

# NEWSLETTER

## Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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President:

Alan Stuart

Secretary:

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.*

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR ED and SUE HAMONET.

(Abridged version of Alan Stuart speech to the AGM.)

It is a great pleasure to move that Ed Hamonet and Sue Hamonet be made Life members of HBOC.

The Constitution of the Club makes clear that Life Membership is a great honour. Only one person has been made a life member to date - Wilma Barden.

Ed and Sue joined HBOC in May 1977. They have given over 20 years of dedicated service to the Club.

Ed has been a very active member. His meticulously researched *Scientific Bird Names* and other Bird of the Evening sessions are justly famous.

He was the foundation Newsletter Editor from 1978 to 1984 and foundation Treasurer 1982-1987.

He was Club Librarian for 8 years and during that time built the library into the excellent and largely irreplaceable collection we have today.

Ed also had a major role in the framing of our Constitution and his 1987 Checklist of birds of the Hunter Region is the forerunner of the Annual Bird Reports we now produce.

Sue Hamonet is known and loved by us all. Like Ed she has been a very active member throughout the years. She was Activities Officer from 1979 to 1981 and has been our Records Officer since 1993.

She held Committee positions several times between 1979 and 1998 and was Vice President in 1992/93.

Listing positions held by Sue understates her contribution. Over the past 10-15 years she has been a regular attendee at Committee meetings - she rarely misses one. Her contributions are always positive and she has a great role in the general running of the Club.

There are so many things that Sue does behind the scenes that go unsung. She is our unofficial Ambassador and is always happy to represent us to the wider community - schools, organisations, radio interviews and so on.

Most members will know Sue best for her vast knowledge about Australian birds and for the gracious way she shares her knowledge with us. She has been a mentor to many past and present members.

HBOC is a great club for those with an interest in birds and in birding with friends. In a substantial way, the Club has been shaped by the influences of Ed and Sue Hamonet.

(the motion was carried with acclamation)

## **1998 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

At the AGM, Alan Stuart gave a report on the Clubs activities in 1998. He discussed the Club's activities against our objectives and what follows is an abridged version of his statement.

### **"STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF BIRDS AND THEIR HABITAT."**

#### **SIGHTINGS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

Birds are what we're here for and as usual there were lots of species recorded – at least 300.

We had some exciting moments. At the beginning of the year we had the unusual spectacle of a group of Yellow Wagtail at Ash Island. We thought this was good until we had that Black Backed Wagtail at Glendale.

Some other highlights include Red Winged Parrot at a couple of locations, Grass Owl at Harrington and Bulahdelah and an increased frequency of reports of Black Falcon, Ruff, Wood Sandpiper and Pectoral Sandpiper.

At Cedar Hill Drive 230 Latham's Snipe were found on a Club count in December confirming the area as important for the species.

#### **BIRD STUDIES**

We carried out monthly surveys for Regent Honeyeaters. This activity links to the National Regent Honeyeater study coordinated by David Geering in Melbourne. Thanks to Ann Lindsey for coordinating our effort.

In August, the new Birds Australia Atlas project commenced. HBOC is an active supporter with copies of our records going to Birds Australia. Jim Perry is Regional Organiser for the Hunter Region.

We also continue to support the ongoing efforts of NSW Bird Atlassers.

In November, several members took part in the national survey for beach nesting species covering all the beaches of the Hunter.

Many members continue to support the HBOC Garden Bird Survey that has now completed its 6<sup>th</sup> year.

The 1997 Bird Report was published in August 1998 with 68 reporters supplying data about a total of 312 species.

#### **CONSERVATION**

David Kibble has been our able Conservation Coordinator and has had many issues to deal with. Of greatest concern is the future of the Big Pond on Kooragang Island. The Kooragang Airport proposal is the latest threat and we will continue to actively campaign against it.

The Club was also involved in negotiations over the widening of the Five Islands bridge at Cockle Creek, aspects of the proposed Charlestown bypass (Masked Owl Territory) and the rezoning of land at Colliery Dam near Mulbring.

Our efforts at Stockton Sandspit continue under Tom Clarke's leadership. We have had two weeding days and conducted the Clean Up Australia Day effort on the site.

Our two teams in the Birds Australia Twitchathon raised about \$550 for conservation projects -supporting Glossy Black Cockatoos at Dubbo and Leeton. The Champagne team did well with 123 species and second in the State but our main team had problems finding birds this time round.

The Club is a committed supporter of the NSW Bird Interest Groups Network (BIGNet) sending delegates to meetings in Dubbo and Leeton.

