

# NEWSLETTER

## Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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

President: Liz Crawford

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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### Newsletter Deadlines

**Closing Dates for the next few editions are:**

<b>August/September</b>	<b>1 August</b>
<b>October/November</b>	<b>27 September</b>
<b>December/January</b>	<b>30 November</b>
<b>February/March</b>	<b>30 January 2004</b>

**Newsletter articles are always welcome.**

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## CLUB OUTINGS AND CAMPS

**Tuesday. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003**  
**Chain Valley Bay**

Our planned outing to Colongra Lagoon, Lake Munmorah had to be changed as this area – which is on the western side of Munmorah Power Station – has been fenced in and is no longer accessible.

After meeting at the designated place, we proceeded over the highway to Chain Valley Bay South - first to the area near the community hall, then along the concrete pathway between Scaysbrook Avenue and Carters Road passing over Karigran Creek.

We saw Noisy Friarbirds, Red Wattlebirds White-cheeked and Yellow Faced Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebills. Near the creek we found a Moorhen and two White-Faced Herons perched high in a dead tree.

Our next stop was the lakeside reserve for morning tea, where a White-Breasted Sea Eagle was seen plus – in the bay – many cormorants, ducks and an intermediate Egret.

We then proceeded up the highway to Lake Macquarie State Recreation Area at Chain Valley Bay North. At first this area was very quiet until we reached Tiembula Creek and down to the lake shore where we saw more honeyeaters, lots of Eastern Spinebills, Variegated Wrens, Red Browed Finches and a Fan Tailed Cuckoo.

A total of 61 birds species were sighted for the morning and two new areas added to list of viewing sites around the large and beautiful Lake Macquarie.

Don Moon

## **Easter Camp** **Munghorn Gap**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April. What a day to be packing up to go camping. The rain was persistent and as we drove through Maitland it just fell down, but as we drove west it eased and by the time we reached Honeyeater Flat the weather was fine.

There were already several camps set up and we hoped for a great weekend. We weren't disappointed. Some interesting observations were:-Regent, White-Eared, Striped and Black-Chinned Honeyeaters, Little Friarbird, Rock Warbler, Red Browed Treecreeper, Hooded Robin, Singing Bushlark, Diamond Firetail, Gang Gang Cockatoo, Brown Quail, Black Kite and Emu.

There was an abundance of Little Lorikeets and an uncountable number of Noisy Friarbirds. The elusive Lyrebirds was heard calling each morning and seen by one lucky observer only.

Possibly the highlight of the weekend was the sighting of a pair of Turquoise Parrots with young, nesting in a stump beside Moolarben Road. These were found by Robert MacDonald, a recent recruit to the joys of birdwatching. Robert also found the Regent Honeyeaters down the same road.

At night Southern Boobook, Tawny Frogmouth, Australian Owlet-Nightjar and two Powerful Owl ( male and female identified by their slightly different calls) were heard.

A total of 103 species were seen and/or heard by 35 members

( cont'd next page)

Our evenings around the campfire were the usual pleasant occasions. Our thanks must go to the people who kept the campfire burning, On two nights we were entertained via the wonders of modern technology with images on a laptop that were captured by Chris Herbert who had spent hours photographing the Turquoise Parrots and other birds. Thank you, Chris.

We also celebrated with Margaret Stuart her birthday complete with cake and champagne. Happy birthday Margaret, I'm sure it was one birthday you won't forget.

I am confident that everyone at the Easter Camp had a very enjoyable weekend, as we did.

Leone Storm.

### **Anzac Day Weekend Camp Glen Nature Reserve (formerly Craven State Forest)**

Packing up in the rain again! As we set out up the Bucketts Way the sky did not look promising. We met up with Alan Stuart and Rowley Smith and worked out where we were to camp. The problem was finding a dry spot – it was very, very wet. Luckily there were only intermittent showers over the weekend and we were able to get plenty of birdwatching done. Nine members attended this camp- the rain probably put some off

On Saturday morning six-day trippers arrived including Bruce MacKay, Dennis Bristow and Garry Germon from Gloucester who led us on a Rainforest Walk and then to Stratford School Reserve. Thank you Bruce, Garry and Dennis for a very productive morning.

Some of the sightings were Yellow-Throated Scrubwren, White-Naped Honeyeater, Crested Shrike-Tit, Topknot Pigeon, Catbird, Little Cuckoo Strike, Brush Turkey, Pale Yellow Robin, Rose Robin, Mistletoe Bird, Wedge tailed Eagle, White Bellied Sea Eagle and Black Falcon. A Russet Tailed Thrush was heard near the camp each morning and also during our Rainforest Walk.

