

# NEWSLETTER

**Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.**

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

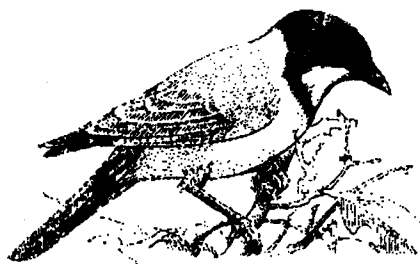
Telephone: (02) 4958 5942

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

President: Liz Crawford

Secretary: Tom Clarke

Newsletter Editor: Peter Phillips



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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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**MERRY XMAS AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL MEMBERS**

**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 February/March 2004 edition is 30 January 2004.

Newsletter articles are always welcome.

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

Tel: 02 49569090, Fax: 02 4954 7118. email: [juniper@hunterlink.net.au](mailto:juniper@hunterlink.net.au)

## **The Great Twitchathon of 2003. 2**

### **Results of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Birds Australia NSW & ACT Twitchathon.**

#### **THE MAIN RACE (10 Teams competing)**

**First: Whacked Out Woodswallows 222**  
**Second: Hunter Thickheads 205**  
**Third: Hunter Home Brewers 203**  
**Fourth: Rustle Crows 200**  
**Meritorious Mention: Dodgy Drongos 164**

#### **THE CHAMPAGNE RACE (19 teams)**

##### **Dead Heat First with 139 each**

- **Lesticum Phoradae &**
- **Rylstone Curlews**

##### **Dead Heat Third with 135 each**

- **Eastern Whiplashes &**
- **Twitched Off.**

#### **LITTLE CURLEWS (under 10 yrs) 6 Teams**

- **Ugly Ospreys 71**
- **Weston Wagtails 62**
- **Golden Whistlers 54**
- **Beautiful Bee Eaters. 28**

#### **DOLLARBIRDS (10-16 years) 4 teams**

**First: Plover Lovers 120**

The Hunter share in all this was enormous.

In first place, the Whacked Out Woodswallows comprised two thirds ex Hunter Thickhead members (Michael Todd, David Geering) plus Carol Probert from the Blue Mountains. Like many other good teams they chose to finish at the Wetland Centre and do much of their twitching in the Hunter.

David Geering brought the Perpetual Trophy to the BBQ to indicate where his teams name would fit, again. There are, however, still some spaces for future winners.

In second place scoring over 200 for the first time came the somewhat older stalwarts, the Hunter Thickheads. Ann Lindsey, Michael Newman, Liz Crawford and their meteorologist mate Chris Herbert confined their efforts entirely to the Hunter.

In third place the young bloods of the Hunter Home Brewers team cruised to 203 and retain the untidiest team trophy for the third year running.

So I make that a trifecta for the Hunter.

One special feature this year was that these three teams were filmed during their efforts so the possibility exists that they can actually prove their sightings for once.

Luminous Films were making a half hour documentary for screening (they hope) on ABC or SBS. They were delighted with the event and expect to make an entertaining, funny, exciting inspiring and informative film that will be a commercial success and interest the wider community in birdwatching.

In the Champagne Race our leading group the Lesticum Phoradae performed, ate and drank well and the Weston Wagtails did marvellously in the Little Curlew Event

Some of these teams will give their own accounts in this and future editions of this Newsletter. The BBQ at The Wetland Centre on Sunday was great. Tall tales of grips, dips, twitches and ticks, of luck and planning, of rivalry and camaraderie. If the film crew captured some of this we could see the beginnings of a saga to rival the Leyland Bros.

And lets not forget the cause. Sponsorship went towards a Birds Australia monitoring project in remnant woodlands of the Murray Darling Catchment of NSW. We will be bringing you updates on this project. Meantime, if you promised money, its time to pay up!

## CLUB OUTINGS

### **Black Rock Road/Green Wattle Creek Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

I must say that I wasn't at all enthusiastic about this month's outing, especially after the deluge before, but I underestimated how good the Paterson area would be.

Five keen birdos ignored the dark skies and met at Tucker Park, Paterson where half an hour was spent watching Regent and Satin Bowerbirds, Collared Sparrowhawks (on nest) and a single Nankeen Night Heron flying past.

On the way to Black Rock Road, two Brown Falcons were spotted and a Buff Banded Rail walking across the road on our arrival was probably the highlight of the day.

