



The Melbirdian

MELBOCA Newsletter Number 62
August 2008

MELBOCA AGM 2008

Our June Meeting opened with our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Graeme Hosken welcomed 81 people and apologies were received from three members.

The minutes of our 2007 AGM were read and the President's and Treasurer's Reports were tabled. Graeme added to his report by thanking the members who contribute to our organization in many ways, especially: Michelle Judson (Beginners Outings); Celia Browne (Wednesday Wanderings); Maryanne Anderson (Yellingbo); Veronica Goodwin, Jenny Mortlock and Lana Tinsley (Coach Tours); Damian Kelly (Website); Barb Longmuir (Shop); Eleanor Stephenson (Door); and Heather Mitchener (Supper). All minutes and reports were passed.

Janet Hand, Graeme Hosken, Linda Stock and David Plant's terms expired on 30th June, 2008. David did not seek re-election and Graeme thanked him for his service over many years. Janet Hand, Graeme Hosken and Linda Stock were re-elected. Nominations were received from Arthur Carew and Geoff Russell – who were elected to the MELBOCA committee unopposed. These members join Sunny Fernie, Bill Ramsay, Diane Tweeddale and Chris Wichems who were elected in 2007. The AGM closed at 8.14pm.

Janet Hand, MELBOCA Secretary

Who's Who of MELBOCA

If you have any queries or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate member, listed below:

MELBOCA Officers:

President:	Graeme Hosken
Secretary:	Janet Hand
Treasurer:	Bill Ramsay

MELBOCA Branch Meetings:

Guest Speaker Coordinator:	Sunny Fernie
Bird of the Evening:	Chris Wichems
Monthly Meeting Reporter:	Linda Stock

MELBOCA Outings / Surveys:

Weekdays Outings:	Diane Tweeddale
Beginners' Outings:	Michelle Judson
Yellingbo Outings:	Maryanne Anderson
Wednesday Wanderings:	Celia Browne
Coach Tours:	Veronica Goodwin Jenny Mortlock Lana Tinsley
Melb Water Wetland Surveys: Recorder:	Graeme Hosken Graeme Hosken

MELBOCA Communications

<i>The Melbirdian</i> Editor:	Chris Wichems
MELBOCA Website:	Damian Kelly Bill Ramsay Chris Wichems
Education Officer:	Janet Hand

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MELBOCA Branch Meetings

MELBOCA branch meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December) in the Evergreen Centre, located at 45 Talbot Avenue in Balwyn, not far from the library (Melway 46 E8). The meeting

begins at 8 pm and features a guest speaker and a bird of the evening segment – so be sure to attend! Entry is by a donation of \$4. Out of town members and visitors are always very welcome.

Upcoming Guest Speakers

Tuesday 26 August 2008 8.00 pm

Peter Menkhorst 'Mud Island - Port Phillip's Best Kept Secret'

Located just inside the entrance to Port Phillip Bay, Mud Island is internationally recognised under the Ramsar Convention as a vital breeding ground for 70 species of migratory waders and coastal birds.

More than likely, you have some of Peter's field guides on your bookshelf. Do not miss this opportunity to learn all about Mud Island – and the incredible birds that call the island home – from the one who knows it best.

Tuesday 23 September 2008 8.00 pm

Graeme Hosken 'Wildlife in Japan's North'

The Japanese archipelago lies at the eastern edge of Eurasia and includes a diverse range of habitats. A visit to northern Japan in autumn reveals a land of beautiful colours and unexpected fauna. Come along while Graeme tantalizes us with a wonderful presentation on Japan's wildlife. Who knows, you might find yourself booking a trip to see Japan's wonders for yourself!

Melbourne Water Wetland Bird Survey Update



*Flame Robin seen at
Frog Hollow Wetland
photo by Des Wichems*

The Melbourne Water Wetland Surveys commenced in June 2007 with four wetlands being monitored by MELBOCA, and two each being monitored by PENBOC and BAYBOC. We expect that two additional wetlands to be monitored by MELBOCA will be added to the survey this month.

In the past 13 months, surveys of the four MELBOCA sites have recorded 102 bird species. Not bad for wetlands near housing developments and freeway traffic!

Birds recorded at the MELBOCA sites have included nine raptor species, nine duck species, seven honeyeater species, three thornbill species, three crane species, two bronze-cuckoo species and one rail species. Highlights have included Whistling Kite, Collared Sparrowhawk, Blue-billed Duck, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Scaly-

breasted Lorikeet, Flame Robin, Horsfield's Bushlark, and a lone Tree Sparrow. In addition, we had Black Swans breeding at two sites. What will the next 12 months bring?

Melbourne Water has advised BOCA that the survey will continue for at least the next two years...and there is a possibility that the surveys will continue for some time thereafter as well! Also, Melbourne Water may be interested to have BOCA conduct additional surveys in constructed wetlands in the Western Suburbs – results of this action will be known later in the year.

Jenny Lau at BOCA National Office has taken over as project coordinator, relieving David Coutts. Now David will have more time to focus on the building project at Clarksdale.

Graeme Hosken

MELBOCA Education Committee Escapades

The MELBOCA Education Committee has been busy...

Between Barbara Longmuir, Graeme Hosken and myself, we have given *five* presentations to the City of Monash Aged Day Care Groups over the last few months.

Recently, together with Julie Rundle from BAYBOCA, a visit was paid to the East Bentley Primary School to talk to the children about their local birds. The following week, Annette Cook led a bird walk at the school so that the children could 'put into practice' what they had learned the previous week from Julie and myself. I think we may have some budding birdos!

On July 10, Graeme Hosken gave a fabulous presentation to the Royal Commonwealth Society in East Malvern.

In May, Pat Bingham and Chris Wichems led a 'Stickybeak' activity at Blackburn Lake entitled 'Investigating Owls'. Children were able to dissect owl pellets, create owl fridge magnets and make kites. In July, I returned to Blackburn Lake to help with the latest 'Stickybeak' activity where we taught the children about migrating birds. Both sessions were well attended by enthusiastic children and parents alike.

At the end of July, MELBOCA is running the information session for the new BOCA members during the New Members Reception at BOCA head office. Over 160 invitations have been sent out!

