January 2018

The Twitcher

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Alan Morris (4334 2776) Wendy Mitchell (4340 4870) & Robyn Price Volume 13, No. 1

DATE		ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
23/01/18	**Meeting:**	Members Night	**John Carpenter**
	Meet:	7.30pm Progress Hall, Anzac Rd Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	
27/01/18	**Outing:**	Tuggerah Wetlands	**Alan Morris**
	Meet:	8.30am McPherson Rd Swamp gate, Gavenlock Rd, Tuggerah LAC	0418 269 482
3/02/18	**Outing:**	Breakfast with the Birds, Central Coast Wetlands	**Alan Morris**
	Meet:	8.00am Pioneer Dairy, Tuggerah. Breakfast 9.00am $10 cost,	
	N.B. Bookings Required by 1 Feb at 4349 4757 or CEN website—www.cen.org.au/events		
14/02/18	**Half Day Outing:**	Wamberal, Terrigal & Cochrone Lagoons	**Frik Gautschi**
	Meet:	8.30am Remembrance Drive, Wamberal LAC	
27/02/18	**Meeting:**	Australian Wildlife Conservancy .	**Sarah McKenna**
	Meet:	7.30pm Progress Hall, Anzac Rd Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	

Note: LAC = Lunch at cars & bring it with you!

Tea, coffee, and biscuits will be available at the end of the meeting.
To cover hall hire and refreshments a donation of $3 would be appreciated.

Tonight's Speakers: Tonight is Members' Night and our speakers are **Christina Port, Grace Bryant, Daniel McKeon & Robyn Price** who will give short presentations.

Happy New Year and Welcome to Visitors and New Members:
42 members and friends attended the Christmas Break-up and Outing at Murrumbung HSD Mardi and/or also took part in the trip to McPherson Rd & the Dairy Swamps, Tuggerah, or attended the BBQ lunch back at Carole & John's Place!

Reminder about Parking:
When attending the Meetings at the Tuggerah Hall, **parking** is not available in the car parks of the private businesses next door. The donation for attending the meeting and printing of our newsletter has been increased to $3, as Wyong Council has increased hall charges.

Webpage
Don't forget to check out the Birding NSW Webpage www.birdingnsw.org.au where there is plenty of info about outings, photograph gallery, and general info about the Club. Well worth a visit! Check out Central Coast Twitchers on Facebook as well!

Guess What! There really is a new Central Coast Annual Bird Report 2008 now for sale at the meeting for $5. Be up to date with your bird observations and check to see how rare are some of the uncommon visitors to your garden or favourite patch. I have finished the 2009 Annual Report and hope to have the 2010 Report finished later in the year in an attempt to catch up with these reports. Many thanks to Paul Shelley and Nick Carson who help get the Reports published.

SAVING STAMPS TO HELP SAVE THE ALBATROSSES
Ella de Jong, supported by Colin & Wendy Mitchell, collects used postage stamps that are sent to the U.K. for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (R.S.P.B.).
Income raised from the sale of stamps is used by the R.S.P.B. in their fight against the effect of inefficient longline fishing on Albatrosses and Giant Petrels and to develop techniques that will eliminate the by-catch of seabirds. Please leave the paper around the stamps you collect and bring to the meeting to give to Ella, Colin or Wendy or put in the white box.

What was new December-January and what can we expect January-February?
Well, regular rain in the past two months and very hot weather has made all the bushland reserves quite lush and the huge number cicadas have continued their relentless awful calling, so bird watching anywhere where there are trees, continues to be an ordeal, as no small birds can be heard. However, as mentioned in the December Newsletter, plenty of cicadas means plenty of food for nesting **Dollarbirds**, **Kookaburras, Currawongs**, even **Hobbies** & **Bazas**, and **Boobook** & **Barking Owls**, and this can take the pressure of the predation of nests & young of small bush birds by some of these predators! It is also interesting to note that there have been a spate of **Barking Owl** reports Dec-Jan! I have seen and heard about other birds taking Cicadas, like an **Eastern Curlew**, M**asked Lapwing** and a **Bush Stone-curlew**! **White-throated Needletails** are now commonly being seen, we had 9 reports for November, 44 reports for December and up to 12/1/18, there were 33 reports. I think that this is the most reports that I have ever dealt with on the CC because in recent times the summer of 2006-7 had the highest number of Swift sightings and for the same period, 1 Nov-12 January, there were 46 reports, whereas so far this summer for the exact same period we have had 86 reports. Look out now for **Fork-tailed (Pacific) Swifts** as these can occur, sometimes in mixed flocks with WTNT, up until the end of January! A pair of **Painted Button-quail** with chicks was a great find to start the year at Mogo Camp! A pair of **Common Sandpipers** were a surprise find at St Huberts Island on 12/1, first report since 2008 at Chittaway Point! On the same day a female **Musk Duck** was seen at the Tuggerah STW, having been absent for about 3 months; **Ospreys** are still in the news with a pair of birds being seen regularly around Saratoga and St Huberts/Rileys Islands, prospecting for a new nest site? During my Tuggerah Lakes surveys in December, I mentioned the probable breeding report for **Pied Oystercatchers** at Berkeley Vale. On 4/1/18, there were two adults and a large flying juvenile at The Entrance Channel. Breeding reports for this species on Tuggerah Lakes are very rare. A **Large-billed Scrub-wren** at Henry Kendall Village was an interesting observation. There appeared to be more reports of **Rainbow Bee-eaters** this summer, being found at Lower Mangrove, Bunning Creek, Ravensdale and a number of locations at Cedar Brush Creek; nesting was seen at most sites and birds were seen feeding dependant young at Ravensdale. In late January, the **Channel-billed Cuckoos** collect their babies and depart northwards to New Guinea and the islands around there, with **Koels** and **Rainbow Bee-eaters** departing February. (Alan Morris)

