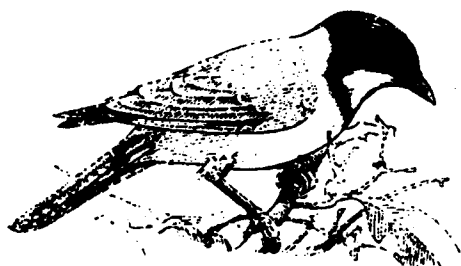


# NEWSLETTER



## Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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Ann Lindsey

Secretary:

Peter Phillips

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Tom Clarke

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*The aims of the club are:*

*To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat.*

*To encourage bird observing as a leisure time activity.*

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## Importance of the "Big Pond", Kooragang Is.

### The Hunter Estuary

The Hunter River estuary is the most important site for migratory shorebirds in New South Wales. The estuary is utilised annually by over 10 000 shorebirds with approximately 40 species being recorded. As a result Kooragang Nature Reserve was nominated, and accepted, as a Ramsar site.

There has been considerable alteration of habitat within and surrounding the estuary during the past twenty years. Much of this is a direct result of the development of the Kooragang Island industrial area and as a result of flood mitigation works. There has been a gradual loss of shorebird roost habitat as a result with many remaining sites suffering continued degradation through the spread of weeds, including mangroves and Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, and erosion.

A decline in some species of shorebirds has been tentatively linked to the loss of wetlands surrounding the estuary with the decline in some species being quite dramatic. For example the number of Pacific Golden Plover have fallen from an average count of over 400 birds in the early 1980's to an average of around 100 for the period 1992-96 (30 in 1995-96), and Common Greenshank from almost 600 birds to less than 200 in the same period. Similarly, Lesser Sand

Plover numbers have fallen from about 130 birds to 2 in 1992-93, none in 1993-94, and 30 in both 1994-95 and 1995-96. Over a longer period the number of Broad-billed Sandpiper have fallen from hundreds reported in the 1960's and 70's to none in 1993-94, 2 in 1994-95 and none in 1995-96. These numbers are based on counts by Fred van Gessel and David Geering. This is in contrast to some other areas where the number of small shorebirds has increased. In Port Phillip Bay, for example, this increase has been as a direct result of the establishment of farms utilising effluent from sewerage treatment plants to create shallow wetlands.

### The Big Pond

The "Big Pond" is an artificial freshwater wetland created during reclamation of industrial land and the construction of the industrial railway. The area was formerly mangrove but construction of the railway effectively cut off all tidal flow formerly received from Moschetto Creek. The system is therefore essentially closed with water levels fluctuating only as a result of local rainfall. Extensions to the Port Waratah Coal Services stockpile in 1994 resulted in a rise in water level in this pond creating conditions that precluded its use by shorebirds. In response to suggestions from HBOC, and with liaison with The Wetlands Centre, PWCS constructed a weir at the entrance to a culvert under Cormorant Road with the intension of creating water depths within the pond

that would again favour shorebirds. Large numbers of migratory shorebirds again utilised this wetland during the summer of 1995-96.

This wetland is the only remaining shallow freshwater wetland able to be used by shorebirds on Kooragang Island. Other freshwater wetlands occur as part of the Shortland Wetlands complex but relatively few shorebirds utilise these, possibly because of their greater distance from the estuary. Other similar wetlands occur on Ash Island to the west of the "Big Pond". These, however, are subject to tidal flow and conditions are very different from that in the "Big Pond".

These differences mean that the "Big Pond" often contains different species of shorebirds than occur within the estuary itself. For example, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers occur only in this pond and on Ash Island and during periods of very high tides the entire population may be found on the "Big Pond". In addition the pond often contains substantial numbers of predominantly freshwater species such as Red-kneed Dotterel, Red-capped Plover, Black-fronted Plover and Black-winged Stilt. It also regularly has significant numbers of Marsh Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint and Red-necked Avocet. These latter species generally utilise tidal mud flats for feeding but will move to this wetland to maximise feeding time when their preferred areas are flooded at high tide. Red Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit and Pacific Golden Plover have been recorded as using the pond, at least occasionally, at night. It is usual for shorebirds to occupy different roost sites at night to those used during the day. Large wetlands and salt marshes are favoured night roost sites as they afford greater protection from predators.

