

Australian King-Parrot

Scientific name: *Alisterus scapularis*
 Family: Psittacidae
 Order: Psittaciformes

Featured Bird Groups

Parrots

Description

Male Australian King-Parrots are the only Australian parrots with a completely red head.



photo by Terry Edwell

Balgownie NSW

Females are similar to males except that they have a completely green head and breast. Both sexes have a red belly and a green back, with green wings and a long green tail. King parrots are normally encountered in pairs or family groups.

Similar species

The adult Crimson Rosella, *Platycercus elegans*, is similar to the male Australian King-Parrot, but differs by having blue cheeks, shoulders, and tail, a whitish, rather than red, bill and a dark eye. Immature Crimson Rosellas also differ from female and immature King-Parrots by having blue cheeks, a whitish bill and a more yellow-green rather than dark green colouring.

Distribution

King-Parrots are found along the east coast and ranges of Australia, ranging from Cooktown in Queensland through to Port Campbell in Victoria.

Habitat

King-Parrots are usually found in rainforests or wet sclerophyll forests

Seasonal movements

Largely sedentary.

Feeding

The King-Parrot mostly forages in trees for seeds and fruit.

Breeding

King-Parrots lay their eggs on a bed of decayed wood-dust at the bottom of a deep hollow in the trunk of a tree. Often the entrance is high in the tree (10 m) but the eggs are near the ground (0.5 m).

Living with us

Urban habitat requirements

The King-Parrot appears to be increasing in abundance in well-treed suburbs. In urban areas it feeds at artificial feeding stations and fruiting trees.

information courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

CONTENTS:

July Activities	Page	2
Reports	Pages	3 - 5
Articles of Interest	Pages	6 - 8
Feather Tales	Page	8 - 11
Monthly Bird Sightings	Page	12



'ONE GOOD TERN
 DESERVES ANOTHER'

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.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 56
 FAIRY MEADOW, N.S.W. 2519
www.iboc.org.au

Club Contacts:

PRESIDENT: Alan Cousins, T. 02 4283 3197
SECRETARY: Betty Hudson, T 02 4236 0307
 E-mail: secretary@iboc.org.au
TREASURER: Ken Brown,
EDITORS: Charles Dove, T.02 4275 2383
 M. 0417 422 302
 E-mail: newsletter@iboc.org.au
 Val Dolan, T.02 4229 6737
RECORDS OFFICER: Darryl Goldrick
 Email: sightings@iboc.org.au



2011 SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Club Meeting:**Monday 12th September 2011**

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

Bill Zealey: Will be doing a presentation on Travels in Britain and Europe*Please bring a plate of goodies and a cup for supper after the meeting.***Midweek Walk:****Wednesday 14th September 2011****Bellambi Lagoon.**

Leader Ted Simpson.

Meet in the Bott Drive Reserve, car park at the end of Bott drive. 9.00 am.

Travel down the Northern Distributor and turn into Rothery St. travel towards Bellambi beach, at the bend turn right into Bott Drive. Bring morning tea.

Contact Ted on 0425121221.

Monthly Outing:**Sunday 18th September 2011****Tallawarra Ash Ponds****Full day walk.**

Leader Brian Hales

Meet at the small car park about 300m down the road to Tallawarra from the old highway **8.30am sharp**. The gate will be locked behind us which will prevent late comers from catching up with us. This is a full day walk around the ash pond area and the new service track by Duck Creek. Followed by lunch and a walk at the picnic area by the boat ramp Bring a carry morning tea and lunch to be eaten in the vicinity of the cars.

Contact Brian on 4257 4431, (or Betty on 0432 892 945 on the morning of the walk).

Note: Travelling from the north you will need to take the Hayward's Bay exit from the freeway, turn right to cross the bridge and retrace your steps, taking the Dapto exit from the freeway, to the Old Highway and then turn right at the T-junction to reach the Tallawarra Access Road approx 0.5km on your left.

From the south take the Dapto exit from the freeway as above.

Committee Meeting -**Monday 19th September 2011**

Next committee meeting 7.30pm, To be held at of Anne & Alan Cousins, 4 ADELAIDE PLACE, TARRAWANNA NSW 2518 4283 3197. All welcome.

