

Birdlife Shoalhaven Newsletter

Spring 2017



Photo by Charles Dove



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Photographer - Charles Dove (see interview on page 9)



Cover Photo

This season's cover photo - of a Gang Gang Cockatoo - was taken by featured photographer Charles Dove - see his interview on page 8 - and photos of Charles (above).

Special Thanks

The aerial photos of the September Booderee National Park Fire on pages 21 and 22 are courtesy of Maree Clout of [Jervis Bay Through My Eyes](#), and [John McDermott](#).

Contributions

If you have any information about conservation issues, or if you would like to share some of your birding experiences, travel stories or anecdotes with fellow members, please send them with any related photos, drawings or maps to brett@brettdavis.com.au

In addition, if you have any bird photographs you would like to share, please send them in as well.

Contributions of articles, images, suggestions, criticisms, feedback and corrections are always welcome.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all the BirdLife Shoalhaven members and friends who contributed articles and photos for this newsletter. These include - Maree Clout, Dion Maple, Warren Wilson, Chris Grounds, Yolande Cozijn, Brett Davis, Charles Dove and Charles Dove's daughter.

In addition, images from the following websites may have been used in this newsletter - the Bitterns in Rice Facebook page, Sea-EagleCam.org, BirdLife Australia, the South Coast Register, and all of the websites mentioned in the Web Watch articles.

Apologies to those contributors whose text or images may not have been acknowledged. If you have not been acknowledged please let the editor know, and the error will be rectified in the next newsletter.

General Disclaimer

The information in articles submitted for publication in this newsletter is accepted in good faith and although the editor has endeavoured to verify the accuracy of all information, BirdLife Shoalhaven and BirdLife Australia accept no responsibility for any of the errors, inaccuracies or exaggerations that may be contained within articles in this newsletter.

Also, the views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor, individual contributors and branch members. They may not be the views of BirdLife Shoalhaven or BirdLife Australia.

Editorial Disclaimer

The views expressed in any Editorials in this newsletter are **almost certainly not** the views of BirdLife Shoalhaven or BirdLife Australia.

Errors

If you find any errors - typographical or factual - in this newsletter, please let the editor know. The beauty of an electronic newsletter is that it can be amended after publication.

President's Report

- by Rob Dunn

SPREADING THE WORD

A couple of weeks ago I looked at my growing pile of dusty BirdLife magazines and decided I had to make some use of them.

All waiting rooms at doctors, dentists and hairdressers have piles of magazines on offer. While these are great places to get up to date with the world of TV celebrities, the rich and famous and the latest of internal design and living, there is little space for those of us interested in nature conservation. You do find the odd National Geographic, which is invariably more than ten years old, but not much else.

So, on my next visit to the dentist at the Vincentia Medical Practice, I asked permission to add BirdLife to their magazine piles, which was enthusiastically given. I realized there is no need to go undercover to do this!

The practice also has a doctors' surgery, so I made the same request to the receptionist, who was also delighted to help out. She added that it was about time they elevated the quality of what was on offer. Two waiting rooms and two BirdLife magazines were in place!

I popped in the next week to check on progress and the doctor's receptionist said the magazine was going well and every morning she made sure that the BirdLife magazine was on top. I had recruited a supporter!

A week later I had to go to the dentist again, and I saw a woman reading the magazine in the doctor's waiting room, which allowed for some follow up research. The lady said she loved the pictures and she loved seeing a really interesting magazine on offer. Success!

Then I went to the dentist waiting room and had to go through their magazines twice before I realized that BirdLife had disappeared! You could argue this was theft, but undoubtedly the thief was now spreading the word for me. Even more success!

It is ironic that birds in the natural world seem to be going backwards, while they are increasingly appearing in print and merchandise and now even in our wallets.

In a Nowra bookshop's current favourites section I found Penguin Bloom - about a Magpie! - Robert Drewe's Whip Bird, and Bruce Pascoe's Dark Emu. And if you like "whodunits" and birds, I recommend the series of novels by Steve Burrows set in the birding Mecca of Norfolk UK, starring committed birder Inspector Domenic Dejeune.

Our supermarkets also help promote our birds, whether it be in their name like Rosella Tomato Sauce, or logo, like Arnotts. It shows that the marketing gurus appreciate the public's connection to our birds. And now even the

Australian Mint has joined the club with the new \$5 & \$10 notes bearing a honeyeater and cockatoo!

We all do a lot to help our birds, but why not give bird-titled novels as Christmas presents, eat Tim Tam biscuits without guilt and get cash from your bank in \$5 and \$10 dollar notes.

And join me in adding BirdLife to the magazine piles in waiting rooms across the Shoalhaven!



CHANGES TO THE BIRDLIFE COMMITTEE

This year we have unfortunately seen our Committee reduce from nine to seven members with the resignations of Barry Virtue - who has moved out of the area - and just recently Matt Jones, for health reasons. They are both to be thanked for the great work they have done for BirdLife Shoalhaven over several years.

With an increasing membership and our commitment to build on our work to date, we are keen to bring our Committee back to full strength. At the next Committee meeting we will discuss our focus for 2018 and the skills we would ideally like to get onto the Committee. In the meantime, if you would like to join us and have any ideas of what you would like to do, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. This will really inform our thinking ahead of the next Committee meeting and the AGM in February.

Judy Harrington and EagleCAM

- by Kim Touzel

We would like to invite you to come along to our next talk night in the ongoing series organized by BirdLife Shoalhaven, "EagleCAM - keeping an eye on our nest". The talk will be presented by Judy Harrington and will be held at **7:30 pm on Monday 13th November 2017 at the St Georges Basin Community Health Centre, 21 Meriton Street, St Georges Basin.**

Established in 2009, EagleCAM is a live remote internet feed operating out of the BirdLife Discovery Centre in the Newington Armory at Sydney Olympic Park, close to the Parramatta River. Click [here](#) for EagleCAM.

EagleCAM was started and funded by a small group of BirdLife Australia volunteers, who continue to develop and operate the technology that brings the Sea-Eagles to your screen. The website has now had over 4.5 million "hits". Click [here](#) for the Facebook page.

Our special guest presenter Judy Harrington, a committee member of BirdLife Southern NSW has been watching the Sea-Eagles for many years, both as a volunteer and in her work as a ranger for the Sydney Olympic Park Authority.

The White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* is a fairly common sight along the coasts and inland rivers of Australia, as well as further afield. However, little is in fact known about their complete breeding cycle from nest building to fledging.

The current pair of Parramatta River Sea-Eagles is often seen during the day on their prominent mangrove perch, loafing or feeding on a gull, mullet or other fish from the wetlands. They may also be seen soaring overhead on up-swept wings.

Their nest is hidden high in a Scribbly Gum in the Newington Nature Reserve. Each year their nest has been monitored and valuable observations made.

Several years of watching the Parramatta River White-bellied Sea-Eagles at their nest has given us many insights into their breeding behaviour. Life in the city is difficult for birds and there are many hazards facing these beautiful raptors. Watching their intimate behaviour has increased our knowledge, as well as directly involving many enthusiasts from all over the world.

As well as the EagleCAM story, Judy will talk about the Sea-Eagles ecology and its current status as an iconic bird in the Shoalhaven.

If you are planning to come along please email shoalhaven@birdlife.org.au by Wednesday November 8th so we have approximate numbers for catering purposes. We hope you can join us.

The talk is free for BirdLife Shoalhaven members, though a gold coin donation would be appreciated from non-members to cover costs.

Feel free to pass this invitation on to your friends. You will all be welcome!



Conservation Officer Report

EARLY WARM 2017

- by Chris Grounds

THREATENED SPECIES - TWO PERSPECTIVES

One of the key concepts in bird and bird habitat conservation is "Threatened Species".

Indeed, it is a concept that pervades many other related areas such as planning and management.

It also connected intrinsically to the debate that arises in developments, as it is required to do, but in this context it mixes with politics, growth and employment arguments, opinion, bias, ignorance, harassment and, at times, just plain mischief. Not a healthy mix!

It can be one of the most misrepresented environmental concepts and often that misrepresentation is clearly intended and willful.

If you need an example look no further than the reasoning of the Member for Gilmore in the latest tilt at "Threatened Species" status: "By way of active advocacy, I have written to the Federal Environment Minister to review the status of the species (unnamed) that is "not so rare" and yet listed as "vulnerable" in the species list of the EPBC Act."

It is indeed a strange state of affairs when politicians are seeking the removal of bona fide threatened species from the catalogue of these species.

Apply this to the Hooded Plover, which has the very same EPBC Act status but is "critically endangered" under the provisions of the NSW legislation and is supported by the NSW government's "Save our Species" program. "Not so rare" eh? Not at the highest risk of extinction in NSW?

In a nutshell and first and foremost, "threatened species" is about the threat of **EXTINCTION**, which itself is simply about the loss of a species from earth, from the biome; **FOREVER**.

Science recognizes that this threat exists at different degrees and scales but across this spectrum it is always about extinction.

The laws of NSW, other states and territories, together with Commonwealth or Federal laws are set out in various legislation that provides these "laws of the land" for threatened species.

It is often both frustrating and amusing that upstanding citizens can be so quick to denigrate such science and law to their own ends though quick to claim they are "law abiding citizens". It is a very selective judgement.

Environmental history suggests the laws for the environment have long suffered this fate.

If there are people who would debate threatened species status hold them to task on supporting extinction for that is what they are doing and ask them when and where they would like this to stop.



SECRETS AT SUNRISE

BirdLife Shoalhaven recently hosted its third conservation film of the last year when "Secrets at Sunrise" was screened at the Huskisson Cinema and it was a special experience.

