

Shy Heathwren

Scientific name: *Hylacola cauta*
 Family: Acanthzinae
Endangered

Description

The Shy Heathwren is a small (11.5 - 14cm). The plumage is warm brown above, with the head and neck greyer, contrasting with the pale, but heavily streaked, underparts. The flanks and thighs have a light grey-brown wash. The crown is in bold contrast to the clean, white eyebrow with the rump and tail coverts a striking,



photo by Ron Imisides Round Hill NSW

fiery rufous-chestnut. The tail, which is held cocked, darkens from chestnut to dark brown, and a prominent white tip. The flight feathers are white at the base, forming a prominent white wing patch when the wing is folded. The eye is red-brown or yellowish-brown, the legs slate-brown and the bill blackish. The female's underparts have a cream base colour while juveniles can be distinguished by lack of streaking on the underparts and generally duller plumage overall.

Similar species

The Shy Heathwren is distinguished from the related Chestnut-rumped Heathwren by the presence of the white wing spot.

Distribution

Occurs across southern Australia extending from the wheatbelt in southern Western Australia east to central NSW.

Habitat

Generally occurs singly or in pairs, where it can be secretive, keeping within dense vegetation. Inhabits mallee woodlands with a relatively dense understorey of shrubs and heath plants. Appears to occur in all age classes of vegetation, though believed to prefer either one to five years following fire when the resprouting eucalypts provide dense vegetation cover or in long unburnt (greater than 40 years) areas which have a well developed shrub layer.

Seasonal movements

Appears to be sedentary,

Feeding

Feeds on the ground, almost entirely on insects (cockroaches, grasshoppers, bugs, lerps, beetles, caterpillars, moths, ants, spiders and insect eggs) and rarely on seeds, including those of saltbush.

Breeding

Breeds late winter to early summer and builds a dome-shaped nest in a concealed location on the ground, using a variety of plant materials.

Living with humans

This species is found in the following catchment management authority regions and is classed as endangered. Lachlan - Lower Murray/Darling - Murrumbidgee - Western.

Threats:

Fragmentation, resulting from clearing or degradation of habitat, may reduce the size of populations and increase the extent to which they are isolated; small, isolated populations have a greater risk of extinction due to genetic effects and chance events (e.g. drought and fire).

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Founded in 1977

Club's Aim:
 To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the bird life around them.

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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**Club Meeting:****Monday 13th June 2011**

7.30pm Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way, Fairy Meadow

Members Night: members are invited to do a 10 – 15min presentation through a slide show, talk, and short movie or display etc on this night. Please Contact Alan Cousins Ph 4283 3197—Prior to the night and give him details of your presentation. NB: this is a Public Holiday

Please bring a plate of goodies and a cup for supper after the meeting.

June Midweek Walk:**Wednesday 15th June 2011****Mt Nebo:** Kembla Heights .

Leader Ted Simpson.

Meet and Park at the end of O'Brien's Road, Figtree at 8-30am. Near the water tank, this is the end of the road and is a steep climb. Bring morning tea and maybe some warm clothes as this walk is high up. See you there. Contact Ted, mobile No 0425 121 221.

June Monthly Outing:**Saturday 18th June 2011.****Heathcote National Park**

Leader Betty Hudson.

Meet at the northern end of Warabin Street, Waterfall at 9.00am.

To reach Warabin St., proceed via the freeway to the end and take the first left turn as if going to Waterfall Station. **DO NOT turn right** over the bridge but continue on to the end of the street and park by the roadside. This will be an all day walk so bring a morning tea & lunch to carry with you.

We did this walk in 2000 when 35 species were identified, among them Variegated Fairy Wren, Scarlet Honeyeater, Scarlet Robin, White-naped & Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters & Beautiful Firetail as well as large numbers of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, and again in May 2007 when 35 species were seen with the most notable being the Pilotbird and Superb Lyrebird.

Contact Betty on 4236 0307 or 0432 892 945.

Next Committee Meeting -**Monday 20th June 2011**

Next committee meeting to be held at Betty Hudsons - 1 DRUALLA ROAD JAMBEROO NSW 2533

All members are welcome to attend and raise any issues with the committee.

Contact Betty 4236 0307

July 2011 Newsletter -

Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **27th June 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302

Spring 2011 Camp 22-29th October 2011 at Mylestom near Coffs Harbour

The IBOC Spring 2011 Camp will be held at North Beach Caravan Park, Mylestom ph.02 6655 4250.

Mylestom is a small village (pop 382) situated between the northern bank of the estuary of the Bellinger River and the Ocean. It is approx 20km south of Coffs Harbour and 3 km east of Repton. The Caravan Park is located in beach Parade and is on the beach front.

There are 7 cabins	<u>5 sleep 4 in 2 rooms with a Q-bed & a bunk bed</u>	<u>\$ 95 per night for 2</u>
	<u>1 sleeps 5 in 2 rooms with a D bed , single bed & bunk bed</u>	<u>\$110 per night for 2</u>
	<u>1 sleeps 6 in 2 rooms with a Q-bed, 2 bunk beds</u>	<u>\$110 per night for 2</u>

Additional people are \$15 per night per person

All cabins are ensuite, with full cooking facilities. You need to supply linen & towels

Powered sites are \$28 per night for 2 people.

Unpowered sites are \$22 per night for 2 people

Travel is north along the Pacific Hwy towards Coffs Harbour. 3 km after passing Urunga and crossing the Kalang River look for the left exit to Bellingen and Raleigh & Repton via Waterfall Way. Follow the sign posts to Raleigh & then Mylestom. A detailed map will be in a later newsletter.

I would suggest that most members would take 2 days to reach Mylestom especially those with vans or camping.

There is a General Store cum café, take-away, post office and service station as well as a Bowling Club with a Chinese Restaurant and a Pizzeria.