Large-billed Scrub wren —R Montgomery

Painted Button-quail —Daniel McKeon

OUTING REPORTS

Half-Day Outing Pearl Beach & Patonga. Wednesday 11 December. Leader: Paul Wickham
Eighteen people showed up at the Pearl Beach Arboretum for the half-day bird outing on Wednesday 11 December, and we later found three more waiting for us up at Warrah Trig. It was a beautiful clear day that continued to warm as the day progressed. At the car park we saw and heard a few common species like Crimson Rosella, Satin Bowerbird and Little Wattlebird and a lone Wonga Pigeon added some interest.

Our excursion up to the waterfall through the National Park was a dismal failure as very few birds were calling and only a calling Whipbird was added to our list. The very dry winter had left the creeks in the Pearl Beach basin completely dry and the waterfall was reduced to a trickle. Alan Morris explained to us that at this time of the year birds rarely call as they already have young and are no longer driven to announce their presence to defend a territory. We returned down to the Arboretum and crossed it to the southern side and things began to get interesting when a Peregrine Falcon appeared over our heads, soaring majestically. Little Wattlebirds, Whipbirds and Channel-billed Cuckoos called around us and we spotted Large-billed and White-browed Scrubwrens, and Yellow Robin. On the way back to the cars for morning tea we picked up Grey Butcherbird, Olive-backed Oriole and Topknot Pigeon. We really lucked out over morning tea as one of my friends came out of his house near where we were sitting and pointed out a family of Tawny Frogmouths sitting in a Melaleuca inside his property - two adults and two chicks.

We headed down to the Pearl Beach Lagoon to find some water birds and found that the low water level and gradually emerging mud banks had concentrated the few residents, a few Grey Teal and a family of Dusky Moorhens with chicks, into a shallow muddy puddle. We spotted a couple of Little Pied Cormorants on nests high in the trees on the edge of

the lagoon and also got a Figbird and Whistling Kite. We moved on to Warrah Trig and were delighted to find Robin Walker and Rowena and John Wallace relaxing in chairs and enjoying a cup of tea while they waited for us. They told us they had seen a Royal Spoonbill in the Pearl Beach Lagoon earlier in the day when they were down at Mt Ettalong Lookout as well as a Mistletoebird on arrival at Warrah Trig. At the car-park two more Peregrine Falcons, circled overhead joined by a large flock of White-throated Needletails swirled around. A juvenile Peregrine was then seen near the lookout! We were hoping for some Rock Warblers at the Lookout but all was quiet except for some glimpses of a Brown Thornbill on the gravel circuit back to the road. The heat was building so we returned to the cars to travel down to the Patonga Camp ground for a shady lunch where we got a Raven, Masked Lapwing, and a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo.

Lunch at Patonga —Paul Wickham

After lunch most of the group dispersed, keen to run their pre-Christmas errands, but three of us hung around for the walk along Patonga Creek – Graham Nelson, Frik Gautschi and myself. After the searing dry heat of the day it was a delight to wander along the creek where we saw all the usual suspects – a Darter, a Great Egret, and several White Ibis, Great Cormorants and Little Black Cormorants. Three Whistling Kites rode the thermals above us, a Sacred Kingfisher in muted plumage had us guessing and we also spotted a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. We called it a day with 49 species on the list and I raced home to get out of my sweat-soaked gear and have a swim in the bay at Pearly. (Paul Wickham)

Christmas Outing & Break-up – Murrumbung HSD Mardi, McPherson Swamp and Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah Saturday 16 December. Leaders: Carole & John Carpenter.