It was a real bonus that the Western Australian film producer and director Jennene Riggs was at the Huski Cinema screening and provided some really interesting insights in a Q&A session. Jennene is to be congratulated on the depiction of a complex story in such a meaningful and comprehensible manner.

The excellent film documentary told the story of the critically endangered Western Ground Parrot (*P. flaviventris*), a "cousin" of our local, threatened Eastern Ground Parrot (*P. wallicus*) - see image below - and the enigmatic, critically endangered Night Parrot (*P. occidentalis*), the only three Australian birds of the *Pezoporus* genus.

As a good film-documentary might and should, it raised some interesting questions. One of those concerned the failure of captive breeding at the W.A. zoo despite feeding, mating and egg production though eggs were sterile. Another was the critical loss of habitat from wildfire.

Of course, the feral cat was also front and centre in threats to these birds. It was very interesting to see the management approaches to the feral cat.

BLS of course appreciates the support of Peter and Jan Cotter of Huski Cinema, which has been instrumental in the screening of these films to a Shoalhaven audience.

The film will soon be available on DVD and digital download. Information on the DVD can be tracked through : www.western-ground-parrot.org.au

THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

Bob Brown recently won a landmark conservation case in the High Court, which ruled that the Tasmanian government legislation that allowed for arrest and prosecution of protestors was unconstitutional.

The court found the laws were at odds with the implied right, in the Australian constitution, to the freedom of political communication.

The Victorian, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australian and federal governments joined Tasmania in fighting the challenge to the laws.

That so many politicians from both sides could be so wrong about our constitutional rights on environmental protest is amazing - or is it?

This has brought similar NSW legislation into focus.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-18/bob-brown-wins-high-court-challenge-to-protest-laws/9060834>



PRECINCT PLANNING BY SHOALHAVEN COUNCIL

BirdLife Shoalhaven and our partner the Heritage Estate Network, have both responded with major submissions to Council regarding the exhibition of the "Worrorring Heights Precinct (WHP) Planning Proposal" - see the WHP area in green below.



The collage of privately owned, rural zoned blocks is opposite the Woolworths and Bayswood developments but critically, is situated between a section of the JBNP and the properties such as Heritage Estate, which are progressing to inclusion in JBNP.

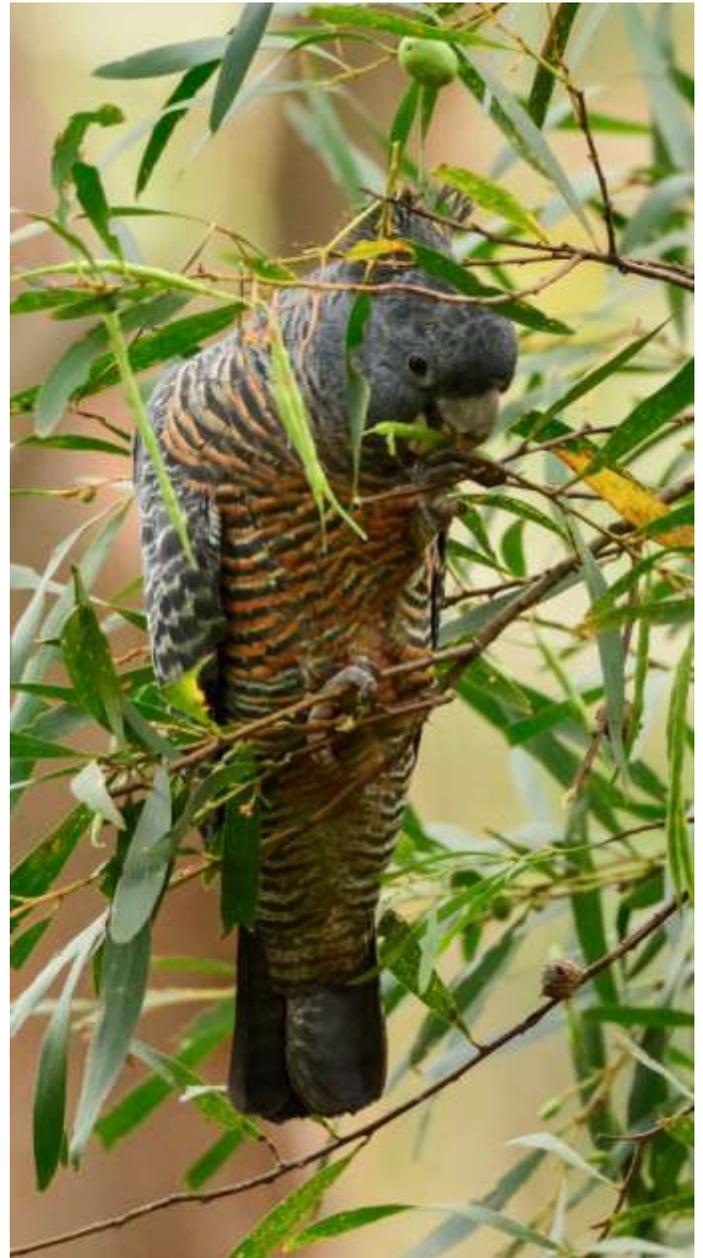
There is a great deal of remnant vegetation surviving on these properties and a range of threatened species birds are known in the area and listed in the Plan.

The area is marked on the adjoining map and it should be noted that it is part of the Jervis Bay KBA.

HABITAT CORRIDOR CONSIDERATIONS PARAMOUNT

The Precinct Plan does note that several threatened and endangered flora and fauna have been recorded on and within a 10km radius of the precinct.

These species include the Eastern Bristlebird, the Glossy Black Cockatoo, Gang Cockatoo (sic), the Square-tailed Kite, the Powerful Owl, the Yellow-bellied Glider, the Eastern False Pipistrelle, the Grey-headed Flying fox and other bat species.



There were a number of serious misgivings regarding the planning proposal, which was developed for Council by Woolgoolga consultant firm "Locale Consulting".

Key points in submissions related to preserving or even enhancing habitat corridor, recognizing the National Parks lands in the immediate vicinity and the movement of adjacent properties to the national park.

The consultant firm seemed unaware of the four properties which have been conserved immediately opposite on the southern side of The Wool Road.

There also seemed to be very poor recognition that the Woolworths-Bayswood development has had a major and serious impact on the habitat corridor in the area.

The BLS submission, as with all our submissions, can be accessed on our website.

SHOALHAVEN HEADS CONFERENCE

A recent mini-conference conducted by the Local Land Services group provided an excellent opportunity for BLS to present a case for Bird and Biodiversity at Shoalhaven Heads.

As we know in BLS, the Shoalhaven Heads area is somewhat of a Mecca for birds and a fascinating area to follow the migratory birds and shorebirds. It is simply a very special geographical place with critical ecology.

The BLS presentation followed hot on the heels of our case for the area to be recognized as a KBA.

Interestingly, a mention of this on the BirdLife Australia blog brought a strong voice of support for our case from the Conservation Officer of Birdlife Southern Highlands, whose support is very welcome.

The folk from the Southern Highlands are regular visitors to Shoalhaven Heads of course and like all of us, value it highly for both the regular and seasonal experience of the birdlife in an amazing setting.

Editor's Note: The conference also included a thought-provoking talk about the "Firesticks" project which uses aboriginal cultural burning (or prevention of burning) for the health and protection of plants, animals and country. If those practices had been implemented in Booderee NP, they may have prevented the recent fire disaster ...



Charles Dove - Photographer

- an interview with BLS

Charles Dove is a member of the Illawarra Bird Observers Club (IBOC), the Milton Ulladulla Birders, and also a member of BirdLife Shoalhaven. He is one of the editors of the BirdLife Shoalhaven Facebook page, and regularly posts groups of images showing the birds that are out and about in the Shoalhaven at the moment. Those images - mostly of birds but with some animals included - are one of the main reasons for the success of the Facebook page. They receive a lot of praise from BirdLife Shoalhaven members as well as members of the public who follow the page.

Charles lives in Mollymook with his wife Janina, and his passion is bird photography. His images have been used in many publications, and his images were used exclusively in the Shoalhaven Bird Walks brochure recently produced by Shoalhaven Council in association with BirdLife Shoalhaven. View or download it at - www.birdlifeshoalhaven.org/pdfs/shoalhavenbirdwalks.pdf

BLS: What motivated you to become a photographer and why the focus on birds?

CD: When I was 7 years old my mother bought me a plastic camera for Xmas that did actually work, and I went out and started taking pictures of different things including birds, but after a few months my parents said that they could no longer afford to get the film processed, so my photography came to an abrupt end.

Much later 27 years ago - Janina and I both got sick at the same time. I was working night shift on a big Goss Web Press, printing newspapers, and I fell off it - two storeys down - and that wasn't good! At the same time Janine was diagnosed with cancer. We ended up in hospital together!



Unfortunately, I still suffer from that fall, and although I walk around taking photos, and sometimes I walk a fair

way, it does take its toll on me. Walking on concrete is a killer, and I have chronic pain in my back, legs, shoulders and neck - but birding makes me forget about all that. It certainly makes a big difference in my life to get out and do something that I enjoy. Taking pictures of birds has become an obsession for me - but a very enjoyable obsession!

Anyway, Janina and I both became invalid pensioners, and for a few years we were hanging around not doing much. Then my daughter bought me a little camera - a Sony 4 megapixel camera that was actually quite expensive - it cost about \$900! And I sort of went out and started taking photographs - of birds and different things, and one day I saw a Scarlet Honeyeater come into the bottlebrush outside and I thought "that bird doesn't belong here, it comes from the Tropics" - but I discovered that it really was a local bird - white, black and red, absolutely magnificent!



