

NEWSLETTER

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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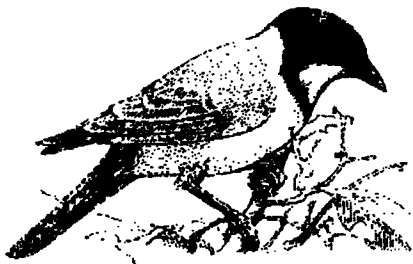
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Secretary: Tom Clarke

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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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Field Outings - Awabakal 25th August 2002

Even though it was showery morning, eleven intrepid bird watchers braved the rain to explore the bird life in Awabakal. It seemed that the birds were ducking for cover as much as we were. New Holland honeyeaters were racing around over and into the heath, chasing one another and another unidentified honeyeater. Occasionally the New Hollands would perch on the top of a twig so that we could see their white eye ring. The eastern spinebills were more cooperative – singing and displaying their colours for us.

The heath was a mass of flower – pimelea bushes covered with tufts of white flowers, some showing pink buds. The wattles were blazes of yellow and even the casuarina were covered in an orangey crown. Then there were little yellow hibbertia, the pink star flowers of the eriostemon and the delicate little purple flowers of tetratheca. Am I showing off? Of course, it has taken me ages to learn the names of some of the flowering plants in Awabakal and there is no way I am going to let this chance go by! And then there were all those egg and bacon flowers – who knows what they are called?

Those of you who slept peacefully on missed the highlight of the day. It was a brush bronzewing who 'oomed' obligingly until members of our party found him perched in a grey gum. Not only that but he remained in place while a lineup of birdos identified the lovely deep red feathers running down the back of his neck to his shoulder. The yellowish colour around the eye and the iridescent feathers on the wing were a

bit more difficult to see, but he stayed there so we could have a long look and another look at him on our return. What a great bird!

After morning tea, we headed round the lagoon. Despite the grey sky, we managed to identify various honeyeaters – New Holland, white cheeked, yellow faced and Lewin's feeding on the flowering gums. Little wattlebirds were also chattering away noisily and were actually leaving the honeyeaters alone. A couple of spotted pardalote piped at the top of a nearby paperbark, while yellow thornbill tizzed through below.

Pacific black duck, chestnut teal, Eurasian coot and Australian grebe all seemed quite at ease as the showers became heavier. Nor did it upset a couple of great egret that were croaking and flying around after one another – perhaps they had other things on their mind? We battled on around the lagoon hearing the occasional bird call but had to abandon our bird watching as the rain was too heavy. Luckily a golden whistler kindly sat in the open for us so we didn't need to use binoculars to identify him. Despite the weather, our group identified 43 birds, which was a reasonable tally for a morning's birding.

Jenny Powers

President's Column

One night a few weeks ago, I met with members of our Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) to discuss the draft 2001 Bird Report. These meetings are an annual event. Towards the end of the meeting, we took the opportunity to review how the RAC's assessment process was working, whether there were ways to improve it, and so on. In case you're not familiar with what I'm on about, I'll briefly explain.

The RAC has classified the species of our region into three categories. Most of the species fall into Category 1 and all records of them are acceptable for inclusion into the Bird Report. For some species there is a requirement to provide supporting information. This is so that we can be sure that all other identification options were considered and can definitely be eliminated. The value of the Bird Reports as a historical record, especially for conservation purposes, rests on there being such a rigorous approach to what is included. All new species for the Hunter Region, and all existing Category 3 species, require supporting information for the RAC to consider. Sometimes, the information will also be requested for a Category 2 species (e.g. if reported in unusual numbers, location or season).

The reports (URFs) of "rare" birds are circulated around the six RAC members who each make independent assessments of the report. If their opinions align 6:0 or 5:1 then a decision is made. If it's a 4:2 or 3:3 split in opinions then they are all made aware of each other's comments and the report is recirculated.

The two possible outcomes from this process are that a report is accepted for inclusion into the Bird Report, or that it is not. Non-acceptance does not necessarily mean that the bird was mis-identified. But it does mean that insufficient information was provided to allow the RAC to make a clear decision.

