

# NEWSLETTER

## Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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

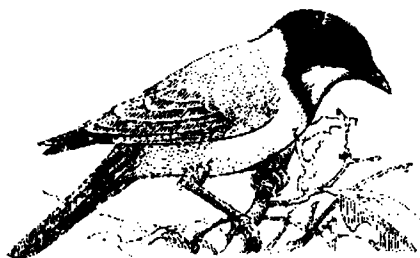
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President: Liz Crawford

Secretary: Tom Clarke

Newsletter Editor: Peter Phillips



*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*

### Inside this Edition

Outing Reports

Twitchathon Update

Wetlands News

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And articles on:

the use and abuse of Field Guides,

the Sex life of Fairy-wrens and

why female birds are more important

And so much more....

### Membership Fees

HBOC Annual Membership fees are \$22 Family or Single and \$3 for Juniors.  
Fees are due 1 January each year.

### Newsletter Deadline.

Closing Date for the December/January edition is 30 November.

Newsletter articles are always welcome.

Contact details. Peter Phillips, Editor. 34 McIntyre Street Cardiff 2285.  
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## CLUB OUTINGS

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### Newcastle Pelagic Trip Saturday 16 August 2003

Conditions – Fine and Sunny,  
Departed 6.10am, returned 3.50 pm  
Seas one metre  
Winds slight S/E in am, turning to N/W in pm.

#### Trip Summary

We departed Swansea and headed east in fairly flat seas. Not long after leaving the Heads we encountered our first Hutton's Shearwaters and several Australasian Gannets. On our three hour journey out to deep water we saw 2-3 Yellow Nosed Albatross, Crested Terns, several Fairy Prions and four Common Dolphins. We soon crossed the shelf and immediately encountered Providence Petrel and Black-browed Albatross.

We slowed our progress and began to chum as we continued east for another hour. Cape Petrel, Shy Albatross and Great Winged Petrel were all seen, as was White-faced Storm Petrel. We stopped and within minutes the call went out **BULLER'S ALBATROSS!**

For the next hour an adult Buller's circled the boat at times coming within 10 metres. It was not long before the first Wandering Albatross appeared and throughout the day the number grew to ten. (both *exulans* and *gibsonii*) White-headed Petrel numbers also grew to around four birds and with these also coming very close to the boat.

All those with cameras were focused on the circling Buller's and failed to notice a **WHITE CHINNED PETREL** fly in and land on the slick 30 metres from the boat. It soon took off from the slick and joined the Buller's circling the boat allowing some great photo opportunities. Over the next two hours no further bird species arrived but we were visited by a **MINKE WHALE** which surfaced within one metre of the boat, lifting its head out of the water to have a good look at us before departing.

As we were preparing to leave I noticed a trawler on the horizon, so we pulled up stumps and made our way towards it. It wasn't long before we could make out a large flock of birds at the back of the trawler with around twenty Crested Terns coming across to our boat. Upon arrival at the trawler we found another Buller's Albatross and an early Wedge-tailed Shearwater.

Participants: 13. Bird Species 16 plus Minke Whale and Common Dolphin.

Richard Baxter.  
[-randrbaxter@yahoo.com](mailto:-randrbaxter@yahoo.com)

### Midweek Outing –Jesmond Park Tuesday 2 September

On a cool morning, which soon warmed up, the Midweekers tried the delights of Jesmond Park.

Eleven Club members assembled at the car park. Judy, who was there a few days previously, recommended the stand of coral trees at the eastern end of the bushland. On the way Wood Ducks were inspecting hollows, Pale Headed Rosellas were nesting as were Kookaburras. The coral trees were in full blossom and full of birds. As we approached we were heralded by a great flock of 50+ Rainbow Lorikeets.

The track up the hill was recommended by Robert, who knew it from a run in the cross country, and here were Cattle Egret, Red-browed Finch in numbers and Variegated Wrens. We followed the track winding through excellent bushland back to the path from the park to the hospital. On this track we were fortunate to find Crimson and Eastern Rosellas nesting and an Eastern Yellow Robin nest with three yellow gaped young expectantly looking for food. The parents were in anxious attendance.

After morning tea we tried the hospital path a way. On this lovely spring morning we gathered 44 species in a park Newcastle rightly values greatly. Let us hope it is never lost to us.

