

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

WEEKLY REPORT.

5th February 2007

Site 1. Nyerimilang. G.P.S. 37 52 578 South 147 55 612 East.

CANCELLED – TOTAL FIRE BAN DAY.

12TH February 2007

Site 2. Hollands Landing / Victoria Lagoon. G.P.S. 38 03 242 South 147 27 681 East.
Bengworden G.P.S. 37 58 335 South 147 28 043 East.

Species 37 (Total birds 636) Weather.Fine with strong easterly wind.

Leader Harvey Rodda Attendance 15

Harvey RODDA, Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Ken SHERRING, June SOUTTER, Alan SEARL, Ron MACKENZIE, Ian FAULKNER, Bob GRAY and Joan GRAVES, Max and Jill MARKEY, Sue WELTE, Claire BEECHER and Pat McPHERSON.

After last weeks cancellation the group was back in action today. Unfortunately there was a strong easterly wind and Victoria Lagoon had virtually no water in it. No birds in Victoria Lagoon at the Green Shed (Onga Pump) or at Rucker Avenue. Not many birds seen from the Jetty in the " Straights". Many Silver Gulls, a few Crested Tern sheltering from the wind at the Jetty, a few Little Pied Cormorant in the dead trees opposite. Very disappointing.

As we came through Bengworden we saw Dighton Creek had a strong flow of water from the good rain at the weekend, although a short distance further along the road Tom's Creek was dry. After morning tea we decided to return to Bengworden in the hope that birding would be better there. Unfortunately it was not , although everyone had an excellent sighting of a pair of Brown Falcons, we believe feeding on grasshoppers or similar, also a large flock of Cockatoos, a Whistling Kite some Thornbills, a Butcherbird, Mynas and Starlings, both Ibis, Chestnut Teal and Swallows. After lunch a committee meeting was held

19th February 2007

Site 3. Eastern Beach, Lakes Entrance. G.P.S. 37 52 539 South 148 00 900 East.

Species 46 (Total birds 414) Weather Sunny after early shower. No wind.

Leader Max Markey. Attendance 16

Max and Jill MARKEY, Freda HARVEY, Carole ANDREW, Pat McPHERSON, Coral POOL, Margaret HALLETT, Ian FAULKNER, Ron MACKENZIE, Claire BEECHER, Ken SHERRING Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Len AXEN, Judith HENDERSON and Dot OWEN.

Interesting sightings the Forest Ravens and 7 Little Egrets.

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26th February 2007

Site 4. Monkey/Ramrod Creeks. G.P.S. 37 39 534 South 147 52 691 East.

Species 46 (269 birds) Weather. Sunny with light breeze.

Leader Freda Harvey. Attendance 24.

Freda HARVEY, Ken SHERRING, Claire BEECHER, Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Ian FAULKNER, Elaine DREW, Dot OWEN, Marj ANDERSON, June SOUTTER, Joan GRAVES, Mandy EVANS, Sue WELTE, Carole ANDREW, Norma EARNEY, Betty NORRIS, Margaret HALLETT, Len AXEN, Jose HICKLING, Judith HENDERSON, Camilla MANVELL, Ron MACKENZIE and Max and Jill MARKEY.

This is the first in a series of surveys, on the recovery after bushfire, of the Monkey and Ramrod Creeks area. Some of this area was possibly damaged by back-burning. The undergrowth is gone but the tree tops are still alive and green. The old bridge on the original Omeo Road is gone, but fortunately much of that gully was not touched by the fires, it had only burnt along the ridges.

5th March 2007

Site 5. Macleod Morass, Bairnsdale. G.P.S. 37 50 189 South 147 37 362 East.

Species 57 (Total birds 2359) Weather Fine.

Leader. Harvey RODDA Attendance. 15.

Harvey RODDA, Coral POOL, Ken SHERRING, Ron MACKENZIE, Max and Jill MARKEY, Jose HICKLING, Claire BEECHER, Sue WELTE, June SOUTTER, Alan SEARL, Pat McPHERSON, Margaret HALLETT, Mandy EVANS and Freda HARVEY.

On returning home last Wednesday from a trip to Melbourne, it was very pleasing to see there had been such good falls of rain in the district. Bosse's Swamp and several other wetlands were full. A great site to see.

Birding today. Many Swallows, Swamphens, Ibis and Coots, but very few ducks at the Sewerage Ponds.

Walking around the ponds from the Saleyards track, several members got good sightings of the Baillon's Crake and Little Grassbird. Also seen the Blue-billed Duck, Musk, Hardhead, Shoveler and Pink-eared Ducks along with two Mallard. The duck numbers were good, with many not being identified. Very good numbers of Grebe and the different species of raptor, was the source of much discussion in identifying them. Ravens also were the cause of discussion, and with the benefit of Max Markey's knowledge, 3 species were identified.

The trip to Gelantipy was discussed, and with only one person indicating a definite intention to attend for the four days, it was decided to cancel the trip, and go to Cherry Tree instead. All members to be advised of this change.

19th March 2007.

Site 6. Cherry Tree / Burnt Bridge G.P.S. 37 48 246 South 148 03 088 East.

Species 52 (Total birds 264) Weather. Fine.

Leader Ken Sherring Attendance 13.

Ken SHERRING, Ron MACKENZIE, Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Bob GRAY and Joan GRAVES, Judith HENDERSON, Sue WELTE, Jose HICKLING, June SOUTTER, Len AXEN, Ian FAULKNER and Harvey RODDA.

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It is my very sad duty to report the death of Joy JOHNSTONE. She passed away on the 14th of March at her home in Yinnar. Joy was the foundation President of the East Gippsland Bird Observer's Club, and always very active. She moved to Yinnar a couple of years ago to be nearer family, but that did not prevent her involvement with our club, still attending camps, and always involved with the Challenge Count. A wonderful lady who will be sadly missed.

Ken Sherring reports that at his home, Fairy Wrens going into their winter plumage and Wattlebirds flocking. Over the past three weeks he has also had sightings of the Restless and Leaden Flycatchers. June SOUTTER reports that over the Labour Day weekend, 8 Noisy Friarbirds and 2 Restless Flycatchers at Simon and Rowena TURNER's home at Bindi.

14th March, Len Axen reports 2 Noisy Friarbirds, Black-faced Monarchs and Rufous Fantails at Marlo Bushland Reserve.

15th March, Len Axen reports a Grey Goshawk at the Cabbage Tree Palms Reserve.

Joan GRAVES reports that over the past ten days she has seen up to 30 Gang Gang Cockatoo's feeding on the Hawthorns at Picnic Point.

Clive RICHARDSON from Suggan Buggan reports that he has had 2 male and 1 female Hooded Robins coming to the bird bath at his home over the past 3 weeks. No sign of this species down by the old school.

26th March 2007.

SITE 7 Glenaladale Pumping Station. G.P.S. 37 44 862 South 147 22 064 East.

Species 48 (Total birds 729) Weather Fine and sunny

Leader Harvey RODDA Attendance 17

Harvey RODDA, Ken SHERRING, Margaret HALLETT, Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Alan SEARL, Sue WELTE, Freda HARVEY, Carole ANDREW, Norma EARNEY, Judith HENDERSON, Jose HICKLING, Peter and Rosemary EDWARDS, Ian FAULKNER, Pat McPHERSON and Ron MACKENZIE

Very good flow of water in the Mitchell River. Pity it cannot be used for human consumption at the moment, with water so short.

En route. Just short of the old Hillside Primary School, a Wedge tailed Eagle was sighted in an old dead wattle tree. The braches were hanging over the road, and the bird was perched there about 20 feet above the ground. In an old gum a short distance away, were 30 odd rowdy cockatoos. In a swampy area a short distance on, 2 Yellow-billed Spoonbills were feeding. As we travelled along both Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Straw-necked Ibis were in the paddocks, with the greatest number of Cockies on the flats through the town, where Sweet Corn had been dumped in the paddock to feed stock.

Many Welcome Swallow at the pumping station car park. First highlight of the morning was when we stopped for a cuppa. Chris HEALEY had an old plum tree (about 40 metres away) under observation, with little birds flitting through the thick branches. He calmly announced it was a female Robin, and then, that it had a red cap.. (Photos taken).