McPherson Rd Swamp —Carol Abbott

A heavy shower of rain at 6am had us wondering about the weather conditions for the day. Luckily it did not last long and instead just freshened up the area. Summer had arrived but more recently, so had the cicadas! Their noise level around Murrumbung House was bearable but up the hill, their noise was coming in waves and ear-piercing intensity. After the early birders had admired the birds around the house, namely Brown Cuckoo-Dove, King Parrot, Red-browed Finch, Grey Fantail & Eastern Spinebill, and with the sounds of the Bell Miners and Cicadas ringing in our ears, we started our walk up the hill and into the Spotted Gum Forest.

Along the track that leads to the town water reservoir, we saw Superb & Variegated Fairy-wren, Noisy Friarbirds, Brown & Striated Thornbills, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Dollarbird, Brush Turkey, a Wood Duck roosting high in a tree, White-throated Treecreeper and Spotted Pardalote. With the help of Daniel's camera, the Cicadabird was finally identified. Back to the house for a welcome morning tea break with 28 birds identified so far. An early presentation to Robyn Price, one of our Newsletter Editors, who could not stay the whole day, was made at this point as well as a welcome given to the Birding NSW President, Tom Karplus who with his wife Elisabeth, had joined us for the first part of the morning!

Australian Pipit —Daniel McKeon

White-throated Needletails —Daniel McKeon

Everyone refreshed, we car-pooled and left for McPherson Rd Swamp, and the Central Coast Wetlands. At the former site, the ripe blackberries were picked and enjoyed as we checked out the birds. A Swamphen with young & a brightly coloured pair of Sacred Kingfishers were admired, and overhead a small flock of White-throated Needletails and a Brown Goshawk, soared! A Swamp Harrier flew over the wetlands, and Cisticolas and Tawny Grassbirds were in the reeds. Some lucky birders saw a Latham's Snipe and others saw one or two Southern Emu-wrens. Koel Cuckoos were heard and a Channel-billed flew overhead. Next stop was the Dairy Swamp, CCW where had good views of Black-fronted Dotterels, Black-winged Stilts, Swallows and Fairy Martins, a Pipit carrying food for young, Royal Spoonbills, Australasian Grebes and many Coots. The Moreton Bay Figs were heavy with fruit which Figbirds and Channel-billed Cuckoos were enjoying! The day was heating up, so we did the short walk along the creek where we found Olive-backed Orioles, Bar- Shouldered Dove, Yellow Robins and an immature Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

Back to home for our BBQ lunch and social gathering, along with members who were unable to join with us earlier. Alan Morris made Presentations and Thank yous to our club helpers, particularly Wendy Mitchell, our Newsletter Editor, to Malcolm Hill our Facebook Administrator, and to John & I, for the work that we do in preparing the hall and supper, and cleaning up after the meeting each month. John then thanked Alan for all that he does for our club. Without Alan, our club would not be as co-ordinated and successful as it has been for the last 22 years with Alan at the helm. We had 42 birders in attendance on the day and 74 bird species were identified. (Carole & John Carpenter).

UNUSUAL GOSFORD-WYONG RECORDS DECEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018

Brown Quail	2	15/12/17	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Andrew Melville
Musk Duck	F	12/1/18	Tuggerah STW	Allan Benson
Australasian Shoveler	2	3/12/17	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Alan Morris
Australasian Shoveler	2	3/12/17	Tuggerah STW	Alan Morris
Pink-eared Duck	1	18/12/17	Paddys Channel, Woy Woy	Peter Johnston
Common Bronzewing	1	15 & 29/12	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Andrew Melville
Common Bronzewing	1	29/12/17	Bucketty Waterhole	Alan Morris
Common Bronzewing	2	6/1/2018	Waratah Rd Nth Mangrove Mtn	Alan Morris
White-headed Pigeon	1	31/12/17	Henry Kendall Village, Wyoming	Bob Montgomery
Wonga Pigeon	1	21/12/17	Kerry Cres Berkeley Vale	Rex Schmidt
White-throated Needletail	280	5/12/17	0930 hrs Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Alan Morris
White-throated Needletail	100+	7/12/17	0815 hrs Kurruba Oval Berkeley Vale	Daniel McKeon
White-throated Needletail	100+	21/12/17	0800 hrs Chertsey PS Springfield to Terrigal	Nick Carson
Fork-tailed Swift	8+	29/12/17	0745 hrs Murrumbung HSD Mardi	John Carpenter
White-necked Heron	2+N	10/1/18	Jilliby PS	Christina Port
Great Egret	30	15/12/17	Berkeley Ck, Berkeley Vale	Christina Port
Cattle Egret	140+Ns	4/1/2018	Greendale Lagoon, Dooralong	Alan Morris
Striated Heron	1	8/1/2018	Long Jetty	Mairin Ireland
Nankeen Night-Heron	3+	8/12/17	St Celia's School, Wyong Creek	Karen Coy
Nankeen Night-Heron	1	9-13/12/17	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Robert Montgomery
Nankeen Night-Heron	1	1/1/2018	Bannister St Erina	Malcolm Hill
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	7/1/2018	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Noel Lonergan
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	10/1/18	Jilliby Wetland	Christina Port
Osprey	AM+J	18/12-2/1	The Entrance Bridge	Margot Hislop
Osprey	1	28/12/17	Gosford Stadium	Dianne Warman
Osprey	1	2/1/2018	Erina Works Depot	Malcolm Hill
Pacific Baza	1	10/1/18	Rumbalara Fire trail, Springfield	Nick Carson
Black-shouldered Kite	1	25/12/17	Ourimbah Creek RTA	Daniel Mckeon
Black-shouldered Kite	1	31/12-4/1	Dairy Swamp CCW	Luke Ullrich
Square-tailed Kite	1	10/12/17	Erina Heights	Alan Morris
Square-tailed Kite	1	18/12/17	Kincumber	Danny O'Brien
Square-tailed Kite	1	1/1/2018	Berkeley Rd Berkeley Vale	Anna Schutz
Brown Goshawk	1	5/12/17	Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn	Kaye Pointer

