



Newsletter

Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Issue No. 5/13 October 2013

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



Ever since the 2010 oil spill in Newcastle Harbour, we have known that some Australian Pelicans breeding on Pelican Island at Woy Woy come to the Hunter Estuary for food. Their oiled bodies were obvious in the breeding colony. Recently, Geoff Ross of NPWS attached green patagial tags to the wings of 26 pelicans at Woy Woy. The photo above shows a pelican with tag 59 on Kooragang Dykes on 4 September 2013 - it had been banded on 19 August 2013. Similar tags have been used on Australian White Ibis and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo to track their movements. These tags are relatively easy to read with binoculars. Please report any observations to the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme: www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/science/abbbs/recovery.html
Photo - Chris Herbert

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President's Column

October is looming as I write this (and it will already have loomed by the time you read this!) and what a great month it is. It is the month that sees many of our summer migrants arriving and settling in, hot on the heels of the early birds that started reaching our area in September, and it is the month where we see heightened breeding activities in many of our habitats. It is also Twitchathon month! Not only does that mean homework for strategic route planning, but it also means pro-active fundraising efforts by participants and supporters (this year the beneficiary is the Sydney Powerful Owl Project).

The Twitchathon has been a very successful and popular fundraising event for nearly 20 years, with recent tallies of funds toppling over the \$30k mark for various conservation projects.

The HBOC committee has decided to do its bit for fundraising by choosing a conservation project / beneficiary each year and raising funds throughout via

raffles and other activities. This all started at the July club meeting when we had a raffle to raise money for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Recovery Effort, which is a well-organised and successful conservation project bringing back a species from the brink of extinction that is in need of supporting funds. We will be raffling a wonderful James Hough artwork at the next two club meetings, with the winner to be drawn at the Christmas Club Night in December. Proceeds will supplement the \$800+ we already raised at the July Club Night to help save the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Thanks so much to everyone for their generosity.

If you have any suggestions for possible recipients into the future come and see me or a committee member.

Enjoy the fruits of spring everyone...the birds are out there waiting for you!

Mick Roderick

Wilma Barden Memorial Grant

The Hunter Bird Observers Club launched the Wilma Barden Memorial Grant in 2013 to provide support for research projects that promote the study and conservation of birds in Australia and that are of relevance to the Hunter Region.

Wilma Barden was one of the founding members of the HBOC and a dedicated environmentalist with a passion for the conservation and welfare of birds. She was a key figure in the establishment and ongoing success of the Hunter Wetlands Centre at Shortland, NSW.

The Wilma Barden Memorial Grant is now open for applications, which can be submitted at any time of the year.

Projects may include (but not be limited to):

- Scientific research, student projects, on-ground bird conservation work, education programs or materials, equipment or materials purchased to support bird conservation programs or projects.

Grants of up to two thousand Australian dollars (\$2000) are available for individual projects.

Applicants should first read the **Wilma Barden Memorial Grant Principles** before completing the **Application Form**. Both documents are available on the HBOC website at the following link:

<http://www.hboc.org.au/index.cfm?menukey=17>

New Members

The Club extends a warm welcome to: Liz Livanos of Horseshoe Bend. **We hope to see you at Club meetings and outings.**

HBOC Committee for 2013

President	Mick Roderick 0421 761 237	Committee Members
Vice President	Allan Richardson 4977 2508	Paul Baird 4938 5039
Secretary	Kristy Peters 0438 328 049	Hayley Boyce 0421 175 922
Treasurer	Joy Nicholls 4957 3612	Lucas Grenadier 4962 1987
Membership Secretary	Rob Kyte 4961 6211	Rob Kyte 4961 6211
Records Officers	Alan Stuart (Outings records) 4952 8569 Dan Williams (Club Night and Hunterbirding observations) 0408 023 262	Greg Little 4955 6609 Lorna Mee 4988 6579

Meeting Highlights - White-fronted Chats

Conservation ecology of the White-fronted Chat - a declining bird in an endangered ecological community

Salt marshes have long been recognised for their importance to the productivity of estuaries and for providing habitat for a diverse bird community including migratory shorebirds that are subject to international treaties. Coastal salt marsh is an endangered ecological community that is particularly vulnerable to the pressures of urban development and global climate change, with rising sea-levels inundating the community from below, urbanisation encroaching on it from above, and intensification of coastal development isolating remaining patches. The White-fronted Chat is an iconic, salt marsh-dwelling bird that is in decline Australia-wide, yet is still sufficiently common to serve as a model species for understanding processes of population decline and recovery.

Supported by grants from Lake Macquarie Council and the Hermon Slade Foundation, the Australian Museum has made a study of White-fronted Chats, particularly along the coast between Newcastle and Nowra. By analysing bird atlas data we have shown that the species declined by more than 30% state-wide over a period of 10 years. Only two populations remain in the Sydney region and regular transect surveys and a mark-recapture study have demonstrated that the Homebush Bay population has declined from a total of only nine individuals in 2008 to two individuals in 2013 (both male). The size of the Botany Bay population has fluctuated between 16 and 24 individuals based on repeated breeding surveys of colour-banded birds. This research provides strong support for the NSW Scientific Committee's decision to list the species as vulnerable in New South Wales, and the Sydney regional population as endangered.

Geographic isolation ultimately results in genetic differentiation which quickly becomes apparent in small populations. By analysing DNA samples extracted from feathers that we collected when banding birds, we have demonstrated that the two Sydney Chat populations are now effectively isolated from their nearest neighbours at Newcastle and Nowra. The Sydney populations are also showing signs of inbreeding. In contrast, we found very little evidence of genetic differentiation between populations ranging from Newcastle to Perth! However, birds on Rottneest Island (18 km west of Perth) were genetically distinct from mainland birds, as were birds from King Island and Tasmania. This indicates that White-fronted Chats are not good at dispersing over unsuitable habitat whether it be water or intensively urbanised land. As a consequence, the Sydney populations are now effectively on their own. It is therefore important to have data on their birth rates and death rates because these will ultimately determine longevity of the population.



From top: White-fronted Chat with colour bands at Towra Point; predator-resistant cage established over nest site; Australian Raven perched on top of predator-resistant cage.

By monitoring colour-banded birds at Towra Point in Botany Bay, we have found that annual survival of adults has been approximately 80%. We also followed the breeding attempts of 10 pairs of birds, many of which nested twice during the season. Nesting success has varied greatly between years and is strongly influenced by the activity of nest predators, including up to 80 ravens that sometimes forage over the 40ha site. Unfortunately there has been insufficient recruitment of fledglings into the adult population to counter adult mortality, so the prognosis for the population is not good. An exciting discovery was that two birds in the population were migrants, which could potentially “rescue” the population, but their offspring have not made it into the breeding population.

We have trialled the installation of predator-resistant cages over nests to determine whether they can be used to boost reproductive success. This research has demonstrated that cages do not induce parental desertion, and experiments using 160 artificial nests showed that caged nests experienced a predation rate 85% lower than that of unprotected nests. Infra-red-activated cameras revealed that 95% of predation was by Australian Ravens. In the near future we hope to conduct some nest-caging trials at Botany Bay in a last-ditch effort to postpone what would otherwise appear to be the demise of the Sydney populations.

Richard Major
Senior Research Scientist, Australian Museum

Activity Reports

Woodland Alive With Avian Wonders

Jerrys Plains Outing
Sunday 18 August 2013

Lots of travellers who use the Golden Highway know about Jerrys Plains; it's just the place for a whistle-stop after an hour or so of driving from the coast when heading west. But there is more than just the facility of a rest stop;



birdwatchers can enjoy a couple of hours of interesting encounters with a mix of dry woodland and pasture birds. Our group of fifteen (14 members plus a visitor from Adelaide) did just that on the August outing.

A fine and sunny morning greeted us and from the outset we were enjoying the sounds of a country town as the local birds got busy with claiming the day. The familiar calls of Galah do it for me every time.

First bird of real interest was a single Striped Honeyeater that moved about the trees of a town paddock quite oblivious of the intense scrutiny of fifteen binocular-wielding birdos. This was a pretty good start to our walk along the back of the township before heading out to the main feature of the outing: Jerrys Plains Cemetery.

The interest at the cemetery is the woodland dominated by Weeping Myall (*Acacia pendula*), Coobah (*Acacia salicina*) and Brush Wilga (*Geijera salicifolia*): a nationally threatened ecological community. One interesting feature here is the total lack of eucalyptus species.

With patience, our group was rewarded with some classic woodland birds including Speckled Warbler, Weebill, Grey-crowned Babbler, White-winged Chough, Jacky Winter and Red-capped Robin. Of special note the robin was discovered sitting on a nest.

Other encounters of Silvereye, Striated Pardalote, Double-barred Finch, three species of thornbill, White-eared Honeyeater and Brown-headed Honeyeater all added joy and delight to the experience. Jerrys Plains Cemetery proved itself to be a wonderfully birdy place.

After a break, we all followed Peter Alexander to a "secret spot" along Wallaby Scrub Road where White-

Early morning light casts long shadows as keen birdwatchers enjoy woodland birds at Jerrys Plains.

plumed Honeyeater dominated the canopy, Diamond Firetails busied themselves with nest-building activities and the prized sighting of a Hooded Robin was enjoyed by some of the group.

