



*"One Good Tern  
Deserves Another"*

The Newsletter of the ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.  
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519

# I.B.O.C. NEWS

**CLUB'S AIM: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the birdlife around them.**

**Issue No. 293      June 2006**

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS due 1st January each year: FAMILY \$25 SINGLE \$20 JUNIOR \$5**

**Bronwyn Wilson, our Treasurer, would be delighted to see you, and take a load off your mind!**

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## **FORTHCOMING IBOC EVENTS - JUNE 2006**

**CLUB MEETING – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June - 7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall. Neil and Tera Wheway will present 'Voyage to Antarctica.'** NB This Monday is a public holiday. Don't forget to bring a mug and a small plate for supper too.

**MID-WEEK WALK – Wednesday 14th June, 8.30 am – Macquarie Rivulet. Leader – Barbara Hales.** Meet at the Hales' home, 32 Shearwater Boulevard, Albion Park Rail. And bring your morning tea with you.

**MONTHLY OUTING – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Korungulla Swamp & Primbee Dunes. Leader Betty Hudson. Please note the change from the programme**

Meet at **9.00am** at the gate to Korungulla Swamp, which is in Nicole Road, Primbee. We will walk around the swamp before heading over to the dune forest behind the Golf Course. If the swamp mahoganys are flowering there may be the possibility of Swift Parrots. Bring a carry lunch and the walk will finish around 2.00pm.

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - Tuesday 20th June 2006, at 7.30pm at Tom and Joan Wylie's, 4 Daphne St, Bellambi.** All members are welcome.

**JULY 2006 NEWSLETTER** Deadline for articles for the next *IBOC News* is **Friday 22<sup>th</sup> June.** Contributions from all members welcomed, but please submit your contributions early, by email preferably, otherwise by post, to the editor at 5 Madden St, Fernhill 2519.

**WELCOME !** A special welcome to several new, and recently joined members of the club. It's nice to have you with us. Terry and Lyn Dawson, Chris Cartledge, Nerida Hudspith, John and Gwenneth Prior, Greg Knight, Frances Paterson, Carol and Garry Bailey, Myrilyn Googh, Alexander and Caitlin Brown, Shane Spence and family, Tony and Sylvia Loader, Mark Micallef, Jane Kinsella, John and Katherine Brown

## TUMUT



*Back:* Lyn, Tera, Terry, Neil, Tom, John, Chris C, Daphne, Chris B, Nic *Photo: Nic, who sprinted to get in*  
*Middle:* Peg, Robyn, Barbara, Catherine, Betty, Bill, Joan Z, Nerida, Myrilyn, Ros, Fay  
*Front:* Brian, Joan W *Also at camp were* Martin, Penny, Julie, Bruce, Josh, Kevin, Fae, Amy and Lisa

### **Myrilyn Googh and Nerida Hudspith's Introduction to the World of Birding.**

Between us we had lots of enthusiasm but no knowledge of bird watching. We were made to feel welcomed and included, valuable information was generously shared.

Nerida was kindly lent binoculars by a fellow member.

**Camp life:** Scheduled meetings around the campfire proved to be informative and a warming social experience. Myrilyn and I forgave afternoon recovery naps and dinners out to fit everything in. The caravan park was postcard picturesque, a well-chosen site, with great amenities. You needed a sound sense of humor and highly tuned negotiation skills to deal with hiccups regarding sudden changes to booking arrangements. Although we had to move cabins midstream it didn't stop us from managing a full day's walk. **Extra camp activities for Nerida** involved a lost dog and a feral cat.

**Exciting moments:** Seeing the Whistling Kite, looking down on it gliding over the Blowering Dam. Another highlight was seeing at close range a Satin Bower bird

For Myrilyn - the thrill of actually seeing birds for the first time through the binoculars. Another highlight was seeing a Satin Bower bird darting around the picnic area at Yarrangobilly Caves.

For Nerida - tripping over herself to get a better view of the two Wedge-tailed Eagles soaring above the Hume and Hovell track. After hearing about robins for a couple of days, it was sheer disbelief to come across a Flame Robin at the Blowering Dam.

