

# NEWSLETTER



## Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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Alan Stuart

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Peter Phillips

Newsletter Editor:

Tom Clarke

*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.*

## Gould League Bird Study Camp at the Warrumbungles

29th September - 8th October, 1998

This year's camp was held in the Warrumbungles region, an area roughly bounded by the Warrumbungles/Coonabaraban in the south and Baradine/Coonamble in the north. It is a scenically attractive area with a variety of bird habitats largely resulting from an interesting geological history. Spires, domes and plateaux comprising the Warrumbungles are the eroded remains of feeder vents and lava flows produced by a large, 50km-diameter, shield volcano, active about 15 million years ago. The craggy spires provide ideal habitat for Peregrine Falcons and Nankeen Kestrels. Also, the cooler heights near the Siding Springs Observatory were home to Scarlet Robins. Surrounding lower, drier, and less fertile areas are located on flat-lying sandstones and shales of the Great Australian Basin, the intake beds for the artesian basin further to the west. Habitats grade from box-ironbark woodlands to sandy Pilliga Scrub, cypress-ironbark woodlands with a scattering of small wetlands adding to the variety.

A total of 49 participants, including 13 young people, either camped or were accommodated in cabins at the Warrumbungle Holiday Camp immediately adjacent to Timor Rock and the National Park. All meals and a packed lunch were provided so that maximum time could be devoted to birding - what a luxury!

Everyone appreciated the efforts of the organisers Ann Lindsey and Alan Morris for their choice of venue and smooth running of the camp, ably assisted by housekeeper John Seals. Ann's daughter Claire, assisted by Natalie Ison, daughter of another participant, were excellent cooks especially as they were both vegetarians and had little experience of cooking meat. The weather was warm to hot initially with one day of heavy rain followed by several cooler, windy days. Plenty of rain had fallen prior to our arrival closing off many roads through the Pilliga Scrub but not hindering access to other areas. Good flows in the local creeks provided some welcome swimming holes for overheated birdwatchers.

A total of 177 species were recorded in the region. Of these an amazing 54 species were seen nesting or with dependent young. Highly sought after birds that were eventually seen included the Square-tailed Kite, Painted Honeyeater, Scarlet Robin, Hooded Robin, Brolga, White-winged Fairy Wren, Red-backed Kingfisher, Spotted Quail-thrush, Little Button-quail, Painted Button-quail, Red-winged Parrot, Turquoise Parrot, Black-eared Cuckoo, Ground Cuckoo-shrike, White-backed Swallow and Spotted Bowerbird. A pair of nesting Painted Honeyeaters with two eggs were of special interest. Although about 10m high in a mistletoe, the nest was so thinly constructed, that two salmon-coloured eggs could be discerned with a spotting scope by looking through the nest from below.

Fourteen raptors were seen including

Square-tailed Kites, Spotted Harriers, Black and Peregrine Falcons and Hobbys. Nesting raptors included Little Eagle, Brown Goshawk and Collared Sparrowhawk. A pair of Hobbys giving a high-speed display of hawking over a small wetland had many of us enthralled as they were expertly catching and devouring dragonflies at, and just above, the water surface. A rain of transparent wings resulted each time they perched to consume their catch.

One of our participants, Alan Morris, spent 13 years as a National Parks and Wildlife ranger based in Coonabarabran and could, therefore, guide us to some of the more interesting birding sites in the region. He also organised local birdos as guides to private properties and to find a spectacular Spotted Bowerbird's bower. This bower was interesting, not only as a strongly built grass avenue, but for the variety of coloured objects surrounding it. In addition to the usual bleached bones and fresh cypress nuts there were red plastic strips, emethyst coloured glass and new-looking silver nuts (the metal variety that screw onto bolts!).

There were lots of rewarding birding places within Warrumbungles National Park, such as Whitegum Lookout, Canyon Camp picnic area, The Woolshed, Camp Blackman and Pincham car park. In the Baradine area, Teridgerie Lagoon, Carmel Lane and a lagoon on the property "Carmel" were all rich in birds, as was The Western Way through Pilliga State Forest. Around Coonamble, pools of water left by recent rains sheltered exciting birds (including a family of Pink-eared Ducks and a Brolga), while a remnant box woodland held lots of small birds such as White-winged Trillers, whistlers and bronze cuckoos. Patches of trees and roadside pools west of the park also provided engaging avian encounters.

