



Newsletter

Hunter Bird Observers Club

Issue No. 5/15 October 2015

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

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

Wandering Whistling-Ducks are a regular visitor to the Hunter Wetlands Centre and this photo by Bruce Hosken really does their great looks justice.



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President's Column

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the boidies is? The boidies are on the wing....

...and I mean it...

As the weather has warmed, many birds are taking to the skies. Some do it to hitch a short ride to a different part of a local swamp, some do it to help cover long distances, and I'm sure some do it simply because they can!

It has been an absolute delight watching flocks of White-browed and Masked Woodswallows flying over my house over the past week or so. I am crazy about these birds. I really enjoy watching any species of woodswallow, but there really is something about White-browed and Masked that capture my imagination. They are so mobile and at the same time so unpredictable. It would be of interest to track a few birds' movements, but that might take the mystique out of things a bit, which is what I really enjoy about these quintessentially Australian birds. I often marvel at just

how similar the two species are in habitat, behaviour, movements and even vocalisations (all of which are fundamentally identical) but they are separate species in their own right and look distinctly different.

Woodswallows are within a group of birds that have recently been showing declines in the BirdLife Australia Atlas – the aerial insectivores. This has also been noted in other countries too, and it is thought that the availability of insect prey could be an explanation for the decreased frequency and numbers of these birds being reported. Declines are apparently more obvious in species that move/migrate long distances. Let's hope that these declines can be explained by natural fluctuations in invertebrate populations, as the aerial birds really are a joy to watch; the masters of the very characteristic that birds are known most for – flying.

Enjoy the warm weather, all.

Mick Roderick

New Members

The Club extends a warm welcome to:

Briony Crane of Kilaben Bay

Allira Jackman of Carrington

Helen & Philip Thompson of Wangi Wangi

Samantha Vine of Hannam Vale

We hope to see you at club meetings and outings.

Health and Safety Awareness for Activities

When attending field outings, ensure you are wearing appropriate clothing, including wet weather gear in inclement weather, and suitable footwear. It is advisable to bring a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and to carry water.

Please sign the attendance register at field outings and also at meetings.

If you leave an outing early, please let the leader know before you go.

Participants attend at their own risk and should refrain from any behaviour that might put themselves or others at risk. That includes assessing whether they have the level of fitness required for the advertised outing. If in doubt contact the leader beforehand.

Shorebirds of Rudong - Impressions of a Volunteer

All the migratory shorebirds look completely fabulous dressed in their breeding plumage and mostly this was the case when I first arrived in the county of Rudong. The striking redness of so many species is a stand out feature from the tiny stints to the much larger godwits but wow, how handsome do those Curlew Sandpipers look! The Dunlin, with their black waist coats are well dressed up for the ball too but who designed the Grey Plover's outfits? Absolutely stunning.

After a couple of weeks however we see the fancy clothes slowly becoming a little bedraggled and plenty are looking more like the morning after the night before. Greenshanks and knots now have developed a fairly tatty appearance during this period as they revert from the showy attire to something more quiet and tidy (read sensible and grey). Still it is a joy to see all the birds transforming as they stage along the flyway and take the time to moult at this crucial stage of their yearly routine.

By far the most numerous of the shorebirds it seems are the small plover types; Greater Sand Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Kentish Plover and Little Ringed Plover. They are everywhere and with their dashing running style and cheeky looks constantly provide entertainment. I have fallen for the Kentish Plover; with their beautiful round heads they take on a clown-like comical appearance in my mind's eye and I suspect are always up for a bit of mischief. They are constantly trying to sneak up behind you without being noticed. I know this because every time I look around they stop running and stand perfectly still. The object of the game I reckon is that if you get caught running then you drop out. Not only do they stand still but they then try to outstare you at the same time; cheeky little buggers.

Then of course we have the Pied Avocet. Well they're avocet aren't they and they just have to be elegant and charming. They're just dressed in a different suit to what I'm used to, that's all. There is something quite stunning about fine black and white attire.

Two customers that don't look any different are a couple of other predominantly black and white shorebirds; the Eurasian Oystercatcher and the Black-winged Stilt. I am not sure what exact species or sub-species these two characters may be but for the life of me they look perfectly the same as our birds in the Hunter. At one

place in particular we see dozens of these birds and the rattling noises of charging oystercatchers is a familiar sound. I wonder how our sandspit birds might be fairing whenever I hear this call.

