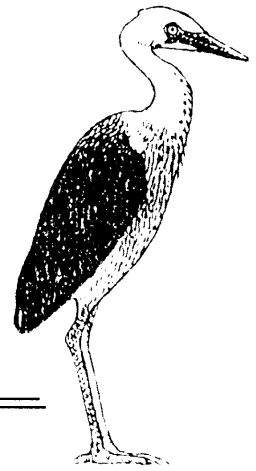




EUROBODALLA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inc.

P.O. Box 888
Moruya N.S.W. 2537



Chairman: Mike Crowley, 22 Dell Parade, Moruya Heads 2537 4474 2677
Secretary/Recorder: Julie Morgan, PO Box 888, Moruya 2537 4474 5888 j.morgan@intent.com.au
Treasurer: Joan Fearn, 245 Percy Davis Drive, Moruya 2537 4474 2801
Editor: Jill Whiter, PO Box 248, Batemans Bay 2536 4471 7007 jwhiter1@bigpond.com

NEWSLETTER NO. 142

SEPTEMBER 2010

WHAT TO EXPECT IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER. Summer and a bumper season of breeding, if all indications at the time of writing are borne out in the progress from winter to spring. By mid August there was such a burst of nest building and brooding that it was difficult to keep up with the activity in all parts of the woodlands. It is not often that such a perfect spring appears, with an ample supply of ground water, thick woodland growth and a plenitude of food. No bird could or would ignore such a succession of good fortune following long years of drought and below average rainfall. And who knows if the expected explosion of locusts might spill down to the coast, at least in the forms of Yellow-winged Locusts and Wingless Grasshoppers; more food for hungry little dependents. A good season is good for all of nature, even the most destructive creatures in the food chain.

All the summer-breeding migrants will have settled into breeding territories and be well on the way to rearing their broods of young. Black-faced Monarchs and Leaden Flycatchers, Noisy Friarbirds and Olive-backed Orioles, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Cicadabirds and White-winged Trillers will join the residents in dawn song, and through the day too, as they pursue the important business of gathering food and feeding young. It is difficult to be other than optimistic in the middle of the breeding season.

Now is the time of the wader watchers and shorebird volunteers. The northern hemisphere waders are feeding their way down the south east coast; be prepared to count the more numerous and common visitors, as well as search carefully for the unusual and very rare, a few of which turn up from time to time, specially on Tuross estuary. The resident shorebirds and migrant Little Terns will be nesting on beach and estuary, shepherded and monitored by volunteers, but still needing care from the rest of us.

Spare a few hours to enjoy the woodland and forest, the fields and pastures, rejuvenated and invigorated by rain.

FIELD MEETINGS. Sunday 24 October, Brou Lake. Meet in Bodalla opposite the Police Station at 9 a.m to car pool. Bring lunch.

Saturday 13 November, Batemans Bay Water Gardens. Meet in the car park next to the Community Centre, Museum Place at 2 p.m.

Sunday 28 November. Little Tern and wader survey. Confirm venue with contacts above during the week before the meeting.

A reminder to those who have booked, the **Shorebird Workshop** is on October 9 at 9.30.

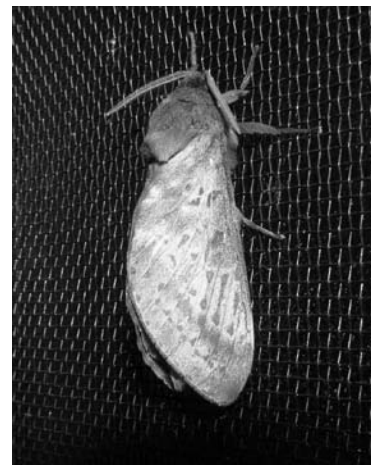
Welcome to new members – Gillian Macnamara, Tuross Head; Robyn Holland and Ann Christiansen of Mystery Bay and Colin Morrison of Frenchs Forest.

Observation Record sheets. Please use actual numbers if possible or minimum – maximum, e.g. 1-5. 'Up to' can be written <; expressing number as lots, tick or many does not provide sufficient information for database.