...and we have several events on the books for the next several months

There are five opportunities for you to get involved with the

Education Committee during September and October! We are looking for volunteers to guide bird walks at the following events:

- 'Breakfast with the Birds' at Eltham Lower Park for the Nillumbik Council on **Sunday 28 September**. This is a new activity for us, and the event starts at the Sports Pavilion at 7.30 am sharp. Bird guides, please arrive by 7.15 am.
- 'Walk with the Birds' at Blackburn Lake on **Monday 6 October**. This is organized by the Blackburn Library. The walk is from 2 to 3 pm, with afternoon tea to follow. We would like to have four guides for the event.
- 'Breakfast with the Birds at Banyule' to be held at Banyule Flats Reserve on **Sunday 26 October**. We host this event annually. The 90 minute guided walks are followed by breakfast at the pavilion. The event starts at 7.30 am sharp. Bird guides, please arrive by 7.15 am.
- 'What is a Bird Guide?' We often receive requests to give bird walks, and are looking for willing and able Birdos to take a small group of residents (less than 10 people) out for a bird walk.

And, finally, we are looking for volunteers to 'man' (or 'woman') the MELBOCA information booth at the Australian Plant Society Wildflower Show at Templestowe College on Saturday 11 October and Sunday 12 October.

Interested? Be sure to contact me. We would love to have you!

*Janet Hand
MELBOCA Education Officer*

Have You Ever Wondered...

What is the difference – if any – between pigeons and doves?

Pigeons and doves are both members of the family *Columbidae*, which consists of more than 300 different species world wide. Members of this family are found on every continent except Antarctica, and according to the recent Christidis and Boles update, 31 species have been recorded in Australia and its territories. The bottom line is that there are no hard rules for the use of the terms pigeon and dove. Essentially, it comes down to size: generally the larger species are pigeons and the smaller ones are doves.

Although *Columbids* vary in size, their small-headed, short-legged, stocky appearance is present in all family members. Their most common colours are shades of brown or grey. Many species, like our bronzewings, have iridescent feathers and some display some fantastic green colours.

Did you know that pigeons and doves drink differently than other birds? Most birds drink by filling their beaks and tipping their heads back to swallow. All pigeons and doves use their bills like a straw and suck up water through the bill. This behaviour allows them to utilize small amounts of water efficiently and drink quickly while keeping an eye out for predators.

Can birds sleep while flying?

As most creatures need their daily allotment of sleep, we can assume that some bird species *do* sleep while airborne because they either spend little or no time on land (e.g., albatrosses, swifts) or they migrate long distances and may be aloft for days at a time (e.g., waders).

However, monitoring birds to see if they are sleeping while aloft is a difficult thing to do! Scientists are beginning to learn more about how birds sleep, and there is evidence to suggest that they can take 'power naps' while airborne.

Studies have shown that, like mammals, birds pass through different stages of sleep. During the rapid eye-movement (REM) stage, eyes move rapidly behind closed lids. Other stages include slow-wave sleep (SWS). In humans, SWS is critical for our well being and bouts of SWS can last for hours. SWS sleep in birds is a bit different; birds can experience SWS using only one-half of their brain, and SWS lasts only a few minutes (or even seconds).

When birds put one-half of their brain asleep, they are literally sleeping with one eye open. The eye connected to the sleeping half of the brain is closed. The other eye, connected to the half of the brain that is awake, is open and functional; this enables a flying bird to see where it is going while taking a 'power nap'. Although it is unlikely that birds nap like this for more than seconds at a time, scientists think that the ability to 'microsleep' allows birds catch some z's while aloft.

How many functions of feathers can you think of?

The list is long, and flying is just the beginning! Here are just a few possibilities...

1. *Regulating body temperature.* Birds survive in sub-zero weather by fluffing their feathers, creating layers of air and feathers. Just a fraction of an inch of this insulation can keep a bird's body temperature at 40 degrees, even in freezing weather. In contrast, erecting their feathers in hot weather allows the warm air near the body to escape.
2. *Repelling water.* Like wax on a car, the feathers of birds cause moisture to form into beads. This is important because if the feather coat gets wet, birds will rapidly lose body heat.
3. *Swimming and diving.* Diving birds (e.g., ducks, petrels, darters, cormorants, scoters, alcids, penguins) propel themselves under water by stroking half-spread wings as if flying.
4. *Floating.* Air trapped in the downy layer on the underside of the body helps with buoyancy as well as thermal insulation...kind of like a custom-made flotation device! Before heading under the surface, a bird will compress its feathers and push the trapped air out to lessen its buoyancy.
5. *Tobogganing.* The belly feathers of Emperor Penguins slide easily, allowing the flightless birds to propel themselves over miles of Antarctic snow and ice.
6. *Shielding body parts.* Contour feathers act as a barrier against wind, moisture, dirt, insects and air-borne pathogens. Feathers may also shield against ultraviolet radiation, especially if they are dark in colour.
7. *Hearing.* The outer opening of the ear in many birds is surrounded by coarse contour feathers. Those in front of the opening are usually larger and more numerous; they keep the ear free of dirt and debris while allowing air and sound waves in. In owls, harriers, owl-nightjars and certain parrots, these shielding feathers form a facial disc that focuses the sound into the ear.
8. *Feeling.* Though feathers are not equipped with nerves, many do sense movement. If you look closely, kiwis, owls, frogmouths and some parrots have filoplumes at the corners of their mouths. Like whiskers, the feathers detect objects that get close – e.g., nearby prey, obstacles or the side of the nesting hollow.
9. *Muffling sounds.* The primary feathers of owls have well-separated barbs on their leading edges, allowing the birds to fly silently while hunting.
10. *Aiding digestion.* Grebes eat their own body feathers, which decompose into a felt-like material that lines the gizzard and protects it against sharp fish bones that otherwise might puncture the delicate organ.
11. *Snow-shoeing.* The abundant white feathers that cover the toes of the Willow Ptarmigan (found in Canada) enlarge its foot area nearly four times, enabling it to walk easily on the surface of the snow.

Interesting Sightings

Entered 04 July 2008

An Interesting Sighting is a sighting of a species not generally seen in that location that may be of interest to birdwatchers, but is not as significant as an Unusual Sighting. An Unusual Sighting is when a species is seen in a location where it does not normally occur, or at a time of year when it is not normally present. Unusual Sightings may also involve unusual behaviour or unusual numbers of the species in question.

Currently, we are collecting reports of Currawong, Brown Thornbill, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Song Thrush, Corella, Crested Pigeon and Little Wattlebird sightings within 60 km of Melbourne, plus other Field Reports. The following reports were received from members attending the MELBOCA monthly meeting (held at Balwyn on 27 May and 24 June 2008), via email or as WEB reports to the BOCA National Office.