Please let Betty Hudson know if you are coming to camp and what accommodation you have booked.

NB: if further accommodation is needed there is another caravan park in Repton approx 2km west. It has 1 cabin and 12 on-site vans. Prices unknown Bellinger River Tourist Park, 96 Mylestom Drive Repton ph 6655 4755

ALL MEMBERS of IBOC would like to WELCOME New Members

Angela Raymond, Meri Stefanidakis and Walter Boles.

Hoping they enjoy many Happy Birding Hours with our club.



CLUB REPORTS

Report for club meeting Monday 9th May 2011

Alan Cousins

I think that all will agree that we have been very fortunate with the very high standard of presentations this year and tonight was no exception. Jodie Dunn from the NPWS Shorebird Recovery Program gave us a very interesting and informative introduction to the South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program, including biology of our threatened species, threats to their nests and chicks on the beach, management of these threats and nest protection techniques, the role of shorebird volunteers and data from a decade of the program.

The shorebirds under threat are:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Little Tern | status ENDANGERED |
| 2) Hooded Plover | status CRITICALLY ENDANGERED |
| 3) Sooty Oystercatcher | status VULNERABLE |
| 4) Pied Oystercatcher | status ENDANGERED |

The main causes of this decline are: 1) Inundation 2) Ravens 3) Gulls 4) Humans - recreation 5) Foxes and dogs Reasons 1 and 2 are natural but the others are manmade ie: the fault of us humans (eg: Foxes were introduced for sport)

To monitor and hopefully try to halt the decline of these species, Jodie and her colleagues along with a band of faithful local volunteers; search for threatened shorebirds, monitor breeding and behaviour, find nests and note breeding success. There are now over 42 dedicated volunteers. They are given a manual and training and after 50 hours of work are rewarded with an All Parks Pass from NPWS. Training is given on bird identification, how to find eggs and chicks, identifying threats, protecting nests and data etc. Jodie also explained some of the methods of predator control including fox baiting (1080) and shooting. It was interesting to note that ravens are very intelligent so if you are looking for a shorebird nest when ravens are around do not approach the nest as the ravens will follow and discover the nest site. She also had some great photos of the threatened species and also some of the methods used to protect eggs and chicks. It would appear from the data graphs that this much needed program is having a welcome success -Congratulations to Jodie and her colleagues and band of faithful volunteers.

Mid-week Walk – Wednesday, 11th May, 2011

Robyn Cashman

Below zero in Goulburn! And the wind was swooping over the hill from thereabouts, so a beanie parade ensued as 13 members gathered to wander through the Wollongong Botanic Gardens. The early pathetic rays of sunshine soon vanished, and many birds decided to cuddle up out of sight and keep warm. But not all: White-headed Pigeons, Australian King-Parrot and male Satin Bowerbirds greeted the first on the scene, and we soon set off to explore the forest near the glasshouse. Small birds, hard to identify in the dim light, kept us peering. Once into the rainforest, an Eastern Yellow Robin sat sweetly giving all a fine view, and Grey Fantails, a female Golden Whistler, Gerygones and Lewin's Honeyeaters were added to the list. At one stage, a burst of twittering and much ado from up high in the canopy caused Hazel to wonder if the birds had spotted an owl. Tom suggested that a raptor might have passed over, but none were seen in the lowering sky. A Grey Butcherbird, an Australasian Figbird and a Topknot Pigeon were seen, plus plenty of the usual residents of our area – Magpie-larks, Crested Pigeons, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Common Mynas and Rainbow Lorikeets. A fly past of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos made for a nice finale – earlier they had been noticed in the foliage of the rainforest, 'sittin' round minding their own business.'

There was a good congregation of water fowl on the pond – Purple Swamphens, Dusky Moorhens, Pacific

Black Ducks, Chestnut Teal etc., and a couple of menacing geese – Betty says that they are "greasy



photo by Charles Dove

eating" so I will not venture to change our Christmas menu!

The Gardens were looking lovely – after years of drought and water restrictions much new planting has been done, and those of us with horticultural leanings found that our eyes and our chat often turned to the trees, shrubs and flowers that the birds, butterflies and bees enjoy so much. Even Tom was observed closely studying the silky pink flowers of a Powder puff tree.

Thanks, Ted, for leading a great walk in the habitat of our local birds.

Bird List for Wollongong Botanic Garden Walk 11th May 2011

8.30am to 12noon 42 Species plus 3 exotic waterbirds

Australian Wood Duck	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Spotted Pardalote	Willie Wagtail
Chestnut Teal	Galah	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Raven
Northern Mallard	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Maggie Lark
Pacific Black Duck	Rainbow Lorikeet	Noisy Miner	Eastern Yellow Robin
White-headed Pigeon	Australian King-Parrot	Little Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Spotted Dove	Crimson Rosella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Common Myna
Crested Pigeon	Eastern Rosella	Golden Whistler – E race	
Topknot Pigeon	Satin Bowerbird	Australasian Figbird	Graylag Goose
White-faced Heron	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Butcherbird	Muscovy Duck
Purple Swamphen	Brown Gerygone	Australian Magpie	Mallard X Muscovy Duck
Dusky Moorhen	Yellow Thornbill	Pied Currawong	
Silver Gull	Brown Thornbill	Grey Fantail	