Brown Goshawk	1	12/12/17	Bushells Ridge Rd Wyong	Mike Kuhl
Brown Goshawk	1	16/12/17	McPherson Rd Swamp	Trevor Waller
Grey Goshawk	1	30/12/17	Holgate	Bill Fergusson
Grey Goshawk (WM)	1	2/1/2018	Ourimbah Uni Campus	Allan Benson
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	16/12/17	Sparks Rd & Mountain View Rd Toukley	Noel Lonergan
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	28/11-9/12	x4 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	12/12/17	Bushells Ridge Rd Wyong	Mike Kuhl
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	1/1/2018	Narara Valley	Les Blundell
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	1/1/2018	Peats Ridge Rd Somersby	John Carpenter
Peregrine Falcon	1	13/12/17	Pearl Beach Arboretum	Paul Wickham
Peregrine Falcon	2A+J	13/12/17	Warrah Trig, BWNP Patonga	Wendy Harvey
Peregrine Falcon	1	1/1/2018	Killarney Vale Shops	Anna Schutz
Hobby	1	28/12/17	Narara Eco Village	Richard Cassels
Hobby	1	6/1/2018	Woodbury Park, Mardi	Alan Morris
Buff-banded Rail	A+3Y	29/12/17	Tuggerah STW SW corner	Robert Griffin
Buff-banded Rail	2A+1Y	30/12/17	Tuggerah STW Ibis St Access	Alan Morris
Baillon's Crake	2	19/12-12/1	Greendale Swamp, Dooralong	Alan Morris
Black-winged Stilt	50	23/12/17	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Luke Ullrich
Ruddy Turnstone	20	14/12/17	Pelican Pt Norah Head	Luke Ullrich
Bush Stone-curlew	1,1,	20 & 29/12	Nautical Village & Bensville (same bird?)	Julie McTaggart
Bush Stone-curlew	2+N (B/W)	30/12-5/1	Davistown-Kincumber Boardwalk	Jack Brand
Bush Stone-curlew	2A+1Y	26/12-5/1	Henderson Rd Saratoga	Linda Harvey
Bush Stone-curlew	2A+2Y	12/12/18	Palmers Lane, Empire Bay	Julie McTaggart
Sooty Oystercatcher	16	3/1/2018	Blue Bay Reefs	John Carpenter
Eastern Curlew	1	29/12/17	Bluebell Park, Berkeley Vale	Christina Port
Eastern Curlew	1	3/1/2018	Blue Bay Reefs	Alan Morris
Eastern Curlew	3	3/1/2018	Pelican Island, Woy Woy	Michael Scobie
Whimbrel	2	15/12/17	Bensville Wharf	Alan Morris
Whimbrel	1	18/12/17	St Huberts Island	Michael Scobie
Common Sandpiper	2	12/12/18	St Huberts Island	John Carpenter
Red-necked Stint	1	31/12/17	Dairy Swamp, CCW	Luke Ullrich
Red-necked Stint	58	3/1/2018	Blue Bay Reefs	Alan Morris
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	15	29/12-4/1	Dairy Swamp, CCW	John Reidy
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	5	1/1/2018	Bluebell Park, Berkeley Vale	Daniel McKeon
Curlew Sandpiper	11	14/12/17	Pelican Pt Norah Head	Luke Ullrich
Curlew Sandpiper	21	3/1/18	Soldiers Point Reef	Alan Morris
Painted Button-quail	2	8-10/12/17	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	David Peet
Painted Button-quail	AM+4Y	26/12-3/1	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Daniel McKeon
Yellow-tailed Black Cocky	30+	2/12/17	1930 hrs Tenth Ave Halekulani	Steve Merrett
Yellow-tailed Black Cocky	20+	4/12/17	0930 hrs Peats Ridge PS	Amanda Austin
Yellow-tailed Black Cocky	30	23/12/17	1600 hrs Kariong	Christina Port
Gang Gang Cockatoo	6	1/1/2018	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Carole Carpenter
Glossy Black Cockatoo	3	29/11/17	Narara Eco-Village	Richard Cassels
Glossy Black Cockatoo	6	7-21/12/17	Pearl beach Arboretum	Paul Wickham
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	23/12/17	Glenwood Rd Narara	Megan Bartley
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	2	29/12/17	Berkeley Creek Berkeley Vale	Christina Port
Little Lorikeet	4	29/12-12/1	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Alan Morris
Red-rumped Parrot	4	1/1/2018	Bluebell Park, Berkeley vale	Daniel McKeon
Turquoise Parrot	AF	29/12/17	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Alan Morris
Powerful Owl	HC	4-21/12/17	x7 Mountain Ash Way & BWNP Umina	Robert Payne
Powerful Owl	HC	16 & 29/12	0240 hrs Murray St Bateau Bay	Alan Morris
Powerful Owl	A+2DY	28/12/17	1900 hrs Marana Rd Springfield	Nick Carson
Southern Boobook	HC	2 &4/12/17	0305 hrs Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Southern Boobook	HC	15/12/17	0300 hrs Murray St Bateau Bay	Anne Morris
Southern Boobook	HC	19/12/17	Graham Dve McMasters Bch Bouddi NP	Allan Benson
Barking Owl	HC	11/12/17	1205 hrs Tathra Taila HSD Man.Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Barking Owl	1	19/12/17	Scenic Dve McMasters Beach	Alan Morris
Barking Owl	HC	28/12-9/1x3	0415 hrs Henry Kendall Vlge, Wyoming	Bob Montgomery
Sooty Owl	HC	23/12/17	0300 hrs Narara Eco-Village	Richard Cassels
Pheasant Coucal	HC	3/12/17	Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Pheasant Coucal	1,1	4/12/17	North Pearl estate & Mntn Ash Way Umina	Robert Payne
Pheasant Coucal	1	25/12/17	Lake Rd Tuggerah	David Peet
Brush Cuckoo	1	29/12/17	Bucketty Wall	Allan Benson
Brush Cuckoo	1	1/1/2018	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Carole Carpenter
Regent Bowerbird	4	25/12/17	Ourimbah Creek RTA Res	Daniel McKeon
Azure Kingfisher	1	15/12/17	Bensville Wharf	Alan Morris

