



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

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Annual Report of the HBOC Photography sub-committee **2019**

The HBOC Photography sub-committee was formed in 2018 and has been meeting regularly since then. In 2019, two meetings were held at the HWC in March and September.

The enthusiasm of the various members of the sub-committee has continued to grow and the participation of HBOC members in the initiatives developed by the sub-committee has been very encouraging. In 2020 plans are in place to;

1. Reinvigorate the Bird Photography 200 badge scheme which has fallen into disuse
2. Introduce Photography outings as part of the HBOC Activities Program
3. Re-develop the Foyer Photo displays at Club Night (if possible)
4. Continue to provide online Exhibitions of members Photographs

Each member of the Photography sub-committee has a defined responsibility within the group and their summary of this years activities are included here.

SmugMug Website - Alwyn Simple

Work on setting up the Website was completed last year (2018), and it has been running without any problems or issues during 2019. A couple of changes have been made when we have split bird species into two sub-species galleries. A recent example is where we set up a new Gallery for the Cape York Australian Brush Turkey and removed it from the original Gallery.

A list of the photographers who have supplied photographs to the BIL, along with an initial coding system that matches the information on the photographs, has been put on the Homepage.

Members Galleries.

The introduction of Members Galleries early in 2019 to allow Club Photographers to display their photos has been a success. 20 Club Photographers now have Galleries on the site. 10 of these have two to five galleries as members are permitted to have theme galleries that may display birds of a certain group such as Waders or Raptors, or birds from a certain location or overseas country for examples. There is a total of 37 Members Galleries in this section of the Website.

Exhibition.

The Photographic Committee approved an exhibition of members photos on the site for the latter part of 2019 with the theme that the photo should tell a story. This Exhibition was released for display on the 25th October 2019. For the following 28 Days the Exhibition had 4694 photos viewed. During that same period, 10 members galleries had between 500 photos and 1006 photos viewed. As a result of the success of that exhibition, more will be planned for 2020.

Photography Print Collection- Jim Smart

I have a reasonably up to date set of the full HBOC BIL which I use only for generating sets of print images for specific HBOC approved displays at various community days. During 2019 the activities concerned were Tocal Field Days, Cessnock BioBlitz and Biodiversity Day. Although we have a set of

prints available the best displays are created by considering the expected audience and selecting the most suitable images for printing, available in the most recent edition of the BIL. Since we use the same display stands each time the number of prints is roughly constant, i.e. 16 to 20 including two enlarged to A1 or B0 size.

For annual report purposes around 60 prints are made each year specifically for public displays of HBOC activities. There are currently about 800 A3 prints of bird images available for use as requested.

In addition, 110 prints of members bird photographs are produced each year for the foyer displays at HBOC meeting nights. These prints are produced at no expense to HBOC. The JPEGs supplied to me by each photographer are forwarded to the BIL Manager for accessioning into the BIL. I always edit the file number of each image to conform to our protocols as well as checking that the EXIF data contains correct authorship and copyright information and adding the birds number, name and location to the EXIF caption before sending them to the BIL Manager.

BIL Activity Report -Rob Palazzi

Throughout the year the collection of images in the HBOC BIL has been refined and expanded. At latest count there are approx. 11,400 images in the folder covering the whole of Australia and its territories. This covers a little over 700 species. Many of the more 'remote' species are only represented by one or two images, and we are welcoming of any more images that may be offered. The images in the collection from the Hunter Region (at present totalling just under 4,600) cover 355 species with a further 97 yet to be sourced.

There has been a steady demand throughout the year for ideas, information, advice and supply of selected images for projects judged suitable according to committee guidelines.

Overall approx. 20 separate requests were received by the BIL Manager. Most of these involved providing advice on whether images from the BIL might be available for use in a particular project, and what images were available that fit the criteria outlined for the projects. This often lead to specific supply of images sometimes as thumbnail size initially, then full size of selected images as needed.

All supplied images were accompanied by an outline of HBOC policy with regards their use. There were no issues encountered with compliance with these requirements, and the feedback obtained from the various users was very positive both for the product and the service.

Many thanks to the members of the Photographic sub-committee for their invaluable assistance throughout the year - it made it easy to fulfill the Manager role. Thanks too to the various committee members for their input and to the President for his unwavering support and valuable advice.

Appreciation as well to the many HBOC members who contributed their very impressive images to our collection - without their generosity none of this would be possible.

Attached is a table summary of the year's activities for the BIL.

For and on behalf of the members of the HBOC Photography sub-committee

31 December 2019

Margaret Clarke – Convenor

Rob Palazzi – BIL Manager

Jim Smart

Alwyn Simple

2019 BIL Activity Summary

Approx Date	Organisation	Person(s) liaised with	Final Product/outcome	Photographers/images used
Feb 2019	Lake Mac Council	Margo Smith, Grahame Feletti	Belmont Lagoon Bird Guide	Belle Ciezak, Ken Wells, Grahame Feletti Rob Palazzi, Alan Stuart, Telesha Ferguson, Margaret Clark, Jim Smart, Steve Merrett, Kim Pryor, Gary Tong.
Feb 2019	HBOC/ABC	Alan Stuart	Alan wrote an article for Abc news. Included an image from Steve Merrett. Link in e-News	Steve Merrett
Mar 2019	HBOC publicity officer	Ben Ellis, Alan Stuart	Media release by Ben Alan supplied his own images after request to BIL	Alan Stuart
March 2019	HBOC	Bob Stewart (President)	Club night presentation - images used and acknowledged.	Unknown
March 2019	HBOC	Jim Smart	Total print images requested - Jim supplied with BIL images for his selection.	unknown
March 2019	HBOC	Alan Stuart, Steve Merrett	HBOC Website, Featured Site section	Alwyn Simple, Jim Thomson, Rob Palazzi
April 2019	HBOC, Lake Mac Council	Alan Stuart, Rob Kyte, Mandy McDonald	Two birding route guides for NE and SE Lake Macquarie	Rob Kyte, Mandy McDonald, Lorna Mee, Steve Merrett, Rob Palazzi, Alwyn Simple, Jim Smart, Alan Stuart, Jim Thomson
June 2019	HBOC	Rob Kyte, Mick Roderick	Cessnock Birding Routes x 2	Dick Jenkin, Max Maddock, Steve Merrett, Liam Murphy, Rob Palazzi, Mick Roderick, Alwyn Simple, Alan Stuart, George Voss, Rachel Klyve, Rob Kyte, Jim Smart
June 2019	HBOC	Alan Stuart, Steve Merrett	Club night presentation	Steve Merrett
July 2019	LLS Taree	Reegan Walker, Neil Fraser	Little Tern breeding signage near Taree	Steve Merrett
August 2019	Bignet, Vincent	Marg Clarke	Request for images of	Referred direct to photographers: Alan Stuart, Mick Roderick, Jim

	Mourik (Birding NSW)		Skua	Smart
August 2019	LLS Scone	Catherine Conroy	Signage at Cassillis Park Rest stop	Dan Herbert, Allen Friis, John Cockerell
Sept 2019	HBOC	Liz Date- Huxtable and others	Biodiversity Day activities	Unknown - check Jim smart for printed material
October 2019	Mick Roderick	Mick Roderick, Sue Proust	Manning shorebird signage	unknown
October 2019	HBOC	Alan Stuart	Gloucester presentation on local birds	unknown
December 2019	HBOC	Alan Stuart	Prep for Golden Whistler as Featured Bird at club night	unknown
December 2019	Aust Wader Studies Group	Phil Straw	Request for images of shorebirds related to floating roosts	ongoing