



Newsletter

Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Issue No. 8/18 December 2018

The Club aims: To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat, and To encourage bird observing as a leisure-time activity.



The Ruddy Turnstone fitted with a geolocator (on King Island) and flagged 'WMA' was seen back at Newcastle Baths on November 14, 2018. This is its fourth annual visit to the area. The local population of Ruddy Turnstone began arriving back here around 8 weeks before. The total seen to date this year is seventeen.

Photo: Richard Nicholas

See report on Shorebird Conference on p. 6

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Deadline for next edition 5th February 2019

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President's Column December 2018

Unfortunately, this will be the last HBOC Newsletter edited by Judi Thomas. We are all aware of the high quality of newsletter Judi has produced over the last 12 months. This has included moving the newsletter to a monthly publication so that members are kept up to date on the latest happenings in the club. However, we are also aware of what an exhausting task the production of the newsletter can be, so, although we will miss Judi's input, we know she will now have more time to devote to birdwatching, a passion she loves and shares.

As a result, the committee has decided to make some slight changes to the layout of the HBOC Newsletter. 95% of our members now read the newsletter on line or print it off, and at least 60% of our members belong to Hunterbirding where they can be kept up to date on some of the latest bird sightings. So, instead of printing 12 pages or more of the newsletter all on one continuous web page we will print a 'table of contents' on the opening page and the reader will click on any article they want to read and be taken straight to that article. It will in fact be a genuine 'E-Newsletter' with each item in the Table of contents being a link to the article to which it refers.

What does this mean to you, the reader? The content will still be there, including the photos, but now you will be able to jump straight to the articles that particularly interest you without having to scroll through many pages to find them. There might also be links to interesting stories from other sources, such as newspaper articles of interest to Hunter birdwatchers, or a set of bird photographs from a featured photographer. You may be able to access some of the content of the E-Newsletter at any time but once a month you will get an email reminding you that the current E-Newsletter is ready.

What does it mean to the compilers of the newsletter? Firstly, it won't need an editor to make sure everything fits neatly into a set number of pages. Each page will stand on its own. Hopefully it will allow a wider range of members to contribute to their newsletter and items of interest can be added at any time. Articles can be formal or light chatty news and members might be willing to write a short note on a topic that interests them.

I'm sure our younger members will have no problem adjusting to this change but what about the 5% of members who don't have access to the internet? They won't be forgotten. Each month a 'digest' of that month's articles will be printed off and posted to them. There will of course be teething problems but the committee will work hard to minimise these.

Don't forget our December meeting when we hand the floor over to members and we have a wide range of speakers to keep us entertained and informed. Remember to bring a plate and your money for the raffle and we will have some books for sale to add to our fundraising for this year.

Compliments of the season and happy birding in 2019.

Robert Stewart

A Warm Welcome to New Members: We hope to see you at club meetings and outings.

We have 6 new memberships for November, 4 single, 1 family:

Craig Smith (S) Buff Point 2261

Phoebe & Joey Trongchittham (f) Georgetown 2298

Alec Trusler (s) Medowie 2318

Peter Davies (s) Newcastle 2300

Narelle Barden (s) North Turramurra 2074

2019 Membership Fees are now due. Fees are:

Single \$35 Family \$40

**If you prefer to pay by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
Please include your NAME in the transaction.**

BANK DETAILS;

INSTITUTION

**Name: Greater Building Society
BSB 637 000**

ACCOUNT

**Name: Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.
Number 782260316**

Health and Safety Awareness for Activities

When attending field outings, ensure you are wearing appropriate clothing, including wet weather gear in inclement weather, and suitable footwear. It is advisable to bring a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and to carry water. Please sign the attendance register at field outings and also at meetings. If you leave an outing early, please let the leader know before you go. Participants attend at their own risk and should refrain from any behaviour that might put themselves or others at risk. That includes assessing whether they have the level of fitness required for the advertised outing. If in doubt, contact the leader beforehand.