Newsletter -Deadline for Articles and Photos in the next IBOC newsletter is **24th September 2011**. Email contributions to Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au or post to 2/39 Purry Burry Avenue, Primbee 2502. Ph:0417 422 302**The Following Items are for sale by the club at the Library Table each monthly meeting.**

Club Logo Green Fleece Tops – Size Large only	\$37.00 each
Fabric Logo Badges	\$ 4.00 each
Logo Studs	\$ 3.00 each
Logo Pin	\$ 3.00 each
Large Car Stickers	\$ 2.00 each

Please see Anne Cousins or Joan Wylie at monthly meetings
or telephone Joan on 4284 2051 or Anne on 0413 869 534



CLUB REPORTS

Report for club meeting Monday 8th August 2011

GOOD NIGHT, PARROT!

As the Ground Parrot or more specifically, the Barren Ground parrot, is still on my wish list, I must confess that I had paid scant attention up to now to his more elusive cousin but this oversight was rectified at the August meeting. Walter Boles, Ornithology Collections Manager at the Australian Museum, brought us up to speed (from 1845 to the present day) with the comings and goings (mostly the latter) of the "Midnight Cockatoo" as it was first nicknamed, aka the Night Parrot aka *Pezoporus occidentalis* meaning "the western one which goes about on foot".

The Night Parrot is the avian equivalent to the Thylacine, said Walter. Reports of sightings have been few and far between (so much so that Walter was able to tell us about most of them) since the first specimen was obtained in 1845 during Sturt's expedition to the Cooper Creek. They are terrestrial, nocturnal and, as if that wasn't enough, highly secretive. Unrelated to the Kakapo of New Zealand but in the same group as the rosellas, they are distinguished from the Ground Parrot by having a shorter tail and claws and no orange above the beak. Since their habitat is that of the arid lands - samphire, chenopod and particularly liking to roost in thick spinifex - can we summon any wonder at all at the reluctance of a sane-minded person to wander around jumping into clumps of it (might I remind you, AT NIGHT!) in the hopes of flushing one?

A BRIEF HISTORY

Following that first 1845 sighting, a second specimen was acquired at Mount Farmer WA in 1854 and the species was named by John Gould. Then, the first live exhibit was captured in 1865 and taken to England where it unfortunately died. Reports continued through the 1870s when, the first of only two people to deliberately go out looking for the Night Parrot, F W Andrews made several trips to the Gawler Ranges and of 22(!) specimens collected, Andrews himself bagged 16! These (comparatively-speaking) plague-like proportions were directly related to a number of years of very high rainfall and a corresponding abundance of spinifex seed. Very sadly, Andrews was killed in 1884. Later, the Horne Expedition of 1894, stopping in at the Telegraph Station in Alice Springs,

by Alison Foley

reported some wall-mounted birds which turned out to be Night Parrots. On quizzing the manager, they were told "the cat kept draggin' 'em in". After this, records declined to the point that in 1917 it was declared extinct. However, no one had told the Night Parrot, which continued to put in an appearance throughout the twentieth century - reports that got filed and buried until 1979 when Shane Parker of the South Australian Museum realised that many records were coming from non-spinifex areas so he organised a camel trek to the Cooper Creek and four birds were



seen. Good times were here again.

Then in 1990, our intrepid presenter Walter, who was showing an American friend around the outback, almost stepped on one (a claim to fame which sadly would not be appreciated at most cocktail parties). Somewhere between Dajarra and Boulia in western Queensland, they had stopped their cars in a horrid, barren landscape and having leant in the window of his friend's vehicle for a quick chat, Walter looked down at his feet to find the mummified body of a Night Parrot, a precious bit of "beef jerky", hollowed out by ants but intact. How long had it been there? Unbeknownst to these chaps, Dick Smith had announced through Australian Geographic magazine a reward of \$50,000 for any information on the Night Parrot and the lads were able to claim the prize which was ploughed back into research.

