

exmoving willows and excluding stock allows native reeds and rushes to recolonise – dramatic increases in number of insects, frogs and birds.

Recommended Reading

What Makes a Good Farm for Wildlife? (David Lindenmayer), CSIRO Publishing

About the Hunter Bird Observers Club

Aims of the Club

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

Activities include

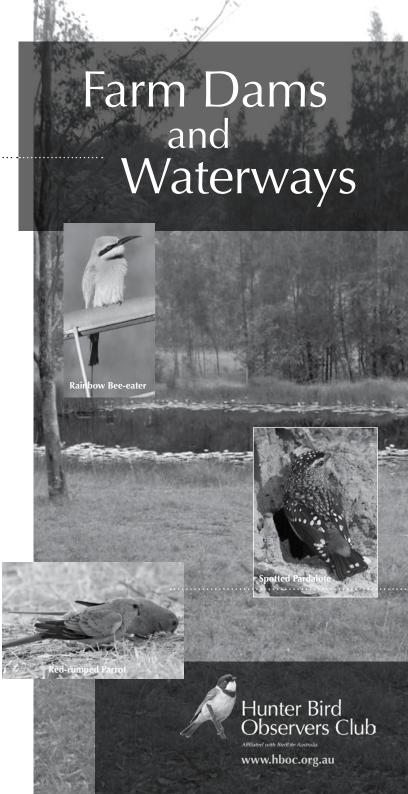
- Monthly evening meetings featuring informative talks and general discussion:
 - Second Wednesday of each month (except January),
 7:30 pm at the Hunter Wetlands Centre,
 Sandgate Road, Shortland
 - Visitors and members are most welcome, to hear interesting and informative guest speakers.
- Monthly field outings, usually held on Tuesday and Sunday mornings, that cater for every range of expertise.
- Camps, mostly on private property, on Public Holiday long weekends.
- Regular surveys to record information about the local distribution of birds.
- These regular surveys include visits to targeted sites, counts of shorebird numbers, off-shore boat trips.
 - Members also have opportunities to take part in occasional additional surveys.



To find out how to join visit www.hboc.org.au

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Bird diversity is often higher around dams and waterways

- The bird assemblages are different from those in the rest of the landscape
- Species such as Rainbow Bee-eater, Fairy Martin and Spotted Pardalote breed in exposed earth banks around waterways
- Numbers and diversity of insects, reptiles, mammals also increase – food for birds



The presence of frogs does not necessarily mean that the habitat is healthy. Some frogs are very adaptive and can live in quite polluted areas.

Attributes of well-managed streams and natural drainage lines

- Well-developed areas of riparian vegetation
 - No extensive areas of bare banks
 - Vegetation extending from drier areas, into the water
 - These are places for insects, animals and birds to forage and to breed
- Areas of slow-moving water

A good waterway includes deep pools and chains of ponds as well as shallow areas of fast-flowing water (ripple zones)

Habitat for fish and frogs – food for birds

Attributes of a good farm dam

- Has an island/islands safer places for waterbirds to nest and roost
- Partially submerged logs a roost for waterbirds, and a launching pad for insect-eaters
- Aquatic vegetation
- Areas of shallow water
- Fenced riparian section