As morning tea continued, the alarm of birds was heard from the Sweet Corn planted next to Chris's old plum tree. Then to everyone's surprise a Black Falcon appeared from over another tree. He appeared to be chasing a little bird. He was only 30 metres away. On seeing us, he 'banked' and started to climb further. He circled a couple of times before moving back down the valley. He was seen again later in the morning. Ron Mackenzie obtained a photo of the bird.

The group then walked through to Lambert's Flat. En route a further 2 Wedge-tailed Eagles were seen, and a White-bellied Sea-Eagle was seen flying up the river.

Pat McPHERSON reports that on Labor Day weekend she went on a Field Naturalists trip to a property which joins Angus Vale, named "Mitchellvale". Apparently the D.S.E. have taken over management of the property. Birding highlights of that trip were the sighting of 9 Rainbow Bee-eaters and 1 male Red-capped Robin.

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

WEEKLY REPORT.

2ND April 2007

Site 8. Stephenson's, Ellasville Road, Nicholson. G.P.S. 37 50 651 South 147 44 443 East.
Species 58 (Total birds 2678) Weather. Overcast then clearing.
Leader Avril YATES Attendance. 22.

Avril YATES, Judith HENDERSON, Claire BEECHER, Joan GRAVES, Alan SEARL, Peter and Rosemary EDWARDS, June SOUTTER, Ian FAULKNER, Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Len AXEN, Sue WELTE, Marj. ANDERSON, Dot OWEN, Ron MACKENZIE, Pat McPHERSON, Max and Jill MARKEY, Ken SHERRING and Harvey RODDA.

Visitor Lawrence ARNOLD, a friend of Pat McPHERSON.

The morning started with very overcast conditions and not much sign of birdlife at all. Things improved the longer the morning went. After the recent rain the property looked in excellent shape, with paddocks green, and fresh water in dams and swamp areas. Good morning for raptors, with the highlights being a Sea-Eagle high in an old dead gum, feeding on a fish, and a Peregrine Falcon stirring up the birdlife on one of the dams. Several Common Tern near the point below Stephenson's house and also on a bar near the mouth of the Mitchell River. A Common Greenshank disturbed in a swamp area, leaving, with a loud and constant call. Discussion on Ravens seen. 3 species identified, which is not usual. Large numbers of Starlings.

Peter and Rosemary EDWARDS report the sighting of a Black Falcon at their home at Newlands Arm last Thursday (29/3).

Ian Faulkner had a Grey Currawong in the trees at his home at Lakes Entrance yesterday.

Ken Sherring has also had Grey Currawongs in his garden at Swan Reach over the last week.

16th April 2007.

Site 9. Dukes Road, Bruthen G.P.S. 37 43 399 South 147 51 408 East.
Rail Trail Bruther Railway Station. G.P.S. 37 42 322 South 147 49 245 East.
Species 54 (399 birds) Weather Fine but overcast.
Leader Mandy Evans. Attendance 21.

Mandy EVANS, Alan SEARL, Judith HENDERSON, Bob GRAY and Joan GRAVES, Margaret HALLETT, Dot OWEN, Marj. ANDERSON, Ian FAULKNER, Freda HARVEY, Ron MACKENZIE, Sue WELTE, Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Max and Jill MARKEY, Camilla MANVELL, Claire BEECHER, Ken SHERRING, Norma EARNEY and Harvey RODDA.

An enjoyable morning for birding although the light made it very difficult to see the little brown birds at the top of the large trees. Many members got a good sighting of the 6 Spotted Quail Thrush in Duke's Road, also the Scarlet Robins and Jacky Winter. As we sat at morning tea the Thornbills were thick in the gums, along with Pardalotes and a White-plumed Honeyeater, which is a bird not seen very often in the Bairnsdale area. Also feeding close by were the Choughs.

At the "railtrail", many sighted the Australasian Grebe (In full breeding plumage) on a dam, and 2 Wedge-tailed Eagles soaring above. The Little Eagle disturbed a large flock of Cockies as he fending off two chasing Magpies.

Sue Welte has had 30 Gang Gang Cockatoo at her home at Metung regularly over the past two weeks. Last Saturday Max and Jill MARKEY had a flock of 150 Red Wattle birds fly over their home at Wiseleigh. Ken Sherring reports similar large flocks of Wattlebirds at Swan Reach recently.

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WEEKLY REPORT.

23rd April 2007

SITE 10. LAKE BUNGA G.P.S. 37 52 00 SOUTH 148 02 00 EAST.
Species 54 (Total birds 865) Weather Fine and mild.
Leader Ian FAULKNER Attendance. 16

Ian FAULKNER, Sue WELTE, Ron MACKENZIE, Len AXEN, Max and Jill MARKEY, Freda HARVEY, Carole ANDREW, Marj. ANDERSON, Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Jose HICKLING and Ken SHERRING.

Visitors.. Peter JOHNSTONE, Tom SPEEDIE and Penny KERR all from the Lakes Entrance area. Apparently all came as a result of an article in the Lakes Post by Ian Faulkner telling of our Bunga outing.

An excellent mornings birding with the highlights, the sewerage ponds birdlife, the Shearwaters and Gannets, and the variety of Honeyeaters.

30th April 2007

SITE 11a Wiseleigh. G.P.S. 37 42 258 South 147 48 248 East.
11b Fairy Dell G.P.S. 37 41 511 South 147 46 623 East.
Species 45 (Total birds 404) Weather Overcast
Leader Freda HARVEY Attendance 18

Freda HARVEY, Peter EDWARDS, Claire BEECHER, Max and Jill MARKEY, Pat McPHERSON, Len AXEN, Judith HENDERSON, Carole ANDREW, Mandy EVANS, Marj. ANDERSON, Dot OWEN, Camilla MANVELL, Chris HEALEY, Ken SHERRING and Harvey RODDA.

Visitor Roger NEWMAN of Bairnsdale. Came as a result of visiting the Bird Observers display at the Bairnsdale Field Days last weekend.

Good to see the post bushfire rehabilitation work done along the Fairy Dell Road and on the track at the rear of the homes at Wiseleigh (Freda & Carole's) Fairy Dell showing signs of stress from the drought, many of the ferns looking very poorly. Highlight of the day was the display put on by the Peregrine Falcon above the bush canopy. Max feels he was feeding on insects, as there were swallows in the same vicinity.

Peter Edwards reports that this morning there were 23 Cattle Egret roosting in an old dead wattle on the edge of the lake in front of his home at Newlands Arm. Over the past fortnight a pair of Black-shouldered Kites have also used this tree as a perch.

On Tuesday morning 1st of May Ken Sherring and Harvey Rodda had two Emu running in front of their car for a considerable distance along Quarry track in the Colquhoun Forest. 6 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos also seen along Quarry Track that morning.

Over the past fortnight Ken Sherring has had a pair of Scarlet Robins along the fences near his home.

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WEEKLY REPORT.

7th May 2007

SITE 12. Canni Creek G.P.S. 37 35 586 South 148 07 881 East.

Species 48 (Total birds 321) Weather. Fine, with cloud then sunny.

Leader Harvey RODDA Attendance. 22.

Harvey RODDA, Norma EARNEY, June SOUTTER, Camilla MANVELL, Claire BEECHER, Dot OWEN, Marj ANDERSON, Ian FAULKNER, Len AXEN, Joan GRAVES, Peter and Rosemary EDWARDS, Jose HICKLING, Judith HENDERSON, Alan SEARL, Ron MACKENZIE, Avril YATES, Sue WELTE, Max and Jill MARKEY and Ken SHERRING.

Visitor Roger NEWMAN

Not many birds to be seen as the sun tried to peep through. The group then spread out over the racecourse, with great results, as shown by the number of species recorded for the day. Many Currawongs feeding on the fairways, Robins seen at different locations. A surprise to see 4 Swans fly by. Honeyeaters hard to find. Bellbirds calling everywhere. Swallows at both the starting stall shed and golf clubhouse. Choughs, Bowerbirds, Lorikeets and Thornbills in good numbers. Some members were fortunate enough to get a good look at the Crested Shrike Tit and the Southern Emu Wrens.

Peter and Rosemary EDWARDS had a Brown Goshawk on the lawn outside their kitchen window this morning. Entertained them for half an hour. Over the past fortnight they have also seen and heard a pair of Sea Eagles near their home. Pre breeding behaviour. (Of Sea-Eagles)

Max and Jill MARKEY report a storm went through Wiseleigh early last week. For an hour and a half after the storm, there was a stream of Sulphur Crested Cockatoos come up the valley, into the hills beyond their home. Estimated 1000 birds. They would come back of a morning, and return in the afternoon. This went on for 3 days.

