



NEWSLETTER

Issue 3/09 June - July 2009

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc
affiliated with Bird Observation and Conservation Australia

Committee

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

Committee Members

Craig Anderson
Liz Crawford
Ann Lindsey
Robert MacDonald
Ian Martin
Mick Roderick

**Conservation
Coordinator**
Liz Crawford

Activities Officer
Lorna Mee

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

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

New Members

The Club extends a warm welcome to:
Gerard and Shirley-Ann Satherley of Forresters Beach
David and Loraine Rushton of Toronto
Gaye and Graeme Drady of Singleton
Darryl Eggins of Nelson Bay
Margaret Uren and David Mercer of Toronto

We hope to meet you often at Club Nights and on Club outings.

Membership Fees for 2009 are now overdue
\$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.

P.O. Box 24, New Lambton, NSW 2305
Telephone: (02) 4958 5942
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Next newsletter copy deadline 2 August 2009

President's Column

Welcome!

I wish to sincerely thank the members who contributed their ideas in response to the questions relating to the areas for future development within the Club. Although the number responding does not, strictly speaking, constitute a statistically representative sample of the entire membership, the answers given highlight areas of concern for those members and they may well be indicative of the broader situation. On combining both questions there appeared to be three arbitrary groups of answers. Firstly, a group that included 27% of the total responses concerned people/member oriented matters; a second group comprised issues of education/awareness and promotion of birds and environment, 58% of responses; and thirdly a group related to bird specific matters, 15%. It would appear from the percentage figures that the area of "education/awareness/promotion" of birds and the Club, primarily within the broader community, was of greatest importance to the respondents and as such will be integrated into any future planning.

Speaking of promotion, here is a chance for all HBOC members interested in photography to enjoy photographing birds, perhaps show your work and importantly help promote birds and HBOC to the general public. A photographic exhibition has been proposed and the committee is seeking expressions of interest/commitment from club members to gauge the viability of the exhibition before proceeding with its organisation. The project aims to provide an avenue for members not only to enjoy and display their photography but also to help raise the level of public understanding and awareness of Hunter birdlife and its relationship to the environment. The intention is to visually highlight the beauty and diversity of "our birds" and to tell "their stories" through a combination of photographs and text. Your attention is drawn to the article "Our Birds-Their Stories" that appears elsewhere in this Newsletter and which outlines some suggested guidelines for such an exhibition. Please read the article and if you are interested in being involved in such a project, either as an exhibitor or as part of a small organising group (or both!), or because you just wish to help, please tell me or any committee member of your interest preferably before the 1 July 2009 Committee meeting.

The following excerpt is from the wisdom of Simon Barnes, author of the book "How to be a bad birdwatcher" (2004) when he talks of his search for a "confirmation" bird:

How do you find it? Just look. Look and seek to name. And the easiest way to see birds is to go out and walk. As with everything to do with wildlife, you should set out with high hopes and low expectations. You should be ready to be

sidetracked and, above all to revel in what you see rather than what you want to see.....

And here's how you do it. You put one foot after another, and when you see a bird, you stop and put your binoculars to your eyes and say: "What the bloody hell's that?"

Good birding. Keep on *looking!* Paul Baird

Shorebird Conference

Members are reminded that the 7th Australasian Shorebird Conference takes place in Hobart from 4-6 September 2009. The theme is "Resident and Migratory Shorebirds - Managing Their Future". For further information contact Dr Eric Woehler, convenor: awsg2009@gmail.com

Confessions of a Bird-Watcher

By Ogden Nash

Bird-watchers top my honours list.
I aimed to be one, but I missed.
Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic,
My aim turned out to be erratic,
And I, bespectacled and binocular,
Exposed my self to comment jocular.
We don't need too much bird lore, do we,
To tell a flamingo from a towhee;
Yet I cannot, and never will,
Unless the silly birds stand still.
And there's no enlightenment so obscure
As ornithological literature.
Is yon strange creature a common chickadee,
Or a migrant alouette from Picardy?
You rush to consult your Nature guide
And inspect the gallery inside,
But a bird in the open never looks
Like its picture in the birdie books.
Or if it once did, it has changed its plumage,
And plunges you back into ignorant gloomage.
That is why I sit here growing old by inches,
Watching the clock instead of finches,
But I sometimes visualize in my gin
The Audubon that I audubin.

