

BOCA Challenge Bird Count 2008

In early December 2008, a record total of 37 teams from 4 states took part in the Challenge Bird count. A total of 426 observers participated which was also a record. There were new teams from Glenrowan in Victoria, Clermont in Queensland and Southern Highlands in NSW. Welcome to you all. We added 3 new species to the list of birds recorded on Challenge Count days: Barbary Dove at Hobsons Bay, Ringed Plover in Sunraysia and Franklin's Gull at Ayr in Queensland. This takes the total recorded since records began to 517 species.

The following are the teams that took part in 2008 and the number of species seen by each team. Thank you Graeme and Judy Hosken for compiling the results.

David Ap-Thomas, Organiser

VICTORIA, COUNTRY

Ballarat: Bernie Scott, Ian Ashton, Greg Binns, Ron Bone, Wallie Coles, David Coutts, Peter Dalman, Neville Gloury, Murray Grant, Ken Hammond, Tim Hunt, Betty Johnson, Colin Johnson, Damien Hendrickson, Helen O'Donnell, Tanya Loos, Jenny Sedgwick, Peter Sedgwick, Roger Thomas, Barbara Williams. **Species: 153**

Castlemaine: Christopher Morris, Rita Mills, Geraldine Harris, Debbie Worland. **Species: 107**

Chiltern: Phillip Seeley, Val Kingerlee, Clare Taylor, June Gotham, Peter Gotham, Dorothy Gooding, Eileen Collins, Scott Jessup. **Species: 110**

East Gippsland, Bairnsdale: Chris Healey, Len & Jacquie Axen, Ian Faulkner, Rosemary & Peter Edwards, Dorothy Owen, Max & Jill Markey, Harvey Rodda, Alan Searl, Ken & Linda Sherring, Barbara & Ron Mackenzie, Mandy Evans, Fred Harvey, Felicity Healey, Camilla Manvell, Bob White, Jan & Rob Cook. **Species: 158**

Marlo: Len Axen, Jacquie Axen, David McKenzie. **Species: 110**

Echuca-Tongala: Peter Allan, Dallas Wyatt, Alan & Beverley Curtis, David Ong. **Species: 135**

Glenrowan: Chris Timewell, Lisa Minchin, Jan Osmotherly, Glen Scholfield. **Species: 86**

Horsham: Tim Mintern, Ian Morgan, Tim Edgerton, John Francis, Merelyn Hancock, Karen Fry, Richard Lane, Joyce Lane, Bill Neve, Hennie Neve, Ewen Johnson, Nola Sheriff, Stan Parfett, Wendy McInnes, Jenny McInnes, John Bennett, Margaret Bennett, John Fisher. **Species: 161**

Kaniva: Nora Lord, Geoff Lord, Brendan Champness. **Species: 98**

Latrobe Valley: Alix Williams, Estelle Adams, Bruce Adams, Terri Allen, Mary Austin, Marja Bouman, Mark Bradbury, Jim Brady, Eulalie Brewster, Rohan Bugg, Ron Carey, Rob Gully,

Ken Harris, Vi Harrison, Alice Hopkins, Sigrid Hopkins, Kevin Jones, Rachel Kochuvievski, John Lawson, Sylvia Leibrecht, Peter McFarlane, Isla McGloin, Iain McLean, David Mules, Denis Nagle, Fergus O'Gallagher, John Poppins, Helen Poppins, James Reeves, Jenny Retjske, Bea Roberts, Wendy Savage, Ken Savage, Ken Smith, David Stickney, John Sutherland, Margaret Sutherland, Bon Thompson, Oliver Thompson, Nola Thorpe, Jackie Tims, Lawrie Waddington, Jack Weerts, Steve Wilks, Gudrun Wilks. **Species: 137**

Nhill: Sadie Williams, Bill Day, Jock Bone, Des Bell, Robert Harding, Clive Crouch, Austin & Lorraine Mackenzie, J & K Kennedy, S & D Williams. **Species: 78**