**Challenging moments:** The suspension bridge - Nerida and co-coaching Myrilyn, in Kath and Kim style "look at me, look at me". This proved to be light entertainment for some. As first timers we felt the camp was well researched and planned by Betty. What a great introduction to the world of birding. **We're hooked !**

## **Tumut - A 'Newbie's' Impressions**

**Chris Cartledge**

We (Julie Telenta, my partner and I) drove down to Tumut on the Saturday and were soon settled into a cabin by the fast flowing Tumut River. We were not the first there – some arrived on Thursday! Walking around the Riverglade Caravan Park that afternoon I soon saw some familiar faces and a few that were not familiar, but their tell-tale binoculars told me why they were there.

That night at 7pm, around the open fire, I met the rest of the campers. At this time there were around twenty and another ten or so arrived over the weekend. I was not the lone first timer, it was also sisters Nerida & Myrilyn's, and Lyn and Terry's first camp with the Club.

In a big circle around the campfire each night (thanks to stokers Neil & Tom) Betty reviewed and recorded the day's sightings, and then told us of the plans for the following day. Daily excursion included morning, afternoon and full day walks.

What a great job Betty did. I really appreciated the bundle of handouts, particularly the tick list of birds indigenous to the Snowy River National Park. As almost everyone was new to me, including the other 'newbies', the inclusion of a list of the names of camp participants would have been helpful. Obviously each excursion was well researched as they went off without a hitch. The Guide Leader has not lost her touch!

Over a suspension bridge at either end, I particularly enjoyed the 5klm walk along the Hume & Hovell Walking Track. I had virtually forgotten about these great Australian explorers and then to find myself walking in their tracks – wow!

We had quail on the floor of our aviary in the 1950's and I've seen them when bushwalking. So the real highlight for me was the Flame Robins in full sunlight at the Blowering Dam. The Whistling Kite patrolling the top of the dam wall was also a special sighting for a beginner. It was close, sat still and it was around for more than a few seconds. Wonderful!

Julie and I had to be home on Wednesday evening so our last campfire was Tuesday night. To my amazement, in the four days we had been in the area a total of 96 species had been sighted, and there were four days to go before the camp concluded. Personally, I only claim sightings of birds I know that I have a good chance of recognising again by sight (not too good on the calls as yet). I ticked-off 26 species about half of which were new to me.

I'm going to enjoy being a member of IBOC if this camp is an indication of its activities. I appreciate the effort that organising such events entails and I thank all those who contributed, especially the camp leader Betty Hudson!

## **TRAMPING TUMUT**

**Neil Wheway**

Tumut in the autumn was an idyllic place for an Easter camp with the autumn toning. The poplar and elm trees were a burst of colours along with the crystal clear water of the Tumut River. The IBOC members who attended the camp were indeed fortunate with good weather, cool nights and warm sunny days, and were rewarded with good sightings of birds. Although Betty had ice on her bowl of water one morning which had to be lifted off before she was able to use the bowl. Our days kept us occupied looking for that extra bird that was on the list but not yet sighted, nights were around a blazing fire drum discussing birds and the state of the nation in general. Robins when first seen early in the camp caused much excitement, towards the end of the camp when spotted; it was just another "flaming" robin.

Our communal evening dinner at the local RSL Club went off well and was enjoyed by those who went. It was planned to have it on Wednesday night; unfortunately both the RSL and the Bowling Clubs restaurants were closed. The night had to be rescheduled for Thursday, which was unfortunate for some of our members who had to leave Tumut early. Kevin McGregor spoke to me the morning after our night at the RSL and said that the first aid talk from the April meeting came in very useful. He had rendered first aid to a man who had fallen down the stairs in the club. The man had sustained a head injury which was bleeding profusely and Kevin was able to staunch the blood flow until the ambulance officers arrived.

Our day excursions were varied with interesting locations up into the mountains, along the Tumut River bank and of course the local sewerage ponds, where several different species of water birds and ducks were spotted. After much discussion it was decided it was an Australasian Grebe not the Hoary-headed Grebe. These ponds were also filled with European Carp some of which after being caught were left on the bank of the ponds. People were spotted fishing in the ponds! We wondered how people could eat fish out of those waters but were later told they only wanted the carp's eggs for fish bait. Our trip to the Yarrangobilly Caves excited some so much that they had to have a swim in the thermal pool.