Ken SHERRING reports 1 flock of 14 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos at his home late last week.

Sue WELTE reports the Gang Gangs that have been in the trees in her garden left last Friday. During the last week there have been 30 Cattle Egret on the farm opposite her home.

Claire BEECHER reports that yesterday afternoon she became aware of noises on her roof. On going out to investigate, she found a Hobby eating some type of small prey. If any other bird came into the area the Hobby became very vocal and frightened them off.

Len Axen reports that on the 3rd of May he observed 3 Large-billed Scrubwrens at Healey's Road at Marlo.

Ron MACKENZIE reports he continues to frequently see the Little Corellas on Raymond Island, also 6 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos over the past week.

14th May 2007

SITE 13a Quarry Road, Mississippi Creek walking track. G.P.S. 37 46 915 Sth 147 35 733 East
13b Log Crossing G.P.S. 37 49 614 South 147 56 502 East.

Species 39 (Total birds 201) Weather Sunny, no wind, about 20 degrees.

Leader Ken SHERRING Attendance 22.

Ken SHERRING, Felicity and Chris HEALEY, Sue WELTE, Ron MACKENZIE, Jill and Max MARKEY, Camilla MANVELL, Brian BULLIVANT, Mandy EVANS, Dot OWEN, Rosemary and Peter EDWARDS, Judith HENDERSON, Jose HICKLING, Alan SEARL, Pat McPHERSON, Betty NORRIS and Len AXEN.

Visitors. Roger NEWMAN and Jenny MEADOWS from Metung. A friend of Sue WELTE.

Car numbers prevented the group from going to Oil Bore. Highlights of the morning were the sighting of the Spotted Quail-thrush, Gerygone and Large Billed Scrub-wren.

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21st May 2007.

SITE 14. Old Eagle Point Road / Silt Jetties. G.P.S. 37 53 010 South 147 41 080 East.

Species 56 (Total birds 400) Weather Sunny. Late strong wind.

Leader Norma EARNEY Attendance 21.

Norma EARNEY, Ken SHERRING, Jill and Max MARKEY, Carole ANDREW, Mandy EVANS, Marj. ANDERSON, Dot OWEN, Sue WELTE, Ron MACKENZIE, Camilla MANVELL, Jose HICKLING, Betty NORRIS, Joan GRAVES, Pat McPHERSON, Peter and Rosemary EDWARDS, Freda HARVEY, Judith HENDERSON and Avril YATES.

Visitor. Jenny MEADOWS.

Morning highlights were the good sightings of Little Eagle (Dark morph), the White-bellied Sea-Eagles and Peregrines. Both the Sea Eagles and Peregrines seemed to be pairing off with plenty of antics and chattering.

Harvey Rodda reports that the Little Corellas have been around Nicholson during the last week. On two days there was a flock of 100+ birds.

Harvey Rodda also reports that on a visit to the Bemm River with Chris HODGE on the 9th of May they sighted of a Tawny-Crowned Honeyeater, several Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters along the Bemm River between the rubbish tip and Elephant Rock and a Wedge-tailed Eagle.

28th May 2007.

SITE 15. Melwood. G.P.S. 37 44 100 South 147 30 540 East.

Species 51 (Total birds 471) Weather. Overcast.

Leader Harvey RODDA Attendance 13.

Harvey RODDA, Ron MACKENZIE, Ken SHERRING, Roger NEWMAN, Claire BEECHER, Joan GRAVES and Bob GRAY, Judith HENDERSON, Max and Jill MARKEY, Sue WELTE and Norma EARNEY.

Visitor. Jenny MEADOWS.

A very overcast day with poor visibility, but as the day progressed, good bird numbers. Bell Miners are in big numbers and very vocal. Very good numbers of Honeyeaters feeding on the lerps. The behaviour of the Pied Currawongs was very similar to the Honeyeaters, hanging in the Eucalypts as though feeding on the lerps.

Very few birds along Pea Hill Rd, the highlight there being two Koalas. The area about the school had the best bird numbers. Seen there were most of the Honeyeaters, Mistletoebird and Parrots. At the conclusion of the day while we were having lunch at the school, we were entertained by 3 Grey Shrike Thrush, Willie Wagtails, Thornbills, Wrens, Treecreepers, Rose Robin and Honeyeaters. The highlight was, a Peregrine Falcon flew over. A great day.

Norma Earney noticed 7 Royal Spoonbills near the boat ramp on the silt jetties as she came to birds. En route to Melwood, 14 Cattle Egret on the flats near the Wy Yung football ground, and returning to Bairnsdale, 14 Choughs on Mt Lookout Road, on the Bairnsdale side of the Mount.

Max Markey reports 4 Flame Robins on the fences near his home at Wiseleigh on about the 19th of May.

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

WEEKLY REPORT.

4th June 2007

Site 16. Macleod Morass G.P.S. 37 50 707 South 147 37 021 East.

Species 58 (Total birds 1244) Weather Fine and sunny

Leader Harvey RODDA Attendance 22

Harvey RODDA, Ken SHERRING, Len AXEN, Max and Jill MARKEY, Peter and Rosemary EDWARDS, June SOUTTER, Sue WELTE, Jose HICKLING, Betty NORRIS, Mandy EVANS, Ron MACKENZIE, Joan GRAVES, Claire BEECHER, Freda HARVEY, Dot OWEN, Camilla MANVELL, Judith HENDERSON, Norma EARNEY, Ian FAULKNER and Chris HEALEY.

A beautiful sunny morning. The treatment plant is releasing water into areas of the upper Morass that had dried out during the drought. This has seen the return of good numbers of Swans, Ducks and Swallows.

The group moved to the Port of Bairnsdale for lunch, where we were met by Jill PLOUGHRIGHT and Annette COOK from BOCA. Plans for the BOCA gathering, during Labour Day Weekend 2008 were discussed. .

11th June 2007

Site 17. Healeys, Bellbird Road, Fairhope. G.P.S. 37 43 868 South 147 41 316 East.

Species 44 (Total birds 364) Weather. Overcast with some light rain.

Leader Chris Healey Attendance 15.

Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Max and Jill MARKEY, Ron and Barbara MACKENZIE, Len Axen, Jose HICKLING, Ken SHERRING, Joan GRAVES, Judith HENDERSON, Mandy EVANS, Carole ANDREW, Freda HARVEY, Sue WELTE and Harvey RODDA.

This is the first occasion for some time that the group has gone out on a Public Holiday. A good attendance but unfortunately not good weather. There was intermittent light rain which caused some of the group to go home after morning tea. Good numbers of Honeyeaters, Sitellas and Thornbills. Along with Scarlet Robins and 4 pair of Flame Robins on the fence at the rear of the house. A good winter count.

Birdline reports for this month are 3/6 Yellow-plumed Honeyeater in Box-Ironbark Forest at Lake Glenmaggie. Although rare in East Gippsland, this species has been reported previously in this district. 10/6. Spangled Drongo at Eagle Point Nature Reserve. This species is another that is rarely seen in this area, but Norma Earney and Gordon Wilson have seen the bird before at Eagle Point.

10/6. Brown Cuckoo-Dove at Gypsy Point, flushed from about 1.5 metres above ground in near fruiting Kangaroo Apple into rainforest canopy tree. Still there 40 minutes later. Also a short distance away a Rose Robin.

18th June 2007

Site 18. Lonely Bay, Lake Tyers Forest Park. G.P.S. 37 49 802 South 148 05 148 East.

Species 41 (Total birds 535) Weather Fin with cold south west wind.

Leader Len Axen Attendance 17

Len AXEN, Camilla Manvell, Dot OWEN, Ken SHERRING, Chris HEALEY, Bob GRAY and Joan GRAVES, Ian FAULKNER, Judith HENDERSON, Jose HICKLING, Norma EARNEY, Pat McPHERSON, Roger NEWMAN, Sue WELTE, Max and Jill MARKEY and Harvey RODDA.

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rain here and a great deal of water over the track, restricting our access. An interesting spot that will be worthwhile re-visiting in better weather. We then returned to the Lindenow South Reserve, found a dead Whisting Kite at the south end of the oval and many thornbills on the move.

