

ConTact Call



Quarterly Newsletter of Birds Australia North Queensland



Issue: Black-fronted Dotterel

March 2010

The Black-fronted Dotterel is a small wader with a distinctive black face-mask and breast-band with prominent chestnut scapulars (shoulder feathers). In juveniles, the breast-band is initially absent but a brown band slowly appears as the bird develops. Their legs are pinky orange, and the bill is red with a black tip. The dark eye is ringed with red. In flight the wings look broad and the tail short with white fringes, while the black and white contrast is striking. Flight is slow with almost hesitant wing beats. The Black-fronted Dotterel is widespread throughout Australasia and is found in the shallow margins of wetlands, lakes, rivers, sewage farms, storm drains and marshes. It is normally always near freshwater, frequently on isolated small ponds and is not often seen on the coast. Can often be seen near drains within built up areas.

The Black-fronted Dotterel eats small molluscs as well as aquatic and terrestrial insects. When it forages, it keeps its body horizontal while bobbing its head to look for food, often running then stopping suddenly to peck at food items.

This bird is one of the breeding resident shorebirds of Australia. It lays its eggs in a shallow scrape, often on pebbly ground and quite close to water. It may have more than one brood per year. Both

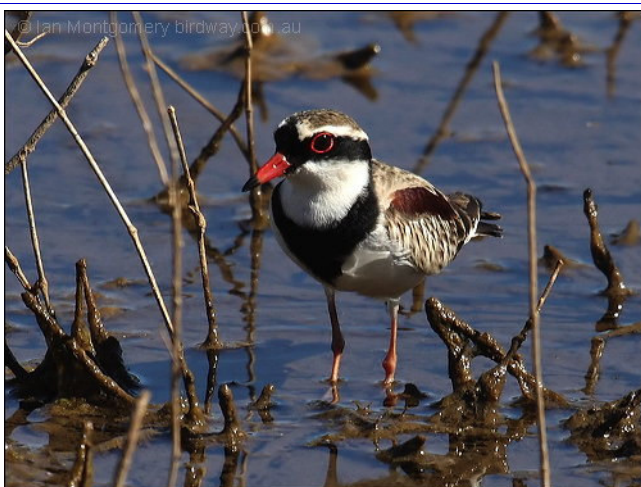


Photo courtesy of Ian Montgomery - birdway.com.au

parents incubate the eggs and look after the young. There is no evidence of regular migration and many remain on or near breeding grounds all year.

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FROM THE EDITOR:

Thank you for your valued contribution to this edition of CC.

I look forward to receiving your next birding story for the next edition; and as always happy birding.

June newsletter deadline
~ 22 May 2010

Please send articles, updates to:
The Editor — banq@birdsaustralia.com.au
or c/- The Secretary, PO Box 37, Belgian Gardens Q 4810

From the Convenor's Desk

What a great time of the year to be a bird watcher and out in the environment. Sure it might get a bit damp from time to time but at least our rain is warm or at least not too cold. Much of the breeding activity is done for the season but there are many birds feeding young still. The insect life is rampant. Butterflies compete for the eye with birds as they flash through the gardens.

On a late February night while mammal spotting we heard owls making a racket. I thought they were Lesser Sooty, but as it was the general hissing that Tyto owls carry on with I was not sure. When approaching the source of the noise I heard a soft call from behind us and turned to find a Lesser Sooty Owl with a Boyd's Forest Dragon. The noisy bird came over and while I first thought it was a juvenile I now think it may have been a female and what we witnessed was mate feeding. She put on a great display, screaming and hissing with her wings out and around; like a cross between a sunbittern and a riflebird. The exchange of the dragon occurred in a dense tree so we did not witness that. She flew across the road with her trophy and continued to scream until I demonstrated the 'falling bomb' call for my guests. As we had been watching a Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroo at the time the owls interrupted, we stayed around and the hissing restarted after about 3-5 minutes. Neither owl was visible though the noisy one was no more than 15 metres away.

You will have received a letter concerning the merger of Birds Australia and BOCA. This is an issue I would like you to give serious consideration to how you would like to see it achieved if that is your desire and to let the committee know through National Office. The issues seem to be whether we can be more effective as one or two organisations. How

would the autonomy of different groups be maintained while still operating with unity?