As we started our walk, Pheasant Coucal and White-throated Gerygone were heard calling and further along Jacky Winter, Bar Shouldered Dove and a very nice male White Winged Triller all made an appearance. Our group then added two new members, a very friendly Cattle Dog and a Wedge-tailed Eagle which seemed to be in sight all the time.

Mistletoebirds seemed to be everywhere, as did Variegated and Superb Fairy Wrens, Fan-tailed Cuckoo and Eastern Whipbird. At the top of the hill Yellow Tufted Honeyeater were common and Brown Cuckoo Dove and Wonga Pigeon called on several occasions.

After morning tea we ventured further into the bush seeing White-bellied Cuckoo Strike, Black Faced Monarch and Cicadabird. One bird which proved difficult to add to the list was Red browed Firetail with only one bird being seen as we were leaving. On the way back to the cars a small flock of Double Barred Finches and Yellow-rumped Thornbills took flight from besides the road and a Brush Cuckoo was heard as we ate lunch.

Two of our group left at this point and the remainder drove the short distance to Green Wattle Creek. It was quite hot so bird numbers were down but we did see more Jacky Winters as well as adding Varied Sittella, Speckled Warbler, Buff-rumped Thornbill and White bellied Sea Eagle. The last bird of the day was a Leaden Flycatcher calling as we did the bird list.

81 species was the final tally for the three locations. In future I will certainly be more enthusiastic about any club outings to the Paterson area. Great birds, fantastic scenery – and the company wasn't bad either.

Grant Brosie.

### **Midweek Outing. Pelican & Belmont. Tuesday 7 October 2003**

We explored the reserve along Lakeview Street Pelican walking in and out of the various tracks to the creek. The highlights were a male and female Leaden Flycatcher, White-faced Honeyeaters, many silvereyes and Superb fairy wrens. A flock of 30 + Top Knot Pigeons were flying around too.

After morning tea at the Lakeside Reserve we moved on to Belmont Swamp where Keith Laverick led us on his regular atlassing route. In this area we saw a Grey Goshawk, Sacred Kingfisher, Woodswallows, Lewins Honeyeater, a Rufous Whistler and many Red-browed Finches.

Another enjoyable morning with a total of 61 species sighted.

Val Moon.

## THE HUNTER THICKHEADS 2003 TWITCHATHON.

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In a decade of Twitchathons, the Hunter Thickheads have never broken the 200 species barrier. Twice we reached 199, in 1994 and 1997 and since 2000 we have always scored over 190. This year we were determined to break the barrier. An added incentive to achieve a high score was the entry of our close rivals the Whacked out Woodswallows (heavily populated with ex Thickhead team members) and the Hunter Home Brewers (who had narrowly beaten us last year)

The Twitchathon is a delicious excuse to concentrate on particular habitats and refine a route that makes the most of daylight, night-time and tides. Starting on Saturday afternoon in the woodlands of the upper Hunter, we try to twitch as many woodland species as possible before nightfall.

The best weather for birdwatching is calm, sunny and not too hot. This year our proposed start point was immediately beneath a growing thunderstorm with light fading to steely grey and the smell of rain in the air. With forty-five minutes to go before the start, we changed our game plan and headed off due west through the thunderstorm in the hope of finding a sun-drenched landscape on the other side. What a scary drive – through dark grey clouds and rain into a lurid green sky and lashings of hail. But it worked! We started in sunshine and by nightfall had ticked up 70 species.

The thunderstorm had far reaching effects – it blacked out Singleton and cancelled our dinner arrangements. It glowered over Barrington Tops and threatened to flood our camp so we changed our plans for sleeping out. But it certainly didn't stop us!

We found new back routes to twitch a Barn Owl and other ways of finding birds at night. We slept for a few hours and woke refreshed to an excellent dawn chorus. Last week's "homework" paid off as we ticked off expected species – beauties like nesting Pacific Bazas!

But there lots of dips – birds are far too flighty to be certainties! And there's only a narrow window of opportunity in each habitat before its time to move on.

We combed lots of habitats in the Hunter- from cleared farmland to remnant woodland, from dry sclerophyll to rainforest, from farm dams and restored wetlands to natural swamps, from sheltered estuarine waters to the open ocean, from street plantings to private gardens – we gleaned birds from everywhere.

By 5PM on Sunday we had 205 species, the last being a Spotted Harrier 30 seconds from the finish. The 200 barrier was broken and we'd done it entirely within the Hunter Region.

Apart from the personal satisfaction of identifying 205 species in 24 hours there's the pleasure of helping to raise funds for Birds Australia research projects.