As we returned home along the Lindenow Road, we found Max and Jill stopped near Ray Bertino's farmhouse. They had seen a Black Falcon scatter a flock of Starlings, and the bird was about 150 yards away, perched high in a gum tree, in clear view. Then to everyone's delight, it took flight and came directly above us, a very dark coloured bird. It flew on towards the S/W climbing. It was last seen circling high above Hillside.

Recent Birdline reports are : Duncan Fraser and Peter Ware report a large strung out flock of approximately 400 -500 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos in the Pine Forest area at Giffard.on the 16th of June,

David Bullock reports 12 Bar-tailed Godwits at Mallacoota. They were near the entrance at high tide on 4th July.

Michael Ramsey reports a beach washed Yellow-nosed Albatross at Cape Conran on the 6th July. Possible a victim of the recent wild weather. Michael also reports the sighting of 3 Diamond Firetails on the roadside near Swifts Creek on the 7th of July.

16th July 2007

Site 22. Nyerimilang. G.P.S. 37 52 578 South 147 55 612 East.

Species. 60 (Total birds 958) Weather. Fine.

Leader Len Axen Attendance. 14

Len AXEN, Max and Jill MARKEY, Sue WELTE, Ron MACKENZIE, Dot OWEN, Camilla MANVELL, Alan SEARL, Jose HICKLING, Carole ANDREW, Pat McPHERSON, Joan GRAVES, Roger NEWMAN and Ken SHERRING.

Recent Birdline reports. 8 Cape Barren Geese were sighted in a farmers driveway on the Orbost – Marlo Road by Luke Dwyer on 10th July. Report from Len Axen.

I very wet White-headed Pigeon at Mallacoota at a private house in Karbethong Road by Tony Bushell. on 10th July.

2 Banded Lapwing in a water logged paddock along the Hollands Landing Road about 2km S/E of Meerlieu by Andrew McCutcheon on 11th July.

23rd July 2007

Site 23 23a. Lake Tyers Beach. G.P.S. 37 51 431 South 148 05 178 East
23b Fisherman's Landing. G.P.S. 37 51 079 South 148 03 872 East

Species 58(Total birds 403) Weather Fine

Leader Len Axen Attendance 16

Len AXEN, Sue WELTE, Norma EARNEY, Camilla MANVELL, Roger NEWMAN, Dot OWEN, Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Avril YATES, Jose HICKLING, Betty NORRIS, June SOUTTER, Ian FAULKNER, Ken SHERRING, and Ron MACKENZIE.

Visitor. Bronwyn NICHOLS friend of Roger NEWMAN.

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30th July 2007

Site 24	24a	Jones Bay	G.P.S. 37 50 435 South 147 39 531 East.
	24b	Crooke Street Swamp	G.P.S. 37 49 748 South 147 38 941 East.
	24c	River Road East.	G.P.S. 37 51 178 South 147 38 886 East.

Species	55 (Total birds 1792)	Weather	Fine
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Leader	Ken Sherring	Attendance	18
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Ken SHERRING, Ron MACKENZIE, Max and Jill MARKEY, Norma EARNEY, Claire BEECHER, Roger NEWMAN, Dot OWEN., Camilla MANVELL, Marj. ANDERSON, Betty NORRIS, Jose HICKLING, June SOUTTER, Judith HENDERSON, Sue WELTE, Avril YATES, Alan SEARL and Harvey RODDA.

Interesting reports from members.

Camilla Manvell reports 300+ Crested Terns at Marley Point over the weekend.

Sue Welte has 12 King Parrots that have moved into her garden this week. Female or juvenile birds.

Returning home from church yesterday Betty Norris had to stop near her home in Williams Parade, and give way to 2 adult Masked Lapwing with four very small chicks.

6th August 2007

Site 25.	25a	Blond Bay State Game Reserve.	G.P.S. 37 59 278 South 147 36 055 East.
	25b	Wetland, Cnr Wattle Point and Waddy Point Roads.	G.P.S. 37 58 409 South 147 36 378 East.

Species	59 (Total birds 526)	Weather.	Fine, with westerly wind.
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Leader	Ken SHERRING	Attendance	16.
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Ken SHERRING, Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Max and Jill MARKEY, Bob GRAY and Joan GRAVES, Ian FAULKNER, Judith HENDERSON, Sue WELTE, Avril YATES, June SOUTTER, Alan SEARL, Norma EARNEY, Ron MACKENZIE and Harvey RODDA.

It is with regret I record the passing of Dick Moline, who lost his battle with cancer last Thursday the 2nd of August. Dick was a very active and well respected member of our club, and will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathy goes to Noel and the family.

First visit to this site by the club for some time. A few 'mossies' about, but not too bad. The main thing, there were a good few birds. Stopped at the big waterhole at the Waddy Point turn off. Ducks, an Australasian Grebe and a couple of Swans on the water. Cockatoos very vocal along with Noisy Miners and Ravens. Ian pick up a White-plumed Honeyeater in the bush for all to see. The group then moved on to Blond Bay. Adjacent to the gate Skylarks could be heard, and as we walked about that area there were many of this species, also a raft of Grebes on Steel Bay along with Cormorants and Swans. Red-capped plovers. Herons and ducks were along the drain coming from Patterson's Swamp. We then travelled along the track to the vicinity of Scott's Gate and the along Grass Tree Track. Highlight was an excellent site of the Mistletoebird.

Before returning home some members checked out, Patterson's, Middle and Waddy Point Swamps. Birds seen were more Red-capped Plover and Hoary-headed grebe, a Great Egret, Shoveller, Grey and Chestnut Teal, several Tree Martins, Chats, Golden Whistler, Masked Lapwing and a Common Greenshank.

Ken SHERRING reports there have been up to 40 Cattle Egret on the Tambo Flats at Swan Reach over the last week.

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

WEEKLY REPORT.

13th August 2007

Site 26 26a Mitchell River Walk. Picnic Point. G.P.S. 37 48 939 S 147 35 946 E.
26b Mitchell River Walk. Port of Bairnsdale. G.P.S. 37 49 409 S 147 37 928 E.

Species 51 (Total birds 817) Weather Fine.

Leader Joan GRAVES Attendance 12

Joan GRAVES, Ken SHERRING, Judith HENDERSON, Jose HICKLING, Betty NORRIS, Alan SEARL, Avril YATES, Sue WELTE, Norma EARNEY, Max and Jill MARKEY and Harvey RODDA.

Many Cattle Egret feeding on the river flats and the Night Herons were camped in an old Pine tree. Joan GRAVES has seen a Night Heron in this tree on many occasions, when on her morning walk, but never the numbers that were seen this morning.

Coming to birds today Ken Sherring and Harvey Rodda sighted two Wood Duck on the roof of the old Commercial Bank building in Main Street.(Now occupied by Leading Edge Computers) They seemed very inquisitive as though looking for a nesting site.

Betty Norris reports that son Ken has located a new active Wedge-tailed Eagles nest on his property at Mt Taylor. Fox and rabbit skulls in the refuse under the nest. Last weekend Betty's grand-daughter Jeanie, sighted two Tawny Frogmouths on Raymond Island.

Yesterday Ken Sherring sighted an Emu with very young chicks on South Boundary Track in the Colquhoun Forest.

Birdline report from Rohan Bilney of many Glossy Black Cockatoos in the Lake Tyers area. "Have been seeing and hearing them from several locations over the past 2 – 3 weeks. Including bottom end of Rules Road, along Petman's and Tyers House Roads. Yesterday there were several along Tyers House Road south of Reedy Arm No. 2, and three were seen towards the eastern end of Morass Break Road".

Duncan Fraser's blog reports that on 12th August he went with Peter Ware and Ian ? to Lake Guyatt, Flooding Creek and sighted a pair of Magpie Geese in the creek behind the industrial sheds.

They then moved to Heart Morass where they saw big numbers of Swan and Superb Fairy Wrens along with Musk duck displaying in the morass.

Then to Marlay Point where they sighted 100 Crested Tern, with other unidentified terns. Photo taken of these birds and enquiries continuing as to which species.

They then moved to the wetland on the southern side of Sale where there were huge numbers of Chestnut Teal, many thousands, along with 2 Pink-eared Duck and a small group of Hardhead.