In the beginning I asked a few friends about different birds - what is the name of this one, what is the name of that one - until I was given a present of a bird field guide. Then one day my daughter said to us "Why don't you two join a walking club or something similar", so we looked on the Internet and found a bird club in the Illawarra and

I read all about what they were doing, the trips they went on and the walks they do, and I thought "this looks great" so we joined up. I have never looked back!

In the meantime I bought a digital SLR camera because the little camera wasn't good enough anymore. It had a 200mm lens, which wasn't bad. But I tell you what, once we joined that bird club and met all the different people involved, it was amazing. We went for so many walks and bird trips and saw so many things, it was really good.

So the fact that my daughter bought me that little digital camera was the main factor that got me back into photography again.

BLS: You probably know about "nominal determinism" where your name determines your fate - so did being a "Dove" influence you to become a bird photographer?

CD: No, it was all just coincidental. Maybe when I was 7 years old it was a bit of an influence, but that was all forgotten once I left school and started working. Work was full-on, so I didn't think about much else. I come from a big family, and my older brother got some flack about the name - he was nicknamed "Pigeon". He copped it, so I missed out.

BLS: What equipment do you use and why?

CD: My first DSLR was the Canon with the 200mm lens, but I soon realized that it just wasn't quite enough and I couldn't get close enough to the birds. So I bought a Canon 5D with a 100mm to 400mm zoom lens that I had researched on the Internet. I thought it was the optimal lens to use - and it was - I still use it now!

I have upgraded to a Canon 5D Mark III after my original 5D sort of faded out - I had too many falls in the bush and crashed it a few times. I still have it, but the preview screen has problems, but in an emergency I might get it out and use it.

I chose Canon over Nikon because in those days my research showed that the Canon glass was better and the processors were faster. These days there is not much difference, but once you choose one or the other, you are virtually tied into them for life. Sometimes Nikon will come out with a camera that is better than the other, but a year later Canon will bring out an even better camera - it changes all the time!

Speed is important, because unfortunately birds blink! I always take shots "rapid fire" because if you don't take multiple captures, and that bird blinks, then you have lost the shot.

BLS: That means you have to do a lot of culling and processing of images once you get back home ...

CD: I don't mind, because I don't do much else!

BLS: And you don't use a tripod?

CD: No, I find them too restrictive. I suppose I should use one sometimes, but carrying them around is an extra burden that I can do without.

BLS: What is more important for a bird photographer - the right equipment or a good knowledge of the birds?

CD: Initially, you have to have the right equipment - do the research! Understanding the birdlife only happens by getting out there and gaining more knowledge every day while you are taking your photographs.

BLS: In early September you posted a video on the BLS Facebook page about your birdwatching and your bird photography. The video was created by the Rivers clothing stores as part of a promotion - how did that come about?

CD: They actually contacted me! They did a search on the Internet looking for someone to do it, and my name came up on top. The video was taken on a walk that I do every year in March, a combined walk with the Cumberland Bird Club and IBOC (the Illawarra Bird Observers Club). Rivers said that they wouldn't be promoting themselves on the video - they would just be promoting the birds - so I figured that was good and I had nothing to lose.

I showed up and they showed up with all their gear - they did a fashion shoot at the same time - they gave me a hat and a shirt and a pair of shoes (which I still have) and they followed me around, asking me questions. It was all done on a digital SLR and they made the video off that.

[At this point in the interview Charles receives a phone call. An adult Kelp Gull has been sighted at the harbour at Ulladulla. Charles says that he saw a couple of juveniles fly over a week ago, but he doesn't have a good photo of an adult. I ask if he wants to go down to the harbour and get the photo now, and he says yes. We continue the interview in the car ...]



CD: I love getting out taking pictures of birds, otherwise I just sit around doing nothing. Even at home I will photograph birds - I usually get the bowerbirds and the whipbirds coming into the yard. I have been lucky since I moved down here (to Ulladulla from Wollongong) - especially with whipbirds - gee whiz! I chased them for years too!

BLS: So do you have a new bogey bird?

CD: Oh, a few actually! The main one is the Lyrebird - a male displaying in full plumage and doing his dance - I just can't get that! I've tried a few times, and he just seems to take off on me all the time, or puts his feathers down and just walks along. The Black Bittern is another one - he's out at Narrawallee or Fisherman's Paradise every year, but every time I go there I can't find him! And I would really like a good picture of the Ground Parrot ...

BLS: I was going to ask you about the Ground Parrot, because although you took all the photos in the Shoalhaven Bird Walks brochure that was recently produced by Shoalhaven Council in association with BLS, there was no Ground Parrot photo included - www.birdlifeshoalhaven.org/pdfs/shoalhavenbirdwalks.pdf

CD: Yeah, I have a photo of a Ground Parrot in flight, and it is a lot harder to get a photo of a flying bird rather than one that is just sitting there, but it wasn't good enough for the brochure.



[We park at Ulladulla Harbour and start walking down to the beach where we spot the Kelp Gull. Charles starts taking photos as soon as we see the bird, and more as we get closer ...]

BLS: So what settings do you have your camera on most of the time?

CD: Mostly auto - I have the ISO on auto, and I use autofocus. Most of the time I let the camera do all the work, but occasionally I will change the settings when I

need to. I figure that the camera is a lot smarter than I am, and it can see better than I can! (See the settings Charles uses on page 31).

[Charles has now taken 30 photos of the Kelp Gull ...]



BLS: So how do you get close enough to the birds to get good photographs?

CD: I walk ... slowly! You have to stay focused on the bird, watching it all the time as you approach, so you know when it is going to move and you can back off - birds tend to lift a wing or both wings if they are preparing to take off. Don't turn away for even a second. Don't speak, and make sure you stop every three or four steps to take some pictures. Don't make any quick movements and if the bird looks unsettled, stop moving until it looks more relaxed.

BLS: With the other photographers I have interviewed, Brian O'Leary gets close to birds by enticing them in with water sprinklers and bird baths, and Warren Wilson mostly works from a hide, but you prefer to walk around and stalk them?

CD: I do, just like this. See the gull there, if he lifts his wing up and you take one more step, he is going to take off, but he is just walking along unconcerned at the moment so we don't have anything to worry about. The harbour here is good - we have had a few new birds down here in the past couple of years ...

BLS: How many birds do you have on your life list?

CD: Only four hundred and something. I don't travel very much, so all of the birds that I have seen have basically been on the NSW coastline, north as far as Toowoomba in SE Queensland, and south down to the Victorian border?

BLS: So you have never been to Tasmania, or Western Australia, or the deserts or the tropics?

CD: No. I wish I could, but it all costs money, and I have been on the invalid pension for 27 years now - both of us - my wife and I - so the funds don't go very far. That's why I do the calendars every year - it gives me a bit of pocket money for petrol. (Calendar details are shown at the bottom of the next column).

BLS: So your favourite birding locations would probably be fairly local?

CD: I haven't really got favourite locations, because you can walk around and see birds everywhere you go - a local park, a rainforest, on the beaches, at the inlets, here in the harbour - everywhere you go you can find birds and many times you will find surprises. And I have found some pretty unusual birds just by wandering around and looking at dams and creeks and even in the backyard - they are all out there just waiting for you. For example, we were driving from Lake Cargelligo to Bega, and an Australian Pratincole showed up right in the middle of the road ...

[We return to the car and head back to Mollymook ...]

BLS: Is there one special bird that you love to photograph?

CD: It would probably be the Spotted Pardalote (currently the banner bird on Charles' Facebook page). They are such a tiny bird, and when you look into their eyes you can see how frail they are. This is one thing I have found with birds - you can see their emotions in their eyes. How frail, how frightened, or how determined they are - yeah, it's really amazing!



BLS: You produce DVDs of your photos and give them away for free?

CD: Yes, it helps people learn about the birds, especially people who really don't know much about them. Some people say things like "we saw a Red-headed Honeyeater yesterday" and I say "So you saw a Scarlet Honeyeater yesterday" and they say "No, it was red-headed ..." so I will give them a DVD and the next time you speak to

them they say "You know, I did see a Scarlet Honeyeater - I saw it on your DVD". Some people watch them over and over again."

I probably would have given away about a thousand of those DVDs. They don't cost much as far as materials go - a couple of bucks - and it's getting the word out, spreading the word about birds.

BLS: That \$2,000 would have paid for a trip to the Cape ...

CD: Yeah, I suppose so, but that is all at once. This is accumulated over a period of time. One week I will buy a pack of DVDs for about \$22 - I got them for \$19 last week - and then a couple of weeks later I buy some covers and then I just make some bird DVDs. And I give them away.

BLS: So you take your photos, bring them home, put them on your computer, and then what do you do with them? Do you do a lot of post-processing and what software do you use?



CD: I file the photos under the month, and then I file them individually under their particular species, like a bird book. I don't do a lot of post-processing, apart from cropping. I might lighten them or darken them up sometimes, if they need it. I used to be a graphic artist, and printer, right from the time I left school. That's where I got my computer skills. I started with computers when they first began. As a graphic designer, I had the Adobe suite of tools, so I use Photoshop for all my image editing.

[We arrive back at Mollymook. Charles shows me the calendars that he produces for sale each year - see www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1916993475287078&id=100009293311236 - 2018 all Birds or Wildlife Calendars, A4-\$15 and A3-\$20 - plus postage if necessary. Charles also shows me a bird book that he has published via Blurb (www.blurb.com)]

CD: I can't afford to publish and distribute the books myself, but I publish them online at Blurb, and anybody who wants one can order one online. Blurb describes the book as a "magazine" because it has a soft cover. It is

printed on the same paper as the hard cover books, but with a soft cover - for less money!