Max Blanch

**Midweek Meander along Blackbutt Byways.  
The Search for the Elusive Powerful Owl.  
Tuesday 19 August 2003.**

Blackbutt Reserve is magnificent! On a cool morning, the midweekers turned up at Richley Reserve (part of Blackbutt). Our aim was to explore the area north from Richley in the hope of sighting the fabled Powerful Owl present in the area. Well, not so fabled as both July and Grant have seen it there before.

We set out towards the lily pond. The area at Richley ponds is rich in small birds, waterfowl in abundance, a Collared Sparrowhawk overhead (we saw it later and another), King Parrots, Crimson and Eastern Rosellas, Brown Thornbill, White-browed Scrubwren and a screech of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos.

The lily pond, sadly, is completely hidden behind rushes and salvinia. I suppose there is a reason for its degraded state. Beyond the lily pond we put on our explorers mien and pressed on into the wilderness of the north (along well-defined and maintained pathways)

These are lovely bushlands. Lush along the creek: open forest on the ridges. Neville found Caladenias aplenty and two species of Greenhood Orchid. We spotted ubiquitous White-throated Treecreepers, brilliant Variegated Fairy Wrens, a blush of Rose Robins a squeaking of Noisy Miners and others

After morning tea we tried the pathways to the west and south of Richley. It was quieter bird-wise, as the morning was now advanced but excellent walking. Among new birds noted here is a colony of Bell Miners and Olive-backed Oriole heard calling. When someone suggested a possible Black Cockatoo, there was plenty of time for Anthony to get out his camera but it was revealed to be a naturally cunningly shaped piece of black bark. We proceeded with much merriment. The elusive Powerful Owl is still elusive but 45 species were seen and five heard.

Max Blanch

**Outing to Boarding House Dam (Watagans)  
The Great Sooty Owl Twitch  
21 September 2003**

This was a trip in which the usual order of things was overturned. We started at a sociable hour; people dribbled in throughout the day and we all met at the end and all the exciting stuff happened after tea. Oh, and we didn't have to walk – the birds came to us.

The early crowd arrived at the Dam in the Watagans from about 2 pm. Highlights of their daylight birding were a pair of Gang-Gang Cockatoos, some very tame Superb Lyrebirds, three Bassian Thrush and a Brown Thornbill feeding young at the nest. Reason enough for getting up at such an ungodly hour.

The main mob arrived just before dusk (chasing off any non-birds) and started to prepare the BBQs. Chris Herbert, of course, had his telescope set up early. A number of Glossy-black Cockatoos flew in and could be viewed through the scope in the failing light.

We ate our tea with a sense of mounting excitement. Equipment was checked and double-checked. We had a superfluity of torches but only one tape. (Thanks, Ann) When sufficient darkness had fallen, the correct procedure was explained to the assembled throng.

The plan went well. The bird call was played-usually preceded by a sepulchral "Sooty Owl" announcement -presumably so the bird would know it was its turn to appear. The Owl replied in Owl-ish "Human Beings" and a battery of lights were brought to bear the like of which has not been assembled since the London Blitz of 1941. Transfixed in the cone of light the bird posed a little and then flew off. We couldn't get it back – it had presumably gone to some place with less repetitious conversation.

Only 29 species (but what quality!) seen by about 29 members. Lets do it again!

Peter Phillips

## TWITCHATHON 2003

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25 & 26 October 2003

The Tenth such event in NSW and the ACT has attracted a wide field including the usual suspects and even some film interest (see below)

At this late date it's probably a bit late to form a team but if you want to Francis Czwallina is the person to contact [rosella63@bigpond.com](mailto:rosella63@bigpond.com)

A more practical participation might be to sponsor one of the teams and thus donate funds to a worthy cause. This can be done before, during or after the event. For fear of an ICAC inquiry I will not specify which group to favour but no doubt they are well known to you – or will make themselves known.

Funding this year goes towards a \$12,500 project for “measuring the outcomes of protecting remnant woodlands for birds in the Murray Catchment of NSW”

Basically what this means is that the work carried out by Greening Australia (mostly fencing) needs to be measured and one of the best indicators of success are native woodlands birds. So someone has to survey, do the statistics and tell Greening Australia and the local landholders objectively if it worked.

Only by proper assessment can we know what works and what does not and thus spend the scarce environmental dollar wisely in future.

