

# NEWSLETTER

## Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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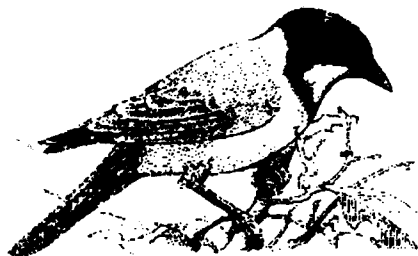
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President: Alan Stuart

Secretary: 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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### **Breakfast with the Birds**

Our inaugural "Newcomers' Breakfast" was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, and was received with much enthusiasm by all who attended. This innovative move, brainchild of our esteemed President, was seen as a way to give new members the opportunity to get to know Committee people, who always have many matters to attend to on Club Nights and so are unavailable to spend as much time as they would wish in conversation with newcomers.

Our thanks are due to Ann who allowed us the use of her garden for the occasion - an ideal venue for breakfast with the birds, adding to the total enjoyment of the morning. The catering ladies also deserve commendation for the attractive and refreshing breakfast menu, all diners appreciating the freshly produced pancakes straight from the production line.

The December outing to Cedar Hill Drive, [now Pourmalong Nature Reserve] followed the breakfast, with most of the new members able to join with others for a morning of birdwatching which produced a fine list of species, including the bird of the day, a lone Wood Sandpiper, and an explosion of Black-fronted Dotterels. The later start for this outing was seen as a concession to those who reject the usual early morning ritual, but most found the intensity of the sun a little hard to wear.

After lunch the annual Snipe Survey was conducted, the "wading" group seeming to enjoy their wallow in the cooling waters, while the counters, more exposed to the elements, withered in the baking sun. Lower numbers of Latham's Snipe than in previous years could possibly be attributed to the extremely overgrown state of the area. In all some 64 birds were flushed and counted.

*Sue Hamonet*

## President's Column

The past couple of months have been exceptionally dry. This will have caused lots of problems for farmers and gardeners, and in the bush as well – due to bushfires and to plants dying of stress from lack of water. However, the lack of rain also made for some very interesting birding as our local wetlands dried out.

The centre of attention most certainly was Pourmalong Nature Reserve. Pourmalong is that spot alongside the Newcastle Freeway, off Stockrington Rd near Minmi, that many of you will know more mundanely as Cedar Hill Drive swamp. Pourmalong has always been a good area for Latham's Snipe, but they've never been as easy to see there as during December/ January, wandering over the areas of exposed mud in relatively large numbers. But it was the Painted Snipe that created most attention, with a very obliging male bird feeding out in the open from time to time on most days. With there also being several Wood Sandpiper present, and a Black-tailed Native-hen and a Little Bittern, it was rarity heaven out there for a while. On top of that, the occasional crane and rail was being seen, and lots of the more common and/or readily seen wetlands birds were present also. It's no wonder that Pourmalong was so popular over the past two months. If you didn't get to visit there this time, bear it in mind as a place to check out the next time there's a drought setting in.

Crane sightings were also occurring at the Wetlands Centre over the summer, serving to further highlight how important the Centre is for birds and for birdwatchers. Thankfully, the Wetlands Centre seems to be clawing its way out of the financial difficulties of last year. They still have a way to go before they are financially secure, though. I'd urge you to visit there regularly (great birds there!) and to encourage others to do likewise. The more visitors they have there, the better will be their prospects.

In late March, HBOC will be the host club for a BIGNet meeting (Bird Interest Groups Network). At these meetings, representatives of the bird clubs and field naturalists clubs of NSW and ACT get together to share ideas and discuss common concerns. If you have any suggestions for topics that should be discussed at the BIGNet meeting, please let me know. One item that we will be raising is the decline in wader habitat in the Hunter estuary. We'll be seeking support from other clubs for a campaign to maintain and improve the existing habitat (especially for high tide roosting). We would also like to have additional habitat created, to replace at least some of what once existed. And the loss of wader habitat in the past 25 years is substantial, as some diligent research by Chris and Liz Herbert has shown.

