



NEWSLETTER

Issue 3/10 June 2010 - July 2010

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

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



Stockton Sandspit resident Red-capped Plovers and over-wintering Pacific Golden Plovers - enjoying the habitat enhanced by Tom Clarke and his volunteers. Photos by Darryl Luck

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Vice-President	Mick Roderick	0421 761 237
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Treasurer	Joy Nicholls	4957 3612
Committee Member	Grant Brosie	4934 7383
Committee Member	Tom Clarke	4951 3872
Committee Member	Darryl Luck	4982 9248
Committee Member	Ian Martin	4943 9256
Committee Member	Lorna Mee	4988 6579
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Deadline for the next edition is 30 July 2010.

HBOC postal address: PO Box 24 New Lambton NSW 2305

Website: www.hboc.org.au

HBOC and the Birds Australia Atlas – how you can help

Many of you will already be aware that HBOC has reached an agreement with Birds Australia (BA) concerning the use of the Hunter Region Atlas data. Examples of the use of Atlas data have been given at recent HBOC meetings including the Bird of the Evening talk at the May Club night.

The two main reasons for Atlassing are to determine bird distributions and to monitor variations in bird populations, which are constantly changing both in distribution and abundance in response to climate change and other environmental factors. The knowledge generated by Atlassing is the basis for the conservation of birds and their habitat through sound environmental management. HBOC encourages all members to contribute to bird conservation by submitting their bird lists to the BA Atlas data base.

The Hunter Region has been divided into 145 x 10 minute latitude/longitude grids which we report on in the Hunter Region Annual Bird Reports (see Figure). Not surprisingly, the Atlas survey effort is heavily biased to the areas near where our members live. We need to improve our knowledge of the bird populations of the more remote areas, where there has been less survey effort. At recent HBOC camps, including the additional off-peak camps, we have started to address this deficiency by organising some group Atlas activities, while retaining the pleasure of recreational bird watching.

Atlas surveys can be conducted in a number of different ways and it is important to select an approach which matches your personal bird watching style and makes the most effective use of your efforts. The following comments may be helpful in deciding how you conduct your Atlas surveys.

Area Searches

These are conducted in areas of either 500m or 5km radius with no constraint on the number of observers or the amount of time spent recording. These types of surveys will usually be the most appropriate when you are exploring new areas, for instance when breaking new ground in some of the poorly surveyed blocks. Of the two types of area survey, the 500m radius surveys generally provide more valuable information because the location of birds of special interest, such as Threatened Species, are more precisely known and can be more easily followed up on at a future date. However, sometimes it is more practical to record on the larger 5km scale; examples being when driving through an area of agricultural land and stopping intermittently or compiling a bird list while out walking. However, we

would encourage you to submit lists for individual days as there are advantages in having lots of medium-sized lists as opposed to one all-embracing list covering a few days. The reason is that the frequencies at which species are reported on the shorter lists are an indication of how abundant a species is in an area. However, as an additional measure of abundance, people have the option of recording how many individual birds of each species they see.

2 hectare 20 minute surveys

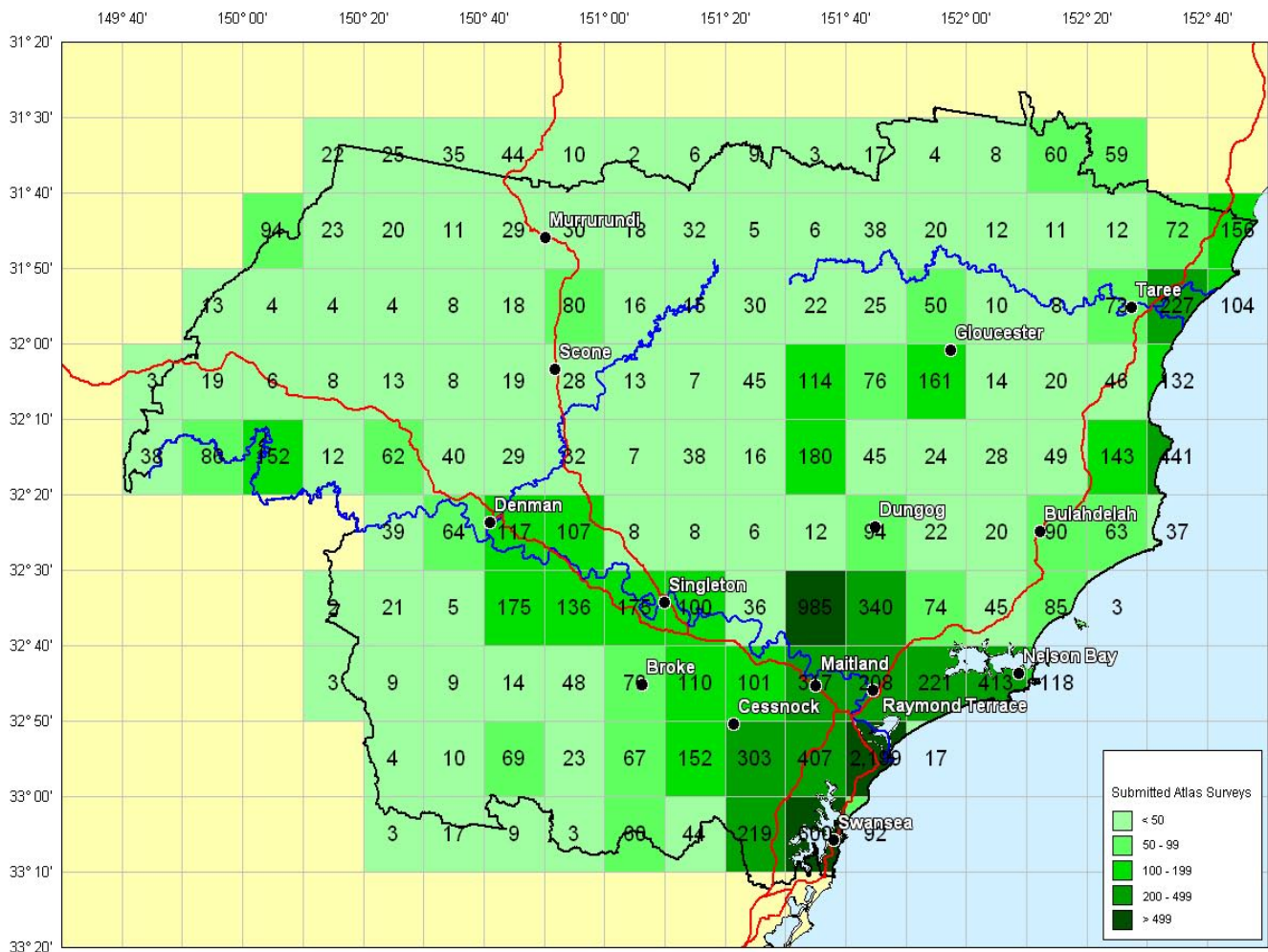
BA promotes this as their preferred survey method because it provides information involving constant observer effort at a site where repeat visits are made. BA has used data from this type of survey to monitor changes in bird populations over the last twelve years. 2ha sites ideally should be surveyed at least twice every year, more frequently if possible. The BA bird monitoring is extremely important because the trends generated are used to report to the Federal Government on the health of Australia's birds and their environment in BA's *State of Australia's Birds* series. HBOC strongly supports BA's bird monitoring effort and encourages its members to adopt 2ha sites and survey them regularly. The best data are obtained when the same person(s) do the repeat surveys, but this is only practical when sites are located near where you live. In order to obtain an increased spread in 2ha sites used for bird monitoring, HBOC is considering setting up some designated 2ha sites at locations indicated on its Hunter Site Guide website and encouraging members to do a survey when they visit these areas. However, area searches will probably be the main survey approach recommended at these locations.