We had several of our newer members in camp with us who made favourable comments about our camp life and seemed to have enjoyed the camp. Three grandkids that went to the last Easter camp at Cowra came to Tumut and caused their usual mayhem. We must be doing things right for them to want to come to our camps a second time, it was good to see them and that they enjoyed our outdoor activities.

Our camp leader Betty Hudson did a fantastic job exploring the area for suitable walks arriving two days early. She put in many hours and miles to make sure every thing ran smoothly, like clockwork. Her organizational and map reading skills made for an enjoyable and rewarding week in camp at Tumut. We are all indebted to you. Betty, thank you.

## **Camp Sidelines**

Shared driving. It happens at every camp, but it's nice. On different days we, Robyn and John, were with Neil & Tera, Chris B, Terry & Lyn, and Betty & Catherine. Others did lots of sharing too. Nice company, good conversation & chauffer driven driving ! What a life!

Local Events. The woodworking group had a display on all week, which several members inspected. On the last Saturday of camp, Tumut had it's Festival of the Falling Leaves, with stalls, performances and lots of things to see.

First Aid. Appropriately, it was Kevin McGregor who wrote up the First Aid talk last month, who helped a chap who fell over until an ambulance arrived. Kevin is also a voluntary driver for the Leukemia Foundation, driving patients to various hospitals for treatment. Top marks !

Flame Robins. Seen from the rear or side-on they look nice little birds, but when a male turned to face us, his breast colour was such a knock-out. Stunning ! Talk about 'Glory to God for dappled things...' Indeed Brian Hales, a robin aficionado (not to mention 'puffins'), waxed enthusiastically, 'This has made my day ! This has really made my day !'



Bridge over tumbling waters. *Photo Nic van Oudtshoorn*

This was the first suspension bridge (built by Army Engineers ), over the Goobarragandra River which flows into the Blowering Dam. This was on the section of the Hume and Hovell track that we walked. The bridge was firm and strong, and only swayed a little: quite the opposite to the challenging second bridge at the end of the walk.

## Tumut Camp List 111 species

Emu	Wedge-tailed Eagle	White-throated Treecreeper	Restless Flycatcher
Stubble Quail	Brown Falcon	Superb Fairy-wren	Magpie-lark
Black Swan	Peregrine Falcon	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Australian Shelduck	Nankeen Kestrel	Striated Pardalote	Willie Wagtail
Australian Wood Duck	Purple Swamp Hen	White-browed Scrubwren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Mallard	Dusky Moorhen	Weebill	Dusky Woodswallow
Pacific Black Duck	Eurasian Coot	Brown Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird
Grey Teal	Black-fronted Dotterel	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Australasian Grebe	Masked Lapwing	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Pied Currawong
Darter	Silver Gull	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Currawong
Little Pied Cormorant	Rock Dove	Striated Thornbill	Australian Raven
Little Black Cormorant	Spotted Turtle-Dove	Red Wattlebird	Little Raven
Great Cormorant	Crested Pigeon	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	White-winged Chough
Australian Pelican	Peaceful Dove	White-eared Honeyeater	Satin Bowerbird
White-faced Heron	Wonga Pigeon	White-plumed Honeyeater	Richard's Pipit
White-necked Heron	Gang-gang Cockatoo	White-naped Honeyeater	House Sparrow
Great Egret	Little Corella	New Holland Honeyeater	Double-barred Finch
Intermediate Egret	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Eastern Spinebill	Red-browed Finch
Cattle Egret	Rainbow Lorikeet	Jacky Winter	Diamond Firetail
Australian White Ibis	Australian King-Parro	Scarlet Robin	European Goldfinch
Straw-necked Ibis	Crimson Rosella	Flame Robin	Welcome Swallow
Royal Spoonbill	Eastern Rosella	Rose Robin	Tree Martin
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Red-rumped Parrot	Eastern Yellow Robin	Silveryeye
Black-shouldered Kite	Southern Boobook	Crested Shrike-tit	Common Blackbird
Whistling kite	Barn Owl	Olive Whistler	Common Starling
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Azure Kingfisher	Golden Whistler	
Spotted Harrier	Laughing Kookaburra	Rufous Whistler	
Collared Sparrowhawk	Superb Lyrebird	Grey Shrike-thrush	

