



Newsletter

Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Issue No. 7/18 November 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.



An unusual visitor to the Hunter, Wandering Tattler photo by Belle Ciezak
Thanks to Jim and Gary for reporting this Wandering Tattler on Hunterbirding, enabling many club members to observe and photograph it at Green Point.

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Deadline for next edition 5th December 2018

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President's Notes November 2018

It has been a very busy month for the club. The Aussie Backyard Bird Count received quite a bit of attention from local councils and thanks to Rob Palazzi, Graham Feletti and Tom Clarke for giving presentations to support this. Thanks also to Tom for his contribution to a Welcome to Shorebirds event and to all those members who attended. Lene Parashou took up the challenge of speaking to the littlies at Kintaiba preschool. More recently it has been particularly pleasing to see the strong showing of HBOC members in the Twitchathon, especially the increased numbers tackling the 'minor' events. Well done.

Robert Stewart

HBOC Pull-Up Banners



The club recently acquired four pull-up banners for display at events such as Tocal Field days, Biodiversity Day Bioblitz and Welcome to Shorebirds. The money for these came from a grant from NCIG (Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group). The banners were designed by Rob Kyte using photos from our Bird Image Library and cover Waterbirds, Shorebirds, Woodland Birds and Rainforest Birds.

Committee Announcements



THE EASTERN CURLEW

*The Extraordinary Life
of a Migratory Bird*

You are invited to meet the author of *The Eastern Curlew*, **Harry Saddler**, to talk natural history, travel, ecology, and, of course, shorebirds. Harry will be joined by Hunter Wetlands Centre Board Member and RAMSAR Convention expert **Christine Prietto**.

HUNTER WETLANDS CENTRE

Saturday 10th November 2:00 – 3:45

Afternoon tea provided

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

David Bertram (S) Hawks Nest 2324
Jo Erskine & Warren Mayers (f) Nelson Bay 2315
Fiona & Andre Mangan (f) Branxton 2335
Holly Murphy (s) 2304

Liam Murphy (s) Port Macquarie 2444
Stephen & Ronda Ticehurst (f) Newcastle 2300
Owen Yates (s) Newcastle 2290

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.

Volunteer Activity

Welcome to shorebirds Stockton Sandspit, Friday 26th October

A welcome to shorebirds event at Stockton Sandspit on Friday 26th October was organised by Conservation Volunteers Australia. The event focussed upon Eastern Curlew but also other migratory shorebirds. HBOC was represented on the day by Tom Clarke (in photo below) and others providing information about Eastern Curlews, their lives in the estuary and along the flyway. Also, instruction was given in identifying shorebirds, using binoculars and spotting scopes and counting shorebirds.

A very good crowd of 60 people, including a respectable number of HBOC members, enjoyed the spectacle of lots and lots of shorebirds roosting. The focus of attention, Eastern Curlew, turned up in good numbers as well (109 or thereabouts) but for some new to shorebirds, it took many attempts to count more than thirty. Even these largest of the migrants can “hide” while standing perfectly still and with heads tucked over the shoulder. Other species present included Bar-tailed Godwit, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Red Knot, at least one Great Knot, Red-necked Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Caspian Tern. The assembled were thrilled by the sight of 1000 plus shorebirds in the air on a couple of occasions made possible by an interested Brown Goshawk swooping over the roost. The action did not result in any prey being taken; perhaps some other time.



Thankyou to all the HBOC members who turned out to help others with identifying the shorebirds and to those not so confident for coming along and taking some instruction. I hope you gained something out of the experience and return to explore the shorebirds again.

Tom Clarke

Thanks Harold and Mike

The 12th issue of *The Whistler* is now into final production and soon we all will be riveted by the many interesting articles it contains. It will be a significant milestone issue in many ways, one of which is that it will be the final issue of *The Whistler* to have Harold Tarrant and Mike Newman as joint editors. They both stepped up for the task in 2008, to produce issue #2 after Liz Date-Huxtable first got the ball rolling with issue #1. Since then there's been no looking back, and *The Whistler* is recognised around the world for the quality and diversity of its articles. Many important ornithological libraries overseas and in Australia have copies of *The Whistler* in their collections.

