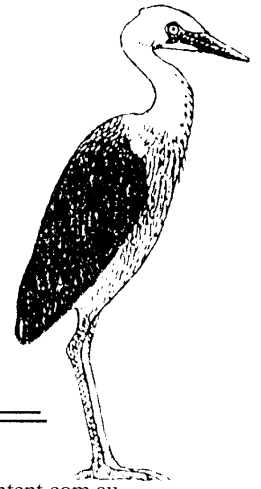


# EUROBODALLA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inc.

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



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NEWSLETTER NO. 137

NOVEMBER 2009

## Chairman's Report

Another year has come to an end and although it has been very dry, nature-wise it has been quite rewarding. The numerous sightings of Swift Parrots during the winter, the huge Grey-headed Flying Fox colony at South Heads, the large number of honeyeaters that remained throughout the winter, our first record of a Black-tailed Native Hen and more recently, the sighting of a Broad-billed Sandpiper are just a few highlights of 2009.

## Green Cape 2010

Many people expressed an interest in having a few relaxing days at Green Cape Lighthouse next year. We have been lucky enough to secure a booking from Wednesday 10 to Friday 12 November 2010. It should be a great time to look at some of the heathland specialities of the area, notably Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Ground Parrot, Southern Emu-wren, Beautiful Firetail and Chestnut-rumped Heathwren. As well, there should be quite a few whales travelling south at this time of the year. The cottage can accommodate 6 people and the total cost for the three nights is \$765, which works out at \$128 per person for the three nights. You will also need to bring your own linen and towels and, as it is self-catering the group will have to work out menus etc. If you would like to go on this trip, contact Joan on 4474 2801. It will be filled on a first-come first-served basis.

I hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and I will look forward to some good birding with you in 2010.

Mike Crowley

## NOTICE BOARD

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.** Annual subscriptions are due on January 1 and the form can be cut from the last page of this newsletter. *Nature in Eurobodalla No. 23* (2008) can be ordered on the same form. NIE is the annual record of observations, breeding and migrations in the Shire.

**FIELD MEETINGS** The 2010 Program of Field Meetings is included.

**NEW MEMBERS** We welcome Christine and John Mellors from Malua Bay.

**BANDED SOOTY OYSTERCATCHERS.** The Shorebird Recovery Team has asked if ENHS members will report all sightings to [amy.harris@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:amy.harris@environment.nsw.gov.au) or on your usual monthly Observation Record Sheet if you aren't connected to email.

**WHAT TO EXPECT IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY.** Summer's warmth, with or without rain, tourists crowding the beaches and anxious eyes watching the bush when the west wind blows. In forest and woodland, in gardens and on the shore, frazzled adult birds push food down the throats of ever-hungry, dependent young. Youngsters try their first flights while older juveniles enter a new world of independence, a world where inexperience claims more than a few lives. Caterpillars

grow fatter on increasingly ragged and tattered plants; and still there are waves of butterflies and moths laying yet more and more eggs. Can the earth feed all these mouths? The reptiles are out and about and very evident as they take advantage of summer's bounty to fatten up in preparation for the lean months they know lie ahead. Both reptiles and amphibians have the edge on birds in the rearing of their young: no responsibility beyond that of laying the eggs, or in the case of live births, beyond the young emerging into the world. The kangaroos and wallabies had their babies in late winter and spring and now, in the height of summer, the breeding females are relieved of their pouch potatoes, at least for a month or two.

In the woodlands most of the migrant breeders have done their duty and the young are fast approaching independence, though a few tardy souls can be left with dependent young when others are preparing for the journey north. Of course, the cuckoos never find themselves in that position; when their young are strong enough to undertake the flight, they simply call them to heel and depart as a family. Down on the seashore, the Little Terns solve the problem without the faintest trace of sentiment – when the propitious moment for departure arrives, they abandon any late nests, eggs and young and head north with the rest of their kin. Terns, as a general rule, would not win prizes for parenting skills, but they are eminently practical.

