



Contact Call



Birds Australia
Conservation Through Knowledge

Newsletter of the Birds Australia
North Queensland Group

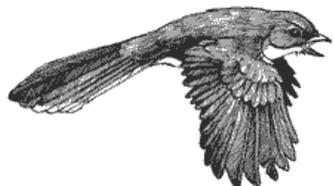
Birds Australia
North Queensland Group

June 2006 Issue:
Gurney's Eagle

Birding in Darwin... Yeah right

I spend five days in Darwin, going there for the 2006 Birds Australia Member's Day, Annual General Meeting and other associated meetings. You would think that with five days available one could squeeze in some fairly serious bird watching. But oh no! Four days of meetings (albeit interesting and hopefully useful ones) and some other jobs requiring attention saw to that. However, we managed to squeeze in some early morning birding around the campus of Charles Darwin University. Even in this urban setting there is a rich avifauna, with those from the deep south treated to many species that they do not regularly encounter. The most notable of these were the **Bush Stone-curlews** that we are so familiar with but which are so sparse in southern Australia. It is rather ironic that another name for this species is the Southern Stone-curlew. It was good to see that a number of finch species can be regularly encountered in the city. Species included **Chestnut-breasted, Crimson, Long-tailed, Double-barred and Masked Finches** and it appeared that some were, at least at times, feeding on the seeds of weedy introduced grasses. There were also honeyeaters aplenty: **Brown Honeyeaters** were probably the most common, but there were also **White-gaped, Rufous-banded, Red-headed and White-throated Honeyeaters** and **Helmeted, Silver-crowned and Little Friarbirds**. **Bar-shouldered Doves** seemed to outnumber the **Peaceful Doves**. I have often been fascinated by the fact that the **Bar-shouldered Dove** has never really made the big time as an urban bird in Townsville – maybe their chances of doing so now are further jeopardized by the burgeoning population of **Spotted Turtledoves**. A pair of **Osprey** were nesting on a tall communications tower on the campus. It was only a very short flight from there to the shores of the Timor Sea. My favourite sightings were of **Northern Fantail, Grey Whistler** and the northern race of the **Restless Flycatcher** (Paperbark Flycatcher). We hunted for **Rainbow Pitta** and **Chestnut Rail** but either the meeting times or sunset got the better of us – maybe next time.

Tony Grice, Convenor



Northern Fantail
Andrew Plant
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BA North Queensland Group—Events Calendar June—September 06

July 2006

30th July - National Tree Day

A day to help repair and revegetate Australian landscapes. www.planetark.com.

August 2006

Saturday 5th August - Cairns Envirofiesta @ Comminos House

CAFNEC's Annual Festival of art and music to encourage environmental awareness

Saturday 12th August—Joint TRBOC event with John Young @ Thuringowa Sound Shell

John Young will present a unique compilation of unseen footage of threatened species. Details are yet to be finalised but will appear on the calendar pages of the Birds Australia website soon www.birdsaustralia.com or contact Helen McLaughlin on Ph (07) 4771 3239.

Sunday 13th August - Serpentine Lagoon Survey, Townsville

Meet at Wulguru Mobile Service Station at 7am. Contact Jo Wieneke Ph 4771 4707.

October 2006

Saturday 7 October - NQ Crane Count

An annual BANQG research activity, across the Atherton Tableland, Upper Herbert, Townsville-Giru, Ingham, Gulf country, Cape York. Email Elinor Scambler at cranesnorth@austarnet.com.au, write to PO Box 59, Atherton Qld 4883 or check out www.ozcranes.net for further details.

14-15 October - Black-throated Finch Waterhole Survey - Townsville

Teams will be allocated waterholes for a coordinated survey between 6:30-9:30am. All Welcome. Contact Rosemary Payet on 47287402 or email rosemaryvp@westnet.com.au.

Inside this issue:

- Regional Groups meeting—Darwin
- Members Day and national AGM
- Research: Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, Songbirds near roads, Cyclone Larry
- Interesting Sightings
- Noticeboard

Gurney's Eagle (*Aquila gurneyi*) is British ornithologist, being endemic to recorded on Torres Strait islands in the and on the tip of Cape York Peninsula, where it is Australian territory. Its nesting habits have not been described. Gurney's Eagle is 74-86cm long with a wingspan of about 170-190cm. It is similar in size to the Wedge-tailed Eagle and White-bellied Sea-Eagle. However Gurney's Eagle has yellow feet and a rounded tail, and soars on almost flat wings. Gurney's Eagle is a solitary eagle of tropical forests—mainly lowland and coastal rainforest.

