

NEWSLETTER

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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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



2001 TWITCHATHON Rarest Bird Prize



The following is a list of the teams with their rarest bird.

Spineless Spinebills
Central Coast Champions
Kurtis-Lindsey
Tamworth Twitchers
Bird Rage
Matthews Mopokes

Hunter Home Brewers

Rustle Crows
Hunter Thickhead
Wonga Wonga Wanderers
Batty Bird Boxers
Lgtsticum Finishie (or whatever!)
Wacked Out Woodswallows

CANUCABIRDIE

Hooded Plover
Painted Honeyeater
White-fronted Chat
Regent Honeyeater
Flame Robin
Nankeen Night
Heron

Little Curlew

Rufous Scrub-bird
Terek Sandpiper
Regent Bowerbird
Red-kneed Dotterel
Lesser Sand Plover
Wompoo Fruit-
Dove, Barking Owl
Powerful Owl,
Sooty Owl

Berkeley Vale Bustards
Grandmas gang gangs
Red-faced Parrots
Untouchables
Barren Ground Bristleheads
Warbled Specklers
Champagne Shrike-tits

Grey Toilet Thrushes

Rylstone Curlews

The Magpies
Wollongong Loongab
Eastern Whipbirds
Tarred & Feathered

Sooty Oystercatcher
Pallid Cuckoo
Spotted Crake
Grey Goshawk
Olive Whistler
Wood Sandpiper
Chestnut-breasted
Mannikins
Glossy Black
Cockatoo
Black-eared
Cuckoos
Hooded Plovers
Great Knot
Peregrine
Marsh Sandpiper

I have consulted with the teams and found that the Rustle Crows only heard the Rufous Scrub-bird, and at least two teams saw Olive Whistlers, and while the CCC saw Painted Honeyeaters and the Tamworth Twitchers saw Regent Honeyeaters, and at least two teams saw Hooded Plovers, and several teams saw and heard Barking Owls, I have come to the conclusion that the rarest bird was in fact the 3 Little Curlews seen at Ash Island by the Hunter Home Brewers. Little Curlews occur in NSW every few years, and the last observation was in 1997. Therefore I recommend that the "Rarest Bird" Prize go tothe HUNTER HOME BREWERS.

Alan Morris, Judge

President's Column

Elsewhere in this newsletter are details of the 2001 Twitchathon and so I won't repeat all the news here. However, I would like to congratulate all the teams from HBOC for taking part and special congratulations to the teams that took out prizes. And also, thanks to all of you who sponsored one of the teams. The main aim of the Twitchathon is to raise funds for bird conservation related projects. It will be another month or two before Birds Australia are able to finalise on how much money was raised. However, I understand that this year's fund raising effort looks like it has been quite successful. The funds will go towards rehabilitation of woodlands in the Cowra area (dry woodlands birds are in serious decline in Australia).

We're heading towards the end of another successful year for HBOC. It seems timely to remind you that we're always on the lookout for suggestions for ways to improve how we do things in the club. Also, your ideas for outings, speakers, other activities are always welcome. Please see me or any member of the Committee to pass on your thoughts – we'd be most pleased to discuss them with you.

Also, of course, we're always on the lookout for extra volunteers. So if you're interested in becoming more involved in the club, there are plenty of opportunities. The main reason why HBOC is such a successful club is that we have countless people who pitch in and help with things. Not only is it for a good cause it's fun and satisfying too.

We've had some recent feedback about the October visit to NSW, including the Hunter, by the BBC/ Iolo Williams. The first bit of good news is that the BBC is so pleased with the footage they got that they are now thinking of producing two 30 minute programs rather than just one. Let's hope that they do decide

to do this! And the second piece of good news is that Birds Australia made a small profit on the symposium that they held in conjunction with the visit. That has two flow-on consequences – they can do something worthwhile with the money, and HBOC will now get back the \$500 seeding funds that we provided towards the event. We supported the aims of the symposium and therefore were happy to help with some money to get it underway (some other NSW bird clubs did likewise). However, in doing so we did recognise that there was a risk that, if the symposium was not a success, we might not get the seed funds back. So in the end the Iolo Williams visit has been a happy story all round. The documentary will go to air on the BBC in about March or April and I hope we'll have a copy of the program sent to us not long afterwards. I don't yet know if/when it will screen in Australia.