On Sunday Morning Liz Crawford was scanning trees away in the distance and found a Koala. What a lovely sight!

It was a very enjoyable weekend despite the rain with a total of 54 birds seen and/or heard.

Leone Storm.

### **SINGLETON BIRD OBSERVERS MAKE A START**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> may saw the first meeting of the Upper hunter bird watchers group. The place was Lake Liddell Recreation Area, a site not previously checked by our visitors from HBOC Newcastle. It combined a large area of water with grassland and lots of tall eucalypts. This gave plenty of scope for different types of sightings, waterbirds, raptors and honeyeaters. The day was chosen to fit in the middle of other HBOC activities, but being Mother's Day, quite a few folk couldn't attend. Some brought Mother with them or came to support Mother. Great idea.

There was much debate over grebes, final decision being for both types, Australasian and Hoary Headed. The overall Bird Call was 45 sightings, highlights were three pairs of Great Crested Grebe and a pair of Whistling Kite at nest? Most before lunch with a few more added during a walk after the billy boiled.

It was decided the venue was a good place to visit in different seasons and would be of interest to Newcastle members, especially when the eucalypts were in flower. So we will plan another outing here in early Spring.

Next outing will be at Mt Royal, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 10am meeting at picnic area Lake St. Clare then onto Youngville Picnic Area in Mt Royal N.P.

Diane Lamb

**The Singleton Group of HBOC has met and held its first field outing. Diane Lamb of Milbrodale is coordinating the group and it will be holding regular outings in that part of the world. These outings will be notified in the Newsletter. The Singleton Group outings are open to all Club members and visitors are very welcome.**

**Sunday 25 May**  
**Field Outing. East Seaham**

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A long convoy of 4WDs pulled out of McDonalds at Raymond Terrace at about 8.15am. Each vehicle held excited HBOC members champing at the bit to get to "Sinclairs Point" along East Seaham Road – a beautiful 700 acre property. Mary Duncan came down to greet us and very kindly led the way in her 4WD onto her property which looked very promising from a birdos point of view.

We made our first stop alongside a large watery expanse of lowland which yielded great views of Black Swans, Straw-necked Ibis and five Grey-crowned Babblers. We wandered along the bank of the Williams River, edged with leafy vegetation. Yellow and Brown Thornbills, Superb Wrens, Golden Whistlers and Grey Fantails flitted from tree to tree. We were in our element. A lovely little Rose Robin caught our eye.

Meanwhile some of us gazed overhead at great views of two Sea Eagles, a Whistling Kite being harassed by Ravens and an Australian Hobby. They obviously appreciated this landscape of waterbirds and passerines.

Further up the hill away from the river in amongst eucalypts when we least expected it, a shining Bronze Cuckoo was spied enjoying a tasty meal. We passed a huge Sea Eagle's nest and headed for a stand of paperbarks and other eucalypts. There we came across three Jackie Winters and a good number of Brown-Headed Honeyeaters making our total of species for the day sixty three.

The variety of birdlife due to the different habitats on Mary's property made it a great spot to visit and well worth a return trip in spring.

Di Johnson

**Saturday 24 May Atlassing**  
**Wybong – Upper Hunter**

Ten enthusiastic atlassers descended on Christine and Ray Phelps' property at Wybong under threatening skies. After morning tea in their warm lounge room, waiting for the rain to stop, atlassing began with the birds emerging to forage as the weather cleared.

The count rose as we walked the road with lots of Thornbills, Golden Whistlers and an elusive Rose Robin. A walk across Phelps and neighbours open paddocks revealed a pair of Hobbys making several raids over a clump of trees with assistance from five Pied Butcherbirds. Soon after, a Spotted Harrier arrived amid much alarm from the Noisy Miners and a small party of Grey-Crowned Babblers foraged at the foot of a Casuarina. The rocky hillside across the road added Rock and Speckled Warblers, Grey Fantail and White-browed Scrubwren. Lunch on our hosts front lawn was accompanied by a variety of species including colourful butterflies on a Lavender bush that drew much attention from the photographers. Then we were interrupted by the arrival overhead of a Black Falcon which obliged by circling for several minutes giving excellent views and prompting much "coaching" on identifying this exciting species.

