

Gang-gang

April 2005

News letter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

Monthly Meeting

8 pm Wednesday

13 April 2005

Canberra Girls Grammar School cnr Gawler Cres and Melbourne Ave, Deakin. The meetings are held in the Multi-media Theatre at the School. Enter off Gawler Crescent using the school road signposted as Gabriel Drive. If that carpark is full, enter using Chapel Drive.

Our short talk will be

Mark Clayton's deferred bird-of-the-month talk on trillers.

Jim Hone, a researcher on population dynamics of wildlife species, based at the Applied Ecology Research Unit, University of Canberra, will be our main presenter, on the topic "**Estimating trends in bird and other wildlife populations**". Two methods used to estimate trends will be examined: firstly, data on birth and death rates; and secondly, on census data. Commonly, estimates of trends are reported as differences in abundance, percentage change and finite and instantaneous rates of population growth. Predictions of likely times to local extinction use the estimates of trend, though some predictions may be better than others because of different assumptions. Two common assumptions are of linear growth, or exponential growth, of populations in decline. The strengths and weaknesses of the two assumptions are described for such species as the **Red-rumped Parrot**, the **Eastern Curlew** and the **Hooded Plover**. Jim will also discuss the wider implications for conservation.

Everyone welcome

Field Trip Reports

Jerrabomberra Wetlands Sunday 6 February 2005

This has been a popular walk and this year 22 members turned out. We divided into two groups with Sue Lashko kindly offering to lead the "hotshots" while I looked after the recreational birders. Of course they saw things we missed but we all saw **Latham's Snipe** (it sat VERY still) and most of the ducks. Seeing **Pink-eared Ducks** with two young was a highlight for the "hotshots" but we used a tape to call up **Little Grassbird** for a close look at this elusive critter. We all visited "the channel" but the crakes were overawed by all the attention and stayed out of sight. An impressive total of 60 species were reported to me as having been seen by at least some of the participants.

Thanks to everyone who came and those who helped with the identifications

Tom Green

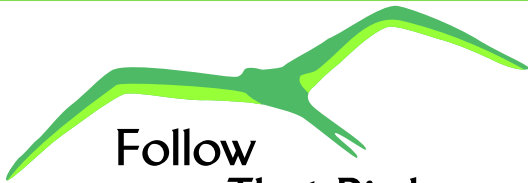
Wednesday walk to Lake Ginninderra 16 February 2005

We parked at the police boat ramp and walked west along the lake shore. The weather was perfect and the birds very active. The birdlist started with a pair of highflying **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos** and we soon had **Reed-Warblers** carrying food and good looks at **Dusky Woodswallows** with young. A flock of **Tree Martins** entertained us for a while as did a mixed flock of **Crimson** and **Eastern Rosellas** and **Red-rumped Parrots**. We failed to find the Nankeen Night Herons but did see a **Sacred Kingfisher** for a total of 37 species.

Tom Green

Birding with the Friends of Mt Majura Saturday 5 March 2005

Despite the less-than-promising weather conditions, a party of 18 gathered at the Mackenzie Street entrance to Mt Majura Nature Park for an exploratory amble to identify the bird life for a group of largely non-birders. Undeterred by gusts of wind sweeping the soil of the carpark over us and challenging even those of acute hearing to detect anything much softer than a brazenly carolling magpie, we wended our way up past the dams and along the gullies, until the threat of rain materialised and we gave up. And all for very slim pickings indeed. We rapidly learnt to be grateful for



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Especially for Canberrans, Start & end
Canberra. Leader Alan Morris

October 2005

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Part 1 Tropical Cairns 1st-6th \$ 2250
Leader Klaus Uhlenhut Start & End Cairns
Part 2 Lamington to Sydney \$ 3950
Leader Alan Morris
Start Lamington End Sydney

December 2005

Christmas Island \$ 2850
Leader Dion Hobcroft Start & End Perth

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Alpine Birds, Plants & Everything \$ 1485
Leader Dion Hobcroft