Its not the sexiest project ever but it is important and it reinforces Birds Australia's role as the scientific arm of bird conservation.

Alternatively (or as well) you could turn up at the Wetland Centre at 5.00pm on October 26<sup>th</sup> to greet the teams that finish in Newcastle. BYO everything including cheque book.

## HOLLYWOOD ON THE HUNTER.

A film company may document one or more Hunter teams twitchathon efforts this year for SBS. The producer states that she is particularly interested in finding some keen twitching teams who enter each year and tend to compete with each other for the winning title. For some reason she thinks such rivalry exist locally.

Does this mean the Home Brewers will stop to wash this time? Will the film crew be allowed to say where they are?

Clearly what we have here is a good idea but one which lacks pizzazz and crass exploitation. What we need is a reality style program in which teams of spunky birding survivalists are dropped in virgin bush. Food and drink will be earned on a per species basis with chocolate bars for rarities. Sabotage will be encouraged between teams. Tactics such as scaring birds off and misleading bird calls will be allowed but the actual throwing of stones will be penalised.

The prizes will also have to be updated. Offer a choice between a weekend with Iolo Williams and the conservation of a patch of pristine wilderness and go to a commercial break. Tension! Could work – but only on the ABC.

Talking of advertisements, here's one from Chris Herbert.

### FOR SALE

**Swarovski AT80 spotting telescope  
20-60 zoom eyepiece,  
pristine condition,**

**Only \$2000** (new price \$3100 save \$1100!).

Chris Herbert  
49693663

## **KOORAGANG WETLANDS** **ESTUARY TOURS**

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Come and see why migratory wading birds flock to the Hunter Estuary each summer. Why not view them from the best spot in town, on the water. While relaxing on the Lady Joy hear about these fascinating birds and why they keep returning: learn how humans have shaped the estuary and, in turn, been shaped by it.

Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project is running five Estuary tours this summer.

### **Tour Highlights**

- Newcastle Harbour
- History treasures of the Estuary
- Birds resting along Kooragang Dykes, waiting for the tide to fall
- Tranquillity of the Hunter River
- The Majesty of Mosquito Creek
- The internationally important Hunter Estuary Wetlands

<u>Date &amp; times</u>	<u>Co-commentator</u>
27/11/03. 10.30am	Ann Lindsey (HBOC)
11/12/03. 9.30am	Alan Morris*
07/02/04 9.00am	Alan Morris*
08/03/04 9.00am	History interest
21/03/04 8.30am	TBA
* Birding Aust (Central Coast Group)	

Tours depart from Queens Wharf, Newcastle aboard the Lady Joy and journey up the north arm of the Hunter River for three hours.

**Cost:** (includes GST and a delicious morning tea of scones, jam and cream)

Adults	\$30
Concession	\$26
Group (20 or more adults)	\$26
Children (under 12 years)	\$20
Children (under 4 years)	Free

### **Bookings are essential**

For enquiries and bookings (02) 4964 9308

## **UNUSUAL OBSERVATION**

Leone Storm writes:

On Friday 2 September 2003, whilst on our way to Queensland, John and I stopped at Dangar Lagoon, just south of Uralla, on the Thunderbolts Way. The water level was very low and quite a way from the hide. There were many waterbirds on the lagoon but the most interesting sighting was of two birds of prey.

They were very hard to identify as they were flying very low over the water so we couldn't see the underside. They were darkish brown above with a distinct pale rump. I think they were, most probably, Swamp Harriers.

While we were watching one landed on the water and sat for at least five minutes before taking off and moving to a different spot where it again landed and sat for quite a while. At one stage it tried to take off with a dead waterbird but it was obviously too heavy as it dropped it. We didn't see it make the kill.

Has anyone seen this sort of behaviour from a bird of prey?

### **WETLAND CENTRE WORKSHOP**

On October 25 between 9.30am and 12.30pm expert HBOC members will conduct a BEGINNING BIRDING Workshop at the Wetland Centre with all proceeds to the Wetland Centre.

The Workshop will cover: An introduction to identifying birds, how birds are classified? It will also give instructions on how to use a bird identification handbook and binoculars.

Might be a good thing to get your bird friendly, but unskilled friends involved in. Maybe some of our members could use a few tips too.