In the past projects have ranged from contributing to the conservation of particular species such as the Regent Honeyeater, Red tailed Black Cockatoo and Wandering Albatross through to habitat improvement at such places as Cowra Woodlands and Newhaven Station.

The Thickheads have always had loyal and generous supporters and over the past 10 years we have raised more than \$7000. This year's contribution is \$1465.25. Many thanks to Club members, friends and family for your enthusiasm and support for our endeavours.

This year we had the added bonus of Luminous Films making a documentary about the Twitchathon. Film crews followed three teams throughout the entire event, taking footage of the highs and lows of the hunt and recording each team's thoughts and feelings. The filmed us, the Brewers and the Woodswallows – amazingly for them the first three place getters.

(Continued next page)

The film crews became an extension of each team accepting the crowded and intense conditions of the race. Unlike us, they rarely focussed on the birds, determined instead to focus on "people with a passion". Their presence was a subtle confirmation of the need we all have to take on a challenge and succeed. We wish them well with the search for sponsorship to finish the film.

Ann Lindsey, Liz Crawford, Chris Herbert and Mike Newman.

**Hunter Thickheads gratefully acknowledge sponsorship from Survey and Instruments, suppliers of binoculars and telescopes at Broadmeadow.**

### **IS IT A LEADEN OR A SATIN FLYCATCHER??**

The Satin Flycatcher is a relatively rare species in the Hunter Region – except in summer in the high country, where it is a regular migrant. A good place to see a Satin Flycatcher is the Barrington Tops between November and February.

We receive a lot more reports of Satin Flycatchers that this and from all sorts of locations. Of course, when the birds are on passage there is a chance of seeing one somewhere other than the high country. But it is likely that many of the reports are due to a mis-identification of a male Leaden Flycatcher. It is not easy to differentiate these two species in the field especially when looking into the light (such as into a tree against a background of sky!)

The June issue of Wingspan, The Birds Australia magazine, has a very interesting article on flycatchers by Graeme Chapman. Because not all HBOC members receive Wingspan, I thought it would be appropriate to summarise the identification advice given in the article.

The male Satin Flycatcher is a black and white bird. In non-ideal viewing conditions, the male Leaden Flycatcher can appear quite dark, especially around the neck and throat. Identification as a Satin Flycatcher based on colour is risky! The surest way to differentiate the two is to look at the demarcation line between the throat and breast feathers. For Satin Flycatchers, this line tends to be down curved (not strongly so) and the white breast forms an obtuse angle with the edge of the wing.

For Leaden Flycatchers, the demarcation line curves upwards forming an acute angle with the edge of the wing. It's quite a subtle identification point – for when you think you have a Satin Flycatcher.

While differentiating between the males is hard, the females are practically indistinguishable (female Satin is darker and their crown has a bluish sheen) and the immatures are impossible except by measurement. Both species have great variations in their calls and it would require a very practised ear to pick them.

All in all, it requires great care to identify a Satin Flycatcher with confidence. If you see a bird away from the high country in the Hunter, look very carefully so as to be sure it's not a "dark" Leaden Flycatcher that you've found.

Alan Stuart.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

**Hunter Birds Observers Club is pleased to welcome the following new members:**

**Triston Smythe of Merewether  
Zona Brown & John Bentley of Old Bar  
Mark Simpson of West Wallsend  
Nick Leseberg of Waratah**

## CARRY ON TWITCHING

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Whenever I mention I'm a birdwatcher I always get funny looks back. To my generation our hobby is seen as a filler between retirement and death, slow, boring and stress free. These people have never participated in a twitchathon!

2003 will go down in history as the year the Dodgy Drongos entered a race containing some of the finest twitchers in the State: it's a shame none of them were in our team. For months Robert McDonald and I planned our route, deciding to do the complete opposite to the other teams and I think it would have paid off too if a few more coastal birds had shown up.

We had timed the Saturday afternoon perfectly. Pick up Robert at 1pm., drive to our Allyn River starting point, have lunch and do some quiet birding until the start time. Well, the only thing that went right was getting to Robert's on time. I pulled up in his driveway with smoke pouring out of one of the back brakes: they were only four days old. Quick call to Dad had Robert's grandfather driving us down to Belmont where we picked up Dad's car. We were now running an hour late and starting to panic. We flew up to Barrington and we were just sprinting up the hill when 4 pm ticked over. We made it. Just.

