

# NEWSLETTER

## Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

P.O. Box 24, New Lambton, N.S.W. 2305

Telephone: (02) 4958 5942

<http://users.hunterlink.net.au/hboc/home.htm>

President: Alan Stuart

Secretary: Tom Clarke

Newsletter Editor: Pat Carlton



*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*

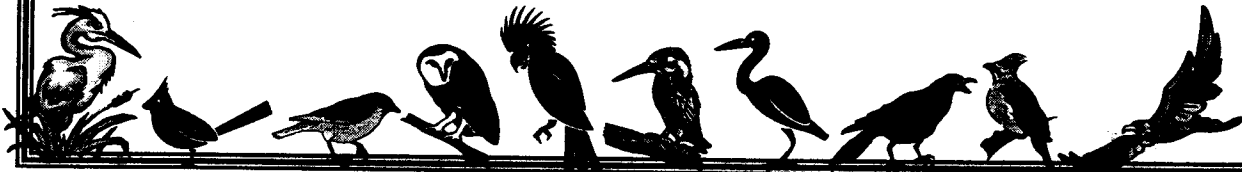
## TWITCHATHON 2000

The Hunter Home Brewers are backing- up their debut entry in the Birds Australia Twitchathon in October 2000.

As a HBOC-exclusive offer, the Home Brewers are offering a fine selection of

**6 quality bottles of Hunter Home Brew**  
to the 2 most generous sponsors from the club  
for the Hunter Home Brewers' team in this year's Twitchathon,  
raising money for the Newhaven Station purchase.

**"SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BREWER"**



*Articles for our newsletter are always welcomed.*

*Closing date for next issue: 30 November 2000*

*Please mail to: Pat Carlton,*

*29 Wallaroo Rd, East Seaham 2324*

*Ph/fax: 02 4988 6026 Email: [pcarlton@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pcarlton@optusnet.com.au)*

## President's Column

Just the other day I was fortunate enough to have a male Regent Bowerbird in close-up view in my binoculars. It's always a stunning bird to see, but this time the setting was perfect too. There was nobody else anywhere nearby, and the forest was quiet. For a little while, the world seemed to comprise only the bird and me. I've been feeling charged up ever since. Isn't birding a wonderful pastime?

At our September club night Peter West from Birds Australia told us about the Newhaven cattle station in the Northern Territory and the reasons why Birds Australia are trying to buy it and turn it into a Reserve. It seems to be a marvellous property and an important haven to several rare and endangered birds, such as Princess Parrot, Grey Honeyeater and Night Parrot. We launched a spontaneous collection ("pass the motorbike helmet") after Peter had spoken, which raised \$202. Our thanks go to all of you who contributed. At the Committee meeting on 4 October it was decided the Club would match this figure, dollar for dollar, so the final amount to be donated will be \$404.00.

All of the funds raised in this year's Twitchathon (being held over October 28/29) also will go towards the Newhaven purchase. So, I urge you to think about forming a team, or else to sponsor one of the teams that are already registered. So far, there are three teams of HBOC members - two entered into the main event and the other competing in the Champagne category. The contacts are Ann Lindsey, Mick Roderick and Phil Rankin, respectively. If you're interested in forming your own team, get in touch with me to find out how.

In early September, Di Johnson, Jenny Powers and I attended a BIGNet (Bird Interests Group Network) meeting at Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley. We discussed many weighty matters at the meeting, and of course also did a fair bit of birdwatching. A real plus from these meetings, which are held every 6 months, is bringing back ideas for things we could do here. For example, the Cumberland club

in Sydney recently has twinned with the Cumbria bird group in England. They now do things such as publicising outings in each other's newsletters. I don't know if it's something we would decide to do, but it's certainly an interesting idea.

In early November, the Committee will be finalising the program of activities for next year. We are very keen to have your suggestions for places to go for outings and camps. Please let me, or any other Committee member, know of any ideas you have - a favourite place you go to, a property you have contacts for, or a potential campsite somewhere (even outside of the Hunter Region).

The 1999 Hunter Region Bird Report has just been published, and every club member is entitled to receive

a free copy of it. Please try to collect your copy from the Treasurer's table at club nights or from me on an outing. In mid-December we will post out all of the uncollected copies, and we'd like to keep the postage costs down as much as possible.

Many of you with e-mail addresses have let me know them, and I've been sending out occasional messages about local sightings of rare birds. I am delighted to learn that this has been helping some people to see new birds. If you would like to be included into the news group, just send me a message.

