



President's Report

The sixth Grenfell IBA survey is the last weekend of March. The number of participants has held up well since the surveys started in 2011. Engagement with the local community has been a feature of this survey, and the number of private properties that the Club can access for surveys has steadily increased over the years. The Sunday bird walk has also become a fixture, which regularly attracts local people interested in bird watching.

The Grenfell survey is just one of several such activities that involves Club members. Over many years, Birding NSW has participated in the annual Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot survey in the Capertee Valley. Douglas Bateman has been our coordinator for this, as well as being the coordinator of the tree planting that takes place twice a year there. Douglas has decided to retire from these roles at the end of the year, but he is keen to mentor anyone who wishes to take over from him. The duties can be shared between several individuals. If you are interested in helping the Club in this way, email Douglas at douglasbateman@yahoo.com or speak to a member of the Committee.

Hot and dry conditions have prevailed over the summer. The Australia Day campout at Coolah Tops National Park this year was cancelled because of a Total Fire Ban. Species such as Pink-eared and Freckled Ducks have been seen in significant numbers at various locations around Sydney lately, which is usually an indication that water sources are decreasing inland.

One top bird watching spot is Pitt Town Lagoon, where the National Parks and Wildlife Service have constructed a new bird hide in conjunction with the Cumberland Bird Observers Club (CBOC). Elisabeth and I attended the opening ceremony in February. Over 80 people were there to hear John Dengate, the Patron of the CBOC, give the speech and cut the ribbon. John has agreed to be our Arnold McGill Memorial Lecturer this year. He will be talking about how birds fly.

The Committee has decided to move the Annual General Meeting to the December meeting permanently, as it fits well with the other major events on the Birding NSW calendar such as the Arnold McGill Memorial Lecture and the annual Christmas party.

The next Bird Interest Group network (BIGnet) meeting will take place on the second weekend of April in Canberra, hosted by the Canberra Ornithologists Group. CBOC has been the first NSW independent club to sign up to affiliate status with BirdLife Australia, and further discussion by other clubs about this proposal will occur in Canberra.

Tom Karplus
President, Birding NSW

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Jessica Amos	Glebe NSW
Terence Bressington	Nimbin NSW
Darren Cade	Rozelle NSW
Nadja & Jen Hasenauer	Oyster Bay NSW
Caroline Jones	Oatley NSW
Andrew & Barbara Melville	Wyoming NSW
Aron O'Brien	Camperdown NSW
Ida Rhone & Jason Smart	Waverley NSW
Nathan Tolentino	Eastwood NSW
Anne Wark	Glebe NSW



CLUB ACTIVITIES

FIELD OUTINGS AND MEETINGS

FIELD OUTINGS

Bring a snack, lunch and a chair.

NATIONAL PARK USE FEES

Club Outings are sometimes held in National Parks. A valid day pass or annual pass is necessary for 46 national parks in NSW and that includes most in the Sydney and Central Coast Regions. The pass must be displayed on your vehicle at all times while you are in the park.

TOTAL FIRE BANS

Members are reminded that no Central Coast outings are held on days when Total Fire Bans are in force. For Sydney outings in times of a Total Fire Ban, check with the outing leader.

SECURITY

Members are reminded not to leave anything of value visible in unattended vehicles while bird watching.

CENTRAL COAST OUTINGS

Sydney Members should advise the leader in advance if they are coming to an outing so that they don't leave without you!

FEES AT CAMPOUTS

A camping fee may be applicable at some campsites.

PETS

Members are reminded that pets including dogs are not allowed on any Club activity including campouts.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

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 the meetings.

If you leave the 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 a level of fitness required for the advertised outing. If in doubt contact the outing leader beforehand.

APRIL

Tuesday 1 April Club Meeting: The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm, 'Stopping and reversing the decline of Australia's birdlife', speaker: Shauna Chadlowe.

Saturday 5 April Club Outing: Royal National Park. Meet 8.30 am at Wattle Forest Picnic Area near Audley. Turn into Lady Carrington Drive at Audley, then right over the timber bridge to the western side of the river. Turn left and meet at the last car park. Lunch at cars. Leader: Elisabeth Karplus 9816 2285; 0421 665 553

Wednesday 9 April Central Coast Half-day Outing: Dog Trap Road, Somersby. Meet 8.30 am at Somersby Store, junction of Wisemans Ferry Road and Peats Ridge Road, Somersby. Lunch at cars. Leader: Wendy Gillespie per Alan Morris 02 4334 2776

Saturday 12 April Club Outing: Chiltern Road and various other sites along the Northern Beaches. Meet 9.00 am at the end of Chiltern Road, Ingleside. Lunch at cars. Leader: Coleen Southall 9982 5453 or 0410 549 321

Tuesday 22 April Central Coast Meeting: Meet in the Progress Hall in Anzac Street, Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm, 'Birding on Norfolk Island', speaker: Michael Scobie.

Anzac Long Weekend Campout 25–27 April:

Backgamma State Forest near Forbes. Travel from Orange along Forbes Road to about 5 kilometres past Eugowra and then turn right at the sign for 'Parkes'. Travel another 12 kilometres past Eugowra and turn left into a lane. Head due west, go through a gate into the forest, over a grid on top of a hill and through another gateway. The campsite will be on the right about 5 kilometres from the Parkes road. Bring everything that you need including garbage bags and water. Leader: Allan Richards 9660-8062

Saturday 26 April Central Coast Outing: Glenola Reserve, Bunning Creek. Meet at 8.30 am opposite the Yarramalong Church, 800 metres west of Yarramalong. Lunch at cars. Leader: Margaret Pointer 4374 1163

Wednesday 30 April Midweek Outing: Warriewood Wetlands. Meet 8.00 am at Katoa Close, Warriewood. Lunch at cars. Leader: Coleen Southall 9982 5453 or 0410 549 321

MAY

Weekend Central Coast Campout 2–4 May. Wallamba River Holiday Park, 99 Aquatic Road, North Tuncurry about 14 km north of Tuncurry. Tel: 6554 3123 or 1800 267 176. Leader: Alan Morris 02 4334 2776

Saturday and Sunday 3–4 May Capertee Valley Regent Honeyeater Project–Tree Planting: Volunteers are needed to plant trees. For more information contact Pixie at the BirdLife Australia Sydney Office: 02 96471033; southernnsw@birdlife.org.au

Tuesday 6 May Club Meeting: The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm, 'Pictures of penguins and shags in the South Atlantic', speaker: Michael Edwards.

Saturday 10 May Club Outing: Hawkesbury area. Meet at 8.30 am at the car park for Scheyville National Park Office off Scheyville Road. Lunch at cars. Leader: Allan Richards 9660 8062 or 0432 064 660

Wednesday 14 May Central Coast Half-day Outing: Jilliby and Dooralong. Meet at 8.30 am at the junction of Hue Hue and Jilliby Roads, just north-west of Wyong. Lunch at cars. Leader: Alan Morris 02 4334 2776

Saturday 17 May Club Outing: Royal National Park. Meet 8.30 am at Wattle Forest Picnic Area near Audley. Turn into Lady Carrington Drive at Audley, then right over the timber bridge to the western side of the river. Turn left and meet at the last car park. Lunch at cars. Leader: Coleen Southall 9982 5453 or 0410 549 321

Sunday 18 May Nestlings' Outing combined with Cumberland Bird Observers Club: Warriewood Wetlands. A morning for children from 5–12 years old accompanied by an adult. Meet 9 am at Katoa Close, off Garden Street, Warriewood. Bring a morning snack, drink, hat and sunscreen. Walk the boardwalk above the wetland where a wealth of birdlife awaits. Contact: Wendy Cope 0408 460 200

Tuesday 27 May Central Coast Meeting: Meet in the Progress Hall in Anzac Street, Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm, 'Hebridean Adventure', speaker: Robyn Price.

Wednesday 28 May Midweek Outing: Wattle Forest, Royal National Park. Meet at 8.30 am at the Wattle Forest Picnic area near Audley. Turn into Lady Carrington Drive at Audley, then right over the timber bridge to the western side of the river. Turn left and meet at the last car park. Lunch at cars. Leader: Coleen Southall 9982 5453 or 0410 549 321

Saturday 31 May Central Coast Outing: Meet 8.30 am at Ourimbah Rest Area on the M1. Lunch at cars. Leader: Christina Port 02 4340 4767

JUNE

Tuesday 3 June Club Meeting: The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm, 'The Secret Life of Lyrebirds', speaker: Carol Proberts.

Saturday 7 June Club Outing: Mitchell Park. Meet at 8.30 am in the first picnic area at Mitchell Park, Mitchell Park Road, Maraylya. Leader: Trevor Waller 0467 977 508

Wednesday 11 June Central Coast Half-day Outing: Woy Woy and Blackwalls Bay. Meet 8.30 am at Lions Park, North Burge Road, Woy Woy. Lunch at cars. Leader: Christina Port 02 4340 4767

Saturday 14 June Club Outing: Warriewood Wetlands. Meet at 9.00 am in the picnic area at the corner of Katoa Close and Garden Street, Warriewood. Lunch at cars. Leader: Allan Richards 9660 8062 or 0432 064 660

Tuesday 24 June Central Coast meeting: Meet in the Progress Hall in Anzac Street, Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm, 'Birding in Myanmar', speaker: Allan Richards.

Wednesday 25 June Midweek Outing: Windsor Downs. Meet at 8.30 am at the end of Sanctuary Drive, Windsor Downs, off Richmond Rd. Lunch at cars. Leader: Carol Abbott 9980 1201 or 0414 312 538

Saturday 28 June Central Coast Outing: South Tacoma. Meet at 8.30 am at McPherson Road Swamp, corner of Gavenlock and McPhersons Roads, Tuggerah. Lunch at cars. Leader: Alan Morris 02 4334 2776

WANTED: BIRDING NSW REPRESENTATIVE ON THE REGENT HONEYEATER TREE PLANTING COMMITTEE AND ORGANISER OF THE OCTOBER SURVEYS OF THE REGENT HONEYEATERS IN THE CAPERTEE VALLEY

This is Douglas Bateman's last year and he will be happy to liaise with the new person for as long as they need any assistance with the following tasks.

TREE PLANTING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE:

Attend twice-yearly meetings (approx 90 minutes, with refreshments) held around March and June/July at the Native Plant Nursery, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook opposite the Tourist Information Office.

Write a notice giving dates and times and the contact details of the organiser at BirdLife Southern NSW Office Pixie Maloney (who takes care of all the registrations, bookings and also reservations for the buffet dinner at Glen Alice Hall) to go to the editor of the Birding NSW Newsletter and the compiler of the Birding Bulletin.

Attend the May and August tree plantings. This is not compulsory but is enjoyable and a brief report of the weekend for the newsletter is appreciated.

So basically two meetings, two tree plantings, reminders for the newsletter and bulletin and two brief reports.