Currawong Sightings			
Pied Currawong			
Jun - Aug '07	2	Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve	Springvale South
Most days '08	1	Boundary Rd	St Andrews
27 Feb '08	10	BJ Hubbard Reserve	Ringwood North
Apr - May '08	1-10	---	Clematis
24 Apr '08	6	Seville St	Camberwell
27 Apr '08	33	Wilson Botanic Park	Berwick
30 Apr '08	50	Frog Hollow Reserve	Endeavour Hills
03 May '08	2	Drummond St	Carlton North
06 May '08	1	Deep Creek Rd	Doncaster East
07 May '08	2	Hazel St	Camberwell
09 May '08	10	Mooney Rd	Yarrambat
14, 19, 26 May '08	2	Andersons Creek Rd	Doncaster East
20 May '08	6	Cabena Cr	Chadstone
21 May '08	3	Langmore Dr	Berwick
27 May '08	10	Hazel St and Donna Buang St	Camberwell
27-28 May '08	1	Gipson St Wetlands	Diamond Creek
28-30 May '08	3	Alfred Hospital	Prahran
29 May '08	10	Montmorency Secondary College	Montmorency
01 Jun '08	1	Deep Creek Rd	Doncaster East
02 Jun '08	1	Moorhead Dr	Mill Park
11 Jun '08	1	St Heliers St	Abbotsford
13 Jun '08	1	Morang Dr	Mill Park
14 Jun '08	1	Moorhead Dr	Mill Park
16 Jun '08	2	Deep Creek Rd	Doncaster East
20 Jun '08	19	Scotchmans Creek Reserve	Mt Waverley
22 Jun '08	15	Valley Reserve	Mt Waverley
23 Jun '08	1	Deep Creek Rd	Doncaster East
24 Jun '08	5	Curtin St	Bentleigh East
30 Jun '08	10	Scotchmans Creek Wetlands	Mt Waverley
Grey Currawong			
16 Apr '08	8	---	Box Hill
24 Apr '08	6	Morang Pl	Canterbury
05, 11 May '08	1	Boundary Rd	St Andrews

Brown Thornbill Sightings			
Daily	5-8	---	Armadale
Most days '08	1	Boundary Rd	St Andrews
Most days '08	1-2	Delhi St	Bentleigh
27 Feb '08	---	BJ Hubbard Reserve	Ringwood North
17 Jun '08	6	Templestowe Greenery	Doncaster East
23 Jun '08	2	Deep Creek Rd	Doncaster East

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo Sightings			
31 Mar '08	2	Blacks Walk Reserve	Blackburn
22 Apr '08	30	Cnr Heatherton / Belgrave-Hallam Rds	Narre Warren Nth
16 Apr '08	12	Somers Beach	Somers
29 May '08	3	Gipson St Wetlands	Diamond Creek
31 May '08	27	Zerbes Reserve	Doncaster East
14 Jun '08	3	---	Devon Meadows
21 Jun '08	15	Casella St	Mitcham

Song Thrush Sightings			
Most days '08	2	Chifley Dr	Maribyrnong

Interesting Sightings Cont'd

Corella Sightings			
Long-billed Corella			
Most days '08	1	Boundary Rd	St Andrews
Most days '08	10-20	Chifley Dr	Maribyrnong
13 Apr '08	2	Wattle Park	Burwood
02 May '08	26	Nilumbik Park	Eltham
02 May '08	2	Caledonia St	St Andrews
03 May '08	5	Overland Dr	Fountain Gate
27-28 May '08	2-20	Gipson St Wetlands	Diamond Creek
Little Corella			
24 Apr '08	300	Hilltop Ave	Glen Iris
27 Apr '08	1	Royal Park	Parkville
28 Apr '08	50	Merton St	Camberwell
01 May '08	30	Cnr Huntingdale and Waverley Roads	Mt Waverley
04 May '08	7	Frog Hollow Reserve	Endeavour Hills
08 May '08	100	Frog Hollow Reserve	Endeavour Hills
18 May '08	100	Golf Links Rd	Narre Warren
21 May '08	21	Frog Hollow Reserve	Endeavour Hills
29 May '08	60-70	Montmorency Secondary College	Montmorency
Corella species			
02 May '08	500	Near Diamond Creek RR Station	Diamond Creek

Crested Pigeon Sightings			
Most days '08	1	Chifley Dr	Maribyrnong
25 Mar '08	3	Monomeith Ave	Mooroolbark
17 Apr '08	4	Frog Hollow Reserve	Endeavour Hills
21 Apr '08	8	Frog Hollow Reserve	Endeavour Hills
27 Apr '08	57	Altona Soccer Ground	
27 Apr '08	4	Royal Park	Parkville
05 May '08	3	Bentinck St	Wallan
05 May '08	2	Harwood Rd	Bangholme
07 May '08	1	Settlers Run Golf Course	Cranbourne Sth
08 May '08	1	Melba Hwy	Yarra Glen
08 May '08	1	North Oaklands Rd	Yarrambat
19 May '08	14	Harwood Rd	Bangholme
09 Jun '08	5	Glenelg Dr	Mentone
11 Jun '08	7	Balla Balla Comm Ctr	Cranbourne
14 Jun '08	4	---	Devon Meadows
14 Jun '08	35	Zerbes Reserve	Doncaster East
16 Jun '08	14	Lilydale – Warburton Rail Trail	Woori Yallock
17 Jun '08	2	Templestowe Greenery	Doncaster East
21 Jun '08	2	Latrobe St	Hoppers Crossing
26 Jun '08	1	Templestowe Greenery	Doncaster East

Additional Notes

- Craig Smith reports that earlier in the year a pair of Song Thrush raised two chicks in his mother's garden at Kernan Road, Strathmore. The adults were feeding the chicks for two weeks but then the adults disappeared and the chicks died. Have any members recorded a similar occurrence?
- Cecily Falkingham has forwarded detailed records (beginning in the 1980's) of bird species that have been surveyed by MELBOCA over the years, including Currawong, Brown Thornbill, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Song Thrush, Corella, Crested Pigeon. I am currently reviewing the records and shall produce a summary report at a later stage. I thank Cecily for her contribution.
- House Sparrows: Have they disappeared from your suburb? Mick Wicks reports that this species has all but disappeared from Moorabbin; prior to 2006 this species was sighted weekly for 20 years.
- Ray Fogarty reports that Little Wattlebirds were never seen at his home in Richardson Street, Essendon, until seven years ago; however, they have been frequently seen at his daughter's home in Price Street, West Essendon, since 1989.

Interesting Sightings Cont'd

MELBOCA is examining the spread of the **Little Wattlebird** from the inner-city, coastal areas to the outer suburbs of Melbourne. The following is a list of Melbourne suburbs recorded so far where Little Wattlebirds have been observed.

