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## Bird workshop flies high with Guilderton community

Twitichers and non-twitichers alike attended the Wonderful World of Shorebirds and Carnaby's Black Cockatoo workshop in Guilderton on 29<sup>th</sup> April. The day was funded by the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's (NACC) coastal devolved grant scheme and was organised by the Moore Catchment Council (MCC), Guilderton Community Association (GCA) and Birdlife Australia.

Rachel Walmsley of MCC said 'We organised this day after talking to members of the GCA who wanted to find out more about the birds which frequent the estuary and coast - in particular the threatened Carnaby's Black Cockatoo which uses the Guilderton and Moore River vegetation for feeding and nesting. The GCA is concerned about the potential Carnaby's habitat destruction that could happen with future proposed residential developments on the southern side of the estuary.'

Sue Mather (Chair of Birdlife Australia) started the workshop by presenting an interesting talk and video on the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, and discussed works being carried out by Birdlife Australia to protect, monitor and conserve the remaining populations. After morning tea, the group proceeded to the estuary and boarded the Moore River Estuary Cruise boat run by Phil Cook. Phil is a big advocate of conserving the estuary environment and his passion showed during the hour long cruise. The boat headed to the sandbar where Phil explain how it regulates the estuary and then up stream where Phil talked about the birds, animals and trees present, and also discussed plans for residential developments which could environmentally impact the estuary.

After heading back to the hall for a delicious and generous lunch, Kim Onton (Regional Coordinator of Birdlife Australia's Shorebirds 2020 program) presented her talk on shorebirds and their identification. Many of the group didn't realise the huge number and diversity of migratory birds present in the local area. Kim also shared information on the migratory routes of some of these birds which include flying all the way to the Siberian tundra in the Northern Hemisphere and back – a long route for these tiny birds ! To top off the day, Kim set the group a quiz to identify and count the shore birds on slides showed on the screen. It was harder than it looked but it was a bit of fun ! The overall winner received a bird identification book. Everyone went away with a bag packed full of shore bird and Carnaby's information goodies which was generously put together by Birdlife Australia.

Rachel said 'Many thanks to the GCA for helping to organise the day, to Sue and Kim from Birdlife Australia for coming to talk to us, to Phil Cook for his interesting tour of the estuary, and to NACC for funding the day through their federally funded Caring For Our Country coastal engagement program.' More pictures available of the Moore Catchment Council's Facebook page – join today !



Sue Mather talking about Carnaby's



On the Moore River cruise



27<sup>th</sup>  
June  
2012