[The book has 116 pages, and more than 240 bird images including 49 full page images, and costs only AU\$40 (plus postage). The book can be previewed and ordered at au.blurb.com/b/7573687-for-the-love-of-birds]

BLS: What is the one thing you wish you knew when you started taking photos of birds?

CD: That's easy - why didn't I start this years and years and years and years ago? I know that it is all out there now, but I wish that I had known it then. It would have been a life changer - absolutely! I had to concentrate on work then, but gee, I would have tried to fit it in, especially when I went out to my in-laws place at Mudgee, and we used to live in Dubbo too, so the birds would have been different out there too.

BLS: Any final words of advice or encouragement to someone starting out with or wanting to improve their bird photography?

CD: Make sure the camera and lens you buy is adequate, and do a lot of research before you buy. As for the birds, buy yourself a good book. Sometimes the drawings in the field guides can be a bit misleading - and photos are often better for bird identification. And once you are out there, take LOTS of pictures. I might take 100 images of a single bird, and only get one really good image from all of them.

You can always delete all the ones you don't need ...









BIGnet meeting - September 2017

by Yolande Cozijn

"What is BIGnet?" I thought to myself as I volunteered to attend a weekend meeting of this group. I have to admit I put my hand up to attend only because I thought that a weekend away at Urunga on the mid North Coast would be a good way to escape from the cold. I thought we could make a road trip around the weekend and do some bird watching along the way.



So what is BIGnet? The acronym stands for Bird Interest Groups Network. All of the birdwatching groups and clubs around NSW are invited to attend a twice yearly get together, and papers are presented on conservation issues, the rationale being that a lot can be learned from one another, resources can be pooled and ideas shared.

So 28 people representing 15 bird groups as well as representatives from Birdlife Australia, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the NPWS gathered at Urunga on Saturday September 9th.

We started on Saturday morning with some bird watching along the Bellingen River in the hope of spotting an elusive pair of beach stone curlews. Despite my returning to this spot 4 times over the course of our stay they did not wish to be seen! However there were other birds to be seen including a Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwits, Pied Oystercatchers and an Eastern Curlew. Then it was down to work, and we spent the day hearing about some very interesting conservation projects.



The last of the coastal Emus - can we save this iconic bird? This paper by Josh Keating of the Coastal Emu Alliance was fascinating. Here is the abstract of this talk ...

"The Emu was once widespread and common along the east coast of Australia. Over 200 years, as intensive European settlement expanded from Sydney, the coastal Emu distribution contracted markedly. Although similar to the common Emu found in large numbers west of the Great Divide and across much of inland Australia, the "coastal" Emu has long been separated from these populations and has evolved to be a unique and genetically divergent group providing important ecological functions.

"Despite the widespread decline of the coastal Emu, in the 1990s they were still relatively common across an area from Coffs Harbour north to Ballina and west to the Bungawalbyn.

"In the decades since, however, the population has slumped with community surveys detecting only 50 birds in 2016. What was a gradual decline in the north coast population over decades has been dramatically accelerated to a major population slump with localized

extinction in many areas and a dire outlook for the viability of the population as a whole.

"We're at a point where the extinction of these birds - and the loss of the important native seed dispersal role they play - is imminent.

"The coastal zone of the lower Clarence River comprises a large, connected, diverse and relatively undeveloped corridor that provides habitat to support the last of the coastal Emus. There are many threats, however, to a large, wide-ranging, flightless, ground-nesting bird. The Coastal Emu Alliance has a plan to implement strategic actions to protect coastal Emus from the key threats they face. This is an urgent situation requiring the proper commitment, support and financial investment that this last population of the iconic coastal Emu deserves."

Sunday morning the group visited the newly created Urunga Wetlands which opened this year on the rehabilitated site of an old Antimony mine. Then it was back to work to discuss the Australasian Bird Fair and Wildlife Expo to be held in Sydney on November 3-4th, Key Biodiversity Areas, the 2017 Twitchathon and to hear about the activities of the various bird clubs attending the meeting.

After the meeting Warren and I spent a couple of days exploring the Urunga, Bellingen and Sawtell area. Birding highlights for me were to finally see a Noisy Pitta (which did not want to be photographed by Warren!), observing the antics of a group of seven Australian Brush-Turkeys and watching a flock of more than one hundred Rainbow Bee-eaters roost in a mangrove tree each night.



Editors note: the bird photograph was taken by Warren Wilson (and we know it isn't an Emu). All the location photographs were taken by Yolande Cozijn

WELCOME TO URUNGA WETLANDS

Black-necked Stork in flight

Old processing plant since 1960

WETLAND - KEEPING IT SPECIAL

This 20ha parcel of Crown Land consists of two Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) both are protected under NSW legislation. The ecological communities present are the aquatic Freshwater Wetland which the reserve is contained around and the terrestrial Swamp Sclerophyll Forest which is dominated by broad-leaved sedgebank (*Mitrasacme angustifolia*). The wetland is highly valuable for native conservation with the endangered Black-necked Stork (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) known to visit and nest here.

FROM WASTELAND TO WETLAND

An Antimony Processing Plant (APP) was operational on this site between 1968 to 1974 after which it was abandoned with no clean up or remedial work done and left as private land.

Located on the banks of this state significant wetland, the processing activities generated heavy metal rich wastewater and tailings which spread downstream causing catastrophic impact to the aquatic habitat.

Thanks to the necessary clean-up, the private ownership was transferred to the NSW Government at Crown land and the site finally returned as a reserve. \$10M investment aimed to enable safe public access around the Reserve.

URUNGA WETLANDS
WALKING MAP 600m LOOP

KEY

- Existing Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) vegetation
- Aquatic Ecological Area
- Non-native Woodland
- Prohibited Activities & Restricted Elements
- Private Property
- Footpath & Storage Area
- Information Sign Posts
- Information Signposts

NSW MAKING IT HAPPEN NSW GOVERNMENT

Booderee NP Fire in September

- by Chris MacGregor

The recent fire at Booderee National Park started at the Summercloud Bay carpark in the early hours of the 14th of September. In the strong southerly wind it quickly spread north, threatening Jervis Bay Village and the Navy assets at the airfield and HMAS Creswell.

Despite efforts to contain it using backburning, the fire moved too quickly and spread to adjoining blocks at the northern end of the Blacks Waterhole track and Stoney Creek Road. The fire was contained to the south of Jervis Bay Rd, but in the following twenty four hours it moved east until it reached the "Great Eastern Firebreak" - also known as the Tasman Sea. During the following week, the fire meandered around at low intensity in the area behind Steamer's Beach.

The burn area is approximately 1700 hectares (17 square kilometres, 27% of the park) - with areas of wet heath, dry heath, forest and woodland all burnt.



Undoubtedly many animals and birds were killed by the fire, however many escaped the fire front and are now taking advantage of the increased invertebrate activity and the reduced competition.

Eastern Bristlebirds

Two days prior to the fire I had counted 27 Bristlebirds while walking the Murrays Loop track. The week after the fire 19 birds were counted along the same transect.

During the ANU surveys in October we detected Eastern Bristlebirds at many of the burnt heath sites and there were many detected in unburnt heath and even in forest sites in the western half of the park. I am confident that Eastern Bristlebirds will recover in the east of the park.

As is expected, the fire has led to many opportunities for raptors, I observed a Collared Sparrowhawk take a Bassian Thrush as it moved into a burnt patch of forest, a pair of Brown Falcons hunting on Stoney Creek Rd, and White-bellied Sea-eagles scavenging at a wallaby carcass.

Long-nosed Potoroos and Southern Brown Bandicoots

A major concern of Park managers is the survival of the recently reintroduced Long-nosed Potoroos and Southern Brown Bandicoots. While a couple of Southern Brown Bandicoots have been detected on cameras, there has been no sign of the potoroos.

As both species were at very low numbers prior to the fire, any loss of life will severely affect the chances of the populations establishing at Booderee.

The immediate priority for the wildlife ecologists at the park is to maintain control over introduced predators. Over and above the intensive baiting of foxes, professional shooters are currently contracted to patrol the park at night for foxes and cats.

On a positive note, within a week of the fires the grass trees were producing new growth, and within two weeks of the fire acacia seeds were germinating.

In 18 to 24 months there will be plenty of ideal habitat for Eastern Bristlebirds, potoroos and bandicoots.



photo by Chris Grounds

Editor's Note:

The Booderee NP Fire article mentions that Southern Brown Bandicoots were detected on cameras in the weeks after fire. The image at right came from Booderee staff, and was taken early in the morning on October 4th.

The Illawarra Mercury reported a Parks Australia spokeswoman saying "Thanks to the hard work of Booderee staff, the Wreck Bay community and the NSW Rural Fire Service most of the park's infrastructure has been saved."

The fire is believed to have been deliberately lit, and there were multiple ignition points.