Use of Atlas data

In future Hunter Region Annual Bird Reports, summary statistics of Atlas results will be published. This will be particularly important for our common species to make certain that massive changes in their status are not being missed. We will also be publishing a set of distribution maps for the Hunter Region's Threatened Species in the next edition of *The Whistler*. Our longer term ambition is to improve knowledge of the distribution of all species in the Hunter Region. To meet these objectives and support the effective monitoring of the changes in bird populations, we need a balance in the types of surveys chosen. You are encouraged to use of 2ha 20 min surveys especially when you can follow up regularly, and area searches, when you explore new areas and where it fits in well with your recreational bird watching.

We hope the die-hard Atlassers will keep up their efforts

Number of BA Atlas Submissions per 10 min Grid Tile between 1998 and 2009



because their long-term data sets are so important for understanding Australian birds and their conservation. It is only through our superior knowledge that we have any hope of successfully opposing environmentally irresponsible developments. Hopefully, the additional feedback we can now provide through the Annual Bird Reports and articles in *The Whistler* will reinvigorate those who have cut back their Atlas effort and encourage new contributions from others. Our hope is to double our 2009 Atlas effort during 2010.

Data Submission

There is a requirement that you become registered as an Atlasser – Ann Lindsey can help sort this out. Data can then be submitted by one of two ways – as hard copy using a BA Atlas survey form, or on-line. We can help guide you through either or both of these options.

Mike Newman

Further information on Atlassing including Atlas survey sheets can be obtained from:

Ann Lindsey – 4951 2008 or email ann.lindsey@bigpond.com

Alan Stuart – 4952 8569 or email almarosa@bigpond.com

Mike Newman – 4930 5564 or email omgnewman@bigpond.com

Note: We will still use Club Night and Newsletter reporting, and the HunterBirding e-mail group, for real-time news about sightings of the less common species, or species present in interesting numbers/behaviour/etc; and I would continue to capture those individual records for the Bird Report each year.

We need to thank Mike Newman for the strong lead he has taken on this initiative. And the team of people who are providing support to him, in particular Ian Martin, Emma Graham, Peter Struik and Ann Lindsey.

Alan Stuart

Trip Reports

Barraba Bird Camp Easter 2 - 5 April 2010

Between the Forests of the Great Dividing Range and the sparsely vegetated inland plains there is a belt of transitional country where Birds of the East meet the Birds of the West - Russ Watts, compiler of Barraba Bird Routes.

We camped at Borah Travelling Stock Route, located on Borah Creek Road, about 23 km south of Barraba. It is a delightful area of woodland with a meandering creek running through it, making it an attractive place for birds and humans. Vegetation comprises mature riverine trees, Yellow Box, *Angophora floribunda*, Cypress Pine, heathy scrubland and open grassland. At Easter there was very little in flower.



Turquoise Parrot - Grant Brosie

happy hour and bird call, recalling many a tale of great birding behaviour; the bird spectacle reminding us of why we love our birds.

Photographers were out in force attempting to get an awe-inspiring image of the very beautiful Turquoise Parrot and Diamond Firetail and anything else that would pose. The Easter Bunny arrived as usual delivering Easter Eggs to the happy campers.

When we left Newcastle we had rain and overcast skies; at Barraba it was nothing but blue skies and crisp mornings and sunshine. We were also entertained by many parachute gliders in a locally-held competition.

A total of 98 species were recorded over the Easter weekend, including five finch species, thirteen honeyeater species, nine parrot species and six raptor species. We all had a rewarding weekend.

Lorna Mee



Eastern Yellow Robin - Darryl Luck



Speckled Warbler - Marj Kibby

When I arrived six people had already set up camp, and by Friday afternoon we had 28 people with three staying at *Oakhampton*, about 30 minutes drive away. A couple of stragglers arrived on Sunday making a total of 33 campers. Great turn up for such a long way.

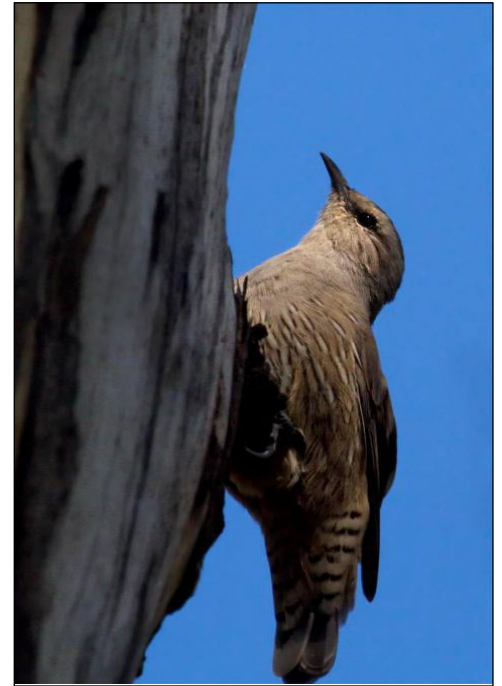
Easy walking and birding were to be had here with all the lovely specialties of the inland central north appearing: Turquoise Parrot, White-backed Swallow, Diamond Firetail and Speckled Warbler showed themselves to almost everyone every day. All you had to do was sit at your camp site and the birds would come and visit. Brown Treecreepers were abundant as were Fuscous and White-plumed Honeyeaters. Flocks of sometimes three species of birds sharing a little pool in the creek bed for bathing, drinking and playing provided a wonderful birding spectacle.

Southern Boobooks and Owlet Nightjar called in the evenings as we recounted the day's events at the campfire

Birds of Borah Travelling Stock Route



Restless Flycatcher - Marj Kibby



Brown Treecreeper - Grant Brosie



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater - Darryl Luck



Wedge-tailed Eagle - Marj Kibby



Crested Shrike-tit - Alwyn Simple



Diamond Firetail - Alwyn Simple

Trip Reports

Northern Migration to the Border Ranges 5-7 April 2010

After the Easter camp some people continued on to the Border Ranges, a 527 km road trip north from Barraba; destination: Sheepstation Creek National Parks campsite.

Dominant plant species in this rainforest are Red Cedar, *Eucalyptus grandis*, Rosewood, Bangalow Palms and Brush Box and many native fern species; this was in sharp contrast to the dry inland vegetation of the Barraba area. Compared to Borah Travelling Stock Route, this was a much smaller public camp site, but very pleasant with great public amenities, tank water (albeit "brown") and camp tables. On arrival we were greeted by the "Storm" entourage which made us 9.