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the fanning of a **Grey Fantail's** tail or the bobbing of a group of **Superb Fairy-wren**. The highlight of the morning, enjoyed by only a few laggards, was a small party of **Varied Sittella**. Those apart, it was a case of low numbers of 11 more of the most common resident species: **Galahs**, **Australian Magpies**, friarbirds, wattlebirds, **Australian Ravens**, **Magpie-larks**, **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos**, **Crimson Rosellas**, a lone **Weebill**, a lone **White-throated Treecreeper** and a couple of **Buff-rumped Thornbill**. Some long-dried litter of shredded Casuarina cones were the only hint that Glossy Black-Cockatoos had ever frequented these parts.

Friends' organiser, Waltraud Pix, and accompanying ranger Bernadette, picked up where the birds failed, encouraging us all to admire the profusely flowering Apple Box and mistletoe, to appreciate the thorns of the Sweet Bursaria as protection for wren's nests, to wonder at the growth habits of the exocarpus, and to deplore the profusion of garden weeds that have taken hold and which the Friends are assiduously combating.

Many thanks to Geoffrey Dabb for leading the walk, and for the good sense and stoicism he displayed; and to the other COG members who attended and who chatted amiably and provided birding lore to the other participants. Given the paucity of real birds, COG's "Pocket Guide" proved a great hit. We'll try again in spring.

Barbara Allan

Brooks Hill Reserve Sunday 6 March 2005

A crew of about 20 - derived from both COG and Field Naturalists Association of Canberra (that is Naturalists, and not Naturists - who have very different interests!)- were welcomed by a cacophony of **Noisy Friarbirds** and **Red Wattlebirds** at the parking area for the reserve. The morning was bright and cool, which was a relief after the wild, windy and cloudy day before. Although only 71 hectares in size, the reserve presents a wide variety of habitats. The lower gully has some great examples of apple box and red box, and had good healthy examples of native cherries, while the upper reaches of the walk where the ground is stonier, near the Kings Highway, had a predominance of scribbly gum and some yellow box. The understorey contained lots of kangaroo grass and wallaby grass, and the mistletoe was flowering profusely. We saw **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos** rowing their way across the sky to the pine plantations nearby, **Mistletoebirds** flitting here and there, and heard a selection of **Yellow-rumped**, **Buff-rumped**, **Brown** and **Striated Thornbills**. A **Leadon Flycatcher** made its presence known, as did **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**, **White-throated Gerygone**, **Eastern Spinebill**, **Rufous Whistler** and both species of **Bronze Cuckoos**.

The highlight was not a bird, though - rather a Tiger Snake, a full metre in length, warming itself on the track, complete with a bright yellow belly with subtle stripes. It provided everyone with really good views, before sliding into the undergrowth. It was several hundred metres from the dam at the lower end of the reserve. A hare was also seen - but not too close to the Tiger Snake!

Some of the naturalists in the party dallied at the dam, investigating

and identifying the frogs (the few not yet consumed by the Tiger Snake), while the birds amongst us had moved on toward the carpark, there being few if any birds at the dam. It was a very pleasant three hours, and we agreed that the Field Naturalists Association of Canberra and COG should share on other excursions in the future.

Alistair Bestow

Wee Jasper / Lake Burrinjuck Friday to Monday 18-21 March 2005

Sixteen intrepid souls ventured to this locality for the Canberra Day long weekend and enjoyed the experience immeasurably. The quarters took us back to the glory days of Australia riding on the sheep's back and great wool exports. The birding was good and the company excellent.

Around 14 people spent Saturday evening at the Stables restaurant enjoying fine food and wine while the rest of the company spent a quiet evening in the spacious kitchen of the shearers' quarters.