The other day a fisherman I know told me of some waders (which from his description sounded like Pacific Golden Plover) that he had found at high tide when exploring a small creek running off the Hunter estuary. This suggests that there may be some roosting sites not being covered during our monthly wader surveys. We'd like to know more, but need a boat (or a tinnie) to have a chance to check out some of these possible locations. So, if you have a boat, or access to one, and you would be interested in taking out a few people to explore the back reaches of the estuary one day this summer please let me know.

Enjoy the summer holidays if you're taking a break, and I look forward to seeing you again next year.

Happy birding.

Alan Stuart
almarosa@bigpond.com

Birds Australia Newhaven Reserve Update, 30/10/01

Newhaven Reserve was officially launched by Senator Robert Hill, Federal Minister for the Environment, on Tuesday, 9 October. The Minister unveiled a plaque at the base of the range near the old homestead, overlooking plains knee-deep in spinifex and other grasses after the good rains of recent years. Due to time constraints the occasion was necessarily a small affair but we look forward to bigger celebrations with our supporters when Newhaven opens to the public next year. Development is continuing apace with the goal date for this opening in July 2002 and we will keep you updated on our plans.

Margaret Cameron represented Birds Australia at the launch and spoke of the magnificent support this organisation has had from the community to make possible the purchase of this wonderful area with its great range of sandy desert, salt lake and clay pan habitats. Alex Coppock, the former owner of Newhaven, said how pleased he and his wife were that Birds Australia had purchased the lease. Senator Hill said he and his government were delighted to be able to contribute to the purchase of Newhaven. Alex Coppock has given the management committee a breathtaking account of an awe-inspiring effort by himself and a handful of volunteers in fighting fires threatening the property on three fronts over a period of several days in September. Thanks to the tireless work of Alex and these volunteers, Newhaven was saved from major damaging fires and is effectively ringed by firebreaks, except in the southeast. The main danger now is from summer lightning strikes within Newhaven.

The Newhaven management committee acknowledges the huge contribution made by volunteers in fire management and other work. Barbara Lake did a magnificent job coordinating volunteers between July and September. New volunteers are welcome and should contact Elaine Sheridan on 89520190 (w) or 89526842 (h) or <grems@telstra.easymail.com.au>. People volunteering to come here in the summer

should be aware that temperatures can reach 40 plus from November to March. Alex Coppock has been contracted until the end of the year to supervise fire control and other work with volunteers at Newhaven. Tour operators interested in reconnaissance visits before Newhaven opens next year should also contact Elaine Sheridan. Newhaven Reserve will not be open for actual tours until July 2002 and all tour operators will require permits, subject to approval by Birds Australia.

We are looking for central Australian-based volunteers for fire control work. We need people who are fit and will be able to travel to Newhaven at short notice, when fire outbreaks occur. Previous experience is desirable but not essential, as some training will be provided by NT Bushfires Council. For more information and to register interest please contact Meg Mooney, 89533120 (w), 89528029 (h).

Thank you all for your support,

Meg Mooney, Publicity Officer, Birds Australia Newhaven Reserve Management Committee tanglc@octa4.net.au Birds Australia (Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union) 415 Riversdale Road Hawthorn East VIC 3123 Tel: (03) 9882 2622 Fax: (03) 9882 2677 Website: www.birdsaustralia.com.au

BECOME A MEMBER ONLINE AT:
<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/membership.html>

FOR SALE Telescope and Tripod \$350 or near offer

Celestron 20X spotting 'scope and lightweight Vivitar aluminium tripod. Easy to carry, easy to set up. This much loved telescope is quite experienced at wader ID's! And a great many HBOC members have had countless ticks with it on the Ash Island surveys over the past several years. What's more, it's one of the few 'scopes that was able to find the Lesser Yellowlegs this year! Better hurry before it gets snapped up by someone else!

See Alan Stuart or phone him on 4952 8569

Penguin suit

Fairy penguins are found along Australia's southern coastline, and are the world's smallest species of penguin. Although hardy seafarers, encounters with spilled oil are often fatal for these small birds. The oil clogs their waterproof feathers, and when preening the birds ingest the toxic petroleum compounds.

To help protect rescued penguins from poisoning themselves jumpers are used. In April of this year, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, along with Friends of Launceston Library, started a drive to stockpile penguin jumpers and raise awareness of this issue.

The response has been, quite simply, overwhelming. At the end of July, an estimated 2,800 jumpers have been received, far exceeding the original target of 1,000. As well as every Australian state participating, jumpers have also arrived from Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA.

