



THE IBOC

N E W S L E T T E R

Issue No. 470

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INC NEWSLETTER

July 2022

AUSTRALIAN LOGRUNNER

Scientific Name: *Orthonyx temminckii*

Atlas Number: 434

DESCRIPTION:

The Logrunner is a small, robust, ground-dwelling bird, with a short and sturdy bill. The short wings are rounded and the short, broad tail has obvious spines at the end. Adult male birds have a grey face and sides, and are white underneath, olive-rufous above, with grey bars across the wing. Adult females are similar, but have a orange-rufous throat.



photo by Charles Dove

Immature birds are similar to adults, but the underparts are mottled with white. Their legs and feet are sturdy and powerful. They walk away when disturbed, seldom flying far on whirring wings. The Logrunner is also known as the Spinetailed Logrunner

DISTRIBUTION:

The Logrunner is found on the east coast of New South Wales and Queensland, from near Canberra to north of Brisbane. It is uncommon in southern New South Wales.

HABITAT:

The Logrunner occurs in wet eucalypt forest, sub-tropical and tropical rainforests with a dense canopy and understorey, and an accumulation of leaf litter.

SEASONAL MOVEMENTS:

The Logrunner feeds on invertebrates. They forage on the ground, usually singly, in pairs or small family parties, scratching with their large, strong feet through the leaf litter, using their tail as a prop. They leave a trail of small cleared circles behind them as they feed.

FEEDING:

The Logrunner feeds on invertebrates. They forage on the ground, usually singly, in pairs or small family parties,

scratching with their large, strong feet through the leaf litter, using their tail as a prop. They leave a trail of small cleared circles behind them as they feed.

BREEDING:

The Logrunner builds a dome-shaped nest, with a side entrance opening at ground level, made from leaves, twigs, moss, wood and tree ferns, often covered by leaf litter and other debris. It is thick enough to stay dry inside during heavy downpours. The nest is usually found on the ground, on a gently sloping bank of a creek. The Logrunner may also choose to build the nest above ground in dense vegetation. The female builds the nest and incubates the eggs alone, and feeds the young with food brought by the male.

LIVING WITH US

The Logrunner has been adversely affected by land clearance and modification of its habitat.

Cover text courtesy of <https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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Founded in 1977

Club's Aim:

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

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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Charles Dove, Janina Dove

RECORDS OFFICER:

Darryl Goldrick

JULY ACTIVITIES

GENERAL MEETING

Monday 11th July 7.30pm start

Fairy Meadow Community Centre, Cambridge Avenue, Fairy Meadow

Speaker – Ross Gowans – downloaded video on show.

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

MIDWEEK OUTING

Wednesday 13th July 9am

Leaders Bill & Joan Zealey

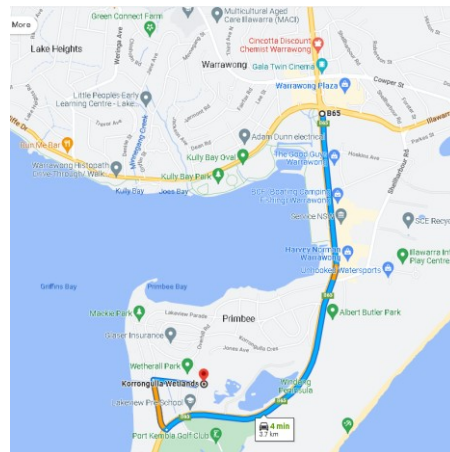
Korrongulla Wetlands, Primbee

From Warrawong Plaza head south along the Primbee Bypass then turn right into Windang Rd, at the traffic lights. Take the first right into turn right onto Nicolle Rd and park by the recreation area.

Google map GPS -34.504701, 150.878318

Since European settlement, the site has been used for farming and industrial purposes. Despite these different uses, Korrongulla has retained significant vegetation and is home to several endangered plant communities.

The loop track around the swamp takes in reed beds, tee tree wetland, dune woodland and open water. Darter, Little Pied, Pied, Little Back and Great Cormorants all breed in casuarinas on the water's edge and there are a couple of vantage points where you can view the rookery. It is a wetland, so please wear stout waterproof shoes or boots; We will have morning tea near Primbee Bay.



In the event of inclement weather Phone Bill on 0414747644

NOTE All IBOC members should carry and be prepared to produce their proof of COVID vaccination.