Gurney's Eagle

named after J.H.Gurney a nineteenth century New Guinea and the Moluccas. It has been Australian territory where it might be resident, presumably a vagrant. It is not known to breed in Australian territory. Its nesting habits have not been described. Gurney's Eagle is 74-86cm long with a wingspan of about 170-190cm. It is similar in size to the Wedge-tailed Eagle and White-bellied Sea-Eagle. However Gurney's Eagle has yellow feet and a rounded tail, and soars on almost flat wings. Gurney's Eagle is a solitary eagle of tropical forests—mainly lowland and coastal rainforest.

Information sourced from "The Birds of Prey of Australia—A field guide" by Stephen Debus.

Birddata update ...

Birddata is Birds Australia's new web site for the Atlas of Australian Birds www.birddata.com.au. Birddata can be used to enter new atlas data, map bird distributions and download bird lists. Birddata is funded by the WildlifeLink program of the Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation.

Remember that username: membership number and password: Surname. Your password is case sensitive and users are able to change their initial password if they wish.

Regards, Andrew Silcocks & Cameron Williams.

You can of course, still send your Atlas forms to the north region coordinators listed below:

Bowen to Cardwell Regional Organiser

Jo Wieneke (07) 4771 4707

22 Bishop Street, Belgian Gardens Qld 4810

Cardwell to Cape York Regional Organiser

Graham Harrington (07) 4096 5051

PO Box 680, Malanda Qld 4885



HANZAB: Copies of Volume 7 of HANZAB are now being distributed to all those who took advantage of the pre-publication offer. The pre-publication offer remains open but will close soon.

Further information: Jen Sutfin, National Office, j.sutfin@birdsaustralia.com.au.

2005-2006 BA-NQG Management Committee

Executive Committee

c/o PO Box 37 Belgian Gardens QLD 4810

Convenor—Tony Grice home phone: (07) 4725 7201

Email: tony.grice@csiro.au

Deputy Convenor—currently vacant

Secretary—Helen McLaughlin home phone: (07) 4771 3239

Email: helen_marty2000@hotmail.com

Treasurer—Harry Cassidy home phone: (07) 4057 5278

Email: harrycass40@hotmail.com

Committee members

Jo Wieneke (Townsville) John Frois (Cairns)

Elna Kerswell (Townsville) Alan Gillanders (Atherton)

Committee-elected Positions

Conservation Officers—Graham Harrington (northern) & Jo Wieneke (southern)

Newsletter Editor—Helen McLaughlin

IBA Coordinators—Alastair Freeman & Graham Harrington

Project Contacts

Beach Stone-curlew Survey Amanda Freeman
4095 2655 or aafreeman@qldnet.com.au

Crane Count Elinor Scambler 4095 3296

Email: dacelo@austarnet.com.au

Townsville Egret & Ibis Count Jo Wieneke 4771 4707 or Glenda Jeffries 4773 1802.

Cape York Atlas Surveys Graham Harrington 4096 5051

Regional Contacts

Townsville: Jo Wieneke Ph: 4771 4707

Cairns: vacant

Atherton Tableland: Mark Newton Wk Ph: 40484747

Email: mark.newton@nrm.qld.gov.au

Mossman / Daintree: Del Richards Ph: 4094 1199

Email: info@finefeathertours.com.au

Cape York: Sue Gould Ph: 4069 7585

Email: susanfgould@yahoo.com

Mount Isa: Bob Forsyth Ph: 4743 3210

Email: isabird0@bigpond.net.au



Birds Australia Membership

Subscriptions (as at 1 April 2006): \$75 Single \$55 Single Concession \$119 Family \$96 Family Concession Library \$55

This includes membership of the national organisation plus membership of our regional group,

Birds Australia—North Queensland Group.

Members also receive four issues of the full-colour bird magazine *Wingspan* and four issues of *Contact Call*, the BA-NQG newsletter.

Membership forms are available from the Secretary or send subscriptions directly to:

Birds Australia, 415 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn East, Victoria 3123

You can now join directly through our web site: www.birdsaustralia.com.au.

Check out the website for local and national events



Birds Australia



Birds Australia

North Queensland Group's Annual General Meeting

This year's North Queensland Annual General Meeting will be held on the Queen's Birthday long weekend at Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge. This year's theme will be the effects of Cyclone Larry and feature local stories and impact on bird populations.