It's probably timely to remind you all about the existence of the Alan Keating Memorial Grant Fund. Several years ago, HBOC was bequeathed some money from the estate of a former member, Alan Keating. We decided to use the legacy to establish the above Fund, with the aim of providing small grants for projects that should have benefits for Hunter Region birdlife. Some of the past grants included: a study of Latham's Snipe at wetlands around Newcastle; purchase of maps to support local Atlassing surveys; contribution to costs of the anti-Kooragang airport campaign; signage about birds at a site on the Williams River. If you have a possible project in mind, contact Rowley Smith who will let you have a copy of the guidelines.

Happy birding

*Alan Stuart*  
[almarosa@hunterlink.net.au](mailto:almarosa@hunterlink.net.au)



## **Saving the Woodland Birds of the Liverpool Plains, NSW**

A major wave of extinctions is currently occurring in woodland birds throughout southern Australia, including New South Wales. Of great concern is not only the large number of existing, more specialised threatened species, such as the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, and Bush Stone-Curlew, but that formerly widespread and common species such as the Grey-crowned Babbler, Brown Treecreeper, Hooded Robin and Diamond Firetail are now declining rapidly. The cause of these declines is loss of habitat. In agricultural areas, most of the complex natural ecosystems have been replaced by human-managed systems which causes a reduction in the biodiversity (number of plants and animals).

The Liverpool Plains, located in north-central NSW, is typical of temperate woodland regions in south-east Australia. The major landuses of the Liverpool Plains catchment are cropping and grazing. The major crops include wheat, barley, chickpeas, fababeans, sorghum, sunflowers, soybeans, maize and cotton whilst grazing comprises beef and sheep. The majority of more fertile alluvial soils (native grassland and Poplar Box country) has been cleared, while larger areas of remnant vegetation remain on poorer sandy and ridge top soils (Ironbark, Callitris Pine and Stringybark).

Birds Australia is pleased to announce that it has received funding from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Threatened Species Network (TSN) and the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) to undertake a project in the Liverpool Plains. The 'Saving the Woodland Birds of the Liverpool Plains' project aims to work directly with the Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee (LPLMC) and local landowners to obtain protection for woodland bird habitat. The project also aims to use 'focal species' work to identify the requirements of key bird species in the landscape.

With assistance from landholders, local naturalists, Birds Australia members and interested people from the public, we will be conducting bird surveys (targetting threatened species) in the Liverpool Plains Catchment, and will use data from the Atlas projects, to identify threatened species locations. From these data, in conjunction with the LPLMC, we hope to identify sites of high conservation value for protection or revegetation work. We then aim to use 'focal species analysis' to develop recommendations on how landholders can best enhance biodiversity in their region. This involves identifying the species in a particular area that are most sensitive to particular factors, such as distance between remnants, size of remnants, presence or absence of understorey shrubs or grasses. For example, Grey-crowned Bblers are particularly sensitive to distance between remnants while Hooded Robins may need large areas of remnant vegetation and complex habitat.

It is proposed that surveys will occur for 5 days of every month for the next 12 months (most likely the fourth week of each month). Surveys will encompass all woodland bird species but will specifically target Bush Stone-curlew, Regent Honeyeater, Square-tailed Kite, Glossy Black-cockatoo, Swift Parrot, Turquoise Parrot, Powerful Owl, Barking Owl, Masked Owl, Painted Honeyeater, Brown Treecreeper, Hooded Robin, Speckled Warbler, Black-chinned Honeyeater, Grey-crowned Babbler, and Diamond Firetail. Accommodation will be bush camping in State Forests of the region and volunteers are requested to provide their own camping equipment and food. Transport for those who live en route from Sydney may be provided.

Those interested should contact the Saving the Woodland Birds of the Liverpool Plains Project Co-ordinator, Peter Ekert at the Birds Australia Sydney office on (02) 94361349 or 0410566104 or email [peter\\_ekert@one.net.au](mailto:peter_ekert@one.net.au).