20th August 2007

Site 27. 27a. Bullumwaal. G.P.S. 37 38 335 South 147 31 673 East
27b Rifle Range Road, Bullumwaal. G.P.S. 37 39 304 South 147 32 312 East.
27c Boggy Creek, Bullumwaal. G.P.S. 37 40 661 South 147 33 071 East.

Species 41 (Total birds 316) Weather. Fine sunny morning.

Leader Chris HEALEY Attendance 20.

Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Jill and Max MARKEY, Jose HICKLING, Betty NORRIS, Ron MACKENZIE, Joan GRAVES, Alan SEARL, Sue WELTE, Avril YATES, Judith HENDERSON, Claire BEECHER, Ken SHERRING, Roger NEWMAN, June SOUTTER and Harvey RODDA.

Visitors. Mike and Lynette HARRIS on holiday from New Zealand and Karin McDONALD a friend of June SOUTTER.

A beautiful sunny morning. Unfortunately the group got split for a while, but a good time was had by all. Highlights of the morning were the finding of an Emu carcass at Rifle Range Road, along with the Wedge-tailed eagles and good numbers of Honeyeaters. At Bullumwall near the hall, Parrots, Wonga Pigeons, a very vocal Lyrebird, Pardalotes and Thornbills, Honeyeaters and Bowerbirds. At Boggy

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

WEEKLY REPORT.

Creek were good numbers of Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, Wattlebirds, Whipbirds, Bowerbirds including 1 adult male and 3 very vocal White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike.

Report from Birdline on 12th Aug. 8 Whiskered Tern seen at Marlay Point by Duncan Fraser. Report from Mike Carter.

On the same day Ken Sherring checked out his atlas site at the Quarry on Mississippi Creek in the Colquhoun Forest. Among other species seen were 4 Rose Robins.

On Monday the 13th Aug. Chris and Felicity HEALEY were with their daughter at Corringale Beach opposite Marlo, and saw a pair of Hooded Plover on the ocean beach, and 4 Pied Oystercatchers inside on the estuary.

On the 18th Aug. Max and Jill Markey had a White-plumed Honeyeater in their garden.

Max Nicholson in Nungurner Road Metung reports 2 Channel-billed Cuckoos have arrived in his garden. (Very early this year) and he also has his pair of Sea Eagles nesting on the property. Report from Sue Welte.

27th August 2007

Site 28	28a. Chinaman's Creek, Metung.	G.P.S. 37 52 691 South 147 51 455 East.
	28b Nungurner Jetty.	G.P.S. 37 52 490 South 147 53 500 East.

Species	62 (Total birds 565)	Weather	Sunny, no wind.
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Leader	Dot Owen.	Attendance.	17
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Dot Owen, Ken SHERRING, Len AXEN, Max and Jill MARKEY, Claire BECHER, Jose HICKLING, Judith HENDERSON, June SOUTTER, Norma EARNEY, Sue WELTE, Marj ANDERSON, Alan SEARL, Joan GRAVES, Bob GRAY, Freda HARVEY and Ron MACKENZIE.

On the afternoon of 27th Aug. Len Axen heard a Shining-Bronze Cuckoo calling from the forest surrounding the Newmerella Reserve. First of the returning cuckoos to be noted this year. Also that afternoon, Fan-tailed Cuckoos were seen and heard in a number of gardens in Marlo. Observations are some 2 – 3 weeks earlier than in recent years. Report from Jacquie and Len Axen.

Ran into Norm Elliott last week, and asked if he had any birdlife on his swamp off Mitton's Lane, as our club used to visit this site, back when there was much more water about. He informed me that at present he has Grey and Chestnut Teal along with Black and Wood Duck all with young on the swamp at the moment. He also said that on Wednesday the 22nd of August he was on Macleod Morass checking nesting boxes. Many of the boxes containing this seasons eggs but no birds. He explained that the ducks were nesting prior to the floods, and the birds were forced from their nests when the boxes went under water, hence the abandoned eggs. During the day they sighted in excess of 2,000 Hardhead on Brownlow's Waterhole on the Morass, 60 Hardhead at the north end near the Sewerage Works and 1000 mixed ducks at the south end of the morass of which he estimates fifty percent were Hardhead. On the 28th of August he checked the nesting boxes on the wetland adjacent to Mullet Bay on Jim Stephenson's property at Nicholson. Similar situation of abandoned eggs there. Good numbers of Grey and Chestnut Teal along with Black Duck breeding at that location.

3rd September 2007

Site 29.	Raymond Island.	G.P.S. 37 55 211 South 147 43 604 East.
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Species.	54 (Total birds 835)	Weather.	Fine, sunny with cold s/westerly breeze.
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Leader	Ron MACKENZIE.	Attendance.	13
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Ron and Barbara MACKENZIE, Ken SHERRING, Judith HENDERSON, Avril YATES, Chris HEALEY, Sue WELTE, Jose HICKLING, Joan GRAVES, Norma EARNEY, Max and Jill MARKEY and Harvey RODDA.

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

WEEKLY REPORT.

A very pleasant day if you kept out of the wind. Ron informs us that the Sea Eagles nest on Raymond Island is active this year. With spring in the air many species very active with some indications of breeding.

Norma Earney reports that over the last week in Eagle Point Bay in front of her home, there have been 150 Hoary headed Grebe and 30 Great-crested Grebe.

Both Ron Mackenzie and Chris Healey report that over the past week or ten days the Southern Boobook has been frequently calling of a night near their homes.

Ken Sherring reports that on his Hooded Plover check at Lake Tyers beach on 25th August, no Hooded Plovers but 6 Royal Spoonbills, 1 yellow-billed Spoonbill and 1 Little Egret. These birds were again seen on the 28th August. Ken also went to Reynolds Road on 2nd Sept. No birds. He then moved onto Rough Road and saw Chestnut Teal, Black Duck and 2 Australasian Shovelers. Also Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterels, Swans and Purple Swampheens with young, and Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo calling constantly. Ken then moved to the Cliffs area on the Tambo and found Fairy Martins nest building near the Peregrine Falcon nesting site.

10th September 2007

Site 30.	30a.	Tambo Cliffs G.P.S.	G.P.S. 37 47 788 South 147 50 424 East
	30b	Rough Road	G.P.S. 37 50 430 South 147 51 120 East
Species.	71 (Total birds 578)		Weather. Overcast, some light rain.
Leader	Ken Sherring		Attendance. 19

Ken SHERRING, Norma EARNEY, Claire BEECHER, Mandy EVANS, Judith HENDERSON, Ian FAULKNER, Chris HEALEY, Sue WELTE, Jill and Max MARKEY, Joan GRAVES, Bob White and Camilla MANVELL, Ron MACKENZIE, Alan SEARL, Freda HARVEY, Dot OWEN, Marj. ANDERSON and Len AXEN.

Harvey Rodda reports that on Wednesday the 5th September at Nicholson he sighted a flock of 70 Little Corella, and also heard his first Pallid Cuckoo call for the season. Later while working in the garden he heard the call of a raptor, and looked up to see two Swamp Harriers put on a magnificent aerial display over Bosse's Swamp. Also that day, as he sat talking on the phone and looking into his front garden,, he saw a Stubble Quail casually walking through the plants, no more that 20 feet away. He immediately told Margaret, and she replied, "Is that what it is. I have seen that bird two or three times over the past couple of days, and wondered what it was." On 11th September 1 Nankeen Kestrel at Angus Vale and 5 Dusky Wood Swallows (First sighting for him for the year) seen at Tabberabbera, and on 12th September 1 Yellow-billed Spoonbill, 1 Great Egret, 11 Chough and 17 Emu at Wairewa.