Those breeding populations of summer migrants that arrived in late July or early August, like the small cuckoos, Noisy Friarbirds, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Olive-backed Orioles, are more likely to depart sometime between mid January and mid February. Listen carefully to the volume of calls, specially in the early morning, and you may be able to note the exact day when the bulk of the population leaves the area where you spend most of your time, that is round the house and garden or along a favourite walking track. It is an interesting exercise and the results may surprise you.

#### **First record of a Black-tailed Native Hen in Eurobodalla**



Mr and Mrs Cornish and Bill Nelson alerted the Society to the presence of a Black-tailed Native Hen at Coila Lake in early October. I ventured to the wilds of Coila on 17 October and via Bill's excellent directions had no trouble in finding it. Even from a distance of 200m the greyish neck and head, brown wing coverts, red legs and all black tail were clearly visible. This is the first sighting of a Black-tailed Native Hen in the Shire. MC  
Photo by WN.

#### **Rare beachwash of Salps at Broulee**



Hundreds of Salps were washed up on Broulee Beach around 4 November. This is a very rare occurrence, as Salps have been recorded infrequently this far south. One of our members Dr. Adrienne Grant provided the following description: Salps are a tropical animal belonging to a group of invertebrates called tunicates. Salps are free swimming, planktonic, jelly-like animals with barrel-shaped hollow bodies. Syphons propel water through the body to enable them to feed. They also have light organs making them luminescent at night.

**Note:** reported in July 2007 on Broulee I., see newsletter No. 124

#### **INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS**

Two **Pink-eared Duck** at Coopers I. 19 Sept. (PK/MC).

**Yellow-billed Spoonbill** with Royal on MYA Sth Head Rd 26 Sept. (JM).

Seven **Intermediate Egret** at Wagonga Inlet 30 Sept. (BS).

**Black-tailed Native Hen** spotted by (WN/J.Cornish) on the east side of Coila L. 10-17 Oct.; (MC)

confirmed the record and provided field notes for this first known sighting.

Single **Red-kneed Dotterel** at Coopers I. 19 Sept. (MC/PK), MYA riverbank west of Caravan Park on 5 Oct. (PK).

First return of 3 **Latham's Snipe** at NP 19 Sept., then 3 at Bumbo Rd 28 Sept. and 1 at Coila L. (PK/MC/WN/JH).

A **Whimbrel** at MO 28-29 Sept. - brown rump, *hudsonicus*? (NM).

A **Pheasant Coucal** reported as seen twice by Michael and Wendy Hulse in their Womban fowl yard – keep your eyes peeled for this one; if confirmed, it would be another first.

Field notes submitted for 2 **Green Catbird** at Ringlands, NA on 23 Oct. (MA).

One **Koala** on Belowra Rd on 2 Oct. (JC).

In late winter and spring there were about a dozen reports of **Leopard Seals**, always singly, on beaches from Ulludulla south to PP when the cold current hugged the coastline, a comfort for seals that normally frequent Antarctic waters.

## VULNERABLE AND THREATENED SPECIES

**Eastern Osprey:** 1 at Comerang on 1 Sept.

**Square-tailed Kite:** **Sept:** 1 at Pedro Swamp, PDD (on 2 days); **Oct:** 1 at PDD (on 3 days), Pedro Swamp (on 3 days), Nangudga.

**Bush Stone-curlew:** usual bird at NA.

**Australian Pied Oystercatcher:** **Sept:** 1 at Long Beach; 2 at Mystery Bay; 3 at CO; 7 at TS estuary; 8 at NA; 10 at Coila L./TS; 11 at Brou L. **Oct:** 1 at Bengello, CO; 2 at MO, Mystery Bay, Candlagan Ck; 4 at TS estuary; 6 at TS; 13 at Coila L. (1 banded).

**Sooty Oystercatcher:** **Sept:** 2 at Long Beach, BP, MO; 3 at TS, CO; 6 at Mystery Bay. **Oct:** 1 at TS; 2 at BP; 4 at Mystery Bay; 5 at CO.

**Hooded Plover:** reported breeding: 2 fledged at WL, 3 at Eden, 2 at Nullica River mouth.

**Lesser Sand Plover:** 1 at Brou L. on 19 Sept.

**Sanderling:** 1 at TS estuary 29 Sept.; 1 at Brou L., Coila L., Coila on 4, 17, 25 Oct.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper:** 1 at TS estuary 18 Nov.; second record in Shire.