## Birdwatching in Tropical Paradise

Seven weeks of birdwatching in Queensland certainly helps to improve your skills, and there are so many "new" birds - it was great! Leaving Newcastle on September 15, we travelled each day, via the New England Highway, then Highway 17 and finally joined the Bruce Highway at Rockhampton. Our plan was to drive to Cairns fairly quickly, and then make our way south at a more leisurely pace. So, on September 24, we were sitting on the Esplanade in Cairns, watching birds on the tidal flats. Driving on, we found a pleasant caravan park, just south of Daintree, and eventually reached Cape Tribulation, as part of a day outing a few days later. We'd like to share a few highlights etc. of the trip with fellow birdoes, who may be interested.

### Highlights:

- Our first sighting of the Black Butcherbird (we were attracted by its flute-like calls), Macleay's Honeyeater, Metallic Starlings nesting, and the Orange-footed Scrubfowl at "The Boulders", Babinda, just south of Cairns. We felt we had finally arrived in the tropics.
- A two-hour early morning bird tour with Chris Dahlberg on the Daintree River. We had great views of the Shining Flycatcher, Papuan Frogmouth, Sunbird and Pied Imperial Pigeon (my favourites in a list which included 12 "new" birds).
- A stay at Kingfisher Park, Julatten, where we ran into four HBOC members (nowhere is safe!). This is a birdwatcher's paradise - the people are very friendly and helpful, and the birds are amazing: Noisy Pitta, Barn Owl, Lesser Sooty Owl, Red-necked Crake, White-browed Crake, Spotted Catbird, Sunbird, Spectacled Monarch, Russet Ground-thrush, Honeyeaters (White-throated, Blue-faced, Graceful, Yellow-spotted, Dusky, Macleay's) - all within and near the park.
- Mount Lewis, a short drive from Julatten - an early morning walk yielded the Bower's Shrike-thrush, Chowchilla, Grey-headed Robin, Toothbill Catbird, Fernwren, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Victoria's Riflebird and Golden Bowerbird (near his bower), amongst other "new" and familiar birds.
- Wongabel Botanical Walk (Atherton area) - a Victoria's Riflebird was displaying - we were very impressed, even if his lady friend was not!
- Over 60 Brolgas and Sarus Cranes, feeding in a ploughed field on the way to Bromfield Swamp (Atherton area).
- Hasties Swamp, south of Atherton - here were hundreds of Plumed Whistling Ducks and several Buff-banded Rails (one feeding on a dead bandicoot), also Jacana.
- Michaelmas Cay, a rookery for Common Noddies and Sooty Terns. Some Brown Boobies were also there.
- Woodgate NP, east of Bundaberg - a sighting of a Beach Stone Curlew, during a beach walk, and, later, two Brahminy Kites, an Osprey and a White-bellied Sea-Eagle, involved in a territory dispute. The Kites and the Osprey were trying to chase off the Sea-Eagle; the Kites retired from the scene and the Osprey repeatedly dived on the Sea-Eagle, which each time turned over on its back in mid-air, presenting its talons to the Osprey.
- Yuraygir NP, NSW, east of Grafton - two fluffy Tawny Frogmouth young, with their parent birds, in the same trees as January, 1999. An Emu, with three young, walked through the campground several times and bathed in a puddle. (The NP worker said there had been ten young, but three had been road kills on the one day).
- Diamond Head, south of Laurieton - our second sighting of a Wonga Pigeon there.

Of course there were many other great bird experiences, such as having twelve Brown Cuckoo-Doves around our van at Lake Tinaroo, and the number of Bush Stone Curlews there and elsewhere. It was good to hear their haunting calls at night.

Birding spots (in addition to those mentioned above):

- Abattoir Swamp, near Julatten - Wandering Whistling Ducks, Buff-banded Rail.
- Lake Mitchell, north of Mareeba - Jacana, Green Pygmy Geese, Glossy Ibis.
- Lake Morris, near Cairns - Barred Cuckoo-shrike.
- Lake Tinaroo, near Atherton - Cotton Pygmy Geese, Hardheads.
- Townsville Town Common (drying out in mid-October) - Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos, Jabiru, Brolgas.
- Bowling Green Bay NP, Alligator Creek Picnic Area - Varied Trillers, Spectacled

Monarchs, Lemon Flycatcher, Blue-winged Kookaburras.

