



TOWNSVILLE TURNS IT ON - Jo Wieneke

If you thought AGM's were dull - think again! Jo did a wonderful job of organising the events with some helpers and collected a few more grey hairs along the way! Thanks Jo - her report follows.

The 1999 AGM was held in Townsville on the Queen's Birthday long weekend, June 12-14th. The old Quarantine Station at Pallarenda, now E.P.A's Northern Regional headquarters proved an ideal location. We moved our chairs outside onto the verandah of the old Queenslander building, now the Conference Room and while the meeting was in progress, Brush Turkeys scratched around in the garden beds, Brown and Yellow Honeyeaters called nearby. Convenor Jon Nott chaired the meeting, all positions were re-elected except the treasurer Elinor Scambler, who stood down and John Clarkson was elected unopposed. After these election formalities and information from area representatives, conservation officer and current project reports, we enjoyed afternoon tea on the verandah. Then David James showed slides of his visits to Herald Cay in the Coral Sea, an area seldom visited by tourists, and allowed us to enjoy the delights of seabirds without the accompanying seasickness.

Our visit to the bat, egret and ibis roost on Ross River had to be cancelled, for reasons unknown, the birds have deserted the colony and are dispersed in smaller groups around town. Later the AGM Banquet was held at the 'Boiling Billy' in the city and the owners had devised a special menu for the occasion. With the whole restaurant to ourselves, 30 of us enjoyed an excellent meal and a great evening.

Our full day excursion on Sunday was to the wonderful area of coastal plain south of Townsville. David James led the day and we followed the watercourse from mountainside to gallery forest, through woodlands and into the extensive reedbeds. The creeks then reform and continue to the coast. We met at the Alligator Creek section of Bowling Green Bay National Park at 7.30 (Some arrived a little later!) for a leisurely bird walk in the picnic area and along the creek. - a good start to the day. By 9am there were 19 cars and 40+ people who had come from as far afield as Atherton and Charters Towers for the day.

We drove in convoy to Cromarty a property about 40 mins south of Townsville owned by Mark Stoneman. I had told him to expect 15-20 people but over 40 arrived on the day! His property adjoins the Cromarty Wetlands and he is in the process of setting up the Wetlands and Grasslands Foundation aiming at protecting the area and promoting ecotourism. We divided up into a smaller convoy of cars to visit the reedbeds/wetlands and the 'Black Scrub', a local riparian rainforest area. Both were well worth visiting and produced some excellent birds.

We returned to Cromarty for a picnic lunch in the gardens of the beautifully restored old house where the Stoneman family kindly provided tea and coffee. After lunch we explored along Reed Beds Road finding finches, nesting Black-necked Storks, kingfishers and Brolgas. The convoy became shorter as the day progressed and at our last destination Cunggulla, a small fishing community on the coast, numbers were down to a dozen. The Yellow White-eye eluded us but we did see Mangrove Honeyeaters, which meet up and possibly hybridise with Varied Honeyeaters around Townsville.

Back to Townsville and we enjoyed salads and barbecue under the mango tree in Chris Jakku's back yard to finish off an excellent day.

No visit to Townsville is complete with a trip to the Common and the 'stayers' met from 7.00am onwards at the Waterbird Hide for breakfast. Views of Brolgas, spoonbills, cormorants, stilt, egrets, darters, ducks and grebes made a pleasant start to the day and finish of a very enjoyable long weekend.

Many thanks to all those who helped make it such a success: EPA for allowing us to use their facilities, Chris Jakku, David James, the Stoneman family for their hospitality, the Meehan family for allowing us to visit their property and Malcolm Turner who conjured up a vital projector.

INSIDE NEWS

BA-NQG & Atlas Contacts	P2
Counts, Surveys & Trips	P2
Twitchathon	P3
Sightings	P4
Glossy Black Cockatoos, Tagged Egrets	P4
What Else Has Been Happening?	
Old Post office Atherton	P4
Interesting Places - Douglas Track Walk - Cairns	P5
Cairns Esplanade News & Wader Counts	P5
NatureSearch News	P5
Gouldian Finch Volunteers Wanted	P5
Changes in populations of Crested Pigeons	P5
Immature Northern Giant Petrel	P6
Innisfail/Tully News	P6
Townsville News	P6
Atlas Report (including local news)	P6
Bird Identification & Observations	
Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo	P7
Further thoughts on the incidence of	
Australian Wood Duck	P7
Facial Colouration of Immature Squatter Pigeon	P7
Figbird Fisticuffs in Mackay	P7
Leucitic Red-headed Honeyeater in Weipa	P7
Big Thank You, Raffle Results & Quiz	P8
Welcome New Members & Notices	P8

EVENTS CALENDAR

- August Sun. 29th** Redden Island Count (Cairns). Meet at 8.30am on Cinderella St, Machins Beach at the entrance before the toilet block - contact Keith Fisher.
 - September Sat. 11th - Sun 26th.** Atlas campout at Bathurst Heads - Cape Melville on Cape York Peninsula. Contact Ian Sinclair or John Clarkson.
 - Sept. Sunday 19th.** Bird of Prey Watch on the Atherton Tableland. An activity for those who can't make it to Bathurst Heads. Contact local rep. Ian Sinclair. (See page 3 for details).
 - Sept. 26th - 2nd Oct** Birds Australia National congress and campout. (see page 8 for details).
 - October 9th Sat** Tableland Crane Count (see page 3 for details)
 - Oct 30th-31st** Twitchathon - (see page 3 for details)
 - October 31st** Serpentine Lagoon Survey - Townsville - contact Jo Wieneke.
 - November 7th Sun.** Tablelands/Cairns Plath Road, off Atherton-Ravenshoe Rd. Ph Ian Sinclair for details.
 - Nov. 29th Sun.** Redden Island Count (Cairns). Meet at 8.30am on Cinderella St, Machins Beach at the entrance before the toilet block - contact Keith Fisher.
 - December Saturday 4th** Christmas Party at Graham Harringtons house in Malanda - you can ring Lindsay or Graham for details nearer the time.
- Arrangements can change after publication - contact local reps. for the latest info. This will give more flexibility, especially weather conditions. Extra events may also be arranged**

Birds Australia Raffle Results

OFFICE BEARERS

Convenor: Jon Nott (07) 4096 8230
E-mail rosegums@internetnorth.com.au

Secretary: Lindsay Fisher (07) 4039 0972
E-mail lkfisher@north.net.au

Treasurer: John Clarkson (07) 4092 2702
E-mail John.clarkson@dnr.qld.gov.au

Area Representatives:

