

NEWSLETTER

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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

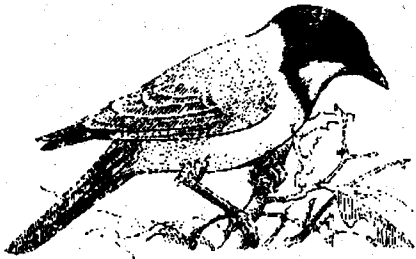
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President: Liz Crawford

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*

IN THIS EDITION:

- **Field Outings and Club Night Reports.**
- **Observations**
- **Coming Events**
- **The Great Albatross Race - Results**
- and lots of interesting little bits

Newsletter articles are always welcome, however, contributors should try to confine themselves to 1000 words or less.

Next Newsletter Deadline is 3 October 2004

Newsletter contact details.

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Membership Fees

HBOC Annual Membership fees are \$22 Family or Single and \$3 for Juniors. Fees for 2004 are due now.

Midweek Outing – Walka Water Works, Tuesday
4th May, 2004

From Nick Livanos

On a sunny, though cool and windy, autumn morning, 22 HBOC members set out to explore one of our favourite birding spots.

As the group assembled, one of the resident Peregrine Falcons was sighted, as well as a pair of Brown Falcons that were harassing the local feral pigeons. We then headed off around the lake circuit into a strong cold westerly wind.

As we started out, a Bar-shouldered Dove was heard, and subsequently sighted by some of the group. Good views were obtained of several pairs of Red-rumped Parrots which entertained us with their musical calls, and White-plumed Honeyeaters were spotted in the Silky Oaks.

Though not in large numbers, most of the usual water birds were seen, the highlight being a pair of Great Crested Grebes with two quite large dependent young, attractively dressed in stripes. All four common local egrets were seen - Cattle Egrets in the fields, and Great, Little and Intermediate Egrets, which had conveniently arranged themselves on adjacent pontoons, allowing clear comparison and identification. \]

Prior to the main group start, Buff-banded Rail and Baillon's Crake had been spotted, but unfortunately, by the time the rest of us arrived on the scene, the birds had retreated into hiding.

As we walked, we saw Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, Satin Bower Bird, Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, and Pied and Grey Butcherbirds. However, because of the strong wind, there were not a lot of small birds to be seen in the open, but Brown, and Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Silvereyes, Mistletoebirds, Grey Fantails and Willie Wagtails were seen in the more sheltered areas.

Another highlight here was the sighting of a White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike, clearly seen by most of the group. On our way, we encountered the caretaker, who informed us that a cross-country group was due soon and to watch out for the kids. As it turned out, they arrived at about our morning teatime, after we had completed the main part of our walk.

We had expected to have the place more or less to ourselves, as is usually the case, but Walka encompasses such a large area, that even though there were hundreds of people there, we still had virtually uninterrupted birding.

After morning tea, we set out to do the bush circuit, with faint expectation of seeing much, as by then the wind had strengthened considerably.

Initially, this proved to be the case, but about halfway through, our perseverance was rewarded as we hit a 'hot' spot in a relatively protected area of bush where the wind had not penetrated. Here we saw Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, a few Noisy Miners and had close views of White-naped Honeyeaters low down in full sunlight.

As well, we sighted Spangled Drongo, Rose Robin, Yellow and Striated Thornbills, Superb Fairy Wrens, and scores of Red-browed Finches. We also had the good fortune to obtain excellent views of both Golden and Rufous Whistlers, in a range of plumages - adult male, female and young of each. This was a great identification aid for those of us who, while being able to recognise the adult males, were unsure about the others.

We completed the circuit at about noon, having seen a total of 78 species.

Program –Brief Notes

White Box Camp – Queens Birthday Weekend. Alan Stuart reports 15 happy campers and visitors at a site unfairly described as Ice Box. Highlights -Turquoise Parrots, Glossy Black Cockatoo and Chestnut-rumped Heathwren

Minmi Midweek Outing. 6 July – a smaller than usual crowd (13) with many species of raptor.