Our Birds -Their Stories A Proposed HBOC Photographic Exhibition

This project aims to provide an avenue for members to not only enjoy and display their photography but also, help raise the level of public understanding and awareness of Hunter birdlife and its relationship with habitat. The intention is to visually highlight the beauty and diversity of “our birds” and indicate through text, “their stories” with regard to aspects of behaviour, need, habitat, conservation etc.

The following guidelines are modelled on a successful project initiated by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW titled “Our Earth – Our Stories” and also on the internationally acclaimed Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition. The guidelines provided here represent the essence or bare bones of the project and should be sufficient for you to decide whether or not you wish to be involved.

Guidelines:

- The exhibition would be a bi-annual event, e.g. preparation of entries, organisation etc. 2009 for display spring 2010. For the first exhibition entries would be restricted to HBOC members, subsequent events (2012), depending on the level of success in 2010, could be opened to the community.
- There would be two sections, one highlighting the woodland birds of the region, the other focusing on shorebirds of the estuary and wetlands.
- Entries would be submitted in either of two formats, viz. Single Format or Storyboard Format.
- Single Format is where a single feature photograph (min size A4, max size A3) is mounted on black card of standard size 500mm x 400mm. The mounted photograph is then accompanied by the following information:
 - Title, the common name of the bird could be used as the title
 - Photographer’s Name
 - Technical Information e.g. camera, lens
 - Informative Text (max 100 words) outlining for example, the bird’s relationship to its environment, interesting behaviour, special needs, adaptations to the environment, status, conservation issues, migration etc.
- Photographer’s personal note (max 50 words) making mention of, for example, why the photograph was shot, why it is special to the photographer, difficulties in making the shot etc.
- Storyboard Format is where a group of several photographs is used to explore the relationship between the chosen species and its environment. Information as for the single feature format is also provided.
- The overall exhibition would consist of two parts, the initial “static display” and the “travelling display”:
- All entries would be put on public display at a location such as the Wetlands Centre (static display) before a selection would be chosen to make up the travelling component of the exhibition.
- The travelling collection should include entries that, through their high photographic quality and appropriate text, highlight the diversity of Hunter birdlife and its relationship to the environment.
- The project was initially conceived as non-competitive (no prizes, but this does not have to be the case) however the selection of entries for the travelling component should be merit based and determined by an independent (outside HBOC) panel of three judges from the field of nature photography.
- The travelling exhibition could consist of a total of about forty entries (twenty entries from each section bushbirds / shorebirds) to be displayed at venues across the region. Possibilities may include council chambers, libraries, galleries, shopping centres etc in Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Maitland, Cessnock, Singleton.
- The exhibition would need to receive widespread media coverage, advertisement, promotion to ensure its success. The exhibition could be “launched” by a prominent person at a community event.
- To assist potential exhibitors a field workshop facilitated by an accredited nature photographer could be organised.

Do have a good think about becoming involved and please let a committee member know of your interest so that a decision can be made to proceed or not with the project’s organisation.

Paul Baird

Wader Awareness Day – 14 March 2009

On a perfect calm autumn day with clear blue skies, thirteen HBOC members took a short boat trip along the North Arm of the Hunter River to the Kooragang Dykes. The dykes, a rock training wall constructed in the 1960s with BHP steelworks slag, extend about 1.5km along the eastern edge of Kooragang Island, upstream of Stockton Bridge. They enclose ponds which partly dry out at low tide, providing intertidal mudflats for foraging waders. The dykes are the prime daytime high-tide roost for waders in the Hunter Estuary.