From Suggan Buggan. Chris Hodge reports that two weeks ago he went down onto the Snowy River on Sandy Flat Track near Willis and found there 200+ Flame Robins. (This is the area our club members had good sightings of the Red-capped Robin on trips in the past) I have since been talking to Clive Richardson at Suggan Buggan who said there are many Flame Robins in his area at present, but not in the numbers Chris saw. Clive said prior to the fires it was not uncommon to see Flame Robins in those numbers in the district. He also reports some slight improvement in Honeyeater numbers since the fires. Several recent sightings of Brown-headed, Fuscous, Yellow-tufted and White-Cheeked. Other recent sightings area, Crested-Shrike-tit, both Jan Davies and Clive have Hooded Robins near their homes, Jan had had the White-winged Trillers arrive back in the last week, a month later than last year. Jan also has a pair of Yellow-rumped Thornbills nesting near her back door and a short distance away a pair of Restless Flycatchers also nesting. Clive has not seen the Triller at his place yet. Clive has a Brown Falcon on his property he is monitoring. He believes it is nesting in a large hollow in a gum, but has not confirmed this as yet. A highlight for Clive was two weeks ago, he was travelling on the track between his water tank and the house (a distance of about 1km) when a bird ran in front of him, it then stopped, and Clive was able to get a very good sighting. He returned home and after checking all his bird books he has no doubt he saw a Grey-crowned Babbler.

Barry Waddell, manager at the Bairnsdale Sewerage Treatment Plant, confirms that over the past few weeks, Hardhead numbers on Macleod Morass have been in the thousands, but they have now gone.

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

WEEKLY REPORT.

Julie Hollingsworth reports that from time to time over the past 12 months, she has seen a raptor flying low over the trees near her home, but she has never been able to get a good look at it. Last week her husband Bob, was able to photograph this bird. It has since been identified by Rohan Bilney and David Hollands as a Square-tailed Kite. Julie also reports that the Sooty Owls bred this year in her tree at Old Man Hill. Unfortunately a fortnight ago on the 26th August, the very strong winds flattened the tree. The male bird has since been seen roosting nearby, but the female and chick (which was due to fledge) have not been seen. There have been no signs to indicate these two birds came to harm and Julie has high hopes that they have survived. Julie informs me that during their owling this season there have been indications of Masked Owls at Cape Conran and Lonely Bay, and that last Xmas a tree that had breeding Sooty Owls in it, was burnt and lost in the back burn at Monkey Creek.

On 10th September Duncan Fraser went with the Heyfield Bird Group to Swallow Lagoon NCR and among the birds seen were, 1 Crested Shrike-tit and 3 Scarlet Robins. Then on to The Den of Nargun where they saw, a Golden Whistler, Lewin's and Crescent Honeyeaters, Brown Gerygone's and White-browed Scrubwrens.

On the 14th of September Duncan went with Peter Ware to Jack Smith Lake and among the 57 varieties of bird, mammal and orchid seen were, 7 Blue-winged Parrot, 2 Red Capped-Dotterel, 1 Musk duck, 1 Pied Cormorant (The first Duncan has had at that sight), numerous White-fronted Chats, including a nest with 3 eggs, 2 Stubble Quail, 1 Calamanthus, several Dusky Woodswallows, 3 Leatham's Snipe, 3 Pacific Golden Plover, 2 Caspian Tern, a pair of Shelduck with 14 dependant young, 1 Double-banded Plover along with Wedge-tailed Eagles, Sea-Eagles, Brown Goshawk, Brown Falcon and Kestrel. Later that day at the Giffard Flora Reserve they saw the White-winged Triller.

17th September 2007

Site 31 Macleod Morass. G.P.S. 37 50 189 South 147 37 362 East.

Species 42 (Total birds 4398) **Weather.** Fine, then frequent squalls with cold south west wind.

Leader. Harvey RODDA **Attendance** 14

Harvey RODDA, Jose HICKLING, Max and Jill MARKEY, Avril YATES, Sue WELTE, Chris HEALEY, Bob WHITE and Camilla MANVELL, Judith HENDERSON, Ron MACKENZIE, Joan GRAVES, Claire BEECHER and Roger NEWMAN.

It appeared we would have a reasonable day weather wise as we left Pinnock Street. Barry was waiting at the treatment plant gate when we arrived, and suggested we park our cars near the office, and set the telescope up on the verandah in front of the office block, so we would be out of the weather. This offer was gratefully received. Blue-billed, Shoveler, and Musk Duck along with other species seen from this spot. We moved to the main distribution channel track below the Saleyards for morning tea. This saw the arrival of the rain, and the day became very cold and miserable. Most members went home at this stage, but of those remaining, some checked the ponds, and others made the long walk out to the Ibis breeding rookery, at the end of the channel in Klopper's paddock. Very difficult to estimate the Ibis numbers, but it is certainly in the thousands. On this walk, several pairs of Black Duck disturbed from the channel, along with several Swans with Cygnets. Clamorous Reed-warblers very vocal along with the Little Grassbird.

Barry WADDELL reports that he has seen a Musk Duck with 1 juvenile bird on the No. 2 Pond at the Treatment Plant over the past week.

24th September 2007

Site 32. Sarsfield **G.P.S.** 37 44 776 South 147 43 367 East.

Species 65 (Total birds 291) **Weather.** Fine

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

WEEKLY REPORT.

Leader Chris HEALEY Attendance 17

Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Ken Sherring, Len Axen, Betty NORRIS, Avril YATES, Bob GRAY and Joan GRAVES, Judith HENDERSON, Mandy EVANS, Freda HARVEY, Carole ANDREW, Ron MACKENZIE, Norma EARNEY, Sue WELTE, Roger NEWMAN and Harvey RODDA.

Good mornings birding around the Sarsfield area. Chris took us along Harveys Track to a gully on Stony Creek. An excellent site. Cuckoos, Thrush, Oriel, Kingfisher, Pardalotes, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Whipbird and Lyrebird all very vocal. Then to our old haunt along the river at Hatt's. and some good birding there.

Last week Rex and Nancy TAYLOR made a rush visit to Bairnsdale. Some of our members were able to catch up for a natter over lunch at the Bowling Club. They are both keeping good health, and send their warmest regards to their friends in EGBOC.

Sue WELTE reports that on the 11th of September she and David saw a Black-tailed Native hen at Rough Road.

Ken SHERRING reports that last Saturday he went to Lake Tyers Beach and sighted 3 Hooded Plovers. Ian Faulkner visited the same sight the next day, and with the use of a boat, in the area from the ocean beach back to the Little Tern nesting island he saw 5 Hooded Plover, a pair of Double-banded Plover in breeding plumage, 1 Ruddy Turnstone, a flock of Red-necked Stints, and several Pied Oystercatchers with one nesting.

Len Axen reports 3 Pair of Hooded Plover at Marlo, plus one immature bird from last season.

1st October 2007

Site 33. Trestle Bridge, Colquhoun State Forest G.P.S. 37 44 599 S 148 02 647 E

Species 39 (Total birds 165) Weather. Clearing to fine sunny day.

Leader Ken SHERRING Attendance 13

Ken SHERRING, Ian FAULKNER, Freda HARVEY, Mandy EVANS, Chris and Felicity HEALEY, Camilla MANVELL, Marj. ANDERSON, Dot OWEN, Barbara and Ron MACKENZIE,

Visitors. Bob LEWIS and Sue WILLIAMS.

An enjoyable day at the Trestle Bridge, with the highlights being. a pair of White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrikes (dark morph) going to their nest, and a pair of Yellow Robins at their nest at the car park.

Harvey Rodda spent some time at Angusvale during the first week in October. Species recorded were. 3 Wood Duck, 1 Wedge-tailed Eagle, 1 Kestral, 2 Wonga Pigeon, 14 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, 2 Gang Gang, 6 Galah, 1 Pallid Cuckoo, 5 Fan-tailed Cuckoo, 4 Shining Bronze Cuckoo, 2 Southern Boobook, 9 Kookaburra, 1 Sacred Kingfisher, 6 Superb Fairy Wren, 4 Brown Thornbill, 3 Red Wattlebird, 16 Bell Miner, 5 Yellow-faced Honeyeater, 2 Whipbird, 3 Golden Whistler, 2 Grey Shrike Thrush, 3 Grey Fantail, 1 Butcherbird, 4 Magpie, 7 Pied Currawong, 6 Aust. Raven, 7 Pipit, 4 Welcome Swallow, 6 Oriel and 2 Blackbird.

8th October 2007

Site 34. Nyerimilang. G.P.S 37 52 578 South 147 55 612 East.

Species 79 (Total birds 899) Weather Fine and sunny

Leader Chris Healey Attendance. 21.

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

WEEKLY REPORT.