We perhaps sometimes don't properly appreciate all the hard work that is involved in getting an issue of *The Whistler* into our hands. The authors, referees and production team all do their important bits but it is the editors who shape the product. They set and maintain standards, all the while ensuring that the balance between readability and scientific rigour is right for each article. It's by no means an easy task.

There are more than 700 pages of copy in the eleven issues of *The Whistler* that Mike and Harold have edited. That's an enormous contribution to our understandings about birds in the Hunter Region. Many of the published papers and notes have also made important contributions to Australian ornithology. Arguably, most of the content within those 700 pages would not have seen the light of day in any other Australian journal. Editorship of *The Whistler* sometimes involves some cajoling and some mentoring of authors, many of whom are inexperienced at writing papers. Most other journals don't do either of those things.

For the past couple of years, Neil has also been a joint editor and learnt some of the ropes. For issue #13 onwards of *The Whistler*, the two of us will do our best to maintain the standards that Harold and Mike have set. And hopefully it won't be the end for their involvement – we expect a steady flow of papers from them and that sometimes they will be a referee for someone else's paper.

**Alan Stuart and Neil Fraser
Joint Editors, *The Whistler* 2019**

Identifying Juvenile Brahminy Kites: Text and photos below by Lois Wooding



Compared to the dramatic, distinctive plumage of their parents, juvenile Brahminy Kites can look a bit ordinary. Over the course of their first year juvenile Brahminy Kites progress through a series of moults before acquiring adult plumage, and at various stages they may be confused with Whistling Kites, Osprey, Black Kites



and Little Eagles. My identification criteria, while not exactly "text book" might be helpful to some.

Location is important. Brahminy Kites are a marine-coastal species, whereas Black Kites and Little Eagles are more prevalent inland. However, Osprey and Whistling Kites are a common occurrence in Brahminy territory. Brahminy Kites nest high (20-35m) in mature trees adjacent to coastal and estuarine shorelines. At Port Stephens they nest in mature Blackbutts (*Eucalyptus pilularis*). The nest height makes viewing difficult, but like most youngsters, juvenile Brahminys are curious, and you can check the head for its clear identifying field mark when they look over the rim of the nest to check out their surroundings. If you find a chick with dark eyes that looks like it got a "shiner" in a bar fight (or in ornithological terms has "a dark patch on the ear covets") you have probably found a juvenile Brahminy Kite. Osprey have pale yellow eyes, and their dark eye-line is narrower and more clearly defined. Whistling Kites don't have dark ear covets. The soft, creamy forehead and heavy, cream-coloured streaking on the head and neck combine to give young Brahminys a pale-headed appearance, in sharp contrast to the black-brown plumage on the breast and wings.

Brahminy Kites are mid-sized raptors with broad, rounded wings that extend slightly beyond the shortish tail. These features may be difficult to assess on a distant silhouette, but watch for the "rowing" wing action during flight, and when gliding, the smooth, buoyant, slip-sliding, gracefulness suggested by the name "kite". While gliding the wings are almost flat as opposed to the dihedral, upswept wing-position of a soaring Sea Eagle, or the more bow-winged "moustache-shaped" wing position of a gliding osprey. Whistling Kites and Brahminy Kites, however, have a very similar gliding profile. Check the tail. Brahminy Kites have a short, slightly wedge-shaped tail that's dark on top, light underneath and squarish at the end. The tail of a Whistling Kite is longer, rounded at the end and uniformly pale.



Photo: P. Eltoft

The whitish tips on the wing feathers of young Whistling Kites and Brahminy Kites look like rows of spots during flight, but underneath a young Brahminy Kite wears a "dark shirt and pale trousers" (a very dark, streaked breast that cuts off to light, creamy-white feathering across the belly, that extends down beyond the vent and through to the under tail covets). As young Brahminy Kites mature the breast/belly colour pattern reverses, but the strong colour demarcation remains pronounced. Whistling Kites retain their darkish breast feathers, but the breast/belly feathers lack clear colour separation, and the underside has a paler appearance. The Australian Bird Guide (Menkhorst *et al*) has excellent

illustrations of maturing feather development in both Brahminy and Whistling Kites (p.227). **Lois Wooding**