Portland: Max & Lois Phillips, Linda Errey, Robert Farnes, Anne-Maree Burgoine, Jane Hayes, Ruth & Ivor Graney, Doug, Helen and Lachy Phillips, Henry Resson, Ric Resson, Megan Rowsell, Garry Rethus. **Species: 163**

Sunraysia: George Kerridge, Pauline Bartels, Michael Mack, Richard Wells, Rae & Len Jeffers, Colin & Dianne Stewart, Ken & Marilyn Rix, Alan & Margaret Bottrell, Alan Taylor, Alec & Sharon Hawtin, Judy Petschel, Susan Fisher, Doug & Betty Woods, Bill & Evelyn Williams, Pauline Follett, Chris Sonter, June Greatz. **Species: 143**

Warrnambool: Richard & Jenny Stevens, Alan & Kath Harman, Peter & Jan Grenfell, Michael & Janet Stone, James Hanrahan, Peter Read, Peter & Val Blake, Peter & Rhonda Barrand, Chris Connelly, Heather & Graeme Saunders. **Species: 123**

Winchelsea: Kay Campbell, Don & Rhonda Jennings, Kirsty Campbell, Polly Cutcliffe, Ian Davies. **Species: 125**

Total number of species for Victoria Country is 308.

MELBOURNE AREA

Dandenong Ranges: David Ap-Thomas, Bill Ramsay, Ken Baker, Neville Chislet, Brian Johnston, Arthur Carew. **Species: 117**

Mornington Peninsula: Tania Ireton, Charles Smith, Matthew Roach. **Species: 96**

Werribee: John Barkla, Lyn Abreu, Ruth Akie, Peter & Val Fowler, Peter Lansley, Elizabeth Lloyd, Fred Smith, Alison Street. **Species: 166**

Brisbane Ranges: Craig Morley, Bretan Clifford. **Species: 111**

Hobson's Bay: Mary Burbidge, Robyn Ho, Steve Davidson, Andrew Hurnard, Dianne Ellerton. **Species: 81**

Banyule-Williamstown: John Stirling, Peter Vaile, Damian Kelly, Pat Bingham, Daphne Hards, Sonja Ross. **Species: 94**

Wallan: Graeme Hosken, Janet Hand, Gina Hopkins, John Prytherch, Ian & Elva Muir, Geoff Russell, Brian Johnston. **Species: 117**

Total number of species for Melbourne area is 216.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Blue Mountains: Jill Dark, Dick Turner, Neil Kirby, Carol Proberts plus members of the Blue Mountains Bird Observers.

Species: 137

Griffith: Nella Smith, Bill Moller, Max O'Sullivan. **Species: 118**

Macksville & Uranga: Allen Hamilton, Mandy Wright, Leonie Hamilton. **Species: 85**

Manning Valley: Bob & Marie Langdown, Rudy & Rebecca Jacobs, Joy Ruddy, Malcolm & Helen Bevan, Phil Johnson, Shirley Newry, Rod Cox, Anne Mannion, Annette Currence.

Species: 150

Murwillumbah: Peter Wilk, Laurel Allsopp, Betty Hall, Linda Brannian, Olga Vidler, Elizabeth Allan, Matthew Angus, George & Catherine Andrews, Faye Hill, Ian Parer, Rodney & Julie Goulding, June Harris, Steven McBride, Hans Lutter, Wendy McFadden, Jim & Heather Harford, Jean Olley, Kym Peterson, Andrea Brown, John & Joyce Crouch, Peter & Kathy Wilk. **Species: 176**

Southern Highlands: Col Kohlhagen, Val & Tony Cooper, Jenny & Tony Stanton, Kris Crew, Peter Dewey. **Species: 63**

Tuggerah/Mardi: Alan Morris and 32 members of the Central coast group of Birding NSW. **Species: 121**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Quorn: Peter Langdon, Greg Bannon. **Species: 54** (rain stopped the count).