Ghost Moths

I recently received a letter from Robin Corringham asking about moths which appeared after rain at well lit windows. She described them as 4cm long in the body with wings patterned shadily in browns and quite active. A number of members have sent photos of these moths in June and they have emerged at home too.

The moths are known as Ghost, Swift or Rain Moths and are part of the Hepialidae family. The brown patterned ones are likely to be part of the *Oxycanus* genus, the largest genus within this family with over 40 species described in Australia. They emerge in large numbers after autumn rains, live for a day or two, do not drink or feed and the males in particular are attracted to light. When they land, the wings are held close to the body like a steep roof, and when vertical on the wall, the moth seems to hang from its extended forelegs. The *Oxycanus* genus has bipectinate antennae and the wing pattern can distinguish some species. Wingspans range from 6 to 10cm and the moths have been recorded in the Eurobodalla between April and June.



Oxycanus larvae live underground, emerging at night to feed. Two well-known species identified in this area are *O. antipoda* (photo above by JM) and *O. dirempta*. The caterpillar of *O. antipoda* is known as the Grass Grub or Oxycanus Grub as it feeds on the roots of grasses and is a pest of pasture. Adult males fly in a zigzag hawking manner above pasture when they are ready to mate. Females produce many eggs which they deposit on the grass, while they crawl and flutter close to the ground. The caterpillar of *O. dirempta* lives in tunnels under wattles and emerges at night to feed on the leaves of the tree. They pupate in their burrow and when ready to emerge, the pupa makes its way to the top of the hole, where empty cases can be seen protruding from the ground. The adults of this species have variable wing patterns and can be difficult to identify.

Another common and quite striking Ghost Moth of this area is *Trictena atripalpis* (photo below by JC, April 2010) which has tripectinate antennae. The caterpillar is known as the Bardi Grub and is commonly used for fishing bait along the Murray River. It lives in vertical tunnels and feeds on the roots of trees including gums and casuarinas.

Reference material: I.F.B. Common, *Moths of Australia*; P. Zborowski and E.D. Edwards, *A Guide to Australian Moths*; <http://lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au/moths.html>



The local moth guide is progressing well, with over 200 species photographed and identified. Thank you to all members who have contributed so far. The project will have to be extended to next year as we had a poor 2009/10 summer due to the lack of rain. Hopefully this year will be better and we can get a representative selection of summer moths. Please contact me if you are interested in this project. JM

Communication between the male and female Brown Thornbill during incubation and feeding of young.

This is an extract from a poster presented by Michael and Sarah Guppy and Peter Fullagar at the IOC conference in Brazil, 22-28 August. Sonograms supported all the presented data.

Brown Thornbills comprise at least 10% of the breeding population of birds in woodland characteristic of the south east coast of Australia. They are permanent residents and are an obvious part of the ecosystem at all times.

The calls of the Brown Thornbill were first mentioned in 1905 and since then have been described regularly and, in some cases, tentatively assigned a function (HANZAB). A fair summary of this subject would be that the different calls have not been comprehensively catalogued, they have not been linked to times of the year or to the sex of the bird and have not been associated with a function or a behaviour.

As an ongoing study on 10 ha near Moruya, we are colour-banding a variety of bird species and finding as many nests as possible. Each year, between eight and thirteen nests, representing seven to twelve pairs of Brown Thornbills are found and our continuous colour-banding efforts ensure at least one individual of each pair is always banded. Only the female incubates, for approximately 20-minute periods, the pair regularly feed together, the male accompanies the female back to the nest and there is a lot of communication at the nest site. Therefore, we can station ourselves at a nest and record all the sounds. Significantly, we can assign each call to a particular bird (and sex) and to a particular behaviour.

Data collected are the result of about 50 hours of recording from about 20 different nest sites. We have identified, so far, five different calls. Two are made only by the male when the female is on eggs and have been recorded from five different birds. One is made by both sexes when young are to be fed in the nest and, again has been recorded from five different birds. But none of these calls can be assigned to a specific function. The remaining two calls are made by males during territorial disputes and have been recorded from two different birds and one bird, respectively.