Carey's Cave was visited by some on Sunday afternoon and several walks enjoyed, including the first few kilometres of the Hume and Hovell Track. An evening spotlight outing netted 4 Brush-tailed Possums and the sounds of **Southern Boobook** and **Australian Owlet-nightjar**. On the Sunday morning walk the group had good views of a wombat out in the open and an echidna. This was interspersed with views of **Rainbow Bee-eaters** and two **Nankeen Kestrels**. A Spotted Grass Frog *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis* came and visited the shower block on Sunday evening and called repeatedly from the drain. They were also heard in the dam. The Monday morning walk along a creek was a delight with many birds seen, including good views of a male **Golden Whistler**, **Satin Bowerbirds** and several different honeyeaters. It was a delight for the writer to be among a good number and variety of avian fauna again.

One of the more interesting pastimes was watching all of the lambs that were being born in the paddock alongside the shearers' quarters. Several of the group kept a very close eye on proceedings, including the first feeble steps of newly born twins and the **Australian Ravens** who were ever in attendance waiting for anything they could scavenge.

All in all it was a very enjoyable weekend and a special thank you goes to David McDonald for organising such an interesting range of activities.

John Cummings

Tidbinbilla Easter Extravaganza

Along with Environment ACT, the Wilderness Society, the Herpetological Society, the SES, RSPCA Wildlife and others, COG set up a display at this popular government-sponsored family event at Tidbinbilla on Easter Sunday, following the Big Bushwalk. Apart from displaying our wares and distributing the popular Pocket Guide, we fielded a wide range of general questions, from the inevitable "What's an ornithologist?" to what to feed a rosella, and how to deal with beak and feather disease. Two topics of conversation dominated: the occurrence of Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos in our region; and the proliferation of the Common Myna. Unlike the herpetologists, we were unable to wrap the objects of our interest around the passing populace; the Tidbinbilla skies remained steadfastly devoid of avian interest (and one bushwalk participant commented she had seen a single Grey Fantail in the 10 km). Nevertheless it was a cheerful family occasion, on a glorious autumn day, with a steady stream of passers-by turning their attention, albeit briefly, to birds. Many thanks to Jonette McDonnell and Greg Ramsay for their assistance in setting up and dismantling our display, and for their unflinching cheerfulness. I commend the activity to all of you! *Barbara Allan*

Photos of the COG display at Tidbinbilla. Photos courtesy of Greg Ramsay.



Future Field Trips

Angle Crossing Honeyeater migration morning Sunday 10 April 2005

The autumn movement of thousands of **Yellow-faced** and **White-naped Honeyeaters** (and lesser numbers of other species) from the mountains to warmer climes along the coast and further north is a feature of the Canberra birdwatching calendar. Despite the fires in January 2003, for the past two years we have still counted thousands of honeyeaters passing through the Angle Crossing area on a good migration day.

To witness this spectacle, and to help count the honeyeaters, meet Nicki Taws at 8:30 am at Tharwa, in the first car park on the left immediately after crossing the bridge. Bring something to sit on, a hat, sunscreen and morning tea. Enquiries to Nicki (6251 0303, ntaaws@austarmetro.com.au). As usual if the weather's not the best for honeyeaters we will visit the Tharwa Sandwash for some general birding.

Frogs' Hole Creek, Frogmore, over night campout on private property Saturday to Sunday 23-24 April 2005

COG has been invited to observe the birds on this property at Frogmore, 26 km to the NE of Boorowa, and about 2 hours drive from Canberra. This is an undulating bush block of close to 150 ha, and encompasses a range of habitats including the creek from which it takes its name. Over the past 5 years close to 120 different species have been recorded here, including a number which are close to their eastern limit such as **Cockatiel**, **Striped**, **Blue-faced** and **Black-chinned Honeyeater**, both **Babblers**, **Gilbert's Whistler** and **Apostlebird**. While not all of these could be expected in April, a good range of species, some of which are seldom seen in the ACT, can be expected.

We will be camping overnight at a lovely spot near the creek on a take everything in, take everything out basis. Participants should aim to arrive early afternoon on the Saturday, and it is expected we'll stay until latish on Sunday afternoon, taking advantage of the Anzac Day holiday on the Monday. This will be partly an exploratory trip for which numbers may need to be restricted. Car pooling will be encouraged, so if you're interested please contact Jack Holland (6288 7840 AH or by email on jack.holland@deh.gov.au).