We first observed the waders foraging on the mudflats behind the middle section of the dykes. As the tide rose, the birds flew onto the dykes to roost. We then moved to the northern end of the dykes and settled there to watch the birds. Dozens of Bar-tailed Godwits, Black-tailed Godwits and Pacific Golden Plovers landed only 20 metres away from us to roost over the high tide. Many birds were coloured in stunning rust-red (male godwits) and black and gold (plovers) breeding plumage, in preparation for their migration to the northern breeding grounds in Siberia and Alaska. We were able to feast our eyes on all stages of their plumage change. We also had more distant views of Common Greenshank, Curlew Sandpiper and Red Knot.

Five godwits had orange over green flags on one upper leg and a metal band on the other leg (see photo of Bar-tailed Godwit by Steve Happ). These birds were banded several years ago as part of two Newcastle University honours projects in the Hunter Estuary. It is great to see them returning to the estuary year after year.

The majority of migratory waders will depart the Hunter Estuary by the middle of April, but some immature and non-breeding birds will over-winter. Stockton Sandspit is also a good place to view the waders, preferably during the falling tide two hours following high tide when they tend to congregate on sandflats off the edge of the Sandspit. Follow the path that skirts around the edge of the saltmarsh on the right hand side of the Sandspit, close to the mangroves, to gain access to the beach. A telescope is very useful, but not essential, for observing the birds.

Thanks to Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project for providing their boat to ferry people along the dykes.

Liz Crawford



Bar-tailed Godwit photographed by Steve Happ at Kooragang Dykes

Catherine Hill Bay

Midweekers outing on Tuesday 7 April 2009

At 8am a baker's dozen of HBOC Midweekers were sheltering from heavy rain in the shelter-shed at Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery. By and by the rain became drizzle, Neville distributed pots of his delicious free honey and we moved off for birding at Mine Camp, off Flowers Drive. The rain went away but dull light made bird identification difficult for the first hour or two.

Mine Camp has few foundations left, but was once a thriving mining village and during the Second World War was "Radar Station 208", mostly staffed by the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. It was closed in 1947.

The meandering road was a pleasant walk but poor birding. At Mine Camp things improved among the exotic plant species introduced by early residents. Noteworthy were flocks of Scaly-breasted and Musk Lorikeets, Red Wattlebirds, Noisy Friarbirds, White-cheeked Honeyeaters, a Bell Miner colony and a Grey Butcherbird predated a small bird. We had a very good view of a Fantail Cuckoo on the power line. We climbed the 93 metre hill and returned by the power line track for morning tea at Sawmill Camp.

After morning tea we had success with lots of birds in a dense thicket nearby. Perhaps our best sightings were a small flock of Bar-shouldered Doves and three Red-whiskered Bulbuls. The Bulbuls were especially exciting to members for whom it was a first sighting. As we were leaving we sighted a Whistling Kite, our only raptor for the morning.

Total species seen forty-four.

Max Blanch

Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeaters in the Hunter 4 June 2009

At the time of writing (4th June) there are at least 40 Regent Honeyeaters and possibly up to 100 Swift Parrots in the Hunter Region (from recent reports). The vast majority of reported birds have been from the Spotted Gum / Ironbark Forests around Cessnock and Kurri. In fact all Regent Honeyeater records have been from this area and in particular from one location, near Pelton.



Swift Parrot - Steve Roderick

2009 is looking like being a very important year for these nationally endangered birds, due to the fact that several Eucalypt tree species are flowering prolifically. Most notably, Spotted Gums are flowering through their range and Swamp Mahoganies are flowering on the coast. A couple of Ironbark species are also flowering in the valley. When this happens, these rare birds are attracted to the Hunter, particularly when conditions may not be favourable elsewhere; for instance, the drought in Victoria might push birds northwards.

Birds Australia (BA) co-ordinate community-based surveys for these species as part of their Woodland Bird Conservation Project - click [here](#) for details (or go to www.birdsaustralia.com.au and follow the links).