BIRDING NSW OCTOBER REGENT HONEYEATER SURVEY ORGANISER:

Book the accommodation at Brymair cottage in Bogee off the Rhyllstone Road on The Dunville Loop Road. Contact by email the list of people who regularly attend the weekend.

Organise groups of up to six people for each of the ten sites that will be surveyed Saturday and Sunday mornings and provide the survey sheets obtained from the BirdLife Southern NSW Office.

MAY TALK

Pictures of penguins and shags in the South Atlantic

Speaker: Michael Edwards

Mike will take us on a short pictorial visit to the rookeries of Rockhopper, King, Gentoo, Chinstrap, Magellanic, Adelie and Macaroni Penguins.

He will also show us Blue-eyed Shags, Black-browed, Wandering and Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses and Southern Giant-Petrels on South Georgia and the South Shetland Islands with occasional sideways glances at ice.

Barking Owl

20 January 2014

Photo: John Taylor



Barking Owl at Narrabeen Lagoon Photographer John Taylor

A Barking Owl was sighted during a Club Outing to Warriewood Wetlands on 8 June 2013 and reported on Birdline NSW. The next reported sighting of a Barking Owl was by Carol Abbott on 2 August along the Narrabeen Lake Track from Jamieson Park. John discovered it at about the same time and has been photographing the owl at various sites along the Narrabeen Lake Track since August 2013.

APRIL TALK

The Secret Life of Lyrebirds

Speaker: Carol Proberts

The Superb Lyrebird is an iconic species, one of the most loved and recognised birds in Australia. Famous for their spectacular display and vocal mimicry, they live close to our two biggest cities and in some areas have become quite habituated to people. Yet there is still much we don't know about their behaviour and life history.

In 2010, Carol Proberts embarked on an intensive survey of a population of lyrebirds in the Blue Mountains throughout the course of the breeding season. The results were completely unexpected. What she observed was a social life, which had never previously been documented, including the regular gathering of males in a communal display area.

Carol is a professional birding guide who has had a strong interest in lyrebirds for many years. She will talk about her experiences with the Superb Lyrebirds of the Jamison Valley and along the way examine some common lyrebird myths.

Noisy Miner



Noisy Miner waiting for a bus. Sent to the editor by Jayden, Manly High School student.

Black-winged Stilt

Photo: Colette Livermore



Downy young Black-winged Stilt—Waterbird Refuge Bicentennial Park.

Eremaea eBird and Eremaea Birdlines

Eremaea eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/australia>) and Eremaea Birdlines (<http://www.ereamae.com>) are free, community-based web sites that support Australian birding and provide valuable information for conservation and research.

Eremaea eBird

Eremaea eBird is a global wild bird atlas. It is the Australian portal for the global eBird project, run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a large non-profit organization founded in 1915 and a world leader in the study, appreciation, and conservation of birds. It is a place where you can keep all your personal bird records and at the same time contribute to one of the world's best citizen science projects. Your valuable records are made freely available for conservation and research projects in Australia and worldwide.

Eremaea eBird is guided by a steering committee formed under the aegis of the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions (CEED). An editorial committee of researchers and experienced birders write and publish great stories on a diverse range of topics related to birding, atlassing and the application of the data. Data quality is maintained by an experienced and friendly team of local moderators who ensure that unusual records are adequately documented and that sites conform to guidelines. The steering committee, editorial team and moderators are all volunteers.

The aims of Eremaea eBird are to promote atlassing across the country, to maintain a high level of data quality, to ensure that atlas data is used as widely as possible for conservation and research, and to report regularly on the application of this data to conservation and research projects.

Eremaea eBird is keen to partner with clubs such as Birding NSW to gain the best possible geographic and temporal coverage of bird distribution across the country. We are happy to publish articles from clubs about field activities, with the aim being to gain more members for the club and increase the number of lists entered into Eremaea eBird. We encourage clubs to target under-surveyed areas when planning field trips, and to enter as many lists as possible from these excursions.

You may enter lists for anywhere in the world into Eremaea eBird. Each list should be for one site and one day. A site can be anywhere you go birding, such as a local park, wetland, beach, conservation reserve or random site in the bush. You can use existing, shared sites, called hotspots in eBird, or you can create your own sites, which you can recommend as hotspots. By combining everyone's lists, we build up reliable and informative species lists for each site for all to use. The eBird taxonomy is a super-set of Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World, with additional 'taxa' for hybrids, wild domestic varieties and difficult species groups (eg raven sp). You may use Australian common names when entering lists for Australia.

Eremaea Birdlines

Eremaea Birdlines is a birding web site for reporting unusual and interesting observations, such as a sighting of a vagrant, unusually high or low numbers, early arrivals or late departures, unusual habitat usage or unusual behaviour.

Reports are accepted from members of the public and reviewed and published by a local team of moderators. The moderators, all volunteers, do a great job of ensuring the quality of the reports that are published. Eremaea Birdlines is a very popular web site amongst Australian birders with over 13 000 visitors each month, 80% of whom are regulars. All Birdline reports are incorporated into the Birdlife Australia Atlas Project.

Eremaea Birdlines is run by Birdlife Victoria on behalf of the Australian birding community. We are grateful for the support of our sponsors, including Birding NSW. Sponsors are promoted on Eremaea Birdlines and are given the opportunity of nominating moderators.

Report prepared by Richard Alcorn, member of Eremaea eBird and Eremaea Birdlines steering committees.

OUTBACK TRACK TOURS

EASTER WITH THE BIRDS 2014

7-day Camping or Accommodated Option
16–22 April 2014

Join us for our annual Easter Birding Tour. We visit Four Corners Station, a farm-stay near Nymagee in the Central West. Our hosts will be Ken, Anita and Katelyn Burcher who run cattle and sheep on 23 000 acres of the rich, red soil of sweeping grasslands and bush. There is also the opportunity for some stargazing where the skies come alive—excellent for both novices and experienced stargazers. Inexperienced bird watchers and those who have not camped before are particularly welcome. This tour is ideal to try before booking on a longer tour. Our experienced birding leader for this tour is Judy Harrington, who will assist with identification of species of birds.

Birds & Botany Pilbara & Coral Coast

10-day 4WD Camping Tour
Broome - Perth 30 Aug - 8 Sep 2014

Birds & Botany of South West WA

9-day 4WD Accommodated Tour
Perth - Perth 17 - 25 September 2014

Kangaroo Island, the Coorong & Little Desert

12-day 4WD Fully Accommodated Tour
Adelaide - Sydney October 2014

For further enquiries or bookings, contact Outback Track Tours by phone or by email at res@outbacktracktours.com or visit their website at www.outbacktracktours.com

RUFOUS SCRUB-BIRD MONITORING

Mike Newman

4 February 2012

The Rufous Scrub-bird is a rare species with a limited distribution in montane areas of northern New South Wales and the Queensland Border Ranges. It is listed as vulnerable under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (NSW). BirdLife Australia nominated five Important Bird Areas (IBA), which include most of the Rufous Scrub-bird population. Nomination involves an obligation to monitor the Scrub-bird population in an IBA. The Hunter Bird Observers Club (HBOC) agreed to monitor the Barrington and Gloucester Tops IBA, at the southern limit of the Scrub-bird's distribution. BirdLife Northern Rivers, previously Tweed Bird Observers, made a similar commitment in the Border Ranges National Park, in the most northern of the Scrub-bird related IBAs. The two groups collaborated and used similar monitoring methods.

Monitoring Rufous Scrub-birds depends on hearing their calls because they are skulking, cryptically plumaged birds, which live in dense vegetation and are seldom seen. Fortunately males advertise their territories throughout the year calling very frequently from September to November and are easily detected. Simon Ferrier, during his PhD study in 1981 located Scrub-bird territories by walking along tracks and determining locations where calling males were detected on repeat visits. Ferrier's studies provided 'benchmark' results, which could be used for comparison purposes 30 years later to determine whether the Scrub-birds status had changed. With this objective in mind we designed a monitoring program which was implemented in 2010 and has now run for four successive years.

At Gloucester Tops, in the Barrington and Gloucester Tops IBA, we established 21 km of transects along roads and walking trails. More than 80% of these transects corresponded to those monitored by Ferrier. The off-track vegetation is virtually impenetrable; so it is very fortunate that scrub-birds breed in close proximity to tracks. Ferrier found it was possible to detect calling birds up to 150 m either side of transects.

Monitoring is primarily carried out during two camps in spring when vocal advertisement of territories by male Rufous Scrub-birds peaks. Volunteers are trained to recognise scrub-bird calls using tapes and by visiting the territory of the 'Munro Hut Scrub-bird' who often calls almost incessantly. Monitoring predominantly occurs in the morning when observers are typically asked to walk up to 5 km of transects recording the locations of all the scrub-birds



Rufous Scrub-bird. Photo: Allan Richardson

heard and on rare **wonderful** occasions seen. The transects are divided into marked stretches of 1 km length in which all bird species are recorded and submitted to BLAs Birddata as 500 m radius surveys. At Gloucester Tops many transects are walking tracks in rugged wilderness, sometimes involving steep terrain and wading across the Gloucester River. It is amazing what some people can do with replacement knees and a couple of sticks! We are a dedicated bunch and a beer round the camp fire at night has always been well earned.

During our first camp two members of the Tweed Bird Observers joined us and subsequently replicated our approach in the Border Ranges National. Louise Williams, a HBOC member participated in 2011, and the following year undertook related Rufous Scrub-bird monitoring in all five IBAs supporting scrub-bird populations as her University Honours Year Project.

If I had prepared this account two years ago the summary of the findings would have been very different. The first two years involved wet spring seasons at both the Gloucester Tops and Border Ranges study areas. During the first two years of monitoring we found lots of permanently occupied Rufous Scrub-bird territories at both areas with densities comparable to those found by Simon Ferrier 30 years earlier. This suggested that the Rufous Scrub-bird was doing well. However, in 2012 late winter and spring conditions were exceptionally dry at both locations and the number of scrub-birds territories found was between 30 and 35% lower than in previous years. This was a surprise and made us revise any thought that it might not be necessary to monitor the territories every year. At Gloucester Tops in 2013 spring conditions involved even more extreme drought and a further

fall in the number of advertised territories. Even the reliable Munro Hut Scrub-bird was quiet for extended periods. However, at the Border Ranges spring conditions were more favourable and a record number of scrub-bird territories were being advertised compared with the previous three years.

Our interpretation of these results is that under abnormally dry conditions male scrub-birds cease to advertise their territories. Possible explanations include suspension of breeding activity; extending their home foraging range (typically 2 ha based on Ferrier's work); moving to other areas or even dying. The Border Ranges results in 2012 suggest an optimistic outcome with territories re-occupied, presumably by breeding birds, a consequence of the return to wetter conditions locally.