Final NSW Results from Twitchathon 2018

30hr Big Weekend Race

It was a fierce tussle at the top of the 30hr Big Weekend pack of a dozen NSW teams, with no fewer than 6 teams coming in with 240 species or greater. Back in the winning circle after a 5 year hiatus are the **Hunter Home Brewers*** – Steve Roderick, Lucas Grenadier and yours truly – with a score of **264**. Bridesmaids on consecutive Big Weekend races are the **Menacing Monarchs*** – Robert McDonald, Michael Kearns, Dave White and Owen Yates – with a very respectable **253** species. The team that scored the record 264 in 2017, the **Dodgy Drongos*** – Grant Brosie, Nick Livanos and Robert Kilkelly - came in a close 3rd with **241** species. Three teams tied for equal 4th place – **Central Coast Champion Choughs** (Alan Morris, Steve Edwards and Mike Kuhl), the **Back o’ Bourke Buzzards*** (Dan Williams, Darren Lyons, Craig Bagnall and Paul Donaldson) and **Raven On** (Matt Hinze, Liam Murphy and Heath Milne; in their first tilt at the Big Weekend) – all with **240** species logged – quite amazing!

Other results for the Big Weekend are:

Black-necked Stalkers	224	The Jaeger Jagermeister's* (Hunter Region only)	212
Binoculars*	217	Duck Norris	199
		Double-barrelled Finches	193
		Noisy Majors	66

12hr Big Day Race

Of the 14x 12hr Big Day teams competing across NSW, the space left wide open by the moving-on-up by last year's champion half-day team Raven On, it was the 2017 runners-up that took out the Big Day race. The winning team was **Duck Norris** – Ethan Marshall, Anthony Cooper and Charlotte Cooper – with 193 species in 12 hours – an improvement of 11 birds on their 2017 score. This year saw the return of a familiar 'champagne team', the **Lousy Jacks** – Deryk Engel, Ross Rapmund and Paul Burcher – to the 12hr category, taking out second place with **155** species. Third place in the Big Day were Hunter half-day stalwarts **Nagy Maggies*** – Krishna Nagarajan, Miranda Moore, George Voss, Sarah Fenning and Murali Nagarajan – just cracking the one-and-a-half century mark on **150** species ticked.

The remaining results for the Big Day are as follows:

Whichisit	135	Swift Sittellas and The Twitcher in Denial	106
Spectacled Maniacs	124	The City Chicks*	102
Little Regrets*	121	Western Warblers	85
Bidgee Boobooks	119	Matheson Mopokes	72
Silly Galahs	117	The Pardalotes	51
Champagne Shriketits	114		

Birdathon:

Congratulations to Craig and David of the **Spotted Hobbies (Victoria)**! Their score of 137 is a new record for the Birdathon, and an amazing effort within three hours. New Hunter team **Darth Waders*** scored 74.



Rarest/Best Bird – As advised on the day before the Twitchathon, the panel of judges (the NSW Birdline moderators) took into account not just the actual rarity of the bird/species, but also things like difficulty in finding it on a Twitchathon, the range of the bird in relation to where it was recorded and whether or not the place that the bird was recorded is a known site. It was unanimously decided that the **Hall's Bblers (photo left taken by Dan)** found by the **Back O' Bourke Buzzards*** was the best bird seen in the 2018 NSW Twitchathon. This is an extremely scarce bird in NSW and this is the first time it has been recorded on a NSW Twitchathon. There are very few sites at all for this species in NSW and with the buzzards finding a family

group along the Bourke-Hungerford Rd (-29.78999, 145.51239) we understand that some state-listers are already planning a trip out there to see the birds! It was also fittingly species #1 on the Twitch. Well done to Dan Williams and the rest of the buzzards. Another tattoo Dan?