After lunch we moved to property on Mangoola Road and walked through some very productive woodland which produced Common Bronzewing, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Double Barred and Red Browed Finches, Brown Treecreeper and the interesting sight of male Golden and Rufous Whistlers in close proximity. An enjoyable days birding with 71 species in all. One or two people got new "ticks" and all expressed the desire to return in spring when many more species should be present and to identify the mystery Raptor that Christine says nests on a nearby transmission tower.

Greg Newling

## Travellers Tales

*Joy Nichols of Kotara Heights emailed the following breathless dispatch from the heart of the Northern Territory on 22 May.*

Currently I am in Darwin about to leave tomorrow for Kakadu. To date I have seen over 75 new (for me) species. Having covered nearly 8000 kms in 6 weeks I feel I am travelling way too fast to really enjoy the places I've been to. When I get time I'll write up some of the places I have been particularly impressed with as birding sites, for the newsletter. (Thanks, Joy!)

I had the good luck at Kingfisher Park to briefly meet an ornithologist Lloyd Neilsen and he pointed me in the right direction for North Qld birding sites which proved excellent advice. But I also found a few others myself. Kingfisher Park being one.

Of the birds I've seen many are spectacular, but outstanding were the Golden Bowerbird, Victorias Riflebird and both sexes of the Shining Flycatcher. Also enjoyed watching a Great Bowerbird trying to seduce a lady friend. His display didn't lack for trying but the lady was the type who wanted a 5 bedroom bower with en suites and his efforts failed.

Have to be at Mornington Station by June 12<sup>th</sup> but have lots of places I would like to return to for longer visits. My favourite birding site remains the Ivy Cottage Tearooms at Paluma where one sits and drinks Perc. Coffee and munches on delicious Chocolate Cake while MacLeays, Graceful and Yellow Spotted Honeyeaters feed 6 ft. away: then the piece de resistance, in comes a Victorias Riflebird to eat everyone else's Devonshire Tea.

Joy Nichols

## Local Observations: Common Koel.

*The Club has received the following report from Mr Philip Howard of Jewells. He has at least 30 minutes of VHS video and digital footage of Koels from last year that he is willing to pass on to anyone interested.*

After at least 15 years of being interested in the Koel, and learning of their habits, and finally seeing a male from about 30 metres about seven years ago, I now have the pleasure of observing a female with sometimes two males, feeding on Alexander Palm seeds and living only metres from my back deck. At times they sit for hours lazily relaxing in the seed clusters, sun-baking.

It seems that they arrive each year on 1<sup>st</sup> October and leave sometime in March. Apart from the wolf-whistle call of the male and the "hello-hello-hello" of the female, when they are about to mate the male sounds like a chook picking around in a chook pen, or someone calling "chook-chook-chook".

He will attempt to feed her with the little red palm seeds most of the time, but she is very independent and will get her own. They climb head first down into the centre of the cluster to get to the seeds after they eat the easier to get ones. After feeding, sometimes hours later, they will regurgitate the seed, stripped of its red skin.

The male, although jet-black, has an emerald sheen especially around the head and chest. The female, of brown speckled colour is beautifully marked. As I penned this report the female flew into an ironbark tree on my back fence, followed by the male and as they mated they were both holding the same seed in their beaks at the same time. What a photo opportunity lost!

It seems ironic that in my estate I'm probably the only person, along with my wife, remotely interested in the Koel and we have the pleasure of hosting them. (and, of course the "Maggies" who play host to their eggs).

## OSPREY STUDY

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Ekerlogic Consulting Services ( Peter Ekert) has been commissioned by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to carry out a Review of the Status of Osprey Nesting in NSW. The study is funded by the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife.

The aim of the project is to prepare an up-to-date inventory of nesting Ospreys in NSW collating existing information from various sources and updating and adding to this information through field surveys. The information will be used by NPWS to prepare a recovery plan for the species in NSW where it is listed as Vulnerable.

Peter is looking for information on current and previously active Osprey nests. In addition Field Surveys will occur from June-November 2003 (during the breeding season) to "ground truth" this information and add to the data available.

There are occasional sightings around this area along the coast although the species is more abundant further north.

**If anyone has any information on nesting Ospreys anywhere in NSW could they please contact Peter Ekert directly at:  
02 4950 0573 or 0140 566 104  
or by email [peter@ekerlogic.com.au](mailto:peter@ekerlogic.com.au).**

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## BLACK NECKED STORK STUDY

Greg Clancy has commenced his Ph.D. research on the Black Necked Stork (Jabiru). The main thrust of the work is on breeding and foraging behaviour and diet however he is keen to get baseline information on the present (and former) distribution and status of the species in the state. He is keen to find out if anyone knows of any regular breeding pairs or if any local birdos have a good understanding of their status in the Hunter Region.