New Members Day. Small group of new members enjoyed a great lunch (thanks to Judy Westphal) and pleasant birding at The Wetland Centre

Latest **Regent Honeyeater/Swift Parrot** survey drew a blank with very little blossom apparent

Field Outing Morisset and Mandalong Sunday 23 May 2004

From Don Moon

We started our outing in the Mandalong State Forest where we saw 43 different species – such as Satin Bowerbirds, Golden Whistler Silvereyes and King Parrots. Our stay in this area was cut short as we were joined by many trail bike riders also using this part of the forest.

Our next stop was Goodwin Park, Morisset where the Swamp Mahogany was in full flower and many bird calls were heard – including Rainbow, Little and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, White-naped and Scarlet Honeyeaters and 5 Southern Emu Wren. Flying overhead was a Peregrine Falcon and a Grey Goshawk.

We next visited the Morisset Hospital grounds including the reservoir and Woods Point. A good mixture of birds was seen including 3 White-Bellied Sea Eagles and another Peregrine Falcon.

The highlight of the day was seeing 9 Swift Parrots in the tall trees between the lake edge reserve and the hospital cottages. These birds were flying with Rainbow and Scaly-Breasted Lorikeets.

All who attended had a good day.

Midweek Outing Wangi –Point and Myuna Bay. Tuesday 1 June 2004

From Val Moon.

There are many good walking trails in the Wangi Point Reserve. We decided to do the Ridge and Point ones and although there were not a lot of birds sighted we managed to see many lorikeets, Noisy Miner, Noisy Friarbirds, Lewins Honeyeater and Rose Robin.

After morning tea we moved to Myuna Bay where in the dense undergrowth along the track we saw many wrens, Red-browed finches, Silvereyes, Golden Whistler, Rose Robin and a good close-up view of a Spotted Pardalote.

Along the water outlet from Eraring Power Station were many cormorants, pelicans, terns and seagulls. We also sighted 2 White-bellied Sea-Eagles and 3 Whistling Kites on the southern side of the outlet. A total of 54 species for this area.

GORDON BERULDSSEN's BOOK

Those eagerly awaiting Gordon's new book Australian Birds, their Nests and Eggs will have to wait a while longer.

Erina Beruldsen advises that firstly technical problems and then Gordon's health have caused several months delay. No doubt, like his previous efforts, it will be worth waiting for and we can but wish him a speedy recovery.

Mangoola Atlas Day

26th, June 2004

From Grant Brosie

Mangoola is a small locality just north of Denman on the Mangoola Road. Our survey sights were on private property on the foothills of Anvil Hill with Christine and Ray Phelps of Wybong showing us around this wonderful woodland area. Bird surveys weren't the only happenings that day with NPWS also present looking for orchids, mammals etc.

Although the day was cold and windy, birds were literally everywhere and in good numbers. We started with a pipit on the road in and as we started to walk Brown Treecreeper, Diamond Firetail and heaps of Jacky Winter were observed feeding on the ground. A bit further along a group of Yellow-faced, White-naped and Brown-headed Honeyeater flew through the treetops whilst a pair of Hooded Robin clung to the sides of trees.

The next bird found was one of the highlights for the day, a pair of Red-capped Robins. They gave us great views as they hopped around some fallen timber. We ended up finding another five birds around the property. Later on we were to see a male Rose Robin and a few Yellow Robins bring the days total to five robins including Jacky Winter.

As we walked around we added Restless Flycatcher, Western Gerygone, both pardalotes, White-eared Honeyeater and many Speckled Warblers. It was pleasing to see both Varied Sittella and Buff-rumped Thornbill in large numbers. One pair of the Buff-rumps was seen displaying and mating.

We walked as far as we could until we reached a small cliff face. This is where we got our second highlight, five Rock Warblers. Surely this must be on the northern limit of their range.

After lunch we walked another section of the property seeing more Red-capped & Hooded Robins, Common Bronzewing, Variegated Fairy-wren and a Collared Sparrowhawk which flew off with prey in it's talons.

At the end of the day we finished with a total of 58 species, of which only 9 were non-passerines, including 4 species of bird of prey. A revisit is already being planned.