A pattern for penguin jumpers is available below. Finished jumpers can be sent to The Tasmanian Conservation Trust, 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart, Tas 7000. If you would like more information about the Trust or our conservation projects involving Fairy Penguins

and other native animals, we can be contacted on tel: 03 6234 3552.

Pattern

8 ply wool, 1 pr No. 11 (3mm) needles, 1 pr No. 9 (3.75mm) needles, 1 set of No. 11 (3mm) needles or No. 11 circular needles.

1. Cast on 36 stitches, using no. 11 needles.
2. K1,P1 to end of row. Repeat this row 7 times.
3. Change to No.9 needles and K2, P2 rib. Work 4 rows increasing at each end of every row (44sts).
4. Continue until work measures 15 cms.
5. Decrease 1 st at each end of every row until 28 sts. Remain.
6. Decrease 1 st at each end of every row until 28 sts. Remain.
7. Decrease 1 st in middle of next row (27 sts).
8. Leave on needle.
9. Make second side the same.
10. Transfer the 54 sts from both pieces to 3 of the set of 4 No.11 needles (18 sts on each) and work a round neck in K1 P1 rib for 10 rows.
11. Cast off.
12. Stitch up sides to decreasing to 27 sts (opening for flipper). Add elastic to the top and bottom to prevent the penguins getting out of them. Top: 15cm of elastic; bottom 17 cm (knots allowed).

November Outing

The November outing was to Jenny and Ken Musicka's property, Bush Haven, which borders onto the Balickera Canal north of Raymond Terrace. We'd like to thank Jenny and Ken for their marvellous hospitality on the day. They have a large and wonderful property and the birdlife there is just amazing - great variety, lots of different habitats, easy walking.

We recorded 97 species just in the Sunday

morning, despite missing out on a few common species that are regulars on the property. We would surely have topped the 100 with another hour or two of effort!

By way of a plug in return for their hospitality, I'll mention that they have a very well appointed cabin (with 2 double bedrooms) which is available for hire. Seemed like a pretty good way to spend a weekend. Call Jenny on 4988 6343 if you're interested.

Alan Stuart

Good News for the Atlas Project

As you are aware the first stage of the Birds Australia Project comes to an end in December and results are being written up at this moment. An atlas book is in preparation and should be available at the end of 2002. It will list over 700 species, their distribution, abundance and breeding records and feature distribution maps showing seasonal variation. The who's who section will list the names of all contributors. Nearly half of the money needed for publication has been raised **through the pre-publication offer of \$77.95 (\$69.95 for atlasers) plus postage, which is available until the end of February 2002.**

So don't miss out on the opportunity to support this endeavour and have this information-packed book in your library. The book can be published only if sufficient funds are raised in advance as Birds Australia does not have the money to carry out the enterprise alone.

So support of the pre-publication offer is essential. The government grant for the Atlas project did not include provision for a book.

For us atlassing junkies the super good news is that data collection will be on-going and the pink forms will be available either from me or directly from Birds Australia. There is enough money to allow someone in the office to continue to scan the data sheets as part of his/her duties. This also means that if you are not already an atlaser you can still become one. We will continue to run monthly atlas days in 2002 as part of Club activities, but not in January.

My contact number is 4951 2008 for any further information.

Ann Lindsey

Twitchathon 2001 (NSW and ACT)

A smile comes to my face as I think about the 32 teams which participated in this year's event, 12 in the main race and 20 in the champagne. What a great 9th Twitchathon in NSW/ACT!

Thank you everyone for a truly marvellous effort. It is our "best ever" Twitchathon in terms of participation. I was over the moon just before the race began to find we had 32 teams - it certainly fired up my adrenalin before participating in the champagne race!

To coordinate such an enthusiastic, happy bunch of birdwatchers out there to win, have fun, raise \$s for our Cowra woodlands project is such fun and our group of Birds Australia cannot thank you all enough for such wonderful support.