- Mullers Lagoon, Bowen - many interesting waterbirds.
- Earlando, a resort (seems to be another name for a caravan park) south of Bowen - campsites around a small lagoon with a variety of birds, including Burdekin Duck.
- Midge Point, south of Airlie Beach - 60 Red-capped Dotterel, including about 20 young; Bar-breasted Honeyeater.
- St Lawrence, about 160kms north of Rockhampton - a FREE camping ground, with \$1 hot showers - lots of birds on a nearby swamp.
- Yaamba, a roadside rest area in town, with a birdfeeder - Grey-crowned Babblers, Red-winged Parrots, a Pale-headed Rosella, Squatter Pigeons. (It was a very long morning tea!)
- Botanic Gardens, Rockhampton - a wetland with good variety of waterbirds.
- Boyne Island, caravan park - Collared Kingfisher, nesting.

It was pleasing to find the number of wetlands, boardwalks and bird observing areas being promoted in Queensland. There was only one sour note: we towed our van 7 kms off the highway, over a dirt road, to have a lunch stop at Mareeba Wetlands, only to find at the gate, there was an entrance fee of \$7.70/person. Why not have a sign at the highway? We drove straight out again.

A comment in the October/November newsletter about not taking things for granted in birdwatching, proved true for us. Twice I said, "There are not many interesting birds here," only to enjoy a lengthy view of the Great Bowerbird displaying in a dusty corner of a Townsville inner city caravan park the first time, and, about a week later, to have our second and last sighting of the Bar-breasted Honeyeater in a picnic area behind a highway ice-cream shop.

We have probably all had the experience of eagerly identifying a "shy, elusive" bird, only to see them everywhere later. John first caught a brief glimpse of the Orange-footed Scrubfowl, but its little, pointy head was unmistakable. In the following weeks we saw the "chooks", as we came to call them, at many campgrounds, and were often woken by their calls in the middle of the night. On another occasion, I was thrilled to see a Bridled Honeyeater through my binoculars, our first

sighting; it flew straight at us, in its haste to land on our picnic table and beg for food!

Those visiting the tropics for the first time no doubt find it interesting to see the northern variations of familiar birds, e.g. Emerald Dove, Varied Triller, Eastern Yellow Robin, Masked Lapwing, Yellow Oriole, Figbird (these last two were very common).

Some birds impress by their sheer number and extent of range. The most common bird in Queensland seems to be the Rainbow Lorikeet - they were present at every campground. Brush Turkeys were also frequent camp visitors. Magpie Larks were everywhere up north, while Magpies appeared to have "run out" above St Lawrence. Unfortunately, Common Mynas were present as far north as Port Douglas, but we were delighted by the number of Brahminy Kites, Ospreys and Sea-Eagles.

In summary: pluses were -

- amazing birds, 234 species (24 Honeyeaters), including 64 life-list.
- Great scenery, lush tropical plants
- Mostly good weather, except for the constant wind.
- Fellow-travellers, including some birdoes.

Minuses were -

- No cassowary sightings in the wild.
- 7 storms in 12 days in the last fortnight.

*John and Beth Cockerell*

**Articles for our newsletter  
are always welcomed.**

**Closing date for next issue:  
31 March 2001**

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## **The Birds Australia Atlas Project- Activities in the Hunter 2000**

I started my atlassing year on a private trip to some state forests south of Gloucester. In a sticky 40 degrees and over rough roads Judy Westphal, Robyn, my non-birdwatching friend, and I made 12 surveys ranging from Craven SF to Avon River State Forest along the Berrico Road. We chose these areas as nobody had specifically been in there for atlassing purposes, which was an attraction in itself and we were well rewarded for our efforts. At Craven we went to sleep and woke up in the wee hours to the chuckling White-throated Nightjar call which was followed by the "chucking" of Yellow Robins as dawn lightened the sky. We saw hoards of Red-browed Finches, many of them juveniles chattering and squabbling in the middle of the road then to chase each other off and start all over again. Logrunners, Cicadabirds and the Black-faced Monarch abounded but our greatest piece of sheer luck was at the corner of Terrible Billy and Berrico where from an excellent piece of rainforest. We had morning tea with a Noisy Pitta reminding us to get up and get on with it.