Bird of the Evening – October 2018

Judith Little

Although Greg likes to take credit, it was actually my maternal grandmother – Gran, who introduced me to the world of birdwatching. My earliest memories are from when I was around 10 years old and when I was 12 Gran took me for a holiday to O'Reilly's Guest House for a week in September where she was to see the Australian Logrunner for the first time. Born Lucy Ethel Bearman in November 1923 she married Donald Charles Molineux in 1944 and they had 5 children together. They divorced in 1961 and she married Allan Johnson in 1966. She died from a brain tumour in April 1987. Known in her later years as 'Kit' she loved to write. The family put together a collection of her writing on her death and I would like to share three short poems she wrote about birds.

SWALLOWS

Swallows on an autumn morning
Skimming o'er the grass
Sun on silken dark blue feathers
Flashing as you pass;
Or strung along the clothesline, just
Like pegs left on the wire,
Showing clean pale vests, and faces
Bright with rufous fire.
Amazing that you little birds
Can cover half the earth
Then build your nests and prove once more
The miracles of birth,
Trusting, as town-tied sparrows do,
That Someone will provide for you.

Date Unknown

SKYLARK

I heard a skylark trilling
As he climbed into the sky,
And faint and far followed him
While he poured his notes on high
I marvelled that so small a bird
Has so much power to sing;
The lark became a tiny speck,
The sound a silver string.
Suddenly I was confused by this wee trilling bird;
Was I hearing what I saw
Or seeing what I heard?
Lark, as you fade and still you sing
You almost make my soul take wing.

KJ 3/3/86

EARLY MORNING

Yellow robin's "chip, chip" calls me while it's still black dark
All the other voices follow as the day invades the park.
Paddymelons feeding with their joeys reaching out
Make the most of half light before the crowd's about.
Rosellas on my window sill drop biscuit on the floor
While a tiny white-browed scrub wren hops inside my very door.
I wince from squawking hubbub of king parrots as they pass;
A full red dingo nonchalantly walks across the grass.
Currawongs wailing rain call carries five miles on the breeze;
Regent bower bird perches on my fingers eating cheese.
Red browed finches breakfast where I've spread some millet seed
Lewins honeyeater supplements his morning feed
With a morsel of my cheese and a crumb or so of bread,
More rosellas perch upon my shoulders to be fed.
Eastern spinebills dip their beaks deep in grevillea fowers,
Satins grab a bite of cheese and dash back to their bowers.
"Where are you?" grumbles cat-bird to his waiting mate afar
And her plaintive lost-child whimper tells him plainly "here I are."
Whipbirds scabble in the garden, grey thrush wanders on the lawn,
How could I lie in late with all that's happening at dawn?

Date unknown



Bird and Nature Photography Trips

with Dick Jenkin

- Hunter Valley
- Cairns, Daintree and Atherton Tablelands
- Gluepot and Flinders Ranges
- For more information, dates, itineraries and prices contact:

email richardnjenkin@bigpond.com mobile 0407 267207
website www.jenkinphotography.com.au

November HBOC Club Meeting November, 2018



In her Bird of the Evening segment Ann Lindsey told us about the exciting find of a Ringed Plover (photo at left) on Worimi lands north of Stockton by her and Neil Fraser. She described the effort she made to distinguish it from the Semipalmated Plover.

Our main speaker was Dick Jenkin who again gave us one of his wonderful talks about his birding adventures, this time to Madagascar. We learnt that the region supports six endemic bird families as well as five endemic primate families. His talk was illustrated by the quality photographs we have come to expect from Dick.

Some of the highlights were his photos of all five species of the endemic Ground-rollers, and the discovered Red-shouldered Vanga, the nicely marked Collared Nightjar with its Elizabethan ruff. All this was supplemented by 13 primates, various chameleons and some glimpses of Madagascan daily life.