Now to the serious business! Here are the results and details of where each team finished the race:-

Main Race

Team Name/Finishing Post	Score
1st prize	
Whacked Out Woodswallows) Shortland	218
2nd prize	
Hunter Home Brewers, Shortland	211
3rd prize	
Central Coast Champions, The Entrance	200
Hunter Thickheads, Shortland	190
Grey toilet Thrushes	186
Rustle Crows, Coffs Harbour	177
Barren Grounds Bristleheads, Maraylya	167
Cheerful Drongoes, Coffs Harbour	152
Can-u-c-a-bird-e, The Entrance	135
Tamworth Twitchers, Kentucky	128

*Plover Lovers (Kurt Lindsay 11yrs old), Maraylya	116
Tarred and feathered, Barren Grounds	106
Champagne Race	
Letsticumforadae (prize), Shortland	134
Micky Mouse Birders, Canberra	128
Warbled Specklers (my team!), Maraylya	128
Spineless Spinebills, Pambula	126
Wonga Wonga Wanderers, Shortland	126
Eastern Whiplashers, Barren Grounds	125
Wollongong Wongas, Barren Grounds	124
Bird Rage, Canberra Botanic Gardens	121
Steamed Chats, Canberra Botanic Gardens	116
Champagne Shriketits, Maraylya	103
Rylstone Curlews, Glen Alice	99
*Whitton Street Sapsuckers, Katoomba	98
Batty Bird Boxes, Wetlands Centre, Shortland	96
Matheson Mopokes, Glen Innes	92
Berkeley Vale Bustards, The Entrance	85
Red Faced Parrots, Homebush Bay	84
The Untwitchables, Maraylya	80
The Maggies, Bawley Point	72
*Grandma's Gang Gangs, Lapstone	62
Just Watching, Eastwood	TBA
*Teams with children.	

There were three things which greatly impressed me about this year's event. One was the involvement of children. What a great way to encourage them to have fun, learn about birds and to think seriously about conservation at such an early age - our birds' future is, after all, in their future hands. We had Grandma with her "Gang Gang" grandchildren, a family with their 9 year old son birding about the Capertee Valley, and we had young Kurt Lindsay, only 11 years of age, leading his

family team in the Sydney main race, who scored well over 100 species. These special little people have my utter admiration!

Secondly, I am impressed by the initiative of the Batty Bird Boxers team - Hunter Bird Observers Club (HBOC), who had a very novel arrangement. People were invited to assist the team during Sunday to erect nest boxes around the Wetlands Centre - they went birding as they hung up the boxes around the wetlands, inviting the community and the local press along for a bit of birding publicity as well. What super exposure to our great birding event! Well done and thanks so much HBOC!

Thirdly, we had great publicity and support via the Red faced Parrots team in the Olympic/Homebush Bay area during another birding activity of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority. All these novel ideas make for a great, fun Twitchathon. This birding event is becoming a magnificent tool in educating our community in what we do and why we do it. I admire you all for such initiative.

So what happens now?

Prizes will be presented at club meetings in November and December and announced as soon as possible if the Editor of Bird Notes can be persuaded to publish it!

Thank you everyone for supporting Birds Australia in raising the seeding fun for what has the makings of a fine conservation project to address the decline of woodland birds in the Cowra district.

Happy birding until we meet again on the Twitchathon trail!

Frances Czwalinna
NSW/ACT Twitchathon Coordinator
P.O. Box 1322, Crows Nest, 1585
29 October 2001

Stop Press: The Thickheads raised \$752.00 for the Twitchathon. *Ann Lindsey*

Birds Australia Congress in Adelaide

I decided at a fairly early stage in the year to attend the Birds Australia Centenary Congress in Adelaide in November, 2001 and the Campout which was to follow. There were two days of terrific lectures and talks and one day of field outings as well as dinners and a ceremony to launch the beautiful book, The Flight of The Emu, A Hundred Years of Australian Ornithology 1901 - 2001 written by Libby Robin, a self confessed non-birdwatcher!

What follows is a very brief summary of some of the ideas and issues presented in the lectures.

The Congress started with an account of the history of our leading journal, *The Emu*, followed by an explanation of phylogenetic trees, a quite challenging concept.

From there we went to the complex issue of rabbits and the effects of calicivirus which has decimated the rabbit population in the Centre. The large birds of prey are finding life tough, the foxes are killing small native fauna and the holes dug by the rabbits are caving in leaving no shelter for many burrowing mammals and birds. But bilbies and bettongs dig bigger and better holes, and on the study area, at least, where the foxes are controlled, bilbies and bettongs are thriving. So despite some gloom, lessons are being learnt about the management of arid zones.