## BARGO RIVER GORGE 14 May 06

Michelle Rower

The Mothers Day trip to Bargo Gorge was greatly enjoyed by the 14 members who participated. At the meeting point Joan spotted a flock of Varied Sitellas and a flycatcher. We then drove to the start of the track adding a few birds such as Eastern Rosellas and Magpie-larks on the way. Our total bird list was impressive with at least 42 different species spotted throughout the day. We saw a Peaceful Dove and Glossy-Black Cockatoos before we even had left the carpark!!!

The highlight for several of us was a White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike being attacked by at least 4 Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters. The honeyeaters dive bombed the cuckoo shrike which went to ground and hopped along until he found cover and a means of escape.

The track meanders along the edge of the Bargo river and there were plenty of beautiful spots to stop for morning tea. Just before morning tea we saw Double barred and Red-browed Finches.

After a short climb to the top of the gorge several people saw the first Rockwarbler for the day. There was a spectacular view of Mermaid's Pool which looks like a great swimming spot for a summer walk. We made sure we did not lose our way back by marking the track with a couple of arrows and a can in a tree.

Lunch was taken at a lovely lookout over a deep section of the gorge. On the return walk several members had sightings of a female Rose Robin and Joan found us a Crested Shrike-tit. Some of our new members really enjoyed a close look at a male Spotted Pardalote as well as a Striated Thornbill. There were some huge carp swimming in the river and when we returned to the car park we saw more Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters and two Satin Bowerbirds to top our day off.

Thanks must go to Betty Hudson who did a great job of leading us all once again.

Bird List for Bargo Gorge Walk . 57 species for the day

Australian Wood Duck	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Bell Miner	Grey Fantail
Pacific Black Duck	Galah	Noisy Miner	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Grey Teal	Little Corella	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Hardhead	Crimson Rosella	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Grey Butcher Bird
Little Pied Cormorant	Eastern Rosella	White-naped Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
White-faced Heron	Azure Kingfisher	New Holland Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Straw-necked Ibis	White-throated Treecreeper	Eastern Spinebill	Satin Bowerbird
Grey Goshawk	Superb Fairy Wren	Rose Robin	Double-barred Finch
Purple Swamphen	Spotted Pardalote	Eastern Yellow Robin	Red-browed Finch
Dusky Moorhen	Rockwarbler	Varied Sitella	Welcome Swallow
Masked Lapwing	White-browed Scrubwren	Crested Shrike-tit	Common Starling
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Striated Thornbill	Golden Whistler	Common Myna
Common Bronzewing	Brown Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Crested Pigeon	Yellow Thornbill	Restless Flycatcher	
Peaceful Dove	Red Wattlebird	Magpie-lark	

### **BITS AND...**

The following magazines are offered for free to a good home:

*The Bird Observer* - 1982 to 2006, and *Wingspan* - 1979 to 2006.

A donation to the Club would be appreciated.

Contact Kevin Mills - [k.mills@bigpond.net.au](mailto:k.mills@bigpond.net.au)

## **IBOC Spring Camp. 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2006. Smiths Lake Field Station UNSW.**

This camp is being held at the field station which is approached via Buladelah on the Mid North Coast and is on the coast south of Forster, between Myall & Smiths Lakes (Detailed directions in the August Newsletter). The Buladelah Nat Map gives a good overview of the area

Accommodation is in 7 dormitory rooms with limited accommodation for approx 4 caravans /camper vans/trailers, and plenty of room for tents on lawns, but no vehicles are allowed to park on the grass.

Five dormitories will be reserved for couples/ families or groups who are prepared to share and one other for men and one for ladies. Each dormitory holds up to 10 people in bunks.

Members wishing to attend are requested to let Betty Hudson know by putting their name on the list at the meetings or emailing/phoning, so that accommodation can be allocated.

The charge will be between \$10 & \$15 per person per night regardless of your type of accommodation. This will be confirmed next month.