Mackay: Marion Crouther (07) 4958 4613

Bowen/Ayr: Jon Wren (07) 4786 2614
E-mail jonwren@hotmail.com

Townsville: Jo Wieneke (07) 4771 4707
E-mail bowerbird@msm.com.au

Innisfail/Tully: Klaus Uhlenhut (07) 4065 5181
E-mail kirrama@4kz.com.au

Cairns: Keith Fisher (07) 4039 0972 fax AH (07) 4039 0975
E-mail lkfisher@north.net.au

Atherton Tableland: Ian Sinclair (07) 4091 4544
E-mail sinclair@dnr.qld.gov.au

Mossman/Daintree: Del Richards (07) 4094 1199

Cape York Peninsula: Michael Barnett (07) 4069 8365
E-mail ssellwood@bigpond.com

Torres Strait: Denise Fowler (07) 4069 1162
E-mail denisebruce@uq.net.au

Western Queensland: Peter Britton (07) 4087 2188

BA-NQG Conservation Representative & NatureSearch coordinator:
Amanda Freeman (07) 4095 2148
E-mail procella@ozemail.com.au
NatureSearch E-mail Amanda.Freeman@env.qld.gov.au

PROJECT CONTACTS

Lake Tinaroo Faecal Coliform Study
Position Vacant - Any volunteers?

Beach Stone Curlew Study
Amanda Freeman (contact number as above).

Northern Gulf Regional Strategy Group
Ian Fox Ph (07) 4091 4193
E-mail foxi@fastinternet.net.au

Gouldian Finch and Birds at Waterholes Survey
Klaus Uhlenhut Ph (07) 4065 5181
E-mail kirrama@4kz.com.au

and a Quiz is on page 8

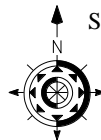
Redden Island Survey (Cairns) Keith Fisher Ph (07) 4039 0972
E-mail lkfisher@north.net.au

Sarus/Brolga Tableland Crane counts
Elinor Scambler Ph (07) 4095 3296
E-mail dacelo@internetnorth.com.au

Egret & Ibis Counts (Townsville)
Jo Wieneke Ph (07) 4771 4707
E-mail bowerbird@msm.com
or Tania Korn RIVER coordinator (07) 4721 4077

Counts are at Ross River every Thursday afternoon in conjunction with the RIVER group. Phone Jo if you'd like to help.

BIRDS AUSTRALIA ATLAS CONTACTS



Send atlas sheets to: - PO Box 776, Malanda QLD 4885 or hand them to the following RO's/SRO's

Northern Region (Cardwell North and north of Gulf Development Road, including Cape York)

Regional Organiser: - Graham Harrington ph: 07 4096 5051
email: treetop@north.net.au

SRO'S: -

Stephen Garnett (Cairns) ph: 07 4052 3088
email: stephen.garnett@env.qld.gov.au

Glen Holmes (Atherton Tableland) ph: 07 4091 4364
email: dasyornis@ledanet.com.au

Lloyd Nielsen (Northern Atherton Tableland) ph: 07 4094 1549
email: nielsen@tpgi.com.au

Elinor Scambler (Atherton Tableland) ph: 07 4095 3296
email: dacelo@internetnorth.com.au

Eric Sticklen (Atherton Tableland) ph: 07 4091 2300

Keith Fisher (Cairns) ph: 07 4039 0972
email: lkfisher@north.net.au

Southern Region

(Comprising of Cardwell south and south of the Gulf Development Road including Mount Isa.)

Southern Regional Organiser:-

Jo Wieneke ph: 07 4771 4707
email: bowerbird@msm.com.au

SRO'S:-

Margaret Streamer ph: 07 4777 5164 email: marstream@bigpond.com
(Townsville/Ingham)

Jon Wren ph: 07 4786 2614 email: jonwren@hotmail.com
(Bowen/Ayr)

Marion Crouther ph: 07 4958 4613 (Mackay)

Ian Clayton ph: 07 4725 6489 email: birds&bush@ultra.net.au
(Townsville)

COUNTS, SURVEYS and TRIPS

MAREEBA WETLANDS 11/7/99 - Ian Sinclair

About 35 people met at the Mareeba Wetlands – it was good to see so many people there. We broke up into three groups; two of these groups being led by Noelene Gross and Gwynth Nevard from the Mareeba Wetlands.

The group led by Gwynth took the longer route, while that led by Noelene checked out the activity at a nearby creek. The third group went across to the original bird hide and walked around there.

There had been reports of Australasian Shovelers and Pink-eared Duck on Pandanus Lagoon, and two of the groups were lucky enough to see them.

There was quite a bit of activity on Pandanus Lagoon, including Great-crested Grebe, Hardheads and Australian Wood Duck, although activity on

the deeper lagoons was slightly disappointing. Also interesting was a raft of at least 80 Australasian Grebes with half a dozen Great Crested Grebes chaperoning them.

There were also interesting birds seen in the savanna country adjoining the wetlands, including a solitary Black-throated Finch, many Weebill, Brown Treecreeper and Varied Sittella. The species list totalled 97, which is an impressive total for a morning's work.

Our thanks go to Noelene and Gwynth for escorting us and explaining a few of the issues that the Mareeba Wetlands Foundation deals with.

Lunch was held at John Clarkson's new Jon Nott pole home, and made for a pleasant ending to the day.

CAIRNS CROCODILE FARM 31/7/99

Keith Fisher

About 20 people turned up to the Cairns Crocodile Farm for a pleasant afternoon stroll around the farm. We got off to a bad start due to a mis-identification, we all wanted to see Black Bitterns which is what we did - however the bird turned into a highly streaked Striated Heron! Goes to show you see what you want to see when birding. After we settled down we started to see lots of White-browed Crakes, a good view of a Goulds Bronze-Cuckoo, Clamorous Reed-Warbler, White-necked Heron amongst many waterbirds and a Little Kingfisher which is always good to see, an Australian Hobby flew over at the end of the trip. We ended up with a species list of 49. Oh yes, nearly forgot, lots of very big crocodiles. Unfortunately from a bird watching point of view more ponds are being created at the expense of very good birding habitat, including the reedbeds where the Little Bitterns have been seen in the past. Hopefully enough habitats will be left to continue the good reputation the farm has gained amongst the birding fraternity both in Australia and overseas. We finished off with a coffee whilst sitting down watching White-browed Crakes and Buff-banded Rails trotting by. We thank the Crocodile Farm for their hospitality and hope we can go back and see many birds in the future.