Our evening bird counts were made even more interesting by including the observations and listings of mammals, reptiles and frogs. Koalas were frequently seen, sometimes in unexpected areas. Evening spotlighting and frogging excursions run by Greg Clancy and Russell Jago were enthusiastically attended. Several species of orchid delighted the botanists in our midst.

Evening entertainment featured beautiful slide shows on ospreys, birds in general, past camps and, because we were near Siding Springs Observatory, astronomy. A local wildlife artist,

Wendy Jennings, also delighted us with her avian artwork. Various singers, poets and comedians entertained us with the camp concert.

Apart from the inevitable and regrettable driving encounters with kangaroos, both during early evenings and broad daylight, all went well except for our eldest birder. Ellinor McNabb unfortunately fell heavily after stepping into a rabbit burrow and broke her humerus. Nevertheless, after a day or so of quiet recovery and arm-in-sling she ignored her age of 86 and resumed only slightly decreased activity.

Although not finalised the next camp may be in the southwest region of NSW, and if I'm not mistaken everyone will already be eagerly anticipating it. John Seale, next year's organiser, will no doubt appreciate suggestions for a suitable accommodation venue.

Chris and Liz Herbert

## Blackbutt Powerfuls Parents Again In 1998.

The Blackbutt pair of Powerful Owls have been spotted again with a dependent young. This is the fourth offspring recorded since the beginning of 1995. Owls are known to keep breeding so long as there is sufficient food for the female to sustain her while she incubates the eggs and then sufficient for the rapidly growing dependent young. Owl's breeding is not seasonal as occurs with the majority of birds.

This is good news as it indicates that there is a healthy local ecosystem in Blackbutt. Powerful Owls are supposed to require 800 hectares of territory per breeding pair. Blackbutt is under 200 hectares so perhaps this pair also claim Jesmond Bushland and even as far afield as Glenrock?

This particular teenager was very interested in the Hunter Birdos and their binoculars, straining to get a better view of those ground creatures while the parents showed their usual disdain.

Paddy Lightfoot.

## President's Column

In mid September, a small contingent from HBOC travelled to Lecton to attend a BIGNET (Bird Interests Group Network) meeting. These meetings, held twice a year, involve representatives from the bird clubs of NSW and the ACT. Clubs with related interests, such as field naturalists clubs, also attend.

The meetings provide an opportunity to share experiences and ideas, and to coordinate activities where this is important to do.

It had been about four years since last I was at a BIGNET meeting. I was impressed with the way that BIGNET has developed from its beginnings about seven years ago. Clubs large and small from throughout NSW are now involved, and the meetings are held on a rotational basis around the state. The Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists were our hosts for the Lecton meeting, with assistance from the NSW Field Ornithologists Club.

A major topic at the meeting was the new national Bird Atlas project, and many of the NSW Regional Officers attended - including HBOC's Jim Perry. Three people from the Birds Australia office in Melbourne, including the Atlas Coordinator Geoff Barrett, also came for the discussions. Much headway was made on a range of issues such as data management & vetting and the feedback of results. Also discussed were ways to see that sites near large population areas were not over-surveyed at the expense of more remote areas.

If you haven't yet registered with Jim Perry to be an Atlasser, I strongly urge you to do so. Very valuable data about bird population distributions and about the requirements of individual species for breeding success and long term viability will be obtained from the project. The more people who go out and collect data, the more useful the overall results will be.

Jim has a bundle of Atlas kits available - please contact him if you'd like to receive one. Jim is also the person to send completed survey forms to - he will check that they are filled out correctly and then forward them in batches to Melbourne.

This year's Twitchathon in late October will raise funds for Glossy Black-Cockatoo conservation projects. One of those projects is in the Dubbo area, and I was therefore very interested at the BIGNET meeting when representatives from the Dubbo Field Naturalists

group spoke on how they planned to use their allocation of the funds raised. Several hundred Glossy Black-Cockatoos are based in the forests within 100km or so of Dubbo. The Dubbo group already carries out surveys around the breeding season, which are helping to identify the conservation requirements for the birds. The money raised from Twitchathon will be used to buy some more surveying equipment (e.g. ladders) and in other ways that will help get surveys done.

I consider the BIGNET meetings to be very worthwhile, and HBOC has volunteered to host the next meeting. This will be held at the Shortland Wetlands Centre on 13th/14th March next year. If you'd like to participate, or you have a suggestion for an agenda item, please let me know.