East Basin/Molonglo River Electric Boat cruise Sunday 8 May 2005

A repeat late autumn cruise on the upper parts of Lake Burley Griffin and the adjacent Molonglo Reach on the all electric E.L. "Cygnets". This season has been a particularly good one for the nesting **Darters** and both **Little Pied** and **Little Black Cormorants**. With most of the leaves off the trees this should allow for excellent viewing of any late nesting. The area is also rich in other waterbirds and with the continuing dry weather a large variety should be seen.

This trip comes highly recommended for both first time and repeat customers. It will last about 2 hours and will cost \$20, payable in cash on boarding. As the boat takes a maximum of 10 passengers there is the possibility for an 8 am shift, and for a second at 10 am depending on demand. The point of departure will be from the little landing adjacent to the car park in Bowen Park opposite the new Landmark Apartments. This car park may be accessed off Bowen Drive (going either way – see map 59 of the Yellow Pages). For further information and to book your place please contact Jack Holland (6288 7840 AH or by email on jack.holland@deh.gov.au).

Beginners morning at the Botanic Gardens Sunday 22 May 2005

This morning walk will be the first for 2005 aimed specifically to help beginners and new members identify birds and to learn about their behaviour and calls. The Botanic Gardens are especially suitable for such an outing, as they allow the opportunity to observe a range of local bush birds in a variety of habitats. Due to the available food supply they are also a relative haven for birds during late autumn/winter. Jenny Bounds will lead this outing, which will consist of a stroll through this lovely part of Canberra for several hours from 9 am, meeting at the bus shelter. Please book your place with Jenny (6288 7802), who will be happy to discuss whether this outing is suitable for you. Please also don't forget to bring your binoculars and field guide. Bring morning tea or join in for a coffee at Hudson's after the event.

Jervis Bay long weekend accommodated Friday to Monday 10-13 June 2005

For this public holiday weekend COG has booked the accommodation belonging to the University of Canberra Field Station, adjacent to HMAS Cresswell and Jervis Bay village. We will be in the North Block, which has double bunk rooms and shared bathrooms and communal kitchen/dining facilities. Participants will need to take sleeping bags or other bedding as well as food – it is expected some of the meals will be shared.

Tony Lawson is organising this trip and will be assisted in leading by Jenny Bounds. It will provide participants with the opportunity to examine a variety of habitats ranging from woodland, forest, heathland to coastal, as well as the Booderee

Botanic Gardens with its variety of walks. Special birds expected are **Eastern Bristlebirds, Tawny-crowned and Scarlet Honeyeaters, Southern Emu-wrens, Fairy Penguins** and seabirds such as albatrosses, as well as whales.

Participants can arrive either on Friday or Saturday night. Costs will be \$30 per night including the COG admin fee. A \$30 deposit (posted to the Treasurer COG, PO BOX 301 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608) will ensure your place, with full payment due by the COG meeting on 11 May. If you are interested please contact Tony Lawson on 6161 9430 or by email on tlawson@homemail.com.au.

Wednesday walk at Gigerline 20 April 2005

A morning walk to this popular spot on the western bank of the Murrumbidgee River, about 5 km south of Tharwa. As well as observing the resident birds, the honeyeaters should be migrating. Meet at 9:00 am at the Kambah Village shops for car pooling etc prior to the 30 minute drive to this spot. Take morning tea.