From the discussions that we had at our meeting, it seems that the process generally is working well. However, we did identify some improvements that were needed – including things that you the lucky observer of a rarity should be doing. If you are lucky enough to find an unusual bird for our region, and hence requiring an URF, please do the following:

1. **Take field notes**, that cover everything you can about the physical aspects of the bird, and also about its behaviour. Do this while with the bird, or as soon as you can afterwards – and before you consult a field guide. Your chances of having the record accepted will increase markedly if you have done this and you have attached a copy of your notes to the URF.
2. **Make a sketch** (or take a photo) while you are looking at the bird, or as soon as possible afterwards. It's worth a thousand words, and your art skills aren't a factor.
3. **Spend time with the bird**. Follow it, maximise your exposure to it and hence your opportunity to eliminate other species. URFs submitted based on a fleeting glance will have very little chance of being accepted by the RAC.
4. **Show someone else**. This isn't always possible, but if there's a way for another experienced observer to confirm your sighting, so much the better.
5. **If in doubt – don't submit**. If you can't convince yourself you won't convince the RAC!

HBOC has been fortunate that we have always had people with outstanding expertise willing to serve on the RAC. The tradition continues with the current membership – Sue Hamonet, Wilma Barden, Ann Lindsey, Phil Hansbro, Terry Lindsey and Fred van Gessel. Being somewhat of a "hacker" myself, to purloin a

golfing phrase, I am often astounded at the knowledge they display when talking about the subtleties of how to differentiate a bird species in the field from other species and taking into account the range of plumage possibilities that are possible with some of these. We are all grateful for their dedication.

Happy birding

Alan Stuart
almarosa@bigpond.com

Use of Library and Audio-Visual Library

As most of you are aware, HBOC has some tremendous resources available for use by members. Not least of these are our library, with books and other materials that would cost around \$10,000 to replace, and our audio-visual (A/V) library. The latter contains large numbers of audio and video cassettes, CD's and CD-ROMs, and is also a very valuable resource.

Our policy is that the materials in our libraries are available to members on loan at no cost. However, with rights go responsibilities, and there are a few basic rules that we require to be followed. Some of these haven't been clearly stated before, and it is timely to do so now:

- All borrowings must be registered. For library books, the card must be filled out and then placed into the borrowers box. For the A/V materials, there is a borrowers record sheet for every item – fill out the appropriate one.
- No more than 3 books and 3 A/V items to be on loan to a member at any one time.
- Reference books, stored in the library cupboard, are not for loan except by specific arrangement with the librarian. They must be

handled with tender loving care at all times whilst ever on loan.

- All borrowed items are to be returned within 2 months. If you are unable to attend the club meeting to return the items, arrange for somebody else to deliver them for you, or else contact the relevant librarian to make an alternative arrangement. *(No one else can borrow the items while you still have them!)*
- Complete the paperwork when returning items. For books, retrieve the card, enter the return date and put the card in the book. For A/V items, similarly fill out the borrowers record sheet.
- Lost or damaged items are to be replaced at the borrowers cost.

Please follow these simple rules and our resources can continue to be assets that all members can have the benefit of.

Alan Stuart

Beach nesting birds need your help this year!

By selecting a stretch of beach to walk on this summer you could be helping in the conservation of some of our most threatened birds. Every two years, up to 200 volunteers are sought to count the numbers of Hooded Plovers, Pied and Sooty Oyster Catchers and Beach Stone Curlews along the NSW Coast. This year is one of those years. Volunteers will be given a kit including a map of the beach/es of their choice, count forms and some simple instructions. You are of course allowed to count any other birds of interest on your way! These could include other species of waders, Little Terns, Common Terns, Ospreys and White-bellied Sea-Eagles.

The data from this year's count will be used to produce a report on the status of the first four species mentioned. This will then be published in a national bird journal. Copies will also be available free to all of our volunteers in return for their efforts. The data from previous counts of the Hooded Plover has already been used in the Hooded Plover Recovery Plan by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and has done a lot to help protect these birds from disturbance by people and predation from foxes. (It will be interesting to see if we have made a difference to the number of Hooded Plovers in NSW after years of decline.)

The 1996 to 2000 results of the Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher count data has also been analysed and is being summarised and sent to volunteers who have helped us in the past. We are again covering the whole of the NSW coast from Tweed Heads (Qld. border to Cape Howe (Vic. border). The only exceptions are Bondi and Newcastle Beaches! The dates for this year's count is the weekend of **9/10 November 2002** although there is leeway in the case of bad weather conditions and those who prefer to count mid-week (i.e. NPWS or Forestry staff).