MURRAY FALLS CAMPOUT 7-8/8/99

What can we say about this trip - only Jo turned up from Townsville and nobody else. The inclement weather of the previous days certainly turned some people off. Well do we want weekend campouts? If so where do we want to go? Your choice.

1999 BIRD OF PREY WATCH

BOP WATCH BACK ON TRACK - Lee

O'Mahoney

(Research & Conservation Development Coordinator - Melbourne)

Much to the delight of **Will Steele**, the HANZAB manager, Birds Australia is pleased to welcome a new staff member as the BOP Watch Project Officer

Gudrun Arnold will be working one day a week at National Office over the next 12 months, coordinating BOP Watch Stage Two and, ultimately, publishing the results. Raptors are a bit of a change for Gudrun, who studied Short-tailed Shearwaters as part of her Zoology Honours degree. She is, however, not new to BOP Watch, having helped out with it as an office volunteer over the last couple of years.

Since government funding ceased in 1998, BOP Watch has been without a project officer and Will Steele has been valiantly juggling BOP Watch while performing his other duties. Gudrun's appointment brings much relief to Will, who is said to have been doing cartwheels down Riversdale Road and shouting beers at the pub.

BOP Watch Stage One was conducted between 1986 and 1990 and provided valuable baseline data about the distribution, relative abundance and movements of our 24 diurnal raptor species. During the five year period, more than 25,000 roadside surveys were conducted by 271 volunteers, covering nearly 4 million kilometres.

As part of Stage Two, nearly 32,000 surveys have been conducted since 1996 by 450 observers from around Australia. This information will not only add to the data obtained during Stage One, it will enable us to determine the exact effects of the Rabbit Calicivirus Disease on raptors.

If you are a current BOP Watch volunteer, or would like to get involved with the project, please contact Gudrun at National Office on Thursdays.

(re-printed from August Galah, the inhouse newsletter of Birds Australia).

TABLELAND BOP WATCH, Sunday 19/9/99

Ian Sinclair

An activity for those who can't make it to Bathurst Heads. The event will start at 9am Sunday 19th September. People can gather at the Hallorans Hill Environmental Park, at the picnic ground on Maunds Road. (This is also the Atherton starting point for the Gillies Highway). The park is directly opposite the Hinterland Motel. We will break up into groups, and travel for approximately 2.5 hours on selected routes. Meet at the same venue from 12.30 onwards, for a BBQ lunch BYO food and drink. Alternatively, people from Cairns, northern tablelands etc can travel from a different starting point, and meet the groups at 12.30 at Hallorans Hill Environmental Park.

Prizes for those who spot Black Falcons, Red Goshawks, and funny looking Harriers!

CRANE COUNT Saturday 9/10/99

Elinor Scambler

Meet at Hasties Swamp National Park near Atherton at 3.30pm, for afternoon tea and birdwatching. Bring binoculars and sensible shoes. Teams then go to various roost sites to count both Brolgas and Sarus Cranes as they fly in for the night. Counters and families all welcome to a BYO everything buffet dinner afterwards, (at Jon Notts), when we tally up the results (and swap stories). Details Ph Elinor Scambler (07) 4095 3296 or Ian Sinclair 4091 4544 AH or 4096 8230 BH.

BEACH STONE-CURLEW REPORT

Keith Fisher

Amanda has suggested that a coordinated effort be made on establishing a more accurate number of Beach Stone-curlews in the BA-NQG area. She has suggested that we put aside a day and get as many people to report sightings up and down the coast. Amanda is keeping the database of sightings that Gary Wilson was custodian of, so send her any sightings. Around Cairns Beach Stone-curlews have been seen on the Cairns Esplanade (up to six) - this is too easy for overseas and Aussie birds! Earlier in the year up to seven were at Cairns airport. Another three have been seen further north at Yorkeys Knob in company with 23 Bush Stone-curlews on the edge of the mangroves! Several others have been reported further south of Cairns on the Russell Islands. However all these sightings are in isolation and an accurate number, especially in Cairns, is difficult to arrive at with many sightings on different days. Remember keep those sightings coming in and watch this space for further details.

BIRD MONITORING IN REVEGETATION

PROJECTS ON THE ATHERTON TABLELAND

Elinor Scambler

The quarterly **Donaghy's** survey was completed in July with (again) some mysterious changes in farm fencing challenging our ability to get around and survey the property! Amanda Freeman participated to help her plan for a similar long-term monitoring program along **Peterson Creek**, linking Lake Eacham with the Curtain Fig forest.

Meanwhile, we're very pleased that our design for bird monitoring at Donaghy's (aerial photo etc) will be used by BA in the forthcoming Birds on Farms book/report.

The July survey along **Prior's Creek** in Atherton was notable for the first record of a Grey-headed Robin in our Platypus Park plot.

We've called for **Expressions of Interest in bird training**, from members of TREAT and Tablelands National Park Volunteers. We need people who want to develop their birding skills to do bird monitoring in reveg! If any BA members would like to participate please call Elinor (4095 3296) or Amanda (4095 2148).

1999 TWITCHATHON

The contacts for this year's twitchathon to be held on the weekend of 30-31st October, are Lindsay Fisher and Ian Sinclair. The rules are the same as last year and all monies raised by us stay in our region. The local reps will have details. The Cairns/Tableland area have decided that the money raised by their teams will be put towards producing educational bird posters which could be erected at birding areas ie. boat ramps, parks. However, other areas

may have local projects, which you would like to support, let the organisers know. Remember the money raised in your area stays there. Although the Twitchathon is usually 24hours noon-noon, it can be done over a specified shorter period if this suits the participants. It's a fun thing to do, so how about getting a team together!

SIGHTINGS



Photos clearly showing them in a Callistemon have confirmed the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater reported in the last Contact Call by the front door of a house in Kuranda. There is always the slight possibility that these birds had escaped from an aviary, as they are one of the few honeyeaters that are successfully kept in aviaries.

Chris Dahlberg sent in a Daintree report for the end of May. Two (M&F) **Australian Wood Ducks** turned up in Daintree 29th May. The day before at least one and I think two **Swamp Harriers** put in an appearance. The pattern is much the same as previous years except for 11 **Channel-billed Cuckoo's** over-wintering along with two **Brush Cuckoo's** and a solitary **Pied Imperial-Pigeon**. There are less **Little Pied Cormorant's** and **Little Egrets** than normal and some **Plumed Whistling-Duck's** were here for a day, my first sighting in Daintree.