**Little Tern:** **Sept:** first return 1 at TS Lake 17 Sept. **Oct:** 3 from 13 Oct.

**Fairy Tern:** 1 at TS Lake 17 Sept.

**Glossy Black-Cockatoo:** **Sept:** call at MKS, Pedro Swamp; 3 at Mystery Bay; 2 at PDD. **Oct:** call at BP; 3 at Belowra Rd, PDD, MKS, Pedro Swamp (1 juv. 2 ad.); 1 or 2 at Bergalia.

**Sooty Owl:** 2 calling at Womban 16 Sept.

**Masked Owl:** call at Pedro Swamp 20 Sept.; 2 at CO Creek same month.

**Barking Owl:** call at Comerang 10 Oct.



The Broad-billed Sandpiper, first sighted by Pattie Parker, is in the background with two Red-necked Stints in the foreground.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SYSTEMATIC LIST RECORDS

**GROUND BIRDS.** Up to 13 **Emu** (2 dy on 29 Sept.) at TS estuary; max. 4 at Bodalla (GR/WN/MA); 10 **Stubble Quail** at Comerang; 1 **Brown Quail** at Mystery Bay, Belowra, 2 at MYA, Comerang (JC/MA/PK).

**WATERSIDE.** Max. 110 **Black Swan**; common **duck sp** as usual; a **Northern Mallard** at BBWG (JF); 1 **Hardhead** at Comerang in Oct. (JC); 4 **Musk Duck** at Coopers I. 19 Sept. (MC/PK). **Shearwater sp** wrecks at Broulee, Mystery Bay; up to 100 **Wedge-tailed** at BP in Oct., mixed flock of **Wedge-tailed/Short-tailed/Fluttering** at Bengello 23 Sept. (JW/BA); 1 **Short-**

tailed at TS in Oct. (JH); 1 or 2 **Aust. Grebe** at usual haunts; 1 **Hoary-headed** at Coopers I. 19 Sept.; up to 30 **Aust. White Ibis**, 90 overflying Mogendoura; no more than 20 **Straw-necked**; 1 **Nankeen Night Heron** at Comerang, TS River Bridge; 1 **Striated Heron** at TS estuary, NA (GR/WN/BS); 1 **Cattle Egret** at Comerang, Mogendoura, 3 at TS (JC/LB/JH); 1 **White-necked Heron** at Trunketabella, Bergalia, MYA, Comerang, 2 at OMBS; up to 15 **Eastern Great Egret**; max. 9 **Little Egret**, display at Wagonga Inlet; 2 **Eastern Reef Egret** at Mystery Bay, 1 at MO, immature at TS (MA/NM/JH); max. 37 **Pelican**; 200 **Gannet** in Sept., declining to max. 100 in Oct.; maxima 49 **Little Pied Cormorant**, 160 **Little Black**, 9 **Pied**, 36 **Great**; 1 **Darter** at Comerang, MO, 2 at Coopers I., 9 at TS estuary where 2 pairs nesting 27 Oct. (GR/WN).

**RAPTORS.** One or two **Kestrel**; 1 **Hobby** at Mogendoura, TS (FM/JH); 2 **Brown Falcon** at Comerang (JC); single **Peregrine** at Mystery Bay, MO, hunting daily at BP; 1 or 2 **Black-shouldered Kite**; up to 7 **Whistling Kite**, dy at Comerang, nests and dy at TS estuary; up to 4 **W-bellied Sea-Eagle**, some juvs. and immatures; single **Grey Goshawk** at Pedro Swamp, PDD, TS; 1 **Brown Goshawk** at Pedro Swamp, PDD, 2 at MO; 1 **Collared Sparrowhawk** at MKS, Pedro Swamp (SMG/JM); 1 or 2 **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, 4 at Belowra, an early juv. at Pedro Swamp late Oct.; 1 **Little Eagle** occasionally in Oct. at Bergalia (DHK).