### **Conservation value of the "Big Pond"**

The "Big Pond" is the only remaining wetland of its type in the Hunter River estuary. The different suite of shorebirds that utilise the pond to those generally found in the estuary itself significantly add to the biodiversity of the Lower Hunter. The pond is one of two focal points for the large number of local, Sydney, interstate and international bird watchers that visit the estuary each weekend during the summer months when most species are present.

That the pond has been artificially created provides a unique opportunity to not only provide

critical habitat for shorebirds but also to potentially manipulate this habitat to maximise its value to particular species. This may entail dropping water levels to expose fresh mud during periods when migratory species are endeavouring to increase food intake in an effort to put on fat reserves prior to migration. Australia has an obligation to protect shorebirds and their habitat as a signatory to migratory bird agreements with Japan (JAMBA) and China (CAMBA).

David Geering.

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## **"Myna irritants a disaster for native birds."**

Sydney Morning Herald - 26th August 1996.

Research has shown for the first time that the Common (or Indian) Myna - that garrulous, smartly coloured bird so numerous in the suburbs - is an environmental menace.

This "cane toad" with wings has been shown to brutally evict native birds from their nests and may be causing serious local declines in populations of parrots, sugar gliders and other wildlife.

Research conducted for the ACT Parks and Conservation Service examined whether mynas were displacing parrots by monopolising tree hollows used for nesting in woodlands in the Canberra area.

Over a twelve month period, mynas occupied 28 hollows while three native parrot species - Red-rumped Parrot, Crimson Rosella and Eastern Rosella - nested in a total of 14 hollows.

Another introduced bird, the Common Starling, had occupied a further 26 hollows, while seven more were home to introduced honey bees. Non-native birds and bees were occupying 81% of the total 75 hollows. Mynas had also snapped up 39 of 66 artificial nest-boxes in the study area.

The research coordinator, Dr Chris Tidemann said the mynas' impact was much greater than even these figures indicated because a pair would monopolise several hollows around the nest site.

The birds were first released in Sydney in the late 1860's and like the cane toad, were later introduced to North Queensland in a fruitless bid to control cane beetles.

## The sun shone bravely but the wind .....

Field Outing to Belmont/Swansea Area  
Sunday, 21st July 1996.

The wind cut like an icy knife as it whipped across the lake to a very breezy meeting place at Cold Tea Creek - with John Cockerell as the guide for eleven people.

Our first route took us along a track beside the creek, with Belmont Lagoon on the other side of the track, giving us plenty of scope.

An early sighting was of a Spangled Drongo (wishing it had gone north for the winter, no doubt) with numerous cormorants, Crested Pigeons and a Fan-tailed Cuckoo parked along overhead wires. The most numerous birds were White-cheeked Honeyeaters which completely dominated the show.

Amongst the shrub dwellers were Silvereyes in full voice and a rather evasive Southern Emu-wren. A couple trailing behind were rapt in the sighting of an Azure Kingfisher fishing along the creek.

We turned a corner and continued down the length of a point jutting into the lagoon, picking up a Caspian Tern and a flock of Australian Pelicans, with some small birds in the trackside bushes.

On return we took a very quick look at Swansea Heads - Australasian Gannets diving and a bird populated Moon Island. However, conditions were not inviting so we continued on to our second destination, Nesca Park, which is a lovely sheltered bush oasis.

After running the Bell Miner gauntlet we saw a Rose Robin, Varied Sitellas and White-throated Tree-creepers. Also because the palms were in fruit we scooped some Top Knot Pigeons. As we neared the lake (and the wind again) there was a mixed mini-flock of Red-browed Finches and Superb Fairy-wrens hopping around on the extensive lawns with Yellow Thornbills in the casaurinas. A little later a few people returned and were lucky to see a Nankeen Night Heron and a Grey Goshawk.

Despite uncomfortable conditions a respectable 79 species were observed over all locations visited.

Jenny Meynell.

## Thank You

Over the last twelve months our club's activities have been promoted through several areas of the local news media. This has benefitted the club by way of exposure to the general community and many new faces have arrived as a result of these announcements.

In particular, we would like to thank the following:

NRTV  
NBN  
PRIME  
2KOFM  
2NC/2UH  
2HD  
2NURFM  
NXFM  
Newcastle Star  
Stockton Messenger  
Cessnock Advertiser  
Post  
Maitland Papers  
Central Coast Publications  
Williams River Free Press

Judith Smith

## NEW MEMBERS

The Hunter Bird Observers Club extends a very warm welcome to the following new members:

The Marriott family of Eleebana  
Jayne, Jeff, Julia, Janine & Jacqueline.