As a Club, eight "official" atlas outings were held. We made two trips to Tomalpin which is the site of a proposed industrial estate. It has a mixture of habitat, parts of which have good understorey and tall forest. A good range of birds including several species of honeyeater, Tawny Frogmouth, Bee-eaters and Common Bronzewing was seen. The second trip ended up in Aberdare State Forest where we chased successfully Regent Honeyeaters followed by Swift Parrots at Ellalong. We do tend to wander off the track from time to time especially if some good birds are at the end of the trail.

I was not able to attend the February and March trips to Dungog and Cessnock State Forest areas but they were successfully completed and many pink sheets were duly delivered. In April, on short notice five of us discovered the Mount Douglas area where

Crested Shrike-tits, Sittellas, Rose Robins and Little Lorikeets were numerous. The month of May saw us atlassing the areas around East Gresford mostly in a howling gale as a result of which we did several 5-km surveys from the car, poking our noses out at strategic points. Nevertheless we had lunch with an Azure Kingfisher and talked to a thoroughly delightful retired farmer who has lived his whole life in the area and could tell us about the birds past, present and future if pressed.

We advertised Myall Lakes NP for July but ended up in the Swan Bay area, hence the exhortation to always ring before the outing in case we have changed our plans. This was a great wader day with 26 Double-banded Plovers, most in full breeding plumage. Seven people attended the Paynes Crossing day in August when we discovered the historical Stockyard Creek valley with its ancient slab hut, sandstone escarpments, Rockwarblers, Gang-gangs and Wonga Pigeons. In November we travelled over 300 kms through Wollemi NP with one of us arriving home in time for spoiled roast beef. We had started out at Putty with Speckled Warblers, Rockwarblers, nesting Superb Fairy-wrens and then travelled through ridge areas which were scenically powerful but thoroughly birdless. However, we did establish an extension of range for the Pilotbird, which called from one of the wet gullies along with Rose Robins and Rufous Fantails. They were known to come north as far as the Lower Colo and then David Geering found them near Mount Coricudgy a couple of years ago. This one was more north and east. We came home on the very dodgy California Trail down to Bulga, a seemingly never-ending journey.

Dozens of other private trips have been made by dedicated atlassers to Howes Valley, Woko NP, Bulga, Woodville, Toronto, Wyee and Jerrys Plains areas. In fact some of us are quite obsessive and atlas wherever we go at whatever time. Then there are the wonderfully keen atlassing people I meet only on e-mail, those at Wingen, Gloucester and Giants Creek. I look forward to their pink sheets to see their

latest additions and think about their journeys afield. In addition, every Club outing, including camps, seabird trips and the Twitchaton weekend have been atlassed. I think that we, as a group and Club, have achieved much and when the Atlas Project finishes in December 2001 we will have made

a significant contribution. But there is still another year to go.

Let's make it great - it is, after all, FOR THE BIRDS.

*Ann Lindsey*  
*Regional Organiser*

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## How to Photograph Birds

Birds may be fun to watch, but they're notoriously difficult to capture on film.

In response to the challenges faced by amateur bird photographers, the New York Institute of Photography is currently offering the first instalment of a two-part how-to article on taking pix of our feathered friends, which will run on our site from December through January.

One of the biggest challenges faced by the bird photographer is getting close enough to the subject to be able to produce a good image. The easiest (though also the most expensive) solution to this problem is to work with a telephoto lens. Most professional bird photographers, in fact, often use a 500mm or 600mm telephoto lens, sometimes coupled with a teleconverter (a device that extends the lens' focal length). But for amateur photographers who want to photograph birds without buying a lot of expensive equipment, there are always other methods and options.