Tom Clarke

Werakata National Park

Tuesday 6 August 2013

The first stop for 21 HBOC members was the Kearsley fire trail. We had hardly got through the gate when we spotted the first of several Rose Robins seen along the track. Another highlight was the number of Spotted Pardalotes, some of them nesting along the edge of the path. A Striated Thornbill was also observed nest-building – Spring is coming! There were several species of honeyeater flying above, particularly Yellow-tufted. Six Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos flew over. The dam in the adjoining property yielded several species of common waterbirds.

After morning tea at Poppet Head Park at Kitchener we headed to Pelton to be greeted by three Gang Gang Cockatoos munching away quietly in a tree right next to the track – a great photo opportunity. Further along the track a flock of Black-chinned Honeyeaters were feeding high in the trees. Unfortunately neither spot yielded the hoped-for Regent Honeyeaters (not surprising) or Swift Parrots. Nevertheless the group spotted a respectable 63 species and heard 3 others.

Robert Stewart

Activity Reports cont.

Spring has sprung!

Glenrock State Conservation Area
Sunday 15 September 2013

A cool, clear spring morning greeted us at our start point, Yuelarbah carpark on the border of the Northern and Southern Zones of Glenrock State Conservation Area. We gathered to discuss our route with the corresponding risk assessment and welcomed a visitor and potential new junior member Nick.

Crossing Flaggy Creek on Burwood Drive we set off south along the Fernleigh Track keeping one eye on the bush and another on passing cyclists. Despite the strong breeze we soon came across White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Thornbill, Eastern Spinebill and further down the track a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. At this point, just before we left the track to follow a path into the bush, Helen spotted a possum with joey perched in low cover, soaking up the spring sunshine.

Slowly moving along the track through thicker bush we picked up a pair of Brown Cuckoo-Doves perched in a tree in a gully below us with Golden Whistler, Red Wattlebird and several Eastern Rosellas also noted. The track opened out to a clearing which then took us along Little Flaggy Creek through more bush and down to Leichhardt's Lookout where we stopped for a while to take in the breathtaking view of the lagoon. It was at this point that Nick picked up a male Regent Bowerbird, in all its splendour, flying low over the canopy but disappearing too quickly for Jerry to get a view.

After spending 5 minutes at the lookout we took the main fire management trail east toward Burwood Beach. Along the way we had fantastic views of a Scarlet Honeyeater, picked up by Jerry, as well as a Grey Goshawk, another Brown Cuckoo-Dove and a very accommodating Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

We reached a point on the path where we had superb views out over Burwood Beach, the ocean and Glenrock Lagoon so decided to have a break with tea and snacks while watching a large pod of dolphins. It was here that we saw a pair of Nankeen Kestrels. Helen began describing the typical behaviour of a New Holland Honeyeater, which we had hoped to see, when a pair dutifully arrived on cue and perched about 10 metres away, a tick for Jerry. We retraced our steps along the trail past Leichhardt's Lookout and back towards our starting point. While following the track along Flaggy Creek we saw Chestnut Teal, Pacific Black Duck and had great views of an Olive-backed Oriole. Crossing the creek onto the final leg of our walk our next encounter was with a well fed 2m Diamond Python lying just off the path. Further along we passed a beautiful Green Tree Snake on the path soaking up the late morning sun and then watched a pair of Eastern Yellow Robins flitting about close to the path before leading us to their nest. One of the birds happily nuzzling down on the nest in



New Holland Honeyeater at Glenrock State Conservation Area

full view. Topping off an enthralling walk Nick pointed out a Water Dragon sitting on rocks just below the board-walk close to the carpark.

The walk took us just under five hours and we saw or heard approx 30 species. All agreed that we had experienced a fine spring morning that gave us some great bird spotting along with fantastic views of many other beautiful creatures that share the environment with us.

Rob Kyte



White-headed Pigeons feeding at Gloucester Caravan Park
- Lois Wooding

Gloucester Midweek Camp

15 - 18 September 2013

Twenty-five members gathered at Gloucester Caravan Park on Sunday afternoon with the threat of the first rain in weeks hanging over our heads. Even as we unpacked, the trees around the cabins were full of Scarlet Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebills, Rufous Whistlers and many other species feeding. A walk around the park revealed all the black and white birds sitting on nests – Willie Wagtail, Pied Currawong, Magpie and Magpie-lark, but perhaps the greatest sight of all was the 118 White-headed Pigeons feeding on the ground.

The next morning took us to Copeland Tops where many of the hard-to-see species were spotted – Bassian and

Activity Reports cont.

Russet-tailed Thrush, Superb Lyrebird, Green Catbird – the Noisy Pitta was very noisy but not visible until eventually seen by a lucky few. A total of 56 species seen and 5 heard for the area. The rain set in for the afternoon, so coffee and cake at the local café were in order.

Tuesday morning dawned bright and clear, so we set out for Woko National Park. This was quieter than Copeland but the Bassian Thrush and Green Catbird were seen again, as well as a Crested Shrike-tit. On the last morning some of us went to a private property with local birder Penny Drake-Brockman. Here we spotted a Red-backed Fairy-wren and a small flock of Channel-billed Cuckoos, a first report for the season for the Gloucester area. Four Grey-crowned Babblers with one juvenile were feeding in the garden.

Everyone enjoyed dinner together on Tuesday night at the local pub. A total of 121 species were spotted and 7 heard over the three days – a great tally thanks to all the participants who also spent free time in other areas, such as the Avon River wetlands. A great spot for a camp!

Margaret Stewart

HBOC Avian Surveys, Broughton Island

23 – 25 September 2013

Six HBOC members conducted the third bi-annual survey of land birds on Broughton Island in September 2013. The surveys are conducted each Spring and Autumn on behalf of NSW NPWS and complement surveys of nesting seabirds conducted by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). The surveys are designed to monitor changes in avian population and distribution in response to changes in habitat following the removal of feral animals (rabbits and rats) from the island in 2009 - 2011. The vegetation is currently dominated by Spiny-headed Mat-rush, Kangaroo Grass, Blady Grass and Bracken Fern with some isolated remnants of trees and shrubs. Travel to the island is by fishing charter from Nelson Bay and accommodation is in one of the fishing shacks at Esmeralda Cove.

The Broughton Island group forms part of the Myall Lakes National Park. It is located 16km northeast of the entrance to Port Stephens but is only 3 - 4km from the coast off Dark Point. The island group comprises Broughton Island, Little Broughton Island, North Rock and a number of smaller islets and rocky reefs. Broughton Island covers 132ha and has an irregular shape, approximately 2.3km long and 1.3km wide.

In 2012 HBOC established 11 survey sites on Broughton Island; six 2ha sites in a variety of different habitats, three 500m radius sites that cover most of the island and

two shoreline/bay sites. Most of the sites are surveyed three or four times during each survey period and 43 surveys were completed this September. All surveys are compatible with the BirdLife Australia's Atlas survey methods. Surveying to date has been directed towards assembling baseline data but some trends are already evident. Prior to the HBOC surveys, only 25-30 species of land birds were known to have been recorded. The total number of species recorded has increased with each subsequent survey and at the end of the latest survey stood at 47 species. Five new species were recorded this September.



Right: Golden-headed Cisticola - Chris Herbert;
Below: Tawny Grassbird - Allan Richardson



The species most frequently recorded at all land sites are Golden-headed Cisticola, Tawny Grassbird, Brown Quail, Silvereye and Welcome Swallow. Some effort has been put into establishing population density of Tawny Grassbirds and Golden-headed Cisticolas by recording locations of possible territories along 2ha sites with GPS; we are still working on whether this approach will be useful. The Australian Raven, Australasian Pipit and Yellow-faced Honeyeater have also been regularly recorded. The first HBOC survey in Spring 2012 recorded the honeyeaters at a single site while subsequent surveys have recorded the birds at several sites. This species may be the first example of avian re-colonisation on the island. Pheasant Coucals have also been recorded at increased numbers of sites over time and may also be re-colonising the island.

The previously unrecorded Lewin's Rail was identified around Esmeralda Cove during the first HBOC survey in 2012 and has subsequently been recorded from several sites. Two sightings of this notoriously cryptic species were obtained during the recent survey, and eight individual birds were located. The Buff-banded Rail was also recorded for the first time this September.

Activity Reports cont.

Other land birds recorded are possibly only vagrants. These include Grey Fantail, White-throated Gerygone, Forest Raven, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater and Eastern Koel, all of which have been recorded once. There are no species resident on the island that would be suitable brood species for the Eastern Koel. The Shining Bronze-Cuckoo has been recorded twice and with the large numbers of potentially suitable brood species (Tawny Grassbird, Golden-headed Cisticola and Silvereye) it is surprising that it has not been recorded more frequently.



Eastern Osprey at Broughton Island - Allan Richardson

Raptors regularly observed are White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Black-shouldered Kite, Swamp Harrier, Eastern Osprey and Peregrine Falcon. Agonistic behaviour between the species is frequently observed. The Peregrine Falcon might breed on the island and probably two pairs of them were recorded in the September survey. Spotted Harrier, Brahminy Kite and Brown Goshawk have all been recorded twice.

Sooty Oystercatchers (up to 20 birds) are the most regularly reported shorebird. A pair of Australian Pied Oystercatchers with eggs was recorded in September 2012. Great Cormorants, Pied Cormorants, Little Black Cormorants and Reef Egrets are present on rocky reefs around the island. Little Penguins were observed coming ashore at one of the known rookery sites. Migratory waders recorded on the beaches are Ruddy Turnstone (5 birds), Red-capped Plover (4 birds) and Red-necked Stint (2 birds).