These surveys are conducted twice annually, once in May and once in August. The May surveys revealed a general lack of records for both species in all areas surveyed in south-eastern Australia. In the interim, most records of Regent Honeyeaters have been from the Hunter Region and there have been reasonably

consistent reports of Swifties from the area as well. It is crucial, therefore, that all records from our area be documented.

The next organised survey weekend is on August 1st/2nd and we are keen to get as many people out and about looking for these birds as possible. This is a challenge as the Hunter has large areas of potential habitat stretching from the coast to the upper reaches of the valley. The Central Coast group were able to cover over 50 sites on the May weekend with nearly 70 observers involved. By contrast, less than 10 observers from the Hunter have submitted forms. We need to rectify this! This is particularly important as the Hunter could be one of the most significant places in Australia for these species this season. Please contact me and I'll point you in the right direction. You won't need to travel too far if you don't want to - I'm sure I can find a site for you to survey within a half hour's drive of your home!

Obviously, we are interested in records of these birds outside of the survey weekends. If you encounter either of these species please report it to the BA co-ordinators (Swift Parrots - 1800 665 766; Regent Honeyeaters - 1800 621 056) or contact me on 0421 761237 or via email mickhbb@yahoo.com.au and I will relay the information.

Mick Roderick

Regent Honeyeater - Mick Roderick



Nundle Bird Camp - 14 to 16 September 2009

Directions

Nundle is 269 km from Newcastle and it should take about 4½ hours to get there. At an altitude of 600m it is a cool climate area so be prepared for cold nights, even in September.

The most direct route is via the New England Highway: turn right onto the Wallabadah-Nundle Road about 43 km from Murrurundi, and 6 km past Wallabadah village. It is 32 km straight down this road to Nundle. Turn left at the pub and the Fossickers Caravan Park is at the northern end of town opposite the general store before the bridge.

Alternative scenic routes are via Gloucester, 315 km, about 6 hours (suitable for 2WD), or via Gundy and either Moonan Flat or Crawney Pass (preferably 4WD). The adventurous can work out these routes for themselves although a pleasant full day return trip would be via Woolomin, Nowendoc and Gloucester.

For a good lunch break, stop off at the Italian bakery on the left as you enter Murrurundi just before the service station for some Italian bread, then follow the signs to Paradise Park about 3 km south of town, past the hospital and golf course for lunch and some birding. Paradise Park, literally at the foot of a steep and densely wooded hill, is a lovely picnic area with shelters, barbecues, toilets, plenty of birds and, at dusk, there are usually some wallabies. At the edge of the area is a path which leads through the 'Eye of the Needle', a narrow gap between the rocks through which you must pass to reach the summit. The trail continues to the lookout which affords fine views across to the mountains and the valley.

Fossickers Tourist Park at Nundle has an excellent camp kitchen, powered and unpowered sites, 5 cabins with ensuites and 2 cabins close to the amenities block with no ensuite. There is also a motel in Nundle if extra accommodation is needed. With a population of only 250, food shopping in town might be a bit limited.

Suggested Activities

Monday 14: 3pm Meet at park entrance to drive 15 km south to Teamsters Rest Reserve. Just past DAG sheep station. Brave the cold for happy hour and BBQ from 5.30pm.

Tuesday 15: 8am Meet at park entrance to drive to Sheeba Dams, about 8 km. The dams were built to supply water to a large goldfield between Hanging Rock and Nundle. There is a walking track around the dam and pleasant picnic facilities. Return to caravan

park via Hanging Rock picnic area and lookout (narrow road, limited parking) and a cemetery on the opposite side of the road.

Those who want more birding at any time can explore a 2-mile walk on the way back or head north of town on Bowling Alley Point Road stopping at Swamp Creek Reserve or at any likely spot along the road, or go back to the Teamsters Rest Area which is part of the 162 hectare Crawney's Travelling Stock Reserve.



King Parrot - David Bulbert

Meet at 3pm at park entrance for town and river walk. Dinner at caravan park or, if too cold, at the pub (set menu for group).