While our results suggest that under favourable conditions Rufous Scrub-birds continue to exist at similar population sizes to those found by Ferrier 30 years ago this conclusion must be treated with caution. The suspension of territory advertisement during abnormally dry breeding season conditions is of concern with respect to future uncertainties associated with climate change. Recent estimates suggest the average life span of breeding Rufous Scrub-birds is around five years. In which case, a prolonged sequence of dry breeding seasons with no replacement birds would be disastrous. Rufous Scrub-birds have evolved in a landscape involving large swings in climate and under dry conditions their range retreats to remnants of wetter habitat at high altitude. At Gloucester Tops all transects monitored were above 1100 m, with the maximum altitude in the area just over 1300 m. So we are drawing conclusions based on changes in Scrub-birds living in what is probably optimal habitat involving the core population for which there is little opportunity for further range contraction associated with altitudinal retreat. Decline would be expected to be more evident at lower altitude on the edge of the Scrub-bird's distribution, where we have failed to find any Scrub-birds. However, no firm conclusions can be drawn because survey effort at lower altitude has been very limited and there is little base line data for comparison purposes.

Although the remnant Rufous Scrub-bird populations primarily occur in National Parks and Reserves, which are passively managed, there are concerns about the long-term suitability of their habitat. Ferrier pointed out that Scrub-birds formerly benefitted from selective logging of rainforest, which opened up the canopy and allowed the development of dense understorey with a moist leaf litter substrate, which is essential to their existence. Louise Williams' results suggest Ferrier's concerns may have substance. The Tweed Bird Observers team are using a different set of transects from those studied by Ferrier which are apparently more suitable to Scrub-birds. During early 2013 Cyclone Oswald caused damage which opened up the rainforest canopy and may have contributed to the increased occurrence of Scrub-birds the following spring. At Gloucester Tops the Scrub-birds are found in areas of open eucalypt woodland adjacent

to rainforest. Ferrier found the territories there to be evenly spaced. However, during the last 15 years both our recent surveys and previous work has indicated that the Scrub-bird territories are more clustered, suggesting the habitat may be changing and becoming less uniform than previously.

So while four years of work have provided valuable insights into the status of the Rufous Scrub-bird the results ask as many questions as they answer. With hindsight we probably should not be surprised to find that the lifestyles of Rufous Scrub-birds are more dynamic than we expected; we share a chaotic existence with them. So more monitoring is needed in 2014. Any guesses as to what the conditions and results will be?

Faye Hill, Alan Stuart and I wish to thank our volunteer teams for their dedication. Our approach has been to own our results, undertake continual interpretation and provide immediate feedback to participants and land managers on our results. This ensures the ongoing engagement of all stakeholders in a project, which has generated important conservation knowledge.

If you want to learn more about the Rufous Scrub-bird and IBA monitoring an article in *Wingspan* (2010) **20** (4): pages 16-19 by Cheryl Gole and Mike Newman *Master Mockers of the Forest – Rufous Scrub-birds* describes the background to the project. Papers on the HBOC website published in *The Whistler* volumes **5** (2011) and **6** (2012) provide details of HBOCs studies at the Gloucester Tops. A paper by Mike Newman, Alan Stuart and Faye Hill to be published early this year in *Australian Field Ornithology* will provide a comprehensive account of the monitoring by both groups of volunteers and a comparison of the results at the two studies at extremities of the Rufous Scrub-bird's range.

Editor's Note: On the matter of observed differences in bird calls in drought conditions, for those of you who were fortunate enough to hear Hollis Taylor speak at the 4 February Club Meeting you will have heard what she had to say about Pied Butcherbirds in drought.

"I have been recording Pied Butcherbirds since 2005. My main study areas are in and around Alice Springs and much of E Queensland (I drive from Sydney up to Townsville, cut over to Georgetown, Croydon, etc, through Charters Towers and then head south a more inland route). I record spring nocturnal solo song daily for two to three months annually, and I have noticed a steep decline in the length of these songs and the number of days that the solo songs are sung since 2011. I have not yet written this up, but it marks a worrying trend. In addition, the kind of data that I get when I record a three to six-hour song (with the motifs being recombined like snap-together beads) is quite different from the data I get from a ten or twenty-minute song (or no song whatsoever). It's something I will continue to monitor in my fieldwork this spring. I initially called these 'long nocturnal solo songs', but with the change in length, I have now opted to drop 'long'." Hollis Taylor

BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA'S RARITIES COMMITTEE (BARC) CASES PERTAINING TO NSW DECIDED IN 2013

742	South Polar Skua	off Sydney	14 April 2012	Accepted
745	Least Sandpiper	Tuross Estuary	24 January 2011	Not Accepted
746	Little Stint	Tuross Estuary	5 March 2012	Not Accepted
749	Temminck's Stint	Tuross Estuary	9 April 2012	Not Accepted
766	American Golden Plover	Boat Harbour	6 January 2009	Accepted
767	Westland Petrel	off Wollongong	15 December 2012	Accepted
768	House Swift	near Iluka	1 January 2013	Not Accepted
785	Barau's Petrel	off Sydney	9 February 2013	Accepted

Roger McGovern
Secretary NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee
20 January 2014

NSW ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (ORAC) CASES DECIDED IN 2013

OVERVIEW

NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee reviewed 24 submissions in calendar year 2013 of which 20 were accepted and four were not accepted. Of the four records not accepted, only one was a case of mistaken identity and the other three could well have been the species claimed but were not supported with sufficient evidence to rule out other possibilities.

There were two notable events in 2013, with one being the unprecedented influx of Oriental Plovers into NSW in September and October – the highest count was six individuals near the third runway at Sydney Airport. The other big event was the severe weather conditions along the NSW coast in late January from ex-Cyclone Oswald which brought a huge influx of northern seabirds. In addition to non-reviewable species such as Sooty Terns, Common Noddys, Black Noddy, Lesser Frigatebirds, Streaked and Buller's Shearwaters, submissions were received for two Red-footed Boobies, a Bridled Tern and a Great Frigatebird. Perhaps the most notable bird of the year was the Blue Petrel seen off Wollongong on 22 June 2013 becoming the first confirmed record in NSW since 1998.

Roger McGovern
Secretary NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee

568	Little Curlew	Ballina	6 April 2012	Accepted
569	Cotton Pygmy-goose	Menindee	19 November 2012	Not Accepted
570	Cook's Petrel	off Port Stephens	18 November 2012	Accepted
571	Oriental Plover	Shoalhaven Heads	26 January 2013	Accepted
572	Red-footed Booby	Swansea	28 January 2013	Accepted
573	Red-footed Booby	South West Rocks	29 January 2013	Accepted
574	Pink Robin	Macquarie NP	14 February 2013	Not Accepted
575	Cook's Petrel	off Sydney	13 October 2012	Accepted
576	Bridled Tern	Newcastle	30 January 2013	Accepted
577	Raja Shelduck	Corindi	14 April 2013	Accepted
578	Raja Shelduck	Yamba	1 April 2013	Accepted
579	Pink Robin	Morton NP	24 April 2013	Not Accepted
580	Great Frigatebird	S Broulee Beach	31 January 2013	Not Accepted
581	Soft-plumaged Petrel	off Sydney	11 May 2013	Accepted
582	Blue Petrel	off Wollongong	22 June 2013	Accepted
583	Soft-plumaged Petrel	off Sydney	26 October 2012	Accepted
594	Cotton Pygmy-goose	near Kyogle	27 August 2013	Accepted
595	Oriental Plover	Wilberforce	27 September 2013	Accepted
596	Oriental Plover	Long Reef	8 October 2013	Accepted
597	Oriental Plover	Sydney Airport	15 October 2013	Accepted
598	Little Shearwater	Boodooree NP	28 June 2013	Accepted
599	Oriental Plover	Moruya Beach	11 October 2013	Accepted
600	Oriental Plover	Tuggerah	27 September 2013	Accepted
603	Asian Dowitcher	Comerong Island	16 November 2013	Accepted

BIRD-WATCHING PELAGIC TRIPS

Sydney Pelagic Trips Following our successful first tour on 15 February of this year trips have now been scheduled for Saturday 12 April, Sunday 15 June, Saturday 12 July, Sunday 10 August, Saturday 13 September and Saturday 11 October. They depart Mosman Wharf at 6.45 am and Rose Bay Public Wharf at 7.00 am—return to Mosman will be by 4.00 pm. The tour costs will be \$120 and seniors /students \$110. As an incentive for regulars prepared to commit to a minimum of five tours each season we are offering a \$100 concessional fare. You pay \$120 up front for the first four trips and \$20 for the last trip. Following the sale of Halicat after 19 years of operation and Hal's retirement from the charter business the pelagic trips are being run on a non-profit cooperative basis. We are relying on your support of these tours to ensure their continuation in the long term.

Please contact Roger or Hal to make a booking. Roger McGovern roglou@bigpond.net.au or Hal Epstein hepstein@bigpond.net.au

Wollongong Pelagic Trips depart on the 4th Saturday of each month. To make a booking on a SOSSA Wollongong pelagic trip, contact Lindsay or Janice of SOSSA by phone: 02 4272 4626 or email: sossa@tpg.com.au or visit the website: www.sossa-international.org <<http://www.sossa-international.org>>

Port Stephens Pelagic Trips are arranged sporadically throughout the year, with usually about ten trips including two trips held in the peak months of March, April and October. Additionally occasional trips out of Swansea, south of Newcastle, are also being organised. For enquiries or bookings contact Mick Roderick by mobile: 0421 761 237 or email: mickhbb@yahoo.com.au

REPORT ON THE REGENT HONEYEATER SURVEY IN THE CAPERTEE VALLEY

Douglas Bateman

October 2013

The glorious weather on that weekend boded well for Regent Honeyeater sightings. A group of 11 participants, including first timers and new members of Birding NSW Jodie and Richard, all had good sightings of the Regents. The best sightings were at the three most reliable sites along the Capertee River viz: Huntingdale and Genowlan Bridge North and South. Jodie, with her 'you beaut' camera captured some great shots of the birds, but nobody missed out on seeing these elusive creatures. In the recent past Regents have been very shy and secretive in their behaviour but this time they were out and about with many displays of chasing and feeding of young.

Regents were also seen at other sites that week, but by property owners and not during the surveys. After the surveys had finished on Sunday afternoon, more Regents were seen near Glen Davis behind *Oskars Cottage*. Approximately 20 birds were seen during the weekend.

So, what happens during a typical survey? Accommodation is at *Brymair Station* approximately 20 km north of Glen Alice in a corrugated iron shearers' cottage with four bedrooms (two doubles and two twin, towels, linen and blankets provided). The fees for the cottage are paid for by BirdLife Australia who also collates all the data gathered by the participants. Anyone wishing to camp or bring a caravan is welcome but a small fee \$10 per night for vans is payable direct to the farm owners. There is free camping at Glen Davis with free showers provided by The Glen Davis Progress Association. Basic snack foods and drinks are available on weekends.