Noisy Pitta
Annie Rogers
© Birds Australia 2003

When: Saturday 10th June 2006 at 1pm
Where: Kingfisher Park, Mt. Kooyong Road, Julatten.

Accommodation to the booked directly with the Lodge (details on page 8).

Election of **Convenor, Deputy Convenor, Secretary, and Treasurer**, as well as up to eight committee members. Positions of **Conservation Officer and Newsletter Editor** are also available.

All welcome

Nominations should be in writing and sent to the Secretary before the meeting.
Nomination forms are available from the secretary.

Regional Groups Meeting ~ Darwin 26th May 2006

A meeting of Regional Groups representatives was held in Darwin immediately prior to Members Day and AGM. These generally take place twice a year to discuss issues of interest to Regional Groups and to BA as a whole. The meeting in Darwin was attended by both the CEO, Graham Hamilton, and the President Alison Russell-French. Matters discussed included:

- How Regional Groups and BA as a whole might be effectively engaged through the Regional Investment Strategies (RIS) of Natural Resource Management bodies. These RIS represent opportunities in relation to research and conservation of birds.
- Progress toward a Policy and Procedures manual for Regional Groups. When completed this will be an important resource helping Regional Groups operate effectively.
- Communication between Regional Groups and the BA

national office. This is important is allowing Regional Groups and national office to together meet BA's goals in research, conservation, education and communication.

- How to build membership. While there has been a steady flow of new members, overall membership has not greatly increased. We discussed how this might be addressed at regional and national level.

It was good to hear of the work being undertaken in the various regions – North Queensland, Capricornia, Southern Queensland, Northern NSW, Southern NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australian were represented. This work covered education, involvement in practical conservation-related activities and research.... and out the windows one could occasionally get a glimpse of a Great Bowerbird searching for scraps on the first floor verandah.

Tony Grice, Convenor

Birds Australia Members Day & AGM ~ 27th May 2006

The Members' Day program included four sessions, a total of 13 presentations. They covered an interesting range of topics. Session one dealt with seed-eating birds. Peter Dostine reported results of a survey of land-holders in relation to the occurrence and abundance of **Flock Bronzewing**. The species' strongholds are in the Barkly Tablelands and the Channel Country of south-west Queensland, and though it is considered to be a nomad, the nature and extent of its movements have not been described. Carol Palmer described the monitoring program for the **Gouldian Finch**. This program is based on waterhole counts at three locations in the Northern Territory. Look out for a paper on this in an up-coming edition of *The Emu*. Sarah Legge described some fascinating research on body condition of **Gouldian** and **Long-tailed Finch**. It showed that the **Gouldian Finch**, a species that has declined, loses condition during the breeding season, whereas the **Long-tailed Finch** improves in condition during the breeding season. Don Franklin discussed an analysis of a large database of sightings of granivores, and suggested that it is difficult to attribute species declines to single factors. The second session dealt with three insectivores. Justin Perry reported on his study of **Carpentarian Grasswren**, noting that, during his research, he had been able to locate the species at only one of the sites where the species has been reported in the Northern Territory. Annamaria van Doorn discussed the ecology of the **Purple-crowned Fairy-wren**, suggesting that recolonisation across areas of unsuitable habitat is a major problem. Richard Noske discussed nest parasitism in the **Little Bronze-Cuckoo**. The third session included three papers dealing successively with the movements of **Magpie Goose** (PhD student Lochran Trull), birds as indicators of the success (or otherwise) of mine-site rehabilitation (Christopher Brady), and indigenous perspectives on birds as revealed in Aboriginal stories (Sonia Tidemann). The final session presented three papers, two on Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Lincoln Fishpool from Birdlife International outlined the program while Guy Dutson described its application in Fiji. Finally, Mark Antos described the Birds Australia *Monitoring in Regions* Project, which is targeting selected Natural Resource Management Regions, to monitor the effects of land use change on bird abundance. A series of posters added to the variety of material presented: **Hooded Parrots** and the moths that inhabit their nests, the peculiar breeding biology of the **Pheasant Coucal**, theft of bower decorations in the **Great Bowerbird**, social organization of **Grey-crowned Babblers**, colonial waterbird and seabird sites in the Northern Territory, and "the problem" of urban **Orange-footed Scrubfowl**.