Early morning chorus consisted of Logrunner, Paradise Riflebird, Brown Cuckoo-Dove and Lewin's Honeyeater. Great walks in the rainforest along many tracks were had by the fit ones and the not-so-fit ones, with many a delightful visit by a bird. Where else would you have a Whipbird pair visiting your campsite a metre from your sleeve Tim? But only if you sit quietly enough.

The running stream with great pools and waterfalls turned it into a delightful destination.

Visiting the camp were many goannas and even a green tree snake made itself at home in the Storms' camp.

The dark light in the rainforest made it difficult for birding and photographers had to make some serious readjustments to their settings. There was always the fungi to photograph if the birds weren't co-operative.

Almost the whole suite of rainforest birds came our way including Albert's Lyrebird, but not the Pitta or Marbled Frogmouth; maybe we didn't work hard enough for that one. Surprisingly an English Blackbird frequented the campground shrubs.

The Caldera of the Border Ranges gave us great views of the surrounding district, the rich farming areas and peaks such as Mt Warning. We recorded 57 birds, one Koala, a number of goannas and other lizards, three species of snake, including a fabulous Diamond Python that lay across the road sunning itself. We stopped and helped it off the road so it would not become road kill. We had a great time!

Lorna Mee

Inaugural Off-peak Camp at Belltrees 4-6 May 2010

Belltrees played an important part in the history of Australian ornithology and so it seemed fitting that it be the venue for our first "off-peak" camp. The original concept of off-peak camping was ... so many options for camping, so little spare time on weekends, especially long weekends. But we are keen to also use such opportunities to progress HBOC's field studies initiatives and to gather data for the Birds Australia Atlas database in less-visited grids of the Hunter Region. We achieved all of these objectives at *Belltrees*. Fifteen people attended, many taking advantage of the bunks in the shearers' quarters and all enjoying the log fire in the lounge room in the evenings. We saw 79 species, and in all, about 25 Atlas record sheets were generated. In the field studies program, we were divided into 3 teams which each visited 4 different 500m radius survey sites at varying times of the day. There were considerable variations in the numbers of species seen depending on the time of the visit. Also, two sites were far more productive for birds than the other sites, in part because of their richer variety of habitat but other factors also may have been important.

Perhaps the highlight was the good numbers of both Flame and Scarlet Robins (the former a tick for some of the attendees) seen on the property and on expeditions away from it. For a full report about the *Belltrees* visit, go to <http://www.hboc.org.au/index.cfm?menukey=19>

Alan Stuart

Vale Charles Vella

Charles Vella died in April 2010 after a massive and unexpected heart attack. He was 58.

Charles and Lynne Vella have been members of HBOC for many years, despite moving north a few years ago. They were very keen campers and the antics of their son Tim were always a highlight of HBOC camps. All three of them were at the Border Ranges HBOC Camp just a few weeks ago, along with Lynne's parents, John and Leone Storm. Being teachers, HBOC camps were one occasion when the extended family could be together.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Lynne, Tim, Leone and John at this very sad time.

Trip Report

Camp at Martindale 24-26 April 2010

Saturday morning was a lovely sunny autumn morning. On arrival I realised I had given wrong directions to get to the actual campsite at *Springdale*. After birding for a couple of hours at Medhurst Bridge and waiting for new arrivals, I primed up the owner of the property to ask him to send people in the right direction if they turned up at his house. I put out a good number of bright yellow HBOC signs (they need to be bigger) and with a good dose of anxiety and trepidation, I set up camp and went birding.

The area around the base of the hill near where we were camped was alive with Diamond Firetails, 4 species of finch, Speckled Warblers and fairy-wrens. By the afternoon everyone had arrived - all 9 of us and one latecomer (no she didn't get lost). The weather became humid. In the evening at the campfire and birdcall a few drops of rain were noted, some people zipped up and checked that all was well at bedtime, but during the night the rain set in and continued into the morning. Some people got just a little bit wet. Thanks Rowley for putting the hat on the toilet - that could have been a disaster!

Seasoned birdos couldn't be bothered going birding in the rain (especially one who didn't bring any rainwear), so we sat in shelter for a few hours and completed Atlas sheets. One person decamped and went home in fear of being bogged, but by 11am the weather was clearing and we were able to do some great birding. And another hardy HBOC birder arrived - Good on you Trevor! We recorded 53 species for the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon we all went in one car to another property on Martindale Road, with a gully and rainforest habitat. We had a very pleasant stroll with the owners kindly accompanying us and recording 33 species.

Sunday morning saw a beautiful dewy morning with a fabulous ethereal mist hanging over the valley and very quickly we had a bright sunny cloudless day. Birding was had all over the hillside with many delightful birding specials. In the afternoon we surveyed yet another property "*The Ranch*" at the end of Martindale Road, which the owners kindly allowed us to survey for future camp sites, habitat and birds.

I hope there was no-one who intended to get to camp and couldn't find us; to those, if any, I do sincerely apologise. Thank you to those who followed the yellow signs and made for a very lovely camp.

Lorna Mee

Future Trip

Off-peak Camp at *Chessenden* 22-24 June 2010

For those of you who are interested in squeezing some additional birding/camping into your year, we are organising an "off-peak" camp for HBOC members at a property called *Chessenden* over 22-24 June (which is a Tues-Thurs). Yes it will be cold, yes it will get dark very early, and yes we will have fun!

Chessenden, settled in the 1830s, is on the western side of the Allyn River, and has rainforest gullies on both the east and west of the ridge line plus there is enough timber and shrubbery along the river to give good birding there as well. And I'm told it has a significant amount of understorey vegetation in many parts of the property.

Where we will be camped is accessible by 2WD on sealed road (and caravan access would be fine); the property itself has well made tracks that are easily traversed in a 4WD (except if it has been raining). We will have access to a kitchen and sitting room in a cottage on the property, nearby to where we will camp, so the evenings should be fairly pleasant. Also, we might possibly have access to a couple of bedrooms in the cottage - not definite yet.

We will be doing some organised surveys for part of the time on site, and the remainder of the time will be free for doing whatever takes your fancy. A bit like the previous off-peak camp at *Belltrees* in early May, where we recorded 79 species, several people scoring new birds, and we also managed to carry out ~25 Atlas surveys.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Alan Stuart by email almarosa@bigpond.com or by phone on 4952 8569 for further details.

Alan Stuart

HBOC Membership Fees for 2010

Membership Fees for 2010 are now overdue: \$30.00 Single and Family, \$5.00 Junior
Membership forms can be obtained at Club Night or by downloading from the website:
www.hboc.org.au

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

Trip Reports

Toronto Wetlands & Blackalls Park 6 April 2010

Sixteen members of the mid-week bird group met at Toronto Wetlands for the April outing. The wetlands have been severely overgrown by weeds due to recent rains and no open water was visible, but the area is inhabited by thousands of frogs. The trees however displayed a good amount of bird life (Spotted Pardalote, many White-browed Scrubwren, Superb Fairy-wren, Red-browed Finch, Eastern Spinebill and Silvereye). Two lucky people also saw two Eastern Whipbirds and a Fan-tailed Cuckoo was also sighted.

On the creek bordering a nearby oval we also saw an Azure Kingfisher.