It is clear that the birds can add to these 'standard' calls. There is some evidence for what we have called a 'Goodnight' call. This is made by the male when the female is on eggs and is the last call of the day before the male goes off to roost. We are suggesting this communicates to the female that she will not see the male again until the next morning. We have recorded this call from two different birds, and from one of the birds on two different evenings.

An Extraordinary Year? We were wondering if the nature of this breeding season would reflect the rains earlier in the year. Early data are suggesting that this is indeed the case (see Table below). Not only are the birds breeding early, they are all breeding at the same time. We normally get a break between Brown Thornbills and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters but they are overlapping this year. It will be interesting to see if these trends translate into higher numbers of breeding pairs and higher success rates; we will keep you informed. And here is the latest information to 31 August, but first a little background material. The earliest woodland builders that we find are Brown Thornbills, then Eastern Yellow Robins and Fairy-wrens, followed by Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Grey Fantails. The data on this last species do not look very impressive until we realise that this nest is at least a month earlier than any we have found in previous years. All our woodland breeders are seizing the opportunities presented in this benevolent year. SMG

Year	Rainfall to Aug 31 (mm)	Total nests found *	Brown thornbill with young	Yellow-faced Honeyeaters building *	Superb fairy-wrens building	Eastern yellow robins with young	Grey fantails building
2007	711	15	3	0	2	0	0
2008	519	15	0	0	0	0	0
2009	321	20	1 or 2	0	0	0	0
2010	820	41	10	5	4	2	1

* All bird data is from August 1–31 inclusive.

As a postscript to the data above, on the night of September 4, we had a cyclone through the site with winds of at least 150 kph. About thirty 50-100-year-old trees were either uprooted or snapped off at about 20 metres and the site was devastated to the extent that we literally could not get onto our tracks. It has taken Sarah and I, with the help of three others (one with a tractor, all of us with

chain saws), about two weeks to clear all the tracks. We had our first, fairly distressing walk on the 17th September. What we did do immediately after the storm however, was to wade through the devastation and check all the nests that were active the day before the storm. We had 29 before the storm, and 14 afterwards. We will let you know how this very confused season unfolds. SMG

INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Eastern Osprey reported to be using the Telecom tower west of Ulladulla as they did last year.

A lone **Intermediate Egret** occasionally at MHS (JM).

Two **Large-billed Scrubwren** at Ringlands, NA (FM).

Single **Spangled Drongo** at MO on 19 May (RC).

Eight **Little Raven** at Comerang regularly in July (JC).

Brief glimpse of **Green Catbird** in the Ringlands rainforest area, NA.

The song of a **Eurasian Blackbird** was heard at Congo Ck on 1 July (JM).

First return **Reed Warbler**, silent, on Comerang swamp 22 Aug. (FM).

VULNERABLE AND THREATENED SPECIES

Square-tailed Kite returned to Pedro Swamp 18 Aug., singles PDD, MHS, Mystery Bay.

Bush Stone-curlew: NA bird not reported.

Australian Pied Oystercatcher: **July**: 20 at WL on 27th; 1 or 2 at MHS; 2-8 at TS estuary; 3 at PP; 6 at Mystery Bay. **Aug**: max. 3 at TS; 1 or 2 Mystery Bay, Broulee area.

Sooty Oystercatcher: **July**: calls at BP; 1 or 2 at Candlagan Ck; singles at MHS, TS; 2 at BB, Mystery Bay. **Aug**: up to 3 at BP; 2-4 at Mystery Bay; 1-8 at Candlagan Ck.

Hooded Plover: no records submitted.

Glossy Black-Cockatoo: **July**: up to 3 at MKS; 1 at Pedro Swamp; 2 at Pedro, MYA SF; 7 at Bodalla. **Aug**: up to 6 at PDD; 2-4 at MKS, Pedro Swamp; 3 at Bergalia; 1 at Pedro.

Powerful Owl called occasionally in August at MKS.

Barking Owl call at Comerang on 27 Aug.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SYSTEMATIC LIST RECORDS

The following records are from July and August 2010.