Is your suburb listed?

Airport West	Brunswick	Elwood	Ivanhoe	Newport	Sth Melbourne
Armadale	Burwood	Essendon	Kew	Niddrie	South Yarra
Ascot Vale	Camberwell	Essendon West	Langwarrin	Nunawading	Sunbury
Balwyn	Camberwell East	Ferntree Gully	Lilydale	Oakleigh	Surrey Hills
Balwyn North	Canterbury	Fitzroy North	Lower Plenty	Parkdale	Templestowe
Beaumaris	Carlton North	Frankston*	Lower Templestowe	Parkville	Thomastown
Belgrave Heights	Chadstone	Gembrook	Macleod	Patterson Lakes	Travancore*
Berwick	Cheltenham	Glen Iris	Mill Park	Point Cook	Vermont South
Black Rock	Chirnside Park	Glen Waverley	Mitcham	Reservoir	Viewbank
Blackburn	Clifton Hill	Greensborough	Mont Albert Nth	Richmond	Westgate Park
Blackburn North	Cranbourne*	Hampton	Montrose	Ringwood	Werribee
Blackburn South	Croydon	Hampton East	Moonee Ponds	Rowville*	Wheeler's Hill*
Box Hill	Doncaster	Hampton Park	Moorabbin	Rosebud	Williamstown
Box Hill South	Doncaster East	Hawthorn	Mount Eliza*	St Kilda	
Brighton	East Malvern	Hawthorn East	Mount Waverley	Sandringham	
Brighton East	Eltham	Highett	Murrumbeena	Southbank*	

* Suburbs added, May-June 2008

MELBOCA welcomes sighting and breeding reports for the Little Wattlebird. Please include your name, address, date of record, location of sighting (i.e., street, suburb, post code, Melway reference) and indicate how long you have noticed this species in your area. The number of birds is optional. Forward this information to MELBOCA, c/o BOCA, PO Box 185, Nunawading VIC 3131 or email info@melboca.org.au.

Other Sightings

26 Apr '08	White-throated Needletail	1	Chum Creek Rd	Chum Creek
29 Apr '08	Eastern Spinebill	1	Hazel St	Camberwell
02 May '08	Swift Parrot	3	Nilumbuk Park	Eltham
03 May '08	Powerful Owl	1	Damper Creek Reserve	Mt Waverley
03, 06, 07 May '08	Powerful Owl	1	Boundary Rd	St Andrews
05 May '08	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	Eastern Treatment Plant	Bangholme
09 May '08	Crimson Rosella	2	Tally Ho Reserve	Mt Waverley
09 May '08	Grey Butcherbird	1	Railway Pl	Williamstown
10 May '08	Sooty Oystercatcher	1	Ricketts Point	Beaumaris
11 May '08	Crested Shrike-tit	2	Bulleen Art & Craft Nursery	Bulleen
12 May '08	Australian King-Parrot	1	Strickland Dr	Wheeler's Hill
17 May '08	Australasian Darter	1	Maidstone St	Altona
18 May '08	Flame Robin	1	Golf Links Rd	Narre Warren
21 May '08	Australian Hobby	1	Nicholson St	Fitzroy
26 May '08	Gang-gang Cockatoo	9	Roughies Lake	Doncaster
26 May '08	Bassian Thrush	1	Mortimer Reserve	Gembrook
26 May '08	Cattle Egret	1	Bennett Ave	Mt Waverley
27 May '08	Powerful Owl	1	Wilson Reserve	Ivanhoe
02 Jun '08	Crimson Rosella	2	Sefton Ct	Mt Waverley
04 Jun '08	Australasian Darter	1	Circling	Armadale
06 Jun '08	Flame Robin	10	Jacksons Hill Rd	Menzies Creek
06 Jun '08	Powerful Owl	1	Fitzroy Gardens	Melbourne
09 Jun '08	Flame Robin	1	Karkarook Park	Heatherton
14 Jun '08	Crimson Rosella	2	Cnr Bettina Dr and Gareth Dr	Burwood East
19 Jun '08	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	2	Rivergum Creek Wetland	Hampton Park
01 Jul '08	Gang-gang Cockatoo	4	Power Ave	Huntingdale
03 Jul '08	Flame Robin	1	100 Steps to Federation	Altona Meadows
03 Jul '08	Black-winged Stilt	1	Truganina Swamp	Altona

Please note that all of the above records cover the area within 60 km of the Melbourne GPO.
Refer to Melway Street Directory, Pages 1 and 2.

All MELBOCA Outing Reports may be found on the MELBOCA website: www.melboca.org.au

Graeme Hosken, Recorder

Past Meeting Reports

27 May 2008

David Plant welcomed all to the meeting, including a visitor from Belarus. Whilst the computer was learning to communicate with the data projector, Janet Hand requested volunteers to lead bird walks for the upcoming education activities. Please see her Education Report for further details. Barbara Longmuir showcased a number of lovely items from the BOCA shop, including the newly updated Little Blue Birdlist. David Plant recounted a sighting of a 'tame' Bassian Thrush in the Bunyip State Forest. The bird was being fed by a group of Harley Davidson fanatics, so David was a bit loath to interfere and educate them as to why they should not be feeding wildlife! Another Bassian Thrush has been sighted at Wilson's Reserve in Ivanhoe, and Powerful Owls are appearing all over the place – Blackburn Lake, Dandenong Creek (near Mt Waverley), Banyule Flat and Wilson's Reserve. Norm Eyre-Walker saw a 'fancy' pigeon in his garden. Outfitted with a white head and black neck ring, the bird was mainly grey with a white rump and tail. As there were no pigeon fanciers amongst the group tonight, the bird remains unnamed.

Pat Bingham delighted the crowd with her entertaining Bird of the Evening segment on the Crimson Chat. This bird is one of Pat's favourites because it was one of the first that she 'found' after relocating to Australia in 1972. She had been visiting Broken Hill and its environs, admiring the wildflowers among the leopardwood trees when this brightly coloured bird caught her attention. The Latin name, *Epthianura tricolour*, means 'tail-less three-coloured.' The bird, while three-coloured (red, black and white), does in fact have a thin tail! When describing the bird to John Gould, South Australian Governor Sir George Grey noted the brush tongue; this bird species has now been placed with the honeyeater family. Large flocks of 100+ individuals have been seen inland in dry country areas in Victoria from Wyperfeld to Reedy Lake. Only 11-13 cm long, the male is very handsome in breeding plumage. His flight can be described as 'bouncy'. The female is more sedate, and is dressed in muted colours (brown with a pinkish breast). Crimson Chats nest in loose colonies and both genders help raise the young. The nest is small, cup shaped, and made of grass and twigs.