MONTHLY OUTING

Sunday 17th July at 9am

Leaders Alan & Anne Cousins

The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan

(Please note that this is a change from the published venue as Bents Basin is closed - (Airport?))

Meet at 9am in the main carpark

Take the Picton Road from Mount Ousley and follow to the right turn onto the Hume Highway, follow for 21km's then exit left onto Narellan Road, keep right and follow Narellan Road for 1km and turn left into Mount Annan Drive then right into Rose Drive, cross first roundabout then at the next roundabout turn left, follow and turn left into Stenhouse Drive to car park.

Bring morning tea and lunch, we will decide on the venues for these when we are there.

In the event of inclement weather contact Alan or Anne on 0413 869 534 by 7.30am

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Next Committee Meeting

Monday 18th July 2022 7.00pm

Committee Meeting via Zoom

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE 25th July

For all articles & photos in the next IBOC newsletter PLEASE E-mail contributions:

To Charles Dove Email newsletter@iboc.org.au

or post to 1/13 Horrocks Crescent, Kearney's Spring, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

SIGHTINGS –

please report your sightings be what they may be. No need to be a rare or unusual sightings, even though it is preferred. We still need to keep track of our bird species population to view any obvious changes either an increase or decrease in any of our native species.

Email all your bird sightings to Darryl Goldrick at [to email click sightings](#)

CLUB REPORTS

CLUB MEETING REPORT

Monday 13th June 2022

It was a good turnout on this cold evening, members and visitors had come along to see and hear videos of Superb Lyrebird recorded in the local region. Geoff Saunders who is an employee of NPWS working as an educational officer mainly at Minnamurra and Fitzroy Falls parks was the presenter. In this role he was able to record in good quality various birds engaging in various behaviours; these tended to be at quieter times such as early morning.

He showed different male birds doing extensive mimicry and displaying; one taken on a foggy winter's morning at Fitzroy Falls (knowing what the temperature can be up there I feel he is dedicated to his art).

Another video featured a female bird tending her young in the nest and removing the waste sack produced by the youngster and taking it away from the area of the nest. Geoff said this was a normal practice to make the area and location of the nest as undetectable to predators as possible.

He also talked of his observations over time of different behaviours he has seen, such as nest locations varying from the more normal locations high in the trees, to the odd one near the ground on a bank between two car parks.

All in all, a very interesting presentation and by the way, all this is a hobby of Geoff's! Let's hope he can capture more wonderful footage.

Thank you, Geoff.

Ross Gowans

Midweek outing 15th June.

14 members gathered on a perfect winter morning to explore Jerrara Dam. Crimson Rosellas and White-headed Pigeons flew overhead as we gathered. Brown Gerygones and Lewin's Honeyeaters calling in the trees as we walked past the picnic area and some members spotted a Grey Goshawk and a Green Catbird. From the lake lookout, we could see that there were many waterbirds, and closer inspection showed a large flock of Hoary-headed Grebes, Australian Wood Ducks, Pacific Black Ducks, a Australasian Shoveler, a Hardhead, and two Black Swans, one of them on a nest. On the way back we had excellent views of a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, and a Grey Shrike-thrush, and a reasonable sighting of a Bassian Thrush. Back at the picnic site for morning tea we were joined by Alan and Ann who brought Brian Hales with them, and Nick and Daphne. Altogether we saw 49 species.

Joan Zealey

Bird List for Jerrarra Dam - 15 th June 2022		14 Members	49 Species
Black Swan	Dusky Moorhen	Brown Gerygone	Olive-backed Oriole
Australian Wood Duck	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Yellow Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Australasian Shoveler	Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	Pied Currawong
Pacific Black Duck	Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail
Hardhead	Eastern Rosella	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Australasian Grebe	Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Rose Robin
Hoary-headed Grebe	White-throated Treecreeper	New Holland Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
White-headed Pigeon	Green Catbird	Eastern Whipbird	Silvereeye
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Satin Bowerbird	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Welcome Swallow
Bar-shouldered Dove	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Little Pied Cormorant	Variiegated Fairy-wren	Grey Shrike-thrush	Bassian Thrush
Brown Goshawk	White-browed Scrubwren	Australasian Figbird	Red-browed Finch
Grey Goshawk			

eBird checklist number S113231585.