Colin Goodenough of Whitebridge

Melanie & Ben Johnson of Wallsend

Aina Ranke of East Maitland

we look forward to meeting you  
at Clubnights and field outings during the year.

# Unique geological formation a secret treasure trove.

Field Outing to Pilchers Mountain  
Sunday 25th August 1996.

On a fine and calm morning we met at Raymond Terrace and proceeded to the Wallaringa turnoff on the Paterson/Dungog Road. There we were met by several other members and visitors (making 22 in all) and by Bill Dowling our local expert and member.

Bill took the party a few kilometres down the track through some private property to the reserve. Pilchers Mountain was declared a reserve in the 1880's because of its unique geological formations and there is some talk of its status being further protected by being placed under National Parks and Wildlife Service management.

It is surrounded by farming land - hence the need to seek permission to pass through private property. Apparently permission is readily given subject to the usual conditions not to interfere with farm buildings and livestock and to leave gates as you find them. Bill Dowling has local landowner contacts for access.

We assembled where the driveable road runs out near an abandoned farm house. A brisk up hill walk ensued through private property and into the reserve. Our efforts were almost immediately rewarded by good sightings of two Grey Goshawks - the first in what was to be a good day for raptors. There was also a range of the more showy high country birds - King Parrots, Crimson and Eastern Rosellas plus many Lewin's and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters.

We came to the main feature of the day when, with expert guidance, we found the entrance of a kilometre long fissure in the mountain. Many millions of years ago (it is theorised) the underlying shale layer shifted and the mountain split along a natural fault line. The result is a narrow hidden valley the walls of which are 20 metres high and quite sheer in places. The floor of the valley is up to 4 metres wide, although often narrower, and a jumble of rocks.

The vegetation is quite extraordinary with many rainforest species. The terrain is quite walkable although in some spots a certain amount of clambering over rocks is necessary and

makes for slow progress. All who attempted the walk finished including a five year old and some members in the sixties.

The atmosphere of the place is incredible - its cool, quiet except for magnified birdsong and there are vistas which made me itch for my camera. Oh, I forgot the birds.

Well, they were more often heard than seen in the ravine, but we had a great sight of a Boobook Owl that flew the length of the valley. An active Peregrine Falcon's nest was spotted and the bird heard (and later seen by a lucky few).

The exit to the valley was as concealed as the entrance and we came out into bright sunshine, grasslands and extensive views. Here we took our well deserved morning tea.

The rest of the morning was spent in a long mostly downhill return to the cars skirting quite extensive rainforest areas. The bird list grew including rainforest species - Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Satin Bowerbird and Eastern Whipbird. Also a range of bush birds of which Varied Sittellas and the nest building Spotted Pardalotes were personal highlights.

Lunch at the cars was an opportunity to add several more raptors to the tally - which reached 65 when the *Bird Call* list was compiled.

A good time was had by all. It was good to see a big attendance in the absence of some of the regulars (but we missed ya, guys). The weather remained perfect throughout the day, the "rift valley" was extraordinary and the birding most fruitful. We should try to visit this area at another time of the year - perhaps when nesting is in train and/or the many figs are fruiting.

The outing was a recommendation for the policy of using local knowledge. The people of Dungog a few kilometres away are mostly unaware of the treasures on their doorstep. We are fortunate in having Bill Dowling, a lifelong district resident and birdwatcher, as our guide.

Bill now conducts bushwalks as a commercial venture throughout the Dungog District. He can be contacted on 049 959 230. He has also opened a museum of local and overseas fauna and flora which sounds worth a visit. I have one of his flyers if anyone is interested.

Peter Phillips.

## ● Observations

Reports from August, 1996 meeting.