### **CLUB MEETING Monday 8 May 2006**

**Alan Cousins**

Holly Lattin's presentation was entitled 'Suburban Superb Fairy Wrens – How are they Coping ?' A bit of a different kind of bird watching, IBOC outings will never be the same – promiscuous females and young males baby-sitting (sexual equality) ? What is the world coming to ?

Holly's research took in suburban and non-suburban areas for comparison and, I would suggest, pretty good eyesight looking for these tiny birds in long grass, let alone catching them and attaching tiny transmitters to them.

Her studies would seem to reveal that these beautiful little birds are coupling (Sorry) coping quite successfully in suburban gardens, where suitable habitat exists, which also gives protection from predators. They also appear to be coping well in non-suburban areas. One reason here would seem to be the spread of Lantana, a weed that is gradually being removed from our environment. It however, gives great protection to little birds from predators, especially raptors due to its dense spiky bush form. The wrens are very territorial creatures, and it was interesting to hear how Holly obtained details of their diet and feeding habits in long and short grass. Their diet consists of bugs, spiders and flies etc.

It was a very interesting presentation by a person obviously enthused with her research, and given in a manner well understood. Let's hope that these magnificent birds continue to thrive.

### **Austinmer Mid-week Walk - Wednesday 10 May 2006**

**Chris. Cartledge**

Led by Joan Wylie, with husband Tom bringing up the rear, members walked from Foothills Rd, Austinmer into the Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area completing a large loop. For a short distance we touched the Gibson Walking Track. There was a good turn-up, twenty four in all, including Tony and Sylvia, and Jane who were on their first outing with the Club. Another nice surprise was five year old Jeremy, Terry & Lyn's Dawson's grandson.

The weather was pleasant enough, although at times the wind whistled through the tree tops. It was quite cold on much of the track but the sun came through in the clearings. It was here that we saw most birds. We enjoyed our usual BYO morning tea sitting on a couple of logs that had fallen across a wider section of the track.

One of the more 'senior' walkers commented that in their memory it was the first time that there were more walkers than bird species sighted. As you will see from the list below, seventeen species were sighted. By the time we were into the walk it was around 9:30am and the lack of sun and at times, strong winds meant the birds were elsewhere.

One of the highlights for this recently enlisted birdwatcher was the Eastern Yellow Robin spotted in some lantana. It kept getting closer until it ended up literally at our feet. I suggested to the walker beside me that we should reach out and pat it.

Having heard the Eastern Whipbird on numerous occasions (almost weekly on my morning walks along Fisher and Reserve Sts West Wollongong), I at last spotted this elusive bird. Actually I saw a pair of them, but as one disappeared, the other came closer, eventually scooting across the track in front of us. Wonderful, thanks Joan!

### Sightings

- Rainbow Lorikeet
- Australian King Parrot
- Crimson Rosella
- White-throated Treecreeper
- Spotted Pardalote
- White-browed Scrubwren
- Brown Thornbill
- Lewin's Honeyeater
- Eastern Spinebill
- Eastern Yellow Robin
- Eastern Whipbird
- Golden Whistler
- Grey Fantail
- Grey Butcherbird
- Pied Currawong
- Red-browed Finch
- Silveryeye

### **...Pieces**

\* Apologies to readers for some glaring mistakes in the last issue – a case of trying to get the News out in a hurry before rushing off to camp, but mea culpa !

\* Apologies also to contributors. Thank you for your contributions, but with the camp news etc space was well, hard to find, but never fear, your day will dawn.

## **BIRDING IN SPAIN**

**Joan Zealey**

We didn't go to Spain to watch birds. We went to spend Christmas with family in Barcelona, holiday in the south and do some sightseeing. Of course we took our binoculars.

Bright green parakeets shrieked at us from the palm trees in Gaudi's famous Guell Park. There was a Redstart on my sister's front path and another and Pied Wagtails skittering round the Roman amphitheatre at Tarragona. 100 Grey Herons stood among the gulls and waders in the rice paddies of the Ebro delta. The saltpans north of Cartagena held more waders and a flock of elegant pink Flamingoes, and when we stopped a Hoopoe with its distinctive crest flew into the bushes just past the car.