Wednesday 16: 8am meet at park entrance to drive to Chaffey Dam, below dam wall to search for Plum-headed Finches and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters. Morning tea and birding at Woolomin Park and return via Bowling Alley Point Road.

Being cool country, birds may not be as abundant as in some areas but we will have an opportunity of seeing birds like Crimson Rosella, King Parrot, Red-Browed Treecreeper, Plum-headed Finch, Diamond Firetail, White-eared and White-plumed Honeyeaters, Satin Bowerbirds, as well as some less common birds.

For further information, please contact Margaret and Robert Stewart Ph: 4963 2029

Field Outing to Bulga 24 May 2009

Well and truly 'over' the rain 14 keen birders arrived at the Cessnock meeting place looking forward to some productive twitching. We were not disappointed. As one of the 3 visitors commented at the end of the day "I have walked a lot farther and seen a lot less". Stops on route to Bulga turned up Yellow-tufted and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, among others. Finally reaching the site we were given a brief safety talk by a pleasant young man from Wambo Colliery, the owners of the site. Then we were let loose to channel birds and channel birds we did.

Early sightings of Australian Hobby, thornbills and weebills were followed by brilliant Hooded and Red-capped Robins. Rowley added a Rose Robin. As we ambled on through the dry woodland the sightings became less frequent but with some excellent hot spots. A very full dam gave excellent close-up views of Australasian Grebe. We were able to see the colours of the plumage clearly. In the vicinity was a family of Grey-crowned Babblers, male Mistletoebird, a variety of honeyeaters and three wedgies high overhead. A second dam was bereft of birds but had several beautifully sculpted choughs' nests.

Further on, a probably immature Pacific Baza sat patiently in a tree while we had excellent views from every angle. A family of choughs, just one Brown Treecreeper and a Common Bronzewing were reported from farther up the trail. In total, 54 species were recorded.

At lunch time, several of the group decided to visit Pelton on the way home. Steve Roderick had spotted three Regent Honeyeaters there that morning and phoned through his sighting. A smaller convoy of cars made their way there and we were not disappointed. One Regent Honeyeater was observed feeding on blossom. For several of the group this was a major tick. For those who had seen the bird before there was still the thrill that comes from seeing something you know may not survive another few decades. Despite recovery programs there are still only 2000 of these birds in existence. Many flocks of several thousand were seen 70 years ago before land clearing wiped out many large tracts of woodland trees.

Joy Nicholls

Blackbutt Bird List

It has come to my attention that one of Newcastle's biggest tourist attractions, Blackbutt Reserve, last had a bird list completed in 1982. The only copy of this booklet can be sought through New Lambton Library. There is no bird information leaflet available at Blackbutt's Information Hut.

Seeing a need, I have undertaken to compile a comprehensive bird list over the next year on behalf of HBOC. To enable a complete list I would appreciate input from other members, particularly those living in the vicinity of Blackbutt Reserve. For those able, monthly lists would be very valuable but for anyone visiting irregularly or even only once a year, a list of sightings would be appreciated. All monthly lists will also be submitted to the Birds Australia Atlas.

The last bird list in 1982 had input from Wilma Barden and HBOC. I think this would be an excellent way of getting our club name and information out to the general Newcastle public as well as supplying a need for information in the community and to overseas and interstate visitors who may visit the reserve.

For all those who would like to participate in compiling this list please email your sightings to joynicholls@optusnet.com.au, give them to me at HBOC functions, or mail them care of HBOC at PO Box 24, New Lambton 2305.

Joy Nicholls

Access to Ash Island Wader Habitat

Hunter Water Corporation is replacing its water pipeline on Ash Island. Site establishment works have commenced and major works are scheduled to start in early June 2009. As a result Ramsar Road, which provides vehicular access to the southern wetlands on the island, will be closed from early June until December 2009.

Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project (KWRP) staff have been granted access along Ramsar Road throughout the construction period. If access is sought along Ramsar Road, please contact the KWRP office on (02) 4964 9308 and discuss with either Peggy Svoboda (also, mobile 0418 649 308) or Tiffany Jeffery. KWRP staff will be able to provide up-to-date information and, where possible, assistance in accessing some of the more popular birdwatching areas along the south bank of Ash Island (such as Wader Pond, Swan Pond, Wagtail Way etc). Access along Cobbans Creek Track (south bank of Ash Island) remains the same for pedestrians and bicycle traffic, which can bypass the locked gates to gain access to this track, but there is no general access for cars along this route.

Club Night Observations for April - May 2009

Date	Species	Number	Location	Observer
Feb 21	White-throated Needletail	>50	Cessnock	G. Newling
Feb 21	Peregrine Falcon	1	Aberdeen	G. Newling
Feb 21	Australian White Ibis	6	Scone	G. Newling
Feb 22	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Muswellbrook	G. Newling
Feb 26	Brown Goshawk	Pr	Wingen	G. Newling
Feb 26	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Pr +dy	Wingen [garden]	G. Newling
Feb 26	Australian King Parrot	Pr + 3dy	Wingen [garden]	G. Newling
Feb 26	Sooty Oystercatcher	28	Newcastle Ocean Baths	J. Thomas
Feb 26	Ruddy Turnstone	17	Newcastle Ocean Baths	J. Thomas
Mar 7	Speckled Warbler	1	East Seaham	L. Mee
Mar 7	Gang-Gang Cockatoo	1	Martinsville	C.& R. Goodenough
Mar 10	Rainbow Lorikeet	40	Cooranbong	C.& R. Goodenough
Mar 10	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	3	East Seaham	L. Mee
Mar 18	Little Penguin	3	Shoal Bay	T. Clarke
Mar 19	White-backed Swallow	7	Scotts Flat [nr Singleton]	T. Clarke
Mar 19	Black-necked Stork	1+3juv	Harrington	L. Mee
Mar 20	Lewin's Rail	1	Dora Creek	C. Goodenough
Mar 21	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	3	Wingen	G. Newling
Mar 22	Grey Goshawk	1	Wingen	G. Newling
Mar 23	White-fronted Tern	1	South Pindimar	L. Wooding
Mar 23	White-fronted Tern	2	Yacaaba Sandspit	L. Wooding
Mar 23	Ruddy Turnstone	3	Oyster Cove	L. Wooding
Mar 23	Terek Sandpiper	4	Oyster Cove	L. Wooding
Mar 26	Nankeen Night Heron	1juv	Snapper Island [Pt Stephens]	T. Clarke
Mar 26	Common Noddy	1	Seal Rocks	M. Roderick
Mar 27	Buller's Shearwater	1	Off Merewether Baths	G. Holmes
Mar 29	Buff-banded Rail	1	Stockton Sandspit	T. Clarke
Mar 30	Red-tailed Tropicbird	1	Off Merewether Baths	G. Holmes
Mar 30	Common Noddy	1	Off Merewether Baths	G. Holmes
Mar 31	Noisy Friarbird	600+	Pambalong N.R.	T. Clarke
Mar 31	Common Noddy	1	Off Merewether Baths	M. Roderick
Apr 1	Noisy Friarbird	130+	Pambalong Nature Reserve	T. Clarke
Apr 2	Arctic Jaeger	12	Off Fort Drive, Newcastle	M. Roderick
Apr 2	Pomarine Jaeger	4	Off Fort Drive, Newcastle	M. Roderick
Apr 2	Common Tern	115	Off Nobby's breakwall	M. Roderick
Apr 4	Powerful Owl	1	Cooranbong	M. Roderick
Apr 5	Sooty Oystercatcher	12	Nobby's headland	C. Goodenough
Apr 5	Diamond Firetail	5	Wollar	K. Thumm
Apr 6	Powerful Owl	1	Munghorn Gap	K. Thumm
Apr 7	Lewin's Rail	1	Crowdy Bay Rd.	D. Williams
Apr 9	Lewin's Rail	2	Crowdy Bay Rd.	D. Williams
Apr 9	Buff-banded Rail	1	Crowdy Bay Rd.	D. Williams
Apr 12	Sooty Oystercatcher	11	Newcastle Rock Platform	C.& R. Goodenough
Apr 15	Pheasant Coucal	1	Hunter Wetlands Centre	P. Lightfoot
Apr 15	Musk Duck	1f	Hunter Wetlands Centre	P. Lightfoot
Apr 15	Tawny Grassbird	1	Hunter Wetlands Centre	P. Lightfoot
Apr 15	Olive-backed Oriole	1	Hunter Wetlands Centre	P. Lightfoot
Apr 15	Spangled Drongo	1	Hunter Wetlands Centre	P. Lightfoot
Apr 15	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Pr	Hunter Wetlands Centre	P. Lightfoot
Apr 17	Powerful Owl	1	Blackbutt Reserve	D. Allen
Apr 17	Lewin's Rail	1	Ash Island	D. Allen
Apr 18	Grey-crowned Babbler	3	Millfield	G. Newling
Apr 18	Australian Hobby	1	Singleton	G. Newling
Apr 19	Spotted Harrier	1	20km NW Merriwa	A. Stuart
Apr 19	Plumed Whistling Duck	220	Doughboy Hollow	A. Stuart
Apr 20	Great-winged Petrel	1	Off Fort Drive, Newcastle	M. Roderick
Apr 20 & 24	Striated Heron	1	Dora Creek	C.& R. Goodenough