16/6/99 7am Wednesday morning Sue and I observed a big shadowed chicken like bird scratching around in our back yard (which backs on to the Ross River Reserve, Townsville). We got our glasses to check it out and received the shock of the week to find it was an **Orange Footed Scrub-fowl**. Maybe they are here, but I doubt it. We have seen plenty of them in Rainforest, and usually further north. Really strange to us. Anyone like to comment. John and Sue O'Malley. E-mail jonno@ultra.net.au

It maybe that the Australian **Wood Ducks** reported at the Cairns Airport in the last issue of CC may have moved on to Yorkeys Knob Lagoon (and the Daintree) as up to 12 have been seen there in June/July, 4 of them juvenile birds. This location has had some good birds over the last few months. Mid June Jonathon Munro reported 2 **Painted Honeyeaters** foraging for insects, they were observed for 45mins - this would be a range extension. One **Pink-eared Duck** was present during June/July and 3 pairs of **Australian Darters** have had nests there. On 26th June Ken Cross pointed out a different looking teal to Jo Wieneke and myself. It definitely had a chestnut breast but we were unable to confirm the suspected **Chestnut Teal**. The following day Dawn and Arnold Magarry, Lindsay and myself returned and got excellent views in full sun, it was indeed confirmed as a **Chestnut Teal**, another rarity in Cairns. Keith Fisher

Glenn Holmes reported that 2 **Australasian Shovelers** at Mareeba Wetland (Pandanus L.) and a **Little Kingfisher** at Walkamin during June were unusual.

30/6/99 6 **Australian Pratincole**, Cairns Airport - Keith Fisher

John Crowhurst reported a **Blue-winged Kookaburra** present along the Cairns Esplanade for a few weeks in July (new for Esplanade list, now over 230 species).

3/7/99 **Double-banded Plover**, mouth of the Barron River on Redden Island - Dawn and Arnold Magarry. About six years since the last one of this species was seen in Cairns.

12/7/99 3 **Red-tailed Black Cockatoo** overhead Clifton Beach (Cairns northern suburb) - Ian Cowan (unusual on the Cairns coast).

19/7/99 **Letter-winged Kite**, Abattoir Swamp, Julatten - Ron Stannard.

21/7/99 **Spotted Harrier**, Abattoir Swamp, Julatten - Ron Stannard.

21/7/99 - 4 **Great Crested Grebe** and 2 **Grey Shrike-thrush** at Tin Creek Dam on Palmer to Maytown road (FNQ) - Del Richards.

Del Richards also reported that an immature **Northern Giant-Petrel** was picked up at sea off Low Isles off Port Douglas on 31/7/99. See a full report Page 6. (I heard one was seen on Michaelmas Cay prior to this find - maybe the same bird? no further details on this bird - Keith Fisher).

John O'Malley reported seeing 6 Kingfishers (amongst other birds), at Serpentine Lagoon (Townsville) on Sunday, 1st. August. **Laughing** and **Blue-winged Kookaburra**, **Sacred**, **Forest**, **Azure**, and **Little Kingfisher**. I took a birdo out for the day, Bill was from NSW, we saw a lot of good stuff for him at the Dam, then went on to Serpentine Lagoon where we saw the 6 Kingfishers within a space of 30 minutes. The Azure and Little were sharing the same branch over the water. One would fly off for a while and

the other would come and occupy. I had never seen the Little at Serpentine before (18 months observing on and off).

8/8/99 & 14/8/99 **Spotted Catbird** (in mangroves) still present after about six weeks at Clifton Beach, also one at Palm Cove on 15/8/99 - Ian Cowan

12/8/99 1 **Latham's Snipe** at Cairns airport - 1st of the season for Cairns Airport, excellent views from 2m. - Keith Fisher

14/8/99 2 **Common Sandpipers** 1st of the season for Cairns Airport - Keith Fisher. (There were 4 by 21/8)

15/8/99 **Pied Imperial Pigeon**, **Channel-billed Cuckoo** and **Spotted Catbird** Palm Cove (one of Cairns northern suburbs) - Ian Cowan

15/8/99 **Metallic Starling**, Clifton Beach, regularly seen. (Numbers have been building up in the Cairns area from around this date - Ed).

17/8/99 2 **Grass Owl** at Eubenangee Swamp (NW of Innisfail) - Jan England, Max O'Sullivan, John Crowhurst and Mark Jargusch.

21/8/99 **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, 1st of the season for Cairns Airport, 4 were on the Cairns Esplanade in the afternoon. 7 **Pied Imperial Pigeons** also flew by the Esplanade - the migrants return.

21/8/99 The first **Common Koel** (a female) and the first **Pied Imperial-pigeons** for the season in Weipa - Michael Barnett.

Townsville News (Page 6) has more good sightings from that region.

GLOSSY BLACK COCKATOO - Stephen

Garnet

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo nest found by Peter and Hazel Britton at the end of March, on the Paluma Range, had a chick at the entrance a couple of weeks ago when seen by Jo Wieneke and Roland Seitre. That means that, when the Brittons found it the birds were only just starting to prospect for a nest site and probably did not lay their egg until early April. Latest news is that the chick has fledged and left the nest and none of the birds has been seen since (mid-August).



TAGGED EGRETS - Keith Fisher

An **Intermediate Egret** with a wing tag was observed at Cairns Airport in June. After reading the number on the tag, I got in touch with David Geering (well known egret tagger) and received the following information:

100-77106. *Nestling banded by David Geering at Lawrence, northern NSW on 25 Feb.1992. Colour marking sighted in field (band number inferred) at Cairns, Qld on 11 June 1999, over 7 years 3 months after banding. 1591 km NNW.*

Could you please keep an eye out for wing tagged egrets and to record the colour and coding, if possible, of any tags seen. David is happy to receive and pass on any details. Contact email - David.Geering@nre.vic.gov.au or phone on his freecall number 1800 621 056 at work. (Victorian Gov.).

WHAT' ELSE HAS BEEN HAPPENING?

OLD POST OFFICE GALLERY IN ATHERTON

UPDATE - Elinor Scambler

Birds Australia-North Queensland Group has completed an unusual project at the Old Post Office Gallery in Atherton - it seems that in a one-off sense we've become arts entrepreneurs (in the interests of community bird information and conservation!)

As well as the bird/ wildlife information display area, we were asked by the Shire Council to tackle another space - a rather dark and narrow corner of the art gallery itself.