Our first bird was a White-headed Pigeon, which flew into a flock of Top-knot Pigeons. Monarch, Pitta, Rose Robin and White-throated Needletail were next to fall. A Large-billed Scrubwren was a highlight as we didn't expect to see one. Our next stop had Lyrebirds, Fan-tailed Cuckoo and Catbirds. But where were the Russet-tailed Thrush and Emerald Dove we had seen the week before? Next stop was Barrington House where we ran into Wonga Pigeon, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Dollarbird and Satin Bowerbird.

From Barrington we drove to Munghorn Gap via Singleton where we failed to spotlight Plumed Whistling Duck. We also failed to get any night birds until Munghorn when a Powerful Owl was heard calling.

Getting up before light we started ticking with Southern Boobook and Emu calling and as the sun came up Pallid Cuckoo, Rock Warbler, thornbills, New Holland Honeyeater and a Leaden Flycatcher. Then to Moorarben Road which was very quiet. It took us a while to find Bee Eater, Turquoise Parrot, Brown Treecreeper, White-browed Babbler, Restless Flycatcher, Dusky Woodswallow, Diamond Firetail and the first of many Rufous Songlark.

We left Munghorn quite confident that we'd reach a good total. White-necked Heron, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Little Lorikeet, Pipit, Double Barred and Zebra Finches were seen and a quick stop at Bulga really paid off with Red-capped and Hooded Robins, Speckled Warbler, Stripea Honeyeater and Channel-billed Cuckoo.

Next stop was the Walka Water Works: Hoary-headed and Great Crested Grebe, Musk Duck and Long-billed Corella,

Ash Island was our undoing. Not a bird in sight although we got lucky with a Brown Falcon, Chats and a few Greenshank. Tempers flared as we left the island and headed for Stockton Sandspit, where birds were scarce except for a few Curlew, Whimbrel, Tattlers, a Caspian Tern and Bar-tailed Godwit. The traffic into Newcastle Baths was appalling, wiping half an hour off our birding time. Where were the Common Tern and Sooty Oystercatchers?

As time ran out we couldn't get to Warabrook to see Robert's Freckled Ducks so it was straight to the Wetlands Centre for Magpie Geese, Wandering Whistling and Pink-eared Ducks and Variegated Fairy Wrens. The finishing time came around quickly and after a final count we had 164 species – not bad for beginners.

Next year will see us improve and refine our route and hopefully pick up some of the common species we missed this time. Finally I'd just like to thank all our sponsors for their generous donations and support

Grant Brosie  
The Drongo in the Dodgy Drongos.

## **A PASSING OBSERVATION OF THE DUCK KIND.**

About two years ago, on the way back from one of my frequent walks to carry out observations on the Freckled Ducks at the Wetland Centre, I paused to check what seemed to be a duck with several ducklings out in the distance on one of the larger ponds.

As it appeared to be unusual, in that there were no other ducklings about at that time, it was worth checking out. Quickly I raised my binoculars and watched for some time. The "duck with ducklings" turned out to be an adult Hardhead with an Australasian Grebe in very close proximity. Every time the Hardhead dived, shortly after so did the grebe. This went on for some minutes with the Hardhead moving further and further away. – followed by the grebe.

I concluded that this was a very clever grebe, as it obviously seemed to be feeding in close association with the Hardhead. As the Hardhead dived it would disturb animal life beneath the surface of the water. The grebe always managed to time its dive just that little bit later when, no doubt the culinary rewards would have been greater due to the disturbance by the Hardhead.

After typing this tale, and by the strangest chance, I stumbled across a copy of an article by Graham Blackwell on "Feeding Association between Little Grebe and Freckled Duck" – (December 1980 source unknown). I had walked into the Library at the Centre where the article was the only publication on the table and the Freckled Duck part had caught my eye. I soon realised it was a similar story to that above. It appears that the Australasian (Little) Grebe may have the clever habit of feeding with other waterfowl to its own advantage...

A VERY clever Grebe. Who said birds have no brains?

**WILMA BARDEN**

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## **THE WETLAND CENTRE - VISIONS**

Members will have noticed that "expressions of interest" have been sought over a large block of land surplus to needs. If this results in a land sale it would relieve the financial pressures on The Wetland Centre for some considerable time. It allows The Board to think about the longer term future.

In March the Centre made a submission to the State Government calling for funding to develop a Hunter Wetlands Conservation Park and proposing that the Wetland Centre be the gateway to this entity with educational and interpretive information available for the whole area and the National Parks and Wildlife Service taking some space in the Centre.