Happy birding

Alan Stuart

almarosa@hunterlink.net.au

### Welcome to New Members

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

*Oliver Bamford, Toronto; Roma Kane, Mayfield; Wayne Barnden, Kotara; Stephen Pain, Rankin Park; Keith Howard, Bolwarra; Wayne Dempsey, Medowie; Patricia Bell, Wallsend; and Linda and Ted Clayton, Gwandalan.*

We look forward to meeting you at Club Night and Field Outings during the year.

## Club Outing....

### Black Rock Road/Dunns Creek

Sunday 20 August

Enticed from a warm and cosy bed by the promise of ornithological treasures beyond belief, to wit sightings of Swift Parrots and Black-chinned Honeyeaters, 18 hardy club members met on a drizzly, overcast morning at Patterson's Tucker Park. Off we sped to Black Rock Road, where Swift Parrots and Black-chinned Honeyeaters had been reported. We arrived amidst cries for an early morning tea and a decided improvement in the weather. Cars parked, we wandered along a picturesque country road where feathered friends provided many delights, especially an immature Rose Robin that flitted back and forth between two trees, breeding Striated Pardalotes, Spotted Pardalotes and Variegated Wrens. Back into the cars and off to the Swift Parrot sites. No joy, although numerous Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters jumped into the lenses of our binoculars. Finally those clamouring for sustenance won and we suffered a spartan mouthful or two and a White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike before exploring the second Swift Parrot site. No joy - and our now embarrassed leader directed us to Duns Creek for lunch and the second half of our outing.

Dunns Creek provided a special delight and a lesson. The lesson first. We came upon a partly decomposed black and white bird. A Magpie, no doubt. After much prodding and poking and discussion we realised it was a dead Wood Duck, its identity betrayed by one green feather and a couple of small mottled feathers. Our lesson - don't take things for granted. Our most spectacular sighting here - three Regent Bowerbirds, one male and two females.

We left Tucker Park in rain - which ceased by the time we arrived at Black Rock Road. It remained fine until we returned to our vehicles after our Dunns Creek walk, when it began to rain again. All in all, a dry and very pleasant day - and 47 species.

*David Kibble*

### Swift Parrots at Black Rock Road, Martins Creek

Sue and I have been visiting Black Rock Road in the Martins Creek area regularly this year. A feature of our walk is the colony of Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters which frequent the woodland just past the intersection with Fitness's Rd. (Yes they spell it that way on the recently erected signpost.) Other birds regularly seen at this point include Scarlet Honeyeaters and Little Lorikeets.

On 23 July I realised that there were some other types of parrot present from their calls. Suddenly it dawned on

me that I was listening to a call I was very used to in Tasmania, and I started looking at the treetops in earnest. I was soon rewarded with sightings of fast flying small/medium parrots with long pointed tails. Finally I got my binoculars on several foraging birds and saw some definitive features of Swift Parrots, like their red faces and vents.

Despite their bright colours Swift Parrots are very hard to see when they are foraging. However with persistence we got excellent views on this and subsequent visits. On one occasion about ten Swift Parrots joined Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters bathing in pools of water by the side of the road. We feel very privileged to have had close views looking down on them as they alighted on the ground. As they settled their tails fanned out to form several red spines with the central tail feathers being the longest. Periodically the bathing birds would flutter up to lantana growing at the roadside, where they perched and preened before resuming bathing.

We saw the Swift parrots over six consecutive weekends until 27 August. At least 20 were present on 5 August and it was part of this flock which came down and bathed. There may have been more birds present as they were heard calling over a large area of woodland before congregating in flowering Spotted Gums at the side of the road.

Most of our visits were between 8.30 and 10.30 in the morning. The parrots seemed to congregate in the flowering gums as soon as the sun got on the blossoms. They were regularly feeding with the Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters and there were also a number of Lewins Honeyeaters in the area but perhaps significantly the larger Noisy Friarbirds and Red Wattlebirds were absent. By mid-morning the parrots had either ceased calling or left the area. On 5 August we saw 15 Swift Parrots leave the area flying fast in the direction of the Dunns Creek ridge.

As mentioned previously Spotted Gums were the main, but not exclusive, species in which the birds foraged. It was interesting to note that these gums come into blossom in succession rather than all at the same time. This is certainly advantageous to the parrots as it affords a food source in one area over an extended period of time.

Other interesting birds seen in the area include two Painted Quail on 5 August and two flocks of Black-chinned Honeyeaters, mainly immature birds, on 13 August.

Unfortunately the Swift Parrots went missing for the morning of the HBOC outing to view them on 19 August.

*Mike Newman*

## Pelagic Trip Report

### 5 August 2000



Departed 7.10 am and returned 4pm.