After morning tea at nearby Blackalls Park we saw a White-bellied Sea-Eagle dive from its perch in a tree to collect a fish for its lunch.

Altogether we saw 58 bird species and heard two – a very successful outing.

Margaret Woods

Shortland Wetlands Centre 1 June 2010

After all the rain we had during the week, a hardy bunch of 15 was happy to be able to birdwatch in cool but non-rainy conditions.

Our first walk was around behind the canoe sheds – an area that many of us hadn't visited before and the birding was interesting – the highlight being good, close views of a pair of Striped Honeyeaters. Other birds were Yellow-Faced and Brown Honeyeaters, Yellow Thornbills and Eastern Spinebills.

Of course, in the ponds we had plenty of Magpie Geese as well as a constantly feeding Hardhead, Pacific Black Ducks and Australasian Grebes (with their rattling calls).

I can report that we had our morning tea promptly at 10am.

Our longer walk was not as productive but we saw Spangled Drongos (with turquoise iridescence in the wings), White-Cheeked Honeyeaters, a Swamp Harrier gliding over the wetlands and a Whistling Kite. Relevant to our group, we had beautiful views of a male Golden

Whistler glowing in the sun.

We heard from Paddy, who joined our walkabout (instead of “working”), that, until recently, there had been no water in most of the watercourses. As a result, we were probably lucky to see any water birds.

An unusual sighting started out as a bird nest. It was a grey-headed flying fox in the casuarina forest. Paddy thinks it may be a first for the Wetlands Centre.

We had a total of 59 birds – a beaut number given the weather and the previous water problems.

A few people then adjourned to the café for lunch.

Our thanks to the Wetlands Centre for letting us in early.

Anthony Gooden

School Term Accommodation Sought for 2011

David Geering, former active member of HBOC, and now Threatened Species Officer with the Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Northwest Branch of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water in Dubbo, has a 16-year-old daughter who has been accepted into the Hunter School of the Performing Arts, Broadmeadow, for 2011 and 2012. David is seeking expressions of interest from people willing to offer board and lodgings to his daughter from late January 2011, ideally with reasonable access to public transport that will get her to Broadmeadow.

Alice Geering is a level headed and sensible lass, currently working weekends in a café in Dubbo and would be looking for similar weekend work in Newcastle further necessitating access to reliable transport. Alice has just obtained her Learner's Permit so will/should be independently mobile as of June next year.

Alice and family are going to be in Newcastle during the first week of July 2010 for an Information session at the school, so could meet prospective “surrogate parents” at that time.

Please contact David on 02 6884 7159 (home) or mobile 0428 868 595 or by email:

David.Geering@environment.nsw.gov.au

HBOC Activities - June 2010 to August 2010

Wednesday 10 June	Club Meeting	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Kristy Peters – Detecting Woodland Birds
Long Weekend 12 - 14 June	Camp at Kerewong State Forest	Swans Crossing camping ground.	Tom Clarke 4951 3872 Please ring to confirm
Tuesday 15 June	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
Sunday 20 June 2010	Field Outing: Watagan Mountains - targetting Superb Lyrebirds	8.00am Freemans Waterhole Shell Service Station car park	Liz Crawford 4959 3663 Please ring to confirm
Sunday 20 June	Volunteer day at SSS – complete shelly sand areas	Stockton Sandspit 7.00am	Tom Clarke 0418411785
Monday 21 June	Saltmarsh restoration (mangrove removal)	Milham Pond, Ash Island from 7.00am	Tom Clarke 0418411785
Tuesday - Thursday 22 - 24 June	“Off-peak” camp at <i>Chessenden</i>	<i>Chessenden</i> , Allyn River valley	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 Please ring for directions
Saturday 26 June	Hunter Wader Survey	8.00am Ash Island 8.30 am Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 – Ash Island Chris Herbert 4959 3663 – Kooragang Jack Adams 4971 5334 – Swansea Jenny Powers 4944 7274 – Stockton Grant Brosie 4934 7383 - Tomago
Tuesday 6 July	Mid-week Outing Kitchener, Ellalong	8.00am Khartoum Hotel Quorrobolong Rd Kitchener	Leader: Robert Stewart 4963 2029
Wednesday 7 July	Management Committee Meeting	6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School	All members welcome
Wednesday 14 July	Club Meeting	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Dan Williams - Birding the Med
Sunday 18 July	Hunter Seawatch	2.00 pm Fort Drive, Nobbys	Mick Roderick 0421 761 237
Tuesday 20 July	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
Saturday 24 July	Hunter Wader Survey	7.00am Ash Island 7.30am Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 – Ash Island Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 – Kooragang Jack Adams 4971 5334 – Swansea Jenny Powers 4944 7274 – Stockton Grant Brosie 4934 7383 - Tomago
Sunday 25 July	Field Outing to Bow Wow Gorge	9.00am 444 Sandy Creek Road, Mount Vincent	Pamela Fitzsimons 4938 0082 Please ring to confirm
Monday 26 July	Port Stephens Wader Survey	Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 Please ring to confirm - limited spaces available
Tuesday 3 August	Mid-week Outing Myuna Bay	8.00am Myuna Bay Car Park	Leader: Don Moon 4359 1670
Wednesday 4 August	Management Committee Meeting	6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School	All members welcome
Friday 6 August (also 20 th)	Saltmarsh restoration (mangrove removal)	Milham Pond, Ash Island from 7.00am	Tom Clarke 0418411785
Saturday/Sunday 7/8 August	Regent Honeyeater / Swift Parrot Survey	Various locations as directed	Mick Roderick 0421 761237 / 4023 0322 Steve Roderick 0409 452 921 Please contact for information
Sunday 8 August	Volunteer day at SSS – sweeps for <i>Juncus acutus</i>	Stockton Sandspit 9.00am	Tom Clarke 0418411785
Wednesday 11 August	Club Meeting	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Chris Tzaros and/or Dean Ingwersen – Birds Australia Woodland Bird Conservation
Tuesday 17 August	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
Sunday 22 August	Field Outing to Abernethy	7.30am Neath Hotel	Mick Roderick 0421 761 237
Saturday 28 August	Hunter Wader Survey	9.30 am Ash Island 10.00 am Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 – Ash Island Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 – Kooragang Jack Adams 4971 5334 – Swansea Jenny Powers 4944 7274 – Stockton Grant Brosie 4934 7383 - Tomago

Hunterbirding - Summary of HBOC's email forum

Hunterbirding is an email group set up by HBOC that is run through the Yahoo Groups. It is a great way to keep in touch with the latest goings-on in Hunter Region birding. Members are able to report sightings, post questions to the group and get involved with group discussions on bird-related issues. If you are interested in joining the group then please visit the HBOC website for details on how to sign up: <http://www.hboc.org.au/index.cfm?menukey=27>. You can choose either to receive individual emails or a single daily digest. The following article highlights some of the reports and discussions that have happened on **hunterbirding** within the last two months.

April

There were no major points of discussion for April, although a number of interesting observations and commentaries were made. It was pleasing to hear of one prominent Hunter Birder notching up their 5,000th bird species in the Philippines, but saddening to hear that that country may be facing a serious environmental decline. Closer to home, some Hunter listers also unblocked the Radjah Shelduck, which continues to grace us with its presence in the Bulahdelah area. Good news too for the pair of Beach Stone-Curlew in the Manning Estuary. After many years of trying it appears the pair has finally had success raising a chick, with the youngster observed in good health on the 30th.