Common gulls and Herring Gulls wheeled above the cliffs of Gibraltar, and though the Flamingos were far away, there was a whole spill of Mediterranean Gulls at Fuentes de Piede, our only real bird watching stop of the trip. The magnificent gardens of the Alhambra were full of passerines – Greenfinches, Chaffinches, Hawfinches and Blackcaps, and we saw a Spotless Starling, one of Spain's endemic species, on the roof of the fortress. In the olive groves and pastures were multitudes of little birds. Spain must be the sparrow capital of the world, and we added Crested Larks to our life list as they took off almost from beneath our wheels. Crag Martins flew busily beneath Ronda's triple bridge. On the road to Madrid we saw six cranes in a paddock, and a pair of Bonelli's Eagles flew alongside us briefly on the motorway to Barcelona. Altogether we saw about 80 species, including three new ones.

## Unusual Records for March 2006

Chris J. Chafer

Send your records to: email [cchafer@speedlink.com.au](mailto:cchafer@speedlink.com.au)

Species	#	Date	Location	Habitat	Observer
Australian Brush-turkey	6	Mar	Balgownie	garden	TE
Australasian Shoveler	6	11-Mar	Yallah	dam	TW
Red-tailed Tropicbird	1	3-Mar	off Wollongong	pelagic	PM
Brown Booby	1	3-Mar	off Wollongong	pelagic	PM
Lesser Frigatebird	1	3-Mar	off Wollongong	pelagic	PM
Little Bittern	1	25-Mar	Bream Beach, Jervis Bay	?	LP
Swamp Harrier	1	27-Feb	Dunmore	paddock	RB
Peregrine Falcon	1	14-Mar	Kanahooka	overhead	MC
Buff-banded Rail	1	18-Mar	Tom Thumb Lagoon	wetland	DW
Black-tailed Godwit	1	26-Mar	Comerong Is	sandflats	CJC
Bar-tailed Godwit	500	18-Mar	Comerong Is	sandflats	CJC
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	28-Mar	Windang	sandflats	MC
Ruddy Turnstone	20	25-Mar	Nth Port Kembla beach	rocky shore	CJC
Pied Oystercatcher	3	25-Mar	Sussex Inlet	estuary	LP
Pacific Golden Plover	300	18-Mar	Comerong Is	sandflats	CJC
Double-banded Plover	175	18-Mar	Comerong Is	sandflats	CJC
White-headed Pigeon	3	27-Feb	Jamberoo	powerline	BH
White-headed Pigeon	1	17-Mar	Thirroul	garden	MM
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	2	11-Mar	Balgownie	garden	TE
Red-rumped Parrot	10	28-Mar	Wollongong golf course	playing field	DF
Turquoise Parrot	2	12-Mar	Barren Ground NR	heathland	CJC
Pheasant Coucal	1	17-Mar	Figtree	garden	LP
Powerful Owl	1	3-Mar	Excelsior Res. Thirroul	forest	MM
Powerful Owl	1	13-Mar	West Cambewarra	forest	GD
Sooty Owl	1	14-Mar	West Cambewarra	forest	GD
Fork-tailed Swift	35+	13-Mar	Kangaroo Valley	overhead	BA
Fork-tailed Swift	20	16-Mar	Nowra	overhead	BA
Azure Kingfisher	2	18-Mar	Jerrara Dam	wetland	IM
Azure Kingfisher	1	25-Mar	Wrights Beach, Jervis Bay	beach	LP
Eastern Bristlebird	4	12-Mar	Barren Ground NR	woodland	CJC
Pilotbird	1	5-Mar	Yarrowa State Forest	rainforest	BH
Regent Honeyeater	1	16-Mar	west Albion Park	woodland	JC
Flame Robin	1	18-Mar	Yarrowa State Forest	woodland	CJC
Logrunner	2	27-Mar	Bellawongarah	rainforest	BA
Crested Shrike-tit	2	12-Mar	Excelsior Res. Thirroul	forest	MM
Spangled Drongo	1	24-Mar	Berkeley High School	parkland	IM
Figbird	1	10-Mar	Albion Park	urban	JC
Figbird	4	17-Mar	South Wollongong	urban	DW
Beautiful Firetail	2	12-Mar	Barren Ground NR	heathland	CJC
Tree Martin	500+	13-Mar	Kangaroo Valley	overhead	BA
Tree Martin	100+	19-Mar	Barren Grounds NR	overhead	GB
Tree Martin	50+	16-Mar	Shoalhaven Heads	overhead	GB