Location: Swansea, Newcastle

Sea Conditions: A slight 1m swell, a bit choppy later in the day.

Weather: A fine day on departure with a southerly wind increasing throughout the day with a short period of light rain from the south later in the afternoon.

Primary Chumming Locations: 1) 17km off Swansea in 40 Fathoms

2) 24km off Swansea in 60 Fathoms

3) 52km off Norah Head in 102 Fathoms.(shelf). Those on board: Phil Hansbro, Richard Baxter, Phillip Rankin, Craig Anderson, Michael Roderick, Steven Roderick, Graeme O'Conner, Chris Herbert, Liz Herbert, Terry Langworthy, Al Gillies and Damian Baxter.

Summary: The Hunter Bird Observers Club (HBOC) recently held its first pelagic trip on 5 August 2000. The trip was held to allow

Newcastle people the opportunity to observe some pelagic birds because for many the trip to Wollongong or Sydney is a bit far. The aim also was to establish if the winter birds seen off Wollongong or Sydney travel this far up the east coast of New South Wales. The day was a complete success with seven new birds not previously sighted in the HBOC area.(HBOC 1998 Bird Report-Green Book)

We used the game fishing boat "Offshore" which could get us out into the deep water quickly and allow us an extended stay on the shelf. Not long after leaving Swansea the first bird we saw was a Fluttering Shearwater (3) and just after that our first Fairy Prion (2) which was the first of the seven new HBOC birds. This was followed by distant views of a single Black-browed Albatross. We had been at sea about an hour with very few birds about and I was beginning to think that perhaps Newcastle was too far north for the southern ocean pelagic species.

Our first chumming location was 17km off Swansea at the edge of the reefs and we were quickly rewarded with four birds not previously recorded in the Hunter Region.

We had brief views of Hutton's Shearwater (1) and after five minutes we had our first Yellow-nosed Albatross at the back of the boat, quickly followed by an adult Wandering Albatross (1), Providence Petrel (3) and a lone Cape Petrel.

From here we moved on to our second chumming location which was 24km off Swansea, on the outer edge of the reefs. Within minutes we had over ten Yellow-nosed Albatross at the back of the boat, which brought a flurry of cameras and before long ten became twenty as they kept appearing from nowhere. We also had around the boat at this location several Providence Petrels and 4 Cape Petrels as well as a single juvenile Black-browed Albatross.

The next bird to arrive was a single White-faced Storm Petrel which ran across the top of the water within metres of the boat giving everyone excellent views. This was followed by a very obliging Shy Albatross and our first Antarctic Prion. Just after the Prion's arrival we had a Northern Giant Petrel land at the back of the boat and immediately start squabbling with the Albatross, much to the enjoyment of all on board.

Our final stop was 52km off Norah Head on the shelf over the Norah Head canyons. On the way we saw our first Great-winged Petrel of the day and several more Fairy Prions. The further out we went the more Providence Petrels we saw and the Wandering and Black-browed Albatross replaced the Yellow-nosed as the more common. Whilst drifting we were visited by our first Southern Giant Petrel and had about 20 Cape Petrel near the boat. At this location we also had 3 White-faced Storm Petrel, 1 Antarctic Prion, several Fairy Prion, 4 Black-browed Albatross, 2 juvenile Wandering Albatross, 2 Great-winged Petrel and 1 Northern Giant Petrel. On our return trip we had a further Southern Giant Petrel fly to the boat as well as a Shy Albatross and some more Fluttering Shearwaters as we approached shore.

All on board were happy with the closeness of the sightings and are looking forward to a further October pelagic, which hopefully will be equally as exciting as September - November are the months for rarities. The above trip was conducted as a HBOC outing and at no profit to the organisers. HBOC will conduct other trips in October and November. If you would like to join one of these trips please contact Richard Baxter to make a booking on [randrbaxter@yahoo.com](mailto:randrbaxter@yahoo.com); or contact Alan Stuart. The October trip is fully booked and there are vacancies on the November trip which will be on 4th November 2000.

*Richard Baxter*

## Tales of Salt and Glue

Sunrise, mid-winter 2000, and half of the Hunter Home Brewers set off on a quest to explore the nether-regions of birding... Rathluba Lagoon. Though this was only the first stop in a greater quest - Lake Eyre and the Gluepot Reserve. Never before had a broken leg opened up such a window of opportunity for an avifaunal adventure. With the familiar habitats and landscapes of the Hunter Region left behind, our first 'quality' bird spot was at Cobar, where we completed our first day's driving with 99 species on the board. Cobar has a wealth of birds within 2km of the town,

with a number of waterholes that are surrounded by very productive woodland habitats, with commonly encountered birds including Crested Bellbirds, Red-winged

Parrots, Painted Button Quails and Blue Bonnets.