During the nineties there were a "bunch" of sightings from this same area and also from the Pilbara, Newhaven, Cloncurry and to be more precise, near Well 33 on the Canning Stock Route (2nd spinifex on the left) but a landmark moment happened again in September 2006 in Diamantina National Park, Queensland when a Night Parrot was found which had flown into a barbed-wire fence and decapitated itself. This cadaver was in much better condition (that is, it was "a late parrot" sic Monty Python) and young. So, in summing up, Walter asked us rhetorically "what does the future hold?" Well, those involved in this quest must react quickly to reports and plan what they are going to do

if they see one – catch it, tag it or follow it? If we are lucky enough to find a dead one, after much ungainly dancing and disharmonic whoops of joy, we should bag it with a note of all the particulars of the find and send it to Walter who will dance and whoop in the privacy of his own office. Ending with an anecdote, Walter told us that **three** mounted tail feathers identified as belonging to a Night Parrot turned up at a University of NSW book sale recently and the writing on the back indicated that it came from one of the very same birds seen at Alice Springs Telegraph Station back in 1894! What a co-WING-cidence!!!!

Thanks to Walter for a very interesting presentation. Please come back again soon.

Mid-week Walk Report **Rocklow Creek Dunmore. 10th August 2011.** **Sylvia Garlick.**

This was a very easy walk close to home for me and my friend Claire Garrish from Western Australia. Although we were close to traffic it didn't interfere with our party of nineteen people. We started at 9.00am, the walk was along a tree lined path that was in shade, with plenty of birds about.

The Yellow Thornbill, which was a new bird for Claire was flitting about in the Casuarinas, also the European Goldfinch. Several Red Whiskered Bulbuls, a Grey Shrike Thrush and Lewin's Honeyeater were calling, so we were able to get a good look at them. Top Knot Pigeons flew high above us to the bush on the other side of the road.

We crossed a bridge where a Little Pied Cormorant dived below the water and overhead an Australian Pelican. The Shining Bronze Cuckoo was another good sighting its call clearly identifying it. The path wandered along to the picnic spot where we had morning tea and at the far end of the park close to houses we had sightings of Fig Birds Altogether we saw 48 birds. This would be a good walk for summer because of the shade. Thanks Ted we had a very enjoyable morning. Full list of birds seen below.

Rocklow Creek Bird List 48 species

list by Tom Wylie

Spotted Dove	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Topknot Pigeon	Galah	Little Wattlebird	Australian Raven
Little Pied Cormorant	Rainbow Lorikeet	Red Wattlebird	Magpie-lark
Little Black Cormorant	Crimson Rosella	New Holland Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Australian Pelican	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Eastern Whipbird	Silvereye
Eastern Great Egret	Laughing Kookaburra	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Welcome Swallow
White-faced Heron	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler E-race	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Little Egret	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush	Common Starling
Australian White Ibis	Brown Gerygone	Australasian Figbird	Common Myna
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird	Mistletoebird
Masked Lapwing	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie	House Sparrow
Silver Gull	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail	European Goldfinch

Monthly Outing Report:

August Walk – Saturday 13th August

Wal Emery

Travelling through the frost covered paddocks and the fog shrouded valleys between Burrawang and Moss Vale. Left one with the feeling that the August outing, at the Penrose State Forest was going to be a rather frosty affair. Surprisingly by the time we had reached Bundanoon all had cleared and thousands of golden daffodils bathed in sunlight coupled with the endless display of sparkling Wattle lining the roads left you in no doubt that Spring was awakening from its Winter slumber.

Twenty four not so early birds assembled for the later 9.30 start at the rendezvous adjacent to Penrose Station. A number of sightings were recorded, as the birds made the most of the morning sun, as did the birdwatchers. Superb Fairy-wren, Grey Butcherbird & Crimson Rosella kicked off the list, along with a few others. Eventually with all assembled, we drove along Webber's Road, to a clear felled area of the Pine Forest.

It was decided that because people breakfasted early in order to drive the 100 + kilometres it would be a good idea to have morning tea before we set out on the walk. This was duly taken in the company of Tree Martins, White-eared Honeyeaters & Grey Shrike-thrush.

With the walk underway an unusual call was heard; the suggestion that it may be a White-throated Nightjar called for further investigation, no sighting was made & nothing recorded; but Tom did have good fortune to find a quality wood dissecting implement whilst returning to the road. Pressing on we dropped down into a small gully then wound up on the other side. Not a lot of birds were being sighted & friendly conversation filled in gaps between sightings.