Grant Brosie

PS. On following night I received a phone call from Christine thanking us for our involvement. She also mentioned that that night after we left they managed to record Powerful, Masked and Barking Owls on the property. I knew we should have stayed longer.

ANVIL HILL PROJECT WATCH

Grant mentioned Christine and Ray Phelps as helpful contacts in the Denman area.

They are involved in the Anvil Hill Project Watch Association and on **Sunday 12 September** that organisation is holding a fun event on Withers Property off Bells Lane via Denman. Following registration at 9.00am there is a morning of competitive Tiger Pear weeding followed by a BBQ lunch and Speaker.

The afternoon has been reserved for birdwatching on this 425-acre property which is part of the Anvil Hill local area identified as an Ecological Asset and Priority Fauna Habitat.

No doubt keen birdwatchers will manage to look while weeding too. A good excuse to visit a nice area and see what these folks are up to.

Registrations in advance by 24 August – for catering purposes - to Christine Phelps on 02 6547 8011 or 02 6547 8040 or email - christine.phelps@reset.net.au

CONGRATULATIONS: GREEN CORPS

The 2004 Wetland Centre Green Corps Team.

HBOC wishes to congratulate the Green Corps team on their successful graduation at the completion of 26 weeks of learning and friendship.

In particular, the impressive effort and commitment made by the team in observing the birdlife of Moorhen Swamp need to be cited.

The team identified over 60 species of bird using the wetland and has recorded the fluctuating numbers as well as behaviours and breeding records of the most frequently seen species.

The experience gained in observing and recording wildlife will be of tremendous future benefit to the team members and the information amassed will form the basis of a valuable report.

Members of the team are:

Aaron Bailey
Andrew King
Shannon Little
Claude Meloche
Bryan Pasmore
Fiona Polgase
Amy Rufo
Melanie Turley
Lia Wadick
Matthew Wicks and
Benjie Williams (Supervisor)

NEW MEMBERS

Hunter Bird Observers Club welcomes the following new members to the Club and hopes to see them often at Outings, Club Nights and other Club events.

- Patricia and Mark Atkins of Charlestown
- John Foley of Lambton
- Alaina Casey & Tasman Willis of Dudley
- Dino Camacho of Jesmond

PETER VAUGHAN'S GARDEN

Peter Vaughan, a Wetland Centre stalwart, is opening his Garden to the public on the weekend of 9th and 10th October 2004.

Entry is \$5 with all proceeds going to the Hunter Medical Research Institute.

The garden is all native plants with the lawns and gardens covering over an acre. The gardens are set within a private 40-acre wildlife refuge.

Peter reports that he has few Noisy Miners so a wide range of native birds is present. He often has Peregrine Falcons and Brown Goshawks on the Electricity Pylons.

Peter thinks few Bigwatchers will be interested in his garden but welcomes those who are. Lets prove him wrong, and support a good cause, by turning up in numbers to this suburban paradise.

The address is 12 Knight Street Cardiff South - further information available on 0411 422 943.

HOT NEWS FROM ALAN STUART

On 5 August Alan Stuart sent the following titbits to those on his email list

Two pairs of Musk Lorikeets at Blackall Park near Toronto a couple of days ago inspecting hollows. Alan as editor of our Annual Bird Report is particularly interested in breeding records for this uncommon bird in our area.

Gang Gang Cockatoo seen at Freemans Waterhole.

But you knew all this didn't you because you are on his emailing list.

Oh! You're not!. Well send Alan a message to almarosa@big.pond.com and you will be as up to date as the rest of us.

IT'S TWITCHATHON TIME AGAIN

The following message from the tireless Francis Czwalianna, Twitchathon Coordinator.

Use of funds obtained from the NSW and ACT Twitchathon 2004

Habitat restoration for the endangered Regent Honeyeater in the Capertee Valley

As I write this note to you all, it is snowing in Tamworth, the Snowy Mountains and the Blue Mountains - certainly not Twitchathon weather! Like me, you will be rugged up indoors, or trying to keep warm outdoors and the birds will be at, or looking for, warmer habitat. The days are short and the evenings long enough for a little reading, a little Twitchathon dreaming, and lots of Twitchathon 2004 strategic planning in front of the heater! Oh yes, we're off again on a new Twitchathon adventure. This year Regent Honeyeaters will enjoy the fruits of our fundraising conservation efforts.