QUEENSLAND

Brisbane/Gold Coast: Rod & Elaine Bloss, Pat Stockwell, Jeff Eller, Julie & Bob Lake, Paul Lyons, Ros & Jim Inglis, Pat Ferguson, Helen Quin, Janelle Barker, Duncan Young. **Species: 140**

Cairns & Atherton Tablelands: Dominic Chaplin, John Seale, Grahame Finnigan. **Species: 176**

Clermont: Debbie Watson, Brett Watson, Josh Watson, Tanya Nevhorsheu. **Species: 28**

Mackay: Tess Brickhill, Marjorie Andrews, M & K Crouther, W. McLean, Desley Williams, P. Harding, Dell Williams, M. Barnett, G. Woodruff, D. Barnes. **Species: 202**

Moranbah: R. Atkinson, D. Barnes. **Species: 43**

Suncoast Bird Observers Group: Clive Allen, Leslie Allen, Geoff Cole, Geoff & Robyn Combes, Maria Dam, Ray Devine, Frances Cottrell-Dormer, Brenda & Lionel Findlay, Paul & Sue Gray, Lyla & John Hansen, Russ Lamb, Juliet Major, John Malings, Graham & Valda McLean, Don & Jan Penny, Diana Robinson, Shirley Rooke, Geoff & Betty Shelton, Janet Whish-Wilson, Peg Whiteoak. **Species: 170**

Townsville: Marleen Acton, Alf Acton, Alex Appleman, Rosemary Payet, George & Teresa Baker, Robert Murphy,

Barbara Reidy, Len & Chris Ezzy, Annette & Ray Sutton, Pat & Warren Charlton, Lenore & Malcolm Calvert, Graeme Cooksley, Steve Guerrato, Cecily Messer, Flo Hemsley, Bill Holmes. **Species: 202**

Total species for Queensland: 308.

CHALLENGE BIRD COUNT 2009

The 2009 Challenge Bird Count will be based on the weekend of 5-6 December 2009. We would welcome more teams. Just get together a few friends and have a fun day, or just a few hours, seeing how many species you can find in your area. If you would like to take part please contact BOCA on 1300 305 342 (toll free).

IAN FAULKNER

EGBOC is saddened to report the death of Ian Faulkner at the age of 64, on 5 July, after a short illness. Ian was a long-time member of BOCA and EGBOC. Growing up in Lakes Entrance, where his parents ran the Koonwarra caravan park on the shores of Cunninghame Arm, Ian developed a life-long love of the beaches and waterways of the Gippsland Lakes.

After completing his schooling at Lakes Entrance High School, Ian embarked on a science degree in Melbourne. He went on to work in the horticultural industry in the leafy Dandenong Ranges just out of Melbourne, which enabled him to pursue his passion for natural history. Ill health saw Ian taking early retirement, which brought him back to Lakes Entrance. He was a regular participant in EGBOC activities, and led outings with characteristic attention to detail.

A committed conservationist, Ian was active in local efforts to protect beach-nesting birds. He was an enthusiastic participant in annual Hooded Plover surveys. Having found a nest, he would regularly monitor the site, helping local Department of Sustainability and Environment officers fence off nesting areas, talking to beach users about the human threats to the birds, and keeping an eye on the development of chicks.

Ian often described himself as a beachcomber. An enthusiastic surfer in his youth, he liked nothing better in his later years than to paddle about in his dingy, observing the birds and other small creatures of the lakes. An inveterate collector – among other things, of old bottles – Ian also put his beachcombing to public benefit by cleaning up the mess that others left behind. On many an EGBOC outing, Ian was to be seen clearing old bottles and cans from the bushes and swamps. He also built simple seats from driftwood on the shores of the Gippsland Lakes to encourage visitors to contemplate the wonders of the environment.

True to his principles to the end, Ian trod lightly upon the earth. He will be missed.