Large groups of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos at Wilcannia had Steve reaching for his life-list and Chirruping Wedgebills not much further on had myself doing likewise. By midday on the third day we'd reached Marree and the start of the Oodnadatta Track. Hardly a 'track' at all, we covered the last 300km to William Creek in about four hours, with time in between to get good views of Cinnamon Quail Thrushes, Pied and White-fronted Honeyeaters, Rufous Fieldwrens, Red-backed Kingfishers and a seemingly lost male Chestnut Teal along one of the desert watercourses. First light and we were off to the edge of Lake Eyre, at near-capacity following good rains months ago in distant areas of the massive catchment that covers about one-sixth of Australia.

Whilst our hopes of seeing masses of Banded Stilts were always going to be something of a pipedream, the sight of dozens of busy Red-capped Plovers made an awesome spectacle, even amongst the now infamous Silver Gulls that must have travelled up from Adelaide and Port Augusta, due to their sheer audacity and human interdependence. Caspian and Gull-billed Terns patrolled the shores of the brine shrimp lined lake. All

in all, though, the birding in the Lake Eyre region for us was dominated by more 'terrestrial' pursuits, with a wealth of Orange Chats and Gibberbirds on hand not far from the water's edge. Possibly the highlight of the trip (with the 'good-oil' from a female Thickhead) was at the point where we located a pair of Chestnut-breasted Whitefaces - and it was pure hesitation that stopped me from running the 1.5km across the rocky desert to fetch the camera. They behaved unlike we expected, as we were able to approach them to within 3 or 4 metres, and they seemed unconcerned by our presence (which made the forgotten camera hurt even more).

And then there was Gluepot. I guess we 'lucked-in' with the fact that the mallee was flowering at the time, but Gluepot will always be remembered by me as an absolute 'saturation of birds!' We were fortunate enough in our 48 hours there to see 76 bird species, including Gilbert's Whistlers, Chestnut Quail Thrushes, Southern Scrub Robins, Spotted Nightjars and a big surprise package - a female Painted Honeyeater, the second record of the species at the reserve. But the greatest birding in Gluepot was certainly found at the end of the Callitris Track (a must-do walk) where whilst observing a colony of Black-eared Miners, with Striated Grasswrens scurrying between spinifex clumps nearby, a pair of Regent Parrots flew directly overhead - and all this occurred 200m away from where we watched and photographed a pair of Red-lore Whistlers, the first seen for the year at Gluepot. See what I mean about saturation!

Unfortunately, everything post-Gluepot seemed an anti-climax, although arriving home with 219 species for the trip (including 27 honeyeaters) we both felt that the 7000km trek was well worthwhile, and then some. Furthermore, having seen at first hand the wonderful job (and bold moves re: Yellow-throated Miners) that Birds Australia has done at Gluepot, I can only emphasise the importance and relevance of supporting the Newhaven purchase.

*Mick Roderick*

## Bird Attracting Plants

I would like to make a number of observations on the article "*Bird Attracting Plants*" which appeared in the August/September edition of this newsletter. The article puts the argument that there are a number of exotic plants and trees that are more successful at attracting birds than many of the local native species. I do not disagree, for as one walks or drives around the country it is quite easy to see large areas that have become infested by plants mentioned in the article, such as lantana, privet and camphor laurel. Of course, these areas have become weed-infested because the seed has been spread by birds.

We therefore need to examine our own principles in bird watching and attracting birds to our gardens. Are we only interested in seeing birds and attracting birds to our gardens so we can tick them off or do we have a responsibility to the environment?

On the back page of the August/September newsletter was a pamphlet put out by the Newcastle Council on Biodiversity Month. It states that "*Ecosystem diversity is the variety of habitats, biotic communities and ecological processes. An ecosystem is a community of living organisms that interact with each other and the physical environment. Australia's biggest environmental problem, the continuing loss of that rich diversity of life, is gaining momentum. The challenge now is to connect with our natural heritage and take whatever steps we can to conserve and enhance biodiversity.*"

Nowadays, when we visit National Parks we see signs that say, "*Please don't feed the animals*". Rangers tell us that:

- the food we give them is processed, lacks variety and is not good for their digestion

- the animals become dependent on the food we give them, losing the ability to seek natural food
- regular feeding builds up the numbers of some species to the detriment of diversity of species in the environment
- disease is spread when large numbers flock closely together as occurs when we feed birds seed.