Happy birding  
Alan Stuart

## Food For Thought

*"At Stockton on 1st January 1970 a flock of 600 Terek Sandpipers was observed waiting for the receding tide to uncover the mudflats; this is undoubtedly the largest flock ever encountered in southern Australia." - Glenn Holmes, The Birds of the Hunter River Estuary.*

In 1996, the largest count was 94 on Kooragang Island (HBOC Annual Bird Report).

### NEW MEMBERS

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

Paul Manuel of Lovedale  
Kelvin Wykes of Willow Tree

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

## Birds Of The Hawaiian Islands

This year I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to work on a project being carried out by the Biological Resources Division of the United States Geological Survey in Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge in Hawaii. The project involved the investigation of ways of increasing the breeding success of three species of endangered Honeycreepers in the reserve. These were the Akiapolaau, the Akepa and the Hawaii Creeper. Methods included the removal of rats (introduced species) and pigs.

The Hawaiian Islands are the most isolated, high volcanic land mass in the world. Their distance from continents has made them out of reach to many birds. More than 80 volcanoes have formed 45 islands that progress in age from the southeast to the northwest.

Historically only ten of the islands supported any native land bird species. The lowlands supported very different forests to the surviving highlands of today where most of the surviving native birds have hung on. In historical times, there were 41 species of native land birds, only 21 of which are living today.

Of these 21 birds, three species are virtually extinct. The Alala, or Hawaiian Crow, is down to less than 20 individuals most of which are in captivity. The almost extinct Poouli is down to 3 individuals which are separated from each other. The Nukupuu is an enigma which has been seen on only a handful of occasions this century, and must be on the verge of extinction if it still exists.

2,000 years ago Polynesian man reached the islands. At this time there were probably over 100 species of native land birds, the majority belonging to the Honeycreeper family which all evolved from one species, a relative of the House Finch. These birds represented the greatest example of avian evolutionary diversity in the world dwarfing that of Darwin's Galapagos finches. Possibly as many as 80% of these birds were extinct before Captain Cook reached the islands in 1778. A major cause of this was probably the clearing of lowland forest for cultivation.

The Hawaiian Islands have never had native land mammals. However, they did have an array of large herbivorous geese, 3 or 4 species on each major island, some of which were large, flightless and possessed tooth-like projections on their beak, used for grazing. Only one species survives today, the Nene (pronounced nay-nay), which is an endangered species. The Hawaiians were

probably ruthlessly efficient in hunting the geese and were responsible for their demise.

They also hunted a number of native Hawaiian birds for their feathers. Before European arrival their impact was probably not so great. However, the introduction of firearms to the islands, coupled with the active trade of feathered artifacts probably was a great pressure when combined with habitat alteration. It is estimated that it took 80,000 birds to construct a feather cloak. Some of the most prized birds such as the Oo (*Moho spp.*) and the Mamo (*Moho spp.*) are now extinct. Other factors that would have contributed to declines include the alteration of habitat by cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and logging, predation by mongoose, cats and rats and competition with some introduced birds such as Japanese White-eye and the Japanese Bush-warbler.

The major cause of extinction in the 1900's has been the diseases, avian pox and avian malaria. These diseases were introduced to the islands in introduced birds. The diseases were spread to native birds by introduced mosquitoes which became established early in the century. Most of the native birds have no resistance to the diseases and today most of the surviving native birds are at high elevations above the level at which mosquitoes are capable of reproducing.

While Hawaii may be a shadow of its former self, it still possesses some of the world's most bizarre birds. Closely related birds have evolved to fill many different niches. The most amazing of these birds that is still alive today (albeit highly endangered) is the Akiapolaau which has an upper mandible that is twice as long as its lower mandible and is thin and down curved, like a needle. The lower mandible is short, straight and stout and is used in a similar way to a woodpecker. The long upper mandible is used to prise out grubs located with the lower mandible. It feeds largely on the branches of the Koa tree (*Acacia koa*) a giant wattle that is prized for its timber. Not only does it fill the woodpecker niche but it also fills the sapsucker niche. It drills the trunks of selected trees for sap.

Since many of the native species have become extinct another 32 species have been introduced to the islands from all over the world including Peaceful Dove, one of the most common urban birds in Hawaii. Many of these birds are easier to see than the native birds many of which are not accessible to the travelling birdwatcher. It is to be hoped that the extinction of the native species can be stemmed and solutions found to their problems so that all of Hawaii's birds of today will be able to be seen by visitors to the islands.

