



## WERRIBEE BIRDWATCHERS

Newsletter Number 6, 1997

On August 5<sup>th</sup> 12 intrepid twitchers met at Werribee Park Mansion inner car park on a gloriously clear day to wander down by the river to see what was to be seen. And what **did** we see!

For such a short walk we clocked up 30 species for the purists and more for those who had no qualms about counting domestic fowl, ducks, peafowls, geese and turkey. Highlight of the ramble was seeing 3 species of lorikeets and as a bonus the little lorikeets were nesting in a hollow tree trunk. Just when you thought that was great we came across a pair of sulphur crested cockatoos busily cleaning out a hollow tree branch ready for nesting. So, it couldn't get any better or could it!

To cap the walk a pair of young Little Eagles put on a soaring demonstration just above our heads.

It may have only been a few kms and only taken about 2 hours, but all agreed it was a fantastic morning's watching especially as we had such clear close up looks at everything. *Thanks to Carole and Christina Dennis for leading the walk and for the resume.*

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>** Cobbledicks' Ford. Approx 20Km from Werribee. Drive out on Tarneit Rd., turn left into Dougherty's Rd., proceed 7.8 k and turn into Dukelows Rd. There is a sign there indicating the Reserve. A further 1.6 K is an entrance into the Reserve. Drive around about 400m to the toilet block, we will commence our walk from there at 9-30am. Rohan Bugg hopes to join in the walk and he will be a great asset. When I went I saw lots of Red-browed finches, wrens etc, I didn't get out of the car it was far too cold.. The weather on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> will be delightful.

**September 16<sup>th</sup>**. Note change of date. Slide night with Rohan Bugg at Marion Blood's home at 204 Watton St., Opposite Chirnside Park.

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Friday Jells' Park, Community Bus. Make your bookings as there are only 20 seats on the bus.

**November 14<sup>th</sup>**. Community Bus, it is suggested we go to Anakie Gorge

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Point Lillias Revisited or the mouth of the Werribee River or back to the Mansion to see if those you saw nesting have managed to raise their young?

## Some interesting sightings.

Eastern shrike tit  
Bronze Cuckoo

Rose Garden  
Research Farm

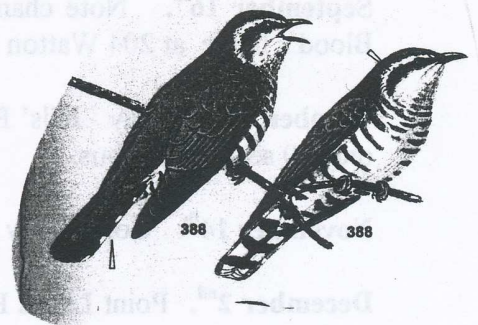
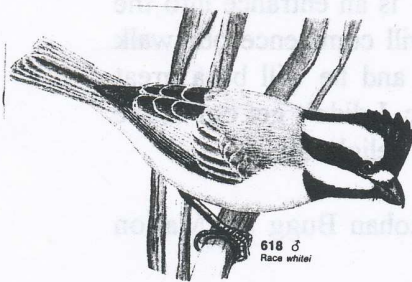
Veronica O'Brien  
Shirley Cameron.

If you see anything of special interest about jot it down and we can tell others.

## Birds seen on the Werribee River, Werribee Mansion area. August 5<sup>th</sup>.

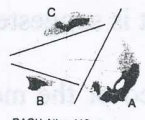
Pacific Black Duck  
Little Pied Cormorant  
Straw-neck Ibis  
Whistling Kite  
Little Eagle (Immature)  
Dusky Moorhen  
Masked Lapwing  
Silver Gull  
Spotted Turtle-dove  
Galah  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
Musk Lorikeet  
Little Lorikeet  
Purple-crowned Lorikeet  
Eastern Rosella  
Superb fairy wren

Red wattlebird  
White-plumed honeyeater  
Eastern Yellow Robin  
Magpie Lark  
Grey Fantail.  
Willy wagtail  
Magpie  
Australian raven  
House sparrow  
Tree sparrow  
Welcome swallow  
Blackbird  
Starling  
Common Mynah



### 618 Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus* MC-LUC -?♀

Three races. **Male** race *frontatus* 'Eastern Shrike-tit' (A, SE Aust.): distinctive crested head, black with two broad white bands and patch at base of robust bill. Back, rump olive-green. Throat black. Rest of underparts yellow. Wings, tail darker grey. Race *leucogaster* 'Western Shrike-tit' (B, SW of WA): abdomen white; undertail coverts yellow. Yellower above. Race *whitiei* 'Northern Shrike-tit' (C, N Aust.): smaller; yellower overall. **Female** throat olive-green in each race. **Size** 15-19 cm. **Juv.** pale throat; back brown in each race. **Voice** 'knock-at-the-door'; repeated plaintive whistle. **Habitat** open forests, woodlands, mallee. Observer's attention may be drawn by tearing of bark.

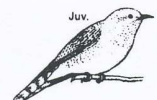


RAOU Atlas 416  
A = Race *frontatus*  
B = Race *leucogaster*  
C = Race *whitiei*

### PARASITIC CUCKOOS, PHEASANT COUCAL

#### Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* C ♀-♀

ze-sheen above; cap duller. Brown eye-stripe; pale ow. Tail edged rufous. Cream below with *incomplete* re bars. Undertail black and white, rusty centre. 17 cm. **Juv./Imm.** duller; sometimes *lacks* bars. nguish from Black-eared Cuckoo by rufous tail, size, bvious eye-stripe. **Voice** descending whistle 'fee-ew'; er, higher than Black-eared. **Habitat** open country.



RAOU Atlas 342