A recent trip to Carnarvon Gorge National Park in Queensland confirmed this fact. The camping area was overrun by Kookaburras, Apostle birds and Currawongs. These birds had become a serious pest and were very aggressive. You could not leave food on the table unattended without a flock of Currawongs descending on the table. I saw Currawongs eating salami and bacon off campers' barbecues. Rangers reported there had been cases of kookaburras swooping down, taking food from people's mouths and even piercing a person's cheek.

There are numerous other examples of White Cockatoos, Gulls, Pigeons and introduced birds, such as Starlings and Indian Mynas, breeding up into plague proportions and becoming serious pests when we either feed them directly or create conditions where they can freely scavenge. If we really care about our environment I would argue that we should have a responsible attitude to attracting birds to our gardens and our environment. We can do this by creating gardens and habitats which feature a diversity of species, preferably local native plants that occur in our region.

When we do this birds will follow their normal migratory patterns, visiting when the appropriate food is available. If we plant a diversity of species we can attract seed eaters, insect eaters and fruit eaters, as well as the common honeyeaters. When we do this we really do care about our birds and our environment.

Graeme Mee  
President, Newcastle Group, Australian Plants Society

## Banded Stilts – the conclusion

The following information completes the story of the Banded Stilt breeding event at Ibis Island, Lake Eyre in 2000. Lake Eyre is now drying back quickly but the young birds are fledging rapidly as they retreat to the deeper water near Dalhenty Island and Jackboot Bay. Regular aerial monitoring by SANPW has not indicated any major Silver Gull attacks on Banded Stilt chicks after entering the water and therefore the third breeding attempt should be considered a great success.

A fourth Banded Stilt breeding attempt commenced at Ibis Island in late July. However the birds deserted the colony after a few days, probably due to the rapidly drying lake and the island margin which had receded 8 km in just two weeks, joining the island to the mainland.

This successful breeding event has gained some time for the Banded Stilt but close monitoring and further management intervention will be required to ensure their future.

*Ian May*

*Source: Galah 46*

## BA Spring Campout

The Birds Australia Spring Campout will be based at Ashford in northern NSW (not far from Inverell). It will be held from Friday evening 20 October to Sunday lunch, 22 October. Why not consider adding it to your birding experience after attending the BA National Congress and Campout in Rockhampton? The venue will be the Ashford showground so you need to BYO bedding (swag/camper/caravan/tent). However, it is fully catered so **bookings are essential**. If you are not on the BA-NNG mailing list and want to come, contact Andrew Ley (email: [aley@northnet.com.au](mailto:aley@northnet.com.au), tel: 02

6772 5358) or Shirley Cook (email: [budgie@bluepin.net.au](mailto:budgie@bluepin.net.au), tel: 02 6772 7262) as soon as possible to receive an application form.

During the weekend we will be concentrating on sites suitable for finches - particularly the **Black-throated Finch**. It is hoped that with so many people searching we may find them. They were once abundant from the Liverpool Plains northward west of the ranges in New South Wales but have become rare over the last couple of decades. Apart from the finches, we can promise some very good birdwatching.

*Source: Galah 46*

## Birds in Backyards

Birds Australia is seeking volunteers from the lower Hunter to take part in a Birds in Backyards project. It involves carrying out a survey at your home every day over a 10-day period in November. If you're interested contact me (ph: 4979 2783, e-mail [almarosa@hunterlink.net.au](mailto:almarosa@hunterlink.net.au)) and I will post you an application form.

*Alan Stuart*



## News From Gluepot Reserve

*Duncan MacKenzie*

*Source: Galah 46*

With the occurrence of excellent rains over the past months, breeding activity amongst the bird population has been high. Black-eared Miner colonies have taken advantage of the abundant food source, and repeated breeding cycles have markedly increased their numbers.

Several sightings of Painted Honeyeaters were recorded in July, with a group of six being seen in the Old Gluepot area. An Australian Pratincole and Orange Chats were seen on the Airstrip in early August.

The first of seven Malleefowl grids has been installed, and the team surveying the Reserve for the best grid sites, reports strong activity on a large number of mounds.

An ABC Landline crew spent two days on the Reserve filming and interviewing Gluepot personnel for a program that should go to air in early October - the program will also include a segment on Newhaven.

Twenty-three kilometres of the northern boundary fence has been replaced, and we have applied for an NHT grant to re-fence the western boundary in 2001. Twelve dams have been closed in a program to close all artificial water sources on the Reserve (with the exception of the two house dams), with the remaining dams to be closed in 2001. Allied with the dam closures will be the capping of the five 20,000-gallon tanks situated around the Reserve and the erection of above ground bird watering troughs and bird hides at each of these tanks.