Azure Kingfisher	1	19/12 -12/1	Wyong Ck Weir	Grace Bryant
Azure Kingfisher	1	8-11/1/18	Henry Kendall Village, Wyoming	Bob Montgomery
Rainbow Bee-eater	6	5-6/1/2018	Cedar Brush Creek	Carole Carpenter-
Rainbow Bee-eater	4	6-10/1/2018	Ravensdale	Alan Morris
Rainbow Bee-eater	1	10/1/18	Bunning Ck Rd Yarramalong	Nick Carson
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	1	30/12/17	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Alan Morris
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	1	2/1/2018	Warrah Trig, BWNP	Nick Carson
White-throated Gerygone	2	1/1/2018	Waratah Rd North, Man. Mtn	Carole Carpenter
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	6	1-5/1/2018	Waratah Rd North, Man. Mtn	Carole Carpenter
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	2	2/1/2018	Warrah Trig, BWNP	Nick Carson
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	9/1/2018	Mary St Gorokan	L.S. Blundell
Cicadabird	1	12/12/17	Maranna Rd Springfield	Nick Carson
Cicadabird	1	2/1/2018	Ourimbah Uni Campus	Allan Benson
Varied Sittella	1	1/1/2018	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	John Carpenter
Varied Sittella	6	10/1/18	Yarramalong Rd Wyong Creek	Nick Carson
Dusky Woodswallow	10+DY	8/12/17	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Greg Miles
Dusky Woodswallow	11	29/12-6/1	x3 obs Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Alan Morris
Dusky Woodswallow	4+1DY	6/1/2018	Waratah Rd Nth, Mangrove Mtn	Allan Benson
Spotted Quail-thrush	2	8/12/17	Bucketty Waterhole	David Peet
Spotted Quail-thrush	1	10/12/17	Old Great North Rd Dharug NP	John Tongue
Spotted Quail-thrush	2	15/12-3/1	x4 obs Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Graeme Catt
White-winged Chough	6	3/1/2018	Wyong Creek	John Carpenter
Leaden Flycatcher	F	2/12/17	Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Restless Flycatcher	1	8/12/17	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Greg Miles
Jacky Winter	4	1-5/1/2018	Waratah Rd North	John Carpenter

* = First return of migrants, ** = Last birds to depart.