The ups & downs and the occasional stop to investigate a bird caused the 24 strong group to spread out like proverbial Brown's cows. Bringing up the rear a few People were fortunate to get a good sighting of a Collared Sparrowhawk circling above the shining, silver grey trunked Eucalypts that dominate the forest. Onwards we strolled, enjoying each others company, the delights of the forest and the occasional bird sighting, when it was suggested it was strange we had not caught up to the lead group. Thanks to the marvels of modern communications a phone call revealed that the group had split. So the rear troupe sleepishly retraced their steps to a bypassed side road. Not all was lost as they were rewarded with a female Scarlet Robin perched on a branch overhanging the retraced route.

The circuit skirted the Stingray Swamp, where a number of sightings were made including White-throated Treecreepers & Brown-headed Honeyeaters. The two groups joined up again at the cars to enjoy a much appreciated lunch, topped off with male Scarlet Robins which Tom had tied to a spot for all to see.



After lunch we drove out of the forest & back into a wetter section. A short walk was curtailed by a wider creek which was in fact a part of Paddy's River. The return walk to the cars yielded Varied Sittellas, the last addition to our list which totalled 39 species.

An interesting & enjoyable outing, thank you Betty, for taking us to this Forest and thanks to all those who came along, added to the day. A good roll up, perhaps the later start was the factor. It certainly did help a late riser like me.

Wal Emery



Stingray Swamp Flora Reserve Bird List

39 species

list by Tom Wylie

Wonga Pigeon	Satin Bowerbird	Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Collared Sparrowhawk	Superb Fairy-wren	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Gang-gang Cockatoo	White-browed Scrubwren	White-eared Honeyeater	Magpie-lark
Galah	Weebill	Red Wattlebird	White-winged Chough
Australian King-Parrot	Striated Thornbill	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Scarlet Robin
Crimson Rosella	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Eastern Whipbird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Varied Sittella	Welcome Swallow
Azure Kingfisher	Brown Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	Fairy Martin
Laughing Kookaburra	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Magpie	Mistletoebird
White-throated Treecreeper	Eastern Spinebill	Pied Currawong	

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

COASTAL WEEDS AND BIRDS PROJECT

Volunteers from Victoria, SA, WA, NSW and Tasmania are needed for a new coastal weeds and birds project.

Over time Australia's coastal habitats have been altered by weeds, including weeds we introduced ourselves to combat erosion. As a result, dune systems are often dominated by Marram grass, Wheat grass, Pyp grass, Sea Spurge, Sea rocket, Boneseed/Bitou Bush or other weed species.

University of Melbourne researcher Charlotte Catmur wants to find out more about the impact this is having on native wildlife.

- Are birds or insects using weeds for foraging, cover, roosting habitat, etc?
- Are weeds harbouring introduced predators or pests?
- Or are these stands of weeds devoid of life?

Charlotte needs your help to find out! If you live in Victoria, SA, WA, NSW or Tasmania it is as simple as contacting her to request an information package, which includes:

- Instructions on what you need to report
- A weed identification sheet
- An observation sheet to record your findings

And then all is left is to step out onto the beach this spring/summer to spot birds in the weeds.

For more information and to receive an information package please email: Charlotte Catmur at catmurc@unimelb.edu.au

COUNTDOWN TO NATIVE BIRD SLAUGHTER.

In coming months the annual slaughter of our native birds and marsupials begins.

Indian Mynas will then commence searching for breeding hollows.

Many will already be occupied by Australian native parrots, possums and sugar gliders.

Some will try to defend their homes not realising that against Indian Mynas they will have no chance. If a pair of Indian Mynas cannot eject or kill them they will put out a call and others will join the fight. Working together they will obtain possession of the hollow.

The previous occupants will either be dead or have fled. Possums that have fled will die within two weeks as they very rarely survive when displaced from their home.

Once settled, the Indian Mynas will then check out the immediate area of their hollow for other hollows. If occupied the above scenario will be repeated, the now vacant hollows will be filled with sticks, leaves, paper, plastic and anything else the birds can find.

This is an inbred instinct; they are creating false nests so their natural predator will have trouble finding their real nest and eggs. It also has the side effect of depriving even more of our native birds and possums of alternative homes and breeding sites.

The predators they are trying to trick are monkeys who are prevalent in India and steal the eggs from the nests. There are none here in Australia but the false nest instinct is an inbred part of their survival mode.

This is also what is behind the staggering amounts of rubbish they deposit in peoples roof cavities when they gain access to breed there. The bigger the nest area, the greater the chance of hiding the eggs.