WEEKEND OUTING

Report for IBOC walk on Saturday 18 June 2022

Lyndall Dawson

After a crisp early morning start and an easy drive down the highway a select group of nine keen birdwatchers under the leadership of Alan and Anne Cousins met at 9am at the parking lot near the beautiful Greenfield Beach on Jervis Bay. The Wollongong members were fortunate to be joined by Stan Brown, representing Birdlife Shoalhaven – his in-depth knowledge of the local birds and general environment was most helpful and interesting.

We set off along a well-made path through the north end of Booderee National Park, but to start with birds were few. However, as the sun warmed things up sightings improved, and it was lovely to stand in a patch of sun while Eastern Yellow Robins, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Lewin's Honeyeaters visited us! In that same spot we got an excellent view of a pair of Crested Shrike-tits that obligingly sat still on a nearby branch in the sun.

Unfortunately, none of us were equipped with a camera! We tried hard to find sea birds but none came near – the few species we did spot were quite a long way off. However, a final list of 25 species made it all worthwhile. All in all, a very enjoyable way to spend a Saturday morning.

Bird list for Greenfield Beach etc - Saturday 18 th June 2022			25 species
Australasian Gannet	White-throated Treecreeper	New Holland Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Little Pied Cormorant	White-browed Scrubwren	White-naped Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Pied Cormorant	Brown Thornbill	Eastern Whipbird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Sooty Oystercatcher	Eastern Spinebill	Crested Shrike-tit	Silvereeye
Crested Tern	Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Silver Gull	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Pied Currawong	
Rainbow Lorikeet	Little Wattlebird	Grey Fantail	

Links

How the endangered ospreys of Tumby Island are making a comeback How the endangered ospreys of Tumby Island are making a comeback Eyre and Yorke peninsulas' osprey population is set to be boosted after an artificial platform was placed on Tumby Island to protect the endangered species from predators and human disturbance. [Read the full story](#) Shared from [ABC app](#)

Australian frogs are dying en masse again, and we need your help to find out why.

<https://theconversation.com/australian-frogs-are-dying-en-masse-again-and-we-need-your-help-to-find-out-why-184255>

Avian Influenza in Scotland – YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2Y_c5YNAqI

Bird Flu - a new threat to Scottish seabirds - Scottish Nature Notes - Our work - The RSPB Community

<https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/b/scotland/posts/bird-flu-a-new-threat-to-scottish-seabirds>

Brush turkeys turn carnivorous in Sydney suburbs

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/never-seen-that-before-brush-turkeys-are-turning-carnivorous-in-sydney-suburbs-20220603-p5aqf5.html>

Indigenous rangers and scientists working to conserve endangered white-throated grasswren in Arnhem Land - ABC News

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-21/wrens-conservation-arnhem-land-nt-indigenous-rangers-scientists/101167732>

Search and rescue operation for Illawarra's endangered plants

18 May 2022

An emergency services training operation in Budderoo National Park unfolded into a real-life search and rescue mission for the threatened and rarely seen waterfall greenhood orchid.

Lauren Hook, a Saving our Species ecologist, joined the canyon rescue training to access the park's remote waterfalls where this native orchid was last seen around 7 years ago.

'This was such a perfect opportunity to get safe access into these remote canyons so we could confirm if this small green, water-loving orchid is still surviving,' said Ms Hook.

'And the results were better than we could have imagined.

'During the 10-hour expedition we saw around 300 orchids growing on mossy rocks right at the water's edge.

'What started as search and rescue training quickly turned into a spot-the-orchid mission and by the end of the day NSW Police Rescue, SES and Ambulance crews were also coming across new, thriving orchid populations.

'One site along the canyon hosted around 55 plants, which is extraordinary when you think that only one plant was recorded there in 2015 and only one before that in 1954.

'For now the orchids are safe. We will use the location data to support the management of the canyons and to minimise threats to the plant's survival.

'If there is an opportunity to go again next year, we will try to collect seeds and propagate the plant, another strategy to help secure this species in the wild,' said Ms Hook.

National Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger Team Leader Jen Bean said the orchid-find just shows the incredible and unique biodiversity of the Illawarra region.

'It was such a good mission for so many reasons,' said Ms Bean.

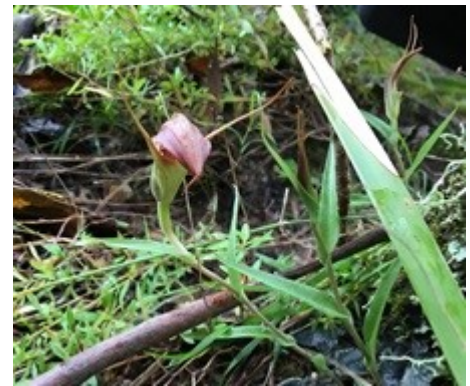
'Not only did the emergency services brush up their rescue skills, we got access into parts of the park that are normally inaccessible.