Most email traffic concerned the arrival and subsequent long stay of a Common Noddy at Newcastle Ocean Baths. Hunter Birders turned out in force, providing regular updates as to recent observations of the bird. It was first reported on the 8th and stayed in town until at least the 22nd, favouring Newcastle but also seen at Merewether. Eastern Reef Egret was also reported from the rock platforms around Newcastle Baths during this period.

The Hunter Valley continued to provide a cold weather retreat for Regent Honeyeaters, with a group of 12 birds discovered on Putty Road towards the end of the month. The area appeared favourable for nomadic species, with good numbers of Striped Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater and Painted Button-Quail also reported. A pair of Barking Owl were also seen much further south in Yengo National Park. Migration was in full swing with movements of Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike and Spangled Drongo evident amongst others.

The exciting news of breeding Singing Honeyeater in the west of the region was also released. A pair was observed

feeding two dependant young on 23rd along Durrigere Road, near Ulan. This is possibly the first breeding record for this species east of the Great Dividing Range in NSW. It serves as a reminder of how impressive the presence of "western" birds in the Hunter can be and well and truly puts this birding site on the map, following the other recent discovery of Southern Whiteface, discussed in the last **hunterbirding** article. Elsewhere, the pick of the trip reports was from Copeland, where Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Emerald Dove, Russet-tailed Thrush and Varied Triller were reported. A Black Kite was also sighted at Wallalong en route.

May

The birding landscape had well and truly changed come May, having a definite winter feel. This was reflected in the reporting activity on **hunterbirding**. On the 1st of the month 20 Double-banded Plover were reported from Moon Island, which was encouraging as this was not a known traditional site for this species. The survey of Stockton Bight later in the month yielded a count of 112 Double-banded Plover.

The first of the annual Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot Surveys took place over the weekend of 15th and 16th, with many observers out in the field helping the cause. In addition to the Putty Road Regents that were present from April, the survey weekend located three more birds at Galgabba Point (near Swansea), along with four Swift Parrots. With this being the only additional sighting of Regent Honeyeater to emerge from the survey effort, the troubled future that this species faces was painfully clear. Let's hope that more are located during the second of the survey weekends in August.

There were many reports of Lorikeets throughout the region this month. Musk Lorikeets were particularly abundant, being happily reported by a number of observers and from a range of locations. The birds are feeding in the flowering trees and may be in a suburb near you, so keep a lookout! Other interesting observations included a report of 167 Plumed Whistling-Duck from their known stronghold at Doughboy Hollow near Singleton. An aerial dogfight was also witnessed at Harrington, between an Osprey and a White-bellied Sea-Eagle. The combat involved the Eagle hounding the Osprey until it was forced to relinquish its hard-earned catch. A mate of the Osprey then harassed the Eagle to win back the prize, but was forced to retire empty-handed. I'm sure it was an exhilarating experience for the observer, as I was fortunate enough to witness a similar encounter in the Czech Republic, and it remains one of my most enduring birding memories.

Hunterbirding continued

An interesting debate was initiated regarding the use of decimal degrees over the more traditional sexagesimal notation. It has become more usual in recent times to use decimal degrees, indeed it is now the preferred method for the International Standard lat/long representation. However, many of the avenues through which we record spatial references for our bird observations continue to use degrees, minutes and seconds. Is it time for the birding community to keep up with the times and switch to the favoured decimal notation? Fortunately it is possible for analysts of such data to convert between different notations and also between different coordinate systems and map projections. However, this depends upon the system in which the spatial data is recorded being specified. If supplying spatially referenced bird records, please ensure that they are given in the requested coordinate system, else ensure that you also provide the coordinate system that the records have been referenced to, to enable your data to be effectively interpreted. Following the discovery of the breeding Singing

Honeyeater on Durrigere Road last month, most trip reports seemed to emanate from that corner of the region! Both Red-winged Parrot and Cockatiel were reported from near Cassilis, as was a Black Falcon. Reports from Goulburn River National Park included Emu, Turquoise Parrot, Diamond Firetail and Plum-headed Finch. The Singing Honeyeater continued to be reported from Durrigere Road, along with White-browed Babbler, Hooded Robin and Red-capped Robin. One particular trip report was so full of highlights they are too numerous to list. I expect the observer concerned to be currently recovering from a case of writers' cramp, having to fill out no fewer than eight URRFs!

Dan Williams

Editor's Note: URRF – Unusual Record Report Form – needs to be completed for species considered to be of special interest in the Hunter Region. It requires a clear field description to establish the identification (see Annual Bird Report for info).

White-bellied Sea-Eagles' Nest on EagleCam

The White-bellied Sea-Eagles have returned to their nest at Sydney Olympic Park for the third consecutive year and can again be seen live on the EagleCam at the Birds Australia Discovery Centre.

The eagles are currently renovating the nest in preparation for egg laying with frequent visits by the male and female birds bringing sticks and sprays of leaves. The male bird is also bringing food items to the nest for the female and everything looks set for a successful breeding event. This year, the camera position is slightly more elevated than last year giving a wonderful view into the nest from high in the adjacent trees. As part of the ongoing study, we hope to provide continuous footage of the whole breeding cycle at the nest through until the beginning of November.

All the action from the nest can be seen on the EagleCam as it happens, live and unedited, projected onto the wall at the Discovery Centre. Interesting recorded clips of the action so far will also be available to watch on-screen and the volunteers at the centre will be happy to answer questions and show any of the recent clips.

The Birds Australia Discovery Centre is open at weekends from 10am until 4pm and is situated inside the Newington Armory grounds at Sydney Olympic Park. Access by road is from Jamieson Street where there is a car park at the armory wharf alongside Parramatta River. The



entrance to the armory is through the main gates next to the wharf cranes. The Discovery Centre is situated on the left hand side of the main pathway into the armory, an approximately 500m walk from the wharf.

Happy Eagle Watching!

Geoff Hutchinson
Jon Irvine

Have Pishers gone Cuckoo?

I have heard many good bird talks, but occasionally one is inspirational and leaves a haunting memory. An example which comes to mind was given by the late Stephen Marchant a former Editor of the *Emu* and the early volumes of HANZAB. Stephen's subject was the Common Cuckoo and he delivered his presentation before the days of electronic aids at the Birds Australia Scientific Day held in Wollongong in 1985. Pure rhetoric and wholesome humour just like Peter Phillip's effort at the May HBOC meeting.

Stephen's talk was based on the published studies conducted by Edward Chance, an amateur ornithologist and egg collector, during the 1920s. I well remember Stephen's final words "And there you have it by Chance!" Well, in reality the actions of the Common Cuckoo are very well planned and involve a strategy which maximises its chance of breeding successfully.

Chance's early work has inspired nearly 80 years of ornithological research conducted at Wickham Fen in Cambridgeshire UK, one of my childhood birding haunts. Common Cuckoos parasitise four species in the UK, which include the Meadow Pipits studied by Chance and Reed Warblers, the subject of the Cambridgeshire studies which were the focal point of a Wildlife documentary screened by the ABC over Easter.