Wishing you (good) birding surprises,

ALAN GILLANDERS

Birds Australia Membership

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

Birds Australia North Queensland

Subscriptions:

\$75 Single \$55 Single Concession

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Members receive four issues of the full-colour bird magazine *Wingspan* and four issues of the BANQ newsletter *Contact Call*.

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

Birds Australia, Suite 2-05, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton, VIC 3053

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

Check the regional website for local information and events
www.birdsaustralianq.org



Birds Australia
CONSERVATION THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Birds Australia Congress and Campout 2010 Townsville 13-20 August

A call for papers and posters that engage the theme of the Congress:

**“CONSERVATION OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS
- APPROACHES, PROJECTS and OUTCOMES”.**

In the light of Peter Garret's announcement, we are keen to compare the single species approach with holistic ecosystem management in the conservation of birds. We intend to focus on the conservation activities of Birds Australia members and groups and how Important Bird Areas can enhance Birds Australia's performance in this field.

Topics for papers can embrace monitoring as a conservation tool, accounts of conservation projects, captive breeding, translocation of birds to vacant habitat, habitat restoration, data collection and publication and how to achieve conservation action by influencing agencies and landholders.

Enquiries regarding program to
graham.harrington@csiro.au

The **Campout** will be based at Crystal Creek Caravan Park, 65 km north of Townsville and run from 16-20 August. A large variety of birds and habitat will be included in the program, ranging from Tyto Wetlands to Paluma Rainforest including exclusive access to some of the State's parks in the region. A program of evening activities is also planned. Registration for the Campout will be separate to the Congress.

Watch the BA website and BA E-news for regular updates and registration forms. Also see the June edition of *Wingspan*.

Shorebird 2020 Counts

In January, 11 observers gathered at the northern end of the **Cairns Esplanade** in fine but gusty conditions to count the waders on the Cairns foreshore. Cairns locals were outnumbered four, three by Tablelanders and the rest were from interstate. Two overseas visitors tagged along and we were joined by another very experienced birder just when we needed help with the Sand Plovers. There had been showers earlier in the day and we were lucky that the rain held off until we finished and the wind dropped as well. Alan gave out the last of the wonderful little identification booklets to those who felt the need of them and we broke into four teams; three to count sections of the Esplanade and one just to observe and learn. This last team melded with one of the counting teams. The results were collated after checking that we had not counted the same bird twice. This may have happened of course and there may have been birds missed but we were happy with the resulting accuracy being high enough.

Nine hundred birds were counted. Well 897 if you want to be pedantic! Of special interest were the high numbers of Greenshanks, 10, and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, 36. Great Knots at 278 were the most numerous species. Caspian Tern and Little Egret had the lowest possible presence and Broad-billed Sandpipers seemed to be missing altogether.

Another Esplanade wader count was held in February where eight people participated. The 611 birds were made up of the following species: Pelican 3, Great Egret 4, Striated Heron 2, Royal Spoonbill 4, Pied Oystercatcher 4, Great Sand Plover 9, Masked Lapwing 11, Black-tailed Godwit 1, Bar-tailed Godwit 74, Whimbrel 48, E Curlew 27, Terek Sandpiper 1, Grey-tailed Tattler 11, Greenshank 5, Great Knot 258, Red-necked Stint 42, Curlew Sandpiper 50, Little Tern 17 and Silver Gull 40.

At Lucinda, a band of six people (all joint BA & BOCA members) carried out a shorebirds count. The total of 501 birds included 13 wader species. We were on a neap tide around 2m, leaving a large area of mangroves exposed. The make up was: Bar-tailed Godwit 74, Black-tailed Godwit 2, Terek Sandpiper 1, Lesser Sand Plover 112, Greater Sand Plover 26, Eastern curlew 25, Whimbrel 10, Red-necked Stint 29, Royal Spoonbill 1, Australian Pelican 1, Silver Gull 19, Crested Tern 151, Caspian Tern 8, White-bellied Sea-Eagle 1 and Nankeen Kestrel 1. This was a greatly reduced number since our last casual visit on 3 January, when there were close to 2000 birds at a much higher tide.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who took part in these counts.

Wave the Waders Goodbye ~ March 27

Cairns RSL 2.45pm for Wader Identification Session

Then at the Cairns Esplanade 4pm for Wader Viewing

At this time of year the numbers of birds on the Esplanade in Cairns has already diminished but that is offset by the beauty of birds in breeding plumage. This also makes identification a little easier for some.