Several papers were devoted to the question of woodland habitat. It was suggested that the decline of woodland birds was reversible by planting a mix of local tree and shrub species, but monoculture, even of Tasmanian blue gum, was of little value as habitat. However, another speaker suggested that plant regeneration rather than revegetation was more useful and that although 30% of farmers were now involved in land care the other 70% needed to join in to prevent that speaker's dire prediction that 50% of terrestrial birds would

be extinct in 50 years. Yet another speaker suggested choosing one in ten farms on the best agricultural land - not farms in marginal, poor quality country - and paying the farmers to repair their land instead of farming it.

The population of Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo on the Eyre Peninsula dropped to fewer than 30 individuals - a recovery program is in place.

But why are Pilotbirds increasing their range? There are no certain answers.

Near and dear to my heart was Dr Brian Bell's "Endangered species management in New Zealand: a historical perspective". For, many years ago, I actually took part, albeit a small part, in some of that history by travelling to the Chatham Islands, and planting wild flax so that the Ake Ake trees could grow in their shelter. At that time nine Black Robins were alive. They were later translocated to the improved habitat and continue to live and breed today.

So you spend a fortune in saving a species! What do you do when a species runs riot? Two thousand Little Corellas roosting outside the door is no fun. A contentious issue indeed, which flagged the question of birds and ethics. The Congress ended with a stunning slide presentation by Nicholas Birks who specialises in photographing birds of prey - not birds sitting neatly on a dead tree, but hunting machines streaking towards his hide (he uses tempting imitation baits) so that you get the face of a peregrine up close and personal.

A choice of field outings was provided and I went to two - one in woodland north of Adelaide where highlights included Hooded and Red-capped Robins, Diamond Firetails, and Black-chinned Honeyeaters. The second outing was to Penrice Salt Works where you can view the thousands of waders and ducks from the car. Penrice is a vast, exciting area and not to be missed on any journey to Adelaide. (Permits can be arranged)

The Centenary Campout was centred at Whimpey's Little Desert Lodge, south of Nhill on the edge of Little Desert National Park in western Victoria. The lodge provides pleasant accommodation and many hectares of natural bush adjacent to the Park. Whimpey has been working with Mallee Fowl since 1975 and has another block nearby with three working mounds so that good views of this rare bird are guaranteed. He organised a special tour and we had a fabulous morning with this man who has dedicated most of his life to the well-being of this extraordinary "chook".

Day trips were arranged to Wyperfeld National where some lucky people saw a Mallee Fowl on its way back to the mound, Chestnut Quail-thrush abounded, Splendid Fairy-wrens and Southern Scrub-robin hid in the bushes and Regent Parrots flew away often. I caught up with Gilbert's Whistler at Glenlea Reserve north of Nhill. Perhaps the most exciting thing we did was take part in a survey for the local sub-species of Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo in Young State Forest near Douglas. This study is organised by Birds Australia. If you like standing around at dusk in the freezing cold wind waiting and hoping to see some of these endangered birds then that was the place to be, for we confirmed two nesting holes and found

another probable one. One lucky team saw a female come out of her hole and watched whilst the male fed her, a process which lasted at least ten minutes.

The Congress was well-organised, interesting and fun and I am already looking forward to the next one.

I completed my holiday at Geelong staying with a friend who took me to, amongst other places, the famous Werribee Sewerage Farm. What an incredible area! Thousands of ducks spp. including what must have been more than a thousand Pink-eared Ducks, Blue-billed Ducks, Shelducks, hundreds of Hoary-headed Grebes, Whiskered Terns in full breeding plumage, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Red-necked Stints wherever you looked. Just a reminder, if you plan to visit that area then you have to arrange in advance and obtain a permit and key from Melbourne Water - Western Treatment Plant. My trip was rounded off by being present at the Norman Wettenhall Foundation Lecture at the Melbourne Museum given by Dr Tim Flannery who talked about the state of our planet and its future.

Ann Lindsey

And now for some birding humour for the festive season.....

A REAL Field Guide to the Birds of Australia

(Taken from www-personal.umich.edu/~bbowman/birds/humor/aussie.html. Author: Patrick O'Malley)

I have been interested in the correspondence on the topic of rarest birds. The following are the ones I have not seen, plus explanations. I feel quite strongly about this:

1. Approx 52 species of seabird. I don't count these on the grounds that they never touch base in Australia unless dead. Ha!

Any bird you have to go to sea for clearly belongs on the list for "Oceans" - for which country I note there is no simple field guide. (Field guide - See what I mean?). My field guide is all the more portable for excising these non-Australian birds.