GROUND BIRDS. Only two **Emu** at TS; up to 10 **Stubble Quail** at Comerang and 2 **Brown Quail** at Comerang and Coila (JH/JC).

WATERSIDE. Max. 126 **Black Swan** at PP in July, cygnets at BBWG, West Flat (Bodalla) in Aug.; **Wood Duck** common; up to 150 **Pacific Black**; 1 or 2 **Australasian Shoveler** (JC/FM); up to 30 **Grey Teal** at Comerang where stock being hand-fed; single **Northern Mallard** at BBWG; numerous **Chestnut Teal**, immatures at Pedro Swamp; single **Musk** at PP, 1-3 at Pedro Swamp; two **Black-browed Albatross**, up to 13 **Shy** and 2 at Toragy Pt (JW/BA). Two **Southern Giant Petrel**; 30 **Fairy Prion**; up to 100 **Fluttering Shearwater** at BP during July and Aug.; up to 21 **Aust. Grebe** at Pedro, smaller numbers elsewhere including 1 on Waldrons Swamp; flock of 50 **White Ibis** and 75 **Straw-necked** on MYA river flats on 14 Aug. (BA), both common throughout Shire; good numbers of **Royal Spoonbill**, single **Nankeen Night Heron** at Mystery Bay, Comerang; two **Striated** at NA, 1 at MYA River; up to 20 **Cattle Egret** regularly in MYA (JL); 1 or 2 **White-necked Heron** at MYA, Bergalia, Candlagan Ck; **Eastern Great Egret** widespread, max. 5 at TS; max. 14 **White-faced Heron** at TS estuary, 8 at Comerang; max. 11 **Little Egret** at TS (JH); single **Eastern Reef** in usual locations; no more than 30 **Pelican**; up to 100 **Gannet** at BP, Bengello; the four **Cormorant** species as usual.

RAPTORS. One to three **Kestrel**; 1 or 2 **Brown Falcon** regularly at Comerang, 2 at TS, Mystery Bay; 2 **Peregrine** each month at BP; one **Black-shouldered Kite** both months at Bergalia (DHK); 1 or 2 **Whistling Kite** at many places, on nest at Comerang; **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** widespread, nest near Pedro Pt; **Swamp Harrier** at Barlings, PDD; single **Grey Goshawk** (white morph) at Pedro, Pedro Swamp, PDD; 1 or 2 **Wedge-tailed Eagle** widespread, juvenile at WL (MA/AC); 2 **Little Eagle** at Bergalia (DHK).

CRACKS, RAILS, GALLINULES & BUTTON-QUAILS. Only **Purple Swamphen** and **Dusky**

Moorhen reported, both in low numbers.

WADERS. **Masked Lapwing** common, up to 70 at Comerang, fewer at end of Aug., nesting at TS; precise counting of 109 **Red-capped Plover**, 13 **Double-banded**, single **Whimbrel** at TS estuary (GR/WN); max. 7 **Eastern Curlew** at TS (PJP).

SKUAS, GULLS & TERNs. Max. 200 **Silver Gull** on 28 Aug. feeding and moving S at BP (JW); 1-3 **Caspian Tern** at TS and estuary, seen at Cullendulla; **Crested** widespread, max. 40 at Mystery Bay; 2 **Brown Skua** at BP mid August (JW).