Photo by Maree Clout

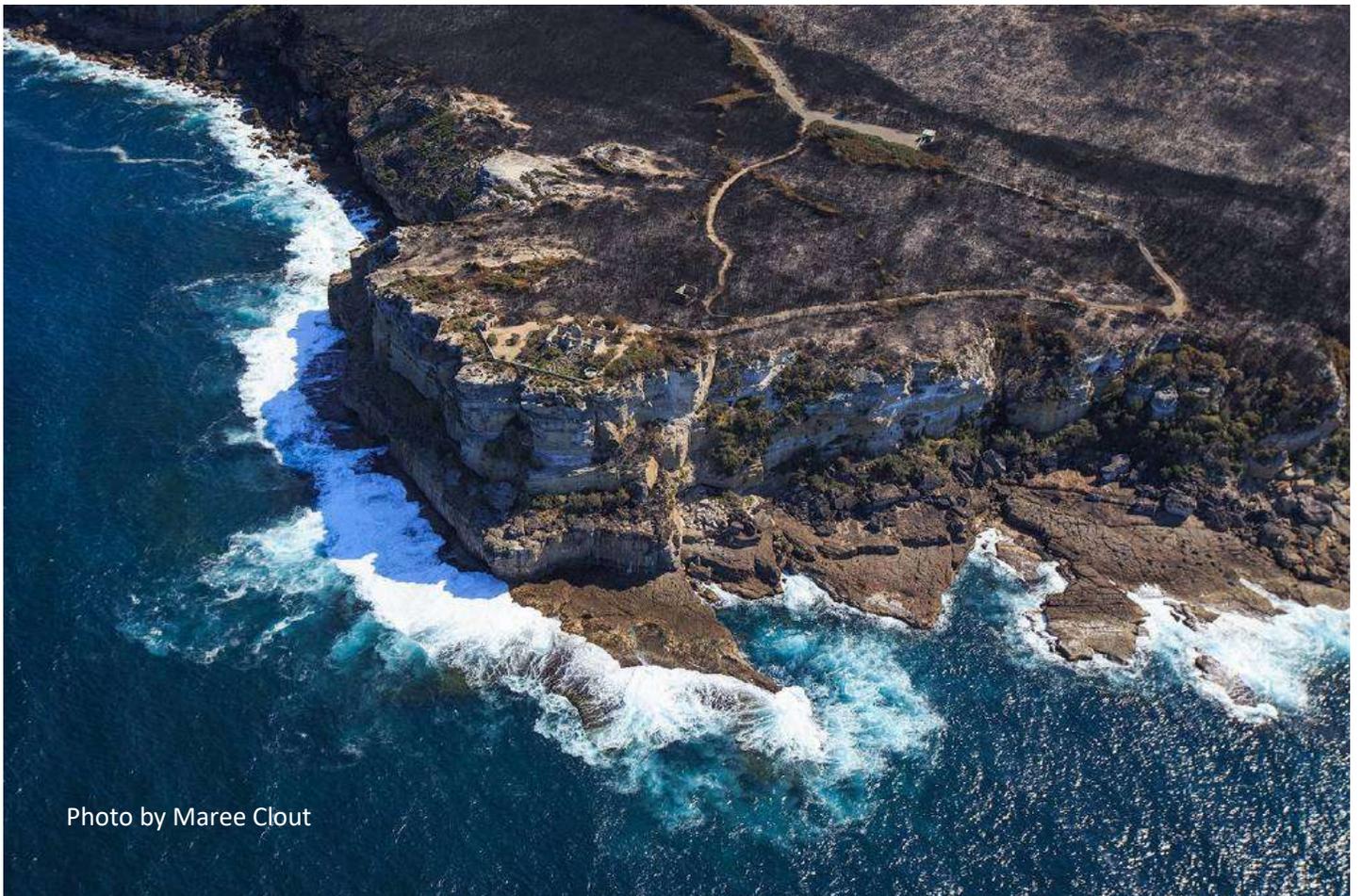


Photo by Maree Clout



Photo by Maree Clout



Photo by Chris Grounds

Shoalhaven Shared Sites on Birdata

- by Karen Davis

Since we have had such a useful and beautiful Bird Walks brochure produced for the Shoalhaven region, I have organised with Andrew Silcocks of Birdlife Australia to have these 12 walks set up as Shared Sites on the Birdata portal for ease of data entry.

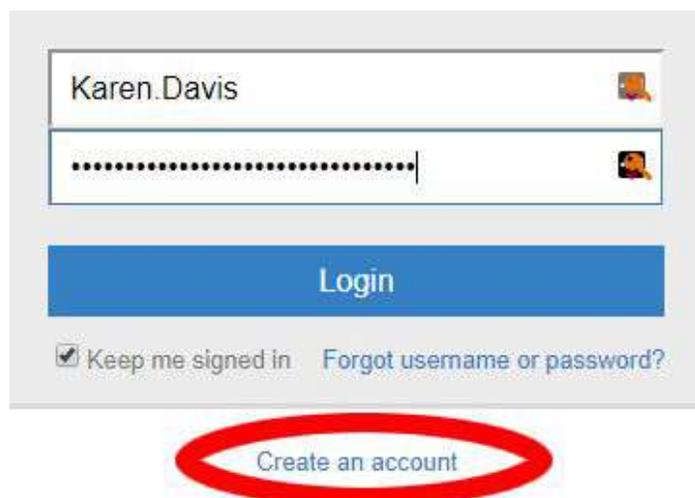
Ten of the sites have been set up as 500m Area Searches which involves a survey within an approximate 500m radius circle, or an equivalent area of a different shape. Two of the sites - the Mungunga Waraga Dhugan trail (Murrays Beach Circuit) and Little Forest Plateau - have been set up as 5km Area Searches, which equates to a circular area of no more than a 5km radius.

On Your Computer

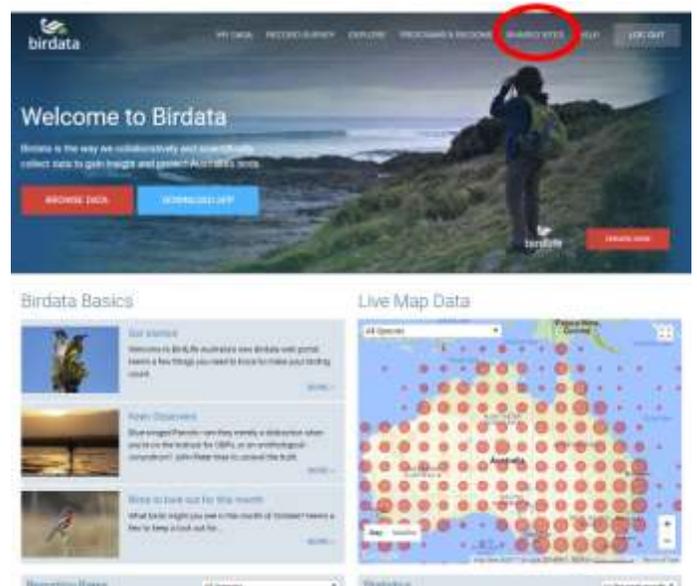
To find these Shared Sites, login to the Birdata website at birdata.birdlife.org.au by clicking "Log In" ...



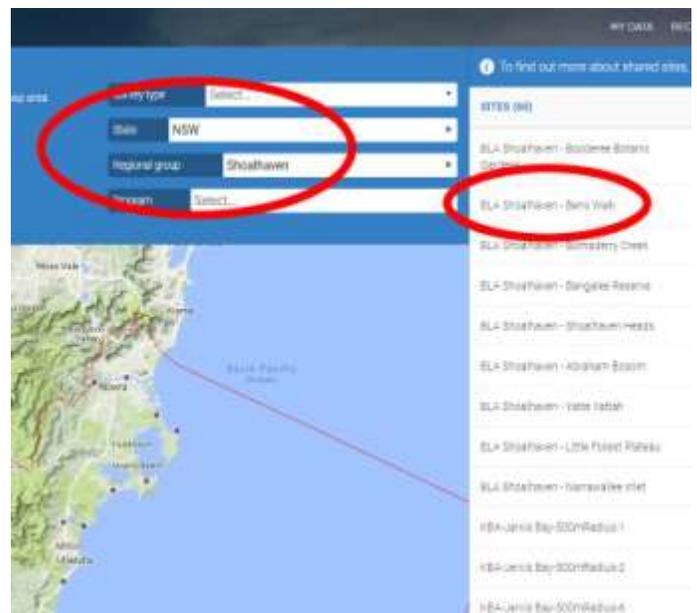
If you have an account enter your details and login, or click on "Create an Account" ...



Once you are logged in, click on "Shared Sites" ...

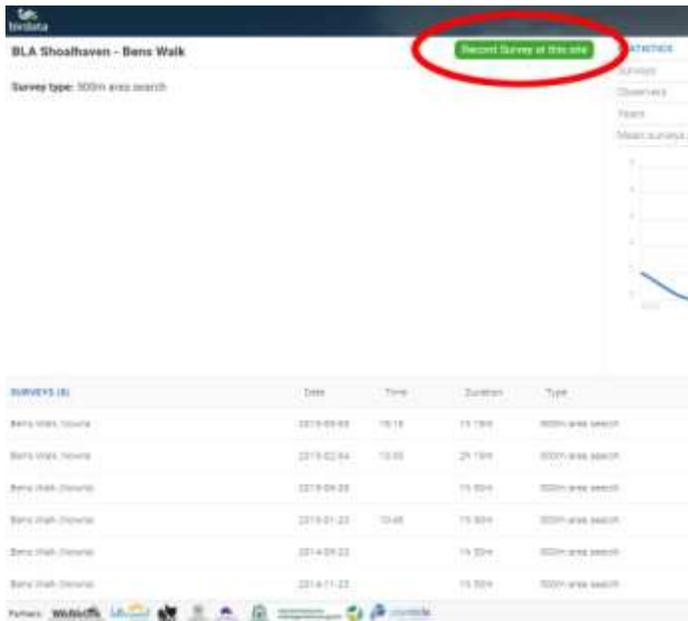


Enter "NSW" for the State and "Shoalhaven" for the Regional Group. You will see a list of sites in the Shoalhaven. Some of these are for surveys in Shoalhaven Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Shorebird 2020 sites, but if you scroll down the list you will come to the "BLA Shoalhaven" sites with the matching location name i.e. BLA Shoalhaven - Ben's Walk. The "BLA Shoalhaven" sites correspond to the walks in the brochure.