Chick Shelters for Little Terns

Tuncurry Men's Shed have constructed chick shelters specifically for little terns, which will be installed shortly at Farquhar and Harrington just ahead of hatching. This will be as a trial to improve survival rates, particularly against avian predators, and be used in conjunction with creation of other cover through transferral of small amounts of beached-washed debris such as large logs and branches particularly at sites devoid or cover and some distance to vegetation. The action is being undertaken along with fence, signage, fox control, education, monitoring and compliance activities.

Evidence in scientific literature suggests that well designed shelters decrease predation by avian and other predators, as opposed to predator exclusion measures which have been found to be either ineffective, or act as a magnet for predators. Specifications (materials, design) for the shelters were adapted for little terns from several documents including review of Little Terns breeding in New South Wales and Victorian recovery programs for Hooded Plovers. Shelters will be placed near nests (not over nests) with more shelters than nests to minimise risk of predators associating shelters with chicks.

There is currently no other strategy to mitigate the risk from avian predators and it is a timely measure, as it seems gull-billed terns have been actively preying eggs at Farquhar, recently taking 5 eggs (info from NPWS Shorebird warden). The warden and a volunteer will be installing shelters at Farquhar and Harrington during November while undertaking monitoring, to minimise disturbance and time adults are away from nests.

Photos below show what the shelters look like uninstalled but in-situ getting seasoned, with the other image showing an example of how the shelters will be dug in to sand.

Karen Bettink



12 Hour Twitchathon 2018 Report: Krishna Nagarajan for Nagy Maggies

The Nagy Maggies had a much-improved performance in 2017 of 148 species, with the route being expanded west to Durridgerie Rd. This year a very similar route was chosen, and the car was again filled by Krishna, Murali, Miranda, George, Sarah and Terry on the Saturday for another trip west. The aim was of course to try and top the total from 2017. With Cassilis Pub now closed, Merriwa was the next best option and we obligingly filed into a very posh BnB on the Saturday night. A route briefing was held over a dinner of the finest pizza (the pub had limited vegetarian options) Merriwa had to offer on a Saturday night.



Despite the shock of the BnB hosts, we managed to have breakfast at 4.30am and rolled out to Durridgerie for our prompt 6.00am start. The clocks were synchronised and as they simultaneously ticked over the hour, the counting began. Kingfishers, Friarbirds, Cockatoos, White-plumed Honeyeaters and Songlarks all were quickly found and the usual roadside Kestrels and Black-shouldered Kites were soon added. Pallid and Channel-billed Cuckoos provided some driving entertainment. "Ridgy Didge" property provided Martins, Horsfields Bronze-Cuckoo, Brown Treecreepers and Dusky Woodswallows, but the Babblers must have been putting in a special effort not to be found. We rolled on past the Banded Lapwings, Musk Lorikeets and Grey-crowned Babblers (not White-browed!). We had to actually slow down for a woodswallow swarm (Masked & White-browed) just long enough for us to spot some Trillers. **White-browed Woodswallow photo above: George Voss.**



A first stop for the team at Cassilis Rest Area provided Weebills and **Red-winged Parrots** (photo left by **George Voss**, a lifer for the very noisy young Maggie team member). A brief stop at Merriwa provided some pies and some blackbirds (luckily not baked) but no 'dead-cert' Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters. We decided to address the Babbler absence in Denman but they must have also decided it was time for a Twitchathon migration. A stop to avoid being slowed down by a caravan turned into a blessing when it yielded some Corellas and Yellow-tailed Blacks. Brown Falcons also seemed to be on every road except the New England Highway but luckily for the team morale the Plumed Whistling-Ducks and Dollarbirds delivered.

Miranda pulled a blinder when she spotted a Yellow-billed Spoonbill 30m behind the car on the highway prompting a well-executed U-turn from driver Terry. Swinging through Maitland we had Ospreys before a visit to Walka yielded Cormorants, Teals, Ducks, Scarlet Honeyeaters and Royal Spoonbills. We opted to take a punt in visiting Hands Lagoon and some very welcome Latham's Snipe appeared. With time ticking we made a quick exit down the highway to make sure we reached Newcastle Baths on time. Little did we know that they would be covered in about 1m of water (none of us were going to check the exact depth, and apparently the birds weren't either). A Gannet provided some consolation but the shortened stop meant the ferry timetable (which I had meticulously planned to align with our route and assured all team members my strategy was fool-proof) no longer matched our route.