Club Night Observations for April - May 2009 continued

Date	Species	Number	Location	Observer
Apr 22	Wompoo Fruit-dove	1	Copeland Tops	M. Roderick
Apr 23	Red-capped Robin	1imm	Wingen [garden]	G. Newling
Apr 23	Satin Bowerbird	10	Wingen [garden]	G. Newling
Apr 23	Olive-backed Oriole	1	Wingen [garden]	G. Newling
Apr 24	Large-billed Scrubwren	2	Harrington	A. Stuart
Apr 24	Spectacled Monarch	1	Harrington	A. Stuart
Apr 24	Crested Shrike-tit	4	Harrington	A. Stuart
Apr 24	White-fronted Tern	1	Harrington	A. Stuart
Apr 24	White-headed Pigeon	6	Harrington	A. Stuart
Apr 25	Australasian Gannet	5	Seal Rocks	A. Stuart
Apr 25	Bar-tailed Godwit	103	Mudbishops Point	A. Stuart
Apr 25	Double-banded Plover	53	Mudbishops Point	A. Stuart
Apr 25	Tree Sparrow	7	Stockton Boat Ramp	J. Nicholls
Apr 25	House Sparrow	2	Stockton Boat Ramp	J. Nicholls
Apr 26	Noisy Pitta	1	Crowdy Bay NP	M. Roderick
Apr 26	Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	Crowdy Bay NP	M. Roderick
Apr 26	Spangled Drongo	1	Crowdy Bay NP	M. Roderick
Apr 26	Spectacled Monarch	1	Crowdy Bay NP	M. Roderick
Apr 28	Rock Dove	32	Merewether Beach	C. & R. Goodenough
Apr 30	Straw-necked Ibis	~200	Muswellbrook	G. Newling
Apr/2 May	Little Corella	~40 +5dy	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough
May	Red-rumped Parrot	26	Wingen	G. Newling
May	Noisy Friarbird	15-20	Wingen	G. Newling
May 1	Brown Quail	5	Aberdeen	G. Newling
May 2	Cattle Egret	~60	Doughboy Hollow	G. Newling
May 2	Buff-banded Rail	1	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough
May 2	Black-browed Albatross	1	Newcastle Baths	G. Brosie
May 4	Blue-faced Honeyeater	3	Belmont South	J. Cockerell
May 4	Radjah Shelduck	1	Bulahdelah	G. Brosie
May 6	Pied Butcherbird	Pr + 4dy	Adamstown Heights	P. Pountney
May 8	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	53	Hexham Swamp	A. Lindsey
May 8-13	Brahminy Kite	1	Stockton Sandspit	D. Luck
May 8-13	Peaceful Dove	1	Medowie [garden]	D. Luck
May 9	Masked Lapwing	2 +1dy	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough
May 9-13	Grey Goshawk	1	Belmont South	J. Cockerell
May 10	Satin Bowerbird	Pr.	Adamstown Heights	P. Pountney
May 10	Eastern Spinebill	1	Adamstown Heights	P. Pountney
May 11	Red-kneed Dotterel	30	Ash Island [Milhams Pond]	R. & M. Stewart
May 12	Musk Lorikeet	4	Morpeth Common	G. Brosie
May 12/13	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	~200	Black Neds Bay	J. Adams
May 13	Eastern Rosella	2	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough
May 13	Darter	1	Belmont South	J. Cockerell
May 13	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	2	Stoney Creek	P. Durie
May 13	Eastern Rosella	4	Stoney Creek	P. Durie
May 17	Swift Parrot	16	Werakata NP [Pelton]	M. Roderick
May 19	Swift Parrot	23	Werakata NP [Pelton]	M. Roderick
May 19	Little Lorikeet	100+	Werakata NP [Pelton]	M. Roderick
May 24	Black-necked Stork	1	Bulahdelah to Booral road	C. Anderson
May 30	Australian Brush Turkey	4	Saltwater N.P.	M. O'Leary
May 30	Beach Stone-curlew	2	Mudbishops Point	A. Stuart
May 30	Bar-tailed Godwit	64	Mudbishops Point	A. Stuart
May 30	Double-banded Plover	44	Mudbishops Point	A. Stuart
May 30	Gull-billed Tern	7	Mudbishops Point	A. Stuart
May 31	Black-necked Stork	1m	1km S Bulahdelah	A. Stuart
May 31	Straw-necked Ibis	500+	Cattai Creek	A. Stuart