Most of what they use is combustible and creates a potential fire hazard in the following summer months. This is apart from the bird mites that enter the house once the birds have left the nest. Many people are allergic to them and suffer greatly from the effects of these mite bites.

Press Release from the Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc re PWCS Terminal 4 Project

Members of the Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc (HBOC) are delighted that the Port Waratah Coal Services Terminal 4 coal export project on Kooragang Island will be subject to closer environmental scrutiny under the Australian Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act). Over a period of 10 years HBOC has been monitoring the species of birds and their numbers which use the wetlands designated for destruction by the T4 Project. HBOC has found that these wetlands form an integral part of the Hunter estuary wetland system and provide habitat for large numbers of waterfowl. They serve as a refuge for many species of birds during times of inland drought. Even more importantly, several threatened species are regularly

Ann Lindsey –Conservation Officer for the Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. 49 51 2008 or contact Liz Crawford and Chris Herbert on 0412722644

present, for example, the Australasian Bittern, numbers of which have plummeted so dramatically over recent years that, in February 2011, the Australian Government listed it as "Endangered". Ten species of migratory shorebirds, all listed under the EPBC Act as 'matters of national significance' have been known to roost and / or forage in these wetlands over the Australian spring and summer after breeding in Siberia and Alaska in the northern summer. Migratory shorebirds fly many thousands of kilometres a year and it has been established that they often return to the same wetlands year after year. The Hunter Estuary, despite considerable modification for industrial purposes, remains the most important destination for migratory shorebirds in NSW.

The eaglets have landed

Happy hatchings! The [Birds Australia Discovery Centre's](#) resident White-bellied Sea-Eagles are now proud parents of two little eaglets – all recorded live by [EagleCAM](#). The first egg hatched at 8.55 am on 14 August, with the second bird breaking free from its shell as we speak! As we wait together with fevered anticipation for such amazing moments, [EagleCAM](#) captures this special event for us. In the process, it has also chalked up nearly 280,000 watchers worldwide. If they knew, what would the sea-eagles make of such a staggering global audience? The first chick is already squawking hungrily and the parents have their work cut out as they fly back and forth from Parramatta River to the nest with a beakful of fish or an unlucky mouse. All going well, the nestlings are due to fledge in October, and all the while [EagleCAM](#) will be helping us to keep an 'eagle' eye on the family's every movement [EagleCAM](#) news.



Unfortunately, the live stream continues to have its ups and downs. Due to the old cabling, the video feed has dropped out completely on some nights and we apologise for this. It's not for want of trying though. The efforts of Geoff Hutchinson, one of our fantastic team of volunteers, to keep the system up-and-running have been outstanding. Selflessly, he travels to and from the Discovery Centre to re-boot the system during such disruptions, and also rises each day before sunrise to reset the camera from infrared to day-settings, then returns at sunset to reverse the process.

Thanks to his dedication we are all able to witness the magic of nature in action. His hope is that our fundraising efforts will bear sufficient fruit to be able to fix these problems so that we can bring you a much improved [EagleCAM](#) next year. Today is a very sad day for Sea-Eagle CAM and everyone following these eagles.

NB Friday 19th August, one of the eagle chicks died in the nest. It is believed that the eaglet that perished was S1, and the first chick that hatched on Sunday 14th.

PICNIC DAY 31st March 2012

ALL WELCOME

to a Combined Picnic BYO BBQ

with **Illawarra Bird Observers Club** and **Cumberland Bird Observers Club**

to be held on the

31st March 2012 at The Royal National Park – on the Hawkesbury

Full details closer to the date.

To get an idea of numbers for the day, Please contact Charles Dove
ph.: 0417 422 302 or E-mail: powerart@bigpond.net.au
also mention if you require or prefer transport.