2. All those alleged parrots that are really indistinguishable from Blue Winged parrots. These obviously ARE Blue Winged Parrots but on 'Bad feather days'. And the recent Wingspan article only confirmed this. The exception is the Orange-bellied Parrot which obviously exists - and I have seen it.

3. Purple crowned Lorikeet. A hoax perpetrated by whoever runs the car park at

Tullamarine Airport. My observations confirm these to be Indian Mynas.

4. Owls. Another series of bogus names, this time for the Tawny Frogmouth. People get confused in the dark. Quite a few are probably bats (both the sightings and those who claim them as 'owls'). I have torn the relevant pages out of my field guide, as they cannot be read in the dark. This is when owls are alleged to be 'out' - how convenient! All instances I have come across regarding owl calls at night turn out to be "owlers" playing tape recordings. (Probably of Ocean birds for all I know).

5. All those alleged fairy wrens that look like Variegated Wrens. Obviously all ARE Variegated Wrens (I suppose that's why the original name was chosen). See entry above under Blue Winged parrot. I've torn these pages out too - useless lumber.

6. Waders. Don't make me laugh. Days spent at Werribee Sewage Farm confirm that these are merely another single variable species, best subsumed under Sharp Tailed Sandpipers. People probably hallucinate from the fumes. Last time I was there some 'expert' pointed out a large and boisterous Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and called it a Rough. I dare say, but hardly grounds for naming a separate (and mis-spelt) species. Leg and bill colour variation, and quite possibly plumage, clearly depends on the mud (or worse) that the sandpipers are wading in. My revised guide has only one page for waders with several illustrations showing some of the major but still trivial local variations in plumage, size etc of Sharp Tails.

This is, of course only a start. I was pleased to see an honest emailer point out recently that the Lewins Rail is 'probably extinct nowadays'. Of course it is. That's if it ever existed. My observations, incidentally, strongly suggest that the so called 'Spotless Crake' is very likely an imm Dusky Moorhen, so maybe we should rethink those Crakes and Rails pages. Most people I know are honest enough to admit to not actually seeing many 'up close'. Like 'owls'

and a number of other fraudulent entries, these are said to be seen only under adverse conditions. They are said to 'skulk'. I bet. Let's tear those pages out of the guide as well, except of course for the Buff Banded Rail.

Perhaps we should produce a properly revised Field Guide that will be both more portable and more honest about the 362 species that actually exist in this country (all of which, incidentally, I have seen).

I think all sincere birders will join me in looking forward to hearing from someone more expert than I, who could lead the task of producing a more realistic field guide to Australian birds.

To be continued.....

*We take this opportunity
to wish all HBOC members
the compliments
of the Season*

Happy Birding in 2002



OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB NIGHT OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2001

Jun 24/25	Red-necked Avocet	200	Stockton Sandspit	C.Prietto
Jul 28	Little Eagle	3	Wingen	G.Newling
Aug 1	Peregrine Falcon	1	Aberdeen	"
Aug 11	Swamp Kingfisher	1	Bayswater Colliery	"
Aug 11	Swamp Kingfisher	2	"	"
Aug 25	Little Eagle	2	"	"
	Swamp Harrier	1	"	"
Sep 6	Australasian Shoveler	Pair	"	"
Sep 11	White-throated Nightjar	1	"	"
Sep 13	Brown Falcon	3	Wingen Village	"
	Shining Bronze-cuckoo	3	"	"
Sep 20	Pallid Cuckoo	1	Jesmond	G.Brosie
Sep 8	Eastern Curlew	129	Swan Bay	D. Cooper
	Osprey	1	" "	"
Aug	Masked Owl	1	Medowie	"
Sep 3	Scarlet Honeyeater	Pr	"	"
Aug 3	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	2	Awabakal N.R.	J.Grebert
	White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	"	"
	Common Bronzewing	1	"	"
Sep 9	Pheasant Coucal	2	Redhead	"
Aug 2	Variiegated Fairy-wren	5	Awabakal N.R.	"
Sep 16	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Whitebridge	C.Goodenough
Oct 1	White-headed Pigeon	2	Kotara	"
Sep 20	Spotted Harrier	1	Yarraawa	H.Tarrant
	Brown Falcon	2	"	"
	Wedge-tailed Eagle	3	"	"
	Rufous Songlark	1	Jones Res.Rd. {G8}	"
Sep 13	Rainbow Bee-eater		Vacy	"
Sep 20	Pallid Cuckoo		G7/G8	"
Sep 23	Leaden Flycatcher		Walka Water Works	"
Oct 5	Dollarbird	1	N'cle University	"
Oct 6	Satin Flycatcher	Pr	Fishers Hill Dr. Vacy	"
Oct 7	Rufous Fantail	Pr	Chichester Dam	"
Oct 9	White-winged Triller	1	Walka Water Works	"
Oct 10	Scarlet Honeyeater	8	Seaham	G.Mee
	White-cheeked Honeyeater	3	"	"
	Striped Honeyeater	1	"	"
Oct 10	Powerful Owl	1	"Bush Haven" Italia Rd.	J.Musicka
	Latham's Snipe		"	"
	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	2	"	"
Aug-Oct	Glossy Black Cockatoo	2 - 7	Wyee Point	D. & V. Moon
Sep10-24	Rufous Whistler	1	"	"
Sep-Oct	Dollarbird	1	"	"
Oct 20	Brown Songlark	3m+1f	Yarraawa	H.Tarrant
	Brown Songlark	Pr	Jerrys Plains [G8]	"
	Hooded Robin	1m+1dy	" "	"
Oct 16	Black-necked Stork	1	Woodberry	"
Oct 16	Superb Parrot [escapee ?]	1m	25k North Merriwa	H.Tarrant
Nov 11	Major Mitchell 's Cockatoo	1	Bolwarra	"