Thanks again everyone, from the NSW Twitchathon Coordinators

Mick Roderick and Ashwin Rudder

Editors' Note – HBOC represented teams marked with an asterisk * (there will be more updates soon on fundraising prizes as well as team trip reports)

Martindale Spring Surveys 8-10th October 2018

After the success of the initial surveys back in July it was with great anticipation that Jeff Jones, Dave White, Alan Stuart and myself headed up to the Martindale Valley for the second round of quarterly surveys. We camped on the Sykes property at the same spot used by the HBOC campers the week before. Spring was in the air, the predicted overnight temperatures would be 10 degrees warmer than in ice cold July, 20mm of rain had recently fallen and with more rain predicted for survey Wednesday we had high hopes of greatly improving on the July trip. The same 16 sites across 9 properties were surveyed and the Spring conditions gave us a total species count of 108 compared to 82 in July, despite the difficulties of surveying in the rain on survey Wednesday.



© Bruce Watts

Painted Honeyeater photo by Bruce Watts

There were a few surprises including a Latham's Snipe in the small wetland and a great count of Painted Honeyeaters. A number of threatened species were recorded including the Grey-crowned Babbler, Spotted Harrier, Varied Sittella, Speckled Warbler, Dusky Woodswallow, Hooded Robin and Glossy Black Cockatoo. A final plus was the campsite record of Southern Boobook, White-throated Nightjar, Australian Owlet-nightjar and Tawny Frogmouth; all heard on the Tuesday night.

The next of our quarterly surveys will be held on the 22nd and 23rd of January 2019. It would be great to have more volunteers so if you are interested in volunteering for one or both days then contact Bruce on Email:

bruce@whitepoppyaviaries.com.au

Bruce Watts

October HBOC Club Meeting

In the Bird of the Evening segment, Judy Little recited three sweet poems about birds. All of them were written by her grandmother, who introduced Judy to the wonderful world of birds.

Our guest speaker was Ákos Lumnitzer. Ákos is a very well-known nature photographer who specialises in photos of birds of prey. He gave us lots of tips for how to take good quality photos, illustrating using his own stunning images. A lively discussion then ensued amongst the many keen photographers at the meeting.



Whistling Kite by guest speaker Akos Lumnitzer

Ákos has recently published a book about his raptor photography, called Remarkable Raptors. It's available here:

www.amatteroflight.com/books and his website is well and truly worth a visit as well:

www.amatteroflight.com



Field Outing: Bow Wow Gorge on Sunday, 21st October 2018

Bow Wow Gorge is a deep chasm carved out by Bow Wow Creek, a tributary of Wallis Creek, between Mulbring and Quorrobolong. The gorge and its immediate ecological corridors comprise of just under 3,000 hectares and is considered to be the most ecologically diverse land privately owned within the Cessnock LGA. Colin and Pamela Fitzsimons, who own the gorge itself, have placed it under a voluntary conservation agreement and have systematically worked to remove lantana and other weeds from the property, which anyone who sees the gorge will understand is a considerable feat. The ecological diversity of the gorge is reflected in the fact that there are seven recognised separate ecological communities. It is part of a wildlife corridor between the Watagans and Werakata National Park. These facts, of course, make it ideal for birdwatching.



Satin Bowerbird : Lene Parashou

After initially meeting at Mulbring we travelled on to Bow Wow Gorge where we were greeted by Colin and Pamela, who gave a short talk about the property and its significance. During this talk some of us were able to watch a nearby male Satin Bowerbird and a Wonga Pigeon. Some of the planted vegetation close to the house attracted Eastern Spinebills, Brown Thornbills and Lewin's Honeyeaters up close for brilliant views and photo opportunities. Our first stop was to see a bower built by the Satin Bowerbird. This was quite close to the house and meant that both the male and female were seen without having to go far.

The initial creek crossing, over Wallis Creek, saw four people deciding to stay behind and spend the time bird watching around the house paddocks. They were not disappointed with the variety of birds that they saw. Fifteen others (including our hosts) journeyed on and the rest of the walk was not any more difficult than the initial section, although care was still needed as everywhere was still wet from the day before. The initial climb took us to the western ridge of the gorge into dry sclerophyll forest and with it sightings of Grey Fantails, Yellow Thornbills, Black-faced Cucko-shrikes, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, a Kookaburra and a Golden Whistler up close. It was decided that time did not allow us to travel further along the gorge to see the Peregrine Falcon nest. Colin reported that the nest currently contained eggs. From the ridge we were able to hear many of the birds in and above the gorge, although some, like the Rainbow Bee-eater and Sacred Kingfisher, were heard often but not seen.