#### **"ENCOURAGE BIRD OBSERVING"**

Our program of outings and camps was again comprehensive. During 1998 we had a total of 33 organised activities including 11 regular monthly field outings, 11 mid week outings, 8 survey days and three camps.

All activities were well attended, weather permitting, and yielded lots of species. The highlights were our bus trip to Harrington and Wingham Brush and our camp near Gunnedah. Both were attended by in excess of 30 people and had bird counts of more than 100 species.

Thanks to Liz Herbert for the main program and camps, Keith and Margaret Woods and Max Blanch for the mid-week program and Ann Lindsey for the survey days.

#### **CLUB NIGHTS**

We held 11 meetings during the year at the Wetland Centre with an average attendance of 46. The meetings are always a lot of fun. What pleases me most is the spontaneous and enthusiastic response from members during the Observations segment.

We had main speakers at most of the meetings and the topics they spoke on were wide-ranging: Kakadu National Park, birdscaping gardens, seasonality, the wind generator at Kooragang, birds of Ecuador, Goulds Petrel, birds of Rennell Island, bird migration and the Mount Annan Botanic Gardens. We thank all of our speakers and those members who contributed to the Bird of the Evening segments.

#### **COMMUNITY**

Several of our members visited schools, community groups and other organisations during the year in response to requests. Sue Hamonet, Max Blanch and Ann Lindsey were all towers of strength in this regard. As an example Ann, assisted by Jim Perry, helped a class at Bolwarra Primary School to set up a bird survey: we now receive regular sightings reports from this keen bunch of year 3 students.

Marion Walker continues to be our telephone contact point and once again fielded many calls. Her phone rang hot during the Black Backed Wagtail visit. This event and others were used to generate media coverage for the Club.

In September, Tom Clarke coordinated out display booth at the SCAP Wildflower Spectacular and the Club organised bird walks around the Shortland Wetland Centre venue.

#### **GENERAL CLUB OPERATION**

Our membership remains steady at 203 in 1998.

Our finances are sound under Rowley Smith's management. We finished the year with a \$926.48 surplus and our reserves now stand at \$9628.36.

These Reserves include \$4500 that is in the Alan Keating Memorial Fund. Members and others are reminded that applications for funding are welcome at any time projects should benefit the birds of the Hunter.

Many thanks to Rowley and to Lesley Marshall who so ably assists him. We thank Randall Watson, our outgoing Auditor of many years standing and Katrina Thornton who audited the accounts this year.  
(see over for continued report)

## GENERAL

The Club continues to publish its Newsletter six times a year. Tom Clarke has been the Editor since 1994 and has always produced a good read. It is with regret that we note that he is unable to continue the job this year.

We took a great step forward in 1998 when we began our Website. Thanks to Adrian Ryan for setting up the site.

The Management Committee this year has functioned well. Thanks to all members. Peter MacLauchlan continued an effective Vice President and Rowley Smith kept us all amused - while dealing with any proposal to spend money very seriously. Peter Phillips is the backbone of the Committee and thus the Club - without him we wouldn't get anything done.

We have some tremendous resources for members in our three libraries and I thank Pat Pountney (assisted by Keith Woods) John Cockerell and Peter MacLauchlan for their efforts.

There are many other members who have done their bit to help the smooth running of the Club. Judith Smith is the welcoming person at Club Nights, Judy Westphal makes sure we all get tea and biscuits and Ed Hamonet re-formats all of our records for the Atlas project. Jeanette Stephenson, Wilma Barden and Jim Imrie are valued members of the Records Appraisal Committee. I apologise to anybody I've left out.

Finally I'd like to thank all members for their involvement in the Club in 1998. My first year as President has been enjoyable and I hope it can be the first of several.

(a copy of the full report is held in the library)

## FEBRUARY OUTING REPORT

(from Liz Herbert)

Carawirry Wildlife Refuge, Main Creek via Dungog. 21 February 1999

Carawirry Wildlife Refuge is adjacent to Trevor State Forest, near the end of Main Creek Road, northeast of Dungog. Rainforest and dry sclerophyll forest provide habitat for a variety of bush birds including Rose Robins, Rufous Fantails, Lewins Honeyeaters and Satin Bowerbirds.

Carawirry has two lodges for rent, surrounded by peaceful forest and linked by unobtrusive paths to the local creek. Access to the rugged reaches of Trevor State Forest is limited to 4WD vehicles or walkers. Five kilometres of narrow 4WD road beyond Carawirry leads you to delightful picnic spots on the banks of the Telegherry River.