"If you're going after the Andean Condor, you're going to need a telephoto lens to get the

shot," said Chuck DeLaney, Dean of NYI, America's oldest and largest photography school. "But if you're mainly interested in photographing birds in your region, maybe just in your backyard, there are still plenty of options, like using a blind for getting good photos." One strategy, employed quite cleverly by an NYI graduate, is particularly well-suited for the backyard bird photographer. To capture songbirds (who are notorious for their quick, erratic movements and thus difficult to photograph), she positions her Canon SLR near a feeder, sets the focus, aperture, and shutter speed, then retreats to the porch. She waits there until a bird comes to the feeder, then, when the moment is right, she uses her infra red control to trigger her camera's shutter. Birds approach her feeders and backyard perches because she is out of sight, and, as a result, she's able to get closer shots without using a telephoto lens. For more great suggestions on how to take bird photos and lots of great photos, see the article on Bird Photography in this month's Web site of the New York Institute of Photography at <http://www.nyip.com>.

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## A Birding Holiday

Fred van Gessel is looking for expressions of interest in a possible trip to the Atherton Tableland area, to be arranged for later on this year.

His plan would include air travel to Cairns, then coach to Julatten where accommodation would be arranged at Kingfisher Park. Day trips would be arranged to Mt. Lewis [Blue-faced

Parrot-finch], and other known birding "hotspots" with local birding experts advising.

It is expected that the group would comprise all HBOC members, and it would be necessary to limit the number.

If sufficient interest is shown further planning will be undertaken, and some indication of cost could be calculated.

Please notify Sue Hamonet if you think this is for you.

## A Diary of Bird Behaviour

18 February

At Kalaben Bay, a few Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were flying with a flock of Corellas.

19 February

In the local bushland a Rufous Fantail was feeding with a family of White-browed Scrubwrens and a family of Variegated Fairy-Wrens in open scrub. An Australian Raven flew onto a dead branch of a Gum tree above these foraging birds, but they did not take much notice of it.

17 March

While in a classroom at University I saw a Magpie walking up about a dozen steps outside. It would walk a few paces forward, jump up onto the next step, and walk a few more paces forward.

29 March

I stopped while walking towards class at University this morning because there were some small birds in the tree next to me. The bridge I was in the middle of crossing went through the middle storey of a wet Blue Gum-dominated forest. The small birds were Brown Thornbills. One inched to just a metre away from me out of curiosity. It was calling loudly as it checked me out.

*Colin Goodenough*

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## A very special place

Congratulations to Jenny Musicka of Musicka's Bush Haven, north of Raymond Terrace For November, Jenny sent to the Birds Australia Atlas Project 26 breeding records for her property. What an incredible place and what wonderful diligence and powers of observation on the part of Jenny and her family. The Atlas is truly blessed to have Jenny as an atlasser. Some of the highlights were breeding Emu-wrens, Black-faced Monarchs, Brown Gerygones, Variegated Fairy-wrens, Azure Kingfishers, Leaden Flycatchers.

It would be well worth spending a weekend at one of their units during the season and having a guided tour of the property. White-throated Nightjars and Barking Owl are also present.

Please contact Jenny on 02 4988 6343 for further information.

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### *A Moulting Joke*

*Richard Miller sent in this little story of a novice birdwatcher who was desperate to see a ruff. Finding a waif with its feathers badly faded and worn, he exclaimed excitedly, "That's so scuffy, it must be a ruff." "Er, sorry," replied the mystery wader. "I'm a frayed knot."*

*We do not wish to know that!*

*Source:*

*IBOC Newsletter Nov. 2000.*



## Some special recoveries of banded birds

Here are some extracts from the September 2000 issue of *Corella*, the bird-banders' magazine. In each case the record is for the oldest (greatest time since banding) and/or longest (greatest distance from banding site) recovery so far recorded for the species concerned. If nothing else, they give a feeling for species' lifespan.