Contact [gclancy@tpg.com.au](mailto:gclancy@tpg.com.au).

## BATS IN BIRDS NESTS

NSW State Forests have been researching golden-tipped bats (a rare species) and have discovered an unusual case of cohabitation.

The idea of the research was to find the bats prior to logging and exclude their habitat from logging activities. The bats were considered extinct until 1981. They were rediscovered by the use of harp traps designed to catch echo-locating bats. Since then they have remained enigmatic with details of their unusual roosting and foraging habits only recently revealed.

The study was undertaken near Narooma on the South Coast. They caught and radio tracked 11 bats. They found 50% of daytime roosts were in yellow throated scrubwren nests, 27% in the nests of brown gerygone and the remainder beneath moss on tree trunks or in foliage.

The nests of yellow throated scrubwrens were very suitable as they were often multi-tiered with the bats roosting at the bottom and the birds nesting at a higher level. The bats even used nests as maternity roosts where young bats are born and raised.

The golden tips of the bats fur, which prompted its name, camouflaged the bat in the moss and lichen found in these birds nests.

So, next time you are looking at the lovely nest of a yellow throated scrubwren don't just check out the birds – look for squatters in the basement!

The article on which this summary is based appears in Bush Telegraph/Autumn 2003 a publication of NSW State Forest. Thank to Max Blanch for pointing it out.

A video clip of the bats can be viewed at [www.forest.nsw.gov.au/bush/feb03/stories/14](http://www.forest.nsw.gov.au/bush/feb03/stories/14)

## REGENT HONEYEATER AND SWIFT PARROT RESULTS 2002

### Swift Parrots:

Last year proved to be a particularly interesting year with the largest number of Swift Parrots ever being recorded in NSW and the lowest number ever recorded in Victoria since the commencement of the Swift Parrot Recovery Program in 1995. Good coverage was obtained of potential habitats and yet still only half of the population was located, indicating we have a lot to learn about drought conditions facing these birds.

In both the May and August surveys the largest number of Swift Parrots were on the Central and North Coast where birds were feeding on Nectar and lerp from Forest Red Gum and Swamp Mahogany.

Birds from around the state were also recorded in Mugga Ironbark Narrow leaved Ironbark and Broad Leaved Ironbark, various box species including White, Grey and Yellow Box, Spotted Gum, Red and Yellow Bloodwood, Sydney Blue Gum, Angophora Melaleuca sp. and Banksia sp.

It is interesting to note that over one third of the population (650 birds) were recorded roosting in a single location on the Central Coast just after the August Survey. The site was in suburbia and consisted entirely of trees in backyards.

STATE	MAY	AUGUST
VIC	167	33
NSW	1077	1022
South Coast	0	7
Central Coast	543	828
North Coast	447	137
S.W. Slopes	38	39
C.W.Slopes	15	5
N.W.Slopes	8	6
Tablelands	26	0

### Regent Honeyeaters

Regent Honeyeaters, also drought affected, were expected to move towards the coast as the Swift Parrots had done. Predictions were looking good when 10 or so Regents were recorded from Coal Point on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Several weeks later reports came in from Swamp Mahogany patches at Belmont Swamp, Swansea, Wyee Point and Medowie. Then a flock of 25 Regents were seen at Buttaba on Lake Macquarie on 25<sup>th</sup> May but despite large numbers of Swift Parrots in Swamp Mahogany on the coast only 50 Regent Honeyeaters were found on 25-26 May, the Survey Weekend.

The following few weeks soon revealed much more of the Regent population. 100+ birds were to be seen South of Morisset from 27 June to 30 August, 16 birds were seen at Kariong on the Central Coast and yet another flock of about 65 Regents were located in Swamp Mahogany near Wyong at South Tacoma. In the first week of August a minimum of 210 Regents were recorded primarily from Swamp Mahogany across four locations. Where are all the other Regents?

### **LETS SEARCH!**

The Hunter proved to be a major success in terms of Regent Honeyeater/Swift Parrot sightings. Large numbers of Regents coming from near Morisset and large numbers of Swifts being found around Lemon Tree Passage and Fingal Bay. Many other areas across the Hunter recorded both species. The importance of these coastal habitats is proven when these observations are made.