Management Committee member Peter Waanders (who is in charge of our computing systems) has recently completed building a website for the Reserve - this can be seen on [www.riverland.net.au/gluepot](http://www.riverland.net.au/gluepot).

Over two weeks of November and December, the Scientific Expedition Group will conduct a large number of projects on the Reserve, and we are looking for birdos who would be interested in being a part of this, to record birds at 48 sites.



**OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB NIGHT - AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2000**

Apr 24	Rose Robin	2	Stockrington	P.Freeman
Apr 26	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	Broke	R.Waymark
May 14	Rose Robin	1	Benwerrin	L.Herbert
May 21	" "	2	Brunkerville	"
May 25	Comb-crested Jacana	4	Colliery Dam	P. Freeman
May 27	Brown Goshawk	1	Morrisset	"
May 23	Rainbow Lorikeet	4	Merewether	P.Gordon
Jun 18	Spangled Drongo	1	"	"
Jun 14	" "	1	Lords Creek [K10]	"
Jun 18	" "	1	Freemans Waterhole	"
Jun 10	Pacific Baza	2	Carey Bay	"
Jun 24	" "	3	" "	"
Jun 30	Double-banded Plover	24	Stockton [Sygna wreck]	"
	Red-capped Plover	30	"	"
	White-fronted Chat	15	"	"
	Curlew Sandpiper	1	"	"
	Pied Oystercatcher	2	"	"
Jul 17	Osprey	1	Swansea Channel	D.Herbert
Jun 18	Eastern Reef Egret [dark]	2	Munmorah SRA	T.Langworthy
	Sooty Oystercatcher	2	"	"
Jun 28	Pied Oystercatcher	2	Swansea	"
Jun 28	Brahminy Kite	1	Salt Ash	C. Anderson
Jun 30	Aust Ringneck [ <i>B.barnardi</i> ]	1	Charlestown	"
Jun 29	Brahminy Kite	1	Hawks Nest	M. Roderick
Jul 14	Crested Shrike-tit	1	Gwandalan	T.Langworthy
	White-naped Honeyeater	2	"	"
Jul 5	Cattle Egret	>40	Birmingham Gardens	T.Clarke
Jul 1	Figbird	8	Wallsend	"
Jul 5	"	>30	Islington	"
Jul 6	"	>20	Mayfield East	"
Jul 9	Common Starling	80	Wallsend	"
	Satin Bowerbird	2	Cardiff	"
Jul 30	Port Lincoln Parrot	1	North Arm Cove	D.Weatherly
Jul 31	Red-capped Parrot	1	" " "	"
Jul 22	Scarlet Robin	1	Blackalls Park	N.Granter
Jul 16	Rose Robin	1	Galgabba Point Swansea	L.Herbert
Jul 20	" "	1	Toronto Wetland	"
Jul 6	Black Falcon	1	4k S. Scone	G.Newling
Jul 24	Black Kite	1	Muswellbrook	"
Jul 30	Hooded Robin	1	Timor	"
Jul 9	Pink-eared Duck	1	S.W.C.	R.Waymark
	Australasian Shoveler	2	"	"
Jul 22	Azure Kingfisher	1	Cooranbong	"
Jul 13	Crested Shrike-tit	1	Green Point	N.Talbot
Jul 18	Striated Heron	1	Cold Tea Ck. Belmont	"
	Black Swan	100	" " "	"
Jul 31	Grey Goshawk	1	Whitebirdge	C.Goodenough
	Rose Robin	1	"	"
Jul 4	Spotted Pardalote	1	Islington	C.Anderson
Jul 11	Jacky Winter	1	Salt Ash	"
Jul 6	Aust. Ringneck [ <i>B.zonarius</i> ]	1	Belmont	"
Jul 17	Blue-faced Honeyeater	4	Tanilba Bay	"
Jul 18	Silvereye	~100	Salt Ash	"
Jul 26	Grey Butcherbird	4	Islington	"
Jul 29	Swift Parrot	5	Aberdare SF [Pelton]	C.Anderson