Owl – Photo by Tera Wheway

Report for the Bents Basin Walk 15th May 2011

by Lyndall Dawson

One of the wonderful things about this club is that it gets you out and about to places interesting and new with great company, fabulous birds and (usually) lovely weather - well, at least that's what happened on the May Sunday walk to Bents Basin. Despite a very chilly morning (we saw white frost on our way there) the sun came out and it turned into a day of perfect autumn weather. A lucky group of 16 gathered near the entrance to the State Recreation Reserve, where we met our guide (invited by Charlie), Jim Dixon from the Cumberland Bird Club. I don't know whether Jim knew the area so well that he was able to provide the birds 'to order' but it seemed like that. We hadn't been there more than 10 minutes or so when we identified a pair of Pacific Baza close by, and while we watched one swooped on a Noisy Miner and finished it off for its breakfast before our eyes! Then it was the turn of the Rose Robins - at least 4 of them feeding in a large casuarina tree near the water and at times sitting still in the sun (would you believe) so we could admire their brilliant colour. A short walk along the side of the lake produced several more little birds, including a Rock

Warbler, but surprisingly only a few waterbirds. As we returned to the casuarinas we found the Rose Robins still at work, and in another nearby tree so many little birds that Joan was heard to say "I just don't know which way to look!" Among all these the highlight was the Varied Sittella, and an unusual looking Silvereye that Jim identified as the Tasmanian race.

After morning tea and another walk around the picnic areas we got back in the cars and drove to Vielun Farm near Cobbitty. This area contained a string of ponds where we saw quite a few more water birds, as well as several Restless Flycatchers, a beautifully posed Eastern Yellow Robin, Firetail Finches, Double-barred Finches and (another first for me), a Chestnut-breasted Mannikin.

Then back into the cars for a short drive to another nearby farm to see a spectacular sight of two White-bellied Sea Eagles sitting side by side in full view on a high branch quite close to their huge stick nest, where we were told they had been returning to for 15 years. All in all one of the most pleasant and productive walks - thanks Charlie for organizing it for us.



Pacific Baza



Restless Flycatcher



Rose Robin

Bird List for Bents Basin Walk

15th May 2011

9.00am to 12.30pm 47 Species

Crested Pigeon	Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Little Pied Cormorant	White-throated Treecreeper	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Cattle Egret	Superb Fairy-wren	Bell Miner	Australian Raven
Pacific Baza	Rockwarbler	Noisy Miner	Restless Flycatcher
Grey Goshawk	White-browed Scrubwren	Varied Sittella (orange –wing)	Maggie-lark
Purple Swamphen	Weebill	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Jacky Winter
Dusky Moorhen	Brown Gerygone	Golden Whistler E-race	Rose Robin
Masked Lapwing	Striated Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	Eastern Yellow Robin
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Yellow Thornbill	Olive-backed Oriole	Silvereye
Australian King Parrot	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird	Welcome Swallow
Red-rumped Parrot	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie	Common Myna
Azure Kingfisher	Spotted Pardalote	Pied Currawong	

Bird List for Vielun Farm Cobbitty Walk**15th May 2011**

1.00pm to 3.15pm

37 Species

Black Swan	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Yellow Thornbill	Restless Flycatcher
Australian Wood Duck	Purple Swamphen	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Magpie-lark
Pacific Black Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Bell Miner	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australasian Grebe	Eurasian Coot	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Silvereye
Little Pied Cormorant	Masked Lapwing	Grey Shrike-thrush	Welcome Swallow
Australian Pelican	Eastern Rosella	Grey Butcherbird	Fairy Martin
Eastern Great Egret	Azure Kingfisher	Australian Magpie	Common Myna
Cattle Egret	Laughing Kookaburra	Willie Wagtail	Double-barred Finch
White-faced Heron	Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Raven	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Straw-necked Ibis			

LAKE CARGELLIGO CAMPClub Visit to Lake CargelligoSylvia and Tony Loader.

After a good trip of about 568kms which took us about 8 hours Tony and I arrived at our cabin in Lake Cargelligo Caravan Park, full of enthusiasm and anticipation!

As usual, Betty had planned our bird watching activities for each day very thoroughly, which we all appreciated.



As it was Tony's 77th birthday on Sunday the 17th I asked Anne and Barbara if they would order a birthday cake for Tony from the local bakery as a surprise for him. The bakery produced a lovely slab cake, with 'Happy Birthday Tony', an ornamental bird and a candle which played the Happy Birthday tune. We heard that it was also Tera and Neils 46th Wedding Anniversary on the same

day, so we cut the cake into 36 pieces and celebrated both occasions!!

Tony was really taken by surprise, so thanks to all those who helped to keep it a secret and a special thanks to Anne and Barbara who ordered the cake and collected it for me!!

We had one rather wet day and a couple of other showers, though we were walking red mud throughout the caravan park due to the wet days before we arrived.

On Wednesday evening we all went out for dinner to one of the local hotels and although some had to wait a very long time for their meal, the meals were fine and we enjoyed a good social get together. Some of us went out on a couple of other evenings for dinner and also met in the local bakery for coffee and a tasty cake a few afternoons after bird spotting.

We were amazed that about 157 different bird species were recorded during the week and collated by Betty each evening at our 8pm gathering. One evening a green frog, about 4 or 5cms long sat on the table waiting for the meeting to begin and then decided to hop onto Charlie's arm, a BIG surprise for Charlie as he hadn't seen it on the table.

Tony and I really enjoyed the special friendly atmosphere of the camp, getting to know a new and interesting area and of course seeing unusual birds, but we definitely need a camera with a longer lens!!!

Many thanks to those behind the scenes, who help to run these popular camps twice a year.

SUNLIGHT, STEPS and SOUNDSSome SIDELIGHTS of the LAKE CARGELLIGO CampJohn Cashman

Some lucky early birds at camp inspected an experimental sunlight and heat gathering project, a few k out of town. The project had eight tall towers with what initially looked like water tanks on top. In fact these 'water tanks' were huge bricks of graphite joined into solid blocks and surrounded by insulation. Around the base of each tower were numerous mirrors concentrating and directing sunlight at the graphite blocks. These blocks can heat up to 700 degrees C and only lose 7% of heat a day.