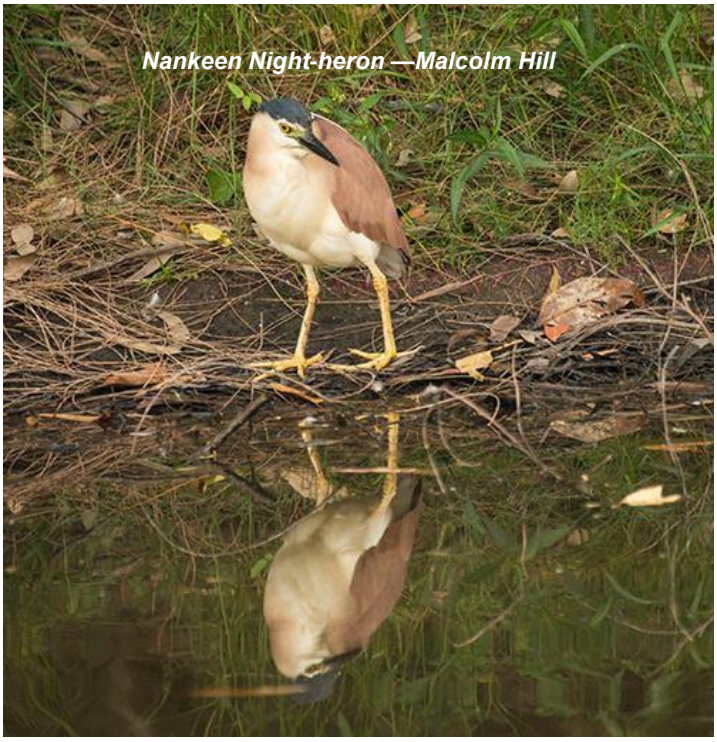
Comments

Other reports and many breeding records include **Brush Turkey:** Mound + 2 chicks Holgate 20/12 (ED), 1 chick Murray St Bateau Bay 1-5/1 (AMo); **Wood Duck:** 2A+4Y Bateau Bay 6/12 (AM); **Pacific Black Duck:** F+8 ducklings Henry Kendall Village, Wyoming 18/12 (RMg); **Northern Mallard:** A+4 ducklings Empire Bay 15/12 (AM); **Bar-shouldered Dove:** 2 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 12-30/12 (CC); **Topknot Pigeon:** 2 Pearl Bch Arboretum 12/12 (PW), 2 Henry Kendall Village 11/1 (BMo); **White-throated Needletail:**; 50 Colongra Swp 2/12 (AMe), 6 Bellevue & Kyte Place, Tumbi 3/12, 200 Eastern Rd Tumbi 4/12 (AM), 50 Berkeley Vale 4/12 (DMcK), 6 Mingara Wetlands 5/12 (AM), 10 Peats Ridge PS 5/12 (KP), 70 Norah Head 6/12 (MPr), 20 Avoca 7/12 (DWa), 12 Murray St Bateau Bay 7/12, 40 on 10/12 (AM), 40 Terrigal 8/12, 2 on 18/12, 20 on 19/12 (NC), 10 Wyong 8/12 (RCrates), 6 Erina Depot 10/12 (AM), 2 Berkeley Vale 10/12 (DPt), 30 on 15/12, 10 on 23/12 (CP), 50 on 18/12 (Rex), 50 Glenning valley 11/12 (DPt), 40 Tumbi 12/12, 2 on 19/12 (AM), 30 Long Jetty 12/12 (CP), 20 Lakes Rd Tuggerah 12/12 (GN), 50 Warrah Trig 13/12 (RW), 50 McPherson Swp 16/12 (CAb), 30 Bluehaven 19/12 (DMcK), 7 Rushby St Wetlands, Bateau Bay 20/12, 10 Wyoming 21/12 (RCa), 10+ Narara 23/12 (MBart.) 15 Forresters Bch 23/12 (JBr),15 Nth Shelley Bch 24/12 (DMcK), 100 Lions Pk Chittaway Ck 25/12 (CP), 10 Woodbury Pk Mardi 28/12 (GN), 24 Bushells Ridge East 28/12, 11 Bushells Ridge West 28/12 (AM), 32 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 29/12 (JC), 89 Chittaway-Tumbi 30/12 (AM); **Tawny Frogmouth:** 2A+N Narara Eco-Village 2/11, then HC 29/11-18/12 x4 (RCa), 2+2Y Ourimbah Uni Campus 30/11, 1 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1/12, 1 Borisbrook Rd M. Mtn 6/12 (MP), 1 Mountain Ash Way, Umina 7-25/12 (RP), 2A+2Y Pearl Bch Arboretum 12/12 (PW), 2A+2Y Alan St Niagara Park 14/12 (DScruse), 2A+2Y Berkeley Creek & Bluebell Pk Sth 29/12 (CP), HC Murray St Bateau Bay 20/12 (AM), 1 Davistown Oval 30/12 (JBrand), 1 Chittaway Pt 1/1 (JC), 2A+2Y Sunshine Pk Chittaway 8/1 (MSc), 1 Toowoon Bay 9/1 (LBrand); **Australian Darter:** N+2Y Budgewoi island 12/12 (GB); **Little Pied Cormorant:** 4N+Y Pearl Bch Lagoon 12/12 (PW), 