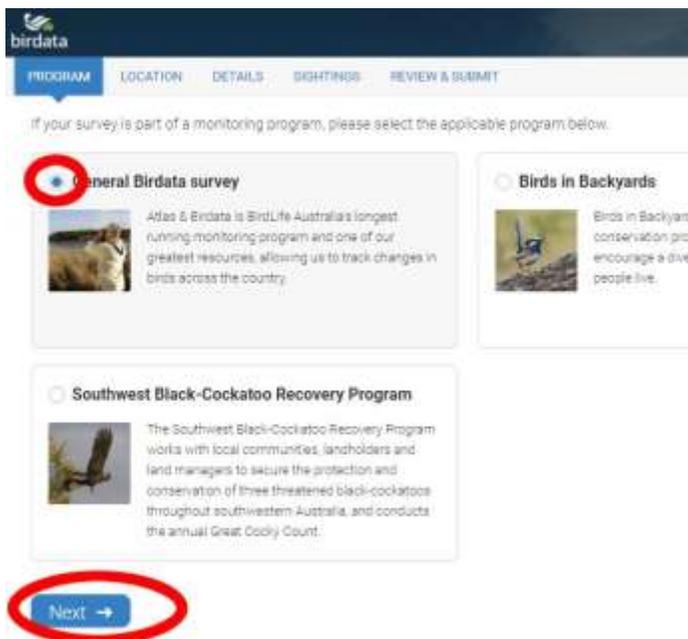


When you click on the site you have walked or are interested in walking you will see a map of the area to survey, a list of surveys previously done at this site and a list of bird species that have been seen here.

At the top of this page is the green button to click when you are ready to "Record Survey at this site".



You are doing a "General Birddata survey" - select it and click "Next".



The map of the site will appear (shaded in purple). By clicking within the shaded area a box will appear with the BLA Shoalhaven Site name. Click "Next" - accepting the "survey accuracy" as "within the survey area".

Now enter the details - date, time, duration, type - 500m or 5km area search, and the number of observers, and hit "Next". At this point you enter the birds sighted with the number seen and any breeding activity observed.

*Remember if you are doing an out and back walk you **do not count birds on the return**, to avoid double-counting. Once you have entered all the species you then "Review and Submit".

You can edit for any errors at this stage ...

On Your Smart Phone

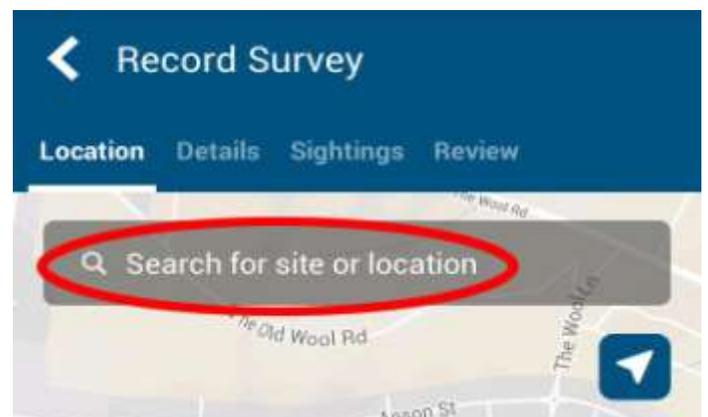
Download the Birddata app and install it on your phone. Start it up and tap "Record Survey" ...



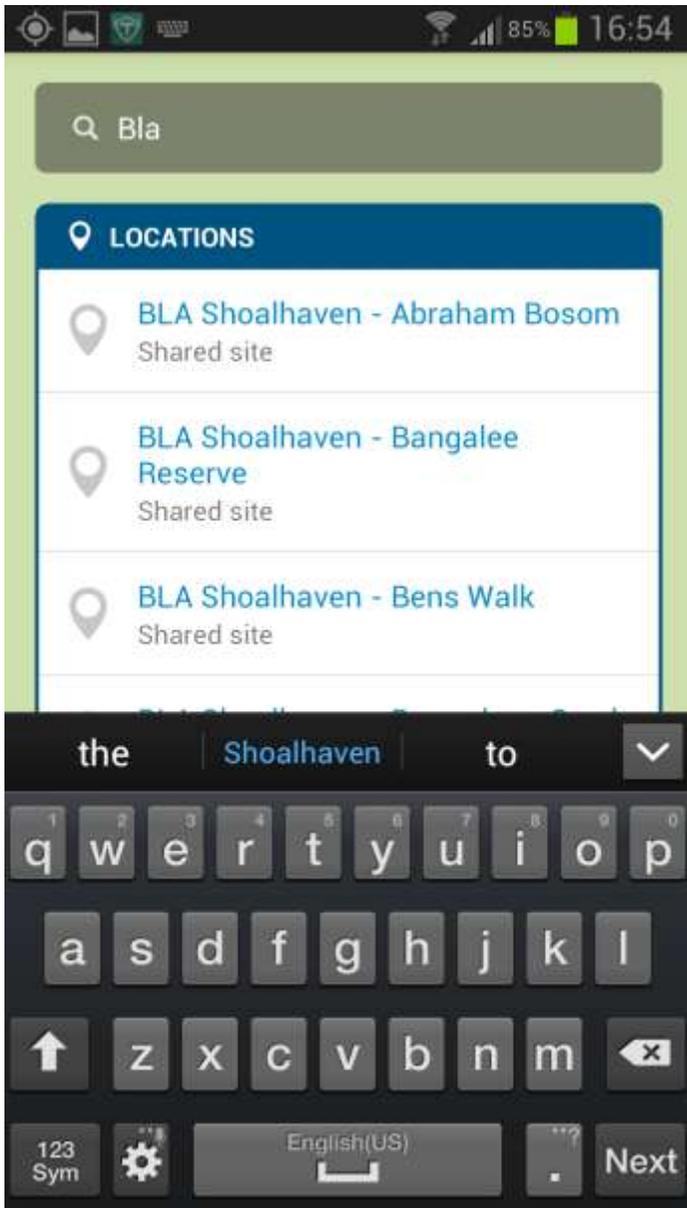
On the "Select Program" screen, tap "General Birddata Survey" ...



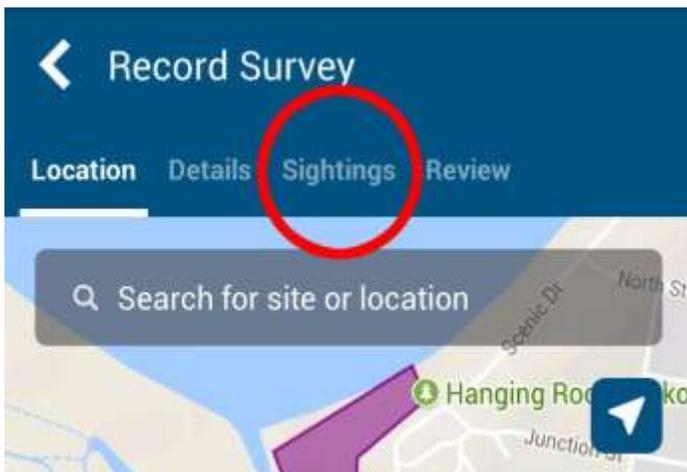
Tap "Search for site or location" ...



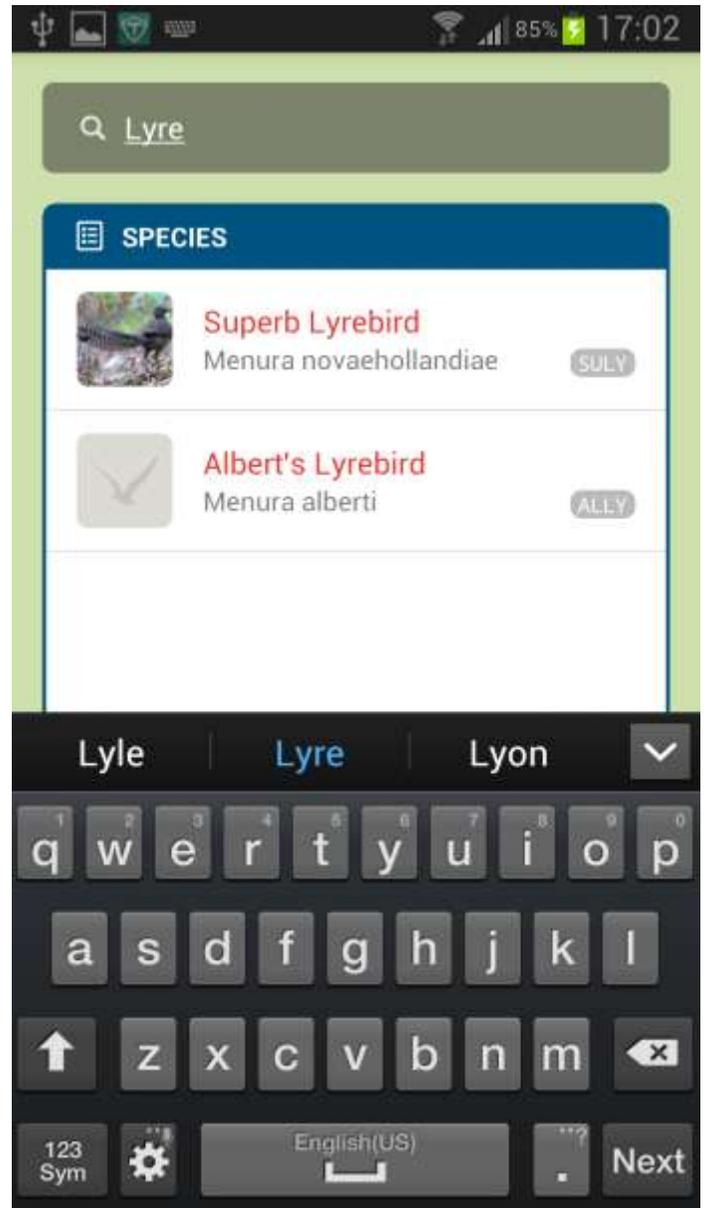
Type in "BLA " - making sure you add a space after BLA, and tap the walk you are doing i.e. Ben's Walk ...