Each individual Common Cuckoo specialises in parasitising just one type of host species and lays eggs which mimic the colour and markings of the host species. The Cuckoo has to synchronise the laying of its egg with the completion of the host species' clutch and removes one of the host species' eggs. When the eggs hatch the young Cuckoo must remove any unhatched eggs and young of the host species. The young Cuckoo then indulges in its own mimicry by imitating the calls of the young of the host species and, by calling incessantly, begs up a feast. One young Cuckoo requires the food of four young Reed Warblers; hence their ejection.

Reed Warblers and Meadow Pipits will abandon their nests if the Cuckoo removes all of the host's eggs, a strategy which both cuckoos and egg collectors like Chance exploit. By causing some of the host species to repeat their clutches the Cuckoo can orchestrate the timing at which clutches are completed, allowing it to parasitise a large number of Reed Warbler nests and maximise its probability of reproductive success. Chance's motivation was to have the largest set of clutches containing eggs from a single Cuckoo laid in one year. The world record stands at 25. Apparently each female Cuckoo lays eggs with unique markings. This is fascinating because some years ago I tried

unsuccessfully to find a way of characterising Pied Oystercatcher eggs so that I could track the survival of breeding females between seasons.

Shortly after seeing the Common Cuckoo documentary I was very frustrated by the lack of birds at one of my monitoring sites. So I started 'pishing' (to the uninitiated this involves squeaking up birds) and it occurred to me that I must sound like a very hungry juvenile Cuckoo. To my delight I was almost immediately surrounded by a veritable feast of birds involving about eight species including the first Yellow-tufted Honeyeater I have seen in that area.

So what do we know about the cuckoo-host relationships of the Australian cuckoos? Apart from well known relationships like Channel-billed Cuckoos and Pied Currawongs most of us would say "not much!" So here is a challenge for the next breeding season and we will be delighted to publish your knowledge in the Annual Bird Report or if it is a new relationship in *The Whistler*.

A final thought concerns the Black-eared Cuckoo which parasitises the Speckled Warbler and the Redthroat. Both these species have similarly coloured reddish eggs and white tips to their tails. Black-eared Cuckoos not only mimic the colour of Speckled Warbler eggs but mimic the plumage of the host species; the white tip to the tail is a way of differentiating recently fledged Black-eared Cuckoos from similarly aged Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos.

In NSW the Black-eared Cuckoo is not listed under the Threatened Species Act which accords vulnerable status to the Speckled Warbler, its only host in the east of the state. Surely there is a compelling logic to the proposition that if the host species is threatened then the parasitising species must also be vulnerable.

Mike Newman

New Members

The Club extends a warm welcome to New Members:

Robyn and John Emerson of Rothbury
Leslie Wilson of Warners Bay
Ian Smith of Newcastle

We hope to meet you at Club outings and meetings.

Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater Surveys - May 2010

Surveys for the nationally endangered Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater were held on the weekend of 15-16 May (as well as during the week before and after these dates). Birds Australia (BA) co-ordinate these community-based surveys for these species as part of their Woodland Birds for Biodiversity 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.

As the local co-ordinator of these surveys, I was determined to get good coverage for the first round in 2010. My determination was fuelled by the fact that both of these species are continuing to decline throughout their range, in particular the Regent Honeyeater, which has been preliminarily listed in NSW as a Critically Endangered species (the final level before extinction). As NSW is by far the stronghold state for Regents, this prospect is very alarming.

In all, there were around 30 HBOC members who actively took part in conducting surveys on or around the survey weekend (plus a few non-members residing in the Hunter). A summary of results is below.

Swift Parrot

2 reports of Swift Parrots were received during the survey period.

The first was from their old favourite haunt, Galgabba Point, just south of Swansea on 16/05/10. These birds were apparently only seen flying overhead though there was Swamp Mahogany blossom in the area.

The second was via a member of the community who had read the article that was published in the Maitland Mercury on 13/05/10. She reported seeing 2 Swifties in and around her garden at Metford during this period - I couldn't help but quiz her about this and she was very confident with the identification. Finally the publicity pays off! Of interest, another late report has come in from someone (with reasonable knowledge of birds) who "thought they heard a Swift Parrot" in bushland near Ashtonfield, so maybe the East Maitland area is worth checking out.

In the lead up to the surveys there was only one prior record in the Hunter Region, which was of 3 birds in Coastal Banksia in Crowdy Bay NP on 25/04/10.

Elsewhere, the vast majority of Swift Parrot records were from Victoria and it appears likely that the bulk will remain down there this year as there are several Eucalypts (including White Box) flowering very well

after recent rain. In fact, at the time of writing there have been just over 170 Swiftie records from Victoria, with only 11 from NSW. Of note, some birds are still present in Tasmania (which is remarkable in itself) and plenty more are in southern Victoria. It really doesn't look like being a productive year in the Hunter for Swifties.

Regent Honeyeater

Several reports of Regent Honeyeaters were received, which was heartening given the very low population estimate for the State.

Since 23/04/10 when I happened upon a small group of Regents along the Putty Road at Milbrodale, birds have been present at this site - we have no idea how long they were there beforehand. On 14/05/10 the peak count was made at this site of 19 individuals. This included a group of 15 birds in a single tree. Of interest, there are Narrow-leaved Ironbark trees flowering at the site, but the birds have been feeding almost solely on lerp and appear almost completely disinterested in the Ironbark blossom (one bird has been seen hawking insects). Although people who searched for these birds on the survey weekend dipped, up to 10 birds have been seen by a few other observers in the interim. It will be interesting to see how long these birds persist at this site (late news in - I have just received a report of one bird from here on Fri 28 May 2010. And even later news - a single bird observed here on Fri 4 June 2010).



Flock of 10 Regent Honeyeaters, Putty Rd Milbrodale 29/04/10

On 16/05/10 three Regents were recorded at the Galgabba Point site, feeding on Swamp Mahogany blossom and apparently occasionally taking insects. It's good to see them in both 'western' and 'coastal' habitats at the same time. It is also great to have Regents and Swifties recorded at the same location.

Swift Parrot - Regent Honeyeater Surveys cont.

On 19/05/10 two birds were reported from Medhurst Bridge at Martindale and then 5 more from Baerami Creek the same day (though no birds were seen at either of these sites in follow-up surveys on 28/05/10). On 21/05/10 at least 8 birds were recorded at Moolarben Rd, near Munghorn Gap (another favourite stomping ground).

An additional unconfirmed report has come in from an observer who is "95% certain" he saw 5 Regents in Swamp Mahogany along the road between Wakefield and Barnsley. Hopefully this will have been confirmed by the time this goes to print.



Regent Honeyeater, Putty Rd Milbrodale 29/04/10 (note bud on Ironbark trees)

Habitat Conditions

In contrast to 2009, the Spotted Gum / Ironbark Forests around Cessnock and Kurri have not yet started to produce blossom. Good numbers of both species were recorded here last year, particularly around Pelton and Kitchener. This was mostly in association with flowering Spotted Gum, Stringybark and Ironbark trees. It remains to be seen what happens in these areas in 2010 but for now all seems very quiet in this habitat type. White Box and Swamp Mahogany communities are showing more promise but we should still keep an eye on the Spotted Gums – and keep in mind that the Regents at Milbrodale have been shy of the blossom, despite it being some of the only available Eucalypt flower in the area.