If you are interested in becoming involved in this worthwhile project contact the NSW Co-ordinator, Beach Nesting Bird Survey 2002, P.O. Box 2006, Rockdale Delivery Centre, NSW 2216 or at: wadersNSW@optusnet.com.au or telephone 02 9597 2789. You will be put in touch with a local co-ordinator and other volunteers in your area and given a list of beaches that need to be counted.

Phil Straw

Why do Grey Goshawks pretend to be Galahs?

While mowing the garden at Woodville on 15 Aug., I was delighted to be distracted from my chore by a Grey Goshawk flying over the dam. The bird was quite low and following two Galahs. Indeed it was doing an excellent imitation of a Galah mimicking their flight style with a similar wing beat and copying every twist and turn of their rather erratic flight pattern. Indeed it was an excellent imitation of a Galah, which is a similar sized species.

While reflecting on this similarity I realised that I had seen this behaviour before while doing my bird count on a property at Green Wattle Creek about a kilometre away. It may well have been the same bird, but on this occasion the Galahs were taking a very direct flight path low over the paddock followed by the goshawk.

Thinking that I might have seen something new I consulted Volume 2 of HANZAB to find out whether this behaviour had been described before. Of course little in this world is new and I found the following comments. "When hunting, sometimes appear to take cover in within flocks of cockatoos and other birds with white plumage."

However HANZAB also says "Primarily, hunt from perches concealed or exposed." This makes me think that Grey Goshawks

associate with pairs of Galahs in order to cross open country to reach the perches from which they hunt. For instance I recently watched a Grey Goshawk make the same passage across the dam to a copse of trees behind the house. On this occasion the bird made the passage on its own. It attracted the attention of the local community of Noisy Miners and Magpies and other members of the local bird mafia, who gave it hell until it was finally driven out of the area. When flying with the Galahs it was able to reach cover without being mobbed. It is interesting that the Galahs appear totally unconcerned by the presence of this large raptor.

Grey Goshawks are not the only birds that get seen off from the dam area. On 21 July I flushed a Nankeen Night Heron, which was chased by a Kookaburra. The noisy encounter attracted a small flock of Blue-faced Honeyeaters, which promptly attacked the Kookaburra who had perched on a dead branch. At one stage a Blue-faced Honeyeater perched below the Kookaburra and persistently pulled the Kookaburra's tail feathers. Eventually the Kookaburra flew off and got its revenge by flushing the Nankeen Night Heron from its new location further up the dam and driving it out of the area.

Since May a **Black-tailed Native-Hen** has been resident in the garden. It had become fairly tame foraging around the shrub beds, which provided cover when disturbed. In early August the magpies became territorial and started harassing it. After one prolonged attack, which ended with the Magpie glowering at the Native-hen as it hid under the bushes, it was not seen for nearly three weeks. It now seems to have moved to a dam on the next block where there is more cover. The message is don't keep your block too tidy if you want bird diversity.

Mike Newman

Time for a chuckle...

David received a parrot for his birthday. This parrot was fully-grown, with a bad attitude and worse vocabulary. Every other word was an expletive. Those that weren't expletives were to say the least, rude.

David tried hard to change the bird's attitude and was constantly saying polite words, playing soft music, anything he could think of to try and set a good example. Nothing worked. He yelled at the bird and the bird got worse.

He shook the bird and the bird got angrier and wilder. Finally, in a moment of desperation, David put the parrot in the freezer for a few moments, he heard the bird squawking, kicking and screaming, then suddenly there was quiet.

David was frightened that he may have hurt the bird and quickly opened the freezer door. The parrot calmly stepped out onto David's outstretched arm and said, "I'm sorry that I might have offended you with my language and actions and I ask your forgiveness. I will endeavour to correct my behaviour".

David was astonished at the bird's change in attitude and was about to ask what had made such a dramatic change when the parrot continued, " May I ask what the chicken in there did?"

Pelagic Trip Report 14 September 2002

Conditions: Departed 7.15am from Swansea weigh bridge. Returned 3.55pm.

Sea Conditions: .5m swell

Weather: Fine and sunny all day.

Wind: 15-20knots

Maximum distance from shore: 64km.

Those on board: Alan Stuart, Robert Quinan, Phil Hansbro, Colin Goodenough, Rachel & Damian Baxter, Greg Newling, Dick Jenkin, Jenny Norton(Tamworth), Tony Adlide, Robert Macdonald and Richard Baxter.

