

Birding NSW outing to Chiltern Road, Ku-ring-gai National Park, Warriewood Wetlands and Irrawong Reserve

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Sixteen people joined me for this outing on a beautiful, warm day. Along Chiltern Road, we saw ten species of honeyeaters starting with White-cheeked Honeyeaters. The highlights were Scarlet Honeyeaters, with one seen preening for some time. Other honeyeaters present were Red and Little Wattlebirds, Eastern Spinebill and New Holland, White-eared, Yellow-tufted, Fuscous and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters. There were numerous Silvereyes, including many of the Tasmanian race, as well as Spotted Pardalotes. Back at the cars, Trevor had found a single Scaly-breasted Lorikeet feeding with Rainbow Lorikeets.

After morning tea, a smaller group went to Warriewood Wetlands and Irrawong Reserve while several people went looking for the Barking Owl, reported to be seen again in Jamieson Park. Alas the owl was not found but the group had good views of Glossy Black Cockatoos. At Warriewood, we saw a family of Variegated Fairy-wrens including a male in full plumage. Close by were Superb Fairy-wrens. Both Chestnut and Grey Teal were present so Trevor instructed us on how to differentiate the females of these species. An immature male Scarlet Honeyeater was stealing pieces of a finch nest with several Red-browed Finches nearby. In Irrawong Reserve we finally found a Yellow Robin as well as numerous Brown Gerygones and Grey Fantails, several Eastern Whipbirds, a single White-browed Scrubwren and a single Brown Thornbill. Lewin's Honeyeaters were common and we saw several more Scarlet Honeyeaters. In the flowering Swamp Mahoney trees, we found Musk and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets with the Rainbow Lorikeets. After a late lunch most of us went home but Allan and Vincent went looking for the Black Bittern along Mullet Creek and got flight views after they flushed the bird.

Michael Hanvey has very kindly provided the images for this article. He took the photographs during visits that he made to Chiltern Road in 2014 and 2015.



Eastern Spinebill. Photograph by Michael Harvey (July 2014)



Fuscous Honeyeater (Non-breeding). Photograph by Michael Harvey (June 2014)



Scarlet Honeyeater. Photograph by Michael Harvey (April 2015)



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. Photograph by Michael Harvey (April 2015)



Spotted Pardalote. Photograph by Michael Hanvey (May 2015)