The national Regent Honeyeater Recovery Effort is one of the most successful programs in Australia in terms of public support and, under the umbrella of this program, the Capertee Valley Operations Group, established by Birds Australia in 1993, has, galvanised a large and loyal volunteer base.

The Capertee Valley Regent Honeyeater Project has now planted almost 60 000 trees and shrubs in an effort to restore and enhance habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, and other woodland birds, in the single-most important breeding area remaining for this enigmatic species.

Two tree planting weekends are held each year, in April and August, with these being attended by an average of 120 volunteers who may plant from 3 500 to 5 000 trees and shrubs in the weekend. These weekends are a massive logistic effort. Trees are initially transported from the

nursery near Rylstone to the valley with the assistance of members of the NSW Four Wheel Drivers Association on Thursday and the trees laid out on the site on Friday in readiness for planting the next day. Planters arrive from 8.00am Saturday morning with the wave of humanity working across the site soon transforming bare paddocks into a field of tree guards. Once sufficient trees are planted the four wheel drivers are then back in action manoeuvring water tankers between rows of trees with volunteers hanging off hoses giving the newly planted trees a life-giving drink of water.

One of the current weak links in this operation of the tree planting weekends is the Group's ongoing reliance on local Bush Fire Brigades that provide tankers to ensure that water can be transported to the trees. This support has always been forthcoming (subject to bushfire fighting priorities) and is greatly appreciated. However, we usually find that watering continues well into Sunday due to the small number of units available.

The Regent Honeyeater Group plans to use some of the funds raised during the 2004 Twitchathon to purchase trailer-mounted tanks and pumps that can supplement those of the local Fire Brigades. This will increase our efficiency and, more importantly, allow us the flexibility to provide follow-up watering of sites should it be required. At the moment, borrowing equipment from the local brigades for this additional purpose has not been possible, leaving us at the mercy of the weather. The tanks will also be available for use by landowners in the Valley who are undertaking their own revegetation projects, and for use in local Landcare revegetation activities or other Birds Australia revegetation projects in the region.

Additional Twitchathon funds will be used to fence sites of high conservation priority as

they are identified as well as assist in follow-up maintenance of sites – weeding, fertilising etc.

So, are you still in the dark and cold about what a Twitchathon is? Well, I'll give you a simple story of how it works to warm you up. Firstly, ask me for your 2004 Twitchathon Kit and it will be emailed or posted immediately! Secondly, form a team with one or even a dozen friends and family and go birdwatching over this October weekend. You can travel anywhere in NSW and/or the ACT. See how many species of birds your team can find from **3 p.m. Saturday 30 October to 4 p.m. Sunday 31 October 2004. Note the change of time for starting and finishing.** In the weeks before this event, show your work colleagues, friends and family the publicity material I forward you in your Twitchathon Kit and gently persuade them to sponsor you so many cents or even dollars for each species your team sees. Obviously, then, you don't have to see hundreds of species; you just need either lots of little sponsorships or a few big ones! There are prizes for the most species seen by three winning teams but also prizes for the most money raised, the rarest bird seen by an individual, a Lucky Twitcher's prize and even some champagne. So don't think you have to be an A Class birdwatcher. Whichever method you choose for your Twitchathon - the laid back, the deadly serious, or the donor only version - remember it is all about saving an endangered species from extinction. A very small or very large effort by everyone can achieve the most wonderful outcome for this enigmatic species.

Last year we eventually raised \$13,548! I am still on Cloud 9 about that. Will we raise even more this year? I know you'll join me in making a fantastic contribution one way or another. So, do ask me for your Twitchathon Kit TODAY or sponsor a Twitchathon team in your bird club or group!