We cut our losses and drove round to Stockton and took the 1h lunch break to enjoy a hearty fish and chips (good energy food when you realise you still have 4h to go). Back on the road and visited the unmissable Sandspit, which provided many shorebirds we could identify (e.g. Knots, Curlews, Whimbrels, Sharpies) and many we could not (not sure what!). The Pied Oystercatchers were strutting their stuff unaware on the beach, as were the Brown Honeyeaters that made sure we couldn't ignore them. Back over the bridge to the Wetlands Centre and the Egret family was nearly all present, as were the Magpie Geese, Wandering Whistling-Ducks and a very obliging Striped Honeyeater. We almost stood on a Rail but not half of the team nearly stood on it, so it couldn't be counted. Then we noticed: we had not seen a Chestnut Teal. We visited Bunnings Swamp, saw Freckled Ducks and a Mallard, no Chestnut Teal. Went to Whistler Parade, Grassbirds, no Chestnut Teal. We realised we had found our biggest dip. In a slight sulk, we crossed the freeway to Old Brush and the Bowerbirds, Catbirds and pigeons were happy to let us interrupt their siesta. A special mention to the Yellow-throated Scrubwren as well, as they seem to know when it is time to evacuate the creek-bed. We zoomed up Leggets Drive with light dimming and the bird count only on 145, knowing that HEZ was going to make or break it. Fuscous and Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters were unmissable as was the ever-present sounds of Little Lorikeets and Peaceful Doves. We went to the Cul-de-Sac on 148 and Eastern Spinebills (and something else we can't remember!) provided the much-needed confirmation that our crazy route had been worthwhile. We had beaten our total from 2017 – by 2 birds. So we wandered into Kurri McDonalds barely awake, with ears ringing of bird calls and adrenaline pumping from 13h of attending to every movement and sound that just might be another bird to count. We had that very pleasing feeling of being satisfied at the completion of an event all had spent a lot of time planning, then enjoyed the actual completion of the event, and achieved a successful result.

Shorebird Conference in Tasmania

The most successful biennial Australasian Shorebird Conference hosted by BirdLife Tasmania took place in Hobart on the last weekend in October with field trips before and after two days of presentations packed solid with information.



Ruddy Turnstone WMA on Newcastle Stopover showing Geolocator.
Photo: Richard Nicholas

Themes included scientific understanding of migration on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Research is clarifying shorebird migrations, revealing how their habitat is being lost, and showing that Yellow Sea-dependent species are decreasing the fastest. The use of Platform Terminal Transmitters (PTTs) and Geolocators has shown migration paths and stopover sites in greater detail than ever before – fundamental to developing conservation strategies. The work by J. Thomas and R. Nicholas at Newcastle rock platform in watching out for and reporting Ruddy Turnstone “WMA” was singled out as an example of the importance of volunteers on the ground.

Several papers related to feeding ecology, for instance, to studies involving the placement of PTTs on various species which has led to discoveries about how different species use the low tide mudflats and shorelines during different tide cycles, at night and through the day, providing new understanding of their localized behavioural ecology.

Loss of habitat on the Flyway but also in Australia continues to drive to shorebird declines and whether remaining shorebird habitat could support historical levels if populations recovered is questionable. Alarmingly and surprisingly, large numbers of shorebirds are still being lost on cyanide-bearing tailings dams where companies are not signatories to the International Cyanide Management Code which requires that cyanide concentration must not exceed 50 mg/L WAD. State regulators do not require operations to protect wildlife on tailings systems.

The Australian Government was present and a representative gave an update on the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds and encouraged delegates to forward their views on the next steps in stopping the decline in shorebird populations.