OTHER NON-PASSERINES. Up to 15 **Rock Dove** in MYA; max. 8 **White-headed Pigeon** at MKS (SMG); no more than 6 **Spotted Dove** in MYA; **Brown Cuckoo-Dove** calling at BP; max. 10 **Common Bronzewing** at MKS, seen daily at Pedro, OMBS, Bergalia and Comerang where on nest. **Crested Pigeon** widespread, max. 15 at PP in July, MYA in Aug.; up to 10 **Wonga** widespread; few **Peaceful Dove**; 20 **Topknot Pigeon** overflying PDD on 14 Aug.; **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** widespread, max. 18 feeding in *Banksia integrifolia* at Pedro Swamp (JM); up to 5 **Gang-gang** at PDD; **Galah** widespread, max. 30 and nest building at Comerang; flocks of up to 200 **Little Corella** in MYA; max. 35 **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** at Comerang; **Rainbow**, **Musk** and **Little Lorikeet** common; **Crimson** and **Eastern Rosella**, **King Parrot** widespread; **Pallid Cuckoo** calling in MYA SF (JH); many calls of **Fan-tailed**, **Horsfield's Bronze** and **Shining Bronze**, 1 or 2 seen; call of **Eastern Koel** 23 Aug. (PJP); single **Eastern Barn Owl** at Comerang 24-26 Aug.; **Southern Boobook** call at Bergalia, seen at Pedro (JS); 2 **Tawny Frogmouth** at Mystery Bay, TS; single **Owlet-nightjar** regularly at Comerang; **Laughing Kookaburra** widespread; single **Sacred Kingfisher** still at Candlagan Ck (HR); single **Azure Kingfisher** at Comerang, West Flat (Bodalla).

PASSERINES. **Superb Lyrebird** 1 or calls; up to 10 **White-throated Treecreeper**; up to 3 **Red-browed** at PDD, first record at Pedro Swamp; **Fairy-wrens** widespread, **Superb** breeding at MKS; **Spotted Pardalote** common, breeding at MKS; 1 or 2 or calls **Striated** perhaps becoming more widespread; **White-browed Scrubwren** breeding; up to 20 **Brown Gerygone** at NA; **Brown** and **Striated Thornbill** breeding; up to 20 **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** at MKS, breeding; 1 or 2 **White-eared**; single **Yellow-tufted** at Belowra 3 Aug. (JC); up to 4 **Fuscous** at ERBG, MKS, calls at PDD; **Lewin's** widespread; small numbers **Brown-headed**; up to 20 **White-naped** at PDD in flowering Ironbark, breeding at MKS; **Noisy Friarbird** returned on 8 Aug.; up to 30 **Little Wattlebird** and nest building at BP, fewer elsewhere; **Red Wattlebird** common, dep. young at Mossy Pt; single **Crescent Honeyeater** MYA SF (JH); up to 30 **New Holland**, on nest at BP; 2-6 **White-cheeked** at PDD; **Scarlet** returned 31 July; **Eastern Yellow Robin** widespread, breeding BP, MKS; up to 10 **Jacky Winter**; up to 4 **Rose Robin**, 2 **Flame**, max. 10 **Scarlet** at Belowra; 2 **Spotted Quail-thrush** at MYA SF (JH); flocks of **Varied Sittella** max. 10; **Golden Whistler** widespread, breeding at MKS; this season's first **Rufous** call on 9 Aug.; 1-4 **Grey-Shrike-thrush** common; up to 5 **Crested Shrike-tit**; max. 22 **Grey Fantail** at Pedro Swamp, 4 or 5 in flowering *Monotoca elliptica*; single **Restless Flycatcher** at Comerang, Belowra; 1-4 **Grey Butcherbird** throughout Shire; at Comerang 60-70 **Maggie** in July, Aug., breeding; low numbers **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**; **White-bellied** calling at MKS; up to 3 and calls of **Olive-backed Oriole**; good numbers **Australian Raven**, breeding; up to 13 **White-winged Chough**; single **Bassian Thrush** at NA, ERBG; max. 15 **Common Myna** in MYA; 20 **Tree Martin** daily at Comerang in Aug.; up to 20 **Silvereye** both months; up to 10 **Mistletoebird**; 16 **Australasian Pipit** daily at Comerang, up to 4 elsewhere; 2 **Diamond Firetail** at Belowra; **Red-browed Finch** common.