There, the keen naturalist, Theo, showed us the favoured food trees of the Magnificent Riflebird - unfortunately they weren't in season at the time of our visit.

One young Fan tailed Cuckoo was present - being fed by a large billed Scrubwren. Twelve members walked the paths and adventured along the 4WD road to spot a total of 47 species - 11 non-passerines and 36 passerines.

## NEW MEMBERS

The HBOC extends a very warm welcome to the following new members:

Peter George of Bolwarra  
Greg Little of Tarro (rejoining)

We regret to advise that Don and Daphne Halliday have left the Club as a consequence of their leaving the district. We wish them well.

## **1999 SURVEYS – Regents and Swift Parrots**

( from Ann Lindsey)

### **Regent Honeyeater/Atlas Surveys**

- 1<sup>st</sup> May. Howes Valley. Meet 7.30am Broke corner shop.
- 5 June Tanilba Bay, Lemon Tree Passage. Meet Salt Ash Public School 7.30am

For both of the above surveys please contact Ann Lindsey in advance.

The National Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot surveys will be held on 22 and 23 May 1999. If you are not available on that weekend, the weekends before and after or weekdays around that time are suitable.

As I will be away all of May I would like to organise as many people and places as possible before I leave. The survey date coincides with the May Club Outing to Howes Valley – a favourite spot for Regent Honeyeaters.

### **Other possible places to survey:**

The Road between McGuigan Winery (Polkobin and Broke).  
White Box Camp via Merriwa in Goulburn River National Park and road down to O'Briens Crossing.  
The Mogo Road –north from Wollar to Goulburn River NP to Spring Gulley Camp.( road is on excellent condition)  
Ellalong area, Widden Valley, Morisset, Cooranbong, Wyee  
Swansea, Belmont, Salt Ash  
Lemon Tree Passage, Tanilba Bay.

These coastal areas may have flowering Swamp Mahogany.

For the National Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot survey please contact Ann Lindsey 49512008 by 27 April or Di Johnson 49751777 after that date.

## **REGENT HONEYEATER SURVEY –RESULTS 1998**

(from David Geering)

The mystery continues: only 65 Regents seen during the May '98 survey and 31 during the August '98 survey. Where are the other Regents?

We seem to have no trouble finding them during the breeding season ( at least at the sites we know about ) but finding more than a handful during the non-breeding season seems to remain one of those near impossible tasks.

So what did we get out of the two 1998 surveys? Beyond the very important fact that we got people out looking, and we certainly aren't going to solve any mysteries sitting at home, a few comments can be made.

- Other than a flock of Regents at Chiltern, no group of more than eight birds was located. It is likely that Regent Honeyeaters are breaking up into very small groups outside the breeding season and these are proving very difficult to find. Larger flocks may only reform at suitable sites under favourable conditions. These flocks are often easier to find as the birds become more vocal when flocking.

- The strategy of directing people away from the usual hot spots paid off, for some at least. Regents were found at a number of sites where they had not previously been reported. These birds may have remained unreported had the survey not given people an excuse to visit these sites

Regent Honeyeaters were found utilising a range of resources.

Interestingly, the Regents found at Chiltern, Jindalee State Forest, Castlereagh Nature Reserve, Londonderry and Emmaville were in flowering Mugga Ironbark the flowering of which appeared to be patchily distributed from northeast Victoria to northern NSW. At Baileston in May, they were found feeding in Western Grey Box, the species in which many of the Swift Parrots recorded were feeding. At Wyee Point, on the NSW Central Coast, they were in Swamp Mahogany: at Ellalong on the Hunter Valley in Spotted Gum; and at Whiporie on the NSW North Coast they were associated with mistletoe in Spotted Gum. At Sundown National Park in Southern Queensland, a pair of birds was feeding in a cultivated Yellow Gum, a species often favoured by Regents in Victoria!

We are a still a long way from understanding what Regent Honeyeaters do out of the breeding season but with time and perseverance we may fit a few more pieces into the puzzle.

David Geering

If you participated in last years surveys you should have received a report of both surveys. If you haven't please contact David and he will ensure you are placed on the mailing list.

Potential participants in the 1999 surveys ( 22/23 May and 7/8 August) Should register with David Geering PO Box 500 East Melbourne Vic.3002 Phone (freecall) 1 800 621 056 to ensure they receive the kit and are on the mailing list. HBOC members should also contact Ann Lindsey who is coordinating the local effort to ensure there is no overlap of effort.