We later descended down to the creek and journeyed in a northerly direction along an old snigging trail to Wallaby Rock where we paused for morning tea. Some owl pellets were seen on a large flat rock close to the water pools. These pellets were quite large and contained fur and broken bones, consistent with our expectations that these were from the Powerful Owls that lived in the gorge. Partly retracing our way back down the creek we were amazed by the number of Golden Whistlers that were actively calling. Fan-tailed Cuckoos were also fairly numerous. Black-faced Monarchs were also present but they were only heard, not seen.

The gorge was picturesque with the new growth associated with spring. The only large trees in flower were turpentines. There were many arboreal orchids in flower. Seeing some of the massive trees is always special as is finding mature red cedars, which are so rare nowadays.

Fortunately the weather was favourable for walking, despite the fact that the day before had been hot and unpleasantly humid with later lightning and heavy showers. On the day of the walk we had overcast conditions, a pleasant temperature and no rain, despite forecasts of heavy showers.



Tangle orchid (*Plectorrhiza tridentata*) on grey myrtle (*Backhousia myrtifolia*) Photo: Helen McCall



Brown Cuckoo-Dover: Lene Parashou



Ridge from lookout in Gorge: Helen McCall

Surprisingly, no raptors were seen during the walk, and we dipped on the Powerful Owls that we all hoped to see. However, 54 species of birds were identified in the four and a half hours we spent there and everyone enjoyed going to this very special place.

John Goswell

Mid-week Outing Boys Walk, Cooranbong on Tuesday 6th November

Melbourne Cup Day probably accounted for a smaller than usual attendance on this outing. There were 14 knowledgeable, energetic members who set-out from the cemetery, heading south on Boys Walk which follows Dora Creek. The day was overcast with occasional bright sunshine. It was quite humid. Over the day we saw or heard 67 species.

Before we had left the cars, we saw Grey Butcherbird, Rainbow Lorikeet, Satin Bowerbird, Little Wattlebird and heard Bell Miners, Dollarbirds, Noisy Friarbirds plus Eastern Whipbirds. The early part of the track has quite leafy small and medium sized trees punctuated by very tall eucalypts reaching to the sky but there is not a lot of undergrowth due to manual clearance work. It appears that a lot of lantana has been removed and not replaced. Many birdcalls could be heard. We soon saw numerous Lewin's Honeyeaters, Scarlet Honeyeaters, Yellow Robins and heard Golden Whistlers.



As we moved further along the track there were Brown Gerygones including a nest-building pair. White-throated Gerygones could be heard and were actually seen a little further on. A Willie Wagtail was nest-sitting on a Casuarina branch just above the creek. White-browed and Yellow-throated Scrubwrens appeared, followed by our first Black-faced Monarch and Sacred Kingfishers. A Crested Shrike Tit and a group of White-cheeked Honeyeaters were seen just before we reached the settling pond at the now non-productive Sanitarium factory. It was here that Marg Clarke spotted two Southern Emu Wrens which were confirmed later by Robert and Margaret Stewart.. This species is rarely reported as seen in this area, despite quite a few previous club and individual visits there. Other species at the pond were:

Hardhead, Chestnut Teal with ducklings, White-faced Heron and nearby there were Red-browed Finches.

We returned to the carpark for morning tea. A Green Catbird flew into a 'tobacco plant' only 15 metres from us and ate berries from the tree. Unfortunately, not a single camera at hand, but some year-list twitchers were happy nevertheless with this sighting.

After our short break we headed north on the original track, but the only notable species were two Rufous Fantails and two more Black-faced Monarchs. By now the birding had gone very quiet so we headed home.

Rob McDonnell

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. The text describes the photos so they have not been given a caption. All by Dick Jenkin. **If you would like to contribute to this section, with a regional focus, let me know. Judi Thomas, ed.**

Dick Jenkin

This is my second contribution to Clickers Corner and before writing this article I reread my submission from the June 2017 HBOC Newsletter. Nothing much has changed from that advice so it is worth another read.

One thing worth mentioning is to try and take your photos at eye level with the subject whenever you get the chance. This allows you to have a more intimate and personal view of the bird. Yes, it means lying in mud or wet grass sometimes!