Gouldian Finch
Steve Paton
© Birds Australia 2003

Tony Grice, Convenor

Chicks in Hot Water - Dr Brad Congdon

Scientists from James Cook University (JCU) in Cairns have been keeping a close eye on local seabirds over the summer, looking for signs of the impact of global warming. JCU biologist Dr Brad Congdon has recently returned from Heron Island, where researchers have confirmed their findings from previous years: that seabirds of the Great Barrier Reef are in hot water.

“Studies in the southern and northern sections of the Great Barrier Reef have shown these birds to be sensitive to climate change,” Dr Congdon said. “Our initial study of **wedge-tailed shearwaters** on Heron Island off Gladstone showed that an increase in sea surface temperature led to a reduction in their food supply and a drop in reproduction.” Dr Congdon said the findings indicated that the effects of climate change might permeate the whole reef ecosystem. “We already know about the links between warming and coral bleaching, but these birds are quite high up the food chain, so to find a direct impact on their breeding success is significant.”

On Heron Island the researchers monitored the feeding of **wedge-tailed shearwater** chicks, tracked adult weight changes, used satellite tracking to find how far the adult birds travelled, how deep they had to dive and the temperature of the water they forage in when provisioning their young. “The parents work in shifts,

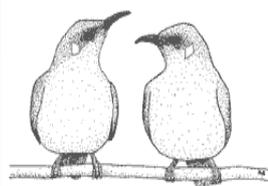
feeding their young for about eight days before travelling up to 1000 km away to sites in the Coral Sea to feed themselves for the next eight days or so. While feeding their young they return to the burrows at night and regurgitate fish collected that day for their young. In a good season, the chicks grow at an astonishing rate but during El Nino conditions, when sea surface temperatures are elevated for extended periods, we have seen complete reproductive failure in shearwater colonies, with chicks starving because the adults can't gather enough food.” A study of **sooty terns** on Michaelmas Cay off Cairns has produced similar findings. “As sea-surface temperatures continue to rise with global warming, our results predict substantial effects on seabird populations of the reef,” Dr Congdon said.

“These results have important implications for both seabird and coral reef ecosystem management in the region, with potential for shearwaters to be used to model and monitor potential impacts. Greater understanding of how climate change affects life at each level of the ecosystem can contribute to better management of those impacts.”

Reproduced with permission from JCU



Sooty Tern
Kevin Bartram
© Birds Australia 2003



Yellow-spotted Honeyeater
Andrew Silcocks
© Birds Australia 2003

Impacts of Road noise on Songbirds

Does the noise from road traffic cause harm to our natural environment? This is a question Greg Dawe, a recent James Cook University (JCU) Honours graduate, aims to explore. Greg is now working as a Research Officer with the Rainforest CRC and JCU and is examining whether “the critters care if a car passes by a forest”. He has found that acoustic pollution from human activities such as vehicular traffic penetrates tropical rainforests to distances exceeding two hundred metres at both ground and lower canopy level, with measurements recorded up to fifteen metres above the forest floor. Traffic noise is increasingly forming part of the acoustic makeup of the Wet Tropics bioregion. Greg investigates alongside roads compared with forest

interior sites, paying particular attention to birdsong in this context. Do birds avoid noisy areas near roads? Or do they just re-pitch the dominant frequencies of their musical efforts to make up for the acoustic blanketing caused by traffic noise? To find out, Greg measures the ambient acoustic spectrum in rainforest areas adjacent to highways, with consideration given to topographic features, seasonal and meteorological factors, commuting traffic peaks and weekend road usage. While Greg's analysis is still ongoing, results so far suggest that the avian community is affected by traffic noise in both distribution and vocal expression. One example is the **Yellow-spotted Honeyeater**, which appears to raise part of its song in order to overcome acoustic interference from traffic noise.

Reproduced from Rainforest CRC Tropical Matters newsletter – March 2006

Researchers Respond to Cyclone Larry

Tropical Cyclone *Larry*, with maximum wind gusts of around 300km/h, crossed the coast at Innisfail as a Category 5 storm on 20 March, causing extensive damage to ecosystems, production systems and human communities across a 100km strip of coastal lowlands from Tully to Babinda through to the Atherton Tablelands and beyond. Both JCU and the CSIRO have committed resources to commence a rapid assessment of the biophysical and socio-economic impacts of this extreme event, to be followed by ongoing monitoring of ecosystem recovery, and the recovery of human communities residing in these biodiverse landscapes. Over coming weeks, months and years, researchers of the JCU/CSIRO Tropical Landscapes Joint Venture will participate in an integrated research program, including: On-ground rapid assessments of the ecological impacts of the cyclone along its track from coast to hinterland; Remotely sensed assessments of the cyclone's impact on the area utilizing