## **CLUB NIGHT REPORT**

**10 March 1999**

( from Liz Herbert)

### **LIFE ON THE EDGE**

Dr Richard Major, Research Scientist from the Australian Museum, spoke about recent research into the effects of land clearing on bush birds of the Central West of NSW.

This is an area of prime cropping and grazing country and consequently only a few patches of remnant vegetation remain on land unsuitable for clearing because of steep slopes or rocky terrain. Narrow, discontinuous, linear strips of remnant vegetation occur along some roadways and along a few stream sections. Considered from a bird's eye view, the area contains only a sparse smattering of potential habitat.

Clearing has left a lot of "edge" habitat and not much " interior" habitat. Richards's research investigated bird's responses to patch size and how birds were distributed in a patchy landscape.

The team surveyed 196 vegetation remnants, selecting transects 400m long by 50m wide to survey each remnant. Each transect was surveyed for 40 minutes, once during Spring and once during Autumn. A total of 131 species were detected during transect surveys. Of these 17 were waterbirds, 4 were nightbirds and 25 were recorded outside the transects leaving 84 species to be analysed.

Analysis showed that different bird communities correspond with different vegetation types when the areas of vegetation are large. There was little difference shown between small areas of differing vegetation types

Differences between communities were small due to small open-nesting insectivores and honeyeaters such as White-plumed honeyeater, Striated Pardalote, Weebill, Brown Thornbill, Spiny Cheeked Honeyeater, Grey Fantail and Red Capped Robin.

Linear strips surrounded by open crop or grazing land were dominated by Noisy Miner, Galah, Common Starling, Apostlebird, Magpie and Red Rumped Parrot. The striking difference between bird communities in large vegetation patches and narrow strips makes one question the usefulness of roadside plantings as habitat for birds. Are they providing more habitat for Noisy Miners to the detriment of smaller birds?

In order to further investigate the breeding success of small birds in linear strips of vegetation compared with larger patches of the same vegetation, Richard chose to study the Red Capped Robin in Native Pine (*Callistris*) in Box Woodland remnants in forests and in roadside strips (50-70metres wide). Richard constructed fake nests from half tennis balls coated in lichen and leaves and created small "eggs" for their interiors. The eggs were wired to cameras located nearby so that photographs could be taken of the would be nest robbers. A surprisingly high incidence of predation was recorded in the roadside strips – 62% of nests were predated, compared with 34% in the forests. The photos displayed the culprits: Grey Strike Thrush, Grey and Pied Butcherbirds, Australian Raven, Australian Magpie, Apostlebirds, Currawong and Grey crowned Babbler. All attacked the eggs in artificial nests located in roadside strips. However in the forests, only Grey Strike Thrush and Grey Butcherbird were recorded attacking the nests.

Male Red-Capped Robins were banded and tracked from both habitats. Birds from both forest and roadside strips declined in abundance after 6 months. The percentage of brown male robins (young robins but still capable of mating and raising young despite their dull plumage) was found to be higher in roadside strips than in forests. The older robins had the forest habitat, suggesting that there was something inferior about the roadside strip habitat.

Richard concluded that the production of new individuals is likely to be lower in linear roadside remnants, and linear remnants are less favourable habitat. Although they may be important as source areas if fire devastates larger forest areas, the linear strips are more likely to be sink areas in normal years and may be an overall drain on the total population.

The importance of studies such as this is shown by the stark reality of clearing on the Forbes 1:25,000 sheet: only 15% of native vegetation remains on this sheet, yet there is still strong pressure to clear what little remains.

Richard concluded with some points to ponder:

- the areas of habitat at both remnant and landscape scales is important
- connectivity between remnants is potentially important
- connections often may be conduits only –they're not really habitat –so should they be included in total habitat area?
- precautionary approach is still required; and
- at present, the management response is tipped in favour of connectivity rather than expansion of existing forest patches.