The guest speaker this evening was Chris Doughty, of Peregrine Bird Tours fame. Chris has seen 770 bird species in Australia and a whopping 6500 bird species worldwide. He has led over 150 bird tours to exotic locations around the world and is the author of several field guides. Tonight he spoke of the BOCA tour to Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) in February and March of 2007.

For many years, Myanmar has been closed to foreigners by the ruling military junta. This previously inaccessible country has recently opened its doors to travellers. Chris led the first group to be allowed access to the Hukawng Valley Tiger Reserve on the understanding that any data

collected would be made available to the Burmese authorities.

Starting in Rangoon, the group journeyed down the Ayeyarwaddy River – also known as 'The Road to Mandalay' – to the old capital of Bagan. A Spotted Owlet was observed in the hotel gardens, and Two-barred Warbler, River Lapwing, Sand Lark, White-tailed Stonechat, Little Pratincole, White Wagtail and Eastern Yellow Wagtail were seen along the way. A World Heritage Site, Bagan is a former centre of Buddhist spirituality and learning, as evidenced by the large number (over 13,000) of temples and pagodas.

A day trip to Kazumma yielded Rain Quail and the endemic Hooded Treepie. Kalaw, a former British Hill Station in Shan State, is also a good birding spot. A visit to Kalaw yielded Dark-backed Sibia, Spot-throated Parrotbill, Spectacled Barwing, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler and the shy Black-breasted Thrush. Near Kalaw, five different species of parakeet were seen on the Shan State Mountain Trek – where road construction gangs of women were working.

Birdwatching from boats on Inle Lake, the group admired the floating vegetable gardens. The local people here have developed an original, eccentric method of rowing their boats with one leg. Brown-headed Gulls were wintering on the lake and the rare Jerdon's Bushchat was observed along with the ubiquitous Clamorous Reed-warbler. The Citrine Wagtail and the (skulking) Bluethroat were seen near the hotel, which was located on the lake.

A flight from Mandalay over the Ledo Road took the tour to Myitkyina, the capital city of Kachin State in the northernmost part of the country. Here, the White-rumped Falcon, White-rumped Vulture and White-collared Mynah were seen along with the Pied Harrier from the Russian Steppes.

After travelling from Myitkyina through remote and difficult terrain, the next stop was the Hukawng Valley. Not much is known about the birdlife in this region, so all information collected by the group was valuable. While the 'Hotel at the End of the Road' turned out to have a minus-star rating, the Tiger Reserve (set up by Dr. Alan Robinowitz) was fantastic and provided views of elephants and the extremely rare Leaf Muntjac Deer. Large numbers of Oriental Darter, Grey Heron and Great Cormorants were seen near a camp on the river and Hodgson's Redstarts were seen after the morning mist cleared. A visit to the Ox Bow Lake yielded Ruddy-breasted Crake, Water Rail and the rarely sighted White-bellied Heron (one of the rarest herons in the world). The Dark-rumped Swift flying overhead was a surprise, as this bird has never before been seen in Burma, though it is known to breed in Assam and Bhutan. Other birds seen included the Spot-billed Pelican, Sarus Crane, Greylag Goose, Bar-headed Goose, Lesser Fish Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, the spectacular Green Peafowl, Greater Spotted Eagle and another Burma

Past Meeting Reports Cont'd

'first', the Common Shelduck.

Chris gave us a vivid picture of Burma's birdlife, and that of the local people, with a beautifully illustrated presentation that included locally purchased images and photographs taken by Elvie Mundy.

Finally, visitor Alla Sushiko from Belarus provided us with a wonderful PowerPoint presentation that illustrated why we should all consider travelling to Belarus to enjoy the birdlife there. Belarus has over 11,000 lakes, rivers, wetlands and forest reserves (of which three are Biosphere reserves). The avifauna of Belarus ranges from common birds to those highly protected, e.g., the Aquatic Warbler and Greater Spotted Eagle. Alla was in Melbourne to attend a scientific conference and raise awareness about the possibilities for conservation and birdwatching in Belarus. For any further information, please contact Annette Cook at BOCA head office. The meeting then ended with the usual conviviality.

Linda Stock

26 June 2008

MELBOCA held its annual AGM before the guest speaker took the stage; details can be found on page 1.

Our guest speaker for the night was Mike Carter. Mike has been a keen birder since relocating to Australia in 1964, and his Australian Birdlist includes a remarkable 803 species (he is the first and so far the only person thus far to achieve 800 species on his Australia Life List). He believes that birds are 'individuals with character' and has a deep interest in rare birds. Twitching is a British term, meaning 'the observation of a previously located rare bird'. If there has been a rare or vagrant bird in Australia, chances are that Mike has seen it! Mike is also a member of the Birds Australia Rarities Committee (BARC), the body that is involved with validating a sighting of a rare bird. Mike then took us on an armchair tour of his recent twitching experiences.

Rare birds tend to turn up in exotic places, and in April 2008, Cyclone Rosie blew a number of vagrants to Christmas Island. Alerted to the appearance of rare birds by his vast network of 'spies', Mike was on the next flight to Christmas Island. Among the birds reported were several 'firsts' for Australia, including Tiger Shrike, Edible-nest Swiftlet, and a bird originally reported to be a Manchurian Reed Warbler but later believed to be a Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler. All of these sightings need to be verified by BARC prior to acceptance and this can be a very difficult task! Other unusual species seen included Asian House Martin, House Swift, Mossy-nest Swiftlet (of which up to 30 were seen daily) and Elegant Tern. The Elegant Tern is interesting as this species is normally found in California. Recently, the species has been seen in other parts of the world, including South Africa, Texas and Europe. Another bird, if accepted, will be the second record (but first live sighting) of a Cinnamon Bittern. Mike

illustrated the distinctive cinnamon flight feathers that are a diagnostic feature (all other bitterns have black flight feathers). During this same trip to Christmas Island, a Chinese Pond Heron in breeding plumage was photographed, and a Lesser Noddy was seen amongst a flock of Common Noddies. Mike restated the importance of having a really good look at a flock of 'expected' birds, because, like the Lesser Noddy, one of them might be a rarity!