Species	Original banding location	Recovery location	Time since/distance from original banding	Comments
Musk Duck	Near Ballarat, Victoria	seen near Ballarat	6 years 2 months	
Australasian Shoveler	Near Joanna, SA,	Vineyard, NSW (dead)	10 years 6 months	oldest and longest
Chestnut Teal	Near Longford, Tasmania	Near Longford, Tasmania (dead, near power lines)	6 years 5 months	
King Penguin	Ile de la Possession, south Indian Ocean	Heard Island, Antarctica	6 years 10 months and 1735km SE	oldest
Little Penguin	Phillip Island, Victoria	Sandringham Beach, Victoria (dead)	21 years 2 months and 64 km NNW	Oldest
Southern Giant-Petrel	Macquarie Island	Macquarie Island	19 years 10 months	
Northern Giant-Petrel.	Macquarie Island,	Macquarie Island,	29 years 5 months	
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	Coffs Harbour	Coffs Harbour	21 years	
Sooty Shearwater	Lion Island, Broken Bay	Lion Island, Broken Bay	7 years 3 months	
Royal Albatross	Campbell Island, near NZ	dead (long-line fishing) off Tasmania	27 years and 1904 km WNW	oldest
Ruddy Turnstone	Broome	Broome	12 years 5 months	
Great Knot	Broome	Broome	14 years 6 months	
Beach Stone-Curlew	Nambucca	seen at Sandon River, NSW	13 years 8 months and 111 km N	oldest
Double-banded Plover	Werribee, Victoria	Werribee, Victoria,	13 years 10 months	
Tasmanian Thornbill	Flinders Island	Flinders Island	5 years 11 months	
Black-headed Honeyeater	Near Hobart	near Hobart	8 years 7 months	
White-breasted Robin	Manjimup, WA	Manjimup, WA	6 years 3 months	
Logrunner	Maleny, Queensland	Maleny, Queensland	6 years 9 months	
Varied Sittella	Sandy Creek, SA	Sandy Creek, SA	6 years 11 months	
Golden Whistler	Bridgewater, SA	Bridgewater, SA	18 years later.	
Figbird	Buderim, Queensland	Buderim, Qld. (dead)	16 years 8 months	
Black Currawong	Cradle Valley, Tasmania	Seen near Cradle Valley, Tasmania	6 years 11 months	

Source: Dave Thomson

**OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB NIGHT – DECEMBER, 2000.**

Sep 28	Black Falcon	2	Bayswater Colliery	G.Newling
Oct 18	Red-capped Robin	2	Bulga	P.Roberts
Oct 26	<b>Black-eared Cuckoo</b>	2	Liddell	“
	Latham's Snipe	2	“	“
Oct 27	<b>Singing Bushlark</b>	3	7kmEast of Wollar	“
	Brown Songlark	1	“ “	“
	Spotted Harrier	1	West of Merriwa	“
Oct 25	Gull-billed Tern	2	Stockton Sandspit	M.Maddock
	Pied Oystercatcher	2	“ “	“
	Peregrine Falcon	1	Nr Irrawang Swamp	“
Oct 24	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	Seaham Swamp	“
Oct 23	Southern Boobook	1	Glen Oak	“
Oct 30	Barn Owl	1	Fosterton Loop Rd	D.Jenkin
Oct 22	Sacred Kingfisher	2	Anna Bay	M.Burgoyne
	Little Wattlebird	5	“	“
	Eastern Whipbird	2	“	“
Oct 7	Black-fronted Dotterel	4	Kimbricki-Nr Taree	“
Oct 31	Dollarbird	1	Highfields	M.Burgoyne
	Eastern Whipbird	2	“	“
Nov 2	Whimbrel	1	Tuncurry	R.Thomson
	Olive-backed Oriole	20	“	“
	Figbird	20	“	“
Nov 3	Regent Bowerbird	1	“	“
Nov 13	Little Grassbird	1	Walka Water Works	“
Nov 19	Olive-backed Oriole	1	Fosterton Loop Rd	“
Nov 27	Bassian Thrush	1	Jerusalem Creek	“
	Noisy Pitta	1	Frying Pan Creek	“
	Paradise Riflebird	1	“	“
	Musk Duck	3	“	“
Nov 17	Little Eagle [light phase] Nest	2	Bayswater Colliery	G.Newling
Nov 10	White-winged Triller	2m+2f	Bellbird	J.Meynell
Nov	Gould's Petrel	1	10k. offshore N'cle	R.Baxter
	Masked Owl [Road Kill]	1	Fern Bay	“
Nov 19	Eastern Curlew	134	Stockton Sandspit	T.Langworthy
	Gull-billed Tern	7	“	“
Nov 26	Eastern Curlew	246	“	“
	Terek Sandpiper	10	“	“
	Grey-tailed Tattler	13	“	“
Nov 21	White-headed Pigeon	1	Adamstown Heights	P.Pountney
	Grey Goshawk	1	“	“
Nov 17	White-backed Swallow	4	Martindale	H.Tarrant
Nov 25	Leaden Flycatcher	Pr	Fishers Hill Drive	“
	Satin Flycatcher	Pr	“	“
	Hooded Robin	1m	“	“
Nov 28	Buff-banded Rail	1	N'cle. University	“
Dec	White-winged Triller	Pr +2dy	Bolwarra	“
	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Pr + 2dy	“	“
	Red Wattlebird	Pr + 2dy	“	“
Dec 2	Little Eagle ny	Pr. +1 fy	Bayswater Colliery	G.Newling
	White-necked Heron	2	Parkville	“
	Richards Pipit	1	Bayswater Colliery	“
	Black-fronted Dotterel	2	“	“
Dec 6	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	“	H.Tarrant
Dec 6	Australasian Bittern	1	N'cle University	H.Tarrant