Chris HEALEY, Len AXEN, Alan SEARL, Avril YATES, Joan GRAVES, June SOUTTER, Jose HICKLING, Betty NORRIS, Dot OWEN, Marj ANDERSON, Camilla MANVELL, Norma EARNEY, Max and Jill MARKEY, Sue WELTE, Ian FAULKNER, Carole ANDREW, Ken SHERRING, Ron MACKENZIE and Harvey RODDA.

Visitor. Anne RODDA, BOCA member from Melbourne.

A beautiful sunny morning with great birding. (79 Species). Cuckoos particularly vocal along with Wonga Pigeon, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Whipbird, Grey Currawong and Bell Miner. Some members also had good sightings of an Echidna and a large Black Snake sunning himself.

Camilla Manvell reports that the Channel-billed Cuckoo was back at Mairburn Avenue at Metung this morning. Very vocal.

Report from Freda Harvey that she had a White-headed Pigeon in her garden last week. Len Axen reports that 3 White-headed Pigeon were sighted at Jarramond last week, and one at Ted Potter's in Orbost.

Max and Jill MARKEY report that they sighted a Noisy Friarbird at Bruthen last Saturday.

15th October 2007.

Site 35.	Canni Creek	G.P.S. 37 35 586 South 148 07 881 East.
Species	53 (Total birds 384)	Weather Fine, north easterly wind.
Leader	Harvey RODDA	Attendance. 16.

Harvey RODDA, Judith HENDERSON, Len AXEN, Betty NORRIS, Ken SHERRING, Jose HICKLING, Freda HARVEY, Dot OWEN, Camilla MANVELL, Max and Jill MARKEY, Sue WELTE, Ron MACKENZIE, Joan GRAVES, Alan SEARL and Avril YATES.

A beautiful sunny morning, but unfortunately as the morning went on, the wind got stronger. Just the one Hooded Robin seen and one Emu-wren. Great interest in the White-browed Woodswallows, and a pair of Scarlet Robins feeding a fledged youngster. Cuckoos all very vocal as well as the Rufous Songlark.

Freda Harvey has a Grey Shrike thrush nesting in her garage at the moment.

Camilla MANVELL reports the Channel-billed Cuckoo was again very vocal in Mairburn Avenue this morning.

Camilla with Max and Jill MARKEY were at Mallacoota last weekend and report seeing a Figbird in the town area, 56 White-browed Woodswallows, 26 Albatross offshore, 1 Little or Fairy Tern amongst the Caspian and Crested Tern on the sand-spit at the foreshore, they also heard the Scarlet Honeyeaters and Cicadabird and sighted a Sacred Kingfisher.

Len and Jacquie AXEN went to the Cabbage Tree Palms Reserve on Sunday and saw 6 Black-faced Monarch and a Large-billed Scrubwren.

Joan GRAVES reports that last Wednesday on her Picnic Point walk she saw 3 White-winged Trillers (2 Male and 1 female).

On the 13th of September the group doing the bushfire recovery survey at Monkey Creek sighted 7 Rose Robins.

Birdline reports.

1 Glossy Ibis seen at the BREC wetlands in McKean Street by Ivan Traverso on the 6th of October.

1 Large-billed Scrubwren and a Rose Robin feeding amongst Paperbarks in Healeys Road Marlo by Len Axen on 7th of October.

1 Noisy Friarbird in Main Street Bruthen feeding in Bottlebrush with Musk Lorikeets. Raucous feast in centre of town seen by Ivan Traverso on 7th October.

1 White-headed pigeon at bird feeder at Ken Sherring's at Swan Reach. Stayed ten minutes. Breast tinged with grey, possibly an immature bird. This was on 9th of October.

4 Little Tern at the Snowy River mouth, eastern side this morning the 9th of October. Two weeks earlier than in previous years. Also of interest, 9 Hooded Plover (1 pair nesting, with eggs) 1 pair of Eastern Curlew, 1 Double-banded Plover, 1 Pacific Golden Plover, and 1 Ruddy Turnstone. All seen by Len Axen.

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

WEEKLY REPORT.

1 Dollarbird this morning (10th October) at Fairhope flying resolutely from forest along the Nicholson River over open paddocks. First record for season in this area, and about a month earlier than usual.

Monday the 10th of October Duncan Fraser and Peter Ware went to Sale Common the check out the report of thousands of Hardhead being there. The birds were certainly there, but took off as soon as we approached the hide. No chance of a decent photo, but what a sight. Thousands of ducks in the sky, with their rapid flight and white underwings, defining the species perfectly.

On the 13th of October Harvey Rodda drove through Moormung from Redcourt Lane to the aerodrome. Among the species seen were, 2 Chough families of 8 and 9 and 37 Noisy Miner.

14th October. A Cicadabird heard briefly at Fairhope in Stringybark, Box-Ironbark forest. First for the season, and about two weeks earlier than last year by Felicity Healey.

22nd October 2007

SITE 36. 36a Trident Arm, Lake Tyers State Park. G.P.S. 37 49 463 South 148 08 208 East.
36b The Glass house, Lake Tyers State Park. G.P.S. 37 50 839 South 148 06 532 East

Species 69 (Total birds 776) Weather Fine, sunny..

Leader Max and Jill MARKEY Attendance. 21.

Max and Jill MARKEY, Ken SHERRING, Ron MACKENZIE, Sue WELTE, Claire BEECHER, June SOUTTER Roger NEWMAN Camilla MANVELL, Dot OWEN, Marj. ANDERSON, Jose HICKLING, Noel MOLINE, Alan SEARL, Norma EARNEY, Carole ANDREW, Judith HENDERSON, Avril YATES and Harvey RODDA.

Visitors. Peter and Merrin CANNON from Cookamidgra via PARKES, N.S.W, friends of Max and Jill MARKEY.

A great day out. While waiting at Nowa Nowa for all the group to arrive, species sighted near the wetland opposite were, 6 Little Pied Cormorant, 1 Little Black Cormorant, 4 Masked Lapwing, 2 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, 1 Great Egret and 2 Leatham's Snipe.

Norma EARNEY reports one Royal Spoonbill at the boat ramp at the silt jetties this morning.

On Sunday the 21st of October about 9am Len Axen sighted a mix lot of about 500 White-browed, 200 Masked and 50 Dusky Woodswallows flying near his home. The same day Ken SHERRING sighted about 100 Masked and White-browed Woodswallows from his garden. While attempting to photograph these birds Ken had a phone call from Rohan Bilney, to say the Masked and White-browed Woodswallows were in the Bilney orchard, and Rohan had been able to take good photos.

On Sunday Max and Jill Markey together with Peter and Merrin CANNON walked along the rail trail from Wiseleigh to Bruthen and sighted 1 Cisticola and a Brown Songlark.

Max Markey took his visitors to Nyerimilang on Saturday and the highlight there was 16 Topknot Pigeons flying over the homestead.

On 15th October 1 White-necked Heron along Princes Highway at Orbost, foraging along a drainage channel on agricultural land early this morning. First sighting for the season. Len Axen.

On 17th October at Lake Reeve 1st causeway, 16 Caspian Tern. Main Causeway, 19 Little Egret, some with head ribbons and breeding plumage. and to the west, well over 500 Whiskered Tern, these also in breeding plumage with their black bellies, and with them several Little Tern, plus waders, Red-necked Stints, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers.. From Duncan Fraser, Birdline. Duncen has photos of the two species in breeding plumage on his Ben Cruachen Blog site.

20th October on his early morning walk on Raymond Island Ron Mackenzie sighted 1 White-headed Pigeon, 2 Gang Gang and at least 3 pairs of Wood Duck each with several young.

5th November 2007

SITE 37 'Greenhills' Mt Taylor G.P.S. 37 43 010 South 147 35 244 East

Species 51 (Total birds 321) Weather Cloudy with the odd very light Shower.

Leader Betty Norris Attendance 16.

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

WEEKLY REPORT.

Betty NORRIS, Ken SHERRING, Sue WELTE, Ian FAULKNER, Ron and Barbara MACKENZIE, Joan GRAVES, Catherine BAINBRIDGE (BOCA member from Richmond.) Jose HICKLING, June SOUTTER, Judith HENDERSON, Max and Jill MARKEY, Alan SEARL, Margaret HALLETT and Harvey RODDA.