May '96	Plumed Whistling Duck	200	Doughboy Swamp	G.Newling
June '96				
30th	White-faced Heron	31	Tarro Swamp	R.&J.Smith
	Black-winged Stilt	300+	Tarro Swamp	R.&J.Smith
July '96				
2nd	White-faced Heron	25	Tarro Swamp	R.&J.Smith
7th	Pacific Baza	1	Fishing Point	M.Hamonet
10th	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1	Wingen Village	G.Newling
14th	Striped Honeyeater	4	Broke	G.Newling
15th	Richard's Pipit	12	Rosebrook	K.Priestley
17th	Masked Lapwing	60+	Morpeth	K.Priestley
	Satin Bowerbird	11	Chichester Dam	R.Smith
19th	Australian Brush-turkey	1	East Maitland	K.Priestley
30th	Glossy Ibis	1	Irrawang Swamp	K.Priestley
	Mixed flock Galah, Long-billed Corella, Little Corella & Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	200+	Belford	K.Priestley
31st	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	10	Gresford	K.Priestley
	Powerful Owl	1	Allworth	T.Peake
	Pacific Baza	2	Valentine	D.Bone
Aug '96				
1st	Satin Bowerbird	11	Chichester Dam	R.Smith
	Satin Bowerbird	34	Near Chichester	R.Smith
2nd	Red-rumped Parrot	20+	Buchanan	K.Priestley
3rd	White-faced Heron (on nest)	2	New Lambton	A.Stuart
4th	Olive Whistler	1	Carey's Peak	T.Peake
5th	Spangled Drongo	1	Bonnell's Bay	D.Halliday
8th	White-breasted Woodswallow	2	Shortland Wetland Centre	W.Barden
	Spangled Drongo	1	Boat Harbour	D.Bone
10th	Australian Magpie (on nest)	2	New Lambton	A.Stuart
	Figbird	7	Belmont South	B.Cockerell
	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	20	Fingal Bay	R.Smith
	Osprey (nest)	2	Tuncurry	D.Bone
13th	Figbird	2	Bonnell's Bay	D.Halliday
18th	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	30	Tomago	R.Smith

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## ● More observations

Reports from September, 1996 meeting.

### Aug '96

	Pacific Baza	2	Fishing Point	M.Hamonet
	Brahminy Kite	1	Cockle Creek	M.Todd
11th	Wompoo Fruit Dove	5+	Allyn River S.F.	R.Yank
15th	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	20	Tomagao	R.Smith
16th	Long-billed Corella	20	Swan Bay	K.Priestley
17th	Figbird	1	Arcadia Vale	B.Kelly
19th	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	30	Tomago	R.Smith
20th	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	Clarencetown	J.Smith
	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	1	Jesmond	M.Blanch
21st	Dusky Woodswallow	15	Jerry's Plains	K.Priestley
	Painted Button-Quail	2	Jerry's Plains	K.Priestley
22nd	Hoary-headed Grebe	200+	Grahamstown Dam	K.Priestley
23rd	Satin Bowerbird	32	Chichester Dam	R.Smith
24th	Laughing Kookaburra (nest)	1	Fassifern Station	S.Eagles
27th	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	12	Anna Bay/Bob's Farm	R.Smith
28th	Australian Hobby	1	Belmont South	J.Cockerell
	Glossy Black Cockatoo	7	North Morisset	G.McCulloch

### Aug/Sep

**Lewin's Rail** 5-7 **Murdering Gully** M.Todd

### Sep '96

	White-faced Heron (nest)	2	New Lambton	A.Stuart
	Noisy Miner (nest)		New Lambton	A.Stuart
	Australian Magpie (nest)		New Lambton	A.Stuart
1st	Osprey	1	Speers Point	R.Walker
	Figbird	4	Speers Point	R.Walker
	Caspian Tern	1	Speers Point	R.Walker
5th	Australian King Parrot	2	Jesmond	G.Brosie
6th	Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	Clarencetown	J.Smith
	Osprey	1	Belmont South	J.Cockerell
	Crimson Rosella	30	Chichester Dam	R.Smith
	Magpie-Goose	7	Seaham N.R.	R.Smith
	Satin Bowerbird	20	Chichester Dam	R.Smith
8th	White-breasted Sea-Eagle	2	Lake St. Clair	P.Alexander
	Tree Martin	100+	Lake St. Clair	P.Alexander
	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Lake St. Clair	P.Alexander
	Gang-gang Cockatoo	4	Wattagan S.F.	E.&C.Herbert
	Spotted Quail-thrush	2	Martinsville	E.&C.Herbert
8th	<b>Gould's Petrel</b>	2	<b>near Cabbage Tree Is.</b>	<b>D.Kibble</b>
	Australasian Gannet	100+	near Broughton Island	D.Kibble
	Short-tailed Shearwater	100+	near Broughton Island	D.Kibble
9th	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Kilaben Bay	E.&C.Herbert
	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	40	Medowie	R.Smith
	Ruddy Turnstone	2	Newcastle	J.Moyse
10th	Grey Goshawk	1	New Lambton	A.Stuart
	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Eleebana	S.Hamonet
11th	Tawny Frogmouth (nest)	1	N'cle University	P.McLaughlan
	Satin Bowerbird	30	Chichester Dam	R.Smith