we most likely will organise a Bus for the trip

October camp final details

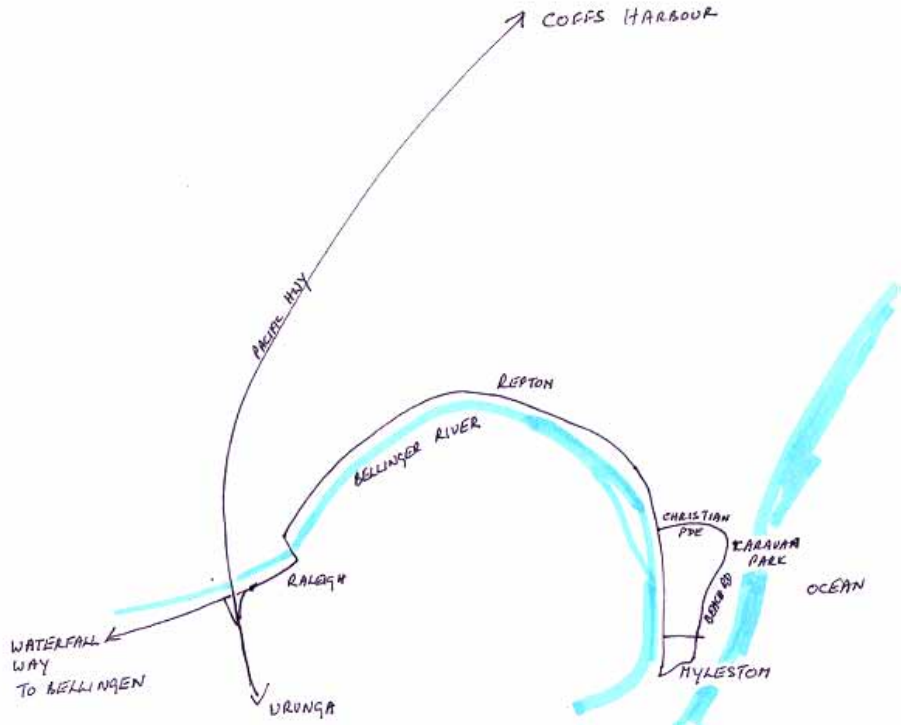
Mylestom is a small village (pop 382) situated between the northern bank of the estuary of the Bellinger River and the Ocean. It is approx 20km south of Coffs Harbour and 3 km east of Repton. The Caravan Park is located in Beach Parade and is on the beach front.

The Caravan Park has 7 en-suite cabins, powered and unpowered sites Full details were in the June Newsletter.

From Wollongong travel 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, Raleigh & Repton via Waterfall Way. Follow the sign posts to Raleigh & then Repton & Mylestom. See map below.

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. Other services are available in Urunga. There is also butcher in Repton



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



Just a few, the Red Wattlebird was swallowing water, the White winged Choughs and Common Bronzewing, didn't seem phased that we were there and note the number of bandings on the Superb Fairy Wren, (taken at Canberra Botanic Gardens)

Alan Cousins

'Tis the cuttlefish harvesting season

Mike Morphett



What the wandering albatross doesn't want...



the silver gull can make use of...



and what the gull doesn't want, homo sapiens can collect for caged birds to feed on...



then everyone's happy



fence-wending wren in wire at Sydney Olympic Park

Mike Morphett

Trip to Alice Springs area July 2011

In July I travelled to Alice Springs, Newhaven Station (An Australian Wildlife Conservancy Property) and then through the West MacDonnell Ranges, visiting some of the well known gorges. Returning to Alice Springs I spent a week visiting the local area, including the sewage ponds of course!

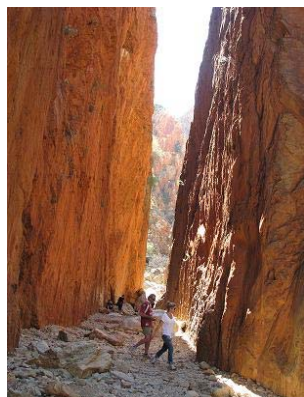
The contrast between the blue sky, orange red cliffs on the ranges and the buff of the grasses was amazing. Birding was exceptionally good following a good rain season and plenty of water. I ended up with many new species and much better sightings of others.

A full report will follow in later newsletters. Here are some photos to wet your appetites. Standley Chasm, Star Finches, Spinifex Pigeon and an Orange Chat.

Betty Hudson



Orange Chat



Standley Chasm



Star Finches



Spinifex Pigeon

IBOC HALF day Pelagic trip**FRIDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER****Time: 7.30AM TO 11.30AM****Cost: \$50 per person (reduces to \$40 if we have 20 people)****Meet at the Sandra K, Wollongong Boat Harbour (docked near the Fish Markets/Harbourfront Restaurant)**

If you've always wondered what a pelagic trip is all about, if you want to increase your life-list with a few new birds, or if you're just looking for a great day out birdwatching – then come along on this **special IBOC half day pelagic trip**. It's been designed especially for IBOC members as an introduction to pelagic seabirding – for non-boaters and non-seabirders!! So if you're interested, give it a go.