A multi-media work sponsored by our group has now transformed the alcove into a 3-dimensional, floor-to-ceiling imaginary rainforest inhabited by local birds and plants. Habitat is suggested by fabric hangings dyed by local artist Sandra Burchill, Joan Boissevain painted bold models of Victoria's Riflebird and Australian Brush-turkey and artist member Jenny Holmes painted rainforest plant forms. Elinor Scambler was responsible for design, accessories (eg fabric lianas and lichen) and construction. None of the contributing artists was tall so fortunately the high ladder

work was willingly [?] taken on by Pat Daly and Glenn (steeplejack) Holmes. The Shire will provide atmospheric lighting.

We're not sure if this is the first time a regional BA group has sponsored and created a permanent artwork for a local gallery. It was very well received at its unofficial launch, a recent function for the current Artists-in-Residence group, and in the local media including a photo in the Cairns Post.

Aug	Sun 29 th	0900	0945	1045*
Sept.	Sun 26 th	0815	0850	0922
Oct.	Sun 24 th	1030	0800	0830
Nov.	Sun 21 st	0930	0700	0738
Dec	Sun 19 th	0700	0615	0644

For the airport counts contact Keith Fisher. *Approx. time

INTERESTING PLACES

DOUGLAS TRACK WALK, CAIRNS

Keith & Lindsay Fisher

The walk up the Douglas Track starting in Rainforest Estate, Kamerunga is a pleasant way to get fit as well as seeing birds and views. The track starts at the top end of Douglas Track Road and follows a concrete road up the hill to a water tower and TV aerials. From here the track leads off into the rainforest and climbs up to the railway line (16° 52' 05" S 145° 39' 42"E) drifting in and out of the rainforest. At the railway line turn left and after a few metres the track continues on the opposite bank of the line (before a small bridge). The first part of the track is steep but it flattens out into an easy gradient after about 100m and leads onto the transmission towers access road (16° 52' 05"S 145° 39' 47"E). Turn left and follow this road for about 200m to the junction of the Douglas Track and the McDonalds Track. The Douglas Track goes left to Speewah (4.3k) and Glacier Rock (1k), the McDonalds Track goes straight on to Wrights Lookout near Kuranda (4.8k). The walk up to Glacier Rock is well worth the effort as it gives spectacular views of the Barron River valley, surrounds and out to sea. From the junction of the two tracks the Douglas Track leads into rainforest, which turns into casuarina dominated eucalypt and acacia woodland. After 700m the track divides and a short (0.2k) spur track leads to Glacier Rock (16° 52' 22"S 145° 39' 25"E). We took 1hr 25mins at birdwatching pace to reach here. The track is steep in places but it's worth the effort. Along the way we ran into two bird waves of mixed feeding flocks the best one consisted of Lovely Fairy-wren, Fairy Gerygone, Macleays Honeyeater, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Dusky Honeyeater, Grey Whistler, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Spectacled Monarch, Rufous Fantail, Yellow-bellied Sunbird and Silvereye.

ESPLANADE NEWS - Keith Fisher



The latest on the Esplanade is that the third modifications to the proposed redevelopment plans were released in early June for public consultation. We had a meeting with the consultants at the beginning of June to discuss this latest proposal; those present were Jan England, Lindsay and Keith Fisher. We were pleased to see that one of our suggestions had been acted on, with the environmental interpretive centre being moved back behind the walkway off the mudflats and the high tide roost! This building, along with two other proposed ones, had its original roof design lowered down to blend in better with the surroundings. The swimming pool has been modified at the southern end (its not impinging onto many bird habitats) and a pier, which previously stuck out into the inlet, has been removed. A bird Island has been proposed in front of the environmental interpretive centre and we asked about the construction of this and gave our suggestions. This current plan has a walkway built on the existing wall (which will not be extended onto the mudflats) and will give good views of the birds, separating other activities like cycling, skateboarding and inline skating which will have their own pathway.

We generally felt that the planners are taking notice of our concerns and acting on them, the birds do continue to play a major part of their plans which is good to see and we hope this will continue. As yet funding is not forthcoming to see the project through - time will tell if it does.

CAIRNS WADER COUNTS - Keith Fisher



The Cairns wader count times for the September - December periods are set out below. If you would like to participate in them please contact Grahame Finnigan:

Work ph. 4052 3965, Home ph 4055 6139

Month	Date	Esplanade Time	Boat Time	Airport Time
-------	------	----------------	-----------	--------------

NATURE SEARCH NEWS from Amanda Freeman



NATURESEARCH NEEDS

NATURALISTS

The QPWS is reactivating and expanding NatureSearch and is calling on volunteer naturalists to collect information on the distributions of plants and animals throughout Queensland. Records of rare and threatened species, those that are significant indicators of environmental health and those that characterise important areas for conservation are particularly needed. By contributing records to NatureSearch, volunteers can assist in building up reliable data on species' distributions; essential information for conservation management.

NatureSearch volunteers can participate in a number of ways from simply sending in their own interesting records to taking part in organised surveys. As NatureSearch develops there will be training programs to improve volunteers' flora and fauna identification skills and ongoing newsletters to keep volunteers informed.

Interested people can contact the following persons: Amanda Freeman, NatureSearch Volunteer Coordinator for Cairns-Tablelands at QPWS in Atherton. Phone 4091 4262 or email: Amanda.Freeman@env.qld.gov.au .

or Linda Whiteley, NatureSearch Volunteer Coordinator for Townsville, Phone 4722 5334 or email: Linda.Whiteley@env.qld.gov.au

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GOULDIAN

FINCH SUVEYS - Amanda Freeman

Experienced birdwatchers are needed to take part in finch surveys in far north Queensland. The main purpose is to search for Gouldian Finches, but also to make counts of other finches visiting waterholes. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service will make arrangements for volunteers to survey properties in the vicinity of Georgetown/Croydon/Forsyth where Gouldian Finches have been sighted in recent years.

This is an excellent opportunity to get off the beaten track, make a real contribution to bird conservation and visit places with the best chances of seeing Gouldian's.

Volunteers will need to be self-sufficient (ie all food and camping equipment) and have a four-wheel drive vehicle. Property surveys can be arranged for any period from three days or more this dry season and possibly in the coming wet season.

For further information please contact Amanda Freeman - details as above.

CHANGES IN POPULATIONS OF CRESTED

PIGEONS - Del Richards

Over the last twenty to thirty years the Crested Pigeon has taken advantage of changes to the environment in Australia whereas prior to that period it was largely a species of inland parts.

For instance, at Mt. Carbine in 1995 the only population there was of four birds. Now that group has reached 12-15 birds, observed around the township and into an area about 5km. south.