The identification presentation will be similar to the one run last year. Alan will test and develop your skills in a non-threatening group exercise. Please bring along your field guides and particularly the little Shorebirds

Identification Booklet (the one with the Panda on the front). Alan has secured a few more of these for people who were not present last year. Friends and acquaintances are welcome.



At 4 we will move to the Esplanade to be in position as the tide moves the birds towards us. There is no intention to make a count but it will be worth keeping an eye out for flags and bands on birds which might have moved into the area preparatory to migration.



Most of the birds have increase their weight by more than half and some have nearly doubled in mass. Their hearts have enlarged and their blood thickened.

During migration birds may loose a gram of fat an hour. The flight muscles atrophy as the loss in weight makes them redundant, providing more fuel for the journey.

Contact: Alan Gillanders 0408 953 786

Mungkan Kandju NP Bird Monitoring Project

BANQ, in conjunction with DERM has started a monitoring program at Mungkan Kandju. Covering an area of 475,000ha - only Lakefield and Simpson Desert are bigger - Mungkan Kandju is Queensland's third-largest national park and borders the Archer River, near Coen. It will be possible for BANQ and other BA members to become involved in the project which will occur three times a year over the next three years. To register your interest for the trip in May, contact Alan Gillanders, alan@alanswildlifetours.com.au. You will be required to fill out a short questionnaire about your experience and ability to work in a team in remote locations. May, July/August and October/November are the likely times but of course will be weather dependant. Some rebate of expenses, Cairns-Cairns will be made to members of the survey team. If it suits the team leaders there is the possibility of others tagging along but staying out of the way of the work.

For further information about the area go to:
<http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks/mungkan-kandju-kaanju/index.html>

The information below is **extracted** from the project design.

Objective

Understand landscape scale trends on natural values as a result of management actions to minimise impacts of stock.

Strategy

Observe bird activity between November 2009 and December 2012 to determine trends in diversity and abundance associated with Pandanus Lagoon and Chong Swamp.

Principles

BA will provide at least two competent observers for each survey effort. The data captured is intended for internal QPWS reporting to assist in validation (or otherwise) of planned pest management activities. QPWS intends to fence Pandanus Lagoon during the life of this project to monitor wetland condition in the absence of large herbivore pressure and as an attraction for

visitors to the Park.

Methodology

Day 1 on trip one in November 2009, (see trip report on P5) establish three transects at each wetland. Each transect will contain three plots (wet site; shoreline site and woodland site). Establish transect origins and mark transect to water margin by placing star pickets every 50m. For each survey effort there will be a minimum of two survey teams. Each team will have an experienced observer and a person to scribe the results with no more than three people in each team. In most cases the person under training will be the scribe.

On the first day of each survey effort a photograph will be taken at the corner of all plots, looking 45° from the transect line into the survey area.

The transects will always be surveyed from plot 1 to 3, however the order of survey between transect lines 1-3 will vary in each survey effort to ensure maximum randomness.

The morning surveys will start at one hour after official sunrise at Coen. The afternoon survey efforts will start four hours prior to official sunset at Coen.

Alan Gillanders



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and a local bird guide can be arranged.

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

Project News - Mungkan Kandju National Park Trip Report

In November 2009, a group of four intrepid volunteers (Harry Cassidy, Dick Eussen, Ian Montgomery and Greg Bortolussi) with Marty McLaughlin of the Department of Environment and Resource Management (QPWS) set out for Mungkan Kandju National Park in late November 2009 to conduct waterbird surveys on various swamps and woodland sites to examine the effects of feral animal exclusion and/or control on the bird populations. After the trip up from Mareeba via and an overnight stay at Coen we arrived at the Rokeby ranger base and unloaded the vehicles. We then set off after morning tea to do some woodland and lagoon surveys between the main access road and 10 Mile Junction on the Archer River.