The idea is that the heat can then be used to make steam to drive turbines to make electricity. The project is being tested and refined. It is a private operation, but eventually will be offered for sale around the world- a great harnessing of sunlight!

Steps! Later in the camp some camp members talked themselves into an inspection of a fish ladder by a weir on the Lachlan River. It is being built of natural stone at a cost of some \$2-3 million. The

ladder, long corridors of water filled steps, will enable fish to bypass the weir. At one stage there is a rest area for the fish and near the top there is a trap to catch carp, but still let native fish through. Back at camp, a local chap showed us a photo of the lake taken 13 months before. In it the lake's huge area of water was virtually dried up, and the lake bed was covered with millions of dead carp. This chap said the stench was horrendous! -not something to be savored!!

And Sounds! Several members at the camp had I-pads which held photos of our Australian birds. Not only were the birds pictured, but their calls could be played, sometimes with up to three or four call variations. As well, two birds could often be placed side by side on the screen to highlight their differences and similarities. Ahh! Wonderful modern technology! I have to confess that I am not the greatest bird observer in the club, but I can say that I heard a lot of birds!

LAKE CARGELLIGO AND OTHER PLACES**Ron Imisides**

Upon learning details of the IBOC Lake Cargelligo camp, Rita and I decided to build a small trip around the camp. Following previous satisfying bush camps, we decided to re-visit some of these good spots along the Murrumbidgee River. We set a target of a four week trip, finally blowing out to five weeks.

We set out at daylight, Sunday March 27th, and whilst travelling the Picton road, picked up our first trip bird, a Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo. Following a steady run south along the Hume Highway, we proceeded to Sandy Beach, on the Murrumbidgee River, via Gundagai, Kimovale, Nangus and Wantabadgery.

Sandy Beach is well maintained by the Junee Shire, with ample camping space, water on tap, two well separated "windy loos", and following recent rains, was a lush green. Here we recorded our only Stubble Quail for our trip. Quite a number in an adjacent field. Five beaut days here.

Our next stop was Oura Beach, a short 20 kilometre drive west, and located 20 odd kilometres east of Wagga Wagga . Camping by the river, in such a beautiful spot, with the peace and quiet of the night; the sound of the Murrumbidgee gently flowing by was just something. We had our first campfire here and heard three Southern Boobooks and a single Tawny Frogmouth. The gradual increase in mice numbers took our attention, and it was obvious that all the lush growth, due to the big wet, was in their favour.

It was a 220 kilometre run, plus a mighty tyre blow out on the caravan, to Birdcage Reserve, again on the Murrumbidgee, and located mid-way between Narrandera and Hay. We have had good birding here on previous trips, and hoped to get some good pics of the Superb Parrot. However it wasn't to be .There was rain for three of our five days, and we were reduced to Sudoku and knitting, and quick forays of birding between bursts of rain. Our trip list was growing very slowly, and it took fourteen days to pass the fifty mark. The recent deluges had scattered the birds all over the place. There was plenty of water about but water bird species, in particular, were fairly scarce. We did see a number of Superb Parrots but no photo opportunities. There is a beaut open forest here, but the recent flooding left the forest floor with layers of mud and rotting Carp, so no Painted Button-quail this trip. A prelude to the rest of the trip, was the flushing of numerous Brown Quail from the long grass.

After extricating our rig from the now muddy Birdcage Reserve, we pointed our trusty Jeep towards Lake Cargelligo, and the much awaited IBOC camp. We proceeded via Darlington Point, Griffith, and Rankins Springs. A night stopover at a rest area just west of Rankins Springs produced many more Brown Quail, with some good photo opportunities. A Barn Owl was heard that night, being our lone record for our trip.



Brown Quail

Upon arriving at Lake Cargelligo on Thursday April 14th at 11 am, were warmly greeted by the lovely Brigit, the park manager. We noted a large string of 'vans behind us, among them the Wylie's and the Wheway's. The park was quite full, and we eventually found out that a caravan club was having a few days stopover. By the next morning we had eleven "early birds", so popped down to the local sewage ponds and in fairly short order had 46 species, including Australian Shelducks, Australasian Shovelers, a lone Black-tailed Native-hen, Black-winged Stilts, Red-kneed Dotterels ,White-winged Fairy-wrens and White-fronted Chats.

Our numbers had swelled to about twenty by Saturday 16th with showers most of the day. A morning run north of town produced four Ground Cuckoo-shrikes. An afternoon visit to Deadman's Point, just out of town, yielded thirty one species, with our first Great Crested Grebe and Striped Honeyeater.



Red-kneed Dotterel

A forty kilometre drive to Lake Brewster weir on a bright sunny Sunday 17th yielded fifty species, including Nankeen Night Heron, Varied Sittella, Olive-backed Oriole, and Diamond Firetail. Some nice camping spots here and certainly worth a re-visit.

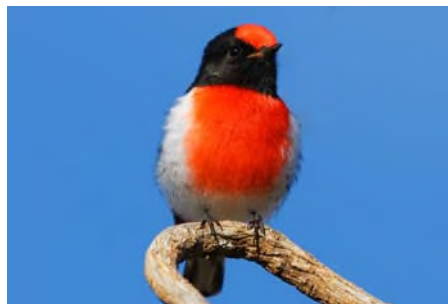
More interesting spots were visited during the rest of the camp; State forests, Euabalong, Murrin Bridge, and the fabulous Round Hill, where we experienced some of the wonderful mallee birds, many of them lifers for a number of members. Some of the best; Chestnut-rumped & Inland Thornbills, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Gilbert's Whistler, Southern Scrub-robin, and Tom Wylie's sighting of a Mallee Fowl!