Michael Todd.

# Yellow Wader Watch

Hey, what's that yellow bird out on the mudflat? Is it a Yellow Chat? Is it a Canary? Is it a rubber ducky? No, it's a Yellow-breasted Stint....

The AWSG's 1998 North-West Australia Wader Expedition has been the biggest ever. From 1st August to 31st October, participants have been catching waders over the whole spring arrival period of the migratory waders that breed in northern Asia and Alaska and spend the non-breeding season in Australia. The main catch areas were Roebuck Bay, Eighty Mile Beach and Port Hedland.

In order to find out more about some wader species that pass through north-western Australia on their way to southern Australia, Red-necked Stints, Curlew Sandpipers and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were marked with a yellow dye (Picric Acid) on their breast and under the wings. The dye is harmless to the birds, will last until the feathers are moulted, and should be visible for at least 2-4 months. The markings will become more orange with age and the underwing markings should last longer than those on the breast.

Many marked birds will have continued south and south-east to SA, Victoria and Tasmania. Some may turn up in NSW and possibly even south-eastern Queensland and New Zealand. Please record and report all sightings of yellow-marked waders of these three species in Australia during the spring and summer of 1998-99 in order to find out more about their movements and their staging sites.

The last time birds were marked in this way on a NW Australia Wader Expedition was 16 years ago. Then 20 sightings were reported from SE Australia, at the opposite corner of the continent, within five weeks. This time many more birds have been marked and a higher number of sightings is expected.

Information needed includes the species, date and location of the sighting. It would be very valuable to record details about the number or proportion of marked birds in a flock, with the estimated flock size. The yellow-marked underwings are highly visible in flight, and marked birds stand out in a flying flock. This additional information will help estimate population size, and understand the importance of particular sites and whether they might qualify for listing as being of national or international significance.

# Behind-the-Scenes Tour At Toronga Zoo

Field outing 23rd May 1998

"Magic!", "Awe-inspiring!", "Definitely the high point of the zoo experience!"

These phrases have been used to describe the Free Flight Bird Show at Taronga Zoo and they are not wrong! A central seat in the new bird amphitheatre places you in the glide path of the Andean Condor - an amazing experience. Matthew Kettle, raptor keeper, and his assistants participate with the birds in a delightfully choreographed routine which demonstrates some of the birds' natural behaviours, mostly on cue for the human audience.

"Behind-the-Scenes" turned out to be a guided tour of the enclosures housing the birds which take part in the Free Flight Bird Show, plus a detailed discussion of the training methods used to encourage them to perform on cue. The birds' natural behaviours are reinforced by food rewards and security such that they will fly back to their cages with stunning regularity. Most of the birds in the show have been born and raised in captivity or have been rehabilitated after suffering injuries which would incapacitate them for life in the wild.

There is no coercion - if the birds don't want to perform they won't! Bruce the condor took his time to glide down to the stage after being released at the rear of the amphitheatre, taxing the small talk ability of the show's host!

The genuine enthusiasm of the keepers and the delightful displays by the birds made this a very rewarding experience. The Free Flight Bird Show happens twice daily at 12 noon and 3pm at Taronga Zoo and is certainly worth a visit!

Liz Herbert.

*Report all sightings of yellow-marked waders to:*

Dr Clive Minton  
165 Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris, Victoria 3193.  
Tel Fax: (03) 9589 4901  
Email: [mintons@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mintons@ozemail.com.au)