A great September pelagic with a couple of good birds seen. We departed Swansea at 7.15am and we were immediately confronted with a .5m swell coming in from the east and this remained the norm throughout the day but generally it was pretty calm.

Not long after leaving Swansea we saw our first of many Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. These, a few Australasian Gannet and small numbers of Fluttering Shearwater were the only birds we saw in the first hour. We continued out and as we crossed the shelf we were joined by our first Great-winged Petrel and shortly after a Pomerine Jaeger joined the many Wedge-tailed Shearwaters at the back of the boat and a few Short-tailed Shearwater. We had good numbers of Australasian Gannet at this location and several Crested terns near the boat.

We continued east and eventually stopped 64km offshore at our primary chumming location. It wasn't long before our first Hutton's Shearwater appeared, followed not long after by Providence Petrel and 1 Flesh-footed Shearwater. Also at this time we were joined by 3-4 Black-browed Albatross and a lone Shy Albatross circled the boat giving all on boat a good view.

Once at 64km offshore we drifted in a south east direction for 3.5hours and ended up a further few km S/E of this. The next bird to arrive was a Fairy Prion, which was soon joined by many more and then eventually a couple of Slender-billed Prion found the slick. It wasn't long before the first Giant Petrel of the day arrived and landed 100m down the slick, which was to far for positive ID. After 15minutes of waiting it finally took to the air and revealed itself to be a Northern Giant Petrel. It was soon joined by a couple of others and eventually a Southern Giant Petrel arrived, bringing the Giant Petrel count to about six .

A short time later a magnificent WHITE-HEADED PETREL flew past the back of the

boat quite close giving every one a good look. Unfortunately it circled the boat once and disappeared, as many seabirds often do.

It was only a matter of seconds later when the first Cape Petrel arrived and landed on the slick. This bird was soon joined by 3-4 others. We had a bag of shark liver and burley hanging over the side and the Cape Petrels soon found it and sat at the side of the boat trying to get the bag open and feeding on the scraps. The 3-4 Cape Petrels eventually grew to 20+ birds, making them one of the most common birds of the day. It certainly is a magnificent sight having 20+ black and white Cape Petrels constantly circling the boat.

As the numbers of Cape Petrels grew the first Wandering Albatross glided to the boat and joined in. Over the next hour a further 5 Wandering Albatross arrived and these were joined by a couple of White-faced Storm Petrel and a lone Sooty Shearwater. Whilst at our primary chumming location we were also visited by a lone White-fronted Tern and another distant tern was probably an Arctic tern, but alas it remained a long way from the boat. Of interest was a Fairy Prion with a particularly broad bill - probably one of the broad billed races. About 23 species seen which made it a great day out.

Birds - total number seen

847 Wandering Albatross (gibsoni) 6
846 Wandering Albatross (antipodensis) 1
864. Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross 6
91. Shy Albatross 1
88. Black-browed Albatross 15
73. Great-winged Petrel 10
077 White-headed Petrel 1
971. Providence Petrel 50
929. Southern Giant Petrel 4
937. Northern Giant Petrel 2
80. Cape Petrel 30
83. Fairy Prion 40
942 Slender-billed Prion 20
065 White-faced Storm Petrel 20
913. Hutton's Shearwater 10
70. Sooty Shearwater 1
068 Fluttering Shearwater 50

72. Flesh-footed Shearwater 20
69. Wedge-tailed Shearwater 200
071 Short-tailed Shearwater 50
115. Crested Tern 20
114 White-fronted Tern 5
129. Pomerine Jaeger 1
104. Australasian Gannet 50
Mammals – 1 pod of Bottle-nosed Dolphin at 60km.

Newcastle Pelagic Trips are run by Richard Baxter and the Hunter Bird Observers Club and are non-profit outings for all those who wish to join us.

Future dates are 12.10.02, 13.10.02, 19.10.02.

Richard Baxter

Extra Newcastle Pelagic Trip

We are holding an extra pelagic trip from Swansea on **19th of October 2002**. October is THE best time of the year for pelagic birds and a couple of vacancies exist.

The cost is \$70, departs 7am returns 4pm, includes lunch and drinks. For a seat contact Richard Baxter on randrbaxter@yahoo.com or 0412 540212

This trip will be the last of the year.

NEW EDITOR NEEDED!