**CRAKES, RAILS, GALLINULES & BUTTON-QUAILS.** Single **Buff-banded Rail** at ERBG, Coila L., TS estuary, MO, Comerang; up to 35 **Purple Swamphen**, downy young at Coopers I. (MC/PK); 4 **Dusky Moorhen** at Comerang, MO, 2 at BBWG (JC/NM/JF); 70 **Coot** at Coopers I., pair with 2 dy at BBWG; 1 **Painted Button-quail** at Pedro Swamp, Mystery Bay in Sept., PDD in Oct. (JM/MA/BA).

**WADERS.** Seven **Black-winged Stilt** at Coopers I., 2 at TS estuary, Nangudga; 1 **Pacific Golden Plover** at TS and estuary, 2 at Brou L., 5 at Mystery Bay (GR/WN/PK/JH/MA); 1 **Grey** at Coila L., TS estuary; up to 40 **Red-capped**, breeding; 1 **Double-banded** at Coila L., 17 Oct. (MC); 1 **Black-fronted** at MO in Oct. (NM); 220 **Bar-tailed Godwit** at NA (BS), max. 77 at TS estuary, 16 at Brou L.; 1 or 2 **Whimbrel** TS estuary, Coila L., 20 at MHS; max. 13 **Eastern Curlew**; up to 5 **Greenshank** at TS estuary (GR/WN); 2 **Ruddy Turnstone** at TS estuary, 6 at Coila L., 1 at CO; 3 **Red Knot** at TS estuary, 4 at Coila L.; max. 45 **Red-necked Stint** at TS estuary, 12 at Coila L., TS, 4 at Brou L.; up to 119 **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at TS estuary, 25 at Brou L., 30 at TS, Coila L.; 3 or 4 **Curlew Sandpiper** at TS estuary, 16 at Coila L.

**SKUAS, GULLS & TERNS.** Fewer **Silver Gull**, max. 50; 18 **Caspian Tern** at TS estuary, 11 at TS, 2 at NA; max. 450 **Crested** on sandbars at TS 26 Oct. (JH); 3 **White-fronted** at CO, TS, 30 at TS estuary 13 Oct.; 1 **Common** at TS estuary 27 Oct. (GR/WN); 2 **Whiskered** at TS estuary 1-29 Sept.

**OTHER NON-PASSERINES.** **White-headed Pigeon** widespread, on nest TS (JH); 1 **Brown Cuckoo-Dove** at MKS in Oct. (SMG); **Common Bronzewing** breeding at Comerang, MKS; **Wonga** in pairs now; 2 **Peaceful Dove** at Bumbo Rd, PDD; 30-40 **Topknot Pigeon** at Box Cutting Reserve 25 Oct. (FM); max. 27 **Y-t Black-Cockatoo**, dy at PDD (BA); max. 40 **Gang-gang** at MKS, 1-15 elsewhere; 1 **Long-billed Corella** at TS (GR/WN); no more than 50 **Little Corella**; max. 40 **Sulphur-crested** at MYA (JL); good numbers **Rainbow, Musk, Little Lorikeet, Pallid Cuckoo** from 4 Sept. (JC); **Brush** from 29 Sept. (JM); **Fan-tailed** everywhere; 1 or 2 **Horsfield's**; up to 4 **Shining Bronze**; **Koel** common; **Channel-billed** from 5 Sept. (PK). **Southern Boobook** vocal; 2 **Tawny Frogmouth** at Mystery Bay both months, 1 at TS 17 Oct. (MA/JH); **White-throated Nightjar** from 15 Sept.; **Aust. Owlet-nightjar** calls at Pedro Swamp, Comerang; **Dollarbird** from 11 Sept. (JC); 6 **Sacred Kingfisher** at PDD (JF), 1-4 elsewhere; 1 **Azure Kingfisher** at TS estuary from 15 Sept. (first sighting since 21 July), 2 at Comerang, 1 at Candaglan Ck, CO.