Please note that bold entries indicate a Category 3 species.  
The reported sightings of **Lewin's Rail** and **Gould's Petrel** are therefore subject to assessment by the Records Appraisal Committee.

# Conservation Corner

HBOC Conservation Committee.

## Charlestown By-pass

It was a busy month (September) for the Conservation Committee. We discovered that we only had a month to provide a response to the Pacific Highway Charlestown By-pass.

We hastily acquired a Fauna Impact Statement and prepared a submission based on the preservation of avifauna in general and the Masked Owl in particular. We met at the Council Chambers at Lake Macquarie, on Monday night 26th August where we were given a room and access to some wonderful aerial photos and maps.

The main thrust of our submission was that key core areas should be set aside because of the extensive range of the Masked Owl. We also supported other measures proposed in the Fauna Impact Statement. Our submission was completed and faxed to the RTA with a day or so to spare.

The HBOC considers the future of avifauna in the area roughly centred on Charlestown can best be served by the preservation of several 'key' core areas linked by nature corridors. This view is consistent with the HBOC's Conservation Charter which seeks to preserve the few remaining areas of 'urban bushland' in the lower Hunter Valley.

Because of their significant size and relative abundance of appropriate vegetation, this mosaic of areas will provide the necessary space, nesting, breeding and feeding areas for in excess of 80 species of native birds. It will also provide a viable range for such endangered species as the Masked Owl and the Powerful Owl.

Some of these areas already enjoy some form of protective status and will require no expenditure to obtain and establish. The mosaic we have in mind would include the following core areas: Johnson's Creek, Charlestown Golf Course, Hillsborough, Blackbutt Reserve, Cardiff Workshops, Tickhole Tunnel, George McGregor Park and Cardiff Heights Park. Note that some of the names have no official status but are HBOC identification labels only.

The number of core areas will increase if further research reveals other areas that should be added. The more areas the greater the survival chances of many species of native avifauna that are in danger of being marginalised as urbanisation increases.

## Awaba Bay

On Sunday 18th August several members of HBOC as well as members of The Lake Macquarie Greens carried out a site inspection of Awaba Bay in order to determine its value for the preservation of native birds.

It was decided that it fits well into the category of remnant urban bushland that should be preserved. A campaign to this end will be developed over the coming months.

## PWCS Stage Three Development

On Wednesday 7th August, Port Waratah Coal Services Community Relations Officer, Barbara Heaton, addressed both the Conservation and Management Committees to explain PWCS plans to further expand the coal stockpile area and ship loading facilities on Kooragang Island.

This development requires the filling in of two artificial wetlands (recently completed) built by the company to compensate for the loss of ponds caused by a previous expansion. It has been established that at least one of these ponds is now the home of the Green and Gold Bell Frog, Australasian Bittern and Bent-winged Bat.

The company, once again, is obliged to make some sort of compensation for the destruction of this habitat. Their options seems to be either another pond near the facility or a donation towards Kooragang Nature Reserve management/rehabilitation.

HBOC have decided that its preferred option would be some action towards the preservation of the "Big Pond".

## The "Big Pond"

The Conservation Committee carried out a site inspection of this area and identified two main issues.

a) It is currently being used as a conduit for the draining of an adjacent piece of land. This has resulted in a lowering of the water level. The replacement of the weir once this draining process is complete is essential to restore habitat.

b) It is clear that this whole area is destined to be filled in for industrial purposes.

A campaign to have it preserved against industrial development has started based on an excellent report by David Geering.

David Kibble.

# KIRRAMA WILDLIFE TOURS

## 1996 Tours

only a few vacancies left for:

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## 1997 Tours

**Cape York Bird Week**  
(Jan)

**North Queensland Bird Tour**  
(May)

**Iron Range Bird Tour**  
(June, Aug & Dec)

**Golden-shouldered Parrot Tour**  
(Apr & July)

**Inland Bird Tour**  
(July/Aug)

**Great Northern Bird Tour**  
(Nov)

**Atherton Tablelands/Mission Beach  
Tour**

(Feb & July)

**Black Grasswren Tour**  
(Sept)

**Photographic Tour**  
(Oct)

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## We Need Your Spare Slides!