Ashmore Reef in the Timor Sea has produced some notable unusual sightings, such as Island Monarch, Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler and Asian Brown Flycatcher. The Artic Warbler, previously rare in Australia, now over-winters at Ashmore, as does the Grey Wagtail. Christidis and Boles classify Bulwer's Petrel as a vagrant; however, Mike sees them every year (sometimes over 60 individuals), so he reckons that it is the observers who are infrequent and should be classified as vagrants. The same applies for the Matsudaira's Storm Petrel as Mike sees this species during every trip to Ashmore Reef.

One must not forget the more (human) populated areas, and Mike showed a photograph of the Red-Legged Crake that was seen wandering around the accommodation for miners located near Port Headland in 2007. In addition, the Javan Pond Heron was seen in Darwin (and shown on the ABC TV news) in March 2008. So both the Chinese and Javan Pond Herons have landed in Australia.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands were the next destination, where Saunders's Terns have been observed on the main atoll. What was first believed to be a White-faced Heron was later identified as a Western Reef Egret – so the moral of this story is to always take a really good look at the bird in question – and always go ashore and explore!

Although seeing a flock of rare birds is unusual (rare birds are usually seen individually), in September 2006, between 9 and 20 Antarctic Terns were seen on Kangaroo Island.

Much attention was focused on the Eastern Grass Owl observed at the Werribee Western Treatment Plant in 2006 – and even more attention was given to the Grey-headed Lapwing seen at Burren Junction, NSW, in June 2006. The lapwing caused the largest 'twitch' to date in Australia, and it is believed that this bird was endeavouring to fly north, but ended up 180 degrees off-course, flying south instead. This phenomenon has been previously noted with other bird species. The lapwing stayed all season before rectifying its compass and heading off in the right direction. Mike shared with us some wonderful photographs of birds and destinations most of us may not experience in 'real' life. A hearty vote of thanks was offered by Bill Ramsay.

It was pleasing to see such a good turnout (81 people) on such a cold winter night, and we all enjoyed a warming cuppa at the end.

Linda Stock

Outing Reports

Weekday Outings

17 June 2008

Braeside Park, Braeside

The morning was cool and the grasses were heavily dewed, but the sky was nearly clear and the breeze was light. The car parks soon filled up as 25 of us, plus another large party of walkers, assembled. The walkers left first, smiling at us birdos with our binoculars around our necks. We listened to Leonie Robbins, our leader for the day, set forth her plans for the walk, then we moved off. Little water was expected in the ponds as there had been no significant rain in the past couple of months. That meant few waterbirds, so instead of lugging heavy scopes for a long walk, we returned them to the cars. Mostly Noisy Miner plus a couple of Magpie-lark foraged around the car park area while Rainbow Lorikeet screeched overhead. The usual 'Gang of Four' (Common Blackbird, Common Myna, Common Starling and Spotted Dove) were soon 'ticked' along with a large flight of Rock Dove. Several Eastern Rosella foraged on the ground or flew past. Then attention was paid to several Crested Pigeon perched on dead branches. Grey Butcherbird was quite numerous; immature as well as adult plumage spoke of a successful breeding season. Superb Fairy-wren was numerous in the favoured grassy undergrowth cover, but other small birds were scarce and only Brown Thornbill was seen near the start of the walk. Perhaps the butcherbirds had hunted successfully? Certainly there were no Golden-headed Cisticola in the area where they had previously been detected.

A Black-shouldered Kite flew over, being noisily mobbed by a Noisy Miner; then a Little Eagle appeared and was mobbed by five Little Ravens. Most of our group had walked on before the eagle's day took another turn for the worse when it was mobbed by an Australian Hobby. Soon after, we had four raptors in the binoculars at once. This occasioned much debate - was that a small dark male Whistling Kite attacking a large female Little Eagle? The plumage varied between the four and so did the size. Were those two Whistling Kite in combat? The fighters flew on, oblivious to our interest on the ground.

A male Australasian Darter flew overhead, but was the only one seen today. We passed into a timbered section and a male Golden Whistler delighted those who saw him among the branches, not far from a silently hunting Grey Shrike-thrush. All ponds were almost unpopulated; a few Dusky Moorhen, a couple of Pacific Black Duck and a pair of Chestnut Teal were present. A Willie Wagtail foraged on one bank, but that was the total. Perhaps the Swamp Harrier quartering the edge of the pond saw more birdlife than we did, but it didn't flush anything while we watched. The grebe population was limited to a solitary Australasian Grebe on the second last pond visited.

We walked back after a rest for lunch. The pace was quicker and few birds were seen but the chat was friendly.

We noted that the 'frequently' seen species were numerous, but other species were present as only 1-4 individuals. The cars regained, we settled down to bird call and had barely got into stride when the alarm calls of Noisy Miner had us looking up to see an Australian Hobby soaring low overhead. This delighted the many of us who had missed it previously. Then, we added Australian White Ibis to the list as one flew over. Sometimes the greatest species count is obtained in the car park. The total for the day was a gratifying 47 species, considerably more than we had initially dared to hope for in the conditions. Thank you, Leonie, for your considered planning which made such a pleasant day of birding possible.

Diane Tweeddale
Convenor MELBOCA Weekdays Outings

7 July 2008

Doongalla Forest, Mount Dandenong

A cold, grey day without wind did not deter 17 enthusiasts from meeting at The Stables picnic ground. We were joined by a vanload of young people and their mentor from Conservation Volunteers. They hoped that we would be able to give them tips on how to observe birds. They were dab hands at weeding and planting, but birding was a further step for most.

There were few birds around the car park. An optimistic Laughing Kookaburra eyed us, then gave up and hunted worms. A family of Australian Magpies probed the soil. Initially, we walked up to the homestead area where the flowering camellias were much admired, especially the enormous pink one with its foraging Red Wattlebird. A Pied Currawong perched in a bare tree and numerous Sulphur-crested Cockatoos flew and foraged noisily among the taller eucalypts. We were starting to think that most birds were inactive in the cold when a stream of calls came from the gully. Then we listened and realised it was a Superb Lyrebird trying out his repertoire - which included Laughing Kookaburra, Eastern Whipbird and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. We evaluated his accuracy as not quite spot-on; possibly it was a young bird still developing his calls.

Turning back, we followed the Camellia Track quite a distance without sighting many birds. Retracing our steps to Bill's Track, we carefully walked its slippery course downhill then returned to the cars via the Stables Track. A previous roost of a Powerful Owl was pointed out but the bird had not been seen there for several years. Once back at the cars, lunch was very welcome. We apologised to the young volunteers for the lack of sightings and explained that winter birding was seldom productive, usually cold and often wet. At least the rain hadn't arrived (though it was spitting and threatening). Bird call gave 15 species seen or heard, and the volunteers and most of our group then headed off.