Price \$22.00 includes morning tea  
Phone 49516466 for bookings (essential)

## THE WETLAND CENTRE

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Apart from the bird watching workshop mentioned above there is a varied range of events in the coming months and these are listed below.

The Wetland Centre has been very fortunate in smoothly replacing one excellent CEO (Louise Duff) with another (Tara Ure.)

Louise is returning to her duties at Newcastle City Council from whence she had long term leave of absence and will do doubt be a force for good in that important organisation.

Tara has hit the ground running. She has a background in business management and regional development – most recently as Centre Manager at the IDC.

The Wetlands Centre is facing a time of challenges and opportunities. A Hunter Wetlands Conservation Park has been proposed and the Wetland Centre Board believes that TWC is ideally placed to become the gateway to this concept – incorporating potentially all the Hunter's individual wetland sites, nature reserves and regional parks.

Such a role would require a partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Board is actively considering options. Whatever we come up with will be sure to maintain the independence and autonomy of TWC and secure its future.

I hope to update HBOC members on this at our November Club Night. In the meantime and into the future the lifeblood of TWC is its supporters and volunteers. We need them more than ever.

## TWC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Melbourne Cup Day Buffet Lunch

Entertainment, Games, Sweeps, Prizes

November 4 2003

\$25.00 per person

### Frog & Reptile Expo

Come and see why members of the Society of Frogs & Reptiles are wild about creatures that hop and slither. Displays, guest speakers, variety of stall and lots of attractions

Sunday November 23

Entry Family (2+2) \$12.00

Adults \$5, Child \$2.00

### Breakfast with the Birds

Stroll around the Wetlands birdwatching with an experienced guide. Then enjoy a delicious breakfast and Slide show.

8.30am Sunday November 9

\$20 adults, \$10 Kids, \$60 Family (2+2)

### Spotlight Prowl

Discover the secrets of the Wetlands after dark. Join the guide spotlighting creatures of the night. BYO Torch, check start time when you book.

October 25, November 29

\$10 Adult, \$5 Child \$25 Family (2+2)

### Canoeing Safari

Paddle Ironbark Creek with an experienced guide. Explore the rainforest. Return to our café for a delicious luncheon.

9.30am, first Sunday each month. Next date November 2.

\$25 Adult, \$12.50 child, \$70 Family (2+2)

### **Bookings essential for All Programs**

**Tel: 49 51 6466**

## **STOP PRESS**

**The Wetland Centre has been successful in securing a top 20 place (out of 2000) in the National Australia Bank Volunteers Awards 2003. Possible State and National Prizes can be won in the next stage.**

**In the meantime, the Peoples Choice Award is worth \$2500 and is determined by the number of votes received online and this is where those with computers can help.**

**Next time you are on the internet (but before October 10) log on to [www.national.com.au](http://www.national.com.au) - then click on the prompts as follows -**

- (1) Community (left of the screen)**
- (2) Volunteer Awards**
- (3) Peoples Choice**
- (4) Environment, Conservation, Heritage and Animal Welfare**
- (5) Wetlands Centre**
- (6) Vote Now.**

**In this way you increase the Wetlands chance of winning. No good voting twice - I tried.**

## **ATLAS PRIZE**

Birds Australia has won the Australian Museum Eureka Prize for Biodiversity Research. This is one of Australia's most prestigious scientific awards and is a deserved acknowledgement of a tremendous project.

More details can be found on [www.amonline.net.au/eureka/](http://www.amonline.net.au/eureka/)

## **BIRD WEEK 14-26 October 2003**

There are a series of events in or around Sydney Olympic Park during this period.

If you find yourself in Sydney during this period it would be worth getting a program. There are wader workshops, guided tours at dawn and in twilight and through the day with NSW Wader Study Group and other birding organisations very involved.

## **BIRD WEEK LECTURE**

The Highlight of the "week" will be the Inaugural Annual Bird Week Lecture delivered by Mark Barter, past Chairman of the Australasian Waders Studies Group and the Asia-Pacific Shorebird Working Group.

His lecture will be entitled "Olympians of the Wetlands" - Conserving migratory shorebirds in a resource-hungry world.

The talk is in Building 4, Newington Armory, Sydney Olympic Park on 14 October commencing 7.00pm. It costs \$15 per person (\$12 concession) and bookings are essential (02 9714 7509)

## **AUSTRALASIAN SHOREBIRD CONFERENCE (ASC)**

While you've got your diaries out this event is held at the Australian National University, Canberra between Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December. The ASC runs immediately after the second Australasian Ornithological Conference (AOC) on 10-13 December.