Jul 28	Collared Sparrowhawk	2	Bolwarra	H.Tarrant
Jul 29	Spangled Drongo	1	Walka Water Works	"
Aug 5	Fuscous Honeyeater	40	Widden Valley	"
Jul 29	Regent Honeyeater	>40	Quorrabalong	V. & D. Moon
	Swift Parrot	>20	Ellalong	"
Jul-Aug	Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	Wyee Point	"
	Little Eagle	2	" "	"
Jul 20	Spotted Quail Thrush	3	Summit Point	K.Gibson
Jul 23	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	~20	Jesmond Bush	"
Jul 1-9	Spangled Drongo	1	Merewether	P.Gordon
Jul 31	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	28	Ellalong Village	J.Meynell
Jul -Aug	Swift Parrot	~20	Martins Ck - Dunns Ck	M.Newman
Aug 20	Osprey	1	Ash Island	S.Roderick
Aug 31	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	45	Big Pond	"
	Curlew Sandpiper	19	"	"
	Red-necked Stint	5	"	"
Aug 7	Long-billed Corella	3	Bolwarra	"
Aug 3	Spotted Harrier	1	Bayswater Colliery	G.Newling
Aug 4	Wedge-tailed Eagle	5	Wingen Village	"
Aug 5	Spangled Drongo	6	Black Neds Bay	C.Anderson
Aug 2	Glossy Ibis	8	Pourmalong NP.	S.Roderick
Aug 4	Spangled Drongo	6	Swansea	"
Aug 3	Pacific Baza	1	Wangi Wangi	"
Aug 5	Black-browed Albatross	24	Pelagic Trip	H.B.O.C.
	Yellow-nosed "	30	"	"
	Wandering Albatross	7	"	"
	Shy "	1	"	"
	Fluttering Shearwater	4	"	"
	Hutton's Shearwater	1	"	"
	Fairy Prion	8	"	"
	Antarctic Prion	1	"	"
	White-faced Storm Petrel	8	"	"
	Cape Petrel	26	"	"
	Southern Giant Petrel	2	"	"
	Northern " "	1	"	"
	Great-winged Petrel	1	"	"
	Providence Petrel	19	"	"
Aug 3	Double-banded Plover	43	Stockton Beach	M.Roderick
Aug 7	Long-billed Corella	17	Islington	"
Aug 3	Emerald Dove	1	Wang Wauk SF	"
Aug 12	Southern Whiteface	1	Wollar	"
	Emu	2	"	"
Aug 8	Magpie Goose	6	Leneghans Swamp	M.Maddock
Aug 1	Musk Duck	1	Tarro Swamp	"
Jul 17	" "	1	"	"
Aug 5	Spangled Drongo	1	Merewether	P.Gordon
Aug 31	Straw-necked Ibis	5	Port Waratah	"
Aug daily	Eastern Whipbird	Pr	Merewether	"
Aug	Black-chinned Honeyeater	2x10+	Green Wattle Creek	M.Newman
Aug 27	Swift Parrot	3	Whitebridge	C.Goodenough
Sep 5	Tawny Frogmouth	1	"	"
Sep 10	White-headed Pigeon	1	"	"
Sep 12	Striated Thornbill	3	"	"
Sep 1	Latham's Snipe	1	Woodville	"
Sep 5-13	Tawny Frogmouth on	1	Merewether	P.Gordon
Sep 6	Spangled Drongo	1	"	"
	Regent Bowerbird	1	Nabiac	P.Gordon

Sep 1	Bar-shouldered Dove	1	Holmesville	P.Freeman
Sep 1-3	Brown Goshawk	1	"	"
Sep 3	Double-barrd Finch	4	"	"
Sep 3	Grey Goshawk	1	Stockrington	"
Sep 4	Brown Cuckoo-dove	~15	"	"
Sep 13	Pallid Cuckoo	1	Kurri Kurri	S. Roderick
	Rainbow Bee-eater	5	East Maitland	"
	Terek Sandpiper	1	Fern Bay	"
Sep 13	Regent Honeyeater	13	Ellalong [S.F.]	T.Langworthy
Aug 12	Spangled Drongo	5	Belmont	B.Cockerell
Sep 11	" "	1	"	"
Sep 9&10	Rose Robin	2	Bolwarra	K.Howard
Sep 12	White-throated Gerygone	1	"	"
Sep 10	Spangled Drongo	1	"	"
Sep 5	Eastern Whipbird	1	Belmont South	J.Cockerell
Sep 13	Spotted Pardalote	1	"	"
	Spangled Drongo	2	Newcastle	J.Moyse
Sep 11	Golden Whistler	Pr	East Maitland	J.Smart
	Grey Goshawk	1	"	"
Sep 12	Pallid Cuckoo	1	SWC	W.Barden
Sep 13	White-throated Gerygone	1	"	"
Sep 12	Australian Owllet-nightjar	1	Oyster Cove	M.Blanch
	Pied Oystercatcher	2	"	"
	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	2	"	"
Sep 13	White-throated Gerygone	Several	East Seaham	R.Carlton
Sep 10-12	Channel-billed Cuckoo		Merewether Heights	K. & M. Woods
Sep 8	Greenshank	1	Denman	A.Stuart
	Superb Fairy-wren	1	Battery Rocks	"
	Emu	5	Goulburn River NP	"