Did I mention the Spoon-billed Sandpiper? Well, what an amazing little fellow it is and every time I catch sight of one it makes me smile. They might superficially look like a stint but they behave like a spoonie. They go about their foraging in a different way and mostly we are finding them foraging alone. The stints can be seen alone on the tidal flats too but will mostly be with other stints in loose or reasonably tight groups. The stints are a busy forager and if you look closely you may detect their heads vibrating woodpecker-like as they probe just through the surface with their bills. They never stop this high-speed pecking and they remind me of little jackhammers. The spoonie goes about it with lots of testing of the surface with both feet and spoon bill until it detects something it likes. Then it goes into hammer drill mode and buries its bill to half its length or more in a very rapid manner. This bird keeps walking about and hammering like mad in a frantic manner which makes me think that it is very hungry or just lacks dining etiquette. Once your brain is wired into these behaviours it is remarkable how quickly they can be spotted in the crowd.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper, one of the world's 'ultimate' birds

The other shorebird of particular interest is the Nordmann's Greenshank and it didn't take too long to figure this beastie out. Why they're called greenshanks is a bit of mystery to me because there are so many differences between Nordmann's and the Common Greenshank. Really it's like comparing a deer with a dog. The Common is a stately bird with long legs and as they

Bird Reports - a Change in Strategy

pick their feet up on just about every step they appear to have a prancing gait; the Nordmann's is a robust version (let's say) with shorter legs and when they move they appear to just walk. There are plenty of plumage differences too to confirm your suspicions but honestly the manner in which each bird moves is quite different. Another aspect is the Common has (wait for it) green legs (shanks) whereas the Nordmann's has (sort of) yellowish legs. And get this, the toes have webbing in between. It is more likely the case that at a distance you may get a moulting Great Knot confused with the Nordmann's Greenshank. This arises because both are stout bodied, both have spots all over their chests and both have messy patchy backs during the moult.

It has been fun looking at these birds on just about every day and getting to know them well. The ease at which we are finding both these species is helping us immensely as our main aim now is to take as much video footage as possible of them foraging and feeding. Between the members of the crew we are accumulating lots and lots of good footage that hopefully will assist the scientific people with their quest to unlock much of the mystery.

Soon we will be instructed on the methods of benthic sampling so we can go back to the places we have recorded the feeding behaviours and search for what is living in the mud. I can't wait for that.

Tom Clarke

Bird Reports - a Change in Strategy

The 2014 Bird Report will very soon be available for distribution to members (we usually hand-deliver them for a couple of months then post out the remainder). With 2014 now out of the way, I'm ready to start work on the 2015 Report. However, the Records Appraisal Committee and I have discussed and agreed on a slightly different approach to how the Bird Reports are prepared in future.

Each year HBOC receives from BirdLife Australia (BLA) a complete set of data for the Hunter Region from the BLA Atlas. For common species, there usually are many reports of them submitted to the Atlas each year. We have decided that in future (for the 2015 Bird Report and onwards) we in general will not track individual records of common species, and instead rely on the Atlas data to tell us how those species are faring. We think this will enable a clearer picture of what's happening with respect to common species.

Which are the common species? Well, there are about 200 of them so I'm not going to list them. Mostly they are classified into Category 1 in the current Bird Reports so take a look at a recent report and it will give you a reasonable indication. However, for a handful of species that currently are classified as Category 1, we will move them into Category 2 and continue to track all records of them (for example, all the crakes will become Category 2).

Basically, we will continue to have three categories for Hunter Region species, with some of the definitions slightly different to what they have been previously:

- Category 1: A common or relatively common species within the Region, with records generally accepted. The annual status of the species is primarily monitored from its Reporting Rate in the BirdLife Australia Atlas; individual records usually are not tracked.
- Category 2: An uncommon or relatively uncommon species of special interest for the Region, with all records tracked. Records usually are accepted, although supporting information may sometimes be required in the event of unusual numbers, location or season.
- Category 3: A rare or vagrant species within the Region, with all records tracked. Supporting information is required before any record can be accepted for inclusion into the Bird Report.