Frances Czwalinna
Twitchathon Coordinator
(For Birds Australia, Southern NSW and ACT)
c/o 5 Lipsia Place, Carlingford, 2118
Telephone 02 9872 4185 Fax: 02 9436 0466
Email secretarybird@bigpond.com

THE WETLAND CENTRE PROGRAM

Canoeing Adventures on Ironbark Creek

9.30am, first Sunday of each month
September 5.
\$25 Adult, \$12.50 Child. \$70 Family

Spotlight Prowl

Saturday Evening.
August 21, September 18
Check start time when you book
\$10 adult, \$5 Child \$25 Family

Breakfast with the Birds

8.30am September 12
\$20 Adults, \$10 Child. \$60 Family

Booking essential for all programs
Telephone 02 4951 6466

(Bookings now open for Melbourne Cup Luncheon)

HUNTER REGION BOTANIC GARDENS SPRING FAIR

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10 ALL DAY

VALE - TED FELTON

Edward John (Ted) Felton passed away on 28th July 2004 in his 92nd year. He was a long serving member of Hunter Bird Observers Club - his membership extending from 9th June 1976 until recent poor health prevented him from participating in club activities.

He was born and raised in Stockton where he spent all of his life, until a recent forced move to a retirement village at Green Hills. He became a member of the Club after an encounter with Fred Van Gessel at Stockton Sandspit, one of his own favourite haunts.

Ted became very knowledgeable with respect to the shorebirds and seabirds that frequented that area, and was always willing to assist others with identification of troublesome species.

Ted and his wife Ilma were inveterate campers in the early days of the Club. They also travelled extensively in pursuit of his birding hobby, spending lots of time in his very favourite habitat, the Mallee.

Ted was employed at BHP as a Metallurgist for all of his working life and it while returning from work one night from the afternoon shift, the ferry on which he was a passenger the "Bluebell" collided with a ship in mid-harbour and sank. Ted kept calm in the situation and helped save other passengers to find and don lifejackets.

Three people lost their lives in the incident but many were saved due to the cool-headedness of Ted and other men on board. He received a commendation from Newcastle City Council for his efforts on that night.

Our sincere condolences are extended to Ilma and his sons Harvey and Russell and their families.

Written by Sue Hamonet

Judy Peet

We are also saddened to hear of the passing of Judy Peet of Dubbo on 23 June. Judy was an active member of Dubbo Naturalists and an active worker for the study and conservation of the Malleefowl and the Glossy Black Cockatoo in her area.

Those who met her through Bignet were impressed by a person of great energy and commitment who was a breath of fresh air in a group of largely city based birdos.

Written by Peter Phillips

Birders, Phenology & Biowatch

Phenology is about the timing of yearly natural events: such as the dates when species first nest (for birds) or flower (for plants) or fly (insects). These dates may vary in different parts of a species range and from year to year. They may be shifting as global climate changes.

BIOWATCH is a website to gather together phenology data for Australia. It is voluntary and cooperative. By registering and entering Biowatch you may be able to contribute to the sum of knowledge or learn where your observations fit with those of others.

The website address is:

www.bio.mq.edu.au/ecology/biowatch/Biowatch.htm. Or you can contact Barbara Rice at brice@bio.mq.edu.au or c/- Department of Biology, Macquarie University Sydney NSW 2112.

Where no Vultures Fly

(from Aust. Financial Review of 1/4/04)

“Vultures on the Indian sub-continent are in trouble. They are feeding off the carcasses of cows that have been fed anti-inflammatory medication to reduce fever and lameness. While the drugs are good for cows, they cause kidney failure in birds, often killing them in 24 hours.

According to a report in Nature this is the first known case of a pharmaceutical causing major ecological damage over a huge geographical area. About 95% of the South Asian Oriental white-backed vulture population in Pakistan and India has disappeared over the past decade.

SHOREBIRD FLAGGING – the need for sightings

(From The Tattler No 40 July 2004 - journal of the Australian Wader Study Group.)

The incredible amount of data collected since the commencement of colour flagging migratory shorebirds is providing us with invaluable information about migration routes and staging areas of many of the shorebird populations that have until now been poorly understood.