## More Goodies from Galah 46.....

### ➤ Rare Vagrant from the North

In August, at Cowan Ponds, 4kms west of South Grafton on the Glen Innes Road, a rare sighting of a Northern Pintail Duck - only recorded once before in Australia, in W.A. in 1986.

### ➤ Asia Pacific Migratory Shorebirds Listserver

Subscribe to this new email service if you are interested in shorebirds - [apmw@erin.gov.au](mailto:apmw@erin.gov.au)  
Leave the subject line blank, and in the text of the message type "subscribe migwaterbirds".

### ➤ Lord Howe Island

Anyone visiting Lord Howe Island is asked to fill in an Atlas form. Please contact Adam Bester, Charles Sturt University, PO Box 789, Albury, NSW 2640, em: [abeste01@postoffice.csu.edu.au](mailto:abeste01@postoffice.csu.edu.au).

### ➤ Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Project

WA BA has funded a research project into the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, also known as Short-billed Black Cockatoo, now gazetted as rare and likely to become extinct. A recovery plan has been written. Enquiries to Tamra Chapman and Cheryl Gole, em: [tamchapman@hotmail.com](mailto:tamchapman@hotmail.com) or [gole@starwon.com.au](mailto:gole@starwon.com.au).

## 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

Date	Venue	Meeting Time and Place	Contact
Saturday 14 October	Hunter Wader Survey	9.30 am. Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Sunday 15 October	Wader Study Field Day: Big Pond, Stockton Sandspit, Ash Island	9.30 am at the Wind Turbine, Cormorant Drive, Kooragang Island	Chris Herbert 4959 3663
Sunday 22 October	Field Outing: Milbrodale	8.00 am Broke Fire Station:	Alan Stuart 4952 8569
Sunday 22 October to Sunday 28 October	<b><u>Bird Week</u></b>	Do your own thing!	Enjoy the birds and maybe regenerate some habitat.
Saturday & Sunday 28 & 29 October	<b>Twitchathon:</b> To raise funds for purchase and maintenance of Newhaven Station	4.00 pm Saturday, for 24 hours	Phil Rankin 4946 0022
Sunday 29 October	Twitchathon BBQ – bring your own everything	<b>4.00 pm</b> Shortland Wetlands Centre:	Phil Rankin 4946 0022
Saturday 4 November	Pelagic Trip	7.00am Swansea weigh station	Richard Baxter 4954 0212 <b>Bookings essential.</b>
Tuesday 7 November	Mid-week Outing: Glenrock Nature Reserve	7.30 am Yuelarbah Track Car Park, Burwood Street, Kahibah:	Keith or Margaret Woods 4963 3070
Wednesday 8 November	Club Night	7.30 pm Shortland Wetlands Centre:	Topic: Alan Rogers – African Safari
Saturday 11 November	Hunter Wader Survey	8.30 am. Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Saturday & Sunday 11 & 12 November, or 18 & 19 November	Beach Nesting Birds Survey – to assist in managing suitable nesting areas	Any beach between Port Stephens and Swansea - In your own time	Liz Herbert 4959 3663
Sunday 19 November	Field Outing: Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens	8.00 am Hawks Nest Information Centre	Alan Stuart 4952 8569
Saturday 25 November	Atlassing: Wollemi National Park	8.00 am Bulga General Store:	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008, Chris & Liz Herbert 4959 3663 or Mike Newman 4930 5564. <b>Please ring first.</b>
Tuesday 5 December	Mid-week Outing: Jesmond Park	7.30 am Car park off Robinson Avenue, Lambton	Keith or Margaret Woods 4963 3070
Saturday 9 December	Hunter Wader Survey	7.30 am. Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Sunday 10 December	Breakfast for New Members	8.00 am Shortland Wetlands Centre:	Alan Stuart 4952 8569
Sunday 10 December	Field Outing and Annual Lathams Snipe Count: Cedar Hill Swamp	10.30 am Minmi Pub. Bring lunch and help count snipe after lunch.	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008
Wednesday 13 December	Club Night	7.30 pm Shortland Wetlands Centre:	Topic: Members' Night – bring your slides, anecdotes, videos and a plate to share the festive spirit.