**PASSERINES.** Up to 3 **Superb Lyrebird**; 2 **Red-browed Treecreeper** at PDD in Sept., 2 (ad with dy) at MO 2 Oct. (NM); **Striated Pardalote** at ERBG, Pedro Swamp, Comerang, Belowra, MO; single **Yellow-throated** and **Large-billed Scrubwren** at Box Cutting Reserve 25 Oct.; **Brown Gerygone** common, **White-throated** from 5 Sept. (PK); all **thornbills** as usual, most breeding. **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** common; **White-eared** to 12 Sept.; 1-4 **Yellow-tufted** at

MKS, 5 at Womban; **Fuscous** at MKS to end Sept., 1 at Mogendoura 10 Oct.; **Lewin's** widespread; up to 4 **Brown-headed**; **White-naped** common; **Noisy Friarbird** numerous and breeding, as were **Little** and **Red Wattlebird**, **New Holland**; 2 **White-cheeked** at Belowra, Comerang, 4 at PDD; **Scarlet** fairly widespread. Two **White-fronted Chat** at Coila L., TS, up to 20 at TS estuary; 1 **Rose Robin** at ERBG, Comerang, PDD, Box Cutting Reserve; 1 **Scarlet** at Belowra 27 Sept.; **Eastern Whiplbird** as usual, imm. at BP; 2 or 3 **Spotted Quail-thrush** on Belowra Rd; up to 8 **Varied Sittella**; **Golden** and **Rufous Whistler** as usual; 2 **Crested Shrike-tit** at PDD, 1 at MO (BA/NM); **Rufous Fantail** from 3 Oct. (SMG); 1 or 2 **Black-faced Monarch**; **Leaden Flycatcher** from 28 Sept.; 1 **Restless** at Comerang, Belowra; 3 **White-breasted Woodswallow** over Pedro Swamp 18 Oct. (JM); 30 **Masked** high over MYA 26 Oct. (PK); up to 12 **Dusky**, on nest at PDD (JF); **Cicadabird** from 10 Sept. (SMG); **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** widespread; **White-bellied** at BP, Pedro Swamp, Comerang, MKS; **White-winged Triller** from 26 Sept. (JC); 2 or 3 **Figbird** at MYA, TS, Coila L.; 3 **Bassian Thrush** at ERBG 12 Sept.; **Tree Martin** nest building at Comerang; **Reed Warbler** at MYA, Coopers I., BBWG, Comerang; **Little Grassbird** at Coopers I. 19 Sept. (PK/MC); max. 15 **Mistletoebird** at Comerang, 1 or calls elsewhere; 6 **Goldfinch** at Coopers I.

**MAMMALS.** **Echidna** out and about; **Spotted-tailed Quoll** scats at Pedro Swamp; **Wombat** at Comerang, Belowra, Mogendoura; **Sugar Glider** at BP, Pedro Swamp; **Squirrel Glider** call at Pedro Swamp 19 Oct. (JM); **macropods** as usual; **Seal sp.** at Dalmeny; **Dingo** calling at Comerang 29, 30 Sept. (JC); **Fox** at Pedro Swamp, BP, MKS; **Rabbit** plentiful at TS; a **Sambar Deer** grazing nature strip at Lilli Pilli 25 Sept. (PHH). Many **Dolphin sp** at TS in Oct. (JH); 3 **Bottle-nosed Dolphin** still in TS estuary, 20 off Mossy Pt 13 Sept. (HR); unidentified **whale sp** off BP, TS; 4 **Southern Right Whale** off BP, 2 off TS, Broulee; a total of 80 **Humpback Whale** going S.

**REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS.** Fifteen **Snake-necked Turtle** at Comerang, 1 dead at Pedro Swamp; 1 **Eastern Water Skink** at MYA 17 Sept. (JL); **Dark** and **Light-flecked Garden** and **Weasel Skinks**; 2 **Blue-tongue** at TS; **Jacky Lizard** common; 10 **Eastern Water Dragon** at Comerang, 1 (40 cm) at TS estuary (GR/WN); up to 3 **Lace Monitor**; **Diamond Python** at MKS, Comerang (SMG/JC); **Red-bellied Black Snake** numerous. **Common Eastern Froglet**, **Striped** and **Spotted Marsh Frogs**, **Brown** and **Tyler's Toadlets**, and the Tree Frogs: **Bleating**, **Brown**, **Jervis Bay**, **Peron's**, **Leaf-green**, **Tyler's Verreaux's**.