The first Regent/Swift Survey has just passed, the second is on the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> August. Anyone wishing to participate in the surveys or have sightings to report please contact me and I will organise survey sheets and observations to be recorded.

**Steve Roderick. Phone 4930 4800**  
**Email: Roddo75@hotmail.com.**

## NEW MEMBERS

The Hunter Bird Observers Club welcomes the following new members:

- Jill Slatter of Cessnock
- John and Leila McAdam of Toronto
- Rachael Peak of Argenton
- Paul Dixon of Waratah West
- Saraya Pascalls of Merether

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## Membership Fees

Annual membership fees for the Hunter Bird Observers Club are \$22 Family or Single and \$3 for Juniors payable 1 January each year.

Please check that your membership is current. Payment can be made by mail – P.O.Box 24 New Lambton 2305 - or at Club Night.

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## Newsletter by Email?

**This month we are going to experiment by sending the Club Newsletter by email to certain members. Basically you have to opt-in to this scheme. If you do not want an emailed Newsletter be assured that your wishes will be respected and that the usual -Club Night or Post -methods of delivery will continue to apply.**

**Possible benefits to the Club are that we save postage and printing and, if you choose not to print out your emailed newsletter we save a few trees. The advantage to you may be that you get the Newsletter a little earlier.**

**If you want to try an emailed copy write to Alan Stuart at [almarosa@bigpond.com](mailto:almarosa@bigpond.com)**

## SPECIAL OFFER!

### from NSW BIRD ATLASSERS (NSWBA)

NSWBA are offering a special deal for those wishing to continue atlassing as they have done for the Australian Atlas. For the reduced price of \$50.00 you receive:

- Habitat Guide
- List of Birds of NSW and ACT
- Ornithological Gazetteer

Non-members price \$53.45 – Special price of \$50.00 includes free membership for 2003 – worth \$15.00. Send name, address, phone/fax and/or email details to:

Janis Hosking, 7 Pine Hill Drive MS1,  
Dubbo NSW 2830. Ph. 02 6887 2692.  
Email: [glossyblack@crt.net.au](mailto:glossyblack@crt.net.au)

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## WETLAND CENTRE ACTIVITY PROGRAM 2003

### Breakfast with the Birds.

Great for beginners and the experienced. Stroll around the Wetlands birdwatching and return for a delicious breakfast and slide show.  
8.30am. Sunday June 15 and July 13  
\$20 adults, \$10 kids. Family Concessions

### Canoeing Safari

Paddle Ironbark Creek with an experienced Guide. Explore our rainforest. Return to our café for a delicious luncheon  
9.30am start. July 6  
\$25 adults. \$12.50 kids and \$70 per family.

Bookings are essential for all programs  
Phone 02 4951 6466

Wetland Centre Entry Fees are still a cheap \$4.50 with children, family and concession prices too. It's amazing what can turn up - Jabiru recently – and the coffee and food at Café Jacana is a worth the visit alone.



**Newhaven Station**

HBOC members will remember that this huge property 4 hours west of Alice Springs was purchased by Birds Australia with funds provided by members and the Federal Government. It is one of the largest private conservation reserves in the world.

Four important surveys have now been completed: fauna, vegetation, cultural sacred sites and underground water resources.

One interesting aspect of the surveys has been the assistance of the Walpiri traditional owners whose intimate knowledge of the land adds depth and perspective to current observations. One senior Walpiri woman has given a credible account of Malleefowl sightings in the 1970s and 1980s.

Birds Australia are currently conducting a selection process to appoint a full time resident manager. BA members are welcome to visit Newhaven with the winter months recommended. Ongoing donations will be used to fund infrastructure developments at the Reserve.

**Some Dates for your Diary**

Birds Australia's Congress and Campout will be held at Coonabarabran between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of September. The Campout will include field trips out of Coonabarabran to the National Park, Pilliga and the Macquarie Marshes.

A documentary film "Travelling with Birds" is receiving rave reviews and was nominated for an Academy Award as best documentary in 2003. It will open in Capital cities (eg Sydney) on June 19 with a special preview for BA members on June 12. (phone: 02 9331 3457 for bookings)

**2003 Twitchathon**

The big weekend has been announced. October 25-26. Your SNAG Office (02 9436 0388 or email [rosella63@bigpond.com](mailto:rosella63@bigpond.com)) can provide a twitchathon kit. Expect great prizes again.