The first stop turned up 11 species in a dry creek with a highlight being two team members witnessing a Forest Kingfisher catching a brownish frog almost at their feet whilst they were trying to get better views of a Grey Shrike-Thrush. A stop at Night Paddock Lagoon was even more interesting when a boar pig awoken from his slumber made a leisurely retreat into the thicket guided by a Brush Turkey. The Radjah Shelducks retreated into the bush leaving a Glossy Ibis, Magpie Geese and Jacana to keep an eye on us. A quick stop at Jerry Lagoon turned up a trio of Sarus Cranes and a large flock of Black Kites. Rainbow Lorikeets were seen coming into drink in large numbers on a sheltered area of the opposite shore in the midday sun. It was decided to press on to 10 Mile Junction for a quick lunch before surveying the string of lagoon and woodland sites back to Night Paddock lagoon.

Despite finding few trees in blossom or fruit, the Archer River rainforest yielded some interesting species such as Lovely Fairy-Wren, Shining Flycatcher and Tawny-breasted Honeyeaters. A large scrub-fowl/turkey mound at the 10 Mile junction was impressive. A lone Spectacled Monarch, Koel and a Pied Imperial Pigeon were also found. The widespread occurrence of Graceful Honeyeaters across a range of habitats was interesting. Yellow Orioles were also found in dry woodland habitats. Drongos were seen in some numbers across the park.

A stop at Langi Lagoon turned up a juvenile Striated Heron which took some identifying. A Silver-crowned

Friarbird was also sighted here. A few cattle Egrets were also sighted.

A late afternoon stop back at Night Paddock lagoon turned up Nankeen Night-heron, Leaden and Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, Brown Goshawk and a Pied Imperial Pigeon.

An interesting stop on the way back was a Great Bowerbird bower site on the side of the track. This bower did not have one man-made object in it; a sign of true wilderness and it will be interesting to see how much longer it will be before such materials are collected for the bower.

Arriving back at the ranger base in time to clean up for dinner and a few cold drinks we found that we had a Tawny Frogmouth pair to entertain us with their swooping out of the shadows for insects. Large-tailed Nightjars could be heard down in the forest along the Coen River about 200m from the house. A walk down to the waterhole below the house turned up a brief sighting of the latter birds and one of the rangers found a File Snake on the water's edge.

An early morning start saw us in the field for the first of three days of surveys of the surrounding areas of Chong Swamp and Pandanus Lagoon. The days warmed up quite early at this time of the year. Morning and afternoon surveys were conducted across a set of permanent points starting in the woodland and working down to the edge of the water. Each point was a standard 20 minute atlas survey. The group split into two and rotated between the two survey locations.

Over the next few days Pandanus Lagoon, which had at best two hundred square metres of water left in it, provided members of the survey team with sightings of Little Eagle, Banded and Bar-breasted Honeyeaters, a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and a Red-necked Stint. Other interesting sightings at this location were a pair of Papuan Frogmouths, a Hobby and a Peregrine Falcon. Snapping up the insects and maggots Pied Herons and Masked Lapwings frequented the carcasses of cattle that surrounded the mud.

Chong Swamp had fully dried out but provided one survey team a good view of a pair of Black-breasted Buzzards who may have been the owners of a nest near one of the survey lines. A lone Egret could be seen regularly patrolling the cracked soil of the swamp bed for a feed.

The survey team would make a lunchtime visit to a location close to the survey sites each day. On an excursion to Coen River Camp site 1 we stopped at Mango lagoon and found Bar-breasted Honeyeaters in significant numbers. Rufous-banded Honeyeaters were also found here with a variety of other species. A visit to Coen River Camp site 2 provided good views of Red-browed Finches and Double-bars coming in for a midday drink. A White-faced heron even came into see what we were up to.

At Rokeby Ranger base Red-backed Fairy-Wrens, Dollarbird and a Collared Sparrowhawk were encountered, while one morning a White-browed Robin could be heard vigorously calling down near the Coen River. Around this time a Black-necked Stork, Brush Cuckoo and Bush Stone-Curlew were also recorded. A lunchtime survey of the Coen River waterhole below the ranger base turned up Nankeen Night-heron, Lovely Fairy-Wren, Rufous-banded Honeyeater, Shining Flycatcher, Azure Kingfisher and Fan-tailed Cuckoo to name a few.

Late one afternoon Ian and Harry were lucky enough to sight a Palm Cockatoo on a stop on a very soupy waterhole on the way home. This waterhole appeared to be quite popular with a large array of species, particularly a large number of Great Bowerbirds.

As we left the park to head to Iron Range National Park (another story) we sighted a pair of Black-backed Butcherbird and a Bustard between the park entrance and the Peninsula Developmental Road.