The kitchen is only slightly apart from the cottage but is adequate to cook or reheat meals brought by participants who gather in the lounge/dining room to eat and socialise, often sharing food and drink. Some participants stay at local cottages in the valley or in accommodation at Kandos or Rhyllstone. The lounge has a good range of books and CD's but no TV. Mobile reception ranges from patchy to none. Many people bring books surplus to their requirements to exchange or build up the cottage collection.

The surveys are conducted at 10 sites in the valley, a group averaging four surveyors covers two sites per day, which must be completed by 11 am. The length of each survey averages between 45 to 60 minutes depending on the size of the site. Data on the survey sheets concentrates mainly on the actual numbers of Regents, other Honeyeaters and smaller parrots. All other birds are noted only as being present. Information about the weather, flowering native trees and mistletoe is also entered.

Then the surveyors have Saturday and Sunday afternoon to pursue bird watching at leisure around the valley in Port Macquarie National Park and the Wollemi National Park downstream from Glen Davis. Those who have been to the valley know of its incredible beauty with sheer red sandstone walls especially at sunset

If you have not been to a survey before and wish to be put on the email list please contact me at douglasbateman@yahoo.com

I will send out expressions of interest in May and a reminder in August.

You may also consider coming to the twice-yearly tree plantings in 2014, 3-4 May and 16-17 August where revegetation of farmland is carried out to provide future habitat for Regents. Accommodation in the valley cottages for tree planting is not free but costs \$40 per night per person for two nights and \$45 for one night. The tree planting is held on a Saturday when up to 4000 plants are planted by up to 100 participants. For the last few years a busload of volunteers from Taronga Zoo have turned up to help. Planting is usually completed on Saturday but should there be weather problems, the rest is finished on Sunday morning. This is an excellent occasion for families to be involved in important ecological work.

On Saturday night all participants are welcome to the Buffet preceded by a choice of hot soups around a fire pit, prepared by the Valley Residents' Association at Glen Alice Hall at a cost per person of \$40. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Colour-Banded Little Tern Photographed at Pelican Point

Photo: Steve Merrett

On 17 February 2014, Steve Merrett, Birding NSW Club member, counted over 100 Little Terns roosting at Pelican Point, Norah Head on the Central Coast, one of which was colour-banded and he was able to get a photo. The photo was despatched to Geoff Ross, Wildlife Management Officer, NPWS who was responsible for banding Little Terns at the nesting site of a regular breeding colony in the 1990s and early 2000s at Towra Point, Botany Bay. A number of those banded Little Terns have turned up on the Central Coast over the years. Geoff checked his records and promptly replied, "The most likely match is Red/blue, Orange/metal, that is the only close combination in the data set. This bird was banded at Towra Point 041-80012 as an adult on 21 February 1994; all of the Orange/metals were banded in 1994. How exciting, it's amazing how long the flags have lasted on these little guys and this is close to a longevity record for this species!"



© Stevografix.com.au

This bird is now 20 years old! Congratulations to Steve for persevering to get the attached photo. Note that the bird although an adult is moulting into non-breeding plumage. No Little Terns nested on the Central Coast this summer season however Little Terns that nest south of the Central Coast commence their northwards movement in early February up the Coast, changing into their non-breeding plumage en route to Japan and elsewhere for their winter holidays.

Alan Morris

SPENCER TO DEVINES HILL OLD GREAT NORTH ROAD

30 November 2013

Kaye Pointer

Greeted by Northern Mallard, Pacific Black Duck, Australian Wood Duck, Australian Pelican, and Royal Spoonbill, the day's list was off to a good start at Spencer Wharf. Then 23 gathering birders eagerly flocked to view a Pacific Baza in a Liquid Amber tree.

A nest with a chick was located in the same tree, while two Peregrine Falcons and a Whistling Kite circled above. Twenty-five bird species and some 70 birds were counted for the Challenge Bird Count 2013 at Spencer Village.

Encouraged by the unusual sightings we drove to Breakfast Creek and walked the side road to see a few bush birds such as Red-browed Finches, Rufous and Golden Whistlers, Laughing Kookaburra and both Brown and Striated Thornbills. Further along Wisemans Ferry Road at Muskoka we stopped to let traffic pass and were welcomed by the delightful melody of a Mangrove Gerygone, while Bar-shouldered Dove, Crested Pigeon, Spotted Dove and Australian White Ibis, were also seen. Common Myna and Pied Currawong called to announce their presence. A passing English tourist reported sightings of Pacific Baza at Mill Creek, Dharug National Park, and Rock Warbler at the Old Great North Road. On arrival at Mill Creek Camping area, Wonga Pigeon, Cicadabird, White-throated Treecreeper and nesting Olive-backed Oriole were seen. After light refreshment, a stroll to the creek through the camping area only added two Superb Lyrebirds to our bird list. While walking to Mill Creek Picnic area we noticed Noisy Miner and Noisy Friarbirds feeding among the old wattle grove near the Helipad. Noisy Miners assisted by revealing the perches of two Brush Cuckoos calling but hard to see in the wattle.

During lunch Eastern Spinebill, Australian King-Parrot and Variegated Fairy-wren were seen or heard. Luckily the showers and overcast conditions kept the cicadas' noise to a distant hum. Last stop for the day was an uphill walk to Devines Hill along a section of the Old Great North Road, just west of Wisemans Ferry. We were on



Pacific Baza. Photo: Christina Port

the boundary of the Central Coast. We started out in wet weather gear but the sunshine soon warmed everyone, although the birds kept quiet. Fortunately the Yellow-tufted and Fuscous Honeyeaters were still busy foraging. Many birders made the downhill return journey for the day. However five determined observers were rewarded for their persistence with excellent views of Rockwarbler on their return walk. The last bird added to our list before departing was the Purple Swamphen whose call from the river flats echoed across the Valley. One lucky birder later reported spotting Buff-banded Rail and Brush Bronzewing on the return journey along Wisemans Ferry Road.

Only 71 bird species were recorded for the outing but 395 birds were counted for the Challenge Count. Thank you to all who reported bird sightings for the day's Challenge Count, much appreciated also was (driver) Christina Port and co-pilot Graeme's input. It was a great day's birding with friendly, enthusiastic people, most satisfied with several ticks added to annual lists.

CHRISTMAS OUTING MARDI AND CENTRAL COAST WETLANDS

14 December 2013

Carole and John Carpenter

The year of the noisy cicadas comes around about every seven years and this was the year! They were very noisy around the house and we were later to find them ear-piercingly deafening at several places along the Spotted Gum Firetrail. The 30 early arrivals admired the Australian King-Parrots, Brown Cuckoo-Doves, Red-browed Finches, Eastern Yellow Robin, Brown Thornbill and of course the Bell Miner colony close by the house. The special surprise for the group was two young Channel-billed Cuckoos perched above the Pied Currawong's nest where they had been raised. It was good timing for the group as the two fledglings had 'flown the coop' by 4 pm! Despite the cicadas, on our walk we found White-throated Treecreeper, Black-faced Monarch, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Variegated and Superb Fairy-wrens, Noisy Friarbirds, Lewin's Honeyeater and Grey Fantail among our list of 26 species.

Morning tea was on the home verandah where some more birders joined us for the rest of the day. Next we drove to McPherson/Gavenlock Road Swamps where we found the usual ducks and cormorants. We also saw White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Black-shouldered and Whistling Kites and a Peregrine Falcon. The Black-tailed Native-hen made an appearance to everyone's delight. Freckled Ducks, Glossy Ibis, Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterels and Royal Spoonbill were all easy to see as well as about eight Latham's Snipe, Golden-headed Cisticola, Tawny Grassbird, Australian Reed-Warbler, Dollarbird and Sacred Kingfisher. Krystyna saw Double-barred Finches! A really great place for finding birds! We then drove to the newly named Central Coast Wetlands (the Old Pioneer Dairy)

where we first checked out the Dairy Swamp and found White-necked Heron, Black-winged Stilts, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, with Nankeen Kestrels and White-breasted Woodswallows overhead. Our first walk was around Hannans Shed along the Pioneer Creek where the best birds were the Buff-banded Rail, Yellow-rumped Thornbills and a high-flying flock of White-throated Needletails. Our next walk was down to the Greenfleet Paddock where we were hoping to see the Australian Owlet-Nightjar and Black Bittern seen the previous week. Alas we were out of luck but we did see Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Figbird, a pair of Eastern Koels high in a Swamp Oak calling one to another, as well as Brown Gerygones and Striped Honeyeaters. As we left the wetlands and drove under the rail bridge, an Azure Kingfisher was seen on a large steel beam and stayed long enough for several cars of birders to get good views.

Back home for our BBQ lunch after which apologies were read out and in Alan's absence, John Wallace thanked an absent Robyn Price for all her work on our Newsletter, and Carole and John for their work and hospitality. Thanks were also extended to those people who helped with outings, camps and presentations throughout the year. Of course we also thanked Alan Morris for the smooth running and organization of our Club. We finished our bird watching for the day by seeing a fly over of a White-bellied Sea-Eagle, White-naped Honeyeaters, Olive-backed Oriole and Mistletoebird in the nearby Spotted Gums with a Cicadabird, the last call of the day. As the last car left, a Wonga Pigeon walked into the yard! Thanks to everyone who attended our Christmas break-up BBQ, we finished the day with 98 species.

WARRIEWOOD AND LONG REEF OUTING

11 January 2014

Trevor Waller

A long hot day started at Katoa Close where a large group of members, overseas travellers and visitors met. The walk along the boardwalk was a good opportunity to study a few species that provided us with good close views. A Great Egret landed next to us and we could see the facial features that confirm the identification and a Eurasian Coot perched on a log showed off its lobed toes. Other birds seen along the boardwalk were Lewin's Honeyeater, Red-browed Finch and Varied Sittella. At the end of the boardwalk we watched an adult Pacific Baza feed a juvenile perched in a tree.

Across the road on the Irrawong walk we found two Superb Lyrebirds scratching through the leaf litter. We also saw Dollarbirds, an Australian Brush-turkey and a female Leaden Flycatcher.

We had morning tea at Long Reef before walking out along the beach to the well exposed reef. Along the way we watched two juvenile Nankeen Kestrels practicing their flying with strong wing flapping on the edge of the cliff face perch. The adult birds were perched nearby. Out on the reef we saw Red-necked Stints, Pacific Golden Plovers and Ruddy Turnstones. There were all four cormorants and Crested Tern resting out on the rocks. Looking out to sea we saw some dark Shearwaters that after much deliberation we decided were Short-tailed Shearwaters. On the way back to the cars for a late lunch we saw Sooty Oystercatchers, a Grey-tailed Tattler and a Black Swan swimming on the water.