The icebreaker was held in conjunction with the official opening of the Overwintering Project at the Moonah Arts Centre and two presentations discussed how to use art to engage audiences in shorebird conservation. Several papers discussed single species, for instance, Latham’s Snipe ecology and migration and wetland use in south-east Australia, tracking Grey Plover, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone and recovery effort to improve Hooded Plover breeding success.



Latham's Snipe at Hexham Swamp: Judi Thomas

There was some good news about restoring wetlands in Victoria and South Australia with community members starting to realise that healthy productive wetlands can be restored from dry cropped paddocks. Drained wetlands which were rarely productive can be and are better off restored.

If anyone would like a copy of the abstracts from which much of the above is taken, please contact me at ann.lindsey@bigpond.com **Ann Lindsey**

Sunday Field Outing to Abernethy 18th November



Mine area photo: Robert Stewart

Our first stop was at a private property where, during a brief shower of rain, we sheltered on the verandah, allowing us to watch at leisure a couple of Wonga Pigeons, Common Bronzewing, a Peaceful Dove, Satin Bowerbirds and some Double-barred Finches among other species. After the shower passed, we walked up the path towards the old Aberdare South mine area, where we admired the wonderful brickwork of the now derelict mine building. Along the track we spotted Brown Cuckoo-Doves and Bar-shouldered Doves. The mine dam yielded several species of waterbird, including some Australasian Grebe with three young.

We moved further along the road for morning tea, where we added to our list of pigeon and dove species, (8 in all) when a flock of Topknot Pigeons flew over.

Our bird count yielded 57 species seen and 6 heard. Our thanks to Brian Laut who organised this outing, liaising with local residents to allow us to go onto their properties.

Margaret Stewart



Wonga Pigeon: Rob Palazzi

Tuesday Outing to Hunter Wetlands Centre 4th December

The last Tuesday outing for the year to the Hunter Wetlands Centre saw the group joined by a visitor from England. Our first stop was the front deck, to check on Magpie Geese numbers. In recent weeks the numbers of these have been falling, and only 36 were counted. (On her way home Marg Clarke stopped off at the Sandgate transmitter tower pond, where we do know some of the Magpie Geese have relocated to, and found 7 Magpie Geese goslings). Many other waterbirds were present, including a lone Wandering Whistling Duck. The water ribbon swamp was similarly busy with large groups of Grey Teal and Eurasian Coots and 8 Black-winged Stilts.



Our next stop was to the egret rookery, where many White Ibis and the four egret species were getting their breeding season underway. As the day was warming up, some then returned to the café for coffee, while a hardy few took the long way back via the rainforest. Many bush bird species were spotted but only in small numbers. Along the way we were able to admire the interpretive signs designed by Rob Kyte now installed in the bird hides. A total 18 members recorded 79 species that were seen or heard.

The day concluded with us all having lunch on the verandah, where we were joined by Margaret and Keith Woods and Max Blanch, who were the originators of the Tuesday outings.

Margaret Stewart

Clicker's Corner

In this regular Newsletter section, we profile one of the Club photographers who use their skills to enhance the aims of the Club. This month's text and photos are all by Mick Roderick. The photos are taken in the woodlands area of Kurri Kurri/Cessnock which is of particular interest, he would say 'passion', for Mick. An extremely important and remarkable area worthy of conservation. (HEZ: Hunter Economic Zone) (BQJ: Button-quail Junction)

Mick Roderick



White-browed Woodswallow in HEZ

I was a little bemused when approached by the editor to compile a Clicker's Corner, but I was also quite pleased because I feel digital photography has opened up so much opportunity for enriching our understanding of birds. Let's get one thing straight – I am not a photographer. Anyone hoping for tips on the technical side of bird photography will be disappointed reading this article. However, I have very much embraced digital photography and have used it to augment the experience I have with birds and birdwatching in several ways.