A screen showing the map of the site will appear. Tap "Sightings" to start entering your data ...



Start entering the name of the birds you see i.e. Lyre for Lyrebird, and make your selection ...



Continue to enter data until you have finished your survey, and then "Review and Submit".

The same procedures apply if you do a survey in one of our set "KBA" survey sites. Always make sure you do your survey within the set area size, preferably following the walk shown on the map, and detailed in the Shared Site description. It is also preferable to do your survey early in the morning - no later than 10am - so there is some consistency in the time of day.

If you visit one of the 12 birding locations in our brochure please do a survey and enter the data at the relevant site. Don't waste a bird walk!

If you have any questions or want help with Birdata, please contact me at karen@brettdavis.com.au.

Web Watch

- by Chris Grounds

These are testing times for the environment we live in at every level but the World Wide Web gives us insight and some great conservation resources in our advocacy for birds and their habitats.

Here is our reference list of some interesting articles from recent months. To read the full article and see illustrations, click the link or copy and paste the web address into your browser. Contributions are welcome!

<https://theconversation.com/for-whom-the-bell-tolls-cats-kill-more-than-a-million-australian-birds-every-day-85084>



Cats kill more than a million birds every day across Australia, according to our new estimate - the first robust attempt to quantify the problem on a nationwide scale.

By combining data on the cat population, hunting rates and spatial distribution, we calculate that they kill 377 million birds a year.

Rates are highest in Australia's dry interior, suggesting that feral cats pose a serious and largely unseen threat to native bird species.

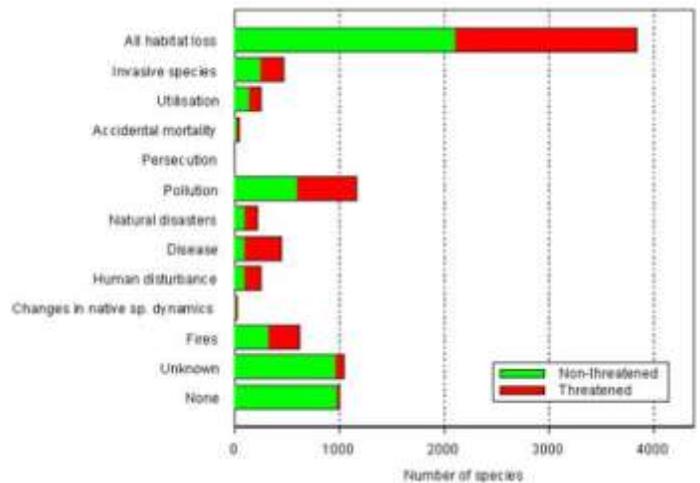
However, particular species are hit much harder than others, and the population viability of some species (such as quail-thrushes, button-quails and ground-feeding pigeons and doves) is likely to be especially threatened.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-01-05/island-sanctuaries-protect-native-wildlife-from-feral-cats/8164006?pfmredir=sm>

A national study involving more than 40 scientists and almost 100 field studies has found **feral cats** cover 99.8 per cent of Australia's land mass, with pest-free islands providing the only sanctuaries for native wildlife.



<https://theconversation.com/lets-get-this-straight-habitat-loss-is-the-number-one-threat-to-australias-species-85674>



The ecologist Jared Diamond has described an "evil quartet" of threatening processes that drive species to extinction: **habitat destruction**; overhunting (or over-exploitation); introduced species; and chains of linked ecological changes, including co-extinctions.

In modern times we can add two more to this list. The first is catastrophic disease outbreaks, such as the chytrid fungus that has been instrumental in the catastrophic decline or extinction of almost 200 frog species, or the facial tumour disease that still threatens to wipe out Tasmanian Devils in the wild.

The second is human-induced climate change, which appears to have caused one extinction in Australian Territories and is predicted to result in many more.

Significantly - given the recent bushfire in Booderee NP - one of the greatest causes of habitat loss was inappropriate fire management regimes. Habitat loss is a greater threat than feral predators!

<https://theconversation.com/banded-stilts-fly-hundreds-of-kilometres-to-lay-eggs-that-are-over-50-of-their-body-mass-85447>



New research has shed light on one of Australia's most enigmatic birds, the **Banded Stilt**. This pigeon-sized shorebird has long been a source of intrigue due to its bizarre and extreme breeding behaviour.

They fly hundreds or thousands of kilometres from coastal wetlands to lay eggs that are 50-80% of their body mass in normally dry inland desert salt lakes, such as Lake Eyre, on the rare occasions they are inundated by flooding rain.

Such behaviour has been a mystery for decades. Described for the first time in 1930, just 30 breeding events have been documented for the entire species in the following 80 years.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-30/rescued-barn-owl-chicks-ready-for-release-back-into-wild/8855274>



When a local farmer near Auburn, north of Adelaide, spotted six tiny **Barn Owls** bunkered down in a partially destroyed nest, hopes weren't high for their survival.

Follow the link above to read their story ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-28/large-numbers-of-inland-birds-spotted-on-nsw-coast2c-as-dry-co/8995626>



Surprisingly large numbers of bird species usually found in inland areas of New South Wales have been spotted along parts of the state's coast. Experts said it could be an indication of just how dry inland areas are.

Parts of western NSW have smashed temperature records in recent weeks, in a dramatic shift towards the warm season. "What we're seeing this Spring is a remarkable push of what we call "western species" (of birds) towards the coast," project coordinator at BirdLife Australia Mick Roderick said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-06/leasing-endangered-animals-could-help-biodiversity-crisis/9022554?>



Australia should consider leasing its rare and endangered wildlife and birds as "**ambassadors for conservation**" to raise cash for conservation programs, similar to what China already does with the giant panda. That is the parting advice from Australia's Threatened Species commissioner, Gregory Andrews, who is leaving after three years in the job.

With a new commissioner yet to be appointed, there are mixed feelings amongst key conservation groups about the effectiveness of the on-going role.

The concerns include a lack of independent political clout and a lack of significant new funding.

<http://www.smh.com.au/good-weekend/can-a-lastditch-intervention-save-the-orangebellied-parrot-20170817-gxycg2.html>



Can a last-ditch intervention save the **Orange-bellied Parrot**? Decades of effort and millions of dollars have failed to stop the **Orange-bellied Parrot's** near extinction. But conservationists are not giving up.

Not much larger than a common budgie, the orange-bellied parrot breeds in Tasmania's south-west wilderness over summer before flying north across Bass Strait for the winter to fossick in the coastal saltmarshes of Victoria and South Australia. Over the past few decades, millions of dollars have been spent in an attempt to prevent these small, brightly coloured birds from becoming extinct. As well as monitoring OBPs in the wild, the Tasmanian government has bred an "insurance" population at the Hobart Wildlife Centre, some of which are released into their natural habitat annually to bolster numbers.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-11/indonesias-songbirds-at-risk-as-competitions-drive-illegal-trade/8886>



It's like a boxing match, but this competition is quite different — the competitors, 60 of them, hang high from the roof. And they're not fighting; they're singing. This is a **songbird competition** in Pontianak, the capital of Indonesia's West Kalimantan province.

On any given week in Indonesia, there are thousands of songbird competitions like this throughout its many districts. They're filled with birds illegally caught in forests by trappers — and the demand for songbirds is growing.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-18/campaign-to-fund-deployment-of-swift-parrot-possum-keeper-outer/9062434>



Conservation scientists have had success raising money to stop what they're calling a potential "**Swift Parrot massacre**" on Tasmania's east coast.

The tiny parrot species has been breeding on Tasmania's Bruny Island, which is free of sugar gliders, but Dr Dejan Stojanovic from the Australian National University (ANU) said large numbers had just moved to the state's east coast. Dr Stojanovic said sugar gliders would eat the birds, their babies and their eggs if nothing was done to stop them.

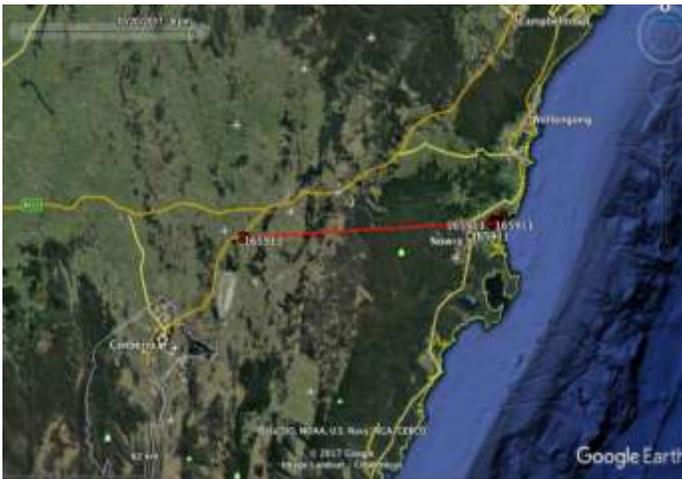
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-11/tracking-the-wedge-tailed-eagles-from-the-treetops/8886346>



Ecologist Simon Cherriman isn't afraid of heights. Currently he's spending his days in the tree tops of the Perth Hills, keeping a watchful eye on a three-week-old **Wedge-tailed Eaglelet**.