The hot dry conditions and a burnt landscape probably without doubt limited the number of species that we observed. We were surprised by what species we did not see as well...not a single Willie Wagtail. However, Mungkan Kandju National Park would be quite a wilderness experience with very basic access tracks and camping areas. Through talking to people who have visited the area at various times of the year the species suite can change quite markedly and future surveys could yield some surprises. The area is sparsely atlased and more visits should broaden the species list beyond the 118 species recorded on this trip. We added about 6 species not recorded for the area.

Greg Bortolussi

Kama Village, Enga Province, Papua New Guinea

"The search for the Blue Bird of Paradise"

Like some imaginary creature from a Greek fable, one should never set eyes upon the mythical **Blue Bird of Paradise**. Having done so once, all other birds will only ever appear dull by comparison and life will become meaningless...

In the book "100 Birds to see before you die" (Chandler/ Cousins), the **Blue Bird of Paradise** is ranked No.2. The top ranked bird is the **Ivory-billed Woodpecker**.

The male **Blue Bird of Paradise** is solitary and often difficult to observe. But they do like to sing from an open perch on a ridge side of montane forest. They vary in abundance inexplicably from valley to valley and are generally uncommon (Beehler/Coates). They are listed as vulnerable due to habitat clearance for subsistence agriculture.

My friend Theo had been told of a site at Kama Village, 2 hours away from Mt Hagen, where they could be seen displaying. This seemed like a good excuse as any and a better reason than most for an expedition, so we made plans.

Having four Australians staying was a bit of a novelty for the inhabitants of Kama village, who were all very glad to meet us and shake hands. We even had one big hug from our host, Joseph's grandmother. Everyone was very friendly, happy and keen to accompany us up to a **Lesser Bird of Paradise** display area.

At the viewing area they have built a couple of huts so the birds can be watched in all weather conditions. The **Lesser Birds of Paradise** (terrible name for such spectacular birds) display in some casuarinas

slightly above the huts. In order to celebrate our historic visit the villagers had decorated the huts with ferns, flowers and orchids. It was very touching. We all felt very special.

We saw a few birds on the way up to the display area, **Black-headed Whistler**, **White-shouldered Fairy Wren** and **Hooded Mannikin**, but strangely enough the **Lesser BOPs** didn't put in an appearance despite the presence of the 30-40 villagers helping us to see them.

Next morning after a comfortable night in our hut, we were up at first light and after politely declining the offer of warm sweet potato for breakfast, went to look at the **Lesser BOP** site, this time without our entourage of helpers. On the way up this time we passed **Pygmy** and **Goldie's Lorikeets**. This morning the **Lesser BOPs** were very active and enthusiastic and we enjoyed watching these lovely birds with their great calls.

At the viewing area they have built a couple of huts so the birds can be watched in all weather conditions.

But they were not our main target. We headed higher and higher uphill through various gardens, up to the forest edge. The trail was steep and muddy but the villagers had cut new steps on the slope, especially for our visit, so we could ascend more easily.

Eventually we reached the forest. This was to be the place. As with all bird species the experience of the sighting is always improved with the greater degree of time, effort, cost, discomfort and risk of personal danger or disease that is

expended in order to find that particular species.

We stood at the edge of the forest seeing very little for quite some time. Occasionally an **Ornate Melidictes**, quite a spectacular honeyeater, came by, but these are common up here. More interesting was the appearance of a **Superb Bird of Paradise** which we could observe from a distance. A small party of **Brown-breasted Gerygones** came by, but Theo wasn't impressed.

Very occasionally we could hear the call of the **Blue Bird of Paradise** coming from deep within the forest. But there did not seem to be any chance of one coming out. Some **New Guinea White-eyes** came by but Theo was still not impressed. The idea of abandoning the whole expedition and moving on to another village was discussed.

We decided to give it a bit more time but as the morning wore on and the sun came out we were beginning to lose confidence.

But then, as if by a miracle, a spectacular full grown male **Blue Bird of Paradise** flew out of nowhere to land in a small tree close behind us. He sat right up, shimmering in the morning sun, his fantastic blue coloration matching with the clear blue sky behind him.

There were collective gasps of amazement from our group but in no time he was gone. We only had time to snatch a few very poor photos and he flew off back up to the edge of the forest. Here we could watch him at quite some distance, but he never came back again to the small tree close by.

