

The *Whistler* – Instructions to Authors

The *Whistler* is an occasional publication of the Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. (HBOC), which is based in Newcastle. HBOC members are active in observing birds and monitoring bird populations in the Hunter Region. This journal-style publication is a venue for publishing these regionally significant observations and findings. The journal publishes three types of articles:

1. **Contributed Papers**
2. **Short Notes**
3. **Book Reviews**

Authors should consider the appropriateness of their study to this publication. The publication is suitable for studies either geographically limited to the Hunter Region or with obvious relevance to it. Papers attempting to address data and issues of a broader nature should be directed to other journals, such as *Corella*, *Australian Field Ornithology* and *Emu*. Contributed papers should include analyses of the results of detailed ecological or behavioural studies, or syntheses of the results of bird monitoring studies. These may include comprehensive annotated species lists of important bird areas and habitats. Such data would then be available for reference or further analysis in the many important issues of bird conservation facing the Hunter Region.

Communication of short notes on significant bird behaviour is also encouraged as a contribution to extending knowledge of bird habits and habitat requirements generally. Reviews of bird books are also solicited, with the intention of providing a guide for other readers on their usefulness regionally and more broadly.

General Instructions for Submission

Manuscripts should be submitted electronically; please attach your manuscript to an email as a Microsoft Word document. Charts should be submitted as an Excel file. Authors should adhere to the instructions for each type of submission:

Contributed Papers

- Manuscripts should be up to 12 pages in length (longer in exceptional circumstances) and of factual style.
- They should include a summary (abstract) of approximately 250 words.

- An ‘Introduction’ or ‘Background’ section introduces the aims of and rationale for the study and cites any other work considered essential for comparison with the study.
- A section on ‘Methods’ describes the location of the study, citing map co-ordinates or including a map, and describing how observations were made and data were collected and analysed.
- A section on ‘Results’ includes description and/or analysis of data highlighting trends in the results; this may be divided into subsections if more than one body of data is presented; use of photos, drawings, graphs and tables to illustrate these is encouraged.
- A section headed ‘Discussion’ should attempt to set the results in a wider context, indicating their significance locally and/or regionally; comparison with national and international work is optional, as is the discussion of possible alternative conclusions and caveats; suggestions for future extension of the work are encouraged.
- A final section headed ‘Conclusion[s]’ gives a concise summary of findings, usually without introducing any new data or arguments.
- Appendices of raw data and annotated lists of bird species and habitats may be included in tabular form at the end of the submitted article. Usually these will be published on-line and not appear in the hard copy print.
- References should be cited in brief within the text of the article, and full references should be listed at the end of the text after any Acknowledgements. References should be formatted as per the formatting instructions below.
- The preferred layout described above can be modified at the Editors’ discretion.

Short Notes

- Should be no more than 4 pages of descriptive or prosaic style.
- Should provide an adequate description of the location of observations, a brief rationale for documenting the observations, and a cogent description of observations; similar relevant observations should be cited with references if appropriate.
- References should be cited and listed as for contributed papers.

Book Reviews

- Should be approximately 2 pages of critical assessment and/or appreciation.
- Should introduce the topics and aims of the book as the reviewer understands them, comment on the thoroughness and rigour of content, and conclude with comments on the effectiveness and originality of the book in meeting its aims, particularly for birdwatchers in the Hunter Region area if appropriate.
- References should be cited and listed as for contributed papers.

Formatting Instructions

Formatting of an article for publication is the responsibility of the Whistler production team and is done after the submitted manuscript has been finalised and accepted. Authors are requested to note the following requirements when submitting a manuscript:

1. A4 size pages using portrait layout except for large tables or figures. Margins 2cm all sides.
2. Title of article at top of first page
3. Names and the affiliations or addresses of all authors are to be listed next, with at least one email address included. Each author's preferred first name is to be indicated.
4. The author for correspondence is to be clearly indicated.
5. Typescript for manuscripts is Times New Roman 11 pt.
6. Figures and Tables are to be included at the end of the document, in Times New Roman 11 pt. Each Figure and Table is to have a title that clearly describes the content.
7. Nomenclature and classification of bird species shall follow the current version of BirdLife Australia's "Working List of Australian Birds" (download from: <http://birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>). The scientific names of all bird species shall be shown in italics after the first mention of their English name in both the text and summary (abstract) and not thereafter.
8. References should be cited in the text in parenthesis as close as possible to the information taken from the paper: for one author (Smith 2000), two authors (Smith & Jones 2001b) and more than two authors (Smith *et al.* 2002) with the

authors listed in the same order as the original paper.

9. References shall be listed in alphabetical order and secondarily by year of publication; if published in the same year then in alphabetical order with a, b, or c etc after the year to indicate which paper is being cited in the text (see example below). Each reference shall form a separate paragraph.

Reference Format

Journal articles:

Jones, D.N. and Wieneke, J. (2000a). The suburban bird community of Townsville revisited: changes over 16 years. *Corella* **24**: 53-60.

Edited book Chapters:

Lodge, D.M. (1993). Species invasions and deletions: community effects and responses to climate and habitat change. In 'Biotic interactions and Global change' (Eds. P.M. Kareiva, J.G. Kingsolver and R.B. Huey) Pp. 367-387. (Sinauer Associates, Sutherland, MA.)

Books:

Caughley, G. and Sinclair, A.R.E. (1994). 'Wildlife Ecology and Management'. (Blackwell, Cambridge, MA.)

Theses:

Green, R. (1980). 'Ecology of native and exotic birds in the suburban habitat'. Ph.D. Thesis, Monash University, Victoria.

Reports:

Twyford, K.L., Humphrey, P.G., Nunn, R.P. and Willoughby, L. (2000). Investigations into the effects of introduced plants and animals on the nature conservation values of Gabo Island. (Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources, Orbost Region, Orbost.)

If these examples are not sufficient, please refer to the references given in this issue or in earlier issues.

Please submit all manuscripts to:

Joint Editors, whistler@hboc.org.au