Slides of birds are very handy for bird presentations whether they are used for Bird Of The Evening at Clubnight or by members giving talks to outside groups in the community.

Many of our members have availed themselves to the HBOC Slide Library with varying success depending on the subject matter at the time. While a great proportion of the libraries' slides are excellent, some are just ordinary.

Slide Librarian, John Cockerell has just completed an audit on the collection with a view to improving the overall standard of the slides for each species.

With particular focus on the more commonly found species in the Hunter Region (i.e. the 300 species nominated on our HBOC Record Sheet RS1/96 ), John has come up with some surprising omissions from the library.

## Fifty two species are not represented at all!

while 154 species (more than half) are poorly represented. The lists opposite highlight the areas of need in making our slide library more complete.

It would be of great benefit to HBOC and its members if anyone could donate some of these slides to the library or if photographers could remember to take the time, if the opportunity arises, to capture those species listed.

So have a look through your slides (old or new) and if you can spare any at all (even if not on the lists) then they will be gladly received.

## "Wayward winds take albatross on epic flight."

Sydney Morning Herald - 13th August 1996

The free but hazardous life of the Wandering Albatross on the ocean winds has been revealed by Australian researchers, who are tracking the longest flight by the bird ever recorded.

On its Pacific odyssey, a male wanderer named "D.G." has been followed east from Tasmania to the South American coast, then west almost back to Australia. With its satellite transmitter still signalling after nearly seven months, the bird is looping through the Tasman Sea to the northern tip of New Zealand.

It has flown an estimated 50,000 kilometres in almost 200 days - or twice the previous longest recorded flight, according to the La Trobe University Albatross Research Group.

"D.G." took off on 22nd January and sped across the ocean before a tail wind, reaching Chile in just 13 days.

The bird spent much of the Autumn and early winter fishing these productive waters before turning around and heading into the prevailing wind, to work westward back across the Pacific.



# What We Don't Have In The Slide Library

## No slides at all

Stubble Quail  
 Brown Quail  
 Mallard  
 Futtering Shearwater  
 Little Egret  
 Eastern Reef Egret  
 Marsh Sandpiper  
 Red Knot  
 Pied Oystercatcher  
 White-winged Black Tern  
 Rock Dove  
 Brush Bronzewing  
 Bar-shouldered Dove  
 Glossy Black-Cockatoo  
 Scaly-breasted Lorikeet  
 Musk Lorikeet  
 Little Lorikeet  
 Black-eared Cuckoo  
 Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo  
 Powerful Owl  
 White-throated Needle-tail  
 Fork-tailed Swift  
 Rufous Scrub-bird  
 Southern Emu-wren  
 Western Gerygone  
 Regent Honeyeater  
 Fuscous Honeyeater  
 Black-chinned Honeyeater  
 Brown-headed Honeyeater  
 Crescent Honeyeater  
 Tawny-crowned Honeyeater  
 Pale-yellow Robin  
 Spotted Quail-thrush  
 Varied Sittella  
 Satin Flycatcher  
 White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike  
 Cicadabird  
 Ground Cuckoo-shrike  
 Masked Woodswallow  
 Paradise Riflebird  
 Forest Raven  
 Torresian Crow  
 Singing Bushlark  
 Plum-headed Finch  
 Diamond Firetail  
 Nutmeg Mannikin  
 White-backed Swallow  
 Red-whiskered Bulbul  
 Russet-tailed Thrush  
 Common Blackbird  
 Common Starling