Outing Reports Cont'd

A remaining group of 7 decided to take advantage of a lightening of the cloud cover to walk down the road. Several previously heard species were now actually seen and two more species were added to the day's list as birds came out to forage. Both Striated and Brown Thornbills were clearly observed and White-throated Treecreepers flew, fought and foraged among the tree trunks. It had been a day of greys – grey cloud, Grey Butcherbird, Grey

Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail and Grey Currawong – but with 17 species on the list (one for each member), we voted it a pleasant day outdoors and thanked our leader, Ken Baker, for showing most of us a new area of the Dandenongs.

Diane Tweeddale
Convenor MELBOCA Weekdays Outings

Spring Coach Tours – Book Now!

Join us on a coach tour this spring!

Crosbie Nature Conservation Reserve, Heathcote Saturday 18 October 2008

Leader: Martin O'Brien

Cost: \$55.00 BOCA members
\$60.00 non-members

Yan Yean Reservoir and Kinglake Area Saturday 22 November 2008

Leader: Graeme Hosken

Cost: \$45.00 BOCA members
\$50.00 non-members

Attendance on a Coach Tour is by prepaid reservation only. Please either:

- Post fare to BOCA at the following address:
BOCA National Office
PO Box 185
Nunawading VIC 3131
- Ring Jenny on 03 9877 5342 for credit card bookings

Late cancellations can be phoned into the BOCA office, but for a refund please confirm in writing. A cancellation fee will be charged.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and wear sensible footwear. Don't forget your binoculars, hat, drinks and lunch. Extra baggage can be left safely on the bus when out walking. Tours leave from outside Hamer Hall, St Kilda Road, Melbourne (Melway 2F G7) at 8.00 am sharp, returning at approximately 6.30 pm.

The Melbirdian is published six times a year

Member birding-related stories and articles (up to 800 words) are invited

September 1 is the deadline for receipt of information for inclusion in the October issue

Put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and send in your birding-related stories and articles!



Dates to Remember...

If you would like to get outside, see some fantastic birds, and meet friendly people, then MELBOCA outings are just what you need. Check out some of the outings on offer and we hope to see you in the field!

Wednesday Wanderings

Wednesday 27 August - Laughing Waters, Eltham. (Melway 22 E9) 9.45 am. Drive to south end of Reynolds Road, Eltham. This is another Parks Victoria *private* property; gate will be opened at 9:30 AM. Join us as we again bird in an area not normally opened to the public. Nearest toilets are in Eltham. Boobook Owl and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos are possible. Join us for BYO lunch afterwards.

Wednesday 24 September - Tikalara Park, Templestowe. (Melway 34 F2) 9.45 am. Park near Beasley's Nursery and Tearooms on Heidelberg - Warrandyte Road. This is a flat walk of approx. 4 km and we follow Mullum Mullum Creek to its confluence with the Yarra. In February 2005, 10 birders enjoyed (!) an unseasonably wet walk across the paddocks to the river. We still managed to see 25 species including Tawny Frogmouth and Azure Kingfisher. Join us for lunch afterwards - B.Y.O. chairs and lunch.

Beginners Outings

Saturday 16 August – 100 Steps of Federation / Truganina Swamp, Altona. (Melway 208 K3). 1.30pm. Meet at 100 Steps of Federation carpark. Take Millers Road exit off of the Princes Fwy; turn right into Queen Street and left into the Netball / Basketball Stadium turnoff (near Korrungal Golf Club).

Saturday 20 September – Churchill NP, Lysterfield. (Melway 82 C10). 1.30pm. Meet near Info Centre / shelter, main entrance off Army Drive.

Weekdays Outing

Wednesday 6 August – Yellow Gum Park, Plenty. (Melway 10 G4) 10 am. From Yan Yean Rd turn left into Memorial Drive (Mel 11 D5), follow to end of Goldsworthy Lane and park near toilets.

Monday 1 September – Longforest Reserve / Merimu Reservoir. (Melway 66 D5) 10 am. Take Long Forest Road from Western Hwy, *beware of traffic on turn*. Turn into Canopus Circuit and park near Reserve entrance. We will drive in convoy to Merrimu Reservoir (Mel 329 A7) for lunch and arvo walk. Nearest toilets are at reservoir carpark.

Tuesday 16 September – Cape Schanck, Mornington Peninsula NP. (Melway 257 inset map F10) 10 am. From Boneo Rd (Melway 259 E4) follow Cape Schanck Rd to end, park near toilets. CARRY LUNCH. Small parking fee, carry coins for unmanned system, no change given and no 5c accepted.

Monday 6 - Tuesday 7 October – Overnight Weekdays Outing in Daylesford area. *Please arrange own accommodation.* (Melway 609 C10; Vic Roads 59 C8). **Monday** meet at Sailors Falls 10 am for 10.30 am start. Take Western Fwy (M8) to Ballan - Daylesford Road (C141) turn right and drive 24.5 km. Park near tables. Track is steep, wear sturdy footwear & carry stick if desired. **Tuesday** meet at Daylesford Info Centre on Main Street at 8.30am then convoy to private property. Finish about 2 pm. Bring lunch both days, make own arrangements for dinner and breakfast.

Birdwalk at Yellingbo Reserve (*we have been conducting monthly surveys at this key habitat for the endangered Helmeted Honeyeater for more than 30 years; Melway 305 G11*)

Sunday 7 September. Gates open at 10 am. Walk begins at 10.30am

Sunday 5 October. Gates open at 10 am. Walk begins at 10.30am

Upcoming Coach Tours

Saturday 18 October – Crosbie Nature Conservation Reserve, Heathcote

Saturday 22 November – Yan Yean Reservoir and Kinglake Area

Please consult the Bird Observers' Calendar for additional details about the above walks as well as for additional outings in the Melbourne area

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MELBOCA is the
Melbourne Branch of
Bird Observation &
Conservation Australia

Birding in the News ... Shaking the Avian Tree of Life

Just when you thought you had come to grips with the latest bird taxonomy update, a recently published report by Sushma Reddy and colleagues in the June 27, 2008 issue of the journal *Science* promises to challenge current bird classifications and alter our understanding of avian evolution forever.

For more than five years, scientists from institutions in the US, Scotland and Australia have been collaborating on a large-scale, cooperative research project called 'Early Bird'. The objective of this project is to determine the evolutionary relationships between all birds by looking at similarities in their DNA sequences.