The camp was a wonderful experience, with 38 members enjoying great birding and good companionship. The camp break up was as usual a bit saddening, but most good things have to end. We clocked up 158 species for the duration of the camp. By Saturday, only the Wylie's, Emery's and ourselves were left. Tom and Joan were staying on, while Wal and Hazel left with us and headed to Round Hill for a few days bush camping.

Perfect conditions greeted us at Round Hill, and remained during our stay. Windless sunny days, crisp starry nights, and cosy camp fires with serenading Boobooks and Owlet-nightjars. On top of that 65 species for our camp, including some great mallee birds; Mulga Parrot , "Yellow-rumped"(Spotted) Pardalote, Shy Heathwren, Southern Scrub-robin, Chestnut Quail-thrush, Gilbert's Whistler. We dipped on Mallee Fowl and Red-lored Whistler.



Shy Heathwren



Red-capped Robin



Gilbert's Whistler

A great compact little trip, with 149 species --- **We'll be back!!**

Okay so I dipped out on Gilbert's Whistler at Round Hill, you just have to be in the right place at the right time and I was in the other group further up the road. Our site turned out to be pretty quiet but lovely to walk around. As planned, we all met for lunch with much bragging going on and mud maps were drawn to show us unfortunates just what bird watching was all about "Road! Waterhole! Tree! Crested Bellbirds there! Gilbert's Whistler full frontal here!" etc. etc. With great expectations the afternoon shift took off only to be thwarted by the weather and we abandoned the drive as the red dirt quickly became blancmange like in the heavy rain and we still had a 3 km drive back to the tarmac. The drive back to the tar was fun though I am not sure how my three passengers viewed it as they all seemed to want to be in my seat. (Shades of Penny driving to the rescue at Baradine camp came to mind). However all was not lost as I had spied another lifer on the morning shift, it being the male Inland Thornbill and to be honest I think he is more

handsome than Gilbert so I was happy. The camp was in a great location with beautiful lake views and as usual we thoroughly enjoyed being there with scores of birds being seen, some of my favorites' were the male White-winged Fairy-wren, Red-capped Robin and Major Mitchell's Cockatoo and of course the Inland Thornbill. It doesn't really matter if you don't see any new birds; you can feed off the happiness and enthusiasm of your fellow Birdos as they come across a particular species for the first time, reliving the highs with them, it's very infectious. You could see Pam and Charlie were in seventh heaven photographing the White-winged wren and even Wal had a lifer on this trip. Added to the bird watching we were given an excellent tour of Lake Cargelligo's solar thermal power station which is soon to be completed and on line and we also visited a fish ladder under construction at one of the weirs and watched kites and herons fishing. Another terrific camp folks, see you at the next one.

Some Barbara moments



Lake Cargelligo Bird Camp

Betty Hudson

Report on Lake Cargelligo Camp 16th-23rd April 2011

What a great start to camp! The first birds I saw were a pair of Major Mitchell Cockatoos flying over.

Sunday morning saw us head out to Lake Brewster and Brewster Weir on the Lachlan River. The lake was full and water was rushing down the channel to Lake Ballyrogan and also some down stream towards Hillston. What a contrast to the last few years when no water came down river at all. A fantastic birding spot, 68 species being sighted. A first for me, the Great Crested Grebe seen here.

The afternoon was a very rewarding visit to the old sewerage ponds, with Red-kneed Dotterel sighted. Many visits were paid to this spot over the week to give us a total of 62 species.

Monday saw us head west to Murrin Bridge for a short stop at a small reserve, and then on to Euabalong, stopping on the way at the spot where Charlie had seen White-winged Fairy-wrens with the added bonus of four Ground Cuckoo-shrikes, Spotted and Swamp Harriers.

Morning tea at Euabalong Caravan Park, and then we explored the reserve across the road and by the river. Early birds reported Spotted Bowerbirds by an old tank stand so everyone hurried over to see them. After lunch we decided to head up to Whoey Tank which from the maps didn't look too far to go. How deceptive it was. We all thought we had got lost, when suddenly there was the track. Parking by the road as the track might be too soft for cars, we spent time exploring both the Whoey Tank Track and the opposite side of the road. The Splendid Fairy-wren was added to our sightings as well as both White-browed and Grey-crowned Babblers & both Singing and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters.

Tuesday we decided to head out to Curlew Lake where we had been told of a property with good birding but no directions. After a futile search we decided to keep going when a battered, dusty ute pulled up alongside and asked if we had a problem. On being informed we were bird watchers, he informed us that he was the owner of the property we were looking for. What a coincidence! A quick trip for Betty in the ute to see the way in and the tracks and we were on our way. A total of 39 species plus a camel and dingoes were seen. From here we headed to Lake Cargelligo Weir, with Ground Cuckoo-shrikes being seen on the way. After lunch by the channel with few birds around, we

had a walk in the reserve by the weir which provided good birding, and an opportunity to look at the fish ladder that was being built beside the weir. Returning, we walked along the channel to Sheet of Water where numbers of Black Swans & other water birds, especially cormorants were seen. On the return trip a Shingleback Lizard was found sunbaking by the road. 51 species sighted.

Wednesday our long awaited visit to Round Hill & Nombinnie Nature Reserves. This is Mallee country and we hoped to see some different birds here. Unfortunately the weather was changing and shortly after lunch we had to make a hasty exit to the bitumen when the rain really set in & turned the red clay to a very slippery surface. Crossing the East-West Railway the landscape changed from grazing to red soil mallee. We stopped here as the ranger had advised that Malleefowl had been seen in this area. No luck, but a Southern Scrub-robin was seen. A goods train whistling at the crossing ensured that every bird around took off. Splitting the group into 2 we headed to either Round Hill or to Nombinnie Old Wheat Paddock. Birds were hard to find at first in Nombinnie, but a good look at an Inland Thornbill was a reward for patience, as was a Southern Scrub-robin. After Lunch, Tom had the good fortune to see a Malleefowl. 14 species sighted. The Round Hill Track produced a Crested Bellbird, Gilbert's Whistler & Hooded Robin amongst others. 13 species sighted.