**INSECTS, MOTHS & BUTTERFLIES.** Usual spring/summer insects and spiders appearing. Spring has seen the emergence of the familiar **Bogong Moth** and its relations, **Brown** and **Variable Cutworm**, and **Native Budworm**, the last three named because of their destructive larvae. A number of day flying moths have also made an appearance, the **Whistling**, **Mistletoe** and **Vine Moth** and *Eutricopidia latinus*. The following Cup Moths were also active, **Four spotted Cup Moth**, *Doratifera pinguis* and *Pseudanapaea transvestita*. Hundreds of small white moths, *Tipanaea patulella*, are living on *Juncus pallidus*. The butterflies: **Orchard Swallowtail**, **Common Jezebel**, a few **Caper White**, **Brown Ringlet**, **Common Brown**, **Meadow Argus**, **Painted Lady**, **Yellow Admiral**, **Fringed Heath Blue**, **Varied** and **Blotched Dusky Blue**, **Yellow Spot** and **Common Grass Blue**.

**BLOSSOM.** Forty-eight flowering trees, shrubs, vines and wildflowers were reported; all were classed as usual local species.

**WEATHER.** September was rather cool and windy; there was one good fall of rain on parts of the coast that did not penetrate inland. There was a brisk and brief bushfire at Guerilla Bay on 13<sup>th</sup>. The October long weekend was wet and chilly and lighter rains spread evenly through the month; frequent southerly changes kept temperatures down. In spite of the rain, wetlands are still in a parlous state and OMBS is dry. In Oct. the Tuross River was running at Tyrone but flow did not reach Comerang; river mouth still closed but estuary level low and some sandbars available for waders and Little Terns. **Rainfall: Sept:** 94.5mm at BP; 29mm at MKS; 43mm at MYA; 37.5mm at TS; 50mm at Comerang. **Oct:** 121mm at BP; 67mm at MKS; 65mm at MYA; 76mm at TS.

### **Swift Parrots winter on the South Coast**

The Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* is a threatened species that breeds in south-east Tasmania and travels to the mainland in winter. Each year, we are asked to monitor their movements, particularly in April and August when they are making this journey. Their path covers south-eastern Australia and is influenced by the availability of food, flowering gum and lerps (the sugary exudate of sap sucking insects).

This year, Spotted Gum *Corymbia maculata* flowered on the south coast from February to September and this attracted large numbers of Swift Parrots. Chris Tzaros, the Swift Parrot Recovery Coordinator, reported the greatest concentration of birds in the Corunna State Forest, where 300-350 were recorded in June and July; up to 250 at Mimosa Rocks in the same months; 180 were reported at Tathra in August; up to 100 were in the Mogo State Forest from June to August, and in Bermagui in June and July. Smaller numbers were recorded at a number of localities from Ulladulla in the north to Wonboyn Lake in the south. In the Eurobodalla, these reports were from Murrumbidgee National Park, Boyne and Benandarah State Forests, Moruya Heads, and Bodalla.

Report Swift Parrot sightings to Chris Tzaros on 1800 665 766, c.tzaros@birdsaustralia.com.au



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.*

### **NEAT AND ELUSIVE PREDATORS.**

The nesting season at Maulbrooks Road is proceeding as usual, that is with a lot of carnage. We have found 59 nests and 33 of these have gone on to contain at least one egg. So far, 15 of the 33 have been raided. The usual scenario is that all the eggs or young have disappeared, but in a few cases one of the original two or three eggs will still be there.