Longer Field Trips

Lord Howe Island Tour Saturday to Saturday 12-19 November 2005

A wonderful opportunity to explore this World Heritage island in the company of Lord Howe Island (LHI) naturalist Ian Hutton and sea bird expert Peter Fullagar (both of whom have LHI species named after them). This tour has been devised for COG members to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first hatching of a captive **Lord Howe Island Woodhen**, a major milestone in this spectacularly successful recovery program. During the 1970s Peter did surveys on all of the birds of Lord Howe, including Woodhens on Mount Gower. Besides special events to celebrate this anniversary, Ian and Peter will organise close encounters with land and sea birds, including the endemics. You will also discover and enjoy the flora, marine life, geology, history and special ambience of this lovely island. Tour includes airfares from Sydney, accommodation at Somerset Apartments twin share, all evening meals, walks or boat trips every day with Ian and Peter, evening slide shows, taxes, island transfers; all for a very reasonable **\$2002**. There are only 15 places on this tour so be quick! Expressions of interest must be received by 6 May 2005 to determine the tour's viability. Contact Trevor Lipscombe (TrevorLipscombe@bigpond.com or 6262 7975).

Notices

8 Day expedition to find Princess Parrots. Alan Cowan is hoping to arrange an eight-day expedition for May 24-31 (dates to be confirmed) to try to find Princess Parrots. The itinerary is Broome to Kunawarrtji, then north on the Canning Stock Route as far as Well 43, returning to Broome. This is a privately-organised trip and will be led by George Swann, with a maximum group of seven. Interested people please contact Alan urgently on 02 62813038.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED TREE PLANTING IN COWRA 14/15 May 2005. The Cowra Woodland Birds Program is starting tree planting in the Shire. Please leave your name and contact details at BASNA Office. Ph: (02)9436 0388 Fax: (02) 9436 0466 Email: rosella63@bigpond.com We are still doing seasonal bird surveys - June 18/19, September 17/18, December 10/11. New surveyors always welcome!

Woodland Birds Seminar 2005. 4 June 2005 (see insert in this *Gang-gang*) We will need a number of people to assist with administrative type tasks in the lead up to the seminar, some of which can be handled through the COG Office computer in Civic or at home (if preferred), eg setting up email lists to publicise the event, arranging printing of publicity flyers and distributing, doing mail outs, and handling registrations/enquiries. On the day itself, we will be looking for assistance with setting up tables and displays, organising supplies for and setting up afternoon tea etc, carparking guides etc. If you will be in town then and can assist, please let Jenny Bounds know, on phone 6288 7802 -

The 2005 dates for the **Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater** surveys are the weekends of 14-15 May and 6-7 August. There are usually several COG members who participate by going out to the western slopes or the south coast. Why not form your own group and go to your favourite spot where trees are flowering or survey local reserves such as Mulligans Flat/ Campbell Park/Mount Ainslie as Swift Parrots do pass through Canberra in most years, even if only briefly? At least 15 were present in the Mt Majura Reserve in mid March 2005, where lerps were an important food source.



EMU TOURS

Nature Tours with the Focus on Birds

EMU TOURS TO MALAWI IN 2005

Richard and Roz are going back to Malawi for one more time! The experience of a lifetime—and wonderful birds - in the spring when migrants will be around and birds will be in breeding plumage. We shall include magnificent Nyika Plateau in the north and Liwonde NP. The tour will be for 14 days in mid-October (ask us for the dates). Unbeatable value at **\$2950** twin share ex Lilongwe - with all good accommodation (1 night a bit rustic!).

Reserve your place now.