The Conservation Park has the potential to bring under one umbrella the Hunter's series of individual wetland sites, nature reserves and regional parks with a network of roads, walkways and cycleways linking them.

While a good idea in principle, it would require a partnership arrangement between NPWS (or whatever is replacing it) and the Wetland Centre and various models have been proposed and discussed.

Before any decision is made there is a great deal of negotiation and detailed understandings to be reached. Supporters of the Wetland Centre should be assured that nothing will be done to reduce the autonomy and their enjoyment of the Wetland Centre and that further consultation will be conducted with all stakeholders (eg HBOC) before any commitments are made.

Peter Phillips  
Wetland Centre Board Member

**THE WETLAND CENTRE  
SUMMER PROGRAM**

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**What to do with the Kids in the Holidays?**

There are fully supervised sessions at \$15.00 per child which covers all activities

**Wetland Wiggles** (Kids 5-9yrs)

Join our leader for games, arts and crafts, dip netting and adventure walks.

Tues & Wed. Jan. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21

**Canoeing Adventure** (Kids 10-15 yrs)

9am – 1pm Thursdays Jan 8, 15, 22

**Arts Alive** (Kids all ages)

9am-1pm Fridays Jan. 9, 16, 23

**And for adults and families....**

**Breakfast with the Birds**

7am January 11

**Spotlight Prowl**

January 17 (check start time when you book)

**Canoeing Safari** (includes Lunch)

9.30am First Sunday each month.

Further information on these activities from the Wetland Centre 02 4951 6466

**Bookings are essential**

**KOORAGANG WETLANDS ESTUARY TOURS**

Come and see why hundreds of migratory wading birds flock to the Hunter Estuary each summer. View them from the best spot in town – on the water.

Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project is running Estuary Tours this summer on the Lady Joy covering Newcastle Harbour, the Kooragar Dykes, Mosquito Creek and the internationally important Hunter Estuary Wetlands.

The next birdwatching based trip is on Saturday February 7, 2004 commencing 9am. from Queens Wharf, Newcastle and lasts for approximately 3 hours (morning tea provided)

Co-commentator on this tour is Allan Morris well known and very knowledgeable birder from the Central Coast Group of Birding NSW.

For enquiries, bookings and prices call  
02 4964 9308.

**BIRDS AUSTRALIA** has been announced as the winner of the prestigious Australian Museum Eureka Award, an acknowledgement of excellence in biodiversity research for the development of The Atlas of Australian Birds.

The Atlas project continues on an ongoing basis. Established Atlassers should continue to submit data as before. Anybody who has not been involved in Atlassing and would now like to be involved could contact a Committee member or Ann Lindsey on 4951 2008.



## 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 January 17	Hunter Wader Survey	10.00am. Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 4959 3663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Sunday January 18	Field Outing Walka Water Works	8.00am Outside entrance gate to Walka Water Works	Nick Livanos 4954 5739
Saturday – Monday January 24-26	Camp Mount Royal NP	Youngville Camp Main Range Road	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 <b>Ring for camp site details</b>
Tuesday February 3	Mid Week Outing Shortland Sewerage Works	7.30AM The Wetlands Centre	Leader: Ken Gibson 4955 0866
<b>Wednesday February 11</b>	<b>Club Night &amp; Annual General Meeting</b>	<b>7.30PM The Wetlands Centre</b>	<b>Speaker: TBA</b>
Saturday February 14	Hunter Wader Survey.	Various locations as directed	Chris Herbert 49593663 Alan Stuart 4952 8569 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Saturday February 21	Atlassing Mount Sugarloaf	7.00am Mount Sugarloaf turn-off George Booth Drive	Coordinator: Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 <b>You must ring to confirm</b>
Sunday February 22	Field Outing Brunkerville	9.00am Old Brush, Brunkerville	Di Johnson 4975 1777
Tuesday March 2	Mid Week Outing Cooranbong / Mandalong	7.30am Western side Morisset exit off freeway	Leader: Don Moon 4359 1670
Sunday March 7	Clean Up Australia Day	9.00am to 1.00pm Stockton Sandspit	Organiser Tom Clarke 4951 3872