aerial surveys and satellite imagery; Providing science input to management agencies with respect to immediate and short-term conservation issues that require rapid and ongoing responses, e.g. habitat losses for cassowaries at Mission Beach and tree-kangaroos on the Atherton Tablelands; Socio-economic impacts of the event on land-based production systems, tourism and service industries in the impact area and north Queensland region in general; and Terrestrial ecosystem and human community resilience (long-term monitoring of recovery of ecosystems and linked human communities). This last activity will involve a close working relationship with FNQ NRM Ltd, with the overall aim of developing a more resilient post-cyclone *Larry* landscape in the event of any future severe cyclonic events.

For further information contact Professor Steve Turton, Director JCU/CSIRO Tropical Landscapes Joint Venture on (07) 4042 1292 or email Steve.Turton@jcu.edu.au.

Interesting sightings

Species	Date	Location	Observer	Comment
White-winged Black Tern	2.4.06	Plantation Creek Airdmillan	C&LE	500+
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	4.4.06	Forestry Drive Bluewater	IM	First sighting in area
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	8.4.06	Near Town Common Gate	JW	Unusual at the time
Topknot Pigeon	10.4.06	Ross River, Townsville	SG	20 birds – unusual
Square-tailed Kite	11.4.06	Near Ross River, Townsville	TG	Unusual
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	16.4.06	4 Mile Beach	DR	20 birds
Lesser Frigatebird	16.4.06	Bruce Hwy sth of Trinity Beach	KF	1 heading south
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	16.4.06	Bruce Hwy sth of Trinity Beach	DR	1 bird
Great-billed Heron	29.4.06	Mowbray River Bridge, Port Douglas	DC	Accompanied by saltwater croc.
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	15.4.06	Cranbrook, Townsville	BH	First sighting in area
Lesser Frigatebird	19.4.06	Cungulla	IM&JW	2 males
King Parrot	2.5.06	Mt Whitfield, Cairns	DC	Another cyclone refugee?
Golden Bowerbird	7.5.06	Curtain Fig, Yungaburra	DL	
White-winged Choughs	13.5.06	Laudham Park, Ross River Dam	BH	And again on 19.5
Topknot Pigeon	20.5.06	Laudham Park, Ross River Dam	BH	20+
White-cheeked Honeyeater	21.5.06	Woolworths carpark Mossman	DR	Unusual in Mossman area
Whiskered Tern	22.5.06	Ross River Dam Borrow Pits	BH	Small flock
Satin Bowerbird	21.5.06	Red Mill House Daintree	TF	Unusual here
Orange-footed Scrubfowl	22.5.06	Cranbrook, Townsville	LD	Resident in backyard for ~ 2mths
Flock Bronzewing	23.5.06	Flinders Hwy west of Julia Creek	IM&JW	At least 400 birds in small flocks flying south
Black-tailed Native-hen	25.5.06	Mt Isa Sewage Ponds	IM&JW	Adults and young Not in atlas for this area.
Red-necked Avocet	25.5.06	Mt Isa Sewage Ponds	IM&JW	Not in atlas for this area. One bird
Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher (juvenile)	28.5.06	Koombaloomba Dam	PS	Unusual this time of year
First Cranes of season	28.5.06	Bromfield Swamp Yungaburra/ Quincan Swamp	AG JG	3 Sarus, 2 Brolgas, +2unid. 7 Sarus 5 Brolgas
Square-tailed Kite	2.6.06	White Rock south of Cairns	DM	
Lewins Honeyeater	2.6.06	Rusty's Markets, Cairns City	BV	Unusual in Cairns lowland
Black-throated Finch	2.6.06	Emerald Creek Rd, Mareeba	JS	2 birds
Shining Flycatcher	2.6.06	Johnstone River Malanda	AG	Unusual at this altitude



Wompoo Fruit-Dove
Nan Lepinath
© Birds Australia 2003

The most unusual event in the past few months has been the large numbers of rainforest birds that have arrived in Townsville, Cairns and north to Port Douglas, since March 20 when Cyclone *Larry* devastated rainforest in other parts of our area. In early April Wompoo Fruit-Dove and lesser numbers of Brown Cuckoo-Doves made their first appearance in and around Townsville and Cairns. Large numbers of Wompoos have been seen in Queens Gardens and Pallarenda, Townsville feeding in huge old fig trees. Wildlife carers have had an influx of these birds, many of which have recovered and been released. Vets report that most birds brought to them are well fed and most injuries have been from collisions with buildings and vehicles. There are too many sightings to list so only the first reports are given.