Roll up! Roll up! HBOC Newsletter needs a new editor from January 2003. I've enjoyed my time but, after three and a half years of editing, need more time for other interests. If you are interested in taking on this task please contact Alan Stuart on 4952 8569. Thanks!

Pat Carlton

Goose's cold end

British wildlife experts recently mourned the loss of Kerry the goose after tracking him by

satellite all the way from Ireland to Arctic Canada. Kerry was one of 6 Irish light-bellied Brent geese being followed on their migration routes by the British-based Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

Hearing that the last place Kerry was known to be was Cornwallis Island some Canadian colleagues decided to see if they could find him. They looked in all the fjords and lakes with no success. But as they were walking back to town their receiver started beeping more strongly. After knocking on a local Inuit's door they were led to a freezer – where Kerry lay, still wearing his \$A8,600 electronic tracker, having been shot by a hunter. "The hunter was a bit surprised," a senior research officer said. "He didn't know what the device on the goose's back was. We thought Kerry had flown across from Bathurst Island to Cornwallis Island, but in fact he was being carried in the hunter's boat. All the time the satellite was still tracking him."

Source: Sydney Morning Herald, 26/8/02

Update on Bird Routes

Many of our readers would have had the pleasure of visiting the bird routes at Barraba. Here's an update from Russell Watts, originator of the idea for *Bird Routes of Barraba*.

When Barraba won two National Awards in 2000, Parry Shire took up the idea, and work is progressing on the Bird Routes of Tamworth and Parry. Soon the routes will be Nundle – Parry – Manilla – Barraba – Bingara. The next development will be the Yallaroi Bird Routes, which will mean a strip of environment signs, about 50, along around 240kms to the Queensland border. Then there is the Pilliga where David Johnston has also followed the same method.

A major recognition has been James Austin's two years' work with Rural Lands Protection Board with National Heritage Trust Funds. Borah Reserve now has a sign saying "An

area of environmental significance..." and is maintained by the Rural Lands Protection Board..

Russell sees Bird Routes as a stepping stone to a blueprint – the aim being a 120km 'bird link' (to include one third of Split Rock Dam's near barrent foreshores).

Source: Tamworth Birdwatchers Inc. Newsletter, No 46, August 2002

Glenrock Wildlife Record

The *Friends and Residents of Glenrock* are writing a "Wildlife Record", to develop a clearer understanding of fauna changes to this precious reserve. Anyone with information, past or present, to offer is asked to contact: Mrs Maree Burgoyne, 4943 0305 or mobile 0410 405 815, or Mrs Valerie Yakimoff, 4943 9221

The Eyes Have It!

On a recent ABC Science Show Dr Gisela Kaplan of the University of New England spoke about her studies of bird behaviour and its relation to the functioning of birds' brains.

Dr Kaplan claims that a bird, e.g. a parrot or cockatoo, uses its right eye to watch a human or another bird when it is confident that the observed human or bird does not pose any threat to the observer. Conversely, the bird will use its left eye to watch others when it feels threatened or if it is in a vulnerable situation.

Source: Far South Coast Birdwatchers Inc. Newsletr July/August 2002

'Extinct' Ibis breeding in Syria

A new colony of critically endangered Northren Bald Ibis has been discovered in an Al Badia (desertic steppe) area of central Syria, Birdlife International announced in July 2002. The small colony contains three pairs which were discovered incubating eggs, and a seventh adult.

This is the first evidence of the continued breeding of this bird in the Middle East since a colony at Birecek in Turkey became extinct in 1989.

Two guards, both trained as birdwatching and eco-tourist guides at the Al Talila reserve, were immediately appointed to watch over the colony 24 hours a day and collect data on the breeding cycle.

"This fantastic discovery gives new hope that the Northern Bald Ibis can be saved," said the Director of BirdLife International.

Source: The Bird Observer, August 2002 No. 819

A year on the wing

"A Year on the Wing" is a multimedia documentary created especially for broadcast on the Internet. The documentary takes us on an astounding journey with over two million shorebirds as they undertake their 25,000 km annual migration from Siberia to Australia and New Zealand and back. Along the way the birds rely on a chain of wetlands where they rest and feed. The documentary focuses on the eastern curlew, the largest of all migratory shorebirds.

"A Year on the Wing" tells the story of the birds' journey as it unfolds in real time. The first part of the documentary came on line in June 2002 to coincide with the breeding of shorebirds in Siberia. Over the 12 months as the birds continue their southward migration and then return north, a further leg of the documentary will become available online. In this way, the online documentary is serialised over the year.