2A+1N Greens Swp Dooralong 19/12 (AM); **White-necked Heron:** 1 Carlton Rd Erina 16-17/12 (ED), 1 Mardi 16-19/12 (DH), 1 Cochrone Lgn 19/12 (AM); **Cattle Egret:** 20 nests Greendale Swamp, Dooralong 19/12, 68 nests on 4/1 (AM); **Nankeen Night-Heron:** 1m Wyong Weir 18/18, 1 Ourimbah Uni Campus 2/1 (AB), 2 Avoca Lagoon 12/1 (AM); **Striated Heron:** 1 Malvina Pde Gorokan 21/12 (NL), 1 Woy Woy 12/1 (MKennedy), 1 Ourimbah Ck Chittaway 12/12 (CC), 1 Long Jetty 12/1 (MSh); **Osprey:** 1 Adcock Park Gosford 2/1 (AMe), 1 Porters Creek, Wyong 3/1 (CC); **Black-shouldered Kite**: 1 Jilliby Swp 19/12 (AM); **Square-tailed Kite:** 1 Tuggerah 26/12 (AB), 1 Wyong Rd & Pacific Hwy Wyong 3/1 (CC), 1 McPherson Swamp 4/1 (AM), 1 Kariong 4/1 (CP); **Brown Goshawk:** 1 Bushells Ridge West 28/12 (AM); **Wedge-tailed Eagle:** 2 Central Mangrove East 5/12 (MP), 1 Oaks Rd Matcham 1/1 (ASch); **Peregrine Falcon:** 1 Ourimbah 13/12 (NC); **Nankeen Kestrel:** J at The Skillion, Terrigal 7/11 and again on 12/1 (CStubbs); **Purple Swamphen:** 2A+J McPherson Rd Swamp 16/12 (AM), N+Y Henry Kendall Village, Wyoming 18/12 (RMg); **Dusky Moorhen:** A+2 chicks Henry Kendall Village Wyoming (RMg), 2J San Remo wetland 2/1 (JBennett), 2A+2Y x2 Gavenlock Rd Swp 4/1 (AM); **Masked Lapwing:** 2A+2 chicks Henderson Rd Saratoga 15/12 , 2A+1DY Shelley Bch Rd Empire Bay 15/12 (AM), 2A+J Saratoga 29/12 (JBrand); **Bush Stone-curlew:** 2A+N Henderson Rd Saratoga 15/12 (AM), chick hatched 26/12 (Linda Harvey); **Pied Oystercatcher:** 2A+1DY The Entrance Channel 3/1 (CC); **Eastern Curlew:** 3 Bensville Wharf 30/12-1/1 (AM), 8 Davistown Oyster leases 12/1 (CP); **Painted Button-quail:** A+4 chciks Mogo Camp 26/12 (DMcK), A+2Y on 29/12 (AM); **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo:** 2 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 7/11, 4 on 10/11, 6 on 22/11, 5+1DY on 24/11, 7 on 4/12 (J&CC), 6 Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 30/11, 2 on 2/12, 6 on 3/12, 2+1DY on 8/12(K+MP), 30 Tenth Ave Halekulani 2/12 (SMe), 13 Wamberal Lagoon 4/12 (GN), 1 Somersby Falls 4/12 (JBr), 3 Peats Ridge 9/12 (AMe), 2+1DY Karagi Pt 11/12 (AM), 2 Murray St Bateau Bay 12/12 (AMo), 3 George Downs Dve Central Mangrove 12/12 (BP), 5 Lakes Bch Budgewoi 12/12 (GB), 8 Forresters Bch 14/12 (KCoy), 12 The