**OBSERVATIONS FROM MEETING - FEBRUARY / MARCH 1999**
**1998**

Nov.	Magpie Goose	With dy	Market Swamp	A.Lindsey
Nov 23	Ruddy Turnstone	31	Newcastle Baths	M.Kearns
Dec 24	Little Penguin on nest	1+ dy	Stattis Rock [Seal Rocks]	J.Perry
Dec	Zebra Finch	2	Teralba	N.Granter
	Striped Honeyeater	2	Broke	"
Dec 13	Azure Kingfisher	1	Tamoby. M.L.N.P.	M.Kearns
	Varied Sittella	3 + 1dy	Violet Hill. M.L.N.P.	"
	Musk Duck	1	Bombay Broadwater. M.L.N.P.	"
	Musk Duck	4	Lake Boolambayte. M.L.N.P.	"
Dec 12	Azure Kingfisher	3	Lower Myall River	"
	Whistling Kite	> 30	" " "	"
	White-bellied Sea-eagle	11	" " "	"
	Grey Goshawk [white]	1	" " "	"
	Forest Raven	2	" " "	"
	Scarlet Honeyeater	>30 heard	" " "	"
	Brush Cuckoo	2 heard	" " "	"
Dec 13	Torresian Crow	1 heard	Violet Hill. M.L.N.P.	"
	Glossy Black Cockatoo	7	" " "	Margaret Kearns
	Brush Cuckoo	2 heard	" " "	Michael Kearns
	Glossy Black Cockatoo	4	" " "	M. & M. Kearns
Dec 15	Brush Cuckoo	1	Johnsons Beach. M.L.N.P.	Michael Kearns
	Cicadabird	2m. + 1f.	" "	"
	Leaden Flycatcher	3 prs. = 6	" "	"
	Cicadabird	1m	Tickerabbit Campsite. M.L.N.P.	"
	Varied Sittella	8 + 2dy	" "	"
	Blue-faced Honeyeater	> 8	" "	"
	Azure Kingfisher	3	" "	"
Dec 21	Southern Emu-wren	23	Near Salt Ash	"
Dec 28	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	>200	Lemon Tree Passage	"
Nov 28	Richard's Pipit ny	1 + 3 dy	Bayswater Colliery	G.Newling
Dec 5	Singing Bushlark	5	" "	"
Dec 10	White-necked Heron	2	Parkville	"
Dec 11	Dollarbird	7	Wingen	"
Dec 31	Pink-eared Duck	2	Bayswater Colliery	"
	Brown Falcon	2	" "	"
	Australasian Shoveler	11	" "	"
	Hardhead	34	" "	"
Oct 16	Topknot Pigeon	2	Lostock [Scout camp/nr. Dam	P. George
Dec 13	Common Blackbird	1 Juv.	East Maitland	P.McLauchlan

**1999**

Jan 2	Curlew Sandpiper	>10	Big Pond	Michael Kearns
	Red-capped Plover	>20	" "	"
	Pacific Golden Plover	6	" "	"
	Red-necked Stint	~20	" "	"
Jan 6	Shining Bronze-cuckoo	1	Myall Lakes N.P.	B. & D. Kibble
Jan 30	Australasian Bittern	1	North Arm Cove	A.Lindsey
Jan 29	Pink-eared Duck	14	Bayswater Colliery	G.Newling
	Hoary-headed Grebe	1	" "	"
Jan 25	Scarlet Honeyeater	4	Moonan Flat	"
	Satin Flycatcher	~ 15	Pheasants Ck Rd.Barrington. Tops	"
	Bassian Thrush	1	Polblue Creek "	"