The young eagle has yet to develop any feathers, but in a few months it will take flight and leave the nest. When it does, Mr Cherriman hopes to have attached a satellite tracker to the juvenile in an attempt to learn more about its life and the threats it faces.

<https://www.facebook.com/bitternsinriceproject/photos/a.1699150756975987.1073741828.1699027060321690/2408261996064856/?type=3>



Bitterns in Rice Project - 20 October 2017

BREAKING NEWS:

MILo is on the move. He just checked in at Rowe's Lagoon near Goulburn. It's a known **Australasian Bittern** site that we long suspected was part of the network. It's 114 km from Coomonderry Swamp at Shoalhaven Heads where he has been for the past five months. We assume he is on his way back to Deniliquin, just another 400 km to go.

<https://www.facebook.com/TasmanianOrangebelliedParrot/photos/a.217310992037044.1073741829.198768700557940/381506862284122/?type=3>

After months of preparation and planning the hatch has been opened on the pre-release aviary at Melaleuca and the **Orange-bellied Parrot** Tasmanian Program is pleased to announce that the seven female OBPs from the first captive-release group are now all free-flying in the wild at Melaleuca.



The wild male OBPs have responded very positively to the arrival of the female OBPs. Further OBP release groups and updates will follow.



Shorebird 2020 Annual Summer Count

- by Dan Weller and Connie Warren
Shorebirds 2020 Project Team

Hi shorebirders,

It's hard to believe, but the main annual summer count is fast approaching.

In previous years, the summer count window has been 1st November through to the 31st March. For this coming season and future seasons, we'd like to encourage everyone to conduct their summer counts between 1st December and 28th February.

As always, the **ideal date** to conduct the summer count is the **15th January**. As well as altering the summer count window, we're also encouraging counters and count coordinators to conduct their counts during the month of January, aligning with the survey window for the Asian Waterbird Census.

The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is part of the global International Waterbird Census (IWC). This citizen-science program is supporting conservation and management of wetlands and waterbirds worldwide. The information helps to promote the designation and management of internationally important sites such as nationally protected areas, Ramsar Sites, East Asian - Australasian Flyway Network Sites and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) as well as identifying and protecting new sites of importance for waterbirds.

If S2020 summer counts are conducted within January, we are able to include this data in the AWC, strengthening this flyway-wide dataset.

Interested in helping out with S2020 monitoring? Chances are there is a Shorebird Area near you regardless of where you live, especially if you are situated in proximity to the coast.

To see if there is a site near you, all you have to do is visit the Birddata website, [here](#) and zoom to your local area.

Each designated "Shorebird Area" in most cases will have a nominated site coordinator; someone who schedules the surveys and coordinates a team of counters, especially at the larger sites. If you are keen on getting involved and helping with surveys, but don't know where to begin, send us an email at shorebirds@birdlife.org.au and we will can you in touch with the local survey coordinator(s) in your area.

To join Shorebirds 2020 (or get involved again), to be updated on volunteer opportunities and training workshops, or to get involved with field work, please contact shorebirds@birdlife.org.au



Photo by Chris Grounds



Photo by Brett Davis

Warren Wilson has a hide ...

Warren was the featured photographer in last season's newsletter. The article about his photography was meant to include some images of his bird hide, as this is Warren's main method of getting close to the birds.

Unfortunately, his last hide blew apart in the mid year winds, and his new hide had not arrived prior to the publication of last season's newsletter.

So here are two images of Warren's bird hide ...



Charles Dove Camera Settings

- Camera setting on P (program)
 - Camera picture size to maximum at best quality
 - Exposure compensation +1, if too bright then 0 or -1 on a bright beach or ocean
 - Auto ISO using highlight tone priority, limits 200 - max
 - Picture style - landscape
 - Auto white balance
 - AF mode - AI servo allows for jumpy movements
 - Spot metering - single centre spot
 - Drive mode - high speed continuous
 - Memory cards - the highest speed you can afford
-

Latest Population Figures

The estimated resident population of Australia at 31 March 2017 was 24,511,800 people. This is an increase of 389,100 people since 31 March 2016. Compare the annual increase of Australia's population to the population of Nowra-Bomaderry, 35,920.

How much habitat destruction occurs when **we add 11 Nowra-Bomaderrys to Australia every year?**



Exhibition in Canberra

The Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year exhibition is currently happening at the Australian Museum in Canberra.

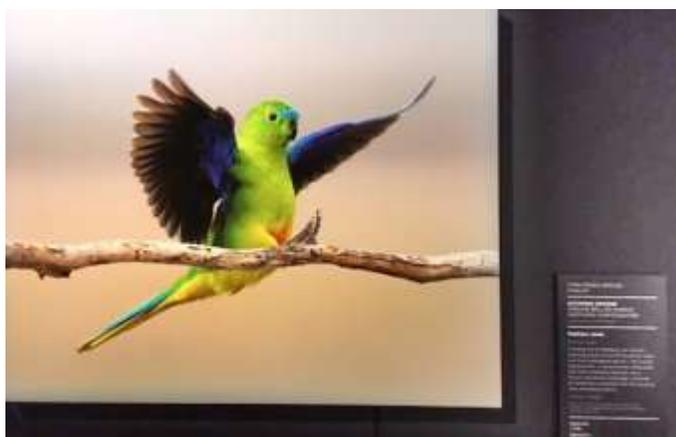
Witness Australasian nature at its most dramatic, graceful and unexpected with this stunning collection of breathtaking photographs that showcase the exceptional talent of our region.

The exhibition is currently open and runs until December 10th.

See over 100 images presented in large format, accompanied by information in English and Chinese that unveil spectacular moments in nature.

And also see amongst those 100 images two images by local photographer and BirdLife Shoalhaven member Matt Jones.

Photos below by Rob Dunn.



Space fillers ...

First, a great photo of a Grey Goshawk, by Sue Tolley ...



... and a very clever bird, photo by Brett Davis



BirdLife Shoalhaven Calendar for 2017

Date	Event / Location / Group*	Details - meeting time and place, leaders etc.
October -----		
Fri 27th	Warden Head (MUD)	Meet 8am at the lighthouse. Leaders: Marg Hamon & Maggie Mance 4457-1129
November -----		
Fri 3 to Sun 5	Australasian Bird Fair	At Newington Armory at Sydney Olympic Park
Fri 10th	Ulladulla Sports Ground (MUD)	Meet 8am south end of Camden Street. Leader: Bob Rusk 4455-2169.
Sun 12th	Bangalee Reserve (BLS)	Meet at 7.30am at Bangalee Reserve for a morning of birding along tracks in this reserve. Bring morning tea. Karen Davis 0487 208-437.
Mon 13th	Talk Night (BLS)	Talk by Judy Harrington from the BirdLife EagleCAM project team on the ecology of the White-bellied Sea-eagle. 7pm at the St Georges Basin Community Health Centre in Meriton Street.
Sun 19th	Lake Wollumboola (SB)	Meet 8:30am at the lake entrance at Culburra
Fri 24th	Nth Fishermans Paradise (MUD)	Meet 8am back of Harry Higgs Room, or 8:15am: Murrays Rd Turnoff. Leader: Chris Shinton 0423 352 718
December -----		
Fri 8th	Manyana (MUD)	Meet 8am back of Harry Higgs Room, or 8:30am at parking area by toilets on Sunset Strip. Leader: Charles Dove 0417 422 302
Sun 17th	Xmas Party / Greys Beach (SB)	Meet 5pm at the launching ramp at Greys Beach
Fri 22nd	Xmas Picnic - Burrill Lake (MUD)	Bring binoculars, a plate and an appetite. Meet: 8am Lions Park, Burrill Lake. (by toilets). Leader: Mike Jefferis 4455 5162
January -----		
Fri 5th	Millard's Creek (MUD)	Meet 8am corner St Vincent St & Geoffrey St, Ulladulla. Leader: Chris Shinton 0423 352 718
Fri 19th	Yatte Yattah NR (MUD)	Meet 8am back of Harry Higgs Room. Leader: Geoff Andrews 4454-3580

* The BirdLife Shoalhaven calendar contains activities from the branch (**BLS**) and two associated birdwatching groups - Shoalhaven Birders (**SB**) and the Milton-Ulladulla District Birdwatching Club (**MUD**). Members can attend all activities.

** BirdLife Shoalhaven outings are organised by Karen and Brett Davis - 0487 208 437 and 0497 868 471.

Shoalhaven Birders (SB) meet every third Sunday of the month at 8.30am. There are no leaders on their outings, and it is possible that nobody else will turn up, especially if the weather is bad. Trips away usually go ahead. Contacts: Stan and Su Brown 4443-4828, Peter and Julie Hale 0402 076 548.

MUD Birdwatchers (MUD) have outings every fortnight on Fridays from 8am until about 11am. Membership of the MUD Birdwatchers club is open to all members of the Milton Ulladulla U3A. For information about joining MUD Birdwatchers, phone Marg Hamon 4457-1129 or Chris Shinton 4454-5584 or email mubirdclub@gmail.com.

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