Details about the ASC from Phil Straw  
PO Box 2006, Rockdale Delivery Centre  
NSW 2216. Tel 02 9597 7765  
[pstraw@optusnet.co.au](mailto:pstraw@optusnet.co.au)

Details on the AOC from Penny Olsen  
School of Botany & Zoology,  
ANU, Canberra ACT 2601  
[Penny.olsen@anu.edu.au](mailto:Penny.olsen@anu.edu.au)

## CHOICE CUTTINGS

One of the few privileges of a HBOC Newsletter editor is access to the vast amount of material that crosses my desk from other Bird Clubs and Groups. What follows is my selection. Some are borrowings from other original sources and these are acknowledged in *italics*.

### DID YOU KNOW? (1)

What are the major adaptations of Birds for Flight? Birds both decrease weight and increase power.

They decrease weight by having: -

- Thin, hollow bones
- Fusion of bones in the pectoral and pelvic girdles and spinal column
- No teeth or heavy jaws
- Absence of tail vertebrae
- Reduced number of digits
- Light feathers
- Air sacs
- Few skin glands
- Laying of eggs
- Reduced gonads in non-breeding season

And they increase power by having: -

- Warm bloodedness
- Insulative coat of feathers
- Energy rich diet
- Rapid and efficient digestion
- High glucose levels in the blood
- High metabolic rate
- Four chambered heart for double circulation
- Rapid high pressure circulation
- Highly efficient respiratory system
- Synchronisation of respiratory movements with wing beats

Bird Queensland's Newsletter Vol 34 No 8

*Bird, David M (1999) The Bird Almanac: The Ultimate Guide to Essential Facts and Figures of the World's Birds, Key Porter Books, Toronto. Page 245*

## DID YOU KNOW (2)

Unlike mammals, birds have evolved different mechanism of chromosomal sex determination.

In mammals there are two sex chromosomes called the X and Y Chromosome. Females are the homogametic sex (ie two copies of the same chromosome XX) and males are the heterogametic sex (ie one copy each of the two different sex chromosomes XY).

As a consequence, since each parent donates only one of these chromosomes to the offspring, it is the male that ultimately determines the sex of the offspring as the sperm can either contain an X or a Y chromosome.

In birds the situation is reversed. The female is the heterogametic sex (with one Z and one W chromosome) and the male homogametic (ZZ). Subsequently two "different" eggs are produced, ones that have a W chromosome and ones with a Z, so it is the female that is responsible for determining the sex of the offspring.

Interestingly, the same basic system found in birds is also found in butterflies (an example of convergent evolution)

Dean Portelli

CBOC Newsletter August 2003

## NEW MEMBERS

Hunter Bird Observers Club welcomes the following new members:

Gabrielle and Susan O'Kane  
of Lambton Gardens  
Karen and Richard Harris of Singleton



## CUCKOLDS BEARING BOUQUETS

It is well known that during the breeding season male fairy-wrens offer brightly coloured petals to females. Superb Fairy-wrens choose yellow petals; Splendid Fairy-wrens prefer pink or purple, and Red-backed Fairy-wrens favour red or pink petals or berries. The posy is either similar in hue to the male's back or complementary.

Every artist knows that, placed next to each other; complementary colours make each other appear brighter. To the fairy-wrens, the petals also have colours in the ultraviolet range, not visible to the human eye.

Most petal displays coincides with the fertile period of the chosen female which is almost never the "wife". Fairy-wrens are the least faithful of all birds, and the majority of displays are made by males during visits to females in neighbouring territories soliciting later matings. Males in brown, non-breeding plumage do not carry petals. A small number of males stay in breeding plumage and occasionally display petals over much of the year; and such is their impression on females that, come breeding season, these are the males that father the most chicks.

Wingspan Vol 13 No 3 September 2003

*Karumbian, J and Alvarado A 2003.*

*"Testing the function of petal carrying in the Red-backed Fairy-wren (malurus melanocephalus) Emu 103, pp87-92 and references therein*

## BETTER BIRDING??

Dawn Muir reviews the book *The Joy of Birding: a Guide to Better Birdwatching* by Chuck Bernstein in the latest Birds Queensland Newsletter. Mr Bernstein by all accounts prefers the "British" style of Birding to that most often used in his home country – the USA.