Ruddy Turnstone at Broughton Island - Allan Richardson

Although numerous indicators of breeding activity were observed including copulation, carrying of nesting materials and food, no definite breeding records have been obtained for most species. Swallows were observed feeding young around the huts, a partially fledged Silver Gull was observed on the beach in front of the

huts and Pied Oystercatchers with eggs were observed previously.



This Australasian Pipit kept its nest a secret with clever diversionary tactics - Allan Richardson

Nesting seabirds recorded on the island by OEH include large numbers of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (about 55,000 pairs), a few hundred Short-tailed Shearwaters, five Little Penguin landing sites, a single Gould's Petrel breeding site with an unknown number of birds, and Silver Gull and Crested Tern breeding colonies. Sooty Shearwaters were recorded breeding on the island over 30 years ago and it is postulated they may again return to the island now the feral animals have been removed.



Wedge-tailed Shearwaters greet each other at night on the breeding grounds at Broughton Island - Allan Richardson

The HBOC Broughton Island surveys will continue bi-annually and it may be another two years before enough data are available to confidently analyse bird numbers, their distribution and trends. The Spring survey may be conducted a few weeks later in future to allow definite breeding records to be obtained. There is usually one or two spots available for new observers on the surveys and participation by additional HBOC members is highly recommended. NPWS are constructing their own hut on the island and when completed it will provide accommodation for up to eight observers. Broughton Island is a truly magical, largely unspoilt location with some of the best viewing of Golden-headed Cisticola and Tawny Grassbirds anywhere. The sight and sound of hundreds of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters returning to their burrows at night is an unforgettable experience. The possibility of observing a Lewin's Rail is also a great draw card. Perhaps I'll see you there on the next survey.

Neil Fraser

Activity Reports cont.

Boys Walk at Cooranbong

Tuesday 3 September 2013

Twenty-two members travelled to Cooranbong for a walk along Boys Walk, which follows Dora Creek. We started from the grounds of Avondale College and our thanks go to them for allowing us to park in their property. Much of the walk is in rainforest habitat, where we saw several Yellow-throated Scrubwrens, two of which were on nests. We spotted both Regent and Satin Bowerbirds as well as several Eastern Whipbirds. The walk comes out onto an open paddock and water treatment ponds, where the range of birds spotted changed considerably.

After morning tea at the park in Cooranbong we ventured on to the other side of the road where the walk continues under the bridge. The bush was a bit quieter there as it was later in the day, but a Wonga Pigeon was seen roosting up a tree, an Azure Kingfisher over the creek and two possums fast asleep in hollows. In all 57 species were recorded as seen with 3 heard. This was a new site for many of the group, and well worth the visit. Our thanks also to Allan Richardson for his help and advice.

Margaret Stewart

Belmont and the Fernleigh Track

Tuesday, 1 October 2013

The Belmont end of the Fernleigh Track was completed as a walking /cycling trail in 2011. Twenty Tuesday Birdos made our first use of the Belmont end of the trail on a warm, overcast morning. We surveyed from the Railway Street end of the trail to the 1.4km marker and return. It is an appealing section, a lovely walk. Cyclists were out in strength and we needed to be aware of them.

One small pool in particular was charming with Pacific Black Ducks, Australian White Ibis, a Little Pied Cormorant, Dusky Moorhens and Purple Swamphens, all together and oblivious to passers-by and watchers. White-breasted Woodswallows were nearby.

On the trail there were Little Wattlebird, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Brown Gerygone, Silveryeye, Eastern Yellow Robin, Rufous Whistler, Variegated Fairy-wren, Brown and Yellow Thornbills in numbers. A White-bellied Sea-Eagle flew over. A single Bell Miner caused us to wonder whether there may be a colony in the making.

Morning tea was on the lake-side park, after which a walk along Cold Tea Creek was rewarding. A family of Chestnut Teal and two Channel-billed Cuckoos brought our count of species up to fifty-four and six heard.

Max Blanch

Future Activities

White Ibis Survey

Sunday 20 October 2013

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is conducting its annual White Ibis Survey to get a better understanding of the distribution and abundance of this bird in NSW. This year the survey is Australia-wide and extends from Sunday 13 October to Sunday 27 October.

Since inception of the survey in 2003, the information collected has assisted considerably with our knowledge of these distinctive birds. Increasingly, White Ibis are moving into urban environments, bringing them into conflict with humans - e.g. affecting aircraft safety, water quality and biodiversity.

Simply report the number of White Ibis you see via the website:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/surveys/WhiteIbisSightingForm.htm

Additional information such as breeding, number of nests or wingtags is greatly appreciated.

9th Australasian Shorebird Conference

20-21 September 2014

The next Australasian Shorebird Conference will be held in Darwin on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September 2014. The conference will be hosted by the Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods at Charles Darwin University and will be held at CDU's Casuarina campus. We encourage you to submit symposia proposals and abstracts on key issues concerning shorebirds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Further details will be available soon! We hope you will join us.

Conference Deadlines:

15 March 2014 Symposia submission deadline

30 April 2014 Abstract submission deadline

1 July 2014 Early registration deadline

Contact: [Amanda Lilleyman](mailto:Amanda.Lilleyman@cdcu.edu.au)

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Future Activities cont.

Bittern surveys are booming?

The latest newsletter detailing the results of last year's fieldwork by BirdLife Australia's Bittern Project can be viewed at: <http://www.birdlife.org.au/documents/AB-Bittern-Chronicle5-Aug13.pdf>. Following the listing of the Australasian Bittern as endangered under the EPBC Act, we're keen to step up our survey work to monitor the bittern population, identify all sites used by bitterns and investigate their habitat requirements. Please keep a look out for bitterns at your local wetlands, as well as on your travels.

Both the Australasian and Australian Little Bittern start calling in the spring and listening for their calls is probably the easiest way of detecting them.

What they sound like: The Australasian Bittern has an extraordinary deep bass booming call, which can carry for up to one kilometre or more. The call usually

occurs in sequences of between three and five booms, preceded by quieter gasps (which are usually only heard when the bird is close by). To familiarise yourself with their call, go to: <http://www.birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/australasian-bittern>. The Australian Little Bittern utters a monotonous "ook-ook-ook...", each series of notes lasting about 10 seconds.

If you visit a wetland looking for bitterns, please complete a survey form, even if no bitterns were detected. Survey forms can be accessed from our website (address below) or emailed to you. For more information on the Bittern Project, go to: <http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/bittern-project/volunteering-ab> - survey forms, identification kits and bittern calls, can all be downloaded from this site.

For more information, contact Andrew Silcocks on 03 9347 0757 or at andrew.silcocks@birdlife.org.au

Birdwatchers Flock to see Rare Bird

...then watch it killed by wind turbine

Published in the Telegraph 28 June 2013

There has not been a sighting of a White-throated Needletail in the United Kingdom for 22 years, so nearly 80 birders flocked to Scotland in June 2013 to get a look. But instead of enjoying the world's fastest flying bird soaring, they watched it fly into the small blade of a wind turbine and die.

Experts believed the bird had likely come from Siberia, Australia or Japan. It may have got lost and been affected by the weather. A spokesman for Bird Guides said it was only the ninth time it was spotted in the UK since 1846. 'A very sad end to a delightful bird that may well have attracted many more birders to Harris over the following days had it not met its untimely demise,' said Western Isles wildlife expert Steve Duffield. The bird's body will be sent to a museum.

White-throated Needletail Report for the 2012/13 Season

Your records for the past season indicate that the weird extremes of weather did correlate with unusual swift behaviour. Needletails arrived in Victoria about their usual date and many were seen December to February, but the extreme heat and dryness of Victoria appears to have reduced their numbers, with more clumped sightings in part of the Hunter Valley and closer to Brisbane, during March and April. This behaviour nearly doubled the number of sightings from Queensland compared to last year. This same weather produced more Fork-tailed Swift sightings in Victoria than has been normal over recent years.

The 1,686 records I have obtained or that have been sent to me so far are 386 more than received for the previous season. Thank you so much for the extra effort in making and sharing these records.

The first needletail record was of 3 birds at Cabramatta (NSW) on 20 September 2012 seen by Mark Cachia. There had been an undefined sighting sometime in August from Queensland and only one other September sighting also in Queensland.

The first report from Victoria was of 5 birds seen on 16 October by Ron Becker, a veteran swift observer from Maramingo.

There were 2 (0 last year) reports from the Northern Territory this season. There was 1 (5 last year) record from WA, 3 (9) records from SA, 39 (29) from ACT, 11 (21) from TAS, 436 (217) from Qld, 343 (327) from Vic, and 876 (714) from NSW.

The WA record was not at Cocos or Christmas (as they were last year) but near Cape Naturaliste in the southwest of WA. This is a most unusual sighting, but was made by Des Palmer, an observer from Victoria and experienced with both species. The sighting was on 4 April indicating that the early exodus from Victoria did not take all birds through NSW to Qld.

With needletails clumping more than is usual in NSW & Qld three flocks of 2,000 birds were recorded compared to last year's one. There were seven sightings of a thousand or more birds. Sadly there were also too many reports of "lots", "many", "huge flocks" and we will

White-throated Needletail Report for the 2012/13 Season

never know how big these flocks were. One of the "lots" was reported from Yorkeys Knob Road, Qld on 10 June by Luke Jackson. So the unseasonal weather was still influencing unusual behaviour in Australia in winter.