However none of this research is any good unless people look for and report flag sightings. Many observers now know the origin of colour flag combinations and may not report sightings under the misconception that repeated observations of the same colour flags are not important. We would like to encourage all birdwatchers to look out for and report sightings of leg flags irrespective of how often birds are seen. Sightings can be entered on the AWSG website:

www.tasweb.com.au/awsgh then click on the Report sighting (online) button. Or email to mintons@ozemail.com.au All sightings will be acknowledged.

In most, but not all locations, flags are put on the right leg and the metal band on the left leg. Two colour combinations are generally put on the tibia on the medium and larger waders, but on the smallest waders the upper flag is put on the tibia and the lower flag is put on the tarsus.

THE GREAT ALBATROSS RACE

Every now and then you get a story that combines money, danger, sex, travel, celebrity, fun conservation and birds.

This is such a story.

Ladbrokes, the largest bookmaker in the world, the Conservation Foundation, the Tasmanian Government and researchers have banded together to create the Ladbrokes Big Bird Race,

Basically Ladbrokes financed electronic tracking devices to be mounted on eighteen juvenile Shy Albatrosses in their migration from three islands off Tasmania to South Africa.

And they have then taken bets on the "race" with all proceeds to Seabird Conservation while at the same time widely publicising the hazards the birds face with long line fishing and also contributing to basic scientific research.

It was advertised as the world's toughest endurance race, 6000 miles across open water through the perils of great white sharks, weather and long line fishing.

The eighteen birds chosen were six each from each of Pedra Bianca, Mewbrook and Albatross Island with a suitable mix of gender. They were given catchy names and regular updates were provided on the Ladbrokes site (visited by millions)

The race started on 27 April – the usual departure date – and was to end when the first bird reached the Cape of Good Hope or 5 August 2004 – whichever came first.

Each Albatross was assigned a trainer (a scientist), a Stable (the source island) an owner (a celebrity supporter of the event) and a jockey (the electronic tracking device.)

The Tasmanian Albatross was chosen because of all the Albatrosses it is the most accessible to Australian based researchers in its breeding grounds. There are approx 7500 pairs on Mewbrook, 5000 on Albatross and 250 on Pedra Bianca.

Some birds were lost track off and we will never know if this was predation, weather conditions, long-line fishing methods or simply technical malfunction. Perhaps we will get more information when and if they return to the islands to breed.

And the winner is.....

Aphrodite a female from Mewbrook Island "owned" by Jerry Hall who apparently had something to do with some pop star once.

Second was "**Xanadu**" a female from Pedra Bianca Island "owned" by Nicholas Coleridge who is the great great great great grandson of Samuel Taylor Coleridge writer of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

And third was **Monarch of the Glen**, a male bird, from Albatross Island "owned" by actress Susan Hampshire.

Albatross Island was declared the overall Stable winner.

And, it should be said coming into the Olympics, that no drug tests were required, the International Court of Sport did not arbitrate over the selection process and a Stewards inquiry was not launched into rough play - although the disappearance of several contestants during the race is a bit suspicious.

The winner might be available for interview and sponsorships next April.

But the real winners were Albatrosses.

Firstly the tracking provided irrefutable evidence of the route taken by juvenile Shy Albatrosses on their first migration across the Indian Ocean allowing a far clearer picture for the potential designation of protected fishing zones.

Most importantly the plight of these and other species of albatross has been widely publicised with the aim of persuading more nations to sign the Agreement For the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels - a document which deals with regulating long-line fishing methods.

We've come a long way from The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, however the mug punter, doing his dough on a bird that didn't finish could clearly sympathise with the sentiments of the Ancient Mariner's shipmates.

"and I had done a hellish thing
And it would work them woe
For all averred, I had killed the bird
That made the breeze to blow
Ah, wretch said they, the bird to slay
'That made the breeze to blow"

OLD TREES

Why are Old Trees Valuable?