Bernstein's first chapter is titled "Leave Those Field Guides at Home: Birding British Style. He argues that over reliance on field guides leads to "field-guide addiction". He says that while the field guide might be the quickest way to identify birds it is not in the long run the best way to learn about birds.

He describes a birder who on finding an unfamiliar bird, grabs for the book, leafs wildly through, scanning pictures and when the live bird is matched up with a picture (s)he ticks off that bird and goes on. Bernstein wonders if that birder learned the bird well enough to recognise and identify it a week or a month later.

Bernstein argues for leaving the Field Guide at home and taking a pencil and notepad. Notes should be made and kept in a logical and systematic sequence and in the same order each time a bird is observed. The order he suggests is:

1. Describe you first impression of the bird after a good look. What is the "feel" you get for it. Is it shy or brassy? Tired and wan or trim and energetic? Study its silhouette, markings, colouring, call behaviour and habitat
2. Then describe the specific parts of the bird beginning with the dorsal surface at the head, cap, face – including eye ring and superciliary – the nape, back, rump, wings and wing coverts, flight feathers (primaries and secondaries) and how long the wings come down on the tail and then the top of the tail.
3. Next describe the underparts or ventral surface of the bird – starting at the head, then the chin throat, breast, belly, vent area, underwing, undertail coverts and the underside of the tail
4. Then describe the soft parts – the bill, eye, legs and feet. Finally, note the call.

Compare the identification with the books only after the notes are made.

Worth a thought?

**OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB NIGHTS AUG/SEP 2003**

Mar	Rose-crowned Pigeon	2	Mungo Brush	B.Kibble
Jul 31	Eurasion Coot	~300	Ellalong Lagoon	J.Meynell
	Australasian Shoveler	14	"	"
	Musk Duck	1	"	"
Jun 8	Western Gerygone	1	Jones Reserve Rd	B.Brosie
	Zebra Finch	>80	Yarrawa	"
Jun 16	Black-necked Stork	2	Raymond Terrace Rd.	"
Jun 19	Sooty Oystercatcher	6	Newcastle Ocean Baths	"
Jun 22	Whimbrel	1	Stockton Sandspit	"
Jun 28	Black-necked Stork	1	New England Hway, Tarro	"
Jun 29	Grey Goshawk	1	Fletcher	"
Jun 15	Spotted Harrier	1	Yarrawa	G.Brosie/N.Livanos
	Black-chinned Honeyeater	2	Broke Rd.	"
	Olive-backed Oriole	>10	Jones Reserve Rd.	"
	White-backed Swallow	2	Putty Rod.	"
	White-backed Swallow	2	Bulga	"
Jul 13	Crimson Rosella	2	Jesmond	G.Brosie
Jul 17	Black-necked Stork	2	Pambalong N.R.	"
	Little Eagle	1	"	"
Jul 19	Brown Cuckoo-dove	1	Seahampton	"
Aug 1	Grey Goshawk	1	Jesmond	"
Jul 29	Common Greenshank	5	Ash Island [Swan Pond]	A.Lindsey
	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	2	"	"
	Curlew Sandpiper	6	"	"
	Red-necked Stint	30	Ash Island [Swan Pond]	"
	Marsh Sandpiper	12	"	"
Jul 28	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	Glen Oak	M.Maddock
Jul 25	Little Eagle	1	Pennington Drain	"
Aug 5	Australasian Bittern	1	Hexham Swamp [Minmi STW]	A.Lindsey
Aug 2	Powerful Owl	1	New Lambton Heights	P.Lightfoot
Aug 10	Eastern Yellow Robin	1	Buttaba	P.Durie
	Spotted Pardalote	1	Myuna Bay	"
	Brown Falcon	1	Merewether	"
	Varied Sittella	1	Morisset	"
Aug 4	Black-necked Stork	1	Pambalong N.R.	T.Langworthy
Aug 8	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	2	Gwandalan	"
Aug 8	Square-tailed Kite	1	Irrawang Swamp	M.Maddock
Aug 10	Brown Quail	5	Glen Oak	"
" 13- 15	Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	"	"
Aug 15	Great Crested Grebe	7	Grahamstown Dam	"
	Musk Duck	14	"	"
	Hoary-headed Grebe	65	"	"