One needletail was so upset by our weather that it went to Britain, to the Isle of Harris, where many jubilant birders saw it on 25 June. Even more saw it the following day as observers came from all over the UK to see such a rare bird for those parts. Then some of them saw it fly into the only wind turbine on the island and they picked it up dead. So, do we blame the turbine or the really hot and dry Australian summer?

The average flock size this season was 41 compared to 40 for last year and 44 for the year before. All figures are lower than the mean of 52 for the last decade. So not even the clumping caused by the extremely hot dry weather in southern and central Australia was able to raise the mean flock size by more than one.

Once again the top recorder for the season was Irene Allan, making 121 sightings. Len & Jacquie Axen saw 45 flocks, Paul Jones 40, Andy Jensen 37, Peter Alexander 36, Allan Morris 35, Ross Smith 30, Tim Morris 29, Tom Wilson 29, Mike Tarburton 29, Dave Flumm 27, Mick Roderick 27, Phil Gilmour 26, Liz Hawkins 26, Bas Hensen 23, Julie Sarna 22, Matthew Stanton 17, Rod Gardner 17, Liz Crawford 13 and Michael Ramsey 13.

Thanks again to all those who have taken the trouble to send me your sightings. It does not matter whether you sent in 1 report or more than 100, they are all useful in helping determine the White-throated Needletail population status and defining other aspects of their behaviour.

Mike Tarburton

tarburton.m@optusnet.com.au

Hunter Estuary shorebirds update 27 September 2013

Eastern Curlew, Curlew Sandpiper and Red Knot were the first shorebirds to arrive in the Hunter Estuary on southward migration. The first influx of 22 Red Knot and 13 Curlew Sandpiper was recorded on 26 August 2013. Numbers have increased with over 200 Red Knot and around 70 Curlew Sandpiper being present on 26 September. The first significant influx of Bar-tailed Godwit (about 100) was recorded on 26 September 2013, with more present on 27 September.

Flagged Red Knot provide clues to the passage of birds through the Hunter Estuary - an early arrival with a white leg flag engraved BKX (flagged in New Zealand) stayed for 3 weeks before moving on - probably to New Zealand. Increasing numbers of orange-flagged Red Knot are appearing in the estuary - these birds have been caught and banded in Victoria and are likely to continue their southward migration once they have replenished their fat reserves.

An exciting sighting - a Red Knot with a white flag engraved CUE and a lime band above the flag was first observed in the Hunter Estuary on 18 September 2013. This bird was caught and banded as a 4-day-old chick on 7 July 2012 near Meinypilgyno, South Chukotka, Siberia (62deg 33 min 33 sec N; 177 deg 08 min 05 sec E). It was recaptured on 13 July 2012 when the engraved leg flag was added. The bird is now slightly

older than 14 months. It had not been sighted anywhere since it left the breeding grounds in August 2012 until we observed it here in the Hunter Estuary - perhaps it hung out in the Gulf of Carpentaria for the past year before moving to the Hunter (Red Knot do not migrate to the breeding grounds until their second or even third year).

This bird's father was carrying a geolocator in 2011/12. According to the geolocator information it spent that northern winter (austral summer) in New Zealand. It migrated north again in 2013 and successfully bred. If genes have anything to do with migration patterns, it is likely that Red Knot CUE will soon move from the Hunter to New Zealand for the rest of the austral summer. Thanks to Pavel Tomkovich for information about these Russian-banded Red Knots.

Stockton Sandspit is a great place to watch shorebirds as many stage in the Hunter Estuary on southward migration. Please report any flag sightings to us at chrisliz@internode.on.net for our records. On your behalf we will pass the information on to the Australasian Wader Study Group or you can report directly to AWSG yourself on <http://awsg.org.au/reportform.php>

Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert



Red Knot CUE (second from left) foraging with other Red Knots at Stockton Sandspit. The extreme left and right birds are moulting out of breeding plumage - Chris Herbert

Superb Fairy-wren Part III

Diary of the Third Nesting Event - Breeding Season 2011/12

My article in the August Newsletter on the Superb Fairy-wren second nest-building event in the 2011/12 nesting season, reported that nest building had started for the third nesting attempt, that two chicks from the second nesting had successfully fledged, had appeared from hiding in the vegetation, had been fed by Bluey and were ready to be trained as clan helpers. The new nest-building activity quickly got underway at a new site in the Bush Cherry hedge.

The first fledgling to leave the nest was seen on 25 January 2012. At 0800h on 27 January, a brown wren was seen collecting nesting fibre from a hanging basket in the patio and taking it over the back fence to a site further to the left from the previous nesting event in the hedge. From 1200-1500h the whole clan, including intermittent visits by Bluey, were busy collecting fibre and taking it over the back fence to the new spot. In between trips to the new nest site, Bluey also continued to collect food from the patio food station and ferried it to the front garden. At 0800h on 28 January, Leading Lady was in the back lawn area, collecting fibre and flying to the new nest site, while the helpers were carrying food to the front garden. At 0900h she collected more fibre and took it to the nest but at 1100h she changed direction, flying down the alley between the house and our back fence and returning with a new nest material.

There was intense activity from 1130-1230h and I set up my tall step ladder to its full height, which enabled me to observe and record the traffic along the back fence to the nest site. The first view from up the ladder revealed a wren lugging a large piece of dead bushy foliage, much bigger than the bird. Every few minutes, over the fence, and along the hedge side, two helpers flew out of the alley carrying grass stalks to the nest and then rocketed low to the ground back to the alley for more. I was able to take some rather rough movie clips. This time I saw grass stems and blades, which had not been recorded in the August report. The new fledglings were not neglected. At 1735h, Bluey and a helper resumed repeated visits to the food bowl to deliver food to the fledglings hidden somewhere in the front garden.

On 29 January, Leading Lady was again active but this time she was carrying nesting material from next door to the nest site. Bluey and one of the helpers fed at the patio food station, then foraged in the back lawn and flew over the fence and down to the nest site, strongly suggesting that they were taking food to it. The nest-building activity ended abruptly on 30 January, when she made only one excursion to the nest site. From 1 February onwards, clan activity was concentrated on the front garden, making intermittent brief appearances to feed. Bluey and the helpers made occasional trips to the nest site with food. The two fledglings cavorted around Bluey on the back lawn and in the front garden bird baths. At 0900h on 6 February and at 0900h on 7 February, Leading Lady flew down from the nest site to

feed from the patio and flew back. From 8 February on, there was no activity from her and only one of the two helpers visited the site at 0815h on 13 February. She was recorded and caught on camera on 11 February calling loudly from the top of Grevillea Yamba Sunshine and at 1810h on 15 February she was observed again, this time taking food from the patio station and flying next door.



11 February 2012:
Leading Lady on a brief visit calling from a favourite spot at the top of Grevillea Yamba Sunshine. She was seen again on 15 February before she disappeared for ever.

On 23 February, the behaviour of gathering food and carrying it to the nest was repeated all day. The clan members were travelling from behind our house, and/or the property adjacent to the nest site. Later they changed to regularly calling at the food station and flying to and fro over the back fence, strongly suggesting that the eggs had hatched. At 0800-0945h on 24 February, the regular demand for food from the patio station supported that suggestion. However, after 1200h, all food demand was transferred to the front garden and continued there. I had estimated that hatching would occur slightly after 16-19 February and fledging about 28-29 February 2012. No chicks were found to have hatched and none was found to have fledged. Consequently, the third attempt at nesting in the 2011/12 season was registered as a failure.

Leading Lady had not been seen since 15 February and has not been seen since. The helpers that had fledged from the successful first nesting in 2012 and had worked so hard during the second nesting and at the beginning of the third attempt, had disappeared. Bluey had lost his mate but still had the job of training the two offspring from the second nesting. His role of looking after the two new fledglings from the second nesting, described in the last issue, had begun the day they had emerged from hiding to join the clan as helpers.



12 February 2012:
Brownie 2 displayed an angry tantrum when Bluey failed in his duty to feed her.

Both fledglings were females. One we named Brownie 1 was somewhat smaller than, and had less red face than the other, which we named Brownie 2. The latter

Superb Fairy-wren Part III cont.

seemed to get more attention than Brownie 1. On 12 February, Bluey was pursued by Brownie 2, failed to feed her on demand and she responded with an angry display, with beak wide open. On 2 March, in steady light rain, Brownie 2 spent 5 minutes loafing very close to and pestering Bluey, during which I obtained 20 still photographs to record the antics.



2 March 2012: Brownie 2 seeking attention from Bluey in the rain

20 April 2012: Bluey supervising one of the two juvenile fledglings produced in the 2011/12 season second nesting event.



During March – April, he was not far from the two fledglings, which by then had become increasingly more active in the clan's life. Bluey was always close at hand, particularly joining in and supervising the youngsters when they bathed in the birdbath. There also seemed to be a friendly liaison between the wrens and the Red-browed Finches, often seen foraging close to each other and bathing together in the bird bath without conflict. On 6 April, Brownie 2 was foraging in the ground cover, extremely close to the fledgling Red-browed which was begging to the adult flying in to feed it, without fuss.



6 April 2012: Brownie 2 in the Native Violet ground cover next to the recently fledged Red-browed Finch with its parent in the background flying in to feed it.