Thursday A very foggy morning persisting as we set out for Yelkin State forest on the Rankin Springs Road. Finding the track we stopped by the side of the road and walked into the forest. At first it seemed very quiet but as the fog lifted the birds came to life. While walking we had fun upsetting the Processionary Caterpillars crossing the road turning them back on themselves. Dew spangled Cobwebs also added to the magic of the day. 32 species were sighted. After morning tea we headed to another track in the forest. A beautiful walk, with the vivid green moss contrasting with the trees, but few birds. 12 species sighted. After returning to camp for lunch, we set off to find "Chat Alley" that we had heard about. A grid reference and the map soon located it and plenty of birds were seen especially the White-winged Fairy-wren, & Zebra Finch. A further visit the next day added the Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Brown & Rufous Songlarks and the Australasian Pipit, as well as the Spotted Harrier. A total of 10 species. We then went with Bruce and Josh to where they had flushed several quail from a grassy roadside area. We had many sightings of quail but they were too quick to identify except as 2 different types. Identification had to wait until Josh looked at his photos on the computer. He identified four different species.

That night we said farewell to those who were in the cabins.

Friday Those of us remaining we decided to make a return visit to Whoey Tank, despite the tremendous storm in the area the night before. Evidence of the flash flooding could be seen beside the bitumen. The hot sun was rapidly drying out the surfaces. Walking round the area across from the Whoey Tank Track we had excellent birding and a good sighting of a male Splendid Fairy-wren in Breeding plumage, as well as many females & eclipse phase males. As we were returning to the cars birds erupted from the vegetation at our feet, 'where to look'? The Southern Whiteface, 5 species of Thornbill, Diamond & Peaceful Doves amongst other.

A very successful camp with 38 members attending for all or part of the week and a total of 158 species recorded. Wal Emery managed to get a new bird –a Wood Sandpiper

I would like to thank everyone for making this camp so welcoming, friendly & such a success, and for accepting a change of program for a few days after I hurt my leg in an argument with a stick.

Lake Cargelligo Camp April 2011 Full Bird List 158 species sighted

by Betty Hudson

Emu	Black Kite	Sacred Kingfisher	Rufous Whistler
Malleefowl	Brown Goshawk	Brown Treecreeper	Grey-Shrike-thrush
Stubble Quail	Spotted Harrier	Spotted Bowerbird	Crested Bellbird
Brown Quail	Swamp Harrier	Superb Fairy -wren	Olive-backed Oriole
Black Swan	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Splendid Fairy-wren	White-breasted Woodswallow
Australian Shelduck	Little Eagle	White-winged Fairy-wren	Grey Butcherbird
Australian Wood Duck	Nankeen Kestrel	Variegated Fairy-wren	Pied Butcherbird
Australasian Shoveler	Brown Falcon	Shy Heathwren	Australian Magpie
Grey Teal	Australian Hobby	Speckled Warbler	Rufous Fantail
Chestnut Teal	Grey Falcon	Weebill	Grey Fantail
Pacific Black Duck	Black Falcon	Western Gerygone	Willie Wagtail
Hardhead	Purple Swamphen	Striated Thornbill	Australian Raven
Australasian Grebe	Black-tailed Native-hen	Yellow Thornbill	Little Raven
Hoary-headed Grebe	Dusky Moorhen	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Restless Flycatcher
Great Crested Grebe	Eurasian Coot	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Magpie-Lark
Rock Dove	Black-winged Stilt	Buff-rumped Thornbill	White-winged Chough

Common Bronzewing	Black-fronted Dotterel	Inland Thornbill	Apostlebird
Crested Pigeon	Red-kneed Dotterel	Southern Whiteface	Jacky Winter
Diamond Dove	Masked Lapwing	Spotted Pardalote	Red-capped Robin
Peaceful Dove	Wood Sandpiper	Striated Pardalote	Hooded Robin
Bar-shouldered Dove	Painted Button Quail	Singing Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Tawny Frogmouth	Little Button Quail	White-eared Honeyeater	Southern Scrub -robin
Australasian Darter	Whiskered Tern	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Australian Reed-Warbler
Little Pied Cormorant	Silver Gull	White-plumed Honeyeater	Little Grassbird
Great Cormorant	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	Noisy Miner	Rufous Songlark
Little Black Cormorant	Galah	Yellow-throated Miner	Brown Songlark
Pied Cormorant	Little Corella	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Silvereye
Australian Pelican	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-fronted Chat	Welcome Swallow
White-necked Heron	Cockatiel	Brown Headed Honeyeater	Fairy Martin
Eastern Great Egret	Superb Parrot	Blue-faced Honeyeater	Tree Martin
White-faced Heron	Crimson Rosella (yellow form)	Little Friarbird	Common Blackbird
Little Egret	Australian Ringneck (mallee form)	Striped Honeyeater	Common Starling
Nankeen Night Heron	Blue Bonnet	Grey-crowned Babbler	Mistletoebird
Australian White Ibis	Red-rumped Parrot	White-browed Babbler	Zebra Finch
Straw-necked Ibis	Mulga Parrot	Varied Sittella	Double-barred Finch
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Budgerigar	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	Diamond Firetail
Eastern Osprey	Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	House Sparrow
Black-shouldered Kite	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	Australasian Pipit
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Southern Boobook	Red-lored Whistler (Heard)	
Whistling Kite	Laughing Kookaburra	Gilbert's Whistler	

The list is also on the IBOC website with locations etc

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

BIRDING along the NEPEAN RIVER CYCLEWAY

Mike MORPHETT

Cartographic green is a colour that has long attracted me. Looking for somewhere not too far from home to do a spot of bird study during the recent school Easter holiday period, I turned to my *UBD 2011 Sydney Street Directory* and zoomed in on the patches of green on page 343. And as a result Carol and I headed off to Camden on 14th April to explore the Nepean River Cycleway, which in its length of just over three kilometres traverses five reserves bordering the west bank.