Jul 28	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	3	Stockton Sandspit	T.Clarke
	Nankeen Night Heron	12	"	"
	Black-shouldered Kite	1	"	"
Jul 30	Grey Goshawk	1	Teralba	"
Jul 23	Red-necked Avocet	>5,000	Stockton Sandspit	"
Aug 6	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	7	"	"
	Red-necked Avocet	>7,000	"	"
	Marsh Sandpiper	1	"	"
	Peregrine Falcon	1	"	"
Aug 12	Red-capped Plover	4	"	"
	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	3	Kooragang Island	"
Aug 22	Australian Hobby	2	Awabakal N.R. [Dudley Bluff]	"
Aug 27	Shining Bronze-cuckoo	2	Stockton Sandspit	"
Sep 1	Little Eagle	1	Teralba	"
Aug 16	Peregrine Falcon	Pr. On	Ash Island	N.Livanos/G.Brosie
Aug 30	Glossy Black Cockatoo	1	Brandy Hill	R.Smith
Aug 27	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Teralba	S. Hamonet
Aug 16	White-fronted Tern	7	Newcastle Baths	G.Brosie
Aug 16	Grey-crowned Babbler	3	Woodville	G.Brosie
Aug 23	Spotted Quail-thrush	2	Tomalpin	"
Aug	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	3	Keinbah	J.Goswell
Sep 4	Spangled Drongo	1	Shortland	R.Smith
Sep 2-10	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	4	Warabrook	R.McDonald
Sep 2	Little Corella	>60	"	"
Sep 3	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Pr. Nest	Bayswater/Mt. Arthur Colliery	G.Newling
Sep 12	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	3	Belmont South	J.Cockerell
Sep 14	<b>Australian Pratincole</b>	1	Ash Island	D & E. Howarth
Sep 8	Channel-billed Cuckoo	3	Teralba	T.Clarke
Sep 7	Double-banded Plover	1	Stockton Sandspit	"
	Latham's Snipe	1	"	"
	Terek Sandpiper	2	Fullerton Cove	"
Aug 30	Grey-crowned Babbler	3	Glen Oak	M.Maddock
Aug 28	Stubble Quail	1	Cardiff	P. Phillips

## 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	EVENT	DETAILS	CONTACT
Saturday October 11	Hunter Wader Survey	8.30am. Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Saturday October 11	Pelagic Trip	6.00am Swansea Wharf	Richard Baxter 4954 0212
Sunday October 12	Singleton Group outing to Milbrodale		Diane Lamb 6574 5205
Sunday October 19	Field outing to Bulga	8.00am Bulga General Store	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008
Saturday October 25	Pelagic Trip	6.00am Swansea Wharf	Richard Baxter 4954 0212
Weekend October 25 – 26	Twitchathon – join a team and raise money for birds.	4.00pm Saturday to 5.00pm Sunday (24 hours)	Coordinator: Steve Roderick 4932 6727
Sunday October 26	Twitchathon BBQ Bring your own everything	5.00pm Wetlands Centre Entry fees apply.	Coordinator: Steve Roderick 4932 6727
Tuesday November 4	Midweek Group outing Glenrock Reserve	7.30am top of Yule Road, Merewether	Leader: Max Blanch 4961 1655
Saturday November 8	Hunter Wader Survey	8.30am. Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Wednesday November 12	Club Night	7.30pm Shortland Wetland Centre	Speaker:
Saturday November 22	Atlassing TBA	TBA	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 <b>you must ring to confirm</b>
Sunday November 23	Field Outing Martins Creek	Tucker Park, Patterson Carry morning tea up Black Rock Rd.	Leader: Mike Newman 4930 5564 <i>7.30 am</i>
Tuesday December 2	Midweek Group outing Awabakal	7.30am Awabakal Field Study Centre Boundary St, Dudley	Contact: Keith Woods 4963 3070
Saturday December 6	Hunter Wader Survey	7.30am Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Sunday December 7	Annual Latham's Snipe Count at Pambalong NR	TBA am at Minmi Pub	Contact: Alan Stuart 4952 8569
Wednesday December 10	Xmas Clubnight	7.30pm Wetlands Centre, Shortland	Member's night Bring your slides, videos etc and a plate to share.