Interactive components are integral to this documentary, offering visitors the opportunity to contribute stories, information, observations and photos and artwork.

Join the journey at

<http://abc.net.au/wing/avowflash.htm>.

For further information contact Trixi Madon, Environment Australia, 02 6274 2393; email: trixi.madon@ea.gov.au.

Control of Indian Mynas

The Minimising Myna Project was established to investigate the feasibility of controlling Indian Mynas, *Acridotheres tristis*, by systematic trapping. The Minimising Myna project follows 1994 ANU research which showed that Indian Mynas were having an increasingly destructive impact on desirable wildlife, particularly birds. The Minimising Myna project was

established in August 2001 as a joint initiative of the ANU, the Canberra community, the Canberra Times and the ACT Government.

Field trials in Canberra backyards since August 2001 have shown that Indian Mynas can be removed from patches by persistent trapping and that the methods are acceptable to a majority of people. Most people who recognise Indian Mynas would prefer to see less, particularly in their own backyards, and many would participate in a reduction program if they could obtain the traps and instructions for use. The limiting factor in the equation is commercialisation, which depends on whether enough people would buy the traps for it to be worthwhile.

The products listed below have been developed through the Minimising Mynas project. Although they are not yet commercially available, they could become so if there were sufficient demand, the Minimising Myna team believes.

Industrial Myna Trap (suitable for community group or council) - \$1,200

Junior Myna Trap (suitable for urban blocks) - \$250

Construction plans for junior myna trap - \$75.

Please keep correspondence brief. We regret that we cannot reply individually to all communications, although we will continue to address commonly asked questions in Feral Facts, the e-newsletter of the Minimising Myna project – if funding is available – see below.

If you would like to see one or more Minimising Myna products available commercially, or would like to see Feral Facts continue and expand to address other species, please email myna@anu.edu.au or write to Myna, ANU, Bldg 48, ACT 0200.

OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB NIGHT AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2002

2002				
Jun 12	Red-kneed Dotterel	11	Ash Island	S.Rostas
Jun 13	Black-necked Stork	2	"	"
Jul	Black-necked Stork	2	S.W.C.	L.Duff
Jul 21	Musk Lorikeet	~50	Tocal	H.Tarrant
Jul	Emu	1	Keinbah	J.Goswell
Jul 27	Grey-crowned Babbler	5	Woodville	G.Brosie
Aug 28	White-fronted Tern	>17	Newcastle Ocean Baths	"
	Sooty Oystercatcher	4	"	"
Aug 3	Red-kneed Dotterel	77	Ash Island	F.van Gessel
	Banded Lapwing	4	"	"
	Spotted Harrier	1	"	A. McBride
	Grey-crowned Babbler	5	Woodville	G.Brosie
Jul 28	Northern Shoveler	1	Ash Island	D. & E.Howarth
Jul 19	Blue-billed Duck	1	Lenaghan's Drive Swamp	N.Livanos
	Spotted Harrier	1	Fosterton Loop - Dungog	D.Jenkin
Jul 16	Red-rumped Parrot	3	Whitebridge	C.Goodenough
Jul 28	Hooded Robin	1f	Wakefield	"
Jul 16	Double-banded Plover	6	Stockton Beach	K.Gibson
	Red-capped Plover	>20	"	"
	Pied Oystercatcher	22	"	"
Jul 25	Pink-eared Duck	>200	Lenaghans Drive Swamp	J.Adams
	Australasian Shoveler	5	"	"
Jul 23	Pink-eared Duck	~600	"	A. Stuart
	Grey Teal	~1,000	"	"
	Hardhead	~100	"	"
Jun 30	Regent Honeyeater	>15	Morisset	A.Richardson
Jul 2	"	>15	"	"
Jul 2	Dusky Woodswallow	>20	"	A.Richardson
Jul 6	Regent Honeyeater	~100	"	A.Richardson et al
Jul 31	Grey-crowned Babbler	5	Allandale	P.Durie
Jul 28	White-fronted Tern	2	Newcastle Ocean Baths	P.Durie/J.Westphal
Jul 17	Barn Owl	1	Parkville	G.Newling
	Spotted Harrier	1	Bayswater Colliery	"
Jul 15	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	125	Hexham N.R.	A.Lindsey
Jul 14/28	White-fronted Tern	14	Newcastle Ocean Baths	"
	Latham's Snipe	3	Morpeth S.T.W.	"
Jul 26	Rufous Scrub Bird	1	Gloucester Tops Rd.	P.Hansbro
	Olive Whistler	1m	"	"
	Green Catbird	10	"	"
Aug 6	Swamp Harrier	1	"	"
Jul 22	Spangled Drongo	1	Nelson Bay	S.Roderick
Aug 6	Swift Parrot	5	Speers Point [flying over]	S.Hamonet
Aug 8	Crimson Rosella	2	Garden Suburb	"
Aug 9	Spangled Drongo	1	Myall Lakes N.P.	S.Roderick
Aug 11	"	1	Kurri Kurri	"
	Hardhead	500-600	Myall Lakes N.P.	"
	Brush Cuckoo	1	"	"
	Scarlet Honeyeater	>20	"	"
Aug 13	Freckled Duck	6	Lenaghans Drive Swamp	"
	Blue-billed Duck	1	"	"
	Pink-eared Duck	~500	"	"