Dominic Chaplin

Members Corner

Cattana Wetlands Opening

A great morning at Cattana Wetlands, was had by all; hordes of people, including a few birdos, but mostly Cairns residents interested in the project and birds.

Once a degraded sand mine, the 80ha wetlands have been restored to their former glory and is now an environmental haven.

The Cattana Wetlands restoration project involved the planting of 10,000 trees, the rehabilitation of rainforest and the removal of invasive weeds. Boardwalks, paths, a viewing platform and picnic areas were also installed during the project and it is part of the celebrations for Queensland's 150th anniversary of independence from New South Wales.

It was a great opportunity for me to hand out IBA booklets; one each to the Mayor, Steve Wettenhall MP, Jim

Tunour MP and Russell Wild, the Manager of the Wetlands. The booklets will give them an idea of what important bird studies are being carried out around the country and that we aren't just a bunch of "weirdo birdos" wandering around staring up into trees. When Mrs. Cattana cut the ribbon to the boardwalk, four containers of different butterflies were released; it was great to see all the beautiful colours on the wings as they took flight!

Sandi Oswald



Thank you ... Birds Australia North Queensland is very grateful for the support of the **Honourable Lindy Nelson-Carr MP** the Minister for Mundingburra, for printing *Contact Call*.

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Interesting Sightings ~ December 2009 - February 2010

Red-necked Crane, 21/02/2010, Paluma
Noisy Pitta, 7/02/2010, Kingfisher Park
Birdwatchers Lodge
Red-necked Phalarope, 1/02/2010, offshore
WNW from Weipa
Red-rumped Swallow, 9/02/2010, Newell
Beach
Square-tailed Kite, 14/02/2010, Townsville
Great Crested Grebe, 14/02/2010, Tyto
Wetlands
White-winged Black Tern, 26/01/2010, Links
Road, Giru
Australian Pratincole, 27/01/2010, Hughes
Rd, Ayr
Latham's Snipe, 27/01/2010, Townsville Town
Common
Little Curlew, 24/01/2010, Ayr
Yellow White-eye, 24/01/2010, Plantation
Creek, Ayr
Black-throated Finch, 14/01/2010, Woodstock
Pied Heron, 27/01/2010, Townsville Town
Common
Pied Heron, 5/02/2010, Jerona Rd, Ayr
Black-headed Gull, 21/01/2010, Boigu and
Saibai Islands
Uniform Swiftlet, 21/01/2010, Boigu and
Saibai Islands
Common Tern, 1/02/2010, mouth of Ross
River, Townsville
Red-footed Booby, 28/12/2009, Michaelmas
Cay

Double-barred Finch, Banded Honeyeater,
Cotton Pygmy Goose, 28/12/2009,
Yungaburra
Little Button-quail, 26/12/2009, Paluma
Region
Oriental Cuckoo, 28/12/2009, Townsville
Town Common
Peregrine Falcon, 24/12/2009, Paluma
Region
Large-tailed Nightjar, 24/12/2009, Paluma
Region

For more details of the
sightings, see
Birdline North Queensland
at www.ereamae.com and
search archives.

Zebra Finch, 30/12/2009, The Orient, Ingham
Pied Heron, 1/01/2010, Lake Mitchell
Cockatiel, 10/01/2010, Cape Cleveland
White-throated Nightjar, 10/01/2010, Cromarty
Buff-banded Rail, 7/01/2010, Racecourse
Road, Cluden
Rufous Owl, 13/01/2010, Ross River Bush
Garden
Great Frigatebird, 13/01/2010, Lucinda Beach
Wandering Tattler, 11/01/2010, Endeavour
River mouth Cooktown

Bush-hen, 13/01/2010, Ross River Bush
Garden
Glossy Ibis, 19/01/2010, Blakey's Crossing,
Townsville
Zitting Cisticola, 22/01/2010, Orient Road,
Ingham
Wandering Tattler, 17/12/2009, Townsville
Breakwater
Red-rumped Swallow, Barn Swallow,
9/12/2009, Newell Beach
Little Bittern, 19/12/2009, Hinchinbrook
Community Wetlands, Ingham
Superb Fruit-Dove, Australian Pratincole,
13/12/2009, Townsville Town Common
Spotted Whistling Duck, 2/12/2009, Lockhart
River Sewerage Ponds
Pictorella Mannikin, 8/12/2009, Cloncurry
Painted Finch, 10/12/2009, Mount Isa
Topknot Pigeon, 8/12/2009, 25 km SW of
Townsville.