I am not someone that sets off with the specific purpose of getting stunning images of birds. I appreciate and admire the work of people that do that but that is not me. I use digital photography to

enhance my understanding of what birds are doing in front of me, as well as a way to record what I saw on a particular day at a particular location. I do add images to my Birddata surveys when I feel it is appropriate and being someone that reviews a LOT of bird lists, I know that someone in the future will appreciate the effort I've gone to in doing that. Some of Lois Wooding's comments in her earlier Clicker's Corner ring very true to me, particularly when she stated that "observations reinforced by photographs can be compelling." By no means should photography ever replace field observations and this is the point – use it to supplement your observations.



Painted Button-quail in HEZ



Swift Parrot at BQJ in HEZ

Certainly without digital photography we would not have been able to dramatically increase our knowledge of the subspecies of Striated Pardalote in the Hunter, as an example. Photos of the undescribed 'New Caledonian Storm-petrel' from one of our Port Stephens pelagics will be invaluable as we understand more about that taxon (still the only winter record off Australia). Numerous banded shorebirds and seabirds would not have been recognised without digital photos of the legs of those birds. Recently I was watching Regent Honeyeaters at a property at Quorrobolong and I couldn't for the life of me work out what they were doing as they worked their way amongst the branchlets with not a scrap of blossom in sight. By taking photos and being able to later crop and zoom I found that they were in fact feeding on (and possibly 'farming') manna; something barely documented for Regent Honeyeaters in the literature.



Spotted Pardalote at Kitchener



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. HEZ

Just getting back to the photography side of things, when I was on the Falkland Islands recently I stayed in a shack on a remote island with well-known Canadian nature photographer Glenn Bartley. At the time I thought to myself “here’s a chance to learn something from an expert” but his advice was to *keep it simple*. There are only really three variables at your discretion on the camera that actually matter; the shutter speed, aperture and ISO – that’s it! Light is a given, as is attempting to get at eye-level with your subject, but his comments gave me the confidence to just fool around with those basics on my camera and I’ve been pretty happy with the results thereafter (on occasions!).



I suppose the upshot of having a camera with you often is that you will inevitably land some nice images. Despite my little lecture above, the proof / record /behaviour photos I mentioned are probably not appropriate for a Clicker’s Corner (i.e. they mostly are not very good!). Here instead I will share with you some of the images I’ve managed from the Cessnock

woodlands; all but one being from the Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ) and all but one being from 2018.

I do enjoy sharing photos that I take from the pelagic trips that I organise, but I will leave those for the HBOC Web Gallery that I will contribute to soon. I hope you will visit there and enjoy the small sample I’ve included here. In the meantime I encourage birders to start snapping photos of bird behaviour you may not understand because I can tell you there is much to be learnt in doing so.

Mick Roderick

Future Activity:

Australia Day Weekend Camp to Smiths Lake

25 to 29 January 2019



The January camp in 2019 is from Friday 25th to Tuesday 29th and is being held at UNSW Smiths Lake Research Field Station.

This is a special location and available for special activities. We are privileged to be able to visit it. There is dormitory type accommodation (camping also available) and communal kitchen with cooking requirements, fridges and stoves, flushing toilets, showers and sheltered communal type areas. There is also opportunity to swim in the lake.

Water is from rainwater tanks and although there is plenty some care is required in using this valuable resource. Insect repellent is also advised

The fees are \$15 per adult per night, with the cost of children being subsidised by the Club, so as not to overburden our young families. I will be collecting the camp fees at camp.

The UNSW Smiths Lake Field Station is located on the south-western shore of Smiths Lake, near the village of Bungwahl. It is about 35 km south of Forster, NSW.

From Bulahdelah, take the Lakes Way, which leaves the Pacific Highway a few kilometres north of the town. At Bungwahl, turn right into Seal Rocks Road. Proceed towards Seal Rocks for 2.3 km. then turn left at Horse Point Road (a dirt road opposite the Fish Co-op). Proceed straight ahead for 1.6 km until you reach the field station. Note: Ignore all signs and do not turn into Dogwood Road.

It is worthwhile reading the UNSW Smiths Lakes Field Station users guide on the net to ensure you are aware of its special features and problems we may encounter.