'There are species just like this orchid that are not found anywhere else in the world, and that's what makes our local parks and reserves so precious,' Ms Bean said.

The [Saving Our Species](#) program is investing almost \$100,000 into orchid conservation in the Illawarra and surrounding regions.

This funding supports experts like Lauren and Jen to commit resources towards weed control, fencing, signage, surveys, hand pollination and seed collection, all of which help secure species like the waterfall greenhood orchid into the future.

For more information on the waterfall greenhood orchid, visit the [species' profile webpage](#).



Book Review

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/58986924-the-parrot-in-the-mirror>

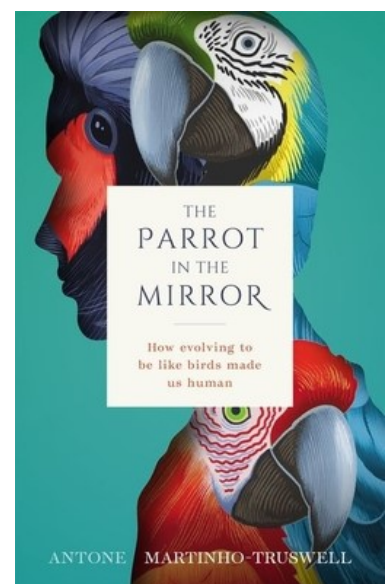
The Parrot in the Mirror: How Evolving to Be Like Birds Makes Us Human

by Antone Martinho-Truswell

How similar are your choices, behaviours, and lifestyle to those of a parrot?

We humans are not like other mammals. We look like them, but we don't act like them. In fact, many of our defining human traits: our longevity, intelligence, monogamy and childrearing, and learning and language, all deep parts of what it means to be human, are far more similar to birds than to our fellow mammals. These similarities originate not from shared ancestors but from parallel histories. Our evolutionary stories have pushed humans and birds to the same solutions. In this book, Antone Martinho-Truswell explores these similarities to argue that we can learn a great deal about ourselves by thinking of the human species as 'the bird without feathers'.

This is also a book about convergent evolution - evolution that drives very different species to very similar outcomes and



behaviours. The traits we share with birds but not mammals are the result of similar, specific pressures that demanded similar solutions - and exploring these similarities can help us understand both why we evolved to be the way we are, and also how very unusual some of our behaviours are in the animal kingdom, Drawing on a rich array of examples across the natural world, Martinho-Truswell also demonstrates the ways in which parrots are our biological mirror image; an evolutionary parallel to ourselves. In contemplating what we share with the birds, and especially the parrots, we understand how close nature came to creating another lineage of radical intelligence on Earth, and we also come to better understand ourselves.

Available online as hard copy or digital.

More Links

Lucy McRobert: boring birders - BirdGuides

<https://www.birdguides.com/articles/comment/lucy-mcrobert-boring-birders/>

Not like night and day: the nocturnal letter-winged kite does not differ from diurnal congeners in orbit or endocast morphology | Royal Society Open Science

<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rsos.220135>

Happy Birthday

Anna Cartledge had red hair, which she passed onto couple of her great-grandsons. She had a lovely habit of whistling whilst hanging out the washing on the Hills Hoist or when in our garden in Fairy Meadow. She would also give us a whistle to get us out of bed in the morning.

Anna was born on 1 June 1919 so you can understand my delight when I turned over Charles Dove's calendar on the 1st of June this year, there was the Rufous Whistler!

Happy birthday Mum, and well-done Charles!