**OBSERVATIONS FROM AUGUST MEETING.**

Apr 22	Barn Owl	1	Aberdeen	G.Newling
May 21	Golden Whistler	1f.+1dy	Wingen Village	"
May 22	Peregrine Falcon	1	" "	"
May 28	Australian Shoveler	3	Bayswater Colliery	"
May 31	Chestnut Teal	7	" "	"
	Eurasian Coot	58	" "	"
	Whistling Kite	2	" "	"
May 18	Speckled Warbler	1	Wingen Village	"
May 4	Barn Owl	1	sth of Scone	"
May 29	Barn Owl	1	Parkville	"
Jun 10	Barn Owl	1	sth of Scone	G.Newling
Jun 18	Australian Hobby	1	Muswellbrook	"
Jun 20	Spotted Harrier	1	Bayswater Colliery	"
Jun 11	Fluttering Shearwater	>1,000	off Moon Island	J.Perry
Jul 30	Scarlet Robin	1	Muswellbrook Common	G.Newling
	Rose Robin	1	" "	"
	Turquoise Parrot	1	" "	"
July [mid]	Fluttering Shearwater flocks	100's	2 miles off Pt. Stephen	F. Future ["Imagine"]
	Yellow-nosed Albatross flocks	dozens	" "	"
	Giant Petrel	solitary	" "	"
	Australasian Gannet flocks	24	" "	"
Jul 4	Brown Quail	2	Stockton Beach	M.Kearns
	Red-capped Plover	5	"	"
	White-necked Heron	1	"	"
Jul	Golden Whistler	1 imm	New Lambton	D.Pritchard
Jul 1	Double-banded Plover	20	Kooragang Island	J.Perry
Jul 13	Musk Duck	6	Grahamstown Dam	M.Kearns
Jul 17	White-necked Heron	9	Raymond Terrace	"
Jul 30	" " "	11	Williamtown	"
Jul 31	" " "	>20	Nr. Williamtown	"
Jul 26	Torresian Crow	2	Taree	"
	Australian Magpie-lark	41	"	"
Jul 21	Long-billed Corella	3	Jesmond	G. Brosie
Aug 1	Emerald Dove	1	New Lambton Heights	P.Lightfoot
	Fairy Martin	5	Parkville	G.Newling
Aug 5	Flame Robin	2	Wingen Village	"
	Black Kite	1	Scone	"
Aug 10	White-cheeked Honeyeater	2	New Lambton	D.Pritchard
	Noisy Friarbird	1	" "	"
	Crimson Rosella	2	" "	"
Aug 1	Red-capped Plover	~50	Big Pond, Kooragang Is.	M.Kearns
	Curlew Sandpiper	59	" "	"
	Red-necked Stint	84	" "	"
	Double-banded Plover	5	" "	"
Aug 5	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	3	Chichester S.F.	"
Aug 2	Mangrove Gerygone	4	Stuart's Is. [Tillighery Ck]	"
	Peaceful Dove	2	" "	"
	Bar-shouldered Dove	8	" "	"
Aug 11	Caspian Tern	>13	Lemon Tree Passage	
Aug 11	Grey-tailed Tattler	18	Lemon Tree Passage	M.Kearns
	Masked Lapwing on	2	" " "	"
	Gang-Gang Cockatoo	30-40	Kurri Kurri	Margaret Kearns
Aug 8	European Goldfish	10	East Maitland	G.Brosie
	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	2	" "	"
Aug 9	White-naped Honeyeater	1	Shortland	W.Barden

Aug 8	Rose Robin	1	S.W.C.	"
Aug 1	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	3	"	"
Aug 12	Gang-gang Cockatoo	1	Speers Point	S.Hamonet
Aug 11/12	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Garden Suburb	J.Perry
Aug 12	Musk Lorikeet	2	" "	"
	Regent Bowerbird	4	" "	"
	Satin Bowerbird	5	" "	"
Aug 11	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1		
<b><u>OBSERVATIONS FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING.</u></b>				
Mar	Black Kite	1	10K. Sth of Gloucester	T.Tasoulis
May 11	Paradise Riflebird	4	Chichester S.F.	"
Jul 16	Swamp Harrier	1	S.W.C.	M.Kearns
Sep	" "	2	"	"
Jul 9	Dusky Moorhen	110	"	"
	Eurasian Coot	234	"	"
	Little Eagle	1	"	"
	Australian Shoveler	1	"	"
Jul 16	Purple Swamphen	2	"	"
	Dusky Moorhen	97	"	"
	Eurasian Coot	260	"	"
	Australian Hobby	1	"	"
Jul 29	White-plumed Honeyeater	1	"	"
	Rufous Whistler	1m.	"	"
	Dusky Moorhen	104	"	"
	Eurasian Coot	278	"	"
Aug 5	Musk Duck	1f	"	"
Aug 16	Australian Magpie-lark on	3 pr.	Medowie	"
Aug 18	Sooty Oystercatcher	5	Nobby's Breakwater	P.Pountney
Aug 16	Brown-headed Honeyeater	7	Medowie	M.Kearns
Aug 17	Masked Lapwing on	pr	Mayfield	"
	" "	3+3 dy	"	"
	Swamp Harrier	1	Kooragang Island	"
Aug 19	Peregrine Falcon	1	North Arm Cove	D.Hirst
Aug 24	Fairy Martinb	40	Wallsend High School	A.Lindsey
Aug 26	Australasian Shoveler	2	S.W.C.	M.Kearns
	Rufous Whistler	1m	"	"
Aug 25	Long-billed Corella	2	Tanilba Bay	"
Sep 5	Channel-billed Cuckoo	heard	Lemon Tree Passage	"
Sep 6	Musk Duck	6	Grahamstown Dam	"
Aug 26	Brown Quail	2	S.W.C.	"
	Royal Spoonbill	40	"	"
Aug 29	Masked Owl	1	"	"
Aug 31	Powerful Owl	2 + 1 dy	Blackbutt Reserve	C.Lightfoot
Aug 31	Peregrine Falcon	1	Glen Oak	T.Tasoulis
Aug 31	Pacific Baza	1	New Lambton Heights	M. & I. Hamilton
Aug 30	White-bellied Sea-eagle	2	Nelson Bay	"
Sep 2	Royal Spoonbill	>40	S.W.C.	M.Kearns
	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1imm	"	"
	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	1	"	"
Sep 6	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Adamstown Heights	P.Pountney
Sep 3	Grey Goshawk	1	" "	"
Sep 7	Eastern Rosella	2	New Lambton Heights	M. & I Hamilton
Sep 8	Powerful Owl Heard calling	1	" "	"
Sep 9	Brown Honeyeater	10	S.W.C.	M.Kearns
Sep 9	Red-browed Finch	>50	S.W.C.	M.Kearns
	White-breasted Woodswallow	>20	"	"