Dec	Brown Goshawk nest 2 young	Pair	S.W.C.	R.Walker
	Masked Plover	Pr + 2 dy	Eleebana	"
Dec 12	Southern Boobook	Pr + 2 dy	Shortland	A. Stuart
Dec 5	Black-winged Stilt	2	Belmont South	B. Cockerell
Dec 2	Tawny Frogmouth	Pr + 1 dy	Merewether Heights	Hannah Smith
Dec 1	Spangled Drongo	1	Waratah	Philip Pateson
Dec	Tawny Frogmouth	Pr + 2 dy	Merewether	Andrew Hamonet
Dec 8	Pheasant Coucal	1	Wingham	Peter George
	Satin Flycatcher	2	"	"
	Rufous Whistler	2	Wingham	Peter George
Dec 8	Pacific Golden Plover	~30	Ash Island	S.Rostas
7-10	Black-necked Stork	2	NW Hexham Swamp	M.Maddock
Dec 25	Banded Lapwing	13 + 2 juv	Largs to Morpeth Rd	G.Brosie

### Coming Events

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

Date	Venue	Meeting time and place	Contact
Sunday 18 February	Pelagic Trip	7.00 a.m. Nelson Bay	Richard Baxter 4954 0212 <a href="mailto:randrbaxter@yahoo.com">randrbaxter@yahoo.com</a>
Saturday 24 February	Hunter Wader Survey	10.00 a.m. Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 You must ring to confirm
Sunday 25 February	Copeland State Forest Camp overnight at The Common	8.00 am. Parking area for Mountain Maid Gold Mine	Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Sunday 4 March	Clean-Up Day	8:00 am Stockton Sand Spit Car park under the bridge	Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Tuesday 6 March	Mid-Week Outing: Stockton Sandspit	7.30 a.m. Car Park, under Stockton Bridge	Max Blanch 4961 1655 Keith or Margaret Woods 4963 3070
Saturday 10 March	Hunter Wader Survey	9.30 am. Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 You must ring to confirm
Wednesday 14 March	Club Night Shortlands Wetlands Centre	7.30 p.m.	Speaker: Chris Herbert Topic: Wader habitats of the Hunter Estuary
Saturday 17 March	Atlassing	To be advised	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 Liz Herbert 4959 3663
Weekend 24 - 25 March	BIGNET Field trip to see waders	9.00 am. Shortland Wetlands Centre	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 Rowley Smith 4964 1389
Saturday 31 March	Pelagic Trip (Fully Booked)	7.00 am. Swansea weighbridge, near RSL Club, Chalmers St, Swansea	Richard Baxter 4954 0212 <a href="mailto:Randrbaxter@yahoo.com">Randrbaxter@yahoo.com</a>
Tuesday 3 April	Mid-Week Outing: Nesca Park, Swansea	8.00 a.m. Park entrance, Old Pacific Highway, Swansea	Max Blanch 4961 1655 Keith or Margaret Woods 4963 3070
Wednesday 11 April	Club Night Shortlands Wetlands Centre	7.30 p.m.	Speaker: : Phillip Rankin Topic: : Cape York Threatened Birds Expedition