MIDWEEK OUTING TO SCHEYVILLE NATIONAL PARK AND LONGNECK LAGOON

29 January 2014

Carol Abbott

The January midweek outing took place during a typical January heatwave just after Australia Day. Nine birders met at Whitmore Road with some of the more sensible ones having opted to stay indoors. However, it was a gathering of some of the Club's more experienced birders.

Bush in the Hawkesbury was dry and the day was hot and clear. A Crested Shrike-Tit gave good views to some of the earlier arrivals and a juvenile Sacred Kingfisher provided a great opportunity to compare its plumage with its parent.

A walk through bush paths progressively brought more species into view. A Common Bronzewing and Brown Quail were flushed by a small dam. A visit to a local

cemetery where birds had been seen earlier in the day bore little and the group headed to Longneck Lagoon, often a hot spot.

The mercury was rising to 35 °C when the group went to Scheyville Park Headquarters for lunch. Other than the ubiquitous Striated Pardalotes, the birds were being more sensible than us humans, staying in the shade, out of sight.

All in all, a challenging day to find birds, even with some very skilled and experienced eyes and ears, but that's birding. The total was acceptable in the end and it was a good social day out.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS: CENTRAL COAST WETLANDS AND SOUTH TACOMA POINT

1 February 2014

Alan Morris

'Breakfast with the Birds' was held at the Central Coast Wetlands to commemorate World Wetlands Day on 1 February. This was a joint arrangement between Birding NSW, the Central Coast Environment Network (CEN) and the Tuggerah Reserve Trust. Around 90 people attended and Club members assisted members of the public, who had come to visit the wetlands, observe and identify the birds present in the reserve and take part in other activities. After birding for an hour, breakfast was served in the new Educational Centre in the Barn with its expansive view over the Dairy Swamp. Then those people interested in bird watching again joined our members on a birding walk in the reserve.

There was plenty to see on the Dairy Swamp, even though it is fast drying up. Birds included both Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterel, four Pink-eared Ducks, Little and Hoary-headed Grebes, Eastern Great, Intermediate, Cattle and Little Egrets, as well as White-necked Herons. Channel-billed Cuckoos were feeding in the Moreton Bay Fig Trees while White-breasted Woodswallows, Welcome Swallows and Fairy Martins fed over the wetland and Swamp Harriers and Whistling Kites patrolled the skies. A Glossy Ibis and six Banded Stilts were also present, together with the usual ducks and waterbirds. A walk after breakfast down to the Greenfleet block added Tawny Grassbirds, Bar-shouldered Doves, a

lone Nankeen Night-Heron, four Rufous Fantails, Brown Gerygones, an adult and a juvenile Brush Cuckoo, a juvenile Fan-tailed Cuckoo, a juvenile Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Olive-backed Orioles, Variegated Fairy-wrens, Golden Whistlers and Eastern Yellow Robins.

We stayed at the wetlands for lunch, watching the skydivers land and the Tawny Grassbirds in the adjoining creek bed, before departing for South Tacoma Point. Walking through the Swamp Oak Forest to the point, we found Brown Thornbills, White-browed Scrubwrens, Grey Shrike-thrush and Striped Honeyeaters with dependant young in the bush. We also observed Australasian Darters, Eurasian Coots, Australian Grey and Chestnut Teal and various cormorants along Wyong Creek. At South Tacoma Point, we looked out over Tuggerah Lakes and into Tuggerah Bay where there were about 800 Black Swan, 90+ Australian Pelicans, 120+ Australian Grey Teal, Australasian Darters, White-faced Herons and many cormorants. As it was very hot and we had started early, we decided to call it a day around 2 pm, having seen 82 species. Thank you to all those people who brought along their telescopes which enabled us to share our love of birds with the other visitors.

OUTING TO COLO RIVER AND SWALLOW REACH, EBENEZER

8 February 2014

Elisabeth Karplus

Philip Brook, leader of this outing, was surprised and very pleased to find eighteen people waiting for him under the bridge over the Colo River north of Wilberforce on what promised to be a sunny but very hot day. We walked along the road with the river to our right and the high sandstone ridge on our left. This walk was noted for the quality of birds rather than quantity. Soon after leaving the picnic area, we came upon a Brush Turkey chick feeding in rough grass and unconcerned by eighteen onlookers. Since the young chicks are brown with no obvious markings, it took us a little time to work out what species we were looking at.

Shortly afterwards a Peregrine Falcon flew off the cliff, up river and then back to the cliff. There was an Azure Kingfisher to look at on the opposite side of the river. Further on we saw female Golden Whistlers, Eastern Spinebills, Lewin's Honeyeaters and White-throated Treecreepers.

Then we were surprised to see a pair of Gang-gang Cockatoos (announced by their call) apparently investigating holes.

On the way back to the cars, a Rock Warbler was seen moving among the large rocks on the ridge. Finally there was a Sacred Kingfisher back at the picnic area.

We drove to Sackville to look at the birds on a large pond and among other ducks there was a single Pink-eared Duck. We retreated somewhat hastily when told loudly that we were trespassing. Our next stop was beside the historic church at Ebenezer. By now it was very hot for the walk through the reserve alongside the river but we continued to see good birds including a family of Olive-backed Orioles, a male Golden Whistler, a Spotted Pardalote and several Dollarbirds. Overhead there were many White-throated Needletails – several flew low over our heads giving us good views of their markings and showing us how large these swifts are. Our final stop was at Pitt Town Ferry Road just outside Wilberforce. On the ponds we could see several Pink-eared Ducks while Red-rumped Parrots were calling in the trees. The last birds seen for the day were a European Goldfinch, a Fan-tailed Cuckoo and a juvenile Eastern Koel. Thank you to Philip for leading us through a great day of birding.



Gang-gang Cockatoo. Photo: Alfred Schulte



Brush Turkey chick. Photo: Alfred Schulte

SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK OUTING

15 February 2014

Judy Harrington

A wet start, maybe putting a few off, but things fined up. Twenty of us met at Lake Belvedere and slowly walked right around the lake. Though in the middle of a busy park, there are always lots of birds to see here. All four local cormorants were seen on the island, with a lot of breeding action from Pied Cormorants. It always amuses me to see the male choose a suitable stick and then do a fly-past around the island before delivering it to the waiting female. They greet one another with posturing and head bobbing and if he is lucky and the offering acceptable, mating takes place. It must work as several pairs already have eggs or young. There were also several Australasian Darter nests, with young at various stages of development. We were all able to get clear views through my telescope and compare the different cormorants and Australasian Darters. A cryptic Striated Heron was spotted and followed to the island, where it was not so easy to find again. The Royal Spoonbills have nested and some of us watched a juvenile begging from its parent. Australian White Ibis have also nested, with juveniles and adults loafing on the island. One request was for a Little Grassbird and some managed to spot this elusive bird of the reeds, instead of just hearing it as usual.

A short walk up the hill took us to the Southern Water Quality Pond – part of the water recycling system. We all managed to see several Latham's Snipe – even if only a fleeting glimpse as they flushed from one side to the other. A Glossy Ibis flew down to exposed mud as we watched.

The water levels make a big difference to the species seen. At the Eastern Water Quality Pond (at Wentworth Common) the water level was so low a section of mudflat was exposed. Two Spotless Crakes put on a wonderful display, picking at insects and giving a clear view to everyone. Two Australian Reed-Warblers, a Dusky Moorhen and a Willie Wagtail joined them jumping around together and picking at the



Spotless Crake and Dusky Moorhen. Photo: Jodie Webber

Persicaria sp for insects. A few days later, the water was higher and we would have missed this wonderful view.

At the Waterbird Refuge there were distant Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and a very distant Red-kneed Dotterel. However a large number of Red-necked Avocets and Stilts allowed us to watch and compare their feeding strategies. Large numbers of Australian Grey Teal were also feeding in the shallows. We returned via the Triangle Pond, which was almost completely dry. However we spotted a Spangled Drongo, which we had seen earlier, hawking for insects with a couple of Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes. Dollarbirds showed themselves clearly on upper branches, before also swooping out for prey. I was looking for Brown Goshawks as a pair had nested there recently. We had a quick sighting of one flying overhead.

After lunch I had to leave, but others continued to the Northern Water Feature for more searching. I have recorded the list for the day as 63 species, give or take a few, as not everyone saw them all. Not bad for a busy park.

SYDNEY PELAGIC TRIP REPORT

15 February 2014

Roger McGovern

I am off on a trip to New Zealand in an hour from now so no time for a full trip report – only a species summary. It was a grey rainy day for our first trip of 2014 and despite the very warm water temperature (23.4 °C at the shelf) there was a notable lack of the tropical species, which normally occur at this time of the year. The only unusual species were two Sooty Terns and our first February albatross in four years

in the form of an immature Black-browed. The really good news is that our 'new' boat, the *MV Zane Grey* turned out to be a fantastic pelagic sea watch boat with lots of space, a comfortable ride and great visibility. I look forward to some great days out of Sydney during the rest of the year.

Bird List on page 15 >

BIRD LIST SYDNEY PELAGIC TRIP

Note that the number in parentheses represents the maximum number of that species present at one time.

Little Penguin	4	(3)		Sooty Tern	2	(2)
Black-browed Albatross	1	(1)	immature	one adult and one juvenile		
Great-winged Petrel	12	(3)	all gouldi	Pomarine Skua	5	(2)
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	140	(40)		Arctic Jaeger	1	(1)
Short-tailed Shearwater	1	(1)		OTHER		
Flesh-footed Shearwater	150	(60)	highest count in a couple of years	Inshore Bottlenose Dolphin	6	
Fluttering Shearwater	2	(1)		Oceanic Bottlenose Dolphin	50	
Australasian Gannet	4	(3)		Fur Seal (sp)	1	
Silver Gull	50	(30)		Shark (sp)	1	
Greater Crested Tern	2	(1)				

MIDWEEK OUTING TO JAMIESON PARK, NARRABEEN AND TO LONG REEF

26 February 2014

Elisabeth Karplus

We really should have started at 8 am when all the birds were singing along the track. Thus I was the only one to see a pair of Rufous Fantails. The group of seven set off on the track along the south side of Narrabeen Lakes towards South Creek – a distance of about 2.2 km. Our goal was to see the Barking Owl at the first wooden bridge (about 1.5 km from the parking area at Jamieson Park). According to the numerous walkers and cyclists on this path, this owl has been present around the bridge since August 2013. Everyone was keen to tell us about the owl.