I went on my first pelagic in October last year, and I've been a regular volunteer ever since. I'm still seeing new birds! September is a good time of year for seabirds such as Albatrosses, Petrels, Jaegers, Prions, Skuas and Shearwaters.



photos by Dena Paris. The birds are Brown Skua and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross.

Did you know that SOSSA pelagics are the only pelagics worldwide to catch and band seabirds at sea? So you can see these wonderful seabirds up close. Great for photos!! Many people travel from overseas just to come on a SOSSA pelagic. Don't miss out on this opportunity on our doorstep.

Places are limited to a maximum of 20 people – so don't leave it too late to book yourself in.

Contact Linda Cohen on 0448 663 861 or lcohen@uow.edu.au or catch me at the next IBOC meeting.

For more information check out SOSSA's website:

SOSSA (Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association)

<http://www.sossa-international.org>

BLUE HERON

*I am a white faced Heron and my name is Mr. Jakes,
I spend my life down on the coast, and at the edge of lakes.
Of course I have a nickname, it's not Curley, Fred or Mike,
Folk say that I'm an old Blue Crane,
And that's a name I like.*

*I do not dart or flitter, with me that's not the case,
I am a bird of elegance, I walk around with grace.
Unlike those dreadful seagulls, I never visit tips,
I spend my days out eating fish,
And never beg for chips.*

*And when you see me fishing, you'll note I'm quite sedate
As I move along the shoreline, sometimes I'm with my mate.
I hate those ornithologists, they fill me with regret,
They've declared I'm not a heron,
They say I'm an egret*

*Egretta Novaehollandae, is the name they've hung on me,
But I tell you I'm a heron, and that's all I want to be.*

*And how the hell would they know, they're just a bunch of perves,
Who hock into your private life,
They just get on my nerves.*

*I don't want to be an egret,
there's one here who boasts he's great,
Others hang around the rear of cows, A most unsavoury fate.
Egrets are all pale or white, They are birds I'll never be,
If you want to know just who I am,
You really should ask me.*

*I am a White faced Heron,
My name is Mr. Jakes,
But you can call me 'Old Blue Crane!
'Cos you're one of my mates.*

Bigruss July 2011



My work colleague, Rittick Borah, from Assam with whom I share an office, came to work recently saying he had been for a stroll with his girlfriend, from Sandon Point along McCauley's Beach, and sighted a bird that he didn't know. When I said could he describe it he replied that they had taken a picture with their mobile phone!! I was even more surprised to find that the bird in question is usually pretty secretive and hard to get a picture at the best of times never mind with a 'quick phone pic'!! Certainly shows up the amazing camouflage in that patch of vegetation.

Brown Quail "well camouflaged"



Richard Miller

PHOTOS WANTED

We would like to select a range of photos of birds that live and visit the Illawarra to create a perpetual gallery on the internet