In the 1997 dry season there were five birds at the big storage near Cooktown crossing west of Mt. Carbine on the Mitchell River. With their general liking for semi-urban areas it seems likely that they would have appeared in Mt. Molloy but that has not occurred as yet.

In the wet season of 1998 I recorded a pair regularly in the Quaid Road junction area at Lake Mitchell and they now seem to be more settled and tamer.

In March of this year I noted two pairs adjacent to the Mcleod River (west of Mt. Carbine).

It seems that the species by its breeding success and gradual movement to these areas that they will become more regular. It is pleasing that a bird with its colours and flight pattern impresses many of our visiting birders from overseas.

IMMATURE NORTHERN GIANT PETREL

Del Richards

An immature Northern Giant Petrel was picked up at Low Isles off Port Douglas and was taken to the Rainforest Habitat (a huge walk in aviary with a big selection of native birds living and breeding there at Port Douglas -ed), where it subsequently died on the afternoon of July 31st. I was first notified by Kevin Mullin, a tourist from Washington, USA who asked me to confirm his identification. I confirmed this with concurrence of the staff at the "Habitat".

The bird was in good plumage condition although it was well under its normal weight of around 3kg, at 1.9kg.

It appears to be a northern record for the species and this coincides with many unusual seabirds being beachwashed over a period of 3 months in southern Queensland. David Stewart from the Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane mentioned a recent sighting of a Cape Petrel at a reef northeast of Mackay.

The only other record of a Northern Giant Petrel appears to be a mature bird rescued at May Point near Mackay in 1996. It was very weak and also died in care.

According to David Stewart there have been six records of the species in southeast Queensland this year and that is above the total of all the previous records.

The bird has been lodged with the Queensland Museum.

INNISFAIL/TULLY NEWS from Klaus Uhlenhut

I don't think I have to mention that spring is on its way. The Metallic Starlings have increased in numbers and are busy building nests. Our Sunbirds at home are doing the same.

On the 14/7/99 at Eubenangee Swamp a lone White-eared Monarch was found, but the swamp itself was quiet, just the usual and expected amount and variety of ibises, egrets, cormorants and Green Pygmy-geese.

The Mission Beach hot spots for Cassowaries (Lacey Creek and Licuala State Forest) produced, in less than 24 hrs 4 Cassowaries, but the bad news about this is the reason for such a great turn-out - the feeding of the Cassowaries by tourists. While we were at Lacey Creek one Cassowary kept on walking on the road, trying to stop cars to beg for food. At Licuala, while we watched a begging Cassowary in the car park area, a NSW car arrived, stopped and a family of 4 came out with food in their hands. We tried to tell them not to feed, pointed at the huge sign, which says, "Do not feed the Cassowaries", but the reply was: 'Why?' We explained again why, and the remark was 'Oh well that's a different story than the one we got from Mission Beach. They said it's okay, because this spot is away from the road.' Having said that they started to offer food, and the Cassowary went berserk, dashing all around them and trying to get more, which quickly made the family take shelter in their car and they took off. We just couldn't believe the whole event and stupidity. The sad part is, that someone in Mission Beach tells the tourists to feed, and that should be stopped. We don't need any more relocation of aggressive Cassowaries.

At Georgetown we saw the usual species of honeyeaters and finches (no Gouldian's), but I felt that numbers of Black-throated Finches were quite low. It's worth monitoring them over the next few years.

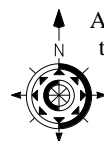
Reports of a Dunlin in breeding plumage on Cape Bowling Green by a group from BOCA on a Coastcare survey had some birders twitching. However when a small group, including two who had flown up from interstate, chartered a boat to return to the Cape neither the Dunlin nor the large flock of Curlew Sandpipers with which it had been roosting, were there. However later that day at Cungulla, two Square-tailed Kites were seen, one of which crash-landed in the canopy of a tree and emerged with a nestling. A Black Falcon was another good sighting the same day.

Cattle Egrets have stayed around Townsville all year for the first time. A flock of up to 150 has been seen in the Oonoomba area near the DPI land. Also there is the strange looking young Red-tailed Black Cockatoo which is a grubby off-white with orange instead of red in the tail. Two adults in female plumage accompany it. The Glossy Black Cockatoos at Paluma, first reported in April, have successfully raised a young one, which has been seen recently at the nest hole.

The Australian White Ibis have abandoned the mangrove area on Ross River and have been roosting in smaller groups including ones at DPI, the Pony Club and the Common. There is no apparent reason for their move. It has also been suggested that the nest areas may be infested with mites. The mangroves are alive and look healthy and there has been no disturbance that we are aware of.

Seasonal surveys continue at Serpentine Lagoon. The wetland itself is badly infested with water hyacinth but the woodland was excellent. At the last survey Plum-headed, Black-throated, Double-barred and Zebra Finches and Nutmeg Manikins were all recorded. The next survey will be at the end of October. Phone me for details.

ATLAS REPORT - ONE YEAR DOWN THE TRACK by Andrew Silcocks



A year into the Atlas project, with three years of fieldwork to go, is time to assess whether the project is meeting its targets.

- Over 3,200 individual registrations have been received. As many of these are groups, the number of people participating is likely to be far higher. Most Bird and many Field Naturalist and Landcare Groups are involved.
- We are very pleased with the numbers of 2-ha Searches which is remaining above 30% of the survey total. These surveys provide important information to us on a local level, and if repeat surveys are being done, allow us to see how bird populations are changing. We encourage Atlassers to continue to do their 2-ha Searches.
- 4090 wetland surveys have been done at 2984 locations. Many key wetlands are being surveyed and we are directing Atlassers to those not currently being Atlased.
- The number of surveys received is over 25,000, about 10% higher than for the first Atlas at the same stage. This needs to be maintained as we only have four years of fieldwork, compared with five for the first project.
- On the coverage front, of the 812 one-degree blocks that cover the mainland and major islands 564 have been visited, leaving 248 still to be Atlased.

The survey coverage map will be updated in each newsletter and viewable at <http://birdsaustralia.com.au/atlas>. We hope you will be encouraged to visit one-degree blocks with little or no coverage and we are now directing Atlassers to unvisited blocks. If you organise an Atlasing trip and want others to join in you can advertise it in our newsletters. Alternatively, if you hear of expeditions being planned into remote areas, especially Aboriginal Lands, please get in touch with us. It may be possible to encourage them to Atlas or to take Atlassers on the trips. There is some money available to assist with organising trips, especially into areas that are hard to access.