The next organised survey weekend is on 7-8 August 2010 and we are eager to get as many people as possible out and about looking for these birds again. Surveys in our area are particularly important as the Hunter is likely to be one of the most important areas in Australia for these species, especially Regents. Please contact me if you're interested in being involved 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.

Many thanks also go to those who took part in the first round. Obviously, we are interested in records of these birds outside of the survey weekends. If you encounter either Swift Parrots or Regent Honeyeaters 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.

Mick Roderick

BASNA Courses - continued on next page

"Real Birds eat Squid" - An Introduction to Working with Seabirds

25 September 2010. Meet at Wollongong Boat Harbour at 7am, returning around 4pm.

Presenter: Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association

The Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association (SOSSA) has been researching pelagic birds for fifty years. Many birdwatchers have taken one of the pelagic trips out of Wollongong or Ulladulla and seen albatross and shearwaters netted onto the deck and subjected to various indignities. What exactly are we up to when we measure a tarsus or estimate a bill or plumage score? What role does banding or blood analysis play in the conservation of these species? Seabirds are a classic case of 'out-of-sight, out-of-mind' and their conservation often takes a back seat to more obvious land-based species.

This course will be run entirely at sea and in the course of a working research trip we will explain techniques used to research a group of birds which see the ocean the way we see terra firma. SOSSA will introduce participants to banding and morphology (measurement) and conservation work with seabirds.

Registration: \$80 (this covers the cost of the fuel and boat)

For a registration form or to enquire about the course, please email basna@birdsaustralia.com.au or call Pixie on 02 9647 1033

Future Events outside HBOC

Australian Birdfair at Leeton: 17-19 September 2010 - Theme "Birds of Prey and their Environment"
For more information www.australianbirdfair.org.au or contact coordinator by email: coordinator@australianbirdfair.org.au

Birds of the Bush Festival at Rankins Springs: 9-10 October 2010 www.birdsofthebush.com

The village of Rankins Springs is nestled in the foothills of the Conapaira Range, in central western New South Wales. The Rankins Springs district is a twitcher's paradise, being home to an abundance of native bird species, including the spectacular Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Malleefowl, Gilbert's Whistler, Chestnut Quail-thrush, Shy Heathwren and the Painted Honeyeater. Cocoparra National Park is a short drive to the southwest of Rankins Springs and Lake Brewster is situated approximately 50km north of the village.

BASNA Events:

'Two years of seeing rare birds and twitching in Australia' – A talk by Mike Carter
Saturday 3 July 2010, from 2pm to 4pm at Building 22, Newington Armory, 1 Jamieson St, Sydney Olympic Park. This is a free talk; to register phone the BASNA office 02 9647 1033

Mike Carter has been birding in Australia since 1964 when he arrived in Victoria from England with his wife and two children. He ceased full time work as a professional engineer in 1991 and since then has gradually increased the amount of time devoted to birding both in the field and in his study. He has an obsession to experience as many Australian bird species as possible. This quest, aided by some taxonomic changes in the recently revised Australian Checklist, has taken his list to 812. He likes visiting Australia's offshore territories, has a passion for seabirds and leads the annual expeditions from Broome to Ashmore Reef. He also has a special interest in the wetlands southeast of Melbourne where he conducts or assists in regular surveys of five wetlands. This talk gives an insight into how he has come to see so many birds.

An Introduction to Bird Banding, Data Collection, Field Survey Techniques and More...

15 August 2010, from 9.00am to 3.30 pm at Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, Bargo

Many people are looking for ways to become more actively involved with birds, their study and their conservation. Together with ABSA (Australian Bird Study Association), BASNA want to increase the number of bird-banders, data collectors and surveys on birds and their behaviour. In order to encourage people these courses are being initially run at a substantially reduced rate.

Chris Lloyd and Dean Portelli have organised a number of practical workshops in unique and interesting locations so that

you can experience what is involved with a view to assisting in existing and future projects. This is a great opportunity for those who would like to take their birding to another level and is a rewarding experience for those involved. This course aims to introduce participants to some of the techniques used to study birds in the field. Many of these are techniques which researchers and conservation agencies are looking for when they advertise for volunteers.

The course will go through a number of practical exercises, topics covered will include:

- An introduction to behavioural studies using time/energy budgets
- Transects and point counts including the role of GPS units.
- How to interpret results

Wirrimbirra Sanctuary is a 95 hectare property owned by the National Trust of Australia (NSW), established and managed as a flora and fauna sanctuary. It was created in the 1960s by Thistle Harris to preserve the original 'Bargo Brush' and Australia's flora and fauna, and promote the use and propagation of Australian native plants. It is approximately 1 hour from Sydney Airport along the M5.

For those who want to stay the night, accommodation is available at Wirrimbirra. Check www.wirrimbirra.com.au

Registration (see below): \$30 includes morning & afternoon tea, notes, use of GPS units and other materials
Bring lunch, notebook and pen, sunscreen, hat, water

An Introduction to Bird Banding – Country

September (date to be advised) 2010 at: Munghorn Gap (near Mudgee)

Presenter: Graham Fry

Banding is probably the most common field technique known to bird watchers but probably the least taken up. Putting a metal or plastic ring around the legs of a bird is probably the easiest part of the exercise. What takes years to learn are the measurements and observations that need to be recorded with the specific number or colour combination on an individual bird. Banding has provided ornithologists with a wealth of knowledge on movement, longevity, reproduction and more and remains one of the core field techniques for many studies.

The Australian Bird Study Association (ABSA) is working with BASNA to try to increase the number of people learning banding skills. The course aims to introduce people to the techniques and commitment involved. So if you have ever wanted to go behind that little metal ring on a thornbill or the leg flag on a godwit, come along and see what happens.

Registration: \$30

For a registration form or to enquire about any course, please email basna@birdsaustralia.com.au or call Pixie on 02 9647 1033

Observations from Club Nights April 2009 - May 2010

These reports are not authenticated records: researchers are advised to check with observers before citing.