Obviously when we learn of a large count of a Category 1 species, it will be considered to be a notable record and probably will make it into that year's bird report. Mostly, such counts will come from the systematic surveys that Club members carry out and we will continue to publish tables of the results of such surveys.

The most important aspect to the Bird Reports is that they provide a snapshot of the status of the Hunter Region's birds in any given year. We think this change of approach will give a more meaningful snapshot as it will

Club Activity Reports

paint a clearer picture of what's happening with our common species. It might also decrease (a bit) the workload associated with preparing the Reports. The amount of information we receive has skyrocketed in recent years thanks to the success of hunterbirding – we will focus on using hunterbirding (and reports made at club night or directly to me) to monitor the Region's less common species.

It is quite easy to register to become an Atlasser and contribute towards building our knowledge about our local birds – and we strongly encourage you to do so. Also, the portal for entering Atlas data currently is being

upgraded and that will make it easier soon to submit data in real-time (e.g. via your phone). The Atlas data play a vital role in planning and campaigning for conservation. Becoming an Atlasser means your leisure time birdwatching can help make a difference. If you don't get your records into the system it does nothing towards improving our understandings of Hunter Region birdlife. Similarly, if you only submit your records to e-Bird, that sends them into a black hole as far as regional context is concerned.

Alan Stuart

Club Activity Reports

Ellalong Lagoon

19 August 2015

Clear skies, a chilly 6°C and 7.30am – 22 excited, keen birders (some from as far as Singleton and the Central Coast) flocked to the Paxton pub for a special day – thanks to Mick Roderick (resplendent in his long pants and new boots).

We were going to visit a private property abutting the Ellalong Lagoon. Importantly, the property is a large remnant woodland habitat. It was previously owned by Coal and Allied and has now been owned for a few years by Port Waratah Coal Services. The property has been very well managed, with the habitat very intact and relatively undisturbed, and there is potential for it to be used in future offset dealings.



The Lagoon, as typically seen from the road

After a necessary induction talk by our friendly, efficient Port Waratah reps – Nick and Eden (a pair of binocs between them would have enhanced their enjoyment of

the day) – we carpooled to the property, having already seen Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Rainbow Lorikeets and Noisy Friarbirds at the pub.



The woodland, which is not so readily accessible...

On entering the property, we had a Royal Spoonbill sweeping shallow water beside the road – a good start. Then at our first of three stops, excitement – first Little Lorikeets (20+) and then Swift Parrots (around 15). We had wonderful, multiple views as they hung around in small groups. We could hear Musk Lorikeets and there were also plenty of Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and a pair of Glossy Black-Cockatoos flew over.

After morning tea and some good birding at the second stop (close views of Jacky Winters and listening to a mimicking Olive-backed Oriole), our third stop at the lagoon was fairly quiet. We had White-faced and White-necked Herons, Little Black and Great Cormorants, a Darter and some Black Swans.

Other sightings had included White-cheeked, Fuscous and (heard) Striped Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebills, Red Wattlebirds with Noisy and Bell Miners. Also seen were Spotted and Striated Pardalotes, a few Dusky

Club Activity Reports

Woodswallows, Varied Sittella and White-throated Treecreepers. We had a few raptors – Nankeen Kestrel, Wedge-tailed Eagles and three White-bellied Sea-eagles.

As a small bonus, we had some beautiful orchids and a large goanna sunning himself above a nesting hollow – with his tail hanging over the hole. Pity any bird that may be in the hollow!

After we finished in the property and, although mid-week, 17 people adjourned to the Lagoon Lookout for lunch and birdcall – a fantastic 85 birds.

Again, our thanks to Port Waratah Coal Services (and Mick) and we may even have more visits in the future.

Anthony Gooden

Galgabba Point

1 September 2015

The first day of Spring lived up to its word as 20 or so bird club members and two keen birders from the local Landcare group set off down the Galgabba track under the guidance of the expert in that area, Jack Adams. The walk was alive from the outset, with Golden Whistlers, White-cheeked Honeyeaters and one Spangled Drongo easily spotted. Further along we were pleased to get good views of several female Regent Bowerbirds, as well as Fan-tailed Cuckoos and Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets.

Some people walked in to see if the White-bellied Sea-Eagle was on its nest. Unfortunately it wasn't, but it was spotted circling overhead. The Osprey, on the other hand, was visible on its nest on the light pole in the adjoining park.