Aug 11	Dusky Woodswallow	20-30	Myall Lakes N.P.	"
	Red-backed Fairy-wren	1	"	"
Aug 13	Glossy Ibis	36	Lenaghans Drive Swamp	"
Aug 11	Olive-backed Oriole	1	Woodberry	R&J. Smith/R.Marshall
Aug 10	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	"	"
	Swamp Harrier	1	"	"
Aug 11	Red-kneed Dotterel	6	Pambalong N.R.	J.Adams
Aug 13	Black-tailed Native Hen	1	"	S.Roderick
	Swamp Harrier	1	Lenaghan's Drive	"
Aug 6	Black-necked Stork	1	Ash Island [Deep Pond]	T.Clarke
Aug 8	Pacific Baza	1	New Lambton Heights	P.Lightfoot/W.Bar den
	Black-necked Stork	2	S.W.C.	"
1-14	Swift Parrot	6+	Bonnells Bay	E.McKane
Aug 2	Powerful Owl	1	East Seaham	R.Carlton
Aug 17	Banded Lapwing	14	Bolwarra	H.Tarrant
Aug 21	Australian Shelduck	1	Colliery Dam – Mulbring	P.Freeman
	Hardhead	>200	"	"
	Spotted Quail-thrush	1	Tomalpin Woodland – Kurri Kurri	"
Aug 3	Black-tailed Godwit	1	Ash Island	"
Aug 28	Sooty Oystercatcher	4	Newcastle Ocean Baths	G.Brosie
	White-fronted Tern	1	"	"
	Prion [spp] wreck	1	"	"
Aug 1	Gull-billed Tern	4	Ash Island	P.Freeman
Aug 24	Stubble Quail	2	Tomalpin Woodland	"
Aug 30	Gang Gang Cockatoo	4	Wattagan S.F.	"
Aug 30	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	1	Wangi	C.Goodenough
Sep 10	Eastern Spinebill	1	Whitebridge	"
Aug 20	Grey Shrike-thrush	1	Speers Point	R.Walker
Sep 6	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	1+3yng	Warners Bay	"
Sep 11	Latham's Snipe	2	Toronto Wetland	L.Crawford
Sep 3-4	Swift Parrot	10	Toronto [Brighton Avenue]	"
Sep 6	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Speers Point	Sue Hamonet
Sep 7	Common Koel	1	"	"
Sep 7	Grey Goshawk	1	Fosterton bridge – Dungog	G.Wright
Sep 3	Barn Owl	1	Cardiff	N.Livanos
Sep 8	Striated Pardalote nest	2	Pokolbin	"
Sep 8	Spangled Drongo	1	Awabakal N.R.	L.Ernst
	White-throated Gerygone	1	"	"
	Spotted Pardalote nest	2pr.	South Dudley beach	"
Sep 5	Red-kneed Dotterel	6	Pambalong N.R.	K.Gibson
	Black-fronted Dotterel	>12	"	"
	Swamp Harrier	2	"	"
Sep 6	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Eleebana	A.Gooden
Aug 24	Black Falcon	2	Martindale 32°30'/150°37'	Newman/C&L Herbert
	Speckled Warbler	1	"	M.Newman
Aug 15	Grey Goshawk	1	Woodville	"
Aug 22	Latham's Snipe	5	"	"
	Black-tailed Native Hen	1	"	"
	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	"	"
Aug 24	Australian Owlet Nightjar	1	Doyles Ck. 32°31'/150°49'	"
	Yellow Robin nb	1	"	"
	White-browed Babbler		Jones Res. Rd. 32°30'/150°48'	Newman/Tarrant
	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	1	"	"