Leaving the car park at the bottom of Chellaston Street, we first walked across the footbridge over a quiet stretch of the river and followed some narrow fishermen tracks through the bush on the other side and came out on the perimeter of the River Reserve open space. Retracing our steps, we then headed north to Cowpasture Bridge, firstly through King's Bush Reserve, where what appeared to be a family of four Olive-backed Orioles was busy foraging mid-storey beside the track. The reserve contains a remnant mix of Cumberland plain woodland and Sydney coastal river flat forest. It is named after the Reverend C.J. King, grandson of Governor King and longest-serving minister of St John's Anglican Church (1892-1927), whose steeple can be clearly seen above the tree-line; he grazed horses close by. Further along we mounted two lookout platforms beside the elongated wetland pond to view waterbirds, which were obviously accustomed to and unperturbed by human activity. Immature Dusky Moorhens and Eastern Swampheens fed alongside adults and Pacific Black and Australian Wood Ducks.



Nepean River north from footbridge

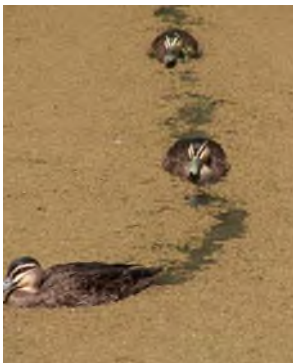


Dusky Moorhen

After lunch we strolled south past the lofty and lengthy Macarthur Bridge, where a colony of Bell Miners was evident to the ear but not the eye; but further on, where vegetation was lower in height, they were quite visible. Later that day we came across more colonies of this species at Cobbitty, Greendale, Silverdale and Wallacia. Camden Council obviously has an uphill battle trying to rid the cycleway area of balloon vine, African olive and privet, thwarted by the dispersal of seeds by birds and winds acting like an elusive combined resistance movement. Time ran out for us to survey Elizabeth Macarthur Reserve, near which an Eastern Rosella settled on a branch, displaying a striking scarlet breast and yellow belly in the lowering autumnal mid-afternoon sun. Not far from our starting-point I was much amused to observe over in the paddocks backing on to Lerida Avenue

residences a fully grown fox, with the bushiest tail I've ever seen, in hot pursuit of two plump chickens. It stopped short when confronted by three prancing, barking dogs on the other side of the fence, and decamped chookless.

With a tally of 30 bird species (excluding the surviving *Gallus gallus domesticus*) in 3½ hours of continual sunshine, I'd recommend the Nepean River Cycleway to other birdwatchers. It is of a generally level grade, well maintained by the local council, and is plenty wide enough for us slow movers not to get in the road of other folk participating in faster forms of exercise pursuits.



Pacific Black Ducks



Bell Miner in African Olive



Balloon Vine

Australian Wood Duck
Pacific Black Duck
Spotted Dove
White-faced Heron
Purple Swamphen
Dusky Moorhen
Masked Lapwing
Sulphur-crested
Cockatoo

Rainbow Lorikeet
Crimson Rosella
Eastern Rosella
Variegated Fairy-wren
White-browed Scrubwren
Yellow Thornbill
Spotted Pardalote
Lewin's Honeyeater

Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Bell Miner
Noisy Miner
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Olive-backed Oriole
Grey Butcherbird
Australian Magpie
Grey Fantail

Willie Wagtail
Australian Raven
Magpie-lark
Eastern Yellow Robin
Common Blackbird
Common Myna

AWSG News Alert:-

World Migratory Bird Day

1/ "Migrants Under Threat"

A Call for Help to Save the Enigmatic Spoon-billed Sandpiper

An International Action Plan for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper has been produced on behalf of BirdLife International and the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species. Along with actions related to habitat protection, site management, awareness raising and education particularly in the non-breeding grounds, the possibility of establishing a captive breeding program was explored. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) in conjunction with Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), British Trust for Ornithology, Birdlife International and Birds Russia have now embarked on an ambitious breeding program. This will entail extensive field operations in Chukotka in the Russian Far East, in the forthcoming summer of 2011.

While the RSPB and WWT are largely funding the breeding program a major appeal has been launched to help fund the ongoing program. The AWSG supports this program and invites anyone interested in saving this species to provide financial assistance. Birds Australia have agreed to handle funding in Australia with no charges to the project.

Visit our website to see how you can become involved and read more about World Migratory Bird Day.

<http://www.awsg.org.au/news.php>

2/ "Time is running out for Australia's migratory shorebirds"

While you are reading the article linked below another hectare of shorebird habitat will have disappeared in the Yellow Sea!

Habitat that is essential for migratory shorebirds stopping to feed on their way from Australia to their breeding grounds in Siberia and Alaska.

The AWSG urge you to voice your concern **now**, read more <http://www.awsg.org.au/news.php>

Phil Straw

Vice Chairman

Australasian Wader Studies Group

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Mob: 0411 249 075

“Conservation Wins and Challenges for Birdlife on Lord Howe Island”

A Talk by Ian Hutton, OAM
 Sunday 7 August, 2 - 4pm,
 Building 22, Newington Armory, Sydney Olympic Park.