Tour operators provide opportunities to visit some of the remotest area of Australia. We will promote tours into remote areas in the hope that Atlasing is done on these trips. We will also organise expeditions through tour groups into unatlassed areas. These will be advertised in our newsletters, thus giving Atlassers a chance to join these exciting trips.

We do have some GPS units for loan. If you want to borrow one please contact us well in advance of your departure date, so we can put one aside

for you. These units make calculating positional information very easy, especially in remote areas where maps are usually hard to come by, small scale and with few features marked.

FOCUSSING ON FERALS

The Birds Australia Atlas Project is keen to receive reports of all wild birds seen in Australia (even if you think it is likely that they have escaped from captivity). It is far better for the Atlas database to be inclusive rather than exclusive on this matter; interpretation of the data and arguments about exactly what category the birds fall into can come later. So if a Long-billed Corella or a Peach-faced Lovebird or an Andean Condor visits your Brisbane garden, please record it - preferably on an Atlas record form and as an Incidental Record if not part of an Area Search. Please also record any signs of breeding activity and additional notes (provided for on the back of the Atlas record form) that may be relevant.

Moreover, the Atlas Project wants to do more than this. In order to be better able to interpret these records later on, it will be very useful to have historical records (that is, earlier than the Atlas commencement date of August 1998) of wild bird populations out of what is considered their natural range. So if you have records of (for example) Long-billed Corellas in Brisbane or Rose-ringed Parakeets in Parramatta in the 1980s, please send details to the Atlas Project for collation and later interpretation.

In this way we hope to put together a good picture of when such populations of birds became established and their subsequent expansions and/or declines.

(re-printed from August Galah, the inhouse newsletter of Birds Australia).

Contact the Atlas Project at the BA National Office or email:

atlas@raou.com.au

LOCAL ATLASING

We are getting a steady flow of sheets from our area, which is good to see. Just a few reminders to help you and us with the processing:

If you fold the atlas sheets please fold along the line marked in the margin (into three) any other folds require the sheet to be rewritten as the scanner cannot read it.

When you are doing a survey over several days please record only the cumulative time you are actually birding.

If the bird was breeding, only fill in the oval marked 'B' not both.

Please make every effort to put in Lats/Longs, as it creates a lot of work for busy RO's if you don't.

Could you also put your address on the envelope so any queries can be sent by post to you.

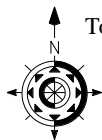
If anyone has Identification difficulties with a particular bird ring up an RO and discuss it with him or her, they are there to help.

Keep up the good work and keep those sheets rolling in. Your cooperation will make everyone's job easier - thanks.

BIRD IDENTIFICATION & OBSERVATIONS

CHESTNUT-BREASTED CUCKOO

Lloyd Nielsen



To anyone contemplating doing a trip to Cape York, I would suggest they take special note of 'Fantailed Cuckoos' especially if atlasing. I suspect some Fantailed Cuckoo records from Cape York are actually Chestnut-breasted. Calls are almost identical so it is dangerous to make an ID on call alone. We are not sure of the range of the Chestnut-breasted in the Wet Tropics - we know the CB comes as far south as Mt Lewis and Julatten (50 km north of Mareeba). I rather suspect that the Fantailed is a winter visitor to Cape York only, and in small numbers. I have seen typical Fantailed in spring on the Atherton Tableland, very vocal and obviously in breeding condition. There was supposedly a Chestnut-breasted hit a window at Yungaburra on the more southern part of the Atherton Tableland a few years ago. A couple of years ago, there was talk of a 'chestnut breasted form of the Fantailed' about Cardwell, supposedly a distinct race. Matthews described a race *athertoni* from north Queensland in 1912 but it was never been accepted.

The call of the Chestnut-breasted is slightly shorter and more clipped than that of the Fan-tailed. They can be separated on call only with quite a bit of experience.

Both fantailed and chestnut-breasted were recorded from Starke Station (north of Cooktown) in April 1998 but when Dave Stewart and I went through in October, we could only get Chestnut-breasted.

The message is that if you are visiting northeastern Queensland or on Cape York and hear a Fan-tailed type call, DO NOT record it as a Fan-tailed Cuckoo unless you check it out. The Chestnut-breasted has a rich chestnut breast, unlike the pale rufous of the Fan-tailed, is slightly smaller and has less 'etching' on the tail.

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE INCIDENCE

OF AUSTRALIAN WOOD DUCK-DeI Richards

Sightings of Australian Wood Duck in the area from Mossman to Mt. Carbine over the last four years have been most sporadic and most irregular.

During the 1995 wet season whilst fishing at the mouth of the Mossman River I had 18 Australian Wood Duck land on the river for a short period before taking off again. In 1996 and 1997 a flock of reasonable numbers (15-20) were regularly around Julatten and thereafter seemed to disappear. A few were noted at Mt. Carbine storage's during the same period and these coincided with odd pairs at Maryfarms (between Mt. Carbine & Mt. Molloy).

My only records since then (1998-99) have been a pair or two noted on and around the new golf links being developed near Craiglie to the south of Port Douglas.

These records seem a little unusual to the activities of the species in southern Australia. Here they breed freely in areas, particularly those with smaller farm reservoirs and short green grass, very similar to that found around the Julatten area.

FACIAL COLOURATION OF IMMATURE

SQUATTER PIGEONS - DeI Richards

In late May I observed a pair of Squatter Pigeons with two immature young at Mount Molloy. The overall colouring of the young was duller than the adults. The facial area of the young was a pale creamy shade, quite different to the red/orange patch of the adults.

In Pizey and Knight the young are illustrated with pink in the facial patches; but this may only apply to those of the southern race. Would any members care to comment?

FIGBIRD FISTICUFFS IN MACKAY-Les Thyer

On Sunday 15/8/99, I heard very loud aggressive bird noises emanating from the back yard. Peering through the window I could see two figbirds locked in combat on the ground. On closer inspection (from the back patio) a male and a female of the southern race *vieilloti* were lying on their side head-to-tail and from my view. I could see the male seemed to have hold of the female's foot and I assumed the female had a similar grip on the male. By this time several minutes had elapsed since I was first alerted by their calls.

After collecting my bins from the car I watched for another five minutes and by this time the tussle had stalemated to what appeared to me as occasional tugging by the male of his opponent's foot. At this stage I remembered the video camera and raced off to get it. I took four and a half minutes of the tussle edging closer all the time until I was as close as four to five metres away.