	Brown Goshawk	Pr	"	"
Aug 16	Grey-crowned Babbler		Undercliff 32.57/151.08	M.Newman
	Hardhead	Sml flock	"	"
	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	1	Yango Tr. Finchley 32.58/151.00	"
	Rockwarbler	1	Yango Ck.Rd. 33.00/151.07	"
	Spotted Quail Thrush	Pr	Boree Track 33.03/151.04'	"
	Rockwarbler	1	Finchley 32.59/151.01	"
	New Holland Honeyeater	6+	"	"
Aug 16	White-cheeked Honeyeater	1	Finchley 32.59/151.01	M.Newman
May 4	Green Catbird	1	"Warakeila" 32.15/151.31	"
Jul 28	Grey Goshawk	1	Martins Creek 32.34/151.39	"
	Musk Lorikeet	3	"	"
Jun 30	Pacific Baza	1	"	"
Aug 15	Grey Goshawk	1	Woodville	"
Aug 2	Black-tailed Native Hen	1	"	"
Aug 1	Peregrine Falcon	1	"Warakeila"	"
	Red-backed Fairy Wren	4	"	"
	Bassian Thrush	1	"	"
Aug 17	Painted Button-quail	2	Green Wattle Ck. 32.39/151.38	"
Aug 22	"	1	"	"
Aug 17	Striated Thornbill nb	Pr	"	"
Aug 17	Banded Lapwing	5	Flat Rd. Bolwarra	H.Tarrant
Aug 18	"	14	"	"
Sep 7	"	10	"	"
Aug 17	Zebra Finch	25-30	Bolwarra	"
Aug	Long-billed Corella	110	"	"
Aug	Emu	2	10km from Scone	"
Aug 17	Spotted Harrier	1	Woodville	"
Aug 9	Square-tailed Kite	1	Over N'cle Wetland Reserve	"
Aug 31	Sooty Oystercatcher	4	Swan Bay	"
	Musk Lorikeet	B	"	"
Sep 6	White-throated Gerygone	1	Walka Water Works	"

Coming Events

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

Date	Activity	Time and Place	Contact
Saturday 12 October	Pelagic Trip	6:00am Swansea Wharf	Richard Baxter 4954 0212
Saturday 19 October	Hunter Wader Survey	7:15am. Various locations as directed.	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 You must ring to confirm.
Sunday 20 October	Allworth area, Bucketts Way.	8:30am End of Allworth Road	Leader: Sue Hamonet 4958 1023
Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October	TWITCHATHON Join a team and help raise money for Cowra Wetlands	4.00 p.m. Saturday 26 through to 5.00 p.m. Sunday 27	
Sunday 27 October	TWITCHATHON BBQ	5.00 p.m. The Wetlands Centre	Coordinator: Steve Roderick 4930 4800
Tuesday 5 November	Mid-Week Outing Shortland Wetlands	7.30 a.m. Wetlands Car Park	Leader: Robert Stewart 4963 2029
Wednesday 13 November	Club Night	7.30 p.m. The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: To be advised
Saturday 16 November	Hunter Wader Survey	7:00am. Various locations as directed.	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 You must ring to confirm.
Saturday 16 November	Pelagic Trip	7:00am Swansea Wharf	Richard Baxter 4954 0212
Saturday 23 November	Atlassing	To be advised	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 You must ring to confirm
Sunday 24 November	Harrington	9:00am. Harrington Rainforest Walk (next to caravan park)	Contact: Di Johnson 4975 1777
Tuesday 3 December	Mid-Week Outing Swansea/Catherine Hill Bay	7.30 a.m. Car Park, End Park Street, Swansea	Leader: Don Moon 4359 1670
Saturday 7 December	Annual Latham's Snipe Count: Pambalong NR	8:30am Minmi Pub	Leader: Liz Herbert 4959 3663
Wednesday 11 December	Club Night	7.30 p.m. The Wetlands Centre	Members Christmas Show Byo slides, anecdotes, videos and a plate to share.
Saturday 21 December	Hunter Wader Survey	10:00am. Various locations as directed.	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 You must ring to confirm.