After the failure of the third nesting, feeding on nectar from the rich autumn and winter flowering involved more birds at an increased rate compared with what we had observed in the early stage of the second nesting. Bluey became an avid nectar hunter. He was a regular visitor to several of our Grevilleas and was observed doing "Hummingbird hovering" to feed beneath branches of Grevillea Honeybird. He also fed from our first flowering of *Hakea crassinervia*, a species not listed on the HANZAB list of food for wrens. On 10 June 2012, Brownie 2 was also taking nectar from *Hakea crassinervia*.

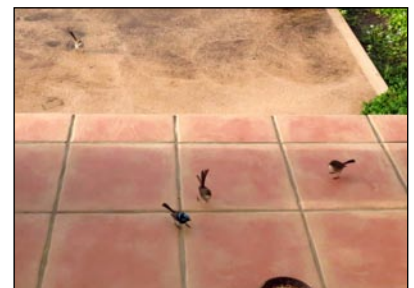


Above: 25 June 2012: Bluey taking nectar from *Hakea crassinervia*



Right: 10 June 2012: Brownie 2 foraging on *Hakea crassinervia* nectar

As we headed towards Spring, we were left with only three clan members - Bluey in charge of Brownies 1 and 2. An unexpected event brought a stranger into the picture, which eventually succeeded, after considerable conflict, to increase the clan to four members. At 0735h on 15 May, Bluey and the two Brownies had come to the front porch food station to consume their meal worms and all seemed calm. However, at 0915h, while they were tackling bread crumbs, a fourth brown wren appeared out of the blue. Bluey responded with vigorous beak chattering and drove it off the site. At 1000h, however, Bluey and the two Brownies were accompanied by the smaller, darker brown wren, feeding on biscuit crumbs. Bluey again chased it off the site. On 16 May, the smaller, darker wren (hereafter called Invader), Bluey and the two Brownies were together and there was calm in feeding until 1400h, when Bluey again spent time chasing Invader away. We had seen enough of Invader's blue tail to recognise him as a juvenile male. Bluey persevered throughout 17 and 18 May with his efforts to chase him off the site and Invader was just as persistent in finding ways of joining the queue to the food station. Bluey finally gave up his attempts to remove him and the four wrens settled down to sharing the available food sources.



14 June 2012: The four current clan members turned up for breakfast at the porch food station. Far left Invader, front left Bluey, middle Brownie 2, right Brownie 1.

The arrival of Invader led to critical changes in the structure and success of the clan. The next issue will reveal the happenings that resulted in the clan reducing to only two and the problems they had to face in their nesting attempts without helpers in the 2012/13 breeding season.

Max Maddock

Soldiers Point Beach Stone-curlews



I was kayaking one evening in May 2011 when I saw a pair of birds I didn't recognise on the western shore of Soldiers Point. So began my observing and photographing of this pair of Beach Stone-curlews (BSCs) that are happily continuing to reside and breed in the area.

I won't insult the depth of birding knowledge that resides within the HBOC by trying to write a scholarly article. I will just list some observations that I've made with enough regularity for them to have some basis in fact.

- Happily these birds seem to prefer appearing on our shore when it is sunny and warm. I'm sure they don't wish to waste energy in cold and windy conditions. Soldier Crabs, their favoured prey around here, also don't favour windy days.
- The BSCs seem to be one of the few animals that eat Soldier Crabs on a regular basis. Even when the crabs are not up walking around the birds can locate them and plunge their beaks down through the sand to grab them.
- The BSCs are great walkers. They usually fly across from Dowardee Island and land on Soldiers Point beach between the marina and the jetty. They can then walk the length of the beach in very quick time. They often drink, bathe and rest near the stormwater outlet on the southern area of the beach.
- When getting nervous these birds bob their heads up and down and give quick high-pitched little calls.
- These birds have become pretty tolerant of people, not even taking flight one day when children were kicking a soccer ball quite close to them. Obviously dogs will put them to flight and the BSCs certainly look skyward when larger raptors fly over.
- Since arriving on Soldiers Point beach in 2011 and being frequent low-tide visitors during daylight

hours, the birds disappear during Sept/Oct and reappear each February with a grown immature chick. When alarmed on the beach, the birds retreat to Dowardee Island. I'm sure this is where they breed. During this last summer, in their absence from the 'mainland', I went over to Dowardee Island to look for their presence and signs of breeding activity. The birds were there each time. On the first visit a single bird flew in an arc around me and then landed about 20m away. It seemed at the time that it was trying to draw me away from where I was. On the second visit, during a period of extended easterly winds, I saw 2 adult-sized birds on the southwest corner of the island. This would have been the most sheltered / warmest part of the island. During this period the birds were far more nervous when on the island than when observed feeding on the local beaches.

The presence of the BSCs here has been of interest to lots of birders and photographers. I've had the pleasure of meeting and showing a few of them around and also giving them a bit of advice on the birds and approaching them. I met a professor from the USA on one of my little walks who asked me "Where are the Beach Thick-Knees?" The BSCs have generated some eco-tourism dollars for the area from visiting birders and their families. It was indeed exciting and surprising to hear of 4 BSCs on Dowardee Island during the recent Port Stephens shorebird survey.

The BSCs are classed as critically endangered in NSW. Their presence has been noted in submissions opposing extensions to the Soldiers Point marina. There is a plan to extend this facility directly toward Dowardee Island. This proposal is yet to go before the decision-making body. HBOC has made a submission against this proposal and a representative of the club will speak at the Joint Regional Planning Panel hearing that will decide on this potential threat to wildlife on Dowardee Island.

Trevor Murray



Party time for Channel-billed Cuckoo

On Sunday 22 September 2013 I noticed the local Channel-billed Cuckoo having a wonderful time busily stripping super-ripe mulberries off the tree at the corner of Foreshore Drive, Salamander Bay. A couple of times I thought it was going to fall out of the tree and it occurred to me that the bird might be a little drunk. I went on my way and it was only on Monday afternoon that I heard what happened.

When the Channel-bill finally took off, its flight was observed to be extremely erratic. It finally smashed into the upstairs window of a neighbouring house and fell heavily to the ground. The home owners thought it was dead, but when they tried to pick it up the bird started “muttering,” tried to stand and fell over again. After this

happened a few more times they put it in a large box in the garage and called WIRES. The empty garage did a wonderful job of acoustically enhancing the bird’s noisy protests and a crowd began to gather. By the time WIRES arrived the bird had recovered sufficiently enough to inflict a very large gash along the arm of its rescuer. It was last heard vocalizing like a banshee at maximum volume from a cage on the back of a ute that disappeared in the general direction of Corlette. By that time, I’m told, the bird and pretty much everyone else was suffering from a major headache. Perhaps they’ll send it for a few sessions with Avian AA.

Lois Wooding

Backyard Butcher

I often sit on my back veranda at Weston (about 800 metres from the Hunter Economic Zone) and carry out some “passive birding” while having my morning cuppa or afternoon refreshing beverage/s.

A thick clump of bottlebrushes grow in my backyard providing shelter and food for many small birds. Over the years I have seen numerous thornbills, Silvereyes, Superb Fairy-wren, Red-browed Finch, Double-barred Finch, Noisy Friarbird, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird, Scarlet Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, White-cheeked Honeyeater, as well as a few Noisy Miners, Common Starling, Common Blackbird, flying cane toads (Common Myna) and House Sparrow, among others.

Several families of House Sparrow have been raised in these bushes over the last few years and there has

always been a fairly constant population of them.

This winter a young Grey Butcherbird took up residence. Every 2 or 3 days this bird would take a sparrow as prey. By September the bushes were silent and no sparrows could be seen. The young butcherbird seemed to have moved on about a week ago. Also last week I noticed a rather brave male sparrow calling from the TV aerial. This week I noticed that a few sparrows seem to have moved back.

Even though this was just a series of casual observations and on ‘common’ backyard species, I thought this was a good example of the information a longitudinal study can provide.

Neil Granter

Ironbark Creek floodgates all open



Following an extraordinarily long and protracted process, the last two floodgates blocking tidal flow into Ironbark Creek and Hexham Swamp were opened on 25 July 2013.

The Minister for Primary Industries the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson opened floodgate No. 7 (above centre) and Brian Purdue of the Green Corridor Coalition opened floodgate No. 8 (above right).

Ironbark Creek is now finally fully flowing with mullet jumping for joy.

Tom Kendall

2012 Annual Bird Report

A milestone has been achieved – our Club’s 20th Annual Bird Report for the Hunter Region has just been produced. Please be sure to collect your copy when you next attend a Club meeting or outing.

The milestone has prompted me to reflect a little on how it all began. At a BIGnet (Bird Interest Group Network) meeting in 1992, the suggestion was made that local bird clubs begin producing annual bird reports for their area of interest as this would help make the NSW Bird Reports far more comprehensive. I thought that seemed like a good idea and I put my hand up for the job. I was already interested in ways to better document our local birds and had taken some tentative steps with regard to collating the records from Club outings and camps.

There were many things we had to work out, not least of which being: *what should be our area of interest?* The Hunter Valley was of course a candidate, but that ruled out places such as Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens. Eventually, we settled on it being “The Hunter Region” which by the way has 90-95% overlap with the area for the Hunter-Central Rivers CMA after it was formed.