Chris. Cartledge

STOP PRESS:

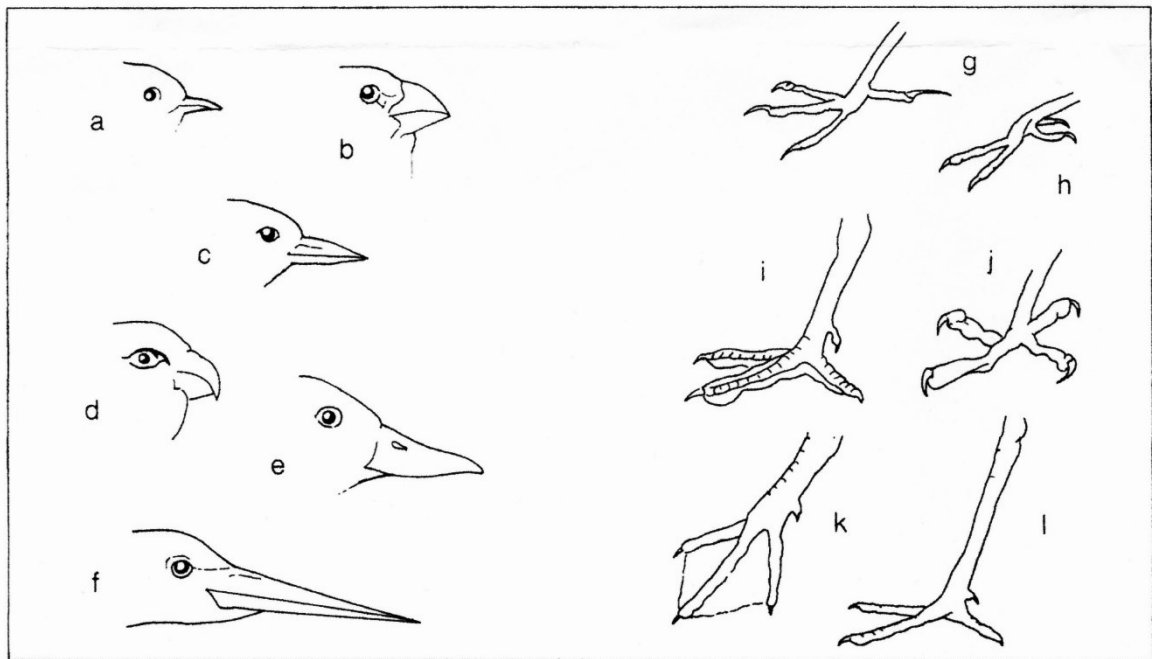
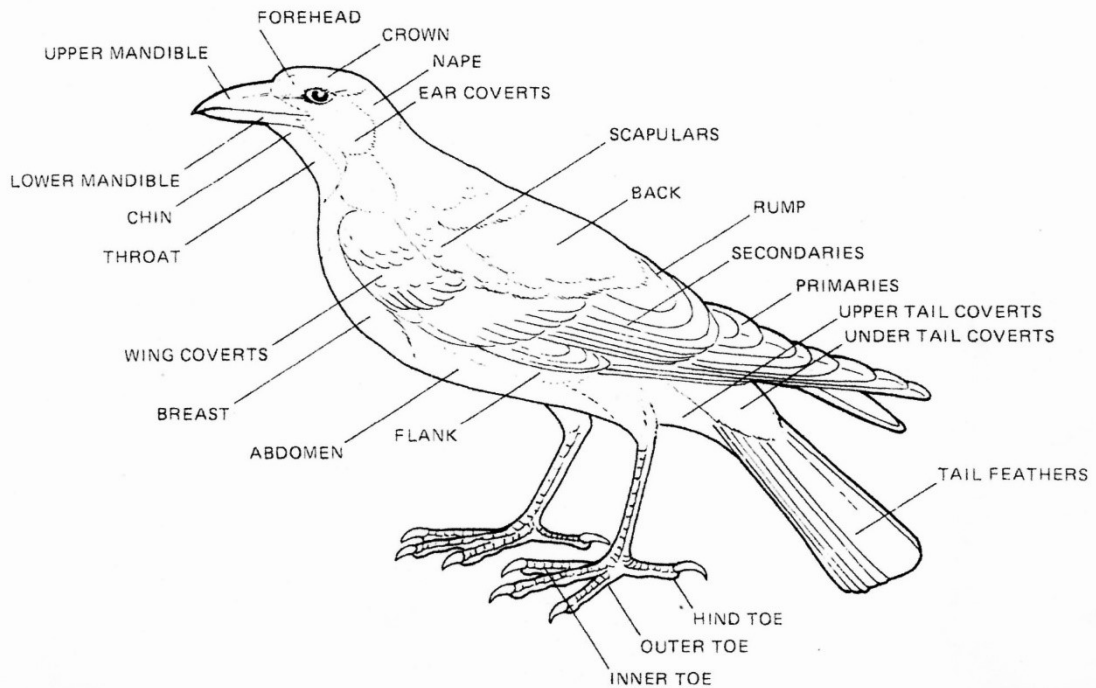
Another, thank you for those who came to the Toowoomba camp and enjoyed Redwood Park – at the time, this wildlife wilderness was under threat from the Toowoomba Council who endeavored to install a Mountain Bike race track through the centre of the park.

