



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Photography Sub-Committee Report for 2020

The HBOC Photography sub-committee was formed in 2018 and meets twice a year. Interest in photography amongst members and the wider community has continued to grow. In early 2020, the Photo Badge Awards program was re-introduced with new badges available for 200, 250 and 300 Hunter Birds photographed. The promotion of this program during Covid isolation, enabled members to sort and list their photographs and caused a flurry of activity and badges were mailed to qualifying members. The HBOC website was also re-organised and lists of these milestone events are now online.

The lighting for the foyer displays on Club Night at the Hunter Wetlands Centre was also upgraded in April but unfortunately due to Covid and the cancellation of physical Club nights, we have yet to see the change in operation.

Bird Image Library (BIL)

Images contributed to HBOC are managed by Rob Palazzi (BIL Manager) and most of the images held are now on display in the BIL section of the SmugMug website. The collection continues to grow with the total images held now more than 12,000. The sub-set of Hunter Region images totals 5,000 and consists of about 350 different species. A steady stream of images has been contributed by several photographers during the year and incorporated into the collection. At the same time, some older images have been discarded. Requests have also been received from photographers requesting help with identifying birds in their images.

2020 was a quite year for requests to use images from the BIL with requested images being used in publications, promotional material for local councils and for HBOC publications including the HBOC Featured Bird series.

SmugMug Website Members Galleries

Members Galleries introduced in 2019, are managed by Alwyn Simple and contain collections of members photographs, not necessarily available in the BIL. There is no restriction on the number of images and individual members can upload and remove their own images. This has proven highly successful, particularly during the initial period of Covid-19 isolation, when links to individual members galleries were published each day by Alwyn and resulted in 14,000- 16,700 page views each week, during April and May. Many positive responses from members were received.

Photography Print Collection.

This collection of printed images managed by Jim Smart has continued to receive a steady flow of requests. The images are being used as visual aids for talks to groups and reference for artists etc. The quality of images now contained in the bird Image Library has meant that new images of species requested are frequently re- printed.