On frame by frame playback of the video it became obvious that the male who I assumed had hold of the female's foot was actually being held by the female around the forehead. So his action in pulling back his head every now and again was in reality an attempt to struggle free. It still seems fair to assume that both birds had a similar grip on each other but that side of the affair was always out of my view. All up I estimate that they stayed locked together on the ground for around fifteen minutes.

Interestingly the facial skin of the male, instead of being red, was completely white, and even more interestingly, 7 frames of video playback as they rolled over and separated, revealed that the facial skin of the female was also white!!

LEUCITIC RED-HEADED HONEYEATER IN WEIPA - Michael Barnett

A leucitic imm/female Red-headed Honeyeater was spotted around Weipa. It had the normal red tinge around the face but the parts that were normally brown were pale, almost white. I didn't see the bird in flight. I did see it twice in the same area about an hour and a half apart and both times it was in the shade. The skin seemed to show through as being dark.

BIG THANK YOU TO ELINOR

As was mentioned in the AGM report Elinor Scambler stood down as treasurer, after 2 years. We know the workload Elinor has had over this period (Uni work as well as numerous projects) so a big thank you for your work Elinor. As can be seen by other reports Elinor is still very much involved with lots more projects, especially the Old PO Gallery in Atherton, reveg. projects and the crane counts around the Tableland, amongst others.

RAFFLE RESULTS

And the results? Well, despite the doubts, the dire warnings and occasional panics, the response of Birds Australia members and friends has been very encouraging, and we have managed to gross over \$130,000. Unfortunately nobody in the BA-NQG area won anything but as you can see plenty of money will be raised after the cost of the prizes is taken into account. Thanks to all those who bought and sold tickets.

And the winners are: First Prize: **John Hill** (Ferntree Gully, VIC).
Second Prize: **Paul Downey** (Canberra, ACT).
Third Prize: **B.W.Jarasius** (Portland, VIC).
Ticket Seller's Prize: **Betty Coutts** (Scone, NSW).

QUIZ-Test your Powers of Observation!

Australia Post has recently released a set of five pre-stamped envelopes picturing Australian native birds. They have kindly donated 10 sets of these envelopes, which are postmarked first day of issue in Birdwood South Australia. If you would like to win a pack of these all you have to do is name the five birds **illustrated** on the envelopes and send your answers to the secretary by September 30th, we will then draw 10 correct entries out of the hat. Good Luck.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS FOR OUR REGION

Rollingstone State School, Paul Cruikshank - Tolga, Russell Cumming - Townsville, Jan Docherty - Cairns, Dr. E. Gyuris - Townsville, Dr. K. Hossen - Smithfield, Andrew & Michelle Sinclair - Cairns, Ms. J. Smith - Atherton, Mr. J. Proper - Julatten, Ms V. Jealous - Cairns, Ms V. Pauli - Cairns,

We look forward to seeing you all on some of our many activities.

CONGRATULATIONS



To the latest member of BA-NQG, Erin Meg born on July 18th to Ian and Rita Sinclair. An early arrival who could not wait to go on her first field trip to the Crocodile Farm! Well done - is this the only way you can recruit new members Ian?

NOTICES

1999 CONGRESS AND CAMPOUT

The 1999 BA Congress will be held on Monday 26 - Tuesday 27 September (informal arrival date Sunday 26) at the Berri Hotel, Berri, South Australia. The main theme will be 'Ecology and Management of Bird Populations'. Offers of papers to Dr David Paton: Email: <dpaton@zoology.adelaide.edu.au> or Ph: (08) 8303 4742 The congress will be followed by the Campout at Gluepot Reserve, from Wednesday 28 September - Saturday 2 October. Participants may choose to stay on for the rest of the long weekend. Full details and a booking form were in the June *Wingspan*.

Please send items for Contact Call to the secretary at:
P O Box 2209, Cairns Qld 4870
or email : lkfisher@north.net.au

NEW BIRDS AUSTRALIA WEBSITE ADDRESS

The Birds Australia Nest (a.k.a The Virtual Emu) now has a new and simplified URL:

<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au>

The old address still works for the time being, but you may wish to begin altering your bookmarks and hyperlinks. Some URLs for specific parts of the site are: <http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/atlas>

<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/gluepot>
<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/shoc>
<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/shop>
<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/sightings>

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS (SHOC)

As you probably already know, the Birds Australia 2nd Southern Hemisphere Ornithological Congress (SHOC), will be held on 27 June - 2 July 2000 at Griffith University, Brisbane, Queensland, and hosted by the Queensland Ornithological Society Inc.

This major event focuses ornithological attention on the Southern Continents and Region: South America, Africa, Antarctica, Australia, New Zealand and Oceania. It is timed to occur between the normal four-yearly International Ornithological Congresses.

SHOC 2000: Tentative Scientific Program Schedule

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Dr. Mark Burgman University of Melbourne AUSTRALIA
Population viability analysis for bird conservation

Dr. Alan Kemp Pretoria Museum SOUTH AFRICA
Sustainability of avian populations

Dr Pablo Yorio, Centro Nacional Patagonico, Chubut. & Wildlife Conservation Society, ARGENTINA - Seabird conservation

Dr. Eleanor Russell formerly of CSIRO AUSTRALIA
Avian Life Histories

Dr. Phil Hockey, University of Cape Town SOUTH AFRICA
Southern approaches to migration

Dr Manuel Nores, Universidad Nacional de Cordoba, ARGENTINA (to be confirmed)
Species richness in the Amazonian bird fauna from an evolutionary perspective.

SYMPOSIA

Symposium 5-A Southern Perspective on Avian Life History Strategies

Symposium 1-A Birds on the Edge

Symposium 1-B Megapodes: Past, present & future

Symposium 2-A Ecology Of Birds in Human Landscapes

Symposium 2-B Physiological Correlates of Life Histories

Symposium 3-A Seabird Life Histories & Ecology

Symposium 3-B Species Recovery Plans

Symposium 3-C Ratites

Symposium 4-A Seabird Conservation Issues

Symposium 4-B Ethnosystematics & Ethnobiology

Symposium 5-B Shorebird migration between the hemispheres

Symposium 6A: Mating Systems

Symposium 6B Southern Hemisphere migration: mirror image or new paradigm?

Symposium 7A: Biogeography & Systematics

All aspects of the conference are being coordinated by the Congress

Secretariat: email: shoc2000@convqld.org.au or Susan Williams, PO Box 4044, St. Lucia Qld 4067 Australia.

THANKS

Birds Australia North Queensland Group is very grateful for the continuing support given by the office of the Member for Leichhardt **Warren Entsch**, who is himself a keen birdwatcher.