As a result of many efforts from local residents and visitors like yourself we have managed to deny the Council the opportunity to destroy this Wildlife Treasure and it will now remain as it is for the future; so next time the opportunity to visit the park in the future it will still hold the memories that you might have retained from the Bird Camp in 2022.

Charles Dove



PARTS OF A BIRD



BILLS

- a) Thin and sharp for catching insects
- b) Short and deep for crunching nuts and seeds
- c) Chisel-shaped for digging behind the bark of trees for grubs
- d) Hooked for tearing at flesh
- e) Flat and broad for scooping up plants and insects in mud and water
- f) Long and sharp for spearing fish

FEET

- g) One toe behind for perching
- h) Two toes behind for climbing
- i) Palmated toes for walking on soft surfaces and swimming
- j) Short and strong with long talons for holding prey
- k) Webbed for swimming
- l) Long-legged for walking on land

Monthly Sightings: May/June 2022

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	Nº	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
White-headed Pigeon	1	7-Jun-22	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphet
Sooty Oystercatcher	1	12 june '22	Lake Illawarra,Windang	Water	Tera Wheway
White-fronted Tern	1	28/05/2022	Austinmer	Pool Wall	S McIntosh
Masked Lapwing	2	12/05/2022	Kiama -Bonaira	Field	Alan/Anne Cousins
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	3	11/06/2022	Albion Park Rail	urban yard	Peter Fackender
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	8	13/05/2022	Lake Illawarra South	O'head	Darryl Goldrick
Black-shouldered Kite	1	6/06/2022	Fred Finch Park, Berkley	Grassland	Sue/Ken Brown
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	6/01/2022	Top of Bulli Pass	Over escarpment	Sue & Ken Brown
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	12/05/2022	Lake Illawarra,- Windang	Over water	Tera Wheway
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1 pr	10/05/2022	Corrimal	Highway - o'head	Joan Zealey
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	6/02/2022	Balgownie	Overhead	Pam Hazelwood
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	6/06/2022	Cordeaux Heights	Gully o'head	W.Green
Rainbow Lorikeet	40+	10/06/2022	Thirroul	backyard robinia canopy	Mike Morphet
Australian King-Parrot	2	10/06/2022	Wiseman Park Gwynneville	Suburban park	Chris. Cartledge
Crimson Rosella	2	10/06/2022	Wiseman Park Gwynneville	Suburban park	Chris. Cartledge
Crimson Rosella	4 imm	14/06/2022	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphet
Green Catbird	1	12/06/2022	Austinmer	Front Yard Rainforest	S McIntosh
Australian Ibis	~50	6/06/2022	Albion Park Rail	Sports Field	Darryl Goldrick
Yellow Thornbill	6	10/05/2022	Marshall Mount	Garden/Creek	Anna/Andrew Knowlson
Yellow Thornbill	3	8/06/2022	Thirroul headland	Casuarina	S McIntosh
Brown Thornbill	6	10/05/2022	Austinmer	Home garden	Terry Dawson
Lewin's Honeyeater	1	6/02/2022	Tarrawanna	Backyard	Sue & Ken Brown
Red Wattlebird	2	11/05/2022	Kiama- Boniara	Bushes	Alan/Anne Cousins
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	1	1/06/2022	Towradgi	tree bordering Memorial Drive	Mike Morphet
Grey Fantail	1	15/06/2022	Thirroul	backyard casuarina	Mike Morphet
Black-faced Monarch	1	10/06/2022	Dempster St West Wollongong	Suburban St	Chris. Cartledge
Eastern Yellow Robin	1	13/06/2022	Thirroul	front garden	Mike Morphet
Red-whiskered Bulbul	5	6/03/2022	Tarrawanna	Backyard	Sue & Ken Brown
Red-browed Finch	6	14/06/2022	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphet

SIGHTINGS –

please report your sightings be what they may be. No need to be a rare or unusual sightings, even though it is preferred. We still need to keep track of our bird species population to view any obvious changes either an increase or decrease in any of our native species.

*Email all your bird sightings to Darryl Goldrick at
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<https://www.iboc.com.au/>