Sep 18	White-headed Pigeon	3	Kotara Heights	J.Nicholls
Oct 12	Giant Petrel	1juv	Nobby's to N'cle Baths area	"
Sep 21	Dollarbird	1	Buttaba	R. Waymark
Sep 24	Indian Koel	1	"	"
Sep 27	Sacred Kingfisher	1	"	"
Sep 14	Red Knot	>200	Stockton Sandspit	S.Roderick
	Red-necked Avocet	500-700	"	"
	Eastern Curlew	89	"	"
Sep 15	Lesser Yellowlegs	1	Ash Island	"
Sep 14	Gull-billed Tern	49	"	"
	Whiskered Tern	9	"	"
	Osprey	1	"	"
Sep 30	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	Munghorn Gap	S. & M. Roderick
	Painted Honeyeater	1	Big River Camp G.R.N.P.	"
	White-browed Woodswallow	60-80	2km west of Wollar	"
	Masked Woodswallow	7	"	"
	Southern Whiteface	1	"	"
	Glossy Black Cockatoo	3	"	"
	Turquoise Parrot	3	Goulburn River N.P.	"
	White-browed Babbler	7	"	"
Oct 7	Spectacled Monarch	1	Telegherry S.F. camp area	"
Oct 6	Sooty Owl	1	"	"
Oct 28	Australasian Bittern	1	Awabakal N.R.	J.Powers
	Brush Bronzewing	1	"	"
	Nankeen Night Heron	3	"	"
Oct	Aust Owllet Nightjar Nest	1+2fy	Tanilba Bay	M.Blanch
	Bush Thick-knee Nesting	2pr	"	"
Oct 28	Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	Steelworks Gold Course	P.Lightfoot
Oct 27	Brown Quail	2	S.W.C.	"
Oct 28	Black-faced Monarch	1	Blackbutt Reserve	"
Nov 13	Pheasant Coucal	1	Whitebridge	C.Goodenough
Oct 1	Singing Bushlark 1	1	E of Wollar 32°21/150°01'	G.Newling
Oct 15	Little Eagle Nest	2	Bayswater Colliery	"
Oct/Nov	Grey Goshawk Nest	2	Mt. Vincent	P.Fitzsimons
Oct	Sooty Owl	1	"	"
Nov 6	Regent Bowerbird	1	"	"
	Pheasant Coucal	2	"	"
	Nankeen Night Heron	1	"	"
Nov 3	Sooty Owl	1	"The Basin" Wattagan Mtns	M.Roderick/Lg renadier
Oct 30	Buff-banded Rail	1	Ash Island	S.Roderick
Nov 3	Latham's Snipe	3	Stockton Borehole Swamp	"
	Red-kneed Dotterel	6	"	"
	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	13	"	"
	Bar-tailed Godwit	1	"	"
Oct 28	Little Curlew	3	Ash Island	S.Roderick
	Russet-tailed Thrush	1	Telegherry S.F.	"
	Noisy Pitta	1	"	"
Oct 1	White-brow Woodswallow	40-50	Warkworth	S. & M. Roderick
Oct 7	"	60-80	Telegherry S.F.	"