We decided that the best long-term strategy (for HBOC’s reputation) was to take a conservative approach and only publish records for which there was a high level of confidence about the bird’s ID. That meant we needed to form a Records Appraisal Committee, and also that

we had to decide which species needed more scrutiny of reports of them – and thus arrived the concept of having Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3 species. There were other things to work out too – e.g. designing a new record sheet, getting the correct scientific names (it was more difficult back then), and of course, publicising the new venture and getting people to submit details about sightings. Back then our modern IT systems were just beginning to develop, and it was not so easy to share information.

The inaugural 1993 Bird Report was “a slim volume” of just 44 pages, and a checklist of 269 species. The highlights included the first known local record for the Yellow Wagtail, as it was then known, and what has turned out to be our only record to date for the Garganey. In contrast, the 2012 Bird Report is 120 pages long, has a checklist of 441 species, and has 2 pages of highlight species.

As you can no doubt appreciate, it is a quite substantial job to prepare the Bird Report each year. There is a massive amount of data to collect, collate and analyse. But without all of you doing all your field work and then reporting it, there would be nothing! So, keep up the good work. And ideally, please also submit your records to the BirdLife Australia Atlas as that is in our birds’ best interest.

Alan Stuart



Definitive Work on Lower Hunter Woodland Birds

The Lower Hunter research reports funded by the Australian Government have recently been released. You can go to this link to find them: <http://www.environment.gov.au/sustainability/regional-development/lower-hunter/index.html>

Included in the reports is the fine body of work undertaken by Mick Roderick, Dean Ingwersen and Chris Tzaros (BirdLife Australia) regarding Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots in the Lower Hunter – this report now becomes the definitive text for both species in the region. Congratulations to Mick *et al.* on this work.

Unfortunately though, the future for the Woodland Birds for Biodiversity Project is uncertain due to a lack of funding. You might like to consider raising your concerns about that with your local politicians.

October is Endangered Species Month at Alison Green Designs

Alison Green, screen-printer and creator of our Club T-shirts, is supporting Endangered Species by donating ten dollars from every sale of a T-shirt featuring an Endangered Species during October. There are Regent Honeyeater, Glossy Black-Cockatoo and Gouldian Finch T-shirts available. Donations will be made to the **Regent Honeyeater Recovery Program**, the **Glossy Black Rescue Fund** and the **Save the Gouldian Fund**. Perhaps now is the time to check out Alison’s website and help support our endangered birds. To order, visit www.alisongreendesigns.com.au

Handbook of the Birds of the World - online

HBOC has purchased a subscription to the *Handbook of the Birds of the World online (HBW Alive)*. Any current member of the Club will now be able to access **HBW Alive** by going to the sign-in page at <http://www.hbw.com/user>, and entering the username and password for HBOC's account. (You are a current member if you have a membership card with the correct year on it). Please email Michael Kearns at mkearns@bluebottle.com (or Mick Roderick at mickhhb@yahoo.com.au) to receive the username and password.

HBW Alive is a somewhat less technical version of HANZAB (Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds) – but it has information for every known species of bird not just in Australia but anywhere on earth - sitting at your fingertips on your computer (once you have signed in online). There are illustrations by top bird artists for every species of bird (and many distinctive subspecies), along with range maps, information on life history, conservation status, and more.

It is easy to create customized plates showing all the species of bird in a particular genus, family or order - for the whole world, or for any country or other major geographic region. There are particularly good articles giving an introduction to and overview of each taxonomic family of birds.

The website itself is at <http://www.hbw.com/> (you won't get very deeply into it without the sign-in information). Also, there is a good overview explanation about the Handbook available on Wikipedia:

http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Handbook_of_Birds_of_the_World, and the publisher (Lynx Edicions) has more information on it at: <http://www.lynxeds.com/content/hbw-alive-entire-contents-hbw-your-fingertips>

Or better still, just email Michael or Mick for the sign-in information and try it out for yourself!

HBOC's subscription to **HBW Alive** is a "supporting subscription", which allows you to click on a link to open many of the scientific papers etc that are referred to. However, it is not a deluxe subscription which was outside the Club's budget, and so there are some limitations about how many people can access the site at the same time and what happens when people are trying at the same time. Michael/Mick will explain about this when they send you the sign-in information.

This is yet another benefit in what is already a really great value-for-money membership subscription!

HBOC website included in National Database

HBOC recently granted permission to the State Library of NSW for a licence under the Copyright Act 1968, to copy our website into the PANDORA Archive and to provide public online access to it via the Internet. This means that we have granted permission to retain our website in the Archive and to provide public access to it in perpetuity.

PANDORA, Australia's Web Archive, was set up by the National Library in 1996 to enable the archiving and provision of long-term access to online Australian publications/websites. It is a joint venture between the National Library of Australia and the State Libraries.

There are benefits to us as a publisher in having our website archived by the Library. The necessary

preservation action will be undertaken to keep our website accessible as hardware and software changes over time. The site will be re-archived regularly. The National Library has catalogued our website and added the record to the National Bibliographic Database (a database of catalogue records shared by over 1,100 Australian libraries). This will increase awareness of our website among researchers using libraries.

The State Library of NSW is committed to preserving selected websites of lasting cultural value for long-term access by the Australian community. Only a relatively small number of websites are assessed as being significant enough for PANDORA and we are honoured to have our website selected.

Margaret Stewart

Lord Howe Is Woodhens - new book

Woodhen: a flightless island bird defying extinction, written by Clifford B. Frith and published by CSIRO describes the rescue of the Lord Howe Island Woodhen. This unique large rail was at the very brink of extinction with just 15 individuals found in 1980, when bold and risky actions were taken to save it. The book begins with the discovery and ecology of Lord Howe Island. It then details the history of the Woodhen, its place among the

rails and their evolution of flightlessness, the planning, implementation and trials, tribulations and successes of the captive breeding programme and the way in which the wild population recovered. This is a story of survival, yet the bird remains highly endangered as it is under constant threat. This book provides gripping insights into the potential for both losing and saving vertebrate species.

Club Night & Hunterbirding Observations

Please note that all sighting reports published in HBOC's newsletter or its on-line forum (Hunterbirding) are unofficial and have not been confirmed by the Club. Such reports are publicised in order that others can be made aware of the sighting(s) reported and have the chance to help verify them. Official records of bird sightings in the Hunter Region appear in the Annual Bird Report, for which written submissions supported by field notes and photographs are a vital part of the process for acceptance of locally uncommon/rare species.

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer	Source
Australasian Bittern	1	4/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Australasian Bittern	1	5/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Australasian Bittern	1	14/09/2013	Ash Island	C. Anderson	Hunterbirding
Australasian Bittern	1	17/09/2013	Tomago	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Australian Crake	1	10/09/2013	Anambah	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	2+nest	21/09/2013	Kooragang Dykes	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	2+nest	21/09/2013	Stockton Sandspit	J. Powers	Hunterbirding
Australian Pratincole	1	18/08/2013	Hexham Swamp	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Australian Raven	c.60	1/08/2013	Scone	G. Newling	Hunterbirding
Australian Shoveler	63	9/08/2013	Morpeth WWTW	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Australian Shoveler	132	9/08/2013	Kooragang Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Australian Wood Duck	2+10dy	10/09/2013	Maitland	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Azure Kingfisher	1	17/08/2013	Four Mile Creek	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Baillon's Crake	1	4/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Banded Lapwing	3	5/09/2013	Lorn	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Bassian Thrush	2+dy	17/08/2013	Cooranbong	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Beach Stone-Curlew	4	27/08/2013	Soldiers Point	N. Fraser	Hunterbirding
Beach Stone-Curlew	3	28/08/2013	Manning Entrance	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Black Bittern	1	17/08/2013	Morisset	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Black Falcon	2	16/08/2013	Hexham Swamp	J. Thomas	Hunterbirding
Black Falcon	1	10/09/2013	East Maitland Tip	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Black Falcon	2	27/09/2013	Lenaghans Drive	S. Gorta	Hunterbirding
Black Falcon	2	29/09/2013	Scone	G. Newling	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	10+	10/09/2013	Nelson Plains	R. McLean	Club Night
Black Kite	c.75	1/08/2013	Scone	G. Newling	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	16	3/08/2013	Black Hill	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	c.40	16/08/2013	Hexham Swamp	J. Thomas	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	15+	10/09/2013	East Maitland Tip	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Black Kite	c.200	23/09/2013	Lenaghans Drive	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Black Swan	2+dy	21/09/2013	Mungo Brush	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Black-faced Monarch	1	8/09/2013	Main Creek	D. Jenkin	Hunterbirding
Black-necked Stork	1	3/08/2013	Sandgate	I. Benson	Hunterbirding
Black-necked Stork	2	20/09/2013	Kooragang Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Black-winged Stilt	2	11/08/2013	Milhams Pond, Ash Is	T. Clarke	Club Night
Blue-faced Honeyeater	12	10/09/2013	Rutherford	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1+nest	19/09/2013	Mulbring	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Brahminy Kite	1	21/09/2013	Strzelecki Lookout	J. Thomas	Hunterbirding
Brahminy Kite	1	25/09/2013	Maitland	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Brown Goshawk	2	14/08/2013	Jesmond	T. Kendall	Club Night
Brown Goshawk	1	3/08/2013	Hunter Economic Zone	E. McKane	Hunterbirding
Brown Goshawk	1	9/08/2013	Weston	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Brown Goshawk	2	4/09/2013	Wingen	G. Newling	Hunterbirding
Brown Honeyeater	h	5/09/2013	Carrington	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Brown Honeyeater	h	24/08/2013	Telarah	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Brown Skua	2	9/08/2013	Fort Drive	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Brown Thornbill	2+dy	17/08/2013	Morisset	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Brown Thornbill	2+nest	22/09/2013	Saltwater NP	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Brown Treecreeper	2	22/08/2013	Black Hill	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Brush Bronzewing	4	11/09/2013	Redhead	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Brush Bronzewing	4	21/09/2013	Old Gibber Track	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Brush Cuckoo	h	28/09/2013	Green Wattle Creek	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Brush Cuckoo	h	25/09/2013	Gloucester Tops	C. Anderson	Hunterbirding
Brush Cuckoo	h	17/09/2013	Copeland	R. McDonald	Hunterbirding
Budgerigar	c.30	31/07/2013	Luskintyre	T. Black	Hunterbirding
Budgerigar	8	9/08/2013	Hunter Economic Zone	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Buff-banded Rail	2	12/06/2013	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Buff-banded Rail	2	31/07/2013	Eleebana	A. Gooden	Club Night
Channel-billed Cuckoo	h	10/09/2013	Singleton	P. Alexander	Hunterbirding
Channel-billed Cuckoo	h	10/09/2013	Carey Bay	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	50+	18/08/2013	Hexham Swamp	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	9/08/2013	Weston	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	27/08/2013	Rutherford	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Comb-crested Jacana	5	28/08/2013	Cattai Wetlands	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Common Greenshank	18+	21/09/2013	Tomago	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding

Club Night & Hunterbirding Observations cont.

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Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer	Source
Common Greenshank	20	21/09/2013	Kooragang Dykes	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Common Sandpiper	1	21/09/2013	Kooragang Dykes	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Common Tern	1	14/08/2013	Newcastle Baths	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Common Tern	8	30/09/2013	Newcastle Baths	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Crescent Honeyeater	2	22/09/2013	Gloucester Tops	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Crested Pigeon	2+nest	8/09/2013	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Dollarbird	1	21/09/2013	Shortland	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Dollarbird	2	25/09/2013	Glenrock SCA	S. McKay	Hunterbirding
Double-banded Plover	6	21/08/2013	Caves Beach	G. Ayre	Hunterbirding
Double-banded Plover	42	20/08/2013	Stockton Beach	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Double-banded Plover	26	28/08/2013	Manning Estuary	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Double-barred Finch	5	8/09/2013	Lambs Valley	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Eastern Barn Owl	1	25/08/2013	Ash Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Eastern Curlew	2	11/08/2013	Milhams Pond, Ash Is	T. Clarke	Club Night
Eastern Grass Owl	1	2/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Eastern Koel	h	31/08/2013	Raymond Terrace	L. Mee	Hunterbirding
Eastern Osprey	2	11/08/2013	East Morisset	T. Marsh	Hunterbirding
Eastern Osprey	2	12/09/2013	Soldiers Point	T. Murray	Hunterbirding
Eastern Reef Egret	1	20/09/2013	Cowrie Hole	J. Thomas	Hunterbirding
Eastern Reef Egret	3+	24/09/2013	Broughton Island	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Eastern Yellow Robin	1+nest	2/08/2013	Blackbutt Reserve	J. Nicholls	Club Night
Eurasian Coot	1000+	18/08/2013	Hexham Swamp	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
European Goldfinch	5	5/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
European Goldfinch	2+	10/09/2013	Lorn	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Fairy Martin	c.30	6/08/2013	Shortland	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	4+dy	17/09/2013	Green Wattle Creek	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Flame Robin	2	22/09/2013	Gloucester Tops	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Fluttering Shearwater	1000s	8/08/2013	Fort Drive	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Forest Raven	1	24/09/2013	Broughton Island	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Freckled Duck	2	9/08/2013	Morpeth WWTW	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Freckled Duck	15	20/08/2013	Muddy Lake, Dora Ck	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Freckled Duck	7	19/09/2013	Newcastle Wetlands	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Fuscous Honeyeater	2+dy	27/09/2013	Green Wattle Creek	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	31/08/2013	Freemans Waterhole	T. Marsh	Hunterbirding
Gang-gang Cockatoo	c.20	14/09/2013	Watagans NP	L. Parashou	Hunterbirding
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	24/09/2013	Whitebridge	L. Grenadier	Hunterbirding
Glossy Ibis	23	4/08/2013	Lenaghans Swamp	L. Crawford	Club Night
Glossy Ibis	41	17/09/2013	Lenaghans Drive	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Glossy Ibis	43+	27/09/2013	Lenaghans Drive	S. Gorta	Hunterbirding
Great Cormorant	170	20/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Great Knot	1	16/09/2013	Stockton Sandspit	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Great-winged Petrel	3	8/08/2013	Fort Drive	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Green Catbird	h	27/07/2013	Allyn River	J. Tucker	Club Night
Green Catbird	h	24/08/2013	Cooranbong	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Green Catbird	h	31/08/2013	Freemans Waterhole	T. Marsh	Hunterbirding
Green Catbird	3	21/09/2013	Mungo Brush	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Grey Fantail	1	13/08/2013	Tighes Hill	T. Clarke	Club Night
Grey Fantail	c.30	26/08/2013	Black Hill	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Grey Fantail	40	27/08/2013	Yaraandoo, Duns Creek	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Grey Goshawk	1	5/08/2013	Rankin Park	T. Kendall	Club Night
Grey Goshawk	2	17/08/2013	Cooranbong	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Grey Goshawk	2	8/09/2013	Thornton	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Grey Teal	864	9/08/2013	Morpeth WWTW	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Grey-crowned Babbler	3	16/08/2013	Rutherford	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Grey-crowned Babbler	8	21/08/2013	Wingen	G. Newling	Hunterbirding
Grey-tailed Tattler	18	21/09/2013	Fern Bay	J. Powers	Hunterbirding
Gull-billed Tern	120+	20/08/2013	Stockton Beach	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Hardhead	172	9/08/2013	Kooragang Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Hoary-headed Grebe	121	9/08/2013	Morpeth WWTW	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	h	4/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	h	8/09/2013	Tenambit Wetlands	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Jacky Winter	1	27/08/2013	Lambs Valley	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
King Quail	h	4/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding

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Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer	Source
Latham's Snipe	1	22/08/2013	Hexham Swamp	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Latham's Snipe	1	26/08/2013	Lenaghans Drive	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Latham's Snipe	1	27/08/2013	Gosforth	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Latham's Snipe	1	4/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Latham's Snipe	3	8/09/2013	Anambah	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Lewin's Rail	h	4/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Lewin's Rail	3	11/09/2013	Redhead	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Little Black Cormorant	116	29/09/2013	Soldiers Point	T. Murray	Hunterbirding
Little Corella	c.120	20/05/2013	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Little Eagle	1	3/08/2013	Shortland	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Little Eagle	1	22/09/2013	Weston	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Little Friarbird	2	4/08/2013	Bunnan	T. Willis	Hunterbirding
Magpie Goose	73	12/06/2013	Wetlands Centre	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Marsh Sandpiper	1	17/09/2013	Tomago	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Masked Lapwing	2+3dy	3/09/2013	Weston	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Masked Owl	1	17/09/2013	Barrington House	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Masked Woodswallow	13	27/06/2013	Elmore Vale	J. Nicholls	Club Night
Nankeen Night-Heron	4	28/08/2013	Saltwater NP	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Nankeen Night-Heron	1	10/09/2013	Morpeth WWTW	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Nankeen Night-Heron	3	27/09/2013	Woodville	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Noisy Friarbird	8	14/08/2013	Eagleton	T. Clarke	Club Night
Noisy Miner	2+2dy	19/09/2013	Mulbring	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Noisy Pitta	h	2/08/2013	Caves Beach	H. Stevens	Hunterbirding
Noisy Pitta	2	28/08/2013	Saltwater NP	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Noisy Pitta	2	9/09/2013	Main Creek	D. Jenkin	Hunterbirding
Noisy Pitta	c.12	17/09/2013	Barrington House	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Noisy Pitta	h	19/09/2013	Old Brush	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Olive Whistler	5	22/09/2013	Gloucester Tops	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Pacific Baza	2	21/08/2013	Green Wattle Creek	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Pacific Baza	2	10/09/2013	Thornton	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Pacific Baza	2	21/09/2013	Kurri Kurri	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Pacific Golden Plover	10	20/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Pacific Golden Plover	89	20/09/2013	Old Bar	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Pacific Golden Plover	4	21/09/2013	Tomago	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Pacific Golden Plover	65	21/09/2013	Kooragang Dykes	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Pallid Cuckoo	h	8/09/2013	Tenambit Wetlands	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Pallid Cuckoo	1	9/09/2013	Morpeth WWTW	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Pallid Cuckoo	h	22/09/2013	Weston	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Paradise Riflebird	h	27/07/2013	Allyn River	J. Tucker	Club Night
Peaceful Dove	5	3/08/2013	Black Hill	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Peaceful Dove	1	24/08/2013	Cooranbong	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Peregrine Falcon	1	13/08/2013	Rothbury	P. Parker	Club Night
Peregrine Falcon	1	22/09/2013	Wingham Brush	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Pheasant Coucal	c.5	24/09/2013	Broughton Island	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Pink-eared Duck	260	9/08/2013	Morpeth WWTW	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Pink-eared Duck	3	9/08/2013	Kooragang Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Powerful Owl	h	27/05/2013	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Purple Swamphen	640	15/08/2013	Lenaghans Swamp	L. Crawford	Club Night
Rainbow Lorikeet	4+2dy	11/09/2013	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
Red-browed Treecreeper	3	22/09/2013	Gloucester Tops	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Red-capped Plover	2+dy	17/09/2013	Stockton Sandspit	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Red-kneed Dotterel	12	11/08/2013	Milhams Pond, Ash Is	T. Clarke	Club Night
Red-kneed Dotterel	4	10/09/2013	Anambah	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Red-kneed Dotterel	7	17/09/2013	Tomago	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Red-necked Avocet	3360	9/09/2013	Stockton Sandspit	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Red-whiskered Bulbul	2	30/07/2013	Catherine Hill Bay	J. Adams	Club Night
Red-whiskered Bulbul	1	17/08/2013	Cooranbong	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Red-winged Parrot	2	9/08/2013	Cassilis	P. Hansbro	Hunterbirding
Regent Bowerbird	1	10/08/2013	Galgabba Point	H. Stevens	Hunterbirding
Regent Bowerbird	1	8/09/2013	Glenrock SCA	K. & R. Howie	Hunterbirding
Regent Bowerbird	c.12	20/09/2013	Saltwater NP	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Rose Robin	3	16/08/2013	Rutherford	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Rose Robin	h	1/09/2013	Allyn River	L. Mee	Hunterbirding
Rose Robin	1	8/09/2013	Tenambit Wetlands	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding

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Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer	Source
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	h	20/09/2013	Saltwater NP	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Ruddy Turnstone	6	20/09/2013	Newcastle Baths	R. Nicholas	Hunterbirding
Ruddy Turnstone	10	30/09/2013	Newcastle Baths	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Rufous Fantail	1	10/09/2013	Ashtonfield	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Rufous Scrub-bird	29	5/09/2013	Gloucester Tops	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Rufous Songlark	1	1/08/2013	Singleton Army Base	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Rufous Whistler	h	3/08/2013	Pambalong NR	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Russet-tailed Thrush	3	9/09/2013	Main Creek	D. Jenkin	Hunterbirding
Russet-tailed Thrush	2+1dy	22/09/2013	Wingham Brush	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Sacred Kingfisher	1	13/08/2013	Fly Point	T. Clarke	Club Night
Sanderling	5	20/09/2013	Old Bar	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Scarlet Robin	2	22/09/2013	Gloucester Tops	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	400	21/09/2013	Tomago	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	800+	21/09/2013	Kooragang Dykes	L. Crawford	Hunterbirding
Sooty Owl	h	1/09/2013	Allyn River	L. Mee	Hunterbirding
Sooty Oystercatcher	4	12/09/2013	Soldiers Point	T. Murray	Hunterbirding
Sooty Oystercatcher	20+	24/09/2013	Broughton Island	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Southern Boobook	1	9/08/2013	Rankin Park	T. Kendall	Club Night
Southern Boobook	h	24/08/2013	Wingen	G. Newling	Hunterbirding
Southern Emu-Wren	4	11/09/2013	Redhead	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Spangled Drongo	2	22/09/2013	Saltwater NP	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Spangled Drongo	1	30/09/2013	Shoal Bay	N. Fraser	Hunterbirding
Speckled Warbler	1	10/09/2013	Gosforth	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Spectacled Monarch	2	20/09/2013	Harrington	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
Spectacled Monarch	2	17/09/2013	Barrington House	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Spotless Crake	h	4/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Spotted Harrier	1	9/08/2013	Milhams Pond, Ash Is	T. Clarke	Club Night
Spotted Harrier	1	4/09/2013	Wingen	G. Newling	Hunterbirding
Spotted Harrier	1	10/09/2013	Louth Park	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
Square-tailed Kite	1	9/08/2013	Morpeth WWTW	M. Newman	Hunterbirding
Square-tailed Kite	1	21/08/2013	Shortland	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Square-tailed Kite	1	18/09/2013	Weston	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Striped Honeyeater	2+nest	10/09/2013	Swansea	J. Adams	Club Night
Swift Parrot	15	1/08/2013	Singleton Army Base	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Swift Parrot	20+	4/08/2013	Singleton Army Base	P. Alexander	Hunterbirding
Swift Parrot	c.30	4/08/2013	Singleton Army Base	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Swift Parrot	c.15	4/08/2013	Pelton	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Swift Parrot	2	17/08/2013	Cooranbong	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
Swift Parrot	8	3/09/2013	Hunter Economic Zone	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	c.6	27/09/2013	Awabakal NR	J. Thomas	Hunterbirding
Topknot Pigeon	30	28/07/2013	Upper Allyn	J. Tucker	Club Night
Topknot Pigeon	50+	26/09/2013	Pambalong NR	R. McDonald	Hunterbirding
Turquoise Parrot	4	21/09/2013	Old Gibber Track	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Whimbrel	40	21/09/2013	Fern Bay	J. Powers	Hunterbirding
Whiskered Tern	23	20/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
White-breasted Woodswallow	2	10/08/2013	Ash Island	T. Marsh	Hunterbirding
White-breasted Woodswallow	2	12/08/2013	Swansea	H. Stevens	Hunterbirding
White-breasted Woodswallow	5	12/08/2013	Belmont	R. McDonald	Hunterbirding
White-browed Scrubwren	2+dy	10/09/2013	Walka Water Works	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding
White-browed Woodswallow	25	19/09/2013	Hunter Economic Zone	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
White-fronted Chat	8+2dy	21/09/2013	Tomago	A. Lindsey	Hunterbirding
White-fronted Chat	4	21/09/2013	Ash Island	A. Stuart	Hunterbirding
White-fronted Tern	c.30	8/08/2013	Fort Drive	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
White-fronted Tern	c.24	30/09/2013	Newcastle Baths	A. Richardson	Hunterbirding
White-headed Pigeon	20	12/06/2013	Dora Creek	C. & R. Goodenough	Club Night
White-headed Pigeon	3	28/07/2013	Upper Allyn	J. Tucker	Club Night
White-winged Triller	1	4/09/2013	Ash Island	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	1	22/09/2013	Saltwater NP	M. Kearns	Hunterbirding
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	2	10/08/2013	Pelaw Main	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	3	25/08/2013	Gresford Road	P. Alexander	Hunterbirding
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	2	28/09/2013	Lenaghans Drive	J. Thomas	Hunterbirding
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	20	11/09/2013	Charlestown	D. Raine	Club Night
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	5	27/07/2013	Allyn River	J. Tucker	Club Night
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	on eggs	3/09/2013	Hunter Economic Zone	S. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	1+dy	19/09/2013	Hunter Economic Zone	M. Roderick	Hunterbirding
Zebra Finch	10+	10/09/2013	Luskintyre	G. Brosie	Hunterbirding

Club Activities October - December 2013

DATE	EVENT	MEETING PLACE & TIME	CONTACT
OCTOBER 2013			
Wednesday 9 October	Club Meeting	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Toni Marsh and Peter Struik - <i>Our Brush with Royalty - Princess Parrots at Newhaven</i> Bird of the Evening: Robert Stewart - <i>White Tern</i>
Tuesday 15 October	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
Saturday 19 October	Hunter Waterbirds Survey	8.30 am Ash Island 9.00 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 Sue Hamonet 4958 1023 – Swan Bay Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 – Tomago
Sunday 20 October	Community Day: Welcome Waders at Stockton Sandspit	9.00am - 12 noon car park Stockton Sandspit	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008
Tuesday to Thursday 22 - 24 October	Rufous Scrub-bird Monitoring, Gloucester Tops IBA	Camp at Sharpes Creek on Tues 22 and Wed 23 October	Alan Stuart 4952 8569
Sat - Sunday 26 - 27 October	TWITCHATHON Join a team & help raise money for BirdLife Australia's Powerful Owl Project	4.00pm Sat to 4.00pm Sun for a BBQ at Hunter Wetlands Centre (Entry Fee)	Mick Roderick 0421 761 237
NOVEMBER 2013			
Tuesday 5 November	Midweek outing – Speers Point area	7.30am End of Creek Reserve Road - car park, Speers Point Park	Margaret and Keith Woods 4963 3070
Wednesday 6 November	Management Committee Meeting	6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School	Mick Roderick 0421761237 All members welcome
Wednesday 13 November	Club Meeting	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Peter West and Sue Proust - <i>The Cowra Woodland Bird Program</i>
Saturday 16 November	Hunter Waterbirds Survey	7.30 am Ash Island 8.00 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 Sue Hamonet 4958 1023 – Swan Bay Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 – Tomago
Sunday 17 November	Field Outing to: Allyn River, Barrington Tops	7.00am Tucker Park, Paterson	Robert McDonald 4947 9190
Tuesday 19 November	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm
DECEMBER 2013			
Tuesday 3 December	Mid-Week Outing – Stockton Sandspit Christmas lunch at Stockton RSL	7.30am Under Stockton Bridge	Judi Thomas 4952 2960
Wednesday 4 December	Management Committee Meeting	6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School	Mick Roderick 0421761237 All members welcome
Wednesday 11 December	Xmas Club Night	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Topic: Members' Night - bring your slides, anecdotes, videos and a plate to share the festive spirit