Several species of waterbirds were seen on the lake, cormorants, egrets, Australian Pelicans and White-faced Herons, but by far the most numerous were an estimated 200 Black Swans on one of the bays.

In total we saw 55 species, and heard six others, but the highlight of the day for a few lucky people was to see one of the Bassian Thrushes Jack tells us are often seen near the entrance to the walk.

Margaret Stewart

Midweek Camp, Monkerai

14 to 16 September 2015

Twenty two HBOC members enjoyed the mid-week camp at Riverwood Downs in glorious spring weather. The camp site and vicinity produced the respectable tally of 81 species with another five heard. There were high counts of Brown Cuckoo-Doves, Crimson Rosellas, Satin Bowerbirds and Scarlet Honeyeaters. Highlights of the camp site were Southern Emu-wrens and a Scarlet Robin. It was a real pleasure to sit comfortably by the Karuah River while the birds came to us, or walk the historic Monkerai wooden truss bridge.



The historic wooden truss bridge.

On the second day we had the pleasure of visiting Hildegard White's private property bordering on the Monkerai Nature Reserve, where we birded in the company of the goats and the chooks. Here we saw 38



Said goats keeping a watchful eye – photo by Judi Thomas

species with another nine heard. Among the many highlights here was a Green Catbird, seen by some of those who climbed up into the rainforest area. Others walked along the road, where the absence of Superb Fairy-wrens was noted, although one Variegated was seen. Hildegard was a very welcoming hostess to us,

Club Activity Reports

cooking cakes and fresh bread for morning tea and we thank her for allowing us on to her property.

Some of us returned home via Dungog, where we visited the Common. This was alive with small birds such as Scarlet Honeyeaters and Silvereyes.

The total number of species seen and heard over the three days was 96. Thanks to Max Blanch for all his work in planning and producing such detailed maps of the area and for organising another successful camp.

Robert Stewart

Manobalai NR and Giants Creek

20 September 2015

Manobalai Nature Reserve and Giants Creek lie at the junction of various bioregions and form part of an important wildlife corridor with Goulburn River and Wollemi National Parks. The area represents the northern extent of these sandstone massif reserves and from previous outings has been found to be a woodland bird hotspot, where some species such as the Hooded Robin are still thought to be holding on in the Hunter region.

Some members wisely decided to camp at the Sandy Hollow caravan park on Saturday with highlights including White-browed and Grey-crowned Babblers, Varied Sittella feeding young, as well as the chicken schnitzel and Tooheys Old at the tourist hotel.

Starting from Sandy Hollow at 8am on Sunday morning, levels of eagerness were ratcheted up a notch with an offer of 2016 Saving our Species calendars to those 11 members who could first spot a threatened species on the trip.



Well, it seems to work for those Frogmouths!

The outing started in light rain with a slow drive along the length of Giants Creek Road, to the start of the Diamond Ridge fire trail within Manobalai Nature Reserve. Access into the reserve is through private property, and arrangements with National Parks and Wildlife Service need to be in place prior to visiting the reserve.



Rufous Whistler – a sure sign that it's spring again!

The walk along the fire trail is memorable, with steep sandstone slopes and mature Spotted and Grey Gums dominating the dry creekline. For plant enthusiasts a flowering population of the endangered *Pomaderris queenslandica* was found. However, for bird enthusiasts the birding was relatively poor, with Noisy Miners and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos dominating the area. Everyone was keen to find a northern Rock Warbler amongst the outcrops, but unfortunately none were seen or heard. However, with Spotted Gums in the reserve heavily in bud, further outings will be scheduled for 2016 to target endangered species such as the Regent Honeyeater. Watch this space.

After the walk a pleasant morning tea was had within the reserve and the team headed off back along Giants Creek to two more suited woodland bird locations.

The first of these sites offered the most productive birding, with the group coming across an early influx of returning migrants and woodland bird species such as White-winged Triller, Jacky Winter, Rufous Whistler, Rainbow Bee-eater, Speckled Warbler, and Fan-tailed Cuckoo amongst others. However, a number of species including honeyeaters and key targets such as Hooded Robin seemed to be missing from the area. This is probably a reflection of the dynamic nature of temperate woodlands.