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer
Australian King-Parrot	40+	9.5.10	Narone Ck Rd, Wollombi	J.Greig
Barking Owl	2	29.4.10	Yengo N.P.	M.Roderick
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	23.5.10	Mt Arthur Mine Site	G.Newling
Black Bittern	1	1.4.10	Eleebana [Reserve]	A.Gooden
Black-fronted Dotterel	6	9.5.10	Wollombi Millpond	J.Greig
Black-fronted Dotterel	5	23.5.10	Hunter Wetlands Centre	P.Lightfoot
Black-necked Stork	1	28.3.10	Greswick Angus Stud	A.Gooden <i>et al.</i>
Brahminy Kite	1	13.4.10	Bull's Island	P.Hill
Brown Goshawk	1	27.4.10	Winda Woppa	T.Clarke
Brush Bronzewing	1	16.3.10	North Tuncurry	C.Anderson
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	20+	15.5.10	Kooragang [Deep Pond]	M.Roderick
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	24.4.10	Wallsend [garden]	T.Clarke
Comb-crested Jacana	1	12.5.10	John Browns Lagoon	J.Smart
Double-banded Plover	1	9.5.10	Stockton Sandspit	T.Clarke
Eastern Osprey	1	20.3.10	Stockton Sandspit	J.Thomas
Eastern Osprey	2	13.4.10	Winda Woppa	T.Clarke
Eastern Yellow Robin	2	14.3.10	Wallaby Scrub Rd	G.&G.Drady
Grey Goshawk	1	2.5.10	East Maitland	J.Smart
Grey Goshawk	1	8.5.10	Belmont South	J.Cockerell
Grey Goshawk	1	12.5.10	Eleebana [Reserve]	A.Gooden
Grey Plover	1	4.12.09	Kooragang Dykes	L.Crawford
Grey Teal	1+8dy	17.3.10	Parkville	G.Newling
Grey-crowned Babbler	4	13.3.10	Wallaby Scrub Rd	G.&G.Drady
Grey-crowned Babbler	1	28.3.10	North Rothbury	P.Alexander
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	20.3.10	Stockton Sandspit	J.Thomas
Grey-tailed Tattler	B (6-20)	13.4.10	Winda Woppa	T.Clarke
Hooded Robin	2	14.3.10	Wallaby Scrub Rd	G.&G.Drady
Leaden Flycatcher	1f	13.3.10	Wallaby Scrub Rd	G.&G.Drady
Lesser Sand Plover	1	4.4.10	Stockton Sandspit	T.Clarke
Little Eagle	1	9.3.10	Mt Arthur Mine Site	G.Newling
Little Eagle [dark phase]	1	23.5.10	Mt Arthur Mine Site	G.Newling
Little Lorikeet	many	13.3.10	Wallaby Scrub Rd	G.&G.Drady
Little Penguin	2	24.3.10	Shoal Bay	T.Clarke
Little Penguin	2	12.4.10	Shoal Bay	J.Adams
Little Penguin	4	7.5.10	Shoal Bay	T.Clarke
Little Tern	17	26.3.10	Stockton Sandspit	T.Clarke
Musk Duck	1f	23.5.10	Hunter Wetlands Centre	P.Lightfoot
Musk Lorikeet	sml flock	11.5.10	Belmont South	J.Cockerell
Musk Lorikeet	30	12.5.10	Warners Bay [car park]	A.Gooden
Nankeen Kestrel	Pr	11.4.10	Cardiff	J.Westphal
Pacific Golden Plover	6	14.3.10	Stockton Sandspit	G.&G.Drady
Pacific Golden Plover	4	20.3.10	Stockton Sandspit	J.Thomas
Pheasant Coucal	1	12.1.10	Marmong Point	B.Kibble
Pied Imperial Pigeon [Record confirmed by NSWORAC]	1	11.5.09	Bulahdelah	A.Rae
Pied Oystercatcher	14	20.3.10	Stockton Sandspit	J.Thomas
Pied Oystercatcher	10+2imm	26.3.10	Stockton Sandspit	T.Clarke

Observations continued

These reports are not authenticated records: researchers are advised to check with observers before citing.

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer
Pied Oystercatcher	26	11.4.10	Stockton Sandspit	T.Clarke
Pied Oystercatcher	31	2.5.10	Stockton Sandspit	T.Clarke
Rainbow Lorikeet	15-20	regularly	Belmont South	J.Cockerell
Red-capped Plover	2	Mar/Apr	Stockton Sandspit	T.Clarke
Regent Honeyeater	19	14.5.10	Milbrodale	M.Roderick
Regent Bowerbird	3	15.5.10	New Lambton Heights	P.Lightfoot
Regent Bowerbird	Pr	23.5.10	New Lambton Heights	P.Lightfoot
Rufous Fantail	1	13.3.10	Wallaby Scrub Rd	G.&G.Drady
Satin Bowerbird	1f	23.5.10	New Lambton Heights	P.Lightfoot
Singing Honeyeater	Pr+2dy	23.4.10	Durrigere Rd, NE of Ulan	A.Richardson
Sooty Oystercatcher	34	24.2.10	Cowie Hole [N'cle Baths]	T.Clarke
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	7.4.10	Winda Woppa	T.Clarke
Southern Boobook	Pr+2y	Nov/Dec09	Carey Bay [garden]	L.Crawford
Spangled Drongo	1	9.4.10	Ash Island [Ramsar Rd]	C.Anderson
Spangled Drongo	1	21.5.10	Milbrodale	M.Roderick
Spangled Drongo	1	23.5.10	Hunter Wetlands Centre	P.Lightfoot
Speckled Warbler	2	13.3.10	Jerrys Plains [cemetery]	G.&G.Drady
Square-tailed Kite	2	23.4.10	Stroud [2km South]	T.Kenny
Topknot Pigeon	1	12.4.10	Mayfield [garden]	P.Chegwidden
Turquoise Parrot	3	15.2.10	Myall Lakes N.P.	B.Kibble
Wandering Whistling-Duck	2	12.5.10	Walka Water Works	J.Smart <i>et al.</i>
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Pr	16.5.10	Tomaree Heads	N.Fraser
Whimbrel	1	20.3.10	Stockton Sandspit	J.Thomas
Whistling Kite	10	5.4.10	Hexham Swamp	T.Clarke
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	28.3.10	Bylong Rd [nr Widden]	G.&G.Drady
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	12.4.10	Lake Liddell	J.Cockerell
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	12.5.10	Belmont South	J.Cockerell
White-faced Heron	1	20.3.10	Stockton Sandspit	J.Thomas
White-throated Gerygone	1	13.3.10	Jerrys Plains [cemetery]	G.&G.Drady
White-throated Treecreeper	6	13.3.10	Wallaby Scrub Rd	G.&G.Drady
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	60+	23.3.10	Wyee Road	T.Clarke
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	10	9.5.10	Stockton Sandspit	T.Clarke
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	12+	12.5.10	Stockton Sandspit	D.Allen
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	2	23.5.10	Hunter Wetlands Centre	P.Lightfoot
Zebra Finch	45	17.3.10	Mt Arthur Mine Site	G.Newling

Note: Pr = pair; dy = dependent young; y = young; NSWORAC = NSW Ornithological Rarities Appraisal Committee

National Parks Association of NSW is campaigning for the establishment of Sydney Marine Park

Throughout Sydney's marine zone, from intertidal seashores and estuaries to open ocean, our turtles, seahorses, over 580 species of fish and over 70 species of seabirds face an everyday battle to cope with the impacts of pollution, habitat degradation, invasive species and overfishing. A Sydney Marine Park will afford greater protection to the marine environment while still allowing Sydneysiders continued enjoyment of all activities. As a Marine Park there would be better management, research and resources to help minimise pressures to its seabirds, turtles, dolphins and other creatures. Our Sydney Marine Park would be a world first as the only marine park based around a major city! This park is essential to protect the region's coastal terrestrial and marine wildlife for future generations. **Please take five minutes to help save our seabirds, turtles, dolphins and seahorses. Our politicians need to hear from you. Your personalised letter could make all the difference!** www.marine.org.au/marinesubmission.htm