Please note that **Jo Wieneke is the coordinator for Interesting Sightings:**

Please send any unusual or interesting sightings to Jo at bowerbird14@bigpond.com.

Many thanks to John Seales cairnsbirds.blogspot.com and to *Drongo*, the journal of TRBOC and the following contributors:

AG Allan Gillanders, BH Bill Holmes, BV Brian Venables, C&LE Chris & Len Ezzy, DC Dominic Chaplin, DL David Latham, DM David Milson, DR Dell Richards, IM Ian Montgomery, JG John Grant, JS John Seale, JW Jo Wieneke, KF Keith Fisher, LD Liz Downes, PS Patrick Sollit, SG Stephen Guerrato, TF Trish Forsyth, TG Tony Grice.

Daintree Village
North Queensland



Convenient location for bird watching in the Daintree area. Close to the Daintree River, specialist bird and wildlife tours and to Daintree National Park.

Tasteful, ensuite accommodation with wide verandas overlooking the large tropical garden.

Fully cooked breakfast included.

Daintree Village, Queensland 4873

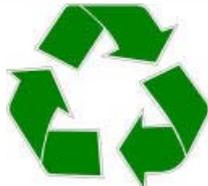
Ph/Fax: 07 4098 6233

Email: redmill@austarnet.com.au

Website: www.redmillhouse.com.au

Thanks

Birds Australia—North Queensland is very grateful for the support given by **Member for Townsville**, the Honourable, **Mike Reynolds** for the printing of this edition of *Contact Call*



Contact Call is now produced on 100% Australian paper: 50% recycled fibre and 50% plantation fibre !!



At **Kingfisher Park** we provide accommodation in Self-Contained Units and two Bedroom Villas, Bunkhouses, Camping and powered Caravan Sites within a rainforest sanctuary. Being central to a variety of habitats ensures many different bird species as well as mammals and reptiles. Local expertise and maps are provided.

Keith & Lindsay Fisher

RN6 Mt. Kooyong Road, Julatten, QLD 4871

Ph: (07) 4094 1263 or Fax: (07) 4094 1466

Email: sootyowl@bigpond.com

Web Page: www.birdwatchers.com.au

Welcome to our new members...

- ✦ R & L Hill, TRINITY BEACH;
- ✦ Ms Barbara Warren, MAREEBA.

Welcome to our new members.

Please join us on any of our outings.

Check out Birds Australia website "Calendar of Events" at www.birdsaustralia.com.au. BANQG keeps the site updated with regional events. Field Trips may change after publication. Local contacts can provide you with the latest information. This will allow more flexibility, especially concerning weather conditions. Additional events may also be arranged.



We regretfully advise of the sad loss of Elinor Scambler's husband Patrick, of Yungaburra.

kindest regards

BA North Queensland Group

Notice Board

HELP - The Committee is still searching for a large blue plastic envelope (possibly from the Yungaburra Markets). Inside this envelope are several plastic brochure holders for our display boards. Could everyone please look out for that envelope as these are very expensive to replace. Please contact the Secretary to arrange a pickup. THANKS.

FOR SALE - Nikon T-ring; and Kowa TSN photo adapter tube 850mm. This equipment is as new. Price for both \$350 ono. Enables photography using Nikon camera through Kowa spotting scope. (Our scope is a Kowa TSN 821-M). To make enquiries or an offer please call Sue Gould (07) 4069 7585 or email susanfgould@yahoo.com.

BOOK RELEASE: Penny Olsen's new book "Wedge-tailed eagle" has been released. Penny is well-known as the editor of Birds Australia's quarterly magazine "Wingspan", author of "Feathers and Brush", and an expert on Australian birds of prey. Contact Andrew Isles or the Birding Shop for your copy.

2006 Congress will be held 19-20 October in Albany WA. The Congress will be followed by the Campout 21-24 October in the Albany area. For further information check out the website: <http://birdswa.iinet.net.au>.

Australasian Ornithological Conference 2007 will be held at the University of Western Australia, Perth 2-5 December 2007. Check out <http://birdswa.iinet.net.au/> or email Suzanne Mather: aoc2007@birdswa.com.au.

Please send items for September 2006 Contact Call by mid August to: Helen McLaughlin, Newsletter Editor, PO Box 37, Belgian Gardens 4810 or Email Helen at helen_marty2000@hotmail.com