Ian will present a very brief history of Lord Howe Island, involving introduced animals and the effect on the birdlife and then follow this with details of the Woodhen rescue (one of most successful captive bird breeding projects in the world); the extra benefits for all birdlife of eradicating cats and pigs from the island; challenges with rat eradication and the possibility of reintroduction of subspecies closely related to the extinct birds; other threats to seabirds - long line fishing and plastic ingestion - and then finish with best locations and times to visit seabird colonies.

Please register your name with Pixie on 9647 1033
 or to basna@birdsaustralia.com.au

Everybody welcome so please let your club members know.

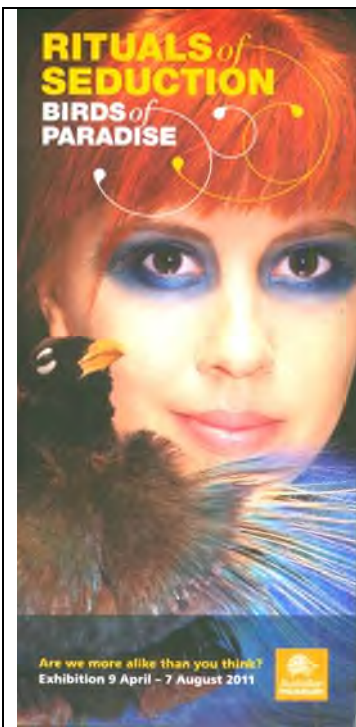


Linda Cohen at Lord Howe Island earlier this year

Pixie Maloney | Administration Assistant
basna@birdsaustralia.com.au



includes Letters to the Editor



See nature at its most exotic and extravagant!

With more glamour than a cabaret show, the male birds of paradise put on a spectacular display - fabulous feathers, hip hop dance moves and beatbox birdsong.

Their single-minded purpose? To seduce the female of the species.

Here, in the isolated vine-tangled rainforests of New Guinea and Northern Australia, sexual selection has worked its magic to create some of the strangest, most exotic birdlife on Earth.

Enter this exhibition and experience the brilliant lives of the birds of paradise and discover the people who have shared their lush forest habitats for thousands of years.

With ritual dancing, spectacular head dresses and painted faces, these ancient cultures celebrate a deep spiritual relationship with the birds of paradise.

Take the time to reflect on your own funky fashions, glam make-up and social rituals in this family-friendly exhibition and ask: are we more alike than you think?

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM
 Open 9.30am – 5.00pm
 6 College Street, Sydney 02 9420 6000
www.australianmuseum.net.au

Found this Blue-faced Honeyeater the last afternoon we were at Mylestom.



Judy Baker

SHOALHAVEN BIRDWATCHING OUTINGS 2011

Every third Sunday meeting at 8.30 am.

- JUNE 19 Moona Moona Creek, Huskisson: meet picnic area Moona Moona Creek.
- JULY 17 Granite Falls, Boyd’s Lookout: meet Bewong Roadhouse.
- AUGUST 21 Bellawongarah: meet Berry Apex Park.
- SEPTEMBER 18 Dean’s Gap Road: meet Turpentine/Braidwood Roads.
- OCTOBER 14 Weekend: Merimbula Van Park (suggest 3 nights)
- OCTOBER 16 Bass Point: meet Berry Apex Park.
- NOVEMBER 20 Colymea N.R. Mintbush Trail: meet roundab out Kalandar/Kinghorn Streets.
- DECEMBER 18 Noel Southwell’s, Yurrunga Drive 5 pm: BYO picnic/drink for after a short walk.

Contacts: Barry and Susan 44641389; Peter and Julie 0402076548; Stan and Su 44434828.

Members Sightings April/May 2011

compiled by Betty Hudson

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
White-headed Pigeon	25+	2-May-11	Keith Irvine Oval Jamberoo	Beneath Figtree	Betty Hudson
Cattle Egret	8	7-May-11	Primbee	Foreshore Jetty	Charles Dove
Striated Heron	1	10-May-11	Primbee	Lake Foreshore	Charles Dove
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	2	3-May-11	Bellambi Hind Dune	Dune Forest	Anne & Alan Cousins
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	13-May-11	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Brown Goshawk	2	8-May-11	Primbee	Overhead	Charles Dove
Grey Goshawk	3	4-May-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Nankeen Kestrel	1	13-May-11	Red Gum Estate Figtree	Light Pole	Colin Markham
Peregrine Falcon	2	29-April-11	Bulli Pass	Rainforest	Roger Truscott
Black-winged Stilt	6	7-May-11	Primbee	Lake Foreshore	Charles Dove
Sacred Kingfisher	1	3-April-11	Rail Corridor Austimer	Rail-side Vegetation	Bruce O'Brien
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	20+	5-May-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
White-plumed Honeyeater	10+	7-May-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Bell Miner	Numerous	14-April-11	Nepean River Cycleway Camden	Riverine	Mike Morphett
Noisy Friarbird	1	8-May-11	Towradgi Park	Garden	Jack Baker
White-napped Honeyeater	10+	5-May-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Olive-backed Oriole	4	14-April-11	Kings Bush Reserve Camden	Riverine	Mike Morphett
Spangled Drongo	1	12-April-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Black-faced Monarch	2Juv	11-April-11	Primbee	Casuarinas	Charles Dove
Rose Robin	1	18-May-11	Blackbutt Forest	Bushland	C & J Dove - T Edwel
Bassian Thrush	2	15-May-11	Excelsior Thirroul	Forested Area	Mike Morphett
Red-browed Finch	6	13-May-11	Red Gum Estate Figtree	Urban	Colin Markham

Please keep your sightings coming in, everything you consider unusual or interesting

More moments from Lake Cargelligo Ron Imisides



Yellow (crimson) Rosella



Australian Shelduck

White-winged Fairy-wren

Yellow-rumped (spotted) Pardalote

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