On or beside the lakes we saw Australian Pelicans, Black Swans, Great Egrets and Great, Pied and Little Pied Cormorants. On the far bank was a single White-necked Heron while much closer was a White-faced Heron. Bush birds seemed uncommon except for Eastern Whipbirds until we came upon a party of small birds – Brown and Striated Thornbills, Brown Gerygone, Silvereye, Eastern Spinebill and a party of Variegated Fairy-wrens with several male birds, who were going into eclipse plumage. Eventually we reached the wooden bridge in an area of palms and casuarina. The owl was relatively easy to find perched in a casuarina beside the track as he/she was calling. We spent ages looking at the owl before walking a short distance further towards South Creek. There was a male Golden Whistler in the trees where Rainbow Lorikeets were investigating hollows and where several Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were perched in hollows. On the walk back we saw Spotted Pardalotes, Eastern Yellow Robins and Lewin's Honeyeaters. During our leisurely lunch, the Noisy Miners alerted us to a flying raptor – probably a Brown Goshawk. John, Lynda and I were the only ones to go to Long Reef. Alas the rock platform had been invaded by large numbers of school children. We did see Pacific Golden Plover, Red-necked Stint, Crested Terns, various

cormorants and eventually a single Grey-tailed Tattler but there was no sign of the family of Nankeen Kestrels. My thanks go to John, who kindly carried the scope to and from the rock platform.



Black Swan. Photo: Michael Hanvey



Little Pied Cormorant. Photo: Michael Hanvey

THE BEST UNUSUAL RECORDS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, DECEMBER 2013 - FEBRUARY 2014
ALAN MORRIS, NIKOLAS HAASS & SIMON BLANCHFLOWER

Region Abbreviations: **NC**–North Coast; **H**–Hunter, **CC**–Central Coast; **S**–Sydney Region; **I**–Illawarra; **SC**–South Coast; **NT**–Northern Tablelands; **CT**–Central Tablelands; **ST**–Southern Tablelands; **NS**–North-west Slopes; **CS**–Central-west Slopes; **SS**–South-west Slopes; **NP**–North-west Plains; **CP**–Central-west Plains; **R**–Riverina; **UW**–Upper Western; **LW**–Lower Western

Malleefowl	4	11-12/12/13	Nombinee – Round Hill NRs	LW	Ashwin Rudder
King Quail	3	08/01-07/02/14	Ash Island saltmarsh	H	Alan Stuart
Magpie Goose	2	21/12/13	Finch Pk Berkeley	I	Michael Crosland
Magpie Goose	5	05/02/14	Mehi River Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne
Wandering Whistling-Duck	32	03/02/14	Emerald Dwms GC Pt Macquarie	NC	Alan Morris
Plumed Whistling-Duck	9	23/12/13	Dunns Rd Maraylya	S	Barry Lancaster
Plumed Whistling-Duck	100+	28/12/13	Terry Hie Hie (5 km E)	NP	Curtis Hayne
Freckled Duck	34	03/02/14	Emerald Dwms GC Pt Macquarie	NC	Alan Morris
Freckled Duck	45	28/12-15/02	McPherson Rd Swp Tuggerah	CC	Nick Carson
Blue-billed Duck	AM	04/01/14	Hunter Wtds Centre Sandgate	H	Jane Williams
Blue-billed Duck	11	30/01/14	Old Cement Works Portland	CT	Ted Wnorowski
Northern Mallard	1	13/02/14	Port Stephens (22 km NW)	H	Ben Bright
Great Crested Grebe	3	28/12/13	New Quipolly Dam	NS	Michael Dahlem
Great Crested Grebe	9	01/02/14	Castlereagh Wetlands Penrith	S	Eric Finley
Emerald Dove	1	14/01/14	Comboyne Rd Byabarra	NC	Tim Morris
Brush Bronzewing	1	25/01/14	Chiltern Trail Ingleside	S	Stephen Mannix
Diamond Dove	5	12/12/13	Round Hill NR Mt Hope	LW	Ashwin Rudder
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	4+	19/02/14	Woody Head Iluka NR	NC	Beverly Morgan
Superb Fruit-Dove	Im	28/01/14	Dubbo (15 km E)	CS	David Geering
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	1	14/01/14	Comboyne Rd Byabarra	NC	Tim Morris
Topknot Pigeon	11	16/12/13	Broulee Island NR	SC	Ted Wnorowski
White-throated Needletail	300	09/12/13	Long Jetty Tuggerah Lake	CC	Christina Port
White-throated Needletail	50	10/01/14	Deriah Aboriginal Area Narrabri	NP	Michael Dahlem
White-throated Needletail	1000	06/01/14	Khancoban	ST	Michael Ramsay
Fork-tailed Swift	4000+	04/01/14	Grassy Head	NC	Allan Richardson
Fork-tailed Swift	40+	06/01/14	The Entrance Channel	CC	Alan Morris
Fork-tailed Swift	200	29/01/14	Merimbula	SC	Martin Edwardson
White-throated Nightjar	3	14-15/02/14	Deriah Abor Site Maules Creek	NP	Michael Dahlem
Owlet Nightjar	2	15/12/13	Shanes Park	S	Edwin Vella
Black-browed Albatross	15+	21/12/13	Mistral Pt Maroubra (40 on 04/01)	S	David Mitford
Black-browed Albatross	45	29/12/13	North Head Sydney Harbour NP	S	Michael Ronan
Shy Albatross	10	04/01/14	North Head Sydney Harbour NP	S	Michael Ronan
Buller's Albatross	1	25/01/14	North Head Sydney Harbour NP	S	Michael Ronan
Buller's Shearwater	1	26/01/14	North Head Sydney Harbour NP	S	Michael Ronan
Flesh-footed Shearwater	150	18/12/13	Warden Head Ulladulla	S	Bob Rusk
Sooty Shearwater	1	21/12/13	Mistral Pt Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Great-winged Petrel	1	16/02/14	Long Reef Marine Reserve	S	Tom Wilson
Gould's Petrel	1	04/02/14	Mistral Pt Maroubra	S	David Mitford
White-necked Petrel	2	04 /01/14	North Head Sydney Harbour NP	S	Michael Ronan
White-necked Petrel	1	05/01 & 05/02	Mistral Pt Maroubra	S	Ray Gobbe
White-tailed Tropicbird	2 Im	12/01/14	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Red-tailed Tropicbird	1	17 & 26/01	North Head Sydney Harbour NP	S	Michael Ronan
Lesser Frigatebird	1	15/02/14	South Ballina	NC	Kathy Wilk
Black-necked Stork	Im	15/01/14	Pambalong NR Minmi	H	Michael Rutkowski
Australasian Bittern	4	14/12–24/01	Rowes Lagoon Collector	ST	Harvey Perkins
Australasian Bittern	3	17/11–26/12	Willbriggie (rice farms)	R	Max O'Sullivan
Australasian Bittern	1	02/01/14	West Byron STW	NC	Duncan Fowler
Little Bittern	1	28/12/13	Deniliquin (town)	R	Bernie O'Keefe
Little Bittern	1	25–30/01/14	Berrioye (25 km E Maules Creek)	NP	Michael Dahlem
Black Bittern	1	19/12/13	Fishermans Paradise Conjola	I	Ted Wnorowski
Black Bittern	1	21/12/13	Tomaga River Bridge Tomakin	SC	Ted Wnorowski
Eastern Osprey	2	24/12/13	Sydney Airport	S	Nigel Coghlan
Eastern Osprey	2	16/12–22/01	Merimbula Ck Merimbula Lake	SC	Helenna Milhailou
Eastern Osprey	2	05–16/02/14	Nepean River Penrith	S	Akos Lumnitzer
Pacific Baza	1	18/12/13	Combadero Weir Mehi R Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne
Pacific Baza	N2Y	21/12/13	Emu Pains	S	Akos Lumnitzer
Pacific Baza	1	11/01/14	Lachlan St Baradine	NP	David Johnston
Pacific Baza	5A2J	11–12/02/14	Nurragingy Res Doonside	S	Jim Dixon
Pacific Baza	2A,J	11–19/02/14	Bayview (nested)	S	Jacob Sife

Square-tailed Kite	1,1	30/12/13	Tumbi Umbi & Bateau Bay	CC	Alan Morris
Square-tailed Kite	1	04 & 21/01	Bellawongarah	I	Carla Jackett
Square-tailed Kite	1	12/01/14	Telfer Way Res Castle Hill	S	Simon Gorta
Black Kite	100	22/12/13	Scone	H	Akos Lumnitzer
Black Kite	13	06/01/14	Ramornie (near Grafton)	NC	Simon Clayton
Black Kite	7	11/01/14	Lenaghan Swp Minmi	H	Edwin Vella
Grey Goshawk	1	23/12/13	Cheltenham Railway Stn	S	Steve Edwards
Grey Goshawk (white morph)	1	30/01/14	Newington Armory SOP	S	Geoff Hutchinson
Spotted Harrier	1m	22/12/13	Wagtail Way Ash Island Ponds	H	Edwin Vella
Spotted Harrier	1	24/12/13	Warden Head Ulladulla	I	Bob Rusk
Spotted Harrier	2	04/01/14	Shangri Rd Bundanoon	I	Lorne Johnson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2A,J	04/01/14	Castlereagh Rd Castlereagh	S	Akos Lumnitzer
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2A+J	13/02/14	Shoplands Rd Annangrove	S	Daryl Smedley
Little Eagle	1	29/01/14	Petersham (Fort St Boys HS)	S	Simon Gorta
Black Falcon	1	21/12/13	Maraylya Pk Maraylya	S	Mark Fuller
Black Falcon	1	22/12/13	Scone	H	Akos Lumnitzer
Black Falcon	1	26-27/01/14	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Edwin Vella
Brolga	22	11/12/13	Lake Cullival Urana	SS	Charlie Webb
Brolga	270	09/01/14	Gwydir Watercourse Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne
Lewin's Rail	2A,J	03/01/14	McPhersons Rd Swp Tuggerah	CC	Margaret Pointer
Australian Spotted Crake	5	10-22/12/13	Hexham Swamp	H	Mick Roderick
Spotless Crake	5	02-16/02/14	Pitt Town Lagoon	S	Michael Ronan
Baillon's Crake	1	18/01/14	Partridge Ck Fernbank	NC	Tim Morris
Red-necked Avocet	400	10/12/13	Hexham Swamp	H	Steve Roderick
Red-necked Avocet	22	20/01-06/02/14	Wamberal Lagoon	CC	Laurie Smith
Red-necked Avocet	100+	01-12/02/14	Bicentennial Pk Homebush	S	Tom Wilson
Bush Stone-curlew	10	February	Tweed Shire (4 prs) (2 DY)	NC	Tanya Fountain
Beach Stone-curlew	2	16/12/13	Toradgy Pt Moruya Heads	SC	Ted Wnorowski
Beach Stone-curlew	1	19/12/13	Dolphin Pt Burrill Lake	I	Ted Wnorowski
Beach Stone-curlew	1	21/12/13	Skennars Head Ballina	NC	Tim Wunch
Pied Oystercatcher	4	24/12/13	Mill Ck Sydney Airport	S	Nigel Coghlan
Pied Oystercatcher	162	13/02/14	Port Stephens (HBOC Count)		Alan Stuart
Pied Oystercatcher	48	16/02/14	Wallis Lakes Estuary Tuncurry	H	Alan Morris
Sooty Oystercatcher	20	28/12/13	Warden Head Ulladulla	I	Bob Rusk
Sooty Oystercatcher	45	10/02/14	Newcastle Baths	H	Richard Nickolas
Pied Stilt	600	10/12/13	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Steve Roderick
Grey Plover	1	16/12/13	Malabar Lgn Moruya	SC	Ted Wnorowski
Pacific Golden Plover	34	16/12/13	Malabar Lgn Moruya	SC	Ted Wnorowski
Oriental Plover	1	20/01-05/02/14	Phoenix Park Morpeth	H	Dan Williams
Double-banded Plover **	1	16/12/13	Coila Ck Bridge Moruya	SC	Ted Wnorowski
Double-banded Plover *	1	26/01/14	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Edwin Vella
Double-banded Plover *	1	17/02/14	Pelican Pt Wyrabalong NP	CC	Steve Merrett
Lesser Sand Plover	5	26/01/14	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Edwin Vella
Hooded Plover	2A,2J	12/01/14	Dawsons Bch Murramarang NP	I	Jodie Dunn
Hooded Plover	N3E	28/01/14	Tura Beach Nth (3rd nest attempt)	SC	L Allen
Red-kneed Dotterel	160	05/01/14	Fishery Ck Hexham Swamp	H	Dan Williams
Red-kneed Dotterel	1	18/01/14	Partridge Ck Fernbank	NC	Tim Morris
Banded Lapwing	47	23/12-14/02	Cornwallis Rd Windsor	S	Keith Brandwood
Banded Lapwing	30A,J	15/01/14	Yarrie Lake Rd Narrabri	NP	Kurtis Lindsay
Banded Lapwing	6	20/01-05/02/14	Phoenix Park Morpeth	H	Gavin Ayre
Latham's Snipe	33	20/01/14	Rowes Lagoon Collector	ST	Ted Wnorowski
Black-tailed Godwit	2	16/12/13	Toradgy Pt Moruya Heads	SC	Ted Wnorowski
Wood Sandpiper	3	19/01-09/02	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Henry Coleman
Marsh Sandpiper	1	20/12/13	Wilfords L Swp Ulladulla	I	Ted Wnorowski
Marsh Sandpiper	45	22/12-12/01	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Edwin Vella
Great Knot	1	25/12/13	Myall River Tea Gardens	H	Simon Gorta
Great Knot	50	15/02/14	South Ballina	NC	Stephen McBride
Curlew Sandpiper	5	20/12/13	Wilfords L Swp Ulladulla	I	Ted Wnorowski
Curlew Sandpiper	2	28/12/13	Breeza Cotton Dam	NS	Michael Dahlem
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	3400+	10-22/12/13	Hexham Swp & Tomago NRs	H	Mick Roderick
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	70	12/02/14	Bicentennial Pk Homebush	S	Tom Wilson
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	16/12/13	Coila Ck Bridge Moruya	SC	Ted Wnorowski
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	14-15/01/14	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Michael Kearns
Sanderling	1	19/12/13	Lake Conjola NR	I	Ted Wnorowski
Sanderling	1	03/02/14	Corindi River Estuary Red Rock	NC	Russell Jago
Broad-billed Sandpiper	4	15/12-17/01	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Allan Richardson

Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1	16–27/01/14	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Allan Richardson
Ruff	2	10/12–13/02	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Mick Roderick
Ruff	1	13/02/14	Stockton Sand Spit	H	Alwyn Simple
Australian Painted Snipe	11	07–11/01/14	Bunnings Wetland Wallsend	H	Trevor Williams
Painted Button-quail	1	12/12/13	Nombinee NR (old wheatfield)	LW	Joshua Bergmark
Australian Pratincole	2	18/12/13	Moree (5 km NW)	NP	Ainslee Lines
Australian Pratincole	4A,1J	26/12/13	Willriggie (rice farm)		Max O'Sullivan
Pomerine Jaeger	30	21/12/13	Mistral Pt Maroubra (40 on 10/02)	S	David Mitford
Long-tailed Jaeger	4	21/12 & 04/02	Mistral Pt Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Pacific Gull	1	19/12/13	Dolphin Pt Burrill Lake	I	Ted Wnorowski
White-winged Black Tern	1	10/12/13	Hexham Swamp	H	Mick Roderick
White-winged Black Tern	7	22/12–24/01	Wagtail Way Ash Island Ponds	H	Edwin Vella
Whiskered Tern	500+	15/01/15	Ashley (cotton farm dams)	NP	Curtis Haynes
Fairy Tern	10	07/01/14	Wallagoot Lake Merimbula	SC	Sue Romane
Gull-billed Tern	15	18/12/13	Moree (5 km NW)	NP	Ainslee Lines
Black-naped Tern	2	09/01/14	Red Rock Estuary	NC	Russell Jago
Little Tern	15pr	12/01/14	Lake Wollumboola (nesting)	I	Jodie Dunn
Little Tern	35pr	12/01/14	Lake Conjola (nesting)	I	Jodie Dunn
Sooty Tern	5	12/01/14	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Common Noddy	1	05/01/14	Nobbys's Head Newcastle	H	Dan Williams
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	6	11/12/13	Kings Tableland Blackheath	CT	Jon Elliott
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	9	04/01/14	Bogolong Hills Narrandera	R	Nella Smith
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	235	18–19/01/14	Pilliga Forest (Annual Count)	NP	David Johnston
Major Mitchell Cockatoo	13	15/12/13	Nericon Griffith	R	Neil Palfreman
Cockatiel	8	20/01/14	Lake George	ST	Ted Wnorowski
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	4	03/01/14	Lake Hume Weir	SS	Michael Ramsay
Superb Parrot	125	28/12–03/01	Barryrennie & Fragar Rds Cowra	CT	Jon Elliott
Superb Parrot	40	26/12/13	The Winery Binya SF	R	Rae Lister
Budgerigar	20	12/01/14	Waterfall Way Raleigh	NC	Gary Phillips
Turquoise Parrot	10	22/01/14	Nerriga Rd Braidwood	I	Ann Millard
Ground Parrot	2	22/12/13	Green Cape Ben Boyd NP	SC	Ted Wnorowski
Powerful Owl	2J	04/01/14	Megalong Valley	CT	Akos Lumnitzer
Powerful Owl	2J	20/01/14	Tourmaline St Pearl Beach	CC	Chris O'Brien
Masked Owl	A+J	21/12/13	Murramarang NP Durras	I	Ted Wnorowski
Masked Owl	HC	04/01/14	Megalong Valley	CT	Akos Lumnitzer
Barking Owl	2	16–17/01/14	Lille Bch Cpk Bouddi NP	CC	Laurie Smith
Barking Owl	2	03/01/14	Ringwood Rd Goulburn R NP	H	Michael Kearns
Barking Owl	1	09/02/14	Pearl Beach (took Brush Turkey)	CC	Chris O'Brien
Sooty Owl	2	24/12/13	Jenolan Caves	CT	Marc Anderson
Sooty Owl	2	30/12/14	Washpool NP Cangai	NC	Murray Lord
Grass Owl	1	07/02/14	Ash Island	H	Lorna Mee
Pheasant Coucal	1	07/01/14	Mehi River Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne
Eastern Koel	1	01/01/14	Olive St Albury	SS	Gerard O'Neill
Eastern Koel	1	01–05/02/14	Clarenza (BF Cuckoo-shrike host)	NC	Eric Wheeler
Black-eared Cuckoo	J	15/01/14	Gosling Ck Reservoir Orange	CT	Alistair Smith
Pallid Cuckoo	1	18/12/13	Castlereagh NR	S	Ted Wnorowski
Brush Cuckoo	3	02/01/14	Scheyville NP (X2 barred morphs)	S	Keith Brandwood
Spotted Nightjar	4	12–13/12/13	Round Hill NR Mt Hope	LW	Joshua Bergmark
Eastern Bristlebird	2	17/12/13	Whelan's Swp Eden	SC	Angus Hartshorn
Eastern Bristlebird	2HC	09/01/14	Bellawongarah	I	Carla Jackett
Red-browed Treecreeper	2	01/01/14	Turon Gates Capertee	CT	Carl Weber
Red-browed Treecreeper	2	12/01/14	Pierces Pass Blue Mtns NP	Ct	Simon Gorta
Western Gerygone	1	16/01/14	Western Sydney Plds Abbotsbury	S	Jim Dixon
Southern Whiteface	5	13/01/14	Glen Alice	CT	Jenny Stiles
Regent Honeyeater	2	16/12/13	Tambo Ck Glen Alice	CT	Joshua Bergmark
Crimson Chat	4	10/12/13	Beloungery Flt Warrumbungle NP	CP	Sue Brookhouse
Black Honeyeater	4,2J	21/12/13	Condobolin (township)	CP	Warren Chad
Black Honeyeater	AM	02/02/14	Goulburn River NP Wollar	CT	Michael Kearns
Black Honeyeater	20	03/01/14	Yanga NP (Willows picnic area)	R	Jim Allen
Black Honeyeater	M,F	31/01/14	Nangar NP Eugowra	CS	David Simpson
Black-chinned Honeyeater	2+2J	13/01/14	Crown Station Rd Glen Davis	CT	Jenny Stiles
White-cheeked Honeyeater	1	15/12/13	Womboyn Lake	SC	Angus Hartshorn
White-cheeked Honeyeater	1	16/12/13	Congo Pt Moruya	SC	Ted Wnorowski
Little Friarbird	1	10/02/14	Dean St W Pennant Hills	S	Steven Edwards
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	22/12/13	Ashgrove Pl Bundanoon	I	Lorne Johnson
Noisy Friarbird	343	17/02/14	Yellowmunde R Pk Winmallee	S	Mark Ley