The SNAG Committee is seeking application for the Twitchathon 2003 funds. Projects submitted should have a strong conservation bias. Send applications ASAP to The Secretary, Southern NSW and ACT Group, Birds Australia PO Box 1322, Crows Nest 1585. ( or email as above)

Finally while you have your diaries out there is a great travelling show called "Stuffed and Mounted" It is a scientific natural history exhibition that examines ornithological collections, field notes and illustrations drawing on Museum Victoria 's extensive collection and Birds Australia archives. Its opening at Melbourne Museum on 25 July 2003 and will get to the Newcastle Regional Museum in February to April.....2005! See you there!.

**BOOK SALE**

Birds Australia (SNAG ) is currently selling about 140 duplicate books and journals. Funds to be spent on the Birds Australia library – maintenance and bookbinding..

Full details from Frances Czwalinna at [rosella63@bigpond.com](mailto:rosella63@bigpond.com). Books will be available for inspection at open days at the Crows Nest office - 4 - 9pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July and all day Saturday 5 July.

There is some really interesting stuff including back copies of EMU and Corella and "Australian Birds" magazines.

## **GOOD NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND**

### **Black Stilts saved from extinction (so far)**

Adult black stilts in the wild have reached their highest number since a Department of Conservation program was launched two decades ago to save the birds from extinction.

DoC's black stilt scientist Richard Maloney said there were now 67 adults in the wild. A year ago there were 47 and the year before that 39 which showed that the population was definitely on the rise. In the 1980s adult numbers fell to 23.

Mr Maloney said the increases were due to large releases of young birds raised in captivity. Although this approach has been successful, Mr Maloney said, DoC did not intend to continue with it indefinitely. "We don't see it as a long term solution. We are continuing to look at better ways to control predators and improve nesting success so the wild population will ultimately be self-sustaining".

### **ANYONE WANT TO GO TO GLUEPOT?**

I have been talking to Bob Goodfellow, principal of Jolly Goodfellows –Birding.

He is a professional guide specialising in an area North of the Murray along the NSW/SA border. This area (the Bookmark Biosphere) includes Gluepot. He comes recommended by several HBOC members.

He currently has six days available from 12 or 13 October for a "safari" and needs a party of 3 or 4 to make it worthwhile. It would cost about \$750 per head plus the expense of getting to South Australia but for this we get local knowledge and considerable choice into where we go and what we look for. I'm interested. If you are too could you call (49569090) or email [juniper@hunterlink.net.au](mailto:juniper@hunterlink.net.au). His website is at [www.birding.com.au](http://www.birding.com.au).

Peter Phillips.

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### **Bird Window Kill – A Solution**

The Chicago Ornithological Society estimates that 100 million to one billion birds die annually by colliding with buildings.

The problem is that in the migratory seasons brightly lit skyscrapers disorient birds, navigating by stars, at night and they crash into their mirrored sides.

The Field Museum in Chicago Illinois has been checking for dead birds around the base of the McCormick Place building since 1978 and over the years has collected 29,842 birds of 140 species.

The simple solution – and it makes you wonder why it took so long – is to ask downtown buildings to dim or shut off their lights in spring and autumn.

The McCormick Place building owners agreed during 2000 and 2001 to turn off the lights at the key times and the result was a documented decrease of 83% in the birds killed in this way

Doug Stolz a conservation ecologist at The Field Museum says "imagine what we could accomplish if the drive to turn off lights during migration season spread to include most downtown buildings"

There is now proposed action by both the City of Chicago and the US Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service to work on the problem.

This item was based on a press release from the Field Museum in Chicago. For more you could visit their internet site [www.fnmh.org/museum](http://www.fnmh.org/museum) info/press/press birds.

**OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB NIGHTS – APRIL/MAY, 2003**

<b>2002</b>				
Mar 9	Common Tern	58	Newcastle Harbour	K.Laverick
Mar 11	Black-headed Mannikin	1	Redhead	“
Aug 1	Banded Lapwing	2	Ash Island	L. & C. Herbert
	Curlew Sandpiper	6	“	“
Aug 6	Swift Parrot	5	Williamtown Airport	“
Dec 30	White-necked Heron	3	Gloucester	B.McKay
	Blue-faced Honeyeater	4	“	“
<b>2003</b>				
Jan 6	Grey-crowned Babbler	5	Gloucester	“
Jan 20	White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	Muswellbrook – Aberdeen	G.Newling
Jan 25	Barn Owl	1	Mt. Arthur North	“
Feb 27	Singing Bushlark	1	“	“
Jan 14	Nankeen Night Heron	1	Gloucester	B.McKay
Jan 15	Glossy Black Cockatoo	5	“	“
Mar 2	Hooded Robin	1	Wingen Stock Reserve	G.Newling
	Black-eared Cuckoo	1	“	“
	Sacred Kingfisher	1	“	“
	Bar-shouldered Dove	1	“	“
Mar 12	Cicadabird	1	Smiths Lake	F.van Gessel
	Southern Emu-wren	A	“	“
	Scarlet Honeyeater	A	“	“
	Forest Raven		“	“
Mar 19	Musk Lorikeet	B	Hunter Region Botanic Gdns	A.Morris et al
	Little Lorikeet	B	“	“
	Common Tern	>300	Old Bar	“
	Little Tern	>160	“	“
	Gull-billed Tern	6	“	“
	Arctic Jaeger	1	“	“
	Sanderling	4	“	“
	Pacific Golden Plover	>40	“	“
	Brahminy Kite	1imm	“	“
	Beach Stone-Curlew	Pr	“	“
	Forest Raven	1	“	“
	Torresian Crow	1	“	“
Mar 15	Yellow-throated Miner	1	Crowdy Head	“
	Pomerine Jaeger	3	“	“
	Arctic Jaeger	10	“	“
Mar 8	White-throated Needletail	~30	Mt. Arthur North	G.Newling
	Nankeen Night Heron	1	“	“
Mar 11	Black Kite	1	Scone	“
Mar 15	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Wallsend [garden]	T.Clarke
Mar 22	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	“	“
Mar 9	Purple Swamphen	5	Gloucester	B.McKay
Feb 18	White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	Thornton	P. McLauchlan
Apr 3	White-bellied Sea-eagle	1	Tarro	“

Apr 9	Blue-faced Honeyeater	3	East Maitland	“
	Plumed Whistling Duck	1	Pambalong N.R.	M.Maddock
Mar 16	Lewin's Rail	1	Walka Water Works	G.Brosie
	Buff-banded Rail	1	“	“
	Spotless Crane	1	“	“
Mar 25	Common Tern	>95	Nobby's	“
Mar 28	Satin Bowerbird	1f	Jesmond	“
Mar 30	Black-necked Stork	2	Lenaghan's Drive	“
	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin dy	>30	“	“
Apr 5	Peregrine Falcon	2	Jesmond	“
Apr 6	Black-fronted Dotterel	>20	Lenaghan's Drive	G.Brosie
	Tree Martin	1	“	“
	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	>5	“	“
	Black Swan	>250	“	“
Apr 7	Owl [spp]	1	Merewether	K.Woods
Apr 2	Eastern Reef Egret	1	Cabbage Tree Island	M.Roderick
Apr 3	Double-banded Plover	6	Stockton Beach	“
Apr 27	Australian Ringneck	2	Blackalls Park	D.Johnson
Mar 30	Grey-tailed Tattler	1	Myall R. Tea Gardens	M.Maddock
Mar 1-3	Brown-headed Honeyeater	15	Milbrodale	D.Lamb
Mar 20	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Broadmeadow	C.Goodenough
Mar	Australian Raven	~50	Whitebridge	“
Mar 18	Stubble Quail	1	Gloucester [“Kia-Ora”]	C.B.McKay
Mar 22	Southern Boobook	1	Copeland S.F.	“
	Sooty Owl	1	“	“
Apr 19	Azure Kingfisher	1	Gloucester	“
May 12	Topknot Pigeon	20	“	“
	White-necked Heron	6	“	“
Apr 3	Rufous Fantail	1	Woodville	M.Newman
Apr 5	Rose Robin	1	“	“
Apr 4&9	Spotted Harrier	1	Hinton-Morpeth	“
Apr 18	Black Falcon	1	Morpeth STW	“
Apr 29	Pink-eared Duck	1	Walka Water Works	“
May 3	Barn Owl	1	Nr. Hinton	“
Apr 12	White-winged Black Tern	10	Stockton Breakwater	H.Tarrant
	Common Tern	~40	“	“
Apr 27	Sooty Tern	1imm.	“	“
Apr 18	Great Crested Grebe	40	Grahamstown Dam	“
	Gull-billed Tern	~10	“	“
May 3	Scarlet Robin	1f.	Jerrys Plains [Jones Res.Rd]	“
	Square-tailed Kite	1	Bureen	“
	European Goldfinch	~12	Martindale	“
May 6	White-throated Nightjar	1calling	Bolwarra	“
May 11	Little Eagle	3	Rouchel Valley	“
Apr 14	Spotted Turtle-dove	>30	Wallsend	T.Clarke
	Crested Pigeon	17	“	“
Apr 20	“	27	Whitebridge	“
May 20	Black-necked Stork	1m	Oyster Cove	N.McNaughton
	Australian Owlet-nightjar	1	“	“
Apr 18	Red-rumped Parrot	6	Kooragang Island	“