# **OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB NIGHTS OCT/NOV 2003.**

Mar 14	Double-banded Plover	2	Old Bar	D.Jenkin
	Beach Stone-curlew	3	"	"
	Pied Cormorant	22	"	"
	Little Tern	450-500	"	"
	Osprey	1	Harrington	"
	Pied Oystercatcher	7	"	"
	Sooty Oystercatcher	3	"	"
Jul 12	Bar-tailed Godwit	3	Stockton	A.Lindsey
	Great Knot	3	"	"
	Red Knot	10	"	"
Jul 30	Diamond Firetail	4	Bulga	"
	Scarlet Robin	4	"	"
	Red-necked Stint	30	Ash Island Ponds	"
Jul 29	Curlew Sandpiper	3	"	"
	Red-capped Plover	12	"	"
Aug 5	Australasian Bittern	1	Minmi Waste Water Ponds	"
Aug 7	Osprey	2	Tanilba Bay	"
Aug 20	Rufous Whistler [arrival]	1	Shortland	"
Sep 13	Black-faced Monarch [arrival]	1	"	"
Sep 13	Black Falcon	1	Ash Island	"
Sep 4	Rose Robin	1	Shortland	"
	Spangled Drongo	2	"	"
Sep 13	Brown Treecreeper	1 + 1dy	5km east of Wollar	G.Brosie
Sep 16	Buff-banded Rail	1	Ash Island	"
	Red-kneed Dotterel	2 + 2dy	"	"
Sep 17	Striated Heron	1	"	"
	Little Eagle	1	"	"
	Topknot Pigeon	19	"	"
Sep 20	Pink-eared Duck	2	Walka Water Works	"
	Ruddy Turnstone	>15	Newcastle Ocean Baths	"
	Australian Pratincole	1	Ash Island	"
Sep 14	Whiskered Tern	30	Ash Island	D&E.Howarth
Sep 20	Whiskered Tern	40	"	A.Stuart
Sep 26	Black Kite	1	Thornton	M.Blanch
Sep 15	Pacific Baza	1	Medowie	F.Humphreys
Sep 27	<b>Satin Flycatcher</b>	1	Keinbah	J.Goswell
Sep 28	Red-capped Parrot	1	"	"
Sep 26	Pheasant Coucal	1	Jewells Swamp – Redhead	T.Clarke
Sep 24	Black-faced Monarch	2	Teralba	"
Sep 22	Little Eagle	1	East of Jerry's Plains	A.Stuart
Oct 4	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2	Cassilis	"
	Brown Treecreeper	ny	White-box camp arear	"
	Musk Lorikeet	2	Goulburn R. N.P. [nr White Box	"
	Emu	1 + 2dy	"	"
	Rufous Songlark	2	Battery Rocks Area –Merriwa	"
Oct 4	Brown Honeyeater	52	Carrington [mangroves]	C.Goodenough
Sep 21	Nankeen Night Heron	1	"	"
Oct 3	Brown Goshawk	2	"	"
Oct 8	Freckled Duck	6	Warabrook Ponds	R.McDonald
	Blue-billed Duck	1	"	"
Sep 23	Glossy Ibis	5	Pambalong N.R.	"
	Dusky Woodswallow	>20	"	"
Oct 6	Blue-faced Honeyeater	6	Tahlee/Carrington	C.Anderson
Oct 1	Brown Cuckoo-dove	2	Black Hill	"
Oct 6	Whimbrel	2	Tahlee/Carrington	"