All up 71 species were recorded over an enjoyable weekend. We fell short on the threatened species count

Club Activity Reports

but all available calendars were handed out, as there were plenty of species and anecdotes of note. Most of the birding locations along Giants Creek Road are on private property and we will endeavour to find additional properties and sites where outings can be held, as the area is quite unique and worthy of further exploration and documentation of its avifauna.

Lucas Grenadier

Long Weekend Camp, Martindale

3 to 5 October 2015

Yet another fantastic camp was held by HBOC – this spring long Weekend was to a private property beside Martindale Creek.

Martindale is situated just 10 minutes' drive from Denman, which lies on the rim of the Upper Hunter Valley. It is a small, quiet and picturesque country town, which was rebuilt after a fire destroyed most of the town in 1928.

36 keen campers, four children and four day trippers had great mornings for bird watching and 102 species were seen or heard. Highlights were Painted Honeyeater, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Black Kite and much more.

People also took the opportunity to visit local bird watching sites such as Medhurst Bridge and Bureen Bridge for species such as White-backed Swallow, Horsfield's Bushlark and Rufous Songlark.

The mornings produced particularly good bird watching, although the afternoons were in excess of 35°C!

The Campfire on Saturday night under the spectacular star-filled sky was enjoyed by all. Dan Williams' three beautiful boys (*Thanks! – Ed*) had a great time cooking marshmallows on the campfire and we were treated to a fantastic little concert held by Zeke (Greg and Judi Little's grandson).

Thanks to all who attended and assisted in any way, to keep the camp running efficiently. A huge thank you also to the lovely owners, Marion and Trevor, for letting us birders use their land.

All in all we had the most enjoyable time; great weather, great birding; spent with great company.

Lene Parashou



Here's Athos, Porthos and Aramis - "One for all, all for one!"



Dan and Mick made it back to their tents, even if nothing else did!



A moment of quiet contemplation



"Kill the beast! Cut his throat! spill his blood!" (LotF-esque)

Future Club Activities

Tilligerry Habitat

6 October 2015

Eighteen members attended the outing to Tilligerry Habitat at Tanilba Bay and the weather was fine, without the heat of the previous October weekend. The Habitat always provides some good birding and this was especially true on a spring day. Overall we saw 50 species and four more were heard. Of these, two were observed nest building (Olive-backed Oriole and Rainbow Lorikeet), two on nest (White-throated Gerygone and Striated Pardalote) and a Brown Thornbill was feeding dependent young. We also had our first sighting of Dollarbirds.

Also of note were two Koalas and a male Hooded Parrot (escapee) identified by Bruce Watts, an experienced bird breeder. Some of us then pressed on to Lemon Tree Passage where the only sightings of note were a single

Grey-tailed Tattler and a Kookaburra refurbishing its nest. Thanks to Pam Hill for leading this outing.



If I had a dollar for every time I cleaned up after him...

Robert Stewart

Future Club Activities

NSW and ACT Twitchathon

31 October to 1 November 2015

The clocks have changed, the migrants are in and the time of year is rapidly approaching – Twitchathon weekend. The competitors are currently prepping; planning routes, checking out potential sites and taking notes of any interesting sightings. They should also be hard at work drumming up sponsorship, which this year will again be going to support the highly successful Powerful Owl Project.

There are a number of ways that you can get involved, to have some fun and support a good cause. Entering a team will see you pitch your skills (and luck) against your peers – competing over a period of 24 hours (16:00 on 31/10/15 to 16:00 on 1/11/15) to identify as many species as you can by sight or sound. Simply email southernsw@birdlife.org.au and request a kit.

If you're not taking part in the competition you can still get involved by pledging sponsorship to one or more of the teams, many of which in the Hunter will be familiar to you. This year it will be easier than ever to sponsor a team through an online fundraising portal (<https://www.justgiving.com/twitchathon>). This allows you to easily sponsor a team with the click of a button, as opposed to setting up bank transfers which have been the main source of sponsorship over the last few years.

However, you must write the name of the team you are donating to in the comments box.

Once again the Hunter-based teams (and those based outside the Hunter that want a fighting chance ;-)) will be converging on the Carnley Avenue section of Blackbutt Reserve at 16:00 on the Sunday (1st Nov) for the official scoring and social activities. Everyone is welcome to come along to cheer the teams home. Bring some food and drink along – there are barbecue facilities and picnic tables. Also, the club has kindly agreed to sponsor the car-parking fee, so see Mick (if you can get hold of him) on the day for a ticket.

