle Beach	“
	White-faced Heron	1	“	“
	Little Tern	2	Rock Platform – N’cle Baths	“
	Common Tern	~50	“	“
	Crested Tern	>50	“	“
Dec 31	Nankeen Night Heron	1	Scratchleys on Wharf [N’cle]	“
Oct 16	Black Bittern	1	Brimbin N.R.	A.Stuart
Dec 14/15	Little Tern	>400	Manning River	“
	Common Tern	>600	Manning River	“
	Crested Tern	>600	Maning River	“
2009				
Jan 11/12	Bar-tailed Godwit	295	Manning River	“
	Eastern Curlew	37	Manning River	“
Jan 11	Sanderling	10	Mudbishops Point	“
Jan 12	Great Knot	2	Harrington	“
Jan 11	Lesser Sand Plover	1	Mudbishops Point	“
Jan 10	Baillons Crake	1	Ash Island	“
Jan 1	Brush Bronzewing	3	Belmont Lagoon	“
	Brush Bronzewing	1	Belmont Swamp	“
	Eastern Osprey	1	Belmont Lagoon	“
Jan 11	Beach Stone-curlew	2	Mudbishops Point	“
Jan 0	Eastern Koel fed by Red Wattlebird	1	Nobbys	J.Thomas
Jan 11	Figbird	>45	Scenic Drive, Merewether	“
	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Flock	Nobby’s	“
Jan	Buff-banded Rail	2	Shortland Driving Range	R.McLain
	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	2	“	“

HBOC ACTIVITIES 2009

DATE	EVENT	MEETING PLACE & TIME	CONTACT
Tuesday 17 February	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265
Sunday 22 February	Field Outing to Homebush Bay	6.30am HWC Shortland 9.00am Ryde rd end of Bicentennial Park	Lorna Mee 49886579
Sunday 22 February	Hunter Seawatch	2.00pm Fort Drive Nobbys	Mick Roderick 0421 761 237
Sunday 1 March	Clean Up Australia Day Stockton Sandspit	9.00am to 1.00pm Sandspit Car Park	Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Tuesday 3 March	Mid-week Outing Greswick Angus	7.30am Seaham Swamp Bird Hide	Anthony Gooden 4946 9110
Wednesday 4 March	Management Committee Meeting	7.00pm –10.00pm Garden Suburb School	All Members Welcome
Wednesday 11 March	Club Night	7.30pm Wetlands Centre	Guest Speaker John Mills Galapagos Islands
Tuesday 17 March	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265
Weekend 21-22 March	BIGnet Meeting	Wetlands Centre	Paul Baird 4938 5039
Sunday 22 March	Field Outing to Jerusalem Creek	7.30am Raymond Terr. MacDonalds	Rowley Smith 4964 1389
Saturday 28 March	Hunter Wader Survey	9.30am Ash Island 10.00am Various Locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Jack Adams 4971 5334 (Swansea)
Wednesday 2 April	Management Committee Meeting	7.00pm to 10.00pm Garden Suburb School	All members welcome
Tuesday 7 April	Mid-week Outing Catherine Hill Bay	8.00am Cemetery off Flowers Drive	Max Blanch 4961 1655
Wednesday 8 April	Club Night	7.30pm Wetlands Centre	Guest Speaker Brett Shields Birds in Lamington NP