Oct 16	Spangled Drongo	1	Fern Bay	C. Anderson
Oct 1	Common Koel	1	Hamilton	T. Clarke
Oct 2	Buff-banded Rail	1	S.W.C.	"
Oct 6	Latham's Snipe	1	S.W.C.	"
Sep 4	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Buttaba	R. Waymark
Oct 1	Common Koel	1	"	"
Oct 2	Dollarbird	2	"	"
Sep 24	Forest Raven	2	Smiths Lake	F. van Gessel
	Rose-crowned Fruit Dove	5	Seal Rocks	"
Sep 23	Spectacled Monarch	1	Sharpe's Creek [Glouc. Tops]	"
	Pale Yellow Robin	1	"	"
	Rose Robin	Several	"	"
	Bassian Thrush	1	"	"
	Russet-tailed Thrush	1	"	"
Sep 6	Latham's Snipe		Bush Haven –East Seaham	J. Musicka
Sep 14	Red-kneed Dotterel	Pr	Lake Liddell	G. Newling [Singleton Grp.]
	Hooded Robin	1	"	"
Oct 24	Brown Goshawk	Pr	Burning Mountain	"
	Rufous Songlark	Pr	Wingen	"
Sep 6	Pallid Cuckoo	1	Martindale	H. Tarrant
Sep 14	Leaden Flycatcher	1	Vacy	"
	White-throated Gerygone	>20	"	"
Sep 28	White-winged Triller	1	Bolwarra	"
	White-winged Triller	1	Medowie	"
	Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo	1	Bolwarra	"
Sep 14	Double-barred Finch	>50	Vacy	"
Sep 21	Grey-crowned Babbler	10	Yarrowa	"
Oct 5	White-winged Triller	5	Martindale [separate locations]	"
	Rufous Songlark	5	Doyle's Ck. [separate locations]	"
Sep 27	Caspian Tern	1	Bolwarra [STW lagoon]	"
Sep 28	Banded Lapwing	6	Flat Rd. Bolwarra	"
Sep 30	Blue-faced Honeyeater	6	Bolwarra	"
	Grey Goshawk	1	"	"
Oct 2 & 6	Pink-eared Duck	c.25 & c.15	Walka Water Works	"
Oct 5	White-browed Babbler	5	Doyle's Creek	H. Tarrant
	Painted Honeyeater	1	Martindale	"
	White-winged Triller	5	"	"
	Regent Bowerbird	1	Martin's Creek [Black Rock Rd]	"
Oct 4	Black-faced Monarch	1	Green Wattle Ck.	M. Newman
Sep 8	Grey-crowned Babbler	4 + 3fy	Woodville	"
Sep 28	Whiskered Tern	c.135	Hexham Swamp	"
	Glossy Ibis	21	"	"
Oct 7	Grey Goshawk	1	Green Wattle Ck. Woodville	"
Oct	Buff-banded Rail	1	Pelaw Main	T. Clarke
Oct 8	Black-faced Monarch	1	Belmont South	J. & B. Cockerell
	Brown Honeyeater	1	"	"
Oct 4	Musk Lorikeet	3	Blackalls Park	N. Granter
Oct 16	Powerful Owl [road kill]	1	Rankin Park	Per T. Clarke
	Powerful Owl	2	Rankin Park [behind Jn Hunter]	T. Clarke
Oct 24	Powerful Owl	1	"	T. Clarke et al
Sep 3	Olive-backed Oriole	1	Milbrodale	D. Lamb
Sep 29	Olive-backed Oriole	1	"	"
Oct 16	Brown Cuckoo-dove	Pr.	Payne's Crossing	"
Oct 21	Common Bronzewing	Pr	Ellalong	J. Meynell
	Crested Shrike-tit	3	"	"
Oct 10	Grey-crowned Babbler	9	"	"
Aug 7	Pheasant Coucal	1	"	"
Oct 15	Peregrine Falcon	1	Ellalong Lagoon	"