Apr 20	Double-banded Plover	2	Corrie Island(PortStephens)	C.Anderson
Apr 21	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	50	Heatherbrae	L.Mee
Apr 16	Powerful Owl	1 calling	Blackbutt Reserve	A.Stuart
May 10	Pied Oystercatcher	23	Stockton Sandspit	"
May 9	Glossy Ibis	17	Pambalong N.R.	S.Roderick
May 14	Black Kite	1	East Maitland [tip]	"
May 11	Powerful Owl	1 calling	Blackbutt Reserve	P.Lightfoot
May 1	Regent Bowerbird	1	Whitebridge	C.Goodenough
May 3	Eastern Spinebill	3	Wallsend	T.Clarke
	Noisy Friarbird	4	"	"
	Red Wattlebird	2	"	"
	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	1	"	"
	Noisy Miner	3	"	"
May 19	Australian Hobby	3	Speers Point	S.Hamonet
May 1	Grey-crowned Babbler		Milbrodale	D.Lamb
	White-necked Heron	1	"	"
May 19	Emu	1	Cooranbong	D.& J. Lombard
May 4	Spotted Harrier	2	Mt. Arthur North	G.Newling
	Black Falcon	1	" " "	"
Apr 23	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Hundreds	Bayswater Colliery	"
May 2	"	15-20	Scone	"
May 12	Swamp Harrier	1	Mt. Arthur North	"
May 20	Scarlet Robin	Pr.	Middlebrook	"
May 12	Glossy Ibis	10	Lenaghan's Flat	N.Livanos
May 10	Square-tailed Kite	1	Tenambit	D.Geering
	Black-necked Stork	1	Fish farm Bucketts Way T/O	"
May 11	Topknot Pigeon	30	Nabiac	"
	<b>Spotted Bowerbird</b>	1	Merriwa	"

## **BIRD LOVERS PARADISE**

(House For Sale)

Three bedroom home with modern galley style gas kitchen.

Reverse cycle ducted air conditioning.

Two toilets.

Large enclosed entertaining area plus large screened deck overlooking wetlands.

Two garages plus carport.

All situated on a large, leafy, private block.

**\$320,000**

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## 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**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
Saturday June 14	Hunter Wader Survey	8.00am. Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Saturday June 21	Atlassing Aberdare State Forest	Meet 8.00am MacDonalds Cessnock	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Sunday 22 June	Wetlands Day plus New Members BBQ	10.00am Wetlands Centre, Shortland	Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Tuesday July 1	Midweek Outing Tomteland, Williamtown	8.00am Tomteland Car Park	Leader: Richard Parke 4952 4813
Saturday July 12	Hunter Wader Survey	7.00am. Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Wednesday July 9	Club Night	7.30pm Shortland Wetland Centre	Speaker: Liz Huxtable <b>Impacts on bird habitat in the Pilliga</b>
Saturday July 19	Atlassing Denman Area	Meet Maitland Station 7.00am	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 <b>you must ring to confirm</b>
Sunday July 20	Field Outing Tomalpin Area	Meet 9.00am Neath Hotel	Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Saturday July 26	Pelagic Trip	6.00am Swansea Wharf	Leader Richard Baxter 4954 0212
Saturday/Sunday August 2/3	Regent Honeyeater Swift Parrot Survey (part 2)	Various locations by arrangement.	Coordinator: Steve Roderick 4930 4800
Tuesday August 5	Midweek Outing Stockton/Kooragang Island	8.00am Car Park under Stockton Bridge	Leader: Keith Woods 4963 3070
Wednesday August 13	Club Night	7.30pm Shortland Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Fred Van Gessel Birds of Iron Range
Saturday August 16	Hunter Wader Survey	11.00am Various locations as directed	Alan Stuart 4952 8569 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Saturday August 16	Pelagic Trip	6.00am Swansea Wharf	Leader.Richard Baxter 4954 0212
Sunday August 24	Field Outing Morisset Area	8.00am Morisset Station	Leader: Alan Richardson