all photos credited to the photographer

LIKE TO SEE YOUR BIRD PHOTO ON THE WEB

Send it to
newsletter@iboc.org

or place on them on disc and give to Charlie at club meeting night

Members July/August Sightings 2011

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Brown Quail	1	13-Aug-11	McCauleys Beach Thirroul	Vegetated Dunes	Rittick Borah
Musk Duck	2	19-Aug-11	Shell Cove	Wetland	Darryl Goldrick
White-headed Pigeon	1	03-Aug-11	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
White-headed Pigeon	2	06-Aug-11	Thirroul	Garden O'head	Mike Morphett
White-headed Pigeon	3	19-Aug-11	Thirroul	Overhead	Richard Miller
Wonga Pigeon	1	15-Aug-11	Penrose Forest	Swamp forest	IBOC
Topknot Pigeon	2	04-Aug-11	Primbee	Fig Tree	Charles Dove
Topknot Pigeon	12	11-Aug-11	Primbee	Fig Tree	Charles Dove
Topknot Pigeon	2	10-Aug-11	Rocklow Creek	Riverine	IBOC
Cattle Egret	100+	19-Aug-11	Swamp Rd	Farmland	Darryl Goldrick
Pacific Baza	Dead	27-Jul-11	Calderwood	Road kill	Per comm Denis Wilson
Whistling Kite	1	19-Aug-11	Swamp Rd	O'head	Darryl Goldrick
Brown Goshawk	1	04-Aug-11	Thirroul	Garden O'head	Mike Morphett
Nankeen Kestrel	1	09-Jul-11	Bellambi	Dunes	Alan/Anne Cousins
Nankeen Kestrel	1	05-Aug-11	Wollongong	Science Centre	Alan/Anne Cousins
Sooty Oystercatcher	3	18-Aug-11	Waniora Point Woonona	Rock Platform	Richard Miller
Double-banded Plover	30+	09-Aug-11	Lake Illawarra Entrance Sth	Sandy Beach	Charles Dove
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	18-Aug-11	Bulli Beach	Beach Lagoon	Mike Morphett
Ruddy Turnstone	7	18-Aug-11	Collins Rock, Woonona	Rock Platform	Richard Miller
Kelp Gull	2 - 1imm	18-Aug-11	Sandon Point	Rock Platform	Richard Miller
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	6	19-Aug-11	Lake South	Casuarinas- lakeside	Darryl Goldrick
Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	15-Aug-11	Penrose Forest	Swamp forest	IBOC
Musk Lorikeet	1	01-Jul-11	Dapto	Avondale Rd	Tera Wheway
Australian King-Parrot	22	23-Aug-11	Thirroul	Garden	Mike Morphett
Pale-headed Rosella	1	13-Aug-11	Horsley	Parkland	Richard Fackender
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	01-Aug-11	Pelican View Res., Lake Sth	Bushland	Charles Dove
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	10-Aug-11	Rocklow Creek	Casuarina forest	IBOC
Azure Kingfisher	1	15-Aug-11	Penrose Forest	Swamp forest	IBOC
Rockwarbler	2	31-Jul-11	Tallowa Dam	Rock Shelf	Mike Morphett
Striated Thornbill	1	09-Jul-11	Bellambi	Dunes	Alan/Anne Cousins
Scarlet Honeyeater	several	15-Aug-11	Penrose Forest	Swamp forest	IBOC
Scarlet Honeyeater	1m	04-Aug-11	Balgownie	Backyard ?	Terry Edwel
Brown-headed Honeyeater	1	15-Aug-11	Penrose Forest	Swamp forest	IBOC
Varied Sittella	several	15-Aug-11	Penrose Forest	Swamp forest	IBOC
Crested Shrike-tit	3m	01-Jul-11	Slackey Flat, Bulli	Bushland	Joan Wiley
Crested Shrike-tit	1	01-Jul-11	Bulli	Backyard	Joan Wiley
Golden Whistler E-race	1M	01-Jul-11	Dapto	Avondale Rd	Tera Wheway
Australasian Figbird	20+	04-Aug-11	Primbee	Fig Tree	Charles Dove
Australasian Figbird	4	13-Aug-11	Cordeaux Heights	Garden	Richard Miller
Olive-backed Oriole	5	13-Aug-11	Cordeaux Heights	Garden	Richard Miller
Double-barred Finch	7	03-Aug-11	Primbee	Grassland	Charles Dove
Double-barred Finch	2	06-Aug-11	Primbee	Grassland	Charles Dove
Red-browed Finch	12	08-Aug-11	Thirroul	Street Nature- strip	Mike Morphett
Australasian Pipit	1	09-Aug-11	Lake Illawarra Entrance Sth	Walkway	Charles Dove

**Email your unusual or not so unusual bird sightings to sightings@iboc.org.au
Please try to have sightings in 3 days before the newsletter deadline**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY OWLS IN YOUR AREA CAN YOU PLEASE LET US KNOW
CHARLES DOVE Ph 0417 422 302
newsletter@iboc.org.au**

**Illawarra Bird Observers Club is now on facebook for your convenience ...
let members know the birds that are in your area today.**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Illawarra-Bird-Observers-Club-NSW-Australia/223624561002229>

NO NEED TO USE YOUR PERSONAL E-mail address WE CAN SET AN ANONYMOUS ONE FOR YOU TO USE ON IBOC FACEBOOK PAGE
for further information contact Charles newsletter@iboc.org.au

Copyright 2011 All rights reserved.

While all due care has been taken to ensure that the content of this newsletter is accurate and current, there may be errors or omissions in it and no legal responsibility is accepted for the information in this newsletter