HBOC Activities - June to August 2009

Date	Activity	Meeting Time & Place	Contact
Wednesday 10 June	Club Meeting	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Mick Roderick – Back Packer Birding Part 2
Sunday 14 June	Werakata NP	9.00 am Abermain	Please ring to confirm meeting place Mick Roderick 0421 761 237
Tuesday 16 June	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
Sunday 21 June	New Members Day “Bush Haven”	9.00am -393 Italia Road, East Seaham	Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Saturday 27 June	Hunter Wader Survey	11.30am Ash Island 12.00 noon various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 – Ash Is Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Jack Adams 4971 5334 - Swansea
Wednesday 1 July	Management Committee Meeting	7.00pm – 10pm Garden Suburbs School	All members welcome
Tuesday 7 July	Mid-week Outing Blue Gum Regional Park	8.00am Blue Gum Regional Park Car Park	Judi Thomas 4952 2960
Wednesday 8 July	Club Meeting	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Grant Brosie – Birds of Bowra Station, Queensland
Tuesday 14 July	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
Sunday 19 July	Field Outing to Martins Creek	8.00am Maitland Railway Station	Robert McDonald 0408 877 827
Saturday 25 July	Hunter Wader Survey	10.00am Ash Island 10.30am Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 - Ash Is Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Jack Adams 4971 5334 - Swansea
Monday 27 July	Port Stephens Wader Survey	Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 Please ring to confirm - limited spaces available
Tuesday 4 August	Mid-week Outing Stockton Area	8.00am Car park at Stockton Bridge	Keith and Margaret Woods 4963 3070
Wednesday 5 August	Management Committee Meeting	7.00pm – 10.00pm Garden Suburbs School	All members welcome
Wednesday 12 August	Club Meeting	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Adam Blundell – Grass Owls in the Hunter
Tuesday 18 August	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
Saturday 22 August	Hunter Wader Survey	9.00am Ash Island 9.30am Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 - Ash Is Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Jack Adams 4971 5334 - Swansea
Sunday 23 August	Field Outing to Ellalong	8.00am Cessnock McDonalds	Di Johnson 4975 1777