		<u>3</u>		
Sep 9	Australian Hobby	1	"	"
	Royal Spoonbill	>40	"	"
	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1+limm	"	"
Aug 5	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Bolwarra	H. Tarrant
Aug 2	Brown Falcon	1	Bolwarra STW	"
Aug 2&18	Red-capped Robin	1	"	"
Aug 2	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	2	Bolwarra	"
	" " "	1	Newcastle University	"
Aug 2	Caspian Tern	1	Largs	"
Aug 3	Osprey	1	Maitland	"
Aug 7	Peregrine Falcon	1	Bolwarra	"
Aug 8	Spotted Pardalote	<5	"	"
Aug 6	Double-barred Finch	6-8	Bolwarra STW	"
Aug 10	Rose Robin	1	University of N'cle	"
	Darter	1	" "	"
	Grey Goshawk	2	" "	"
Aug 13	Brown-headed Honeyeater	2	" "	"
Aug	Indian Ringneck Parrot	1	" "	"

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# 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.

Wednesday 11th November	Clubnight: Main Feature:	Shortland Wetlands Centre 7:30am Alan Leishman - Birds of Mt Annan Botanical Gardens
Sunday 22nd November	Bus Outing: Meet:  Leader:	Harrington area plus Wingham Brush Shortland Wetlands Centre ready for a 6:00am departure. Bus will drop you back at Shortland by 5:00pm Liz Herbert 4959 3663
Wednesday 25th November	Atlas Meeting:  Contact:	Garden Suburbs School 7:00pm Open discussion for all interested members concerning the HBOC participation in the Atlas of Australian Birds Project Jim Perry 4943 2496
Tuesday 1st December	Midweek Outing: Meet:  Contact:	Islington Park/Carrington Car Park next to Tighes Reserve 8:00am (opposite TAFE College) Margaret Woods 4963 3070
Sunday 6th December	Field Day: Meet: Leader:	Tomaree N.P. - Port Stephens Gang Gang Road (Nelson Bay end) 7:30am Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Wednesday 9th December	Clubnight: Main Feature:	Shortland Wetlands Centre 7:30pm Xmas Party Bring your own slides, stories etc.
Saturday 12th December	Regent Honeyeater/Atlassing Day in the Milbrodale area. Meet: Leader:	Cessnock Macdonalds 6:30am Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 Intending participants <u>must ring</u> to confirm.
Saturday 19th December	Latham's Snipe Count at Cedar Hill Meet: Contact:	Minmi Pub 7:30am Liz Herbert 4959 3663
Sunday 24th January	Field Day: Meet: Leader:	Tahlee/Carrington area Raymond Terrace MacDonalds 7:00am Alan Stuart 4952 8569