Instead of looking at only a couple of regions of the bird DNA (as has been the case with most other genetic studies), these scientists have taken advantage of technical advances over the last few years and examined 19 regions of the genome in a whopping 169 species of birds. They then used the sequences to construct the most robust avian evolutionary tree ever made.

Results from the study both confirmed and rejected traditional ideas about bird evolution.

One of the important (and surprising) findings of the reported study was that birds grouped in well-accepted orders may not

have originated from the same ancestor. For example, they uncovered evidence that:

- The long-legged flamingos are related to grebes, not storks and cranes; grebes are related to tropicbirds, not loons;
- Flamingos, grebes and tropicbirds did not evolve from waterbirds, suggesting that birds have adapted to life on water multiple times;
- Falcons are more closely related to songbirds (yes, songbirds!) than to other hawks and eagles, suggesting that raptorial characteristics evolved independently multiple times;
- Hummingbirds (a diurnal species) may have descended from nighthawks (which are nocturnal);
- Perching birds (passerines) are most closely related to parrots.

In addition, they found that shorebirds are not the most primitive birds (or at base of evolutionary tree, as biologists say), which refutes the widely held view that they gave rise to all modern birds.

Much of our understanding of bird evolution has been based on the premise that species that look alike have to be closely related. However, results from this study tell us that similar traits evolved time and time again.

Chris Wichems

Volunteers Needed!!

Community Planting Weekends for the Endangered Regent Honeyeaters

Near Benalla
(2.5 hour drive from Melbourne)

Join with landholders, local schools and scores of other volunteers in this nationally significant project where everybody wins.

Share a weekend (or two!) planting with friends, enjoying the spring wildflowers...while gaining some fascinating ecological insights

Dates:

August 16-17

August 30-31

September 13-14

For more information, contact
Ray Thomas.
Telephone: (03) 57 611 515 or email:
raydavidthomas@hotmail.com

Field Naturalists

Club of Victoria

Biodiversity Symposium 2008

When: Sunday 14 September

Topic: Birds and the Urban Environment

Don't miss this all-day, exciting event. Find out about our urban raptors and shorebirds, whether or not weeds can form important habitat for our birds, plus much more.

For more information, contact
Mary Gibson

Telephone: (03) 9751 7466 or email:
maryg@deakin.edu.au

Dandenong Catchment Survey by BOCA (MELBOCA Branch)

May-Jun 2008

Location Number:

- 1 Frog Hollow Wetland, Endeavour Hills
- 2 Kilberry Boulevard, Hampton Park
- 3 Rivergum Creek Wetland, Hampton Park
- 4 South Golf Links Road, Narre Warren

Melway Reference

- 91 G9
- 96 J9
- 96 H9
- 110 F11

Species	Location No				Species	Location No			
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
Black Swan	X		X	X	Latham's Snipe				
Australian Shelduck					Sharp-tailed Sandpiper				
Australian Wood Duck	X		X	X	Silver Gull	X		X	
Pink-eared Duck					Galah		X	X	X
Australasian Shoveler					Long-billed Corella				X
Grey Teal			X		Little Corella	X		X	
Chestnut Teal	X	X	X	X	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo			X	
Pacific Black Duck	X	X	X	X	Rainbow Lorikeet	X	X	X	
Hardhead			X		Scaly-breasted Lorikeet*			X	
Blue-billed Duck					Musk Lorikeet				
Australasian Grebe	X	X	X	X	Eastern Rosella				
Hoary-headed Grebe	X		X	X	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo				
Rock Dove		X	X		Shining Bronze-Cuckoo				
Spotted Dove	X	X	X	X	Superb Fairy-Wren	X		X	X
Common Bronzewing					White-browed Scrubwren		X	X	X
Crested Pigeon	X		X	X	Yellow Thornbill				
Australasian Darter	X			X	Yellow-rumped Thornbill				
Little Pied Cormorant	X	X	X	X	Brown Thornbill				X
Great Cormorant	X		X		Yellow-faced Honeyeater				
Little Black Cormorant		X		X	White-plumed Honeyeater	X	X	X	X
Pied Cormorant					Noisy Miner			X	
Australian Pelican		X		X	Little Wattlebird		X	X	
White-necked Heron					Red Wattlebird	X	X	X	X
Eastern Great Egret				X	New Holland Honeyeater	X	X	X	X
Cattle Egret	X				White-naped Honeyeater				
White-faced Heron	X	X		X	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike				
Little Egret			X		Grey Butcherbird				
Australian White Ibis	X	X	X	X	Australian Magpie	X	X	X	X
Straw-necked Ibis	X	X	X	X	Grey Fantail				
Royal Spoonbill					Willie Wagtail	X	X	X	X
Yellow-billed Spoonbill			X		Little Raven	X	X	X	X
Whistling Kite*		X	X		Magpie-lark	X	X	X	X
Black Kite					Flame Robin*	X			
Brown Goshawk					Horsfield's Bushlark				
Collared Sparrowhawk*	X				Eurasian Skylark				
Swamp Harrier			X		Golden-headed Cisticola	X			
Little Eagle					Australian Reed-Warbler				
Nankeen Kestrel				X	Little Grassbird			X	
Brown Falcon*			X		Silvereye				
Australian Hobby	X	X			Welcome Swallow	X		X	X
Purple Swamphen	X	X	X	X	Fairy Martin				
Buff-banded Rail					Common Blackbird			X	X
Baillon's Crake			X		Song Thrush				
Australian Spotted Crake					Common Starling	X		X	X
Spotless Crake			X		Common Myna	X	X	X	X
Dusky Moorhen	X	X	X	X	Red-browed Finch				
Eurasian Coot	X		X	X	House Sparrow	X		X	X
Black-winged Stilt			X		Tree Sparrow*	X			
Black-fronted Dotterel					European Goldfinch	X		X	X
Red-kneed Dotterel					European Greenfinch				
Masked Lapwing	X		X	X	Feral Duck	X			
Total number of species seen:						41	27	51	39

* Species added, May-Jun 2008

Progressive total from June 2007: 102 different bird species for the above four wetlands

Dandenong Catchment Survey by BOCA (MELBOCA Branch)

May-Jun 2008

Location Number:

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- 3 Rivergum Creek Wetland, Hampton Park
- 4 South Golf Links Road, Narre Warren

Melway Reference

- 91 G9
- 96 J9
- 96 H9
- 110 F11

Species	Location No			
	1	2	3	4
Frogs				
Common Froglet	X	X	X	X
Southern Bullfrog				
Mammals				
Brown Rabbit	X		X	
Hare				
Fish				
European Carp				X

Entered: Graeme Hosken