**Contributors:** BA – Bob Ashford; GB – Graham Barwell; RB – Roger Bogaert; CB – Chris Brandis; CJC – Chris Chafer; MC – Martin Cocker; JC – Josh Coyte; GD – Gary Daly; TE – Terri Edwell; ME – Mary Eskdale; DF – Damien Farine; BH – Betty Hudson; IM – Ian McKinlay; PM – Peter Milburn; MM – Mike Morphet; LP – Loraine Pincus; DW – David Winterbottom; TW – Tom Wylie.

**Comment:** The 300 odd Pacific Golden Plovers at Comerong Is over February - March was the largest flock known to occur since records began in the 1970s. Similarly the huge flock of Tree

Martins is a phenomenal record. It was also pleasing to see the Fork-tailed Swift records and the coastal Regent Honeyeater in the region for a number of years. Those of you who see the White-bellied Sea-Eagles in the northern suburbs will be pleased to hear that they have a nest on a large property under the escarpment and the owner is pleased to have them there – thanks Richard. Interestingly all the recent records of Turquoise Parrots from Barren Grounds have been in the month of March, presumably something good is seeding there. Finally, it would appear that the Red-rumps are now breeding at or near Wollongong golf course.

## **LIST of CASES DETERMINED by NSW ORAC 2005**

A committee of eight people made up of the four clubs HBOC, IBOC, CBOC and Birding NSW( Chris Brandis is your representative) examines reported Unusual Sightings. Any species on our list of species that are reported by anyone are asked to complete a Unusual Record Report setting out the details. This is then circulated around the committee for Acceptance or Not Acceptance. At least 7 committee members have to agree for the record to be accepted. If the vote is 2 against 6 for then the report is circulated a second time with discussions allowed between members and a summary of their comments of the first round. This produces an Accept or Not Accept result.

<b>Case 380/ B405.</b>	<b>Franklins Gull</b>	<b>Little Bay Sydney</b>	<b>14-12-2003</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Case 385.</b>	<b>Elegant Parrot</b>	<b>Fowlers Gap</b>	<b>13-7-2004</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Case 388</b>	<b>Kermadec Petrel</b>	<b>off Sydney</b>	<b>11-10-2004</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Case 389</b>	<b>Soft-plumaged Petrel</b>	<b>off Sydney</b>	<b>9-10-2004</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Case 391</b>	<b>Grey-backed Storm-Petrel</b>	<b>“</b>	<b>9-10-2004</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Case 392/B231</b>	<b>Westland Petrel</b>	<b>off Wollongong</b>	<b>July 1996</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Case 397</b>	<b>Masked Booby</b>	<b>South West Rocks</b>	<b>20-1-2005</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Case 399</b>	<b>Black-bellied Storm-Petrel</b>	<b>off Newcastle</b>	<b>10-4-2005</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Case 400</b>	<b>Red-backed Button Quail</b>	<b>Woodford Island</b>	<b>9-2-2004</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Case 402</b>	<b>Oriental Plover</b>	<b>Lord Howe Island</b>	<b>May 2005</b>	<b>A</b>

Those cases that have two Case Numbers refer to decisions adjudicated by Birds Australia Rarities Committee. A = the record was Accepted, NA = Not Accepted  
Send your submissions to the Secretary, NSW ORAC by Email where possible, otherwise by mail. Secretary [kbrandwood@bigpond.com](mailto:kbrandwood@bigpond.com) or 59, Kurmond Road, Wilberforce, NSW 2756

### **Good Grief !.....GUARD PARROT**

A postie is working on a new beat. He comes to a garden gate marked BEWARE OF THE PARROT! He looks down the garden and, sure enough, there's a parrot sitting on its perch. He has a little chuckle to himself at the sign and the parrot there on its perch. The mailman opens the gate and walks into the garden. He gets as far as the parrot's perch, when suddenly, it calls out: "REX, ATTACK!"