Richard and Roz
emutours@austarnet.com.au 0428 38 5677

COG SALES COG SALES

- **'The Long Paddock** - a Directory of Travelling Stock Routes and Reserves in NSW' by Rural Lands Protection Board - \$31.00
- **The Birds of Western NSW: A Preliminary Atlas** - NSW Bird Atlassers - **reduced** to \$5.00
- **Finding Birds in Darwin, Kakadu and Top End** by Niven McCrie and James Watson. \$24.00.
- **Wet and Wild** - A Field Guide to the Freshwater Animals of the Southern Tablelands and High Country" by M Lintermans and W Osborne, \$28.00 (RRP \$34.95).
- **Wildlife on Farms** - by David Lindenmayer RRP \$29.95, **special price** for COG members - \$25.00.
- **Where to Find Birds in NE Queensland** - Joe Wieneke - \$16.00.
- **Reptiles and Frogs of the ACT** - Ross Bennett - \$13.00.
- **Native Trees of the ACT** - \$6.50.
- **Birds of Rottnest Island** – by Denis Saunders & Parry de Rebeira -\$15.00
- **Birds of Rottnest Island** – a check list - \$1.00
- **Grassland Flora** – a Field Guide for the Southern Tablelands (NSW and ACT) – by David Eddy et al. - \$13.00
- **Our Patch** – Field Guide to the Flora of the ACT Region - \$13.00
- **The Nestbox Book** – Gould League - \$12.50
- **Birds of Queensland's Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef** by Lloyd Nielsen - \$25.00
- **Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT** – by Taylor and Day \$14.00
- Simpson and Days' **Birds of Australia CDROM** Version 5.0 **special price** - \$45.00
- COG Atlas - \$12.00
- COG Car Stickers - \$2.00
- COG Birds of Canberra Gardens Poster - \$4.00
- COG Garden Bird Survey Chart (New Version) - \$1.00
- COG Badges – two colour versions - \$5.00
- COG Birds of the ACT – Two Centuries of Change – by Steve Wilson - \$25.00
- COG Annotated Checklist of the Birds of the ACT - \$1.00
- COG Bird Songs of Canberra – Cassette - \$10.00.

COG T-shirts, Polo shirts, all above and other books on local flora and fauna available at the monthly meeting sales desk or by contacting Carol Macleay (for post and packing costs) on 02 6286 2624.

From the Committee

Amongst other more routine matters, the COG committee considered the following at its March meeting:

- requests to use photographs from the COG website and calls from the Fullagar/Slater CD for educational purposes;
- whether to provide the option of payment of membership dues via electronic funds transfer;
- a possible Lord Howe Island field trip;
- arrangements associated with the BASNA seminar on 2 April and COG's Woodland seminar on 4 June;
- possible additional Woodland survey sites;
- confirmed the previous committee's decision not to accept the invitation to move into the new building, and discussed storage;
- problems with the data output have delayed the publication of the Annual Bird Report for 2003-04. The editors hope to have it ready by the end of April;
- conservation matters.

For further information on any of the above topics, please contact me and I will direct you to the relevant committee member.

Barbara Allan, COG secretary



Bassian Thrush (*Zoothera lunulata*)
Photo Geoffrey Dabb.

AvIan Whimsy #29

The Eye of the (Feathered) Beholder

In the last Whimsy I mused upon some of the remarkably sophisticated adaptations associated with bird vision. I certainly won't revisit that now (if you've forgotten it already see <http://www.canberrabirds.org.au/news.htm> for all past *Gang-gangs* of recent years). I did however run out of space to look at the issue of colour vision in birds and promised – or threatened – to pursue it this time.

Birds appear to have the most elaborate and complex colour vision of all animals. Frogs can do it, but among mammals, only hoofed mammals and primates appear to see a coloured world in the way that we do. Did we have fruit-eating ancestors with an especial need to accurately determine the ripeness of their food by sight? Perhaps, but that doesn't make them unique among mammals and I don't find it all that convincing; on the other hand I can't think of an alternative satisfying explanation either.

In this field too, birds far outdo us. (Do we watch birds so assiduously in order to learn how to catch up to them in at least some aspects of their superiority? No, probably not.)

For instance, where we have three different pigments in the eye's cone cells (the colour receptors), most birds have four, and some have five. Furthermore a bird's pigments are all different from our three, so we are not seeing the same colours that they do. (This sounds very philosophical, if not downright new-agey, but it's simply a statement of the physics. The different pigments are interpreting the wave-lengths in different ways; and no, I don't really understand it either!)

One of these enables at least some species to see in the ultra-violet end of the spectrum, unavailable to us. Recent work has shown that in some birds, both males and females have distinguishing colour patches that can only be seen under ultra-violet (UV). This doesn't automatically mean of course that they can see these patches, but there is a body of experimental work available now to indicate that they do. For instance, in Budgerigars and Zebra Finches we now know that females see ultra-violet plumage patterns that we can't, and use these patterns to choose a mate.