We find two aspects of this predation interesting. First, we spend hundreds of hours in the bush looking for and at nests, we have been doing this for over three years, and each year at least 40 are raided by some predator or another. Yet we have never seen a single act of predation. We are told that currawongs and kookaburras are likely culprits but we have no evidence for this and cannot even say if the predations are taking place at night or during the day. Second, in many cases (this year at least 80%), the nests are absolutely undisturbed. This is understandable in a solid, open nest such as that of a Yellow Robin but many are the domed nests of Brown Thornbills and Fairy-wrens. Something manages to get in, take all the eggs or young and leave the nest in pristine condition. Whatever it is, is either small and light or very precise at extracting eggs or young. **SMG.**

### **A ROBIN'S NEST**

To my delight, a pair of Eastern Yellow Robins built their nest in a tea tree easily seen from my bathroom window. I watched the progress as the male made regular visits to feed the female who sat stoically on the nest. One morning when both birds were absent (presumably she needs to cater to her own liquid needs as well as her toilet requirements), I looked into the nest and saw two very pretty bluish-green eggs streaked with brown.

The domestic scene continued for at least 17 days, possibly longer as I had been away for the commencement of the nesting period. Then one morning I saw a female or immature male Satin Bowerbird with its head inside the nest. A thump on the window drove the bird away. To my horror, I found that half of one egg, solidly filled with tiny chick, had been devoured. There was no sign of the second egg.

The robin continued to sit on the nest for a further three days, perhaps oblivious to what she was now protecting – I cannot imagine why. But on the third day, the pair abandoned the nest and did not return. On the following morning I found that the nest had been trashed but whether by the robins or the bowerbird I cannot say. There is no mention in HANZAB of bowerbirds consuming eggs. Now, when I hear the Satin Bowerbird's song in my garden it doesn't thrill me as it used. Sometimes it is very hard being a lover of nature and having delight turned into tragedy. **MA.**



A Brown-headed Honeyeater filching fur from a Jersey calf at Comerang. A fortunate photo by Julie Collett.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

**ABBREVIATIONS**

|      |                           |     |                        |      |                                      |
|------|---------------------------|-----|------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|
| BA   | B Allan, PDD              | NM  | N Montgomery, MO       | BB   | Batemans Bay                         |
| MA   | M Anderson, Mystery Bay   | JM  | J Morgan, Pedro Swamp  | BBWG | BB Water Gardens                     |
| JC   | P&J Collett, Comerang     | WN  | W Nelson, TS           | BI   | Bermagui                             |
| MC   | M Crowley, MHS            | HR  | H Ransom, Mossy Pt     | BP   | Burrewarra Point                     |
| JF   | J Fearn, PDD              | GR  | G Rayner, TS           | CO   | Congo                                |
| SMG  | M&S Guppy, MKS            | BS  | B Scales, NA           | ERBG | Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens |
| PHH  | P&H Houghton, Lilli Pilli | BMV | B&M Versey, Long Beach | MH   | Moruya Heads N & S                   |
| JH   | J&J Houghton, TS          | JW  | J Whiter, BP           | MKS  | Maulbrooks Rd S                      |
| TH   | T Hunt, OMBS              | FM  | Field Meeting          | MO   | Meringo                              |
| DHK  | D&H Kay, Bergalia         |     | Ian Hendley, CO        | MYA  | Moruya                               |
| PK   | P Kingston, Womban        |     |                        | NA   | Narooma                              |
| JL   | J&J Liney, MYA            |     |                        | NP   | Newstead Pond                        |
| RMcK | R Mackay, Canberra        |     |                        | OMBS | Old Man Bed Swamp                    |
|      |                           |     |                        | PDD  | Percy Davis Drive                    |
|      |                           |     |                        | PP   | Potato Point                         |
|      |                           |     |                        | SB   | Surf Beach                           |
|      |                           |     |                        | TL   | Tilba Lake                           |
|      |                           |     |                        | TN   | Tomakin                              |
|      |                           |     |                        | TS   | Tuross Head                          |
|      |                           |     |                        | WL   | Wallaga Lake                         |

Date of issue: November 2009



**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION DUE 1 JANUARY 2010**

\$15 single/ \$20 family/ \$5 under 18 years. ....

NATURE IN EUROBODALLA No. 23 (2008) \$13.30 posted, \$12 if collected .....

Enclosed \$.....

Would you like Observation Records Sheets included with your newsletter?  NO  1 or  2.

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Please forward to ENHS, Joan Fearn, 245 Percy Davis Drive, Moruya 2537