	Masked Woodswallow	2	"	"
Oct 30	Aust. Spotted Crake	1	Ash Island	"
Oct 21	Forest Raven	4	Mungo Brush	S. Roderick
	Brush Bronzewing	2	Mungo Brush to Seal Rocks Rd	"
	White-winged Triller	8	"	"
Oct 28	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	6	Irrawang Swamp	"
	Latham's Snipe	3	"	"
	Spangled Drongo	1	S.W.C.	"
Nov 6	White-throated Needletail	6	East Maitland	"

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Grab your normal phone now and ring **Richard Baxter** on 02 4954 0212 or try the e-mail address randrbaxter@yahoo.com

Glossy Black Cockatoo Survey

Prime habitat for Glossy Black Cockatoo exists over the plains to the north west of the Hunter Valley. The area being surveyed generally lies within that region from Mooree to Dubbo and from Coolah to Pilliga. Large sections of State Forests and National parks have previously been surveyed but it is necessary to survey other sites within the habitat range.

State Forests are looking for volunteers to survey certain sections of the target area. It is

planned to run organised surveys over the first three months of 2002 with State Forests coordinating. State Forests have many survey sites nominated and will make all arrangements necessary to access private land.

Closest to HBOC members is a section east of Coolah and approximately 100km by 100km in size.

If you think that you may be able to carry out a (or more than one) 2 hour surveys please contact **Jenny Powers** on 02 4944 7274 or **State Forests** on 02 6884 5288.

You Too Can Enjoy The Luxury Birding At Bush Haven

There are always glowing reports of birds, birds and more birds whenever HBOC members go to Bush Haven. Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could stay the night or for a whole weekend. Well you can.

Jenny Musicka would love to have you and some friends stay over for just \$80 a double per night on week days or \$100 a double per night on weekends.

Just ring Jenny on 02 4988 6343 to make your booking of the fully self-contained cottage (rated at three and a half star accomodation). An extra incentive for birdwatchers is to provide a confirmed sighting of a new bird for the Bush Haven List and be rewarded with a 10% discount.

For more details have a look at the Bush Haven web site at www.australiatravel.au.com/musickas

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 Place & Time	Contact
Saturday 15 December	Hunter Wader Survey	9.20 am. Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 You must ring to confirm
Saturday 12 January	Hunter Wader Survey	8.30 am. Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 You must ring to confirm
Sunday 20 January	Yuelabah Track, Glenrock Nature Reserve	7.30 am. Yuelabah Track car park, Burwood Street, Kahibah	Leader: Jenny Powers 4944 7274
Saturday 26 to Monday 28 January	"Wongalee" at Apple Tree Flat	"Wongalee", anytime during long weekend	Contact: Liz Herbert 4959 3663 Host: Jim Williamson
Tuesday 5 February	Awabakal Area	7.30 am. Boundary St, Dudley	Leader: Colin Goodenough 4943 2696
Wednesday 13 February	Club Meeting - AGM	7.30 pm. Shortland Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Len Tolhurst – Birding in Papua New Guinea
Saturday 16 February	Hunter Wader Survey	11.30 am. Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 You must ring to confirm
Sunday 17 February	Pelagic Trip	7.00 am. Nelson Bay	Richard Baxter 4954 0212 randrbaxter@yahoo.com
Saturday 23 February	Atlassing	To be advised	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008
Sunday 24 February	Barrington House/Allyn River	8.00 am. Parking area for Barrington House	Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Sunday 3 March	Stockton Sand Spit	9.00 am Clean-up Australia Day	Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Tuesday 5 March	Point Wolstoncroft	7.30 am. End Kanangra Rd, Gwandalan	Leader: Diane Rogers 4976 1686
Wednesday 13 March	<u>Club Meeting</u>	7.30 pm. Shortland Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Phil Hansbro – Birds of the Antarctic Islands
Saturday 16 March	Hunter Wader Survey	10.30 am. Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 You must ring to confirm
Saturday 23 March	Atlassing	To be advised	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008
Saturday 23 March	Pelagic Trip	7.00 am. Swansea wharf near RSL Club, Chalmers St, Swansea	Richard Baxter 4954 0212 randrbaxter@yahoo.com
Sunday 24 March	Kooragang Island	7.00 am. Car park at Stockton Sand Spit	Alan Stuart 4952 8569
Easter – Friday 29 March to Monday 1 April	Widden Valley Camp	Table Top Creek, Widden Valley	Liz Herbert 4959 3663