It seems that the ancestral vertebrate eye was a UV eye and that 'violet' eyes – which see as we do – developed later. Interestingly though, the ancestral bird had lost UV vision but its descendants seem to have regained it on at least four separate occasions. One problem with seeing UV light is that it damages eyes; it is also easier to make subtle discrimination at lower (ie human-visible) wave lengths. It seems that birds evolved their bright colours and their good colour vision at the same time. (It's important to note that birds which see in UV also see in colour – they see a broader range of the light spectrum than what we do.)

Birds have a unique system of coloured oil drops in the retina, next to the cone cells, so that light passes through them before reaching the cells. These oil droplets do some pretty impressive things, including protecting against UV damage, and focussing light onto the cone to make the already efficient eye pigments even more so. (Marsupials have clear oil drops – other mammals have none at all.)

There is a variety of uses for UV vision; we have already mentioned plumage pattern recognition. Some recent European work on passerine nestlings show that their mouths and surrounding skin reflect strongly in UV light, as well as reflecting human-visible light. Contrast with the dark nest background is strongest under UV light. There are strong suggestions that being able to see polarised light may help with navigation. Some of the most remarkable applications of colour discrimination in birds though relate to food recognition, including the ripening fruit mentioned previously. European Kestrels are known to be able to see, in ultra-violet, the urine traces used by mice to mark their runs, and thus concentrate their hunting.

Back seeing in violet light and closer to home, Bazas have a plethora of red oil drops which filter out red light and allow remarkable discrimination of shades of green, shattering the camouflage of stick insects and tree frogs against leaves which so bedazzles us.

For birds, as for us, the world is certainly not black and white. But neither are there too many shades of grey.

Ian Fraser ianf@pcug.org.au



Pacific Baza (*Aviceda subcristata*), Mt Molloy. Behind those yellow eyes are lots of red oil drops for spotting green tree frogs! Photo **Ian Fraser**.



WONGA

Bawley Point

South Coast of N.S.W.

Two well equipped timber cottages in 50 acres. Damp and dry warm temperate forest, kunzea and rock provide for a diversity of birds and other animals. A short walk down the driveway leads to sand dunes and beaches, sea birds and Hooded Plovers. Close to National Parks, lakes and historic sites.
patricia.walker@bigpond.com
phone 02 6251 3136
www.visitnsw.com.au (follow accommodation and Wonga)

Welcome New Members

David Judge, of Hall
David and Judy Kelly, of Aranda
Margaret and Jim Peachey, of Kambah
Barbara Preston, of O'Connor
Camilla Pribil, of Watson

And COG farewells Rob Leask, who has returned to New Zealand.

Next newsletter

MAY deadline

Wednesday 27 April 2005

Please send updates, articles, advertisements etcetera to

Editors *Gang-gang*

gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au

or send c/- The Secretary

COG, PO Box 301

Civic Square, ACT 2608

Articles should be less than 500 words (300 for reports of 1-day field trips; except by prior arrangement with the editor. Print photographs with or without articles are encouraged and welcomed.

COG info

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Newsletter distribution

Lia Battisson and helpers

Canberra Birds Conservation Fund

Donations to this fund are tax deductible. Funds are used to support projects that protect and enhance native birds and the environments that sustain them.

COG website

www.canberrabirds.org.au

COG membership

2004-2005 membership: Individuals, families and institutions: \$35. school students (under 18): \$17.50.

Office (6247 4996)

COG maintains an office in room G5, Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, civic.

cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au

Office volunteers are not in attendance for regular opening hours. Members access by prior arrangement.

COG E-mail Discussion List

COG has an email announcement and discussion list for members and friends of COG: 'Canberra Birds'.

Join the list by sending an empty email message to canberrabirds-subscribe@canberrabirds.org.au.

Editor Canberra Bird Notes

CBN@canberrabirds.org.au



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