The light, up to two to three hours after sunrise, and up to two hours before sunset will give you the best results. I like to plan my photography around these hours and generally find mornings to be best as the birds always seem to be more active then, needing to feed after sleeping all night!



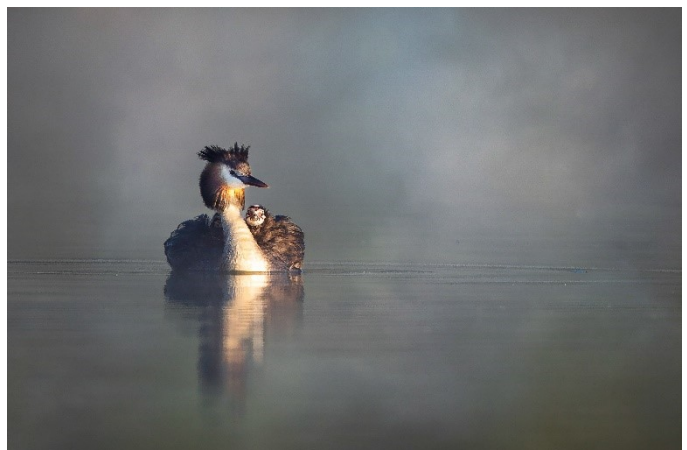
I also like to plan for a particular species and try not to get side tracked with anything else. The truth is literally in the bank because I planned the magpie and the grebe images and sold both at the annual Dungog Art Society exhibition last month!

One of the latest techniques I am trying is significantly underexposing birds with white feathers in order to bring out feather detail and creating a dark background. I planned on photographing an Australian Magpie, which we have at home, so I picked the right afternoon and wandered around with my camera and settings that I wanted until the opportunity arose. It was after sunset so the last natural light of the day and no flash was used. I process my images mostly in Lightroom so I just needed to tweak the whites and blacks and highlights and shadows to achieve the result I wanted. I love the results, how about you?

I used this same technique for a Galah feeding on oaten hay in one of our horse yards at the end of the day. In both of these images there were black fences in the background and I have cloned in a bit more black to fill in the gaps.



The image of the Great Crested Grebe with the chicks on its back took a bit more planning. They only do this for a limited time each year so I closely watched weather forecasts for Maitland, wanting a day that was partly cloudy but no chance of rain and the opportunity to get some mist on the water. I arrived at Walka Water Works before sunrise and located the birds. I then lay on the grass and waited for them to come closer to me.





Yellow-rumped Thornbill and Spotted Quail-

After the successful mission I went onto photograph other birds including this Yellow-rumped Thornbill which was totally unconcerned about my presence as I was lying on the wet grass.

I did the same later this year with a Spotted Quail-thrush. The birds were unconcerned by my presence and you get the effects of a blurry foreground as well. I had been watching the weather, made sure it was a week day and not school holidays and made the drive to Mogo Creek Camping Ground in Yengo National Park where a pair of these birds are not too shy at all.

Dick Jenkin



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

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.



*Illustrations of two obs below. Shining Bronze Cuckoo nominate race ssp lucidus: Mick Roderick
Whiskered Tern photo Rob Palazzi, observed by Caius Christoe at Stockton Borehole Colliery*

Some Observations this month:

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer
Gould's Petrel	1	24/10/18	Broughton Island	Suse Callaghan
Kelp Gull	1	13/10/18	Stockton Sandspit	Ray Burton
Aleutian Tern	1	17/10/18	Old Bar	Bruce Wedderburn
Gull-billed Tern	118	19/10/18	Stockton Worimi Conservation Land	Neil Fraser
Whiskered Tern	9	3/11/18	Stockton Borehole Colliery Dam	Caius Christoe
Red-necked Avocet	17	20/10/28	Little swan Bay	Lois Wooding
Lesser Sand Plover	1	20/10/18	Stockton Sandspit	Tom Clarke
Wandering Tattler	1	10/10/18	Green Point (still there 24 th)	Gary Tong, Jim Stone
Red Knot	600	11/10/18	Stockton Sandspit	Owen Yates
Red Knot	3	12/10/18	Ocean Baths	Richard Nicholas
Red-necked Stint	1	1/11/18	Ocean Baths	Owen Yates
Sanderling	5	19/10/18	Stockton Worimi Conservation Land	Neil Fraser
Nankeen Night-Heron	2	22/10/18	Karuah Wetland	John Connors
Australasian Bittern	1	1/11/18	Cattai Wetlands	Graeme O'Connor
Australian Little Bittern	1	1/11/18	Ash Island	Chad Beranek
Glossy Ibis	15	6/10/18	Bureen Road	Steph Owen
Glossy Ibis	77	13/10/18	Kite Bluff, Lenaghans	Dan Williams
Black-necked Stork Juvenile	1	3/11/18	Ash Island	Max Blanch
Baillon's Crake	1	8/10/18	Nulkaba	Dick Jenkin
Eastern Osprey	2+1Y on N	15/10/18	Morisset	Bruce Hosken
Brahminy Kite	1	16/10/18	Galgabba	Jack Adams
Spotted Harrier	1	6/10/18	Warkworth	Tom Clarke
Powerful Owl	4	26/10/18	Green Point (2+2 fledged young)	Ted Elks
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	1	13/10/18	Main Creek, Dungog	David Stuart
Topknot Pigeon	17	9/10/18	Morpeth	Ray Burton
Topknot Pigeon	20-30	9/10/18	Galgabba	Jack Adams
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	17/10/18	Belmont North	John Cockerell

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (ssp)	1	9/10/18	Abermain (ssp lucidus)	Mick Rodrick
Pheasant Coucal	1	25/10/18	Belmont North	John Cockerell
White-throated Needletail	25	19/10/18	Belmont North	Belle Farley Ciezak
White-throated Needletail	50	2/11/18	Mungo Brush	John Connors
White-throated Needletail	5	19/10/18	Myuna Bay	Eula McKane
Black Honeyeater	1	6/10/18	Singleton	Michael Akrill per MR
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	3	7/10/18	Hunter Valley Gardens	Dick Jenkin
Crimson Chat	1	4/11/18	Durrigere SCA	Michael Kearns
Varied Sitella	2+2 ONest	30/10/18	Mambo Wetlands	Neil Fraser
White-winged Triller	2	6/10/18	Bureen Road	Steph Owen
White-winged Triller	2	18/10/18	Irrawang Swamp	Bruce Watts
Cicadabird	1	13/10/18	Main Creek, Dungog	David Stuart
Satin Bowerbird	20 circa	23/10/18	Karuah Wetlands	John Connors
Spectacled Monarch	1+	10/10/18	Bindera (near Copeland)	Krishna Nagarajan
Diamond Firetail	1	4/11/18	Total	Bill Maitland

Club Activities November To December

Wed 14th Nov	Club Meeting	7.00pm The Wetlands Centre	Speaker: Dick Jenkin – Birding in Madagascar Bird of the Evening: Ann Lindsey Ringed Plover
Sun 18 th Nov	Field Outing: Abernathy/Werakata	Meet – 7.30am Poppethead Park, Kitchener	Contact - Bob Stewart 49632029 or 0401 283 305
Tue 20 th Nov	Tomago Wetlands Survey	7.30am Entry to Tomago House	Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 Please ring to confirm
DECEMBER 2018			
Tue 4 th Dec	Mid-Week Outing – Hunter Wetlands centre, Christmas Lunch ?	Meet – 7.30am, Hunter Wetlands Centre	Margaret Stewart 49632029 or 0401 283 305
Wed 5 th Dec	Management Committee Meeting	6.30pm – 9.30pm Garden Suburbs School	President - All members welcome
Sat 8 th Dec	Hunter Wader Survey HT-9.45am, 1.85m	9.30am Ash Island and Tomago 10.00am Other locations as directed	Alan Stuart 0409 978 171 – Ash Island Dan Williams 0408 023 262 – Kooragang Jack Adams 4971 5334 – Swansea Jenny Powers 4944 7274 – Stockton Sue Hamonet 4958 1023 – Swan Bay Steven Cox 0409 848 390 – Tomago Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 - Hexham
Wed 12th 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