Bring it on!



Kitted out and ready for action...

Wilma Barden Memorial Grant

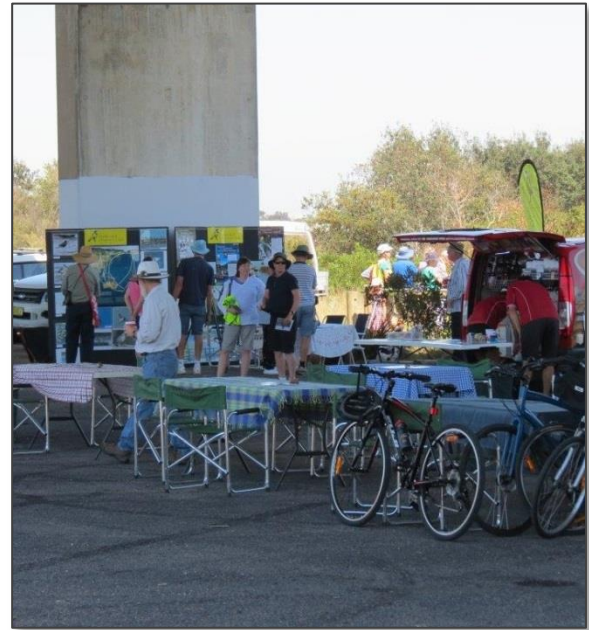
Welcome Shorebirds

15 November 2015

Following the success of last year's event, which was attended by around 200 people, Stockton Sandspit will once again play host to the "Welcome Shorebirds".

The event is held annually to help educate the community about the fantastic wildlife that exists right there on their doorstep.

We invite members to come along and help out with sparking the community's interest in shorebirds and broader wildlife – maybe even answering any questions that they might throw your way.



HBOC Display at Welcome Shorebirds 2014 by Liz Crawford

Wilma Barden Memorial Grant

HBOC was proud to present its first Wilma Barden Memorial Grant to support Françoise Lermite of Newcastle University in her project entitled "Do Common Mynas pose a threat to native secondary cavity nesters?" Her application was reviewed by the HBOC Committee and was found to fulfil relevant eligibility and assessment criteria.

HBOC agreed to assist this valuable research project with the provision of \$2,000. Françoise was officially presented with a cheque for \$1,600 at the September Club Night and will receive the remaining \$400 at the satisfactory conclusion of the project.



One of those 'big cheques' – congratulations Françoise

Recent Observations

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 the easiest way is to send an email to hunterbirding-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.au. You can choose either to receive individual emails or a single daily digest. Alternatively, email me at scythrops@yahoo.com.au and I'll sort it out for you – what could be easier?! In addition to being a forum for interesting discussions on issues such as bird identification and behaviour it is also a great place to report your observations. Some of the Hunterbirding observation highlights from the last couple of months include:

- A flock of 12 Swift Parrots and two Scarlet Robins present at the Singleton Training Area on 4th August;
- Two Scarlet Robins near Kitchener on 4th August;
- A flock of c.40-50 Chestnut-breasted Mannikins seen in Hunter Wetlands NP on 6th August;
- A count of c.1500 Pink-eared Ducks at Morpeth WWTW on 8th August;
- A flock of c.50+ Chestnut-breasted Mannikins seen at Hexham Swamp on 16th August;
- A Blue-billed Duck at Warabrook Wetlands on 8th August, present until at least 19th August;
- An estimate of around 80 White-faced Storm-Petrel seen from the Port Stephens pelagic on 9th August;
- Two Red-winged Parrots and two Emus seen in Goulburn River NP on 17th August;
- Two Glossy Black-Cockatoos and c.15 Swift Parrots at Ellalong Lagoon on 19th August;
- A single Regent Honeyeater present in HEZ on 20th August;
- Two Glossy Black-Cockatoos seen in Sugarloaf SCA on 22nd August;
- A Painted Honeyeater heard calling at Medhurst Bridge on 30th August, with two birds seen there on 19th September;
- A single Freckled Duck at the Hunter Wetlands Centre on 19th September; and
- An Arctic Tern found at the Newcastle Ocean Baths on 22nd September.