Observers: Len & Chris Ezzy, Keith & Lindsay Fisher, Ben Bright, John Grant, Niel Bruce, Tony Ashton, Peter Valentine, Barbara Sally Reidy, Rohan Clarke, Adrian Boyle, Laura Sisson, John Ewen, Bob Gosford, Alexandra Canton, Phil Gregory, Alan Gillanders, Ed Pierce, Greg Bortolussi, Janet Robino, TRBOC, Kath Shurcliff, Dave Houghton, Cairns Birds, Rob Burgoyne, Ian & Jean Davies, Bill Holmes, Ivor Preston.



NOTICE BOARD



Easter Campout Cooktown 2nd -5th April 2010

Owing to weather conditions, the daily program will be decided at short notice. Possible local outings are the botanic gardens, Mt Cook NP, Keating's Lagoon and Kings Plain Lakes. Weather permitting a trip towards the southern sections of Lakefield NP is planned. Possible species to be sighted on this weekend, if you are lucky, include Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo and Black-winged Monarch, Tropical Scrubwren, White-streaked Honeyeater, Black-backed Butcherbird and Bennet's Tree Kangaroo.

There are two van parks located away from the Endeavour River mangroves. Cooktown Caravan Park, 4069 5536 offers camping and van sites only while the Peninsula Caravan Park, 4069 5107 offers cabins, camping and van sites. If you desire more luxurious accommodation check the Cook Shire website.

Notice of AGM 1 May 2010

The Annual General Meeting of Birds Australia North Queensland will be held on 1 May 2010 at 2pm in the grounds of Trafalgar Station via Charters Towers. Nominations are called for all positions on the Committee.

Nomination forms and Proxy forms are available on our website www.birdsaustralianq.org

May Day Weekend Campout and AGM

The weekend will be held at Trafalgar Station 55 km SSW of Charters Towers (30km on formed gravel road - 2WD access). The weekend will be fully catered from Saturday dinner (byo alcohol) to Monday breakfast and the cost of \$100/person will include basic accommodation in bunkhouses with mattresses only supplied or camping area close by on a level grassed area. There are six toilet/shower dongas for our use.

Everyone is welcome to attend for catering purposes, please advise Ivor Preston banq@birdsaustralia.com.au by 23 April.

Saturday 1st ~ Committee meeting 10am-1pm

Arrival 1-2pm **AGM** starts at 2pm Birding afternoon 4 -6

Sunday 2nd

Morning birding on property; Lunch; Afternoon birding on property

Monday 3rd

Pre breakfast birding, breakfast and return home.

NEW MEMBERS

*Nick and Tristan Burford-Baynes,
Laurie and Peter Trott, Noel Burman,
Norton Gill, Peter and Suzanne Halford
James Cook University Library*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2010

- **27th ~ Cairns Esplanade. Wave the Waders Goodbye** Preliminary session on identifying waders; register at 2:45pm at the RSL, Catalina Room. Wave the Waders Goodbye: meet at 4:00pm on the Esplanade opposite the RSL. Contact: Alan Gillanders 0408 953 786.

April 2010

- **Easter campout ~ Cooktown.** Weather permitting, bird surveys in Lakefield National Park are planned. See the BANQ website for recommendations for accommodation. Contact: Greg Bortolussi 0419 714 091.

May 2010

- **May Day weekend 1-3 May ~ BANQ AGM and Campout** location Trafalgar Station (south of Charters Towers).
- **Monday 10-Friday 15 May ~ Bird surveys in Mungkan Kandju National Park,** Cape York Peninsula, with DERM see p4. Contact: Alan Gillanders 0408953786.

July 2010

- **17 July: Committee Meeting** at Crystal Creek Community Centre, Mutarnee.

August 2010

- 13th, 14th, 15th ~ Townsville, **BA Congress** see p2.
- 16th-20th ~ Townsville, **Campout at Crystal Creek** - see BA website for details.

September

- 4th ~ Atherton Tablelands, **Crane Count.**

November

Date to be advised. **Mission Beach. PIP Count.**

Check the BANQ website for local information and events
www.birdsaustralianq.org