## One slide only

Australian Brush-Turkey  
 Australasian Shoveller  
 Grey Teal  
 Hoary-headed Grebe  
 Short-tailed Shearwater  
 Little Black Cormorant  
 Yellow-billed Spoonbill  
 White-bellied Sea-Eagle  
 Brown Goshawk  
 Grey Goshawk  
 Collared Sparrowhawk  
 Common Greenshank  
 Common Sandpiper  
 Ruddy Turnstone  
 Arctic Jaeger  
 White-fronted Tern  
 Wompoo Fruit-Dove  
 Red-rumped Parrot  
 Brush Cuckoo  
 Shining Bronze-Cuckoo  
 Channel-billed Cuckoo  
 White-throated Nightjar  
 Red-browed Treecreeper  
 Brown Treecreeper  
 Rockwarbler  
 Large-billed Scrubwren  
 Chestnut-rumped Heathwren  
 Brown Gerygone  
 Mangrove Gerygone  
 Brown Thornbill  
 Yellow Thornbill  
 Noisy Friarbird  
 White-naped Honeyeater  
 White-cheeked Honeyeater  
 Flame Robin  
 Grey-crowned Babbler  
 White-browed Babbler  
 Crested Shrike-tit  
 Olive Whistler  
 Black-faced Monarch  
 Restless Flycatcher  
 Spangled Drongo  
 Varied Triller  
 Figbird  
 White-breasted Woodswallow  
 Pied Butcherbird  
 Australian Raven  
 House Sparrow  
 European Goldfinch  
 Common Myna

## Two slides only

Freckled Duck  
 Pink-eared Duck  
 Hardhead  
 Wedge-tailed Shearwater  
 Striated Heron  
 Spotted Harrier  
 Peregrine Falcon  
 Baillon's Crake  
 Painted Button-quail  
 Latham's Snipe  
 Bar-tailed Godwit  
 Whimbrel  
 Great Knot  
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  
 Double-banded Plover  
 Gull-billed Tern  
 Common Tern  
 Spotted Turtle-Dove  
 Topknot Pigeon  
 Long-billed Corella  
 Rainbow Lorikeet  
 Pallid Cuckoo  
 Common Koel  
 Southern Boobook  
 Dollarbird  
 White-throated Treecreeper  
 Red-backed Fairy-wren  
 Speckled Warbler  
 Weebill  
 Striped Honeyeater  
 Blue-faced Honeyeater  
 Bell Miner  
 White-eared Honeyeater  
 New Holland Honeyeater  
 Eastern Spinebill  
 Scarlet Robin  
 Rose Robin  
 Hooded Robin  
 Logrunner  
 Eastern Whipbird  
 Spectacled Monarch  
 Leaden Flycatcher  
 Olive-backed Oriole  
 Australian Magpie  
 Richard's Pipit  
 Chestnut-breasted Mannikin  
 Tree Martin  
 Clamorous Reed-Warbler  
 Tawny Grassbird  
 Little Grassbird  
 Rufous Songlark  
 Bassian Thrush

# Coming Events

Please check with the contact person for each outing in case of changed details or suitability of site for the camp or field day.

<p>Weekend 26th-27th October      1996 RAOU Twitchathon          (We're still looking for more sponsors and/or participants)          This fundraising event will be followed by a Club BBQ at the Shortland Wetlands Centre          from 5:00pm 27th October. Everyone is welcome. Bring your own everything.          For more details see David Geering 282636.</p>		
Tuesday 5th November	Midweek Outing: Meet: Contact:	Little Pelican/Belmont Lagoon Belmont Yacht Club 9:00am Margaret Woods 633070
Weekend 9th/10th November	Where: Coordinator:	Beach Nesting Birds Survey Any beach between Seal Rocks and Swansea Peter McLauchlan 333224
Wednesday 13th November	Clubnight: Main feature:	Shortland Wetlands Centre 7:30pm Birds of Lake Macquarie by Michael Todd
Weekend 16th/17th November	Where: Coordinator:	Beach Nesting Birds Survey Any beach between Seal Rocks and Swansea Peter McLauchlan 333224
Sunday 24th November	Field Day: Meet: Contact: Leader:	Forster Lakes Way turn-off (north of Buladelah) 7:00am Graeme O'Connor 531304 David Turner
Tuesday 3rd December	Midweek Outing: Meet: Contact:	King Edward Park/ Newcastle Foreshore Corner of Parkway Ave & Union St 9:00am Max Blanch 611655
Sunday 8th December	Field Day: Meet: Contact: Leader:	Dora Creek/Whiteheads Lagoon Toronto Coles car park 6:30am Sue Hamonet 581023 Geraldine McCulloch
Wednesday 11th December	Clubnight: Main Feature:	Shortland Wetlands Centre 7:30pm Members Night/ Xmas Party

Articles for our Newsletter are always welcomed.

Closing date for the next issue is 29th November, 1996

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