

Submission to Bird Australia Rarities Committee

Submission No. 1007
Species: Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*
Location: Penrith Lakes, Western Sydney, NSW
Observation Date: 5-14 September 2015
Submission Date 3 July 2018
Submitted by: David James
Email:

Circumstances

Matt Hughes found a Grey-headed Lapwing at Penrith Lakes on 5 September 2015 at about 16:00, while giving driving lessons to his son. He reported it to Birdline NSW that evening:

Sat 5	Channel-billed Cuckoo Quakers hill (parklea correctional centre) bushland One bird observed flying around the bushland surrounding the correctional centre. I could hear the call throughout the morning then went for a drive to try find it! Heard the calls a few days ago but could find it, so was happy to have seen it today. Sarah Moncrieff 5/9 #224447
	Channel Billed Cuckoo Killara Flew over calling loudly at 7:30am. Mobbed by magpies and lorikeets. (If Sydney sightings becoming too common, feel free not to publish). David Vickers 5/9 #224450
	Grey-headed lapwing Penrith Lakes and Regatta Centre Single bird with Masked lapwings at Penrith International Regatta Centre. Southern side of rowing lake, eastern end near learn to ride motor bike area. Spotted with Ryley who was learning to drive @ 4pm - still there at Centre close 5.30pm. [Moderator's Note: Confirmed from photos. I'll be there at sunrise! JB] Further information Matt Hughes 5/9 #224454

It was subsequently twitched and photographed by many birders. Numerous photographs were circulated on the internet. It continued to be seen and was photographed on most if not all days up to 14 September. Apparently it was not seen after that. A music festival was held at the site on the weekend of 19-20 September, which was blamed by some for displacing the bird, but it was probably already gone.

Description

See the attached photographs, taken by Dion Hobcroft.

Identification

- Among the 24 species of lapwings (genus *Vanellus*) worldwide (as recognised by HBW/Birdlife International), Grey-headed is the only one with an entirely grey head without any patches of white or black. Other species that have mostly grey heads all lack the dark breast band.
- The upperwing pattern (not shown in the accompanying plates) is distinctive and diagnostic: black primaries, white secondaries extending across the outer coverts to the leading edge at the carpal; grey remaining coverts.

Ageing

It is an adult. Juveniles lack the dark breast band.



Plate 1. Grey-headed Lapwing, Penrith Lakes NSW, 7 March 2015 (Photo: Dion Hobcroft)



Plate 2. Grey-headed Lapwing, Penrith Lakes NSW, 7 March 2015 (Photo: Dion Hobcroft)

Status

If accepted this would be the third accepted record for Australia. To date, BARC has reviewed two cases and accepted them both:

1. BARC Case 492, Burren Junction NSW, July 2006.
2. BARC Case 866 Chiltern National Park, Vic., May 2014.

I know of three other credible records that have not yet been referred to BARC:

1. Photographed by David Harland at Amata Waste Water Treatment Plant, SA, 1-2 March 2014.

Mon 3 **Grey-headed Lapwing**
Amata Waste Water Treatment P
Lapwing present again today (obs

Sun 2 **Grey-headed Lapwing**
Amata Waste Water Treatment P
Large, unusual Lapwing observed
camera sorry, such average phot
communities on the APY Lands is
of the APY Lands at the moment

Sat 1 **Floriand Penguin (immature)**
Coal Point, Bruny Island
Moulting bird found among bould
12th March.

February 2014

Thu 27 **Asian Gull-billed Tern**
Stockyard Point, Westernport Bay
As reported by Tim last weekend
macrotarsa) at Stockyard Pt. The
obvious when compared to other
Tern. As I was walking back I also

Wed 26 **Cotton Pygmy-Goose (subject to**
Lake Harrison, Geneva -Kyogle



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2. Photographed by Geof Christie on West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, 24 Jan 2016.



3. Photographed at Halls Creek WA, 2 Nov 2017, found by Mark Cavill (screen capture from UTube)



Acknowledgments

I corresponded with Matt Hughes several times encouraging him to make a submission, with or without my help. Thanks to Dion Hobcroft for providing his photos.

References

- Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International (2017) Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International digital checklist of the birds of the world. Version 9.1. Available at: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/taxonomy>.
- Hayman, P., Marchant, J. & Prater, T. (1986). *Shorebirds: An identification guide to the waders of the world*. Christopher Helm, London.