MAMMALS. One or two **Echidna**; new scats **Spotted-tailed Quoll** at Pedro; single **Common Wombat** regularly at Comerang, 1 dead at Lynch's Ck; **Sugar Glider** heard at Pedro, Pedro Swamp and single at Comerang; single **Greater Glider** on June 6 at CO Ck (Ian Hendley); 2 **Ringtail Possum** at Mystery Bay (MA); up to 3 **Brush-tail** common; abundant **macropods** in usual locations. Calls of **Dingo** at Comerang; **Fox** calls at Pedro Swamp, Pedro, Comerang; up to 3 unidentified **Deer** in MYA SF; 1 **Sambar** at BP. Eight **Bottle-nosed Dolphin** off Toragy Pt, 5 off Mystery Bay; unidentified sp. off Broulee; up to 6 **Southern Right Whale** giving onlookers great pleasure during Aug. at Bengello and N Broulee beaches; 8 **Humpback** pods moving N in July at BP and along coast.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS. Dark-flecked Garden Sunskink at BP, Mystery Bay; single Weasel Skink at Mossy Pt (HR); few Blue-tongue and Jacky Lizard; Mustard-bellied Snake identified by NPWS after biting a person at Mystery Bay; 1 or 2 Red-bellied Black. Frogs calling or seen: Common Eastern Froglet, Brown-striped Frog, Spotted Grass Frog, Haswell's Froglet, calls of Brown, Smooth and Tyler's Toadlets; the Tree Frogs: Bleating, Brown, Jervis Bay, Peron's, Leaf-green, Tyler's and Verreaux's.

OTHER INVERTEBRATES, INSECTS. Ladybirds, Shield beetles at Comerang. The Spiders: Huntsman, White-tailed, Black House, Red-back, St Andrew's Cross, Leaf-curling, Daddy Long-legs, Water, Golden Orb-weaving, Little Striped Wolf, Flat Rock.

LEPIDOPTERA. The Moths: *Meritastis polygraphana*, *Anemosa exanthes*, *Gastrina cristaria*, *Amphiclasta lygaea*, Black Geometrid, *Dissomorphia australiaria*, *Gastrophora henricaria*, Red-lined Geometrid, Emerald sp, *Scopula perlata*, Magpie, Crimson Tiger, *Pantylia sparsa*, Southern Old Lady Moth, *Praxis sp*, Green-blotched, Bogong, Variable Cutworm. The Butterflies: Black Jezebel; up to 6 Cabbage White; Meadow Argus; Monarch to end of August.

BLOSSOM. Trees: *Banksia integrifolia* attracting Rainbow Lorikeets, *Acacia suaveolens* with native bees, *A. longifolia*, *A. floribunda*, *A. subporosa*, *A. terminalis*, *Corymbia maculata*, Ironbark, *Monotoca elliptica*. Shrubs: *Daviesia ulicifolia*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Goodenia ovata*, *Pimelea linifolia*, *Persoonia linearis*. Orchids: Greenhoods *Pterostylis nutans*, *P. curta*, *P. longipetala*, *P. pedunculata*; *Glossodia major*, *Caleana major*, *Caladenia catenate*, *Bunochilus longifolia*. Ground covers, vines: *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Kennedia rubicunda*, Wonga Wonga Vine *Pandorea pandorana* pink bells light amidst the green.

WEATHER. July produced cold nights, a few frosts even reaching the dunes; there were light and regular showers in the second week and a good fall on 28th. Water level in Pedro Swamp fell with duck numbers declining. At low tide the upper reaches and backwaters of TS estuary were clear. August was chilly and dry, the lengthening daylight hours perceptible. Frequent S-SW fronts in both months but most were dry. However, wetland levels are holding well.

Rainfall: July: BP 91.5 mm; MKS 34 mm; MYA 37 mm; Pedro Swamp 52 mm; Comerang 25.5 mm. **Aug.:** BP 27.5 mm; MKS 24 mm; Pedro Swamp 25 mm; Comerang 18.5 mm.



OOZLUM'S CORNER

This is the corner where members place interesting articles or publish their queries. We encourage you to send items to the Editor.



Southern Right Whale off Broulee.

White callosities on head, arched mouth to accommodate baleen plates almost 2 m long.

Photo 12 September by Helen Ransom

Ringlands walk Narooma, took us to a remnant pocket of rainforest. Few first-time visitors fail to be impressed with this little gem of local bushland, in particular with the two Strangler Figs which stand sentinel at the beginning. They are magnificent specimens and their canopies host a stunning garden of birds' nest ferns and other epiphytic plants. The track has not been maintained, but there is sufficient access for visitors to see an impressive array of rainforest birds, although several visits are required to make the best of the viewing.