Lyn and Andrzej Karpziel

Recent Observations: *Please report special observations*

Hunterbirding is an email group set up by HBOC that is run through the Google Groups. It is a great way to keep in touch with the latest goings-on in Hunter Region birding. Members are able to report sightings, post questions to the group and get involved with group discussions on bird related issues. The home page of the Hunterbirding group is located at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/hunterbirding> Instructions for joining a Google Group to sign up for Hunterbirding to take part in these discussions and benefit from up-to-date birding news in the region, can be found at <https://support.google.com/groups/answer/1067205?hl=en> and follow the on-site instructions In addition to being a forum for interesting discussions on issues such as bird identification and behaviour it is also a great place to report your observations.

Bird records are obtained by the club through a variety of other means. Others are received through the BA atlas database, club outing sighting sheets, the club night observations forum and direct communications with the record officers. Of particular interest to the club are those records of regional significance, including sightings of the more unusual species, observations of breeding activity, early and late records of migratory birds and significantly large counts. A selection of records of this nature is provided below.

Some Observations this month:

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer
Grey-faced Petrel	300	20/11/18	Swansea pelagic	Mick Roderick et al
Kelp Gull	1	20/11/18	Newcastle Ocean Baths	Simon Gorta
Whiskered Tern	2	16/11/18	Swan Pond, Ash Island	Alan Stuart
Latham's Snipe	24	10/11/18	Irrawang Swamp	Bruce Watts
Latham's Snipe	22	10/11/18	Bulbul Pde, Maryland	Mick Roderick

Latham's Snipe	1	1/12/18	Tighes Hill	Tom Clarke
Latham's Snipe	22	26/11/18	Katal Street Fletcher	Alwyn Simple
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	7/11/18	Newcastle Ocean Baths	Richard Nicholas
Grey-tailed Tattler	22	15/11/18	Pindimar	John Connors
Marsh Sandpiper	31	16/11/18	Swan Pond, Ash Island	Alan Stuart
Ruddy Turnstone WMA	1	14/11/18	Ocean Baths	Richard Nicholas
Little Stint	1	1/12/18	Old Bar	Liam Murphy
Magpie Goose	38	22/11/18	Transmission Tower, Hexham	Margaret Stewart
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	10/11/18	Irrawang Swamp	Bruce Watts
Purple Swamphen	2 on nest	20/11/18	Warners Bay	Archie Brennan
Brush Turkey	1	26/11/18	Adamstown Heights	Rob Kyte
Painted Button-quail	2	12/11/18	Green Wattle Creek	Grant Brosie
Eastern Osprey	2+2 Young	10/11/18	Ash Island	Lene Parshou
Red-winged Parrot	2	24/11/18	Cassilis Rest Area	David Stuart
Brush Bronzewing	1	24/11/18	Belmont North	John Cockerell
Bar-shouldered Dove	1 on nest	20/11/18	HEZ	David Stuart
Topknot Pigeon	12	18/11/18	Abernethy	HBOC Field Trip
Dollarbird	2	14/11/18	Adamstown Heights	Rob Kite
Regent Honeyeater	2+2 in nest	8/11/18	HEZ, also 19/11/18, 26/11/18 nest	Mick Roderick
Regent Honeyeater	2	22/11/18	HEZ	Mark Simpson
Regent Bowerbird	1	8/11/18	Main Creek, Dungog	John Connors
White-winged Triller	1	10/11/18	Pambalong	Ray Burton
White-winged Triller	1	18/11/18	HEZ	Rob Palazzi
Cicadbird	4	12/11/18	Green Wattle Creek	Grant Brosie
Dusky Woodswallow	2+2 in nest	13/11/18	HEZ	Tom Kendall
Jacky Winter	1 on nest	19/11/18	HEZ	Ray Burton
Black-faced Monarch	1	19/11/18	Green Point	Archie Brennan