After the good weather at the Marlo Camp, those that attended, arrived home on the Friday. Then the weather set in. From Bairnsdale to Lakes Entrance and the surrounding districts from 3 to 5 inches of rain was had over the weekend. Fortunately it had cleared up by Monday morning and very little rain fell at Mt Taylor. Not much sun about, and although our bird numbers were down on other years, a great day was still had. Of the highlights were, long and close viewing of the White-throated Gerygone. The first sighting for some members, and the best sighting for several others. At the same time White-winged Trillers gave excellent sightings. At the big dam an Australian Grebe had two young with her as she swam about. A Dusky Moorhen went to her nest, and close by 12 Buff-rumped Thornbills feeding young came to within a few feet and were in no hurry to move on. Sittellas were seen at two locations and a White-bellied Cuckoo Shrike was sighted, along with many Dusky Woodswallows, Mistletoebird and the Rufous Songlark was in good voice. Ken NORRIS informed us that the Buff-rumped Thornbill is a common sight about the farm. They nest in the house yard and are regularly seen. He also drew our attention to the Stubble Quail calling in the paddock in front of the house.

Max Markey sighted a White-necked Heron at Wiseleigh on 4th November.

Len Axen reports that 8 Scarlet Honeyeaters and 10 White-headed Pigeons have been coming to a feeding table at Jarrahmond over the past week.

Birdline reports. 3rd of November 10 Topknot Pigeon seen flying around Metung and a Channel-billed Cuckoo trying to hide from the rain in the fig tree at Metung by Chris Lester.

5th of November a pair of Figbird seen flying near the school in Mallacoota and a Ground Parrot flushed from the heathland walk at Shipwreck Creek by Chris Lester

6th Novemer 5 Freckled Duck roosting at Lake Guyatt at Sale. Seen by Chris Lester.

Harvey Rodda reports that during the week of 9th of October he and Margaret were at Bemm River with Mike and Kaye Traynor from Anglesea and Chris and Joy Hodge from Orbost. 77 species seen including 24 Royal Spoonbill, 12 Black-winged Stilt, a Crested Shrike-tit, a flock of 31 Little Corella, a Wedge-tailed Eagle, 4 White-bellied Sea Eagles and two nests, a Brush Cuckoo, 2 Black-faced Monarch, and 2 Figbirds.

Report from Chris Healey of Stubble Quail, Rufous Songlarks and Woodswallows at their home at Fairhope. The Stubble Quail have re-appeared in our paddocks. In last 2 years recorded in all months except June, but none this year since Jan to 4th Oct with 3 more on 22nd Oct. Rufous Songlark in garden and orchard since 22nd Oct. Mixed flock of 150+ Woodswallows late morning 21st Oct travelling from the east. Only Dusky identified.

24th of October in the wetland between the Latrobe River and Longford township, 29 Great Egret, 7 Pacific Heron, and Yellow-billed and Royal Spoonbills. Feeding in optimum conditions resulting from the July floods. The Great Egret count has been as high as 50. Per Duncan Fraser.

25th of October. 517 Whiskered Tern seen on Snipe Point at Hollands Landing. Most in full breeding plumage. From Faye Bedford.

26th October 6 Weebill and 2 White winged Trillers seen at Swallow Lagoon NCR. By Duncan Fraser and Peter Ware during their quarterly survey. The Weebills a rare sighting in this part of Gippsland.

29th of October 1 Black Kite spotted circling high above the trees about 6pm at Swan Reach. Chased off by Ravens. Report from Ken Sherring.

29th of October 1 Dollarbird seen perched in a large eucalypt along the Tambo River off Rodwell Road, Tambo Upper by Faye Bedford.

12th November 2007

SITE 38.	38a.	Point Fullarton, Paynesville. G.P.S. 37 54 170 South 147 43 100 East
	38b	Sunset Cover, Paynesville G.P.S. 37 55 170 South 147 42 580 East.
Species	52 (Total birds 1643)	Weather Fine and sunny
Leader	Ron Mackenzie	Attendance 20.

Ron and Barbara MACKENZIE, Ken SHERRING, Sue WELTE, Max and Jill MARKEY, Peter and Rosemary EDWARDS, Alan SEARL, Noel MOLINE, June SOUTTER, Betty NORRIS, Norma EARNEY, Jose HICKLING, Dot OWEN, Marj ANDERSON, Ian FAULKNER, Joan GRAVES, Chris HEALEY and Harvey RODDA.

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

WEEKLY REPORT.

An enjoyable days outing with a barbeque lunch.

Report of White-necked Heron at Jarvis' Swamp opposite the Swan Reach Store during the week.

From Ken Sherring.

5th Nov. Report of Common Koel at Tambo River at Tambo Upper. This single birds distinctive call was heard at 0740hrs.from a distance. Tracked bird to a large Eucalypt along Tambo River (Rodwells Road). Observed perching and flying along canopy of tree tops. Flew off in an easterly direction. Faye Beford and Mike Bramwell.

9th Nov. Report of 4 Hooded Plover on Rigby Island at Lakes Entrance. 4 adult birds seen scampering over sandy shell mounds on Rigby Island. No bands. Faye Bedford. (Photo).

10th Nov. Yesterday and today Father John O'Kelly and Maurice Roberts have heard this strange bird call in Bairnsdale. They followed the call until it led them to Jose Hicklings. With Jose they saw the bird,. black with a red eye and a strange beak. Jose also heard the call. They have identified the bird as a male Common Koel.

Going to birds today at Paynesville Ken Sherring and Harvey Rodda sighted a Black-shouldered Kite at Helmers, corner at Broadlands going and a White-necked Heron on Bosses Swamp on the way back.

Sue Welte reports that yesterday evening 11th Nov a Powerful Owl heard calling at her home at Metung.

Chris Healey reports the Boobook Owl calling each night at his home at Fairhope, also a Brush Cuckoo seen there yesterday the 11th Nov.

Peter and Rosemary Edwards report a Nankeen Kestrel on their jetty at Newlands Arm this morning and a Great-crested Grebe then seen out in the lake.

Max and Jill Markey report hearing a Cicadabird when on White Rocks Track yesterday the 11th Nov. White Rocks Track is off the Omeo Road to the right just beyond Ramrod.

Prior to the flooding rain the weekend before last, Duncan Fraser sighted up to 10 White-necked Herons on the wetland at Longford between the Latrobe River and the Longford township. Since the rain they have disappeared.

On Saturday the 10th of Nov. Duncan was at Bellbird Corner at Maffra mowing the grass, and sighted 3 White-necked Herons there.

19th November 2007

SITE 39. Angusvale G.P.S. 37 35 404 South 147 21 197 East.

Species 30 (Total birds 142) Weather Very hot

Leader Harvey RODDA Attendance 11

Harvey RODDA, Ken SHERRING, Pat McPHERSON, Alan SEARL, Chris HEALEY, Jill and Max MARKEY, Judith HENDERSON, Noel MOLINE, Joan GRAVES and Ron MACKENZIE.

Electrical storms a couple of days earlier had caused several bush fires in the East Gippsland area, but fortunately it did not affect Angusvale. The temperature was possibly 35 degrees and did have an influence on bird numbers. We still had an enjoyable morning with Rufous Songlarks very vocal , a good sighting of a pair of Rainbow Bee-eaters, a Stubble Quail flushed from the grass and 5 Gang Gang not concerned at all about our presence. We also had Golden and Rufous Whistlers frequently calling, along with Cuckoos, Bellbirds and Whipbird.

11th Nov report of 3 Glossy Black Cockatoo feeding quietly in a Casuarina Tree, 500 metres from the Gypsy Point Lodge on the road to the tip. Report from Graeme Brown.

12th Nov. report of a Dollar bird at Tambo Upper, flying over canopy of Eucalypts along Rodwell's Road. By Mick Bramwell and Faye Bedford.

14th November report of 19 Fairy Tern nesting on Tern Island at Lake Tyers, fish wiping and fish offering observed. Good varieties of species of bait sized fish seen. Believe birds are in early stages of incubation. Colony appears cohesive and settled. 12 nesting Little Terns tucked between low growing vegetation on sandy patches of Mud Island. Also 36 Little Tern in breeding plumage and 2 in non breeding plumage, observed loafing on the north west side of Mud Island. Lots of feeding activity seen, birds diving into lake and bringing back fish to their partners. 3 Hooded Plover seen scampering through low growing vegetation on north west side of Mud Island. From Faye Bedford.