	Little Raven	25	Tomalla Rd.	"	"
	Little Raven	17	Moonan Brook		"
	Red-browed Treecreeper	8	Pheasants Ck. Rd.	"	"
Jan 26	Logrunner	> 3	Copeland S.F.		A.Lindsey
	Spectacled Monarch	1	"		"
Jan 24	Zebra Finch	8	Big Pond, Kooragang Is.		"
Jan 26	Noisy Pitta	1 - 2	Copeland S.F.		"
	Emerald Dove	1	"		"
	Pale Yellow Robin	2	"		"
Jan 13	Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Big Pond		W.Barden
Jan 11	Common Tern	>100	Stockton Beach		M.Kearns
Jan 11	White-fronted Chat	5	Stockton Beach		M.Kearns
	Australasian Gannet	1	"		"
	Common Tern	2	Stockton		"
Jan 5	Collared Sparrowhawk	2	Green Point		"
Jan 8	Glossy Black Cockatoo	2 + 1 imm	Wyee Point		D. & V. Moon
Jan 24	Rainbow Bee-eater	8	"		"
Jan 23	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	> 5,000	Newcastle Baths		M.Kearns
	Little Tern	82	"		"
Jan 9	Striated Heron	1	Toronto Baths		P.Durie
Jan 2	White-breasted Woodswallow	6	Dobell House, Wangi		D.Johnson
Jan 20	Satin Bowerbird	1	East Maitland		P.McLauchlan
Feb 28	Hoary-headed Grebe	14	Tarro Wetland		R. & J. Smith
	Common Sandpiper	1	Ash Island. Mosquito Ck.		A.Lindsey
	Common Tern	40	Newcastle Harbour		"
	Pied Oystercatcher	3	Kooragang Is. N.R.		"
	Latham's Snipe	1	"		"
	European Goldfinch	8	"		"
Feb 7	Black Bittern	1	Ash Island		P. Straw
Feb 3	Spotted Harrier	1	Bolwarra Nr. Hands Lagoon		H.Tarrant
Feb 3	Sooty Oystercatcher	4	Newcastle Baths Rock Ledge		R. Parker
Feb 6	Latham's Snipe	18	Cedar Hill Drive		M.Kearns
	Tree Martin	> 60	"		"
Feb 27	Spangled Drongo	2	Lemon Tree Passage		Margaret Kearns
	White-breasted Woodswallow	> 10	" " "		"
	Dollarbird	> 6	" " "		"
Feb 26	Arctic Jaeger	3	Nobby's Beach		K.Laverick
Feb 14	Blue-faced Honeyeater	7	Malabula		Michael Kearns
Feb 13	Torresian Crow	3	Lemon Tree Passage		"
Feb 26	Emerald Dove	1	S.W.C.		W. Barden
Feb 17	Spangled Drongo	1	Shortland		"
Feb 24	Eastern Curlew	1	Hawk's Nest		P.Durie
Mar 7	Australian Spotted Crake	4	Ash Island		L. Herbert
	Rufous Fantail	1	Blackbutt Reserve		P.Lightfoot
	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater ny	2 + 1 dy	Glenrock S.R.A.		P. Rankin
Mar 1	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	20	Toronto Wetland		P.Durie
	New Holland Honeyeater	2	Fassifern Railway Stn.		"
Mar 9	Eastern Whipbird	1	S.W.C. [1 <sup>st</sup> record for species]		W. Barden
Feb 22	Spotted Harrier	1	Hand's Lagoon, Bolwarra		H.Tarrant
Feb 23	Spotted Harrier	Pr.	Bolwarra STW Lagoon		"
Mar 4	Nankeen Night Heron	1 imm	" " "		"
Feb 27	Great Crested Grebe	~15	Walka Water Works		"
Mar 2	Azure Kingfisher	1	Uni. Of Newcastle		"
Mar 6	Red-browed Treecreeper	1	Mandalong Valley		"

# 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.

Sunday 18th April	Field Day:	Copeland Common via Gloucester (two hours drive from Newcastle)	
	Meet:	Mountain Maid Mine, Copeland	8:30am
	Contact:	Ann Lindsey	4951 2008
<i>Copeland Common Camping available:</i>			
Saturday 1st May	Atlassing Day:	Howes Valley	
	Leader:	Ann Lindsey	4951 2008
		Intending participants <u>must ring</u> to confirm.	
Tuesday 4th May	Midweek Outing:	Mount Sugarloaf	
	Meet:	Mt Sugarloaf Car Park	8:00am
	Contact:	Keith Woods	4963 3070
Wednesday 12th May	Clubnight:	Shortland Wetlands Centre	7:30pm
	Main Feature:	By raft down the Asek River in Alaska - John McLennan	
Weekend 22nd/23rd May	Regent Honeyeater & Swift Parrot Survey Weekend		
	Wanted:	Small groups to survey these areas - Goulbourn River N.P. - Widden Valley & Bacrami Valley - Howes Valley - Wollombi/Cessnock area	
	Coordinator:	Ann Lindsey	4951 2008
Survey for whole or part of weekend. Recording sheets and more information from Ann Lindsey			
Sunday 23rd May	Field Day:	Howes Valley	
	Meet:	Broke Fire Station	7:30am
	Leader:	Chris Herbert	4959 3663
Observations from this outing will be included in the Regent Honeyeater/Swift Parrot Survey.			
Tuesday 1st June	Midweek Outing:	Belmont Lagoon	
	Meet:	Cold Tea Creek Car Park	8:00am
	Contact:	Max Blanch	4961 1655
Wednesday 9th June	Clubnight:	Shortland Wetlands Centre	
	Main feature:	"Mostly Falklands" - Jane Miller	
Long Weekend 12th-14th June	Campout:	Widden Valley	
	Contact:	Liz Herbert	4959 3663
Sunday 20th June	Field Day:	Wetlands Day	
	Meet:	Greenhills MacDonalds	8:00am
	Leader:	Tom Clarke	4651 3872