Bird records are obtained by the club through a variety of means, In addition to bird records communicated via Hunterbirding others are received through the BA atlas database, club outing sighting sheets, the club night observations forum and direct communications with the record officers. Of particular interest to the club are those records of regional significance, including sightings of the more unusual species, observations of breeding activity, early and late records of migratory birds and significantly large counts. A selection of records of this nature reported at the club nights and through direct communications is provided below. Unfortunately, space limitations do not enable all of the records to be reproduced here. However, the club is appreciative of all records that are received and all contributors are acknowledged in the Annual Bird Report.

| Species | Number | Date | Location | Observer |
|------------------------------|--------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Australian Wood Duck | 2+6dy | 16/07/2015 | Dora Creek | C. & R. Goodenough |
| Bush Stone-curlew | 1 | 22/08/2015 | Lemon Tree Passage | J. Pettifer |
| Grey Goshawk (white phase) | 1 | 25/06/2015 | Rankin Park | T. Kendall |
| Little Black Cormorant | c.130 | 16/06/2015 | Dora Creek | C. & R. Goodenough |
| Noisy Miner | 5+ny | 11/09/2015 | Dora Creek | C. & R. Goodenough |
| Pacific Baza | 1 | 28/06/2015 | Rankin Park | T. Kendall |
| Powerful Owl | 1 | 3/07/2015 | Rankin Park | T. Kendall |
| Rainbow Lorikeet | 10+2dy | 8/07/2015 | Dora Creek | C. & R. Goodenough |
| Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo | 23 | 10/07/2015 | Charlestown | C. & R. Goodenough |

Club Activities October to December 2015

| DATE | EVENT | MEETING PLACE & TIME | CONTACT |
|--|--|---|---|
| OCTOBER 2015 | | | |
| Sunday 18 October | Field Outing – Kurri Woodlands | 7.00am Kurri McDonalds | Lorna Mee 4987 2913 |
| Tuesday 20 October | Tomago Wetlands Survey | 7.30am Entry to Tomago House | Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm |
| Saturday 31 October – Sunday 1 November | TWITCHATHON Join a team & help raise money for BirdLife Australia | 4.00pm Sat to 4.00pm Sun for a BBQ at Blackbutt, Carnley Ave entrance | Mick Roderick 0421 761 237 mick.roderick@birdlife.org.au |
| NOVEMBER 2015 | | | |
| Tuesday 3 November | Mid-week Outing – Woods Point, Morisset and Dora Creek | 7.30am cnr. of Macquarie St and Fishery Point Rd, Morisset | Don and Val Moon 4359 1670 |
| Wednesday 4 November | Management Committee Meeting | 6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School | Mick Roderick 0421 761 237 All members welcome |
| Wednesday 11 November | Club Meeting | 7.30pm The Wetlands Centre, Shortland | Speaker: Lois Wooding 'Grey-tailed Tattlers' |
| Saturday 14 November | Hunter Wader Survey | 9.30am Ash Island 10.00am Various locations | Alan Stuart 0409 978 171 – Ash Island Dan Williams 0408 023 262 – Kooragang Jack Adams 4971 5334 – Swansea Jenny Powers 4944 7274 – Stockton Sue Hamonet 4958 1023 – Swan Bay Steven Cox 0409 848 390 – Tomago |
| Sunday 15 November | Field Outing – Green Wattle Creek | 7.00am Raymond Terrace McDonalds | Lorna Mee 4987 2913 |
| Sunday 15 November | Welcome Shorebirds | 9am - 12noon (TBC) Stockton Sandspit | Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 |
| Tuesday 17 November | Tomago Wetlands Survey | 7.30am Entry to Tomago House | Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 Please ring to confirm |
| DECEMBER 2015 | | | |
| Tuesday 1 December | Mid-week Outing – Hunter Wetlands Centre | 8.00am Meet at the centre. Entry fee. | Robert and Margaret Stewart 4963 2029 |
| Wednesday 2 December | Management Committee Meeting | 6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School | Mick Roderick 0421 761 237 All members welcome |
| Wednesday 9 December | Club Meeting | 7.30pm The Wetlands Centre | Topic: Members' Night - bring your slides, anecdotes, videos and a plate to share the festive spirit |