A few walkers saw the elusive Green Catbird, others watched a pair of Spotted Pardalote preparing their nesting tunnel, most saw the Bassian Thrush, as well as Lewin's Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin, Brown Gerygone, Wonga Pigeon, Brown and Striated Thornbill, and White-browed and Large-billed Scrubwren, and we heard the Lyrebird in full voice.

On previous visits I have seen Topknot Pigeon, two pairs of nesting Black-faced Monarch, and a Sooty Owl, the latter disturbed by my walking under the tree where it perched.

I returned to Ringlands to take photos of the figs and decided that it was worth a look around. It has always proven to be so. It was quite a windy day, and although there was much singing and calling, there was little to be seen clearly, apart from a very good view of a female Lyrebird - as well as a Swamp Wallaby. But just as I was about to give up and leave, this same Lyrebird flew to a branch high above me, and proceeded to produce an amazing series of calls and cackles, many of them unfamiliar to me. She wasn't imitating other birds, just showing that she has quite a fine repertoire of her own. A female Whipbird seemed to answer her. Having finished the concert, she preened herself for a few minutes, glided down in front of me, landing on a buttress root of one of the figs and continued with her foraging. As I walked back I had a wonderful view of an Azure Kingfisher.

It would be worth a return visit when the fig trees are fruiting. Maybe the Catbirds will reappear.

Visitors are warned of the many Giant Stinging Trees *Dendrocnide excelsa*, their saplings and even dead leaves on the forest floor which can cause a horribly painful sting. The Stinging Tree is easily identified by its dinner plate sized bright green leaves.

Access to the Ringlands walk is via the Old Hume Highway turnoff to the west, just south of Narooma. Follow this road until you reach Flying Fox Road to the right, then take this road to the cul-de-sac at the end where parking is available. Walk through the gap in the fence, follow the path down the slope until you reach a fork - take the left-hand path. MA

Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice

A lot of the birds on our property are colour-banded, so we tend to know who's who, who is with who, and where the different birds live. We have an interesting Brown Thornbill shuffle this year. Last year Bob and Carol bred in the top SE corner of the block, but were unsuccessful, as so many of them were last season. Ted and Alice bred about 250 metres away to the NW, across at least two other Brown Thornbill territories, and were also unsuccessful. This season, Carol has disappeared, as has Ted, and Bob and Alice have paired up and are breeding in Bob's territory. The Brown Thornbill singles dating service seems to work perfectly well without the internet! SMG

Haiku by Robin Corringham

*Glossy Cockatoos
In a she-oak cathedral
Panels of red tails. Flowers.*

CONTRIBUTORS

ABBREVIATIONS

BA	B Allan, PDD	AM	A Marsh, Dalmeny	BB	Batemans Bay
MA	M Anderson, Mystery Bay	JM	J Morgan, Pedro Swamp	BBWG	BB Water Gardens
EA	E Andrew, SB	WN	W Nelson, TS	BI	Bermagui
BB	W&B Barker, PP	HR	H Ransom, Mossy Pt	BP	Burrewarra Point
AC	A Christiansen, Mystery Bay	GR	G Rayner, TS	CO	Congo
JC	P&J Collett, Comerang	JS	J Sagar, Pedro	ERBG	Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens
RC	R Corringham, MO	BS	B Scales, NA	MH	Moruya Heads N & S
MC	M Crowley, MHS	JW	J Whiter, BP	MKS	Maulbrooks Rd S
JF	J Fearn, PDD	FM	Field Meeting	MO	Meringo
SMG	M&S Guppy, MKS		I Hendley	MYA	Moruya
JH	J&J Houghton, TS			NA	Narooma
TH	T Hunt, OMBS			NP	Newstead Pond
DHK	D&H Kay, Bergalia			OMBS	Old Man Bed Swamp
JL	J&J Liney, MYA			PDD	Percy Davis Drive
				PP	Potato Point
				SB	Surf Beach
				TL	Tilba L.
				TN	Tomakin
				TS	Tuross Head
				WL	Wallaga L.