1. They are irreplaceable. Many large trees are between 200 and 800 years old. Trees planted today will need at least two centuries before, that achieve the same aesthetic and habitat value.
2. Tree hollows only occur in mature trees, providing breeding sites and refuge for a wide variety of mammals, birds, frogs reptiles and invertebrates. Useful hollows only begin to form in eucalypts after 80-100 years. Hollows large enough to provide nest and roost sites for large possums cockatoos and owls rarely develop until trees are at least 200 years old. These species depend on old growth forest.
3. Old trees have a greater area of trunk for foraging and produce more nectar and fruit than young trees. Large old trees reduce the need for animals to cross open spaces to obtain enough food, so they provide a safe habitat
4. Mature trees produce sufficient litter and rotten branches to protect and feed a wide range of animals. Loss of the litter layer beneath trees has led to widespread decline in ground dwelling species from frogs and reptiles to birds
5. Large trees provide shade and a stable microclimate that benefits humans and domestic animals and well as wildlife.

From The Bird Observer 830 p18

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 14 th August	Hunter Wader Survey	7.30am Various locations as directed	Contact Alan Stuart 4952 8569 you must ring to confirm
Sunday 15 th August	Singleton Group Outing Warkworth	10.00am Warkworth Oval Then Long Point Nursery	Diane Lamb 02 6574 5205
Saturday 21 st August	Pelagic seabird trip \$80 per person You must book in advance	6.00am The Brewery Wharf Wharf Road, Newcastle	Contact: Richard Baxter randrbaxter@yahoo.com
Sunday 22 nd August	Field Outing Ellalong/Congewai	8.00am Cessnock McDonalds Car Park	Contact: Alan Stuart 4952 8569
Sunday 22 nd August	Atlassing –Myall Lakes	You must ring to confirm	Contact: Grant Brosie 4933 4725
Tuesday 7 th September Threatened Species Day	Midweek Outing Hunter Botanical Gardens	8.00am Garden Entrance Pacific Hwy Heatherbrae	Margaret Stewart 4963 2029
Wednesday 8th September	CLUB MEETING Wetlands Centre, Shortland	7.30pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker TBA
Sunday 12 th September	Singleton Group Outing Lake Liddell	10.00am Lake Liddell Recreational Area	Diane Lamb 02 6574 5205
Saturday 18 th September	Hunter Wader Survey	10.30am Various Locations as directed.	Contact: Alan Stuart 4952 8569 you must ring to confirm
Sunday 19 th September	Field Outing Laguna	7.30am Cessnock McDonalds Car Park	Contact: Tom Clarke 4951 3872
Saturday 25 th September	Atlassing Boarding House Dam	1.30pm Boarding House Dam For an evening focus	Grant Brosie 4933 4725
Saturday –Monday 2 nd – 4 th October	CAMP Wallbadah Rock	Directions available Camp fees apply	Contact Alan Stuart 4952 8569
Saturday 2 nd October	Atlassing Denman Area	You must ring to confirm	Grant Brosie 4933 4725
Tuesday 5 th October	MIDWEEK OUTING Brunkerville	8.00am Mulbring Park Branxton Road Mulbring	Contact: Max Blanch 4961 1655
Sunday 10 th October	Pelagic seabird trip \$80 per person You must book in advance	6.00am The Brewery Wharf Wharf Road, Newcastle	Contact: Richard Baxter randrbaxter@yahoo.com
Wednesday 13th October	CLUB MEETING Wetlands Centre, Shortland	7.30 PM The Wetland Centre	Speaker Mike Newman Tasmanian Robins

OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB NIGHTS JUNE/JULY 2004

2004

Apr 4	Broad-billed Sandpiper	1	Stockton Sandspit	E.Vella
	Red Knot	9	"	"
	White-winged Black Tern	2	Stockton	"
	Common Tern	35	"	"
	Freckled Duck	1	Pambalong N.R.	"
Apr 22	Regent Bowerbird	1m	Blackbutt [off Ridgeway Rd}	P.Lightfoot
May 1	Rose Robin	1m	S.W.C. [Melaleuca Swamp]	"
	Wandering Whistling Duck	14	Lenaghan's Swamp	"
Apr 25	Hooded Robin	1 + 1imm	10k from Jerry's Plains	H.Tarrant
	Grey Goshawk	Pr	"	"
	Brown Falcon	3	Martindale [Jones Res. Rd. junction]	"
	Black Falcon	1	Bureen [7kms short of Martindale Rd]	"
Apr 26	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	7	Walka Water Works	"
	Grey Goshawk	1	"	"
Apr 30	White-bellied Sea Eagle	Pr.	"	"
May 17	Plumed Whistling Duck	~100	Doughboy Hollow	"
May 22	Torresian Crow	B	Vacy [Fishers Hill Rd]	"
Jun 6	Australasian Shoveler	12	Walka Water Works	"
Jun 9	Torresian Crow	~90	"	"
Jun 5	Superb Lyrebird	1	Yarrawa	:
	Grey-crowned Babbler	10	"	"
	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	2	"	"
Jun 6	Square-tailed Kite	2	Bolwarra	"
May 27	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	Taylor's Beach	Tom Clarke
May 30	Brown Goshawk	2	Whitebridge	"
25 31	Grey Goshawk	1	Teralba	"
May 23	White's Thrush	1	Green Point	R.Walker
Apr 16	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	>22	Lenaghan's Drive	G.Brosie
Mar-May	White-plumed Honeyeater	1-2	East Maitland [garden]	"
Apr 27	Square-tailed Kite	1	East Maitland	"
Apr 28	Australian Hobby	3	"	"
May 4	Peregrine Falcon	2	"	"
May 9	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	"	"
	Spotted Quail-thrush	3	Mt. Sugarloaf	"
May 4	Cattle Egret	1	Cooranbong	P.Martin

	Wonga Pigeon	3pr	"	"
	Glossy Black Cockatoo	Pr + 1 juv	"	"
	Gang-gang Cockatoo	4pr	"	"
	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	2pr	"	"
	Australian King Parrot	Numerous	"	"
	Lewin's Honeyeater	Numerous	"	"
May 11	Speckled Warbler	5	2.5km west of Broke	D.Jenkin
May 17	Speckled Warbler	20+	"	"
May 20	Pacific Golden Plover	2	Oyster Cove	N.McNaughton
May 8	Spotless Crake	1	Croudace Bay	C.Goodenough
Jun 10	Red-capped Robin	1	Milbrodale	G.Newling
	Red-rumped Parrot	53	"	"
Jun 2	Double-banded Plover	180	Fullerton Cove	A.Richardson
Jun 16	Skylark	1	Grahamstown Dam	M.Maddock
Jun 17	Double-banded Plover	88	Fullerton Cove [N.W. corner]	A.Richardson
	Red-capped Plover	60	"	"
	Broad-billed Sandpiper	2	"	"
	Red-necked Stint	13	"	"
	Bar-tailed Godwit	~170	"	"
	Black-tailed Godwit	14	"	"
	Great Knot	2	"	"
	Red Knot	~8	"	"
	Common Greenshank	20	"	"
	Grey Teal	74	"	"
	Chestnut Teal	135	"	"
Jun 17	Gull-billed Tern	3	Fullerton Cove	A.Richardson
	Black-winged Stilt	140	"	"
	Red-necked Avocet	~300	"	"
	Eastern Curlew	~20	"	"
Jun 23	Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	East Maitland	G.Brosie
Jun 29	Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	"	"
Jul 6	Black Kite	1	Minmi	G.Brosie/N.Livanos
Jun 21	Y.T.B.C.	6	Speers Point [garden]	S. Hamonet
Jul 1-5	Pacific Baza	1	"	"
Jun 8	Emerald Dove	2	Salt Ash [Marsh Rd.]	D.Cooper
Jul 3	Emerald Dove	1	"	"
May 17	Scarlet Honeyeater	1	Buttaba	P.Durie/R. Waymark
	White-naped Honeyeater	1	"	"
Jul 1	Striated Heron	2	Stoney Creek	"
Jul 12	Glossy Ibis	1	Morpeth S.T.W.	M.Newman
	Red-kneed Dotterel	2	"	"
	Black-fronted Dotterel	20	"	"
Jul 22	Black Falcon	3	"	"