Oct 15	White-bellied Sea-eagle	<b>Pr</b>	Ellalong Lagoon	J Meynell
Nov 2	Black Kite	<b>2</b>	East Maitland	M.Maddock
Nov 12	Little Eagle	<b>1</b>	Deadman's Creek	"
Nov 8	Hoary-headed Grebe	<b>29</b>	Richardson Swamp [R.Terrace]	"
	Australasian Grebe	<b>23</b>	"	"
Nov 6	Magpie Goose	<b>1</b>	Seaham N.R.	"
Nov 8	Black-tailed Godwit	<b>10</b>	Myall River [Winda Woppa Rd]	"
Nov 9	Curlew Sandpiper	<b>&gt;100</b>	Stockton Sandspit	"
	Red-necked Avocet	<b>&gt;1,000</b>	"	"
Nov 8	Grey-tailed Tattler	<b>4</b>	Myall River [Tea Gardens]	M.Maddock
Nov 9	Brown Quail	<b>1</b>	Glen Oak	"
Nov 6	Latham's Snipe	<b>3</b>	Irrawang Swamp	"
	Red-kneed Dotterel	<b>2</b>	"	"
	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<b>&gt;100</b>	"	"
Oct	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	<b>14</b>	Lorn	J.Goswell
Sep-Nov	Blackbird	<b>1</b>	"	"
Oct 14	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	<b>&gt;50</b>	Myuna Bay	V. Moon
Oct-Nov	Glossy Black Cockatoo	<b>2pr</b>	Wye Point	"
Oct 10	Shining Bronze-cuckoo	<b>4</b>	Walka Water Works	K.Gibson
Oct 18	Emerald Dove	<b>1</b>	Allyn River	G.Brosie
	Russet-tailed Thrush	<b>1</b>	"	"
	Barn Owl	<b>1</b>	Salisbury Rd. Dungog	"
	Barn Owl	<b>1</b>	Bingleburra Rd. Dungog	"
Oct 26	Nankeen Night Heron	<b>&gt;20</b>	Stockton Sandspit	"
Oct 25	White-throated Needletail	<b>&gt;10</b>	Allyn River	"
Oct	Regent Bowerbird	<b>1</b>	Dungog	J.Smith [for A.Fisher]
Nov 12	Swamp Harrier	<b>1</b>	Ironbark Creek	J.Smith
Oct 16	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	<b>2</b>	S.W.C.	P.Lightfoot
Oct 14	Grey Goshawk	<b>1</b>	Warabrook	R.McDonald
Nov 1	Freckled Duck	<b>6</b>	"	"
Nov 4	Crested Shrike-tit	<b>1</b>	Glenrock S.R.A.	T.Smythe
Oct	Regent Bowerbird	<b>1</b>	Taree Bicentennial Gardens	"
Nov 9	Brown Goshawk	<b>1</b>	Shortland	"
Oct	Tawny Frogmouth	<b>1</b>	Taree Bicentennial Gardens	"
Nov 9	Black-faced Monarch	<b>1</b>	Jesmond Park	"
Oct	Azure Kingfisher	<b>2</b>	Taree Bicentennial Gardens	"
Oct 26	White-throated Needletail	<b>&gt;10</b>	Warkworth	G.Brosie
	Rufous Songlark	<b>&gt;15</b>	Kerrabee area	"
Nov 2	Black Kite	<b>1</b>	Maitland Garbage Tip	"
Nov 9	Pheasant Coucal	<b>1</b>	Highfields	M.Jackson
Nov 5	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	<b>6</b>	Cardiff	J.Westphail
Nov 12	Sooty Oystercatcher	<b>10</b>	Newcastle South beach	J.Powers
Nov 8	Pectoral Sandpiper	<b>1</b>	Ash Island	A.Stuart
	Grey Goshawk <b>nest</b>	<b>Pr</b>	Mount Vincent	P.Fitzsimons
	White-browed Woodswallow	<b>3</b>	Jones Reserve Rd. [Jrrys Plains]	D.Jenkin
Nov 9	White-browed Woodswallow	<b>5</b>	Gungal to Merriwa [Flags Rd.]	A.Stuart
	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	<b>1</b>	Jones Reserve Rd.	D.Jenkin
	Diamond Firetail		"	"
	Singing Bushlark	<b>1</b>	"	"
Nov 9	Singing Bushlark	<b>1</b>	O'Briens Crossing {G.R.N.P.}	A.Stuart
Oct	Grey Goshawk <b>on nest</b>	<b>1</b>	Newcastle University	H.Tarrant
Nov 9	Logrunner	<b>1</b>	Barrington House	"
Oct 31	Rufous Songlark	<b>15-20</b>	Rouchel Brook [19k. fm Aberd.]	"
	White-winged Triller	<b>1</b>	"	"
	Brown Goshawk	<b>1</b>	"	"
Oct 16	Painted Honeyeater	<b>2</b>	Bureen	"

## Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. to be held at the Wetlands Centre, Shortland on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2004 commencing at 7:30pm.

Business of the meeting: Confirmation of minutes of 2003 AGM  
Annual Report Including Financial Report  
Election of Office Bearers (see separate notice)  
Filling of other positions  
General Business

The AGM will be followed by the February Club Night.

Tom Clarke, Public Officer.

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### Election of HBOC Office Bearers for 2004

Nominations are called for the following positions for 2004:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Ordinary Members of the Management Committee. (6 max.)

Nominations shall be made in writing and signed by two members of the Club and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate. Written nominations shall be delivered to the Secretary by 4<sup>th</sup> February 2004.

If insufficient written nominations are received by 4<sup>th</sup> February 2004, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall then be received at the AGM.

Tom Clarke, Public Officer.

### Form Of Appointment Of Proxy

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.  
(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984)

I, .....(full name)  
of .....(address)

being a member of the Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

hereby appoint .....(full name of proxy)  
of .....(address)

being a member of that Club, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Club to be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2004 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

**Membership fees are now due for the year 1st January 2004 to 31st December 2004.**

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....Phone No.:.....

Please circle the appropriate category:      **Family - \$22**                      **Single - \$22**                      **Junior - \$3**

New members who joined after 30<sup>th</sup> September will be registered for 2004.

Fees may be paid at Club Nights or by mail to the Hon. Treasurer, P.O.Box 24, New Lambton, NSW 2305

*Please return this completed form with your renewal, whether renewing in person or by mail.*