Club Activities December

DECEMBER 2018			
Wed 12 th Dec	Xmas Club Night	7.00pm The Wetlands Centre	Topic: Members' Night - bring your slides, anecdotes, videos and a plate to share the festive spirit
Fri 14 th Dec	Survey: Earthcare Park, Tenambit	Meet - 7.30am, main gate	Marg Clarke 0412 616030
Sun 16 th Dec	Field outing – Old Brush	Meet -7.30 a.m. at Oval, Child Street, Mulbring.	Lyn and Andrzej Karpel 0427 483 663 or 4952 3458
Tue 18 th Dec	Tomago Wetland Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 Please ring to confirm

January 2019 Australia Day Camp: See Notice above on p. 10

February 2019 13th Club Night following AGM

A Complete Program of Events for 2019 follows on p.12

HBOC Activities 2019 – Summary

All activities are subject to change: consult the HBOC website for latest details and phone the contacts, to be provided during the year, to be sure.

MEETINGS 2nd Wednesday	1st TUESDAY FIELD OUTINGS	3rd SUNDAY FIELD OUTINGS	CAMPS	HUNTER WATERBIRDS SURVEYS Saturday	OTHER SURVEYS & ACTIVITIES Tomago Wetland Surveys - third Tuesday every month.
No meeting in January	No outing in January	26 January – see camp	25-29 January – Smiths Lake	19 January 6.30 am Ash Island & Tomago 7.00 am all other locations	12th January Snipe Survey
13 February AGM	5 February – Hexham Swamp	17 February – Upper Allyn		9 February 10.30 am Ash Island & Tomago 11.00 am All other locations	2-4 February Broughton Island Bird banding 8 Feb Port Stephens Waterbirds Survey
13 March	5 March – Stockton Sandspit	17 March – Finnan Park		9 March 10.00am Ash Island & Tomago 10.30am All other locations	3 March - Clean Up Australia Day
10 April	2 April – Botanic Gardens	21 April – HEZ	Easter 19- 22 April - Macquarie Marsh Anzac 23-28 Bowra	6 April 9.00am Ash Island & Tomago 9.30am All other locations	6-7 April BiGnet Moss Vale
8 May	7 May – Ellalong Lagoon	19 May – Blackbutt Reserve		18 May 7.00am Ash Island & Tomago 7.30am All other locations	3-5 May Tocal Field Days 11-13- Broughton Island Banding ??? May -Regent Honeyeater/Swift Parrot Survey
12 June	4 June – Gulgabba	16 June – New Members Day	8-10 June Bulga	15 June 7.00am Ash Island & Tomago 7.00 am All other locations	
10 July	2 July – Walka Water Works	21 July – Green Wattle Creek		20 July 9.30am Ash Island & Tomago 10.00am All other locations	28-28 July Broughton Island Banding 19 July Port Stephens Waterbirds Survey
14 August	6 August – Central Coast/Dairy farm	18 August – Wierakata		17 August 8.30 am Ash Island & Tomago 9.00 am All other locations	3-4 August - Regent Honeyeater/Swift Parrot Survey
11 September	3 September – Worimi Land Stockton	15 September – Jerry's Plains	22-24 September - Mid-week Camp. Gloucester	14 September 7.30 am Ash Island & Tomago 8.00 am All other locations	BiGnet Canberra to Host (TBA) 8 Sep Bioblitz ? Snipe Survey
9 October	1 October – Old Brush	2 October – Mangoola Mine	5-7 October – Munghom Gap	12 October 7.30 am Ash Island & Tomago 8.00 am All other locations	3 October-Bio-diversity Day 25-25 October Broughton Island Banding Rufous Scrub-bird Surveys - mid-October, date TBA 28-27 October Twitchathon
13 November	5 November – Green Point	17 November – Bingleburra/Main Creek		16 November 10.30 am Ash Island & Tomago 11.00 am All other locations	? Snipe Survey
11 December	3 December – Mimi/Pambalong	15 December – Mt Sugarloaf		8 December 9.30 am Ash Island & Tomago 10.00 am All other locations	