Painted Honeyeater	2	16/12 & 13/01	Coco Ck Glen Davis	CT	Ashwin Rudder
Painted Honeyeater	1	10/01/14	Billinudgel NR Murwillumbah	NC	Jan Olley
Painted Honeyeater	1	04/02/14	Cattai Wetlands Coopernook	H	Alan Stuart
Grey-crowned Babbler	8	01/01/14	Levenstrath	NC	Warren Thompson
White-browed Babbler	6	10/01/04	Gowan (40 km NW Bathurst)	CT	Tiffany Mason
Spotted Quail-thrush	1	22/12/13	Saltwater Camp Ben Boyd NP	SC	Ted Wnorowski
Gilbert's Whistler	AM	03/01/14	Ballyrenie Rd Conimbla NP	CT	Allison Elliott
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	6	15/01/14	Yarrie Lake Rd Narrabri	NP	Kurtis Lindsay
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	4	31/01/14	Oolambeyan NR Hay	R	David Parker
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	3	14/02/14	Eulah Creek NE Narrabri	NP	Michael Dahlem
White-winged Triller	3	22/12/13	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Mick Roderick
White-winged Triller	2	11/02/14	Warden Hd Ulladulla	I	Bob Rusk
White-winged Triller	AF	10-13/02/14	CC Wetlands Tuggerah	CC	Alan Morris
White-browed Woodswallow	6+N	12/12/13	Budderoo Ft Budderoo NP	I	David Rower
White-browed Woodswallow	12+J	15/12/13	Yerriyong Ck Nowra	I	Carla Jackett
White-breasted Woodswallow	2A+N	25/09/13	Mandeni North Tura Beach	SC	Heather Mousley
Pied Butcherbird	1	14/12/13	Castlereagh	I	Akos Lumnitzer
Little Raven	2	16/01/14	Warriewood Wetlands	S	Carl Weber
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	2A2Y	11/12/13	Willans Hill Wagga Wagga	SS	Judy Leitch
Spangled Drongo *	1	12/02/14	Bicentennial Pk Homebush	S	Tom Wilson
Spangled Drongo *	1	10/02/14	Mistral Pt Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Diamond Firetail	3	13/01/14	Glenlowan Bridge Glen Alice	CT	Simon Gorta
Diamond Firetail	10	21/01/14	Whiterocks Rd Orange	CT	Tiffany Mason
Plum-headed Finch	4	15/01/14	Queensland Rd Wetlands Casino	NC	David Charley
Red-browed Finch	10	11/01/14	Tennyson St Campsie	S	Barry Ayres
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	10+N	08/02/14	Carole Ck Moree (cotton farm)	Np	Curtis Hayne
Brown Songlark	1	18/12/13	Smith Rd Castlereagh	S	Ted Wnorowski
Tawny Grassbird	1	13/12/13	Lake Cargelligo STW	R	Ashwin Rudder
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	9	22/12-12/02	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Edwin Vella
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	1	07/01/14	Bunnings Wetland Wallsend	H	Trevor Williams
Green-headed Wagtail	1	08 & 17/01	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Mick Roderick

*=First Return ** Last Date hw= hit window rk = road kill bc= beach cast, CWBS= Cowra Woodland Bird Survey

Bold – On the Review list of the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee – submission required.

(Bird names used and the order in which they occur are in accord with 'Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds' 2008)

COMMENT

The summer has been characterised by having a suite of new rarities visiting the State and while the **Little Curlews** and the **Asian Dowitcher** have disappeared there have been new birds to take their place like **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** (8th Aust Record if accepted), **Ruffs**, **Red-footed Booby**, **Broad-billed Sandpiper** and more **Pectoral Sandpipers** although **Oriental Plovers** are still being seen at new sites and the **Ruffs** from Pitt Town may well have moved to the Hunter. The drought in South-west Queensland and western NSW with the accompanying drying up of wetlands in the Paroo, Bulloo and Lake Eyre Basin continues to drive large numbers of **Freckled Ducks**, **Australian Grey Teal**, **Pink-ears**, **Yellow-billed Spoonbills**, **White-necked Herons**, **Spotted Harriers** and **Budgerigars** into north-eastern and eastern NSW with extraordinary numbers of each species being seen in places not previously reported, however **Black Kite** records are receding. The records of **Eurasian Tree Sparrows** are a surprise! The numbers of **Freckled Ducks** continue to rise in NSW, other records include: 4 Eastlakes GC 16/12 (S), 8 Tuggerah STW 28/12 (CC), 2 Old Quilpolly Dam, Breeza 28/12 (NS), 20 Fivebough Swp 01/01 (R), 2 Bundanoon STW 05/01 (I), 3 Eastlakes GC 06/01 (S), 10+ Gwydir Watercourse 09/01 (NP), 2 Bungendore STW & 5 The Morass, Lake Bathurst 20/01 (ST), 20 The Lawrence Egret Colony 28/01 (NC), 3 Tallawarrash Ash Ponds Yallah 05/02 (I), 22 Pitt Town Lagoon 16/02 (S); **Radjah Shelduck**: same male Buladelah 15/02 (H); **Topknot Pigeon**: 22 Torady Pt Moruya Heads 16/12 (SC); More **Fork-tailed Swifts** are being seen in NSW than usual with other records at 2 Long Reef GC 12/12, 5 Bay St Botany 22/12 (S), 2 Pt Macquarie 03/01 (NC), 1+ Hawks Nest 03/01 (H), 20 Katang NR Laurieton 04/01, 1 Lower Pappinbarra 07/01 (NC), 20 Terry Hie Hie 25/01 (NP), 40+ Salamander Bay 19/01 (H), 10 Ophir Rd Rock Forest 14/02 (CT), 40 Singleton Heights 16/02, 10+ Tighes Hill 16/02, 25+ 2 km N Aberdeen 16/02 (H), 3 Levenstrath 17/02 (NC) & 6 Tuncurry (H), a good spread of records across the State; **Australasian Bittern**: 1 Pitt Town Lagoon 30/12 (S) & 1 Edgeworth 14/02 (H); **Little Bittern**: HC Rocky Waterholes Narrandera 12/01 (R); **Eastern Ospreys**, the birds on the Georges River at Illawong, would appear to be the most southern nesting pair at present in NSW, other southern records include: Bawley Pt 19/12 (I); **Pacific Baza**: 1 Twelve Mile Tk Morton NP 15/12 (I), 1 Castlereagh NR 18/12 (S), 1 Goodhugh St East Maitland 28/12 (H), J Tuggerah SCA 30/12, 3 Bellawongarah 04-09/01 (I), 1 Warriewood Wetlands 13/01 (S), 2 Stringray Swp Penrose SF 19/01 (I), 2 Upper Mangrove Ck 08/02 (CC); **Square-tailed Kites** reported include: 12 Mile Tk Morton NP 15/12 (I), Potato Pt & Congo Pt 16/12 (SC), 1 Nowra 18/12 (I), 1 Wallagoot 22/12 & Kalaru 24/12 (SC), 1 Rothbury (H), 1 The Morass, Lake Bathurst 20/01 (ST), 1 Bobbin Head KCNP 02/02 (S), Upper Mangrove Ck 08/02 (CC), 1 Chapman Ave Beecroft 29/02, 2 Mannix Pk Ashcroft 14/02 (S) & 1 Bomaderry (I); Coastal **Spotted Harriers** remain in many locations including singles at Canoona 25/12 & Panboola 26/12 (SC), Nth Richmond 01/01 (S), The Morass, Lake Bathurst 20/01 (ST), Deepwater Pk Milperra 08/02, Menangle 11/02 (S); **Grey Goshawk**: 1 Tomakin 21/12 (In), 1 Irrawong Res 27/12 (S), 1 Ravensworth 17/02 (H), 1 Lane Cove NP 18/02 (S); The surge in **Black Falcon** numbers continues, other records include 2 Lake George 20/01 (ST), 1 Toogong Rd Cranbury 20/01 (CT), 1 Castlereagh 07/02 (S); **Lewin's Rail**: Eastlakes GC 30/12, 27/01 & 14/02 (S), 2 Queensland Rd Swp Casino 08/02 (NC); **Baillon's Crane**: 4 Rowe's Lgn Collector 20/01 (ST), 4 Pitt Town Lagoon 02/02 (S); **Australian Spotted Crane**: Eastlakes GC 30/12, 2 Pitt Town Lagoon 02 & 16/02 (S); **Spotless Crane**: HC Shanes Pk 15/12 (S), 1 Tomakin 21/12 (I), Eastlakes GC 30/12 (S) & 14/02 (BH), 2 Rowe's Lgn Collector 20/01 (ST), HC Queensland Rd Swp Casino 08/02 (NC); **Hooded Plover**: 1 Lake Conjola entrance 19/12, chicks at Cormorant Bch Bawley Pt, Manyana Bch & Berrara Bch 12/01 (I); **Common Greenshank**: 1 McCracken Rd Dam, Leeton 01/01 (R); **Marsh Sandpiper**: 1 Gwydir Watercourse 09/01 (NP), 2 Chittaway Pt 12/02 (CC); **Glossy Black-Cockatoo**: 6 Potato Pt Moruya 16/12 (SC), 4 Jamieson Pk Narrabeen Lakes 11/02, 10 Smiths Creek 03/02 (S); Other inland **Eastern Koel** records include: 1 Moree GC, Moree West 27/12 & Terry Hie Hie 28/12 (NP), 1 Lake Hume Weir, Albury 03/01 (SS); There are more **Powerful Owl** records HC Umina Bch 16/12 (CC), Terry Ck Parklands 16/12 (S), HC Wallagoot & Nethercote 27/12 & 13/01 (SC), HC Lower Pappinbarra 05 & 22/01 (NC), Lovers Jump Ck Turramurra 26/01 & St Ives 31/01 (S); **Barking Owl**: 1 Glenlowan Bridge Glen Alice 11/01 (CT), Jamieson Pk Narrabeen Lake 11-16/02 (S); **Sooty Owl**: 1 Murrumbarrang NP 21/12 (I), 1 Mt Elliott, Rumbalara Res 30/12 (CC), HC RAAF Base Glenbrook 07/01 & seen 27/01 (S); Other **Black Honeyeater** records include: 2 Opperman Way, Bathurst 12/12 CT, 5 Combadello Weir, Mehi River Moree 18/12 (NP), 1 Parkes 11/02, 2 Pinecliffe, Molong 14/02 (CS), 8 Fivebough Swp 01/01 (R); **Painted Honeyeater**: Other reports include 1 old wheatfield, Nombinnie NR 01/12 (LW), 2 The Winery, Binya SF 26/12 (R), 2 Glenlowan Bridge Glen Alice 13/01 (CT), 2 NW Scone 18/01 (H), 2 Whittakers Lgn Moree 15/02 (NP), also a good spread of records; Other new arrival **Spangled Drongos**: 2 Eastlakes GC 14/02, Penrith 16/02 & Jamieson Pk Narrabeen Lakes 16/02 (S). Good Birding!

BIRDING NSW DIRECTORY

Postal address:

Birding NSW, PO Box Q277,
QVB Post Shop, NSW 1230

Email: info@birdingnsw.org.au

Website: www.birdingnsw.org.au

Sydney Club Meetings:

The Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month, February to December at 7.30 pm on Level 1, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. There is an illustrated talk followed by Club business and unusual sighting reports. Visitors are welcome.

Central Coast Club Meetings

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Anzac Street, Tuggerah at 7.30 pm. Convenor: Alan Morris 4334 2776

Annual membership fee:

Single adult \$35.00

Family \$40.00

Junior (under 18 years) \$15.00

Fees are due on 1 October. Membership includes subscription to the Newsletter and the Club's Annual Bird Report.

Email for Club Activities:

activities@birdingnsw.org.au

Newsletter contributions:

Email articles, trip reports etc to
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JUNE Newsletter Deadline:

24 April 2014

Newsletter advertising rates, and bookings

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