Entrance 25/12 (LLm), 18 Girrakool BWNP 27/12, 3 on 29/12 (DWa), 3 Woodbury Pk Mardi 29/12 (GN); **Glossy Black Cockatoo:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD M. Mtn 6/12 (KP), 1 Debenham Rd W.Gosford 20/12 (ARo); **Rainbow Lorikeet**: 2A+N Saratoga 23/12 (JBrand); **King Parrot**: 2A+3DY Murray St Bateau Bay 18/12 (AM); **Southern Boobook:** HC Narara Eco-Village 29/11-23/12 x5 (RCa), HC Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 2/12 (MP), HC x18 times Mountain Ash Way & BWNP Umina 1-28/12 (RP); **Koel Cuckoo:** J West Gosford 21/12 (JCassar), 1 Woy Woy 23/12, Red Wattlebird feeding J Woy Woy waterfront 12/1 (MKennedy); **Pheasant Coucal:** 1 Ravensdale 10/1 (NC); **Powerful Owl:** HC Murray St Bateau Bay 28/12 (AM), 2J Rumbalara Res Springfield 11/12 (BMott), 2J Bradys Gully Gosford 10/1 (BMott); **Southern Boobook:** HC Murray St Bateau Bay 12/12 & 18/12 (AMo), HC Henry Kendall Village 20-30/12 (RMcG), **Laughing Kookaburra**: 2A+2DY Avoca Lagoon 12/1 (AM); **Dollarbird:** 2A+2DY Bensville 15/12 (AM), 2A+1Y Saratoga 30/12 (JBrand); **Rainbow Bee-eater**: 2D+2DY Ravensdale 6/1 (LSalter); **Satin Bowerbird:** F+1DY Saratoga Boardwalk 4/1 (JBrand); **Yellow-throated Scrub-wren**: 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 2/12 (MP), 2A+N2Y Ourimbah Ck RTA 5/1 (AM); **Brown Gerygone:** 2A+N Ourimbah Ck RTA 5/1 (AM); **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater:** 2A+1DY Bucketty waterhole 29/12 (AM); **Noisy Miner:** 2A+2DY Euralia St Wharf, Davistown 15/12 (AM); **Striped Honeyeater:** New nest Berkeley Ck 29/12 (CP); **Eastern Spinebill:** A+2DY Mogo Camp 29/12 (AM); **Red Wattlebird:** Feeding J Koel Woy Woy 12/1 (MKennedy); **Golden Whistler:**; **Grey Shrike-thrush:** J into care Somersby 11/1 (JHunt); **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike:** A+1DY Saratoga 3/12 (JBrand), A+1DY Mogo Camp 29/12 (AM), 2A+2Y at nest Berkeley Ck 29/12 (CP); **Cicadabird:** AM Murrumbung HSD Mardi 16/12 (CC); **White-breasted Woodswallow:** 2A+2DY Bergalia Wharf Davistown 15/12 (AM), A+J Saratoga 23/12 (JBrand), 2A+2DY Woy Woy 4/1 (CP); **Olive-backed Oriole:** A+N Tathra Taila HSD M. Mtn 2/12 (KP); **Grey Butcherbird:** A+J Woy Woy PS 18/12 (MKennedy): **Australian Raven:** 2A+2DY Blue Bay Reefs 3/1 (AM); **Black-faced Monarch**: 2A+N Ourimbah Uni 30/11 (MP); **Willie Wagtail:** N+3Y Berkeley Ck 29/12, N+3Y Woy Woy 4/1 (CP); **Grey Fantail:**; **Magpie-lark**: 2+N Henry Kendall Village Wyoming 18/12 (RMg), 2 nests Saratoga 30/12 (JBrand); **Eastern Yellow Robin:** 2A+1DY Ourimbah Ck RTA 5/1 (AM); **Welcome Swallow:**2 Nests under M1 Ourimbah Ck Rd 10/12 (AM); **Red-browed Finch:** 2A+N Rushby St Wetlands, BBay 20/12, A+N Bucketty Wall 29/12 (AM); **House Sparrow:** 2 Fountains Rd Narara 5/1 (RCa). Good Birding! AKM.

CENTRAL COAST TWITCH 2017

The 31st December has come and gone and we can now all see who were the winners and who were the losers in the Central Coast Twitch for 2017! And the winner with 251 species is Alan Morris! This is the first time that Alan has won. Previous winners have been Tim Faulkner in 2012 with 248, in 2013 with 272, Allan Benson with 250 in 2014, Nick Carson in 2015 with 251 and Christina Port in 2016 with 246. Carole Carpenter had the highest score for a female with 219, while Rowena Wallace, for the first time saw over 200 species, her 201 was a great effort. 2017 was a great birding year although had the winter pelagic that was cancelled because of bad weather, got out from Swansea, everyone's score would have been higher! Tim Faulkner's 272 was achieved because of some multiple pelagics off Terrigal and Swansea! A total of 250 seems to be pretty consistent for a score that includes only limited seabird pelagics. Even though some very uncommon western birds made their way to the coast in September and October, obviously other birds, like some of the migratory waders, did not turn up, so the number of species remained constant. New birds added to the Central Coast List in 2017 were Black-eared Cuckoo seen both in February & September and a Campbell's Albatross in July, while rarities included a Common Noddy, Black-chinned Honeyeaters, Australasian Bittern, Brown Songlark, 5 Red-capped Robins at 3 sites, Masked Woodswallow, Northern Giant Petrel, Buller's Shearwater, Sooty Tern & Sooty Shearwater, and Pallid Cuckoos at 5 sites! In addition, the breeding Noisy Pittas, the more regular occurrence of Spectacled Monarchs and the continued expansion of the Osprey and Square-tailed Kite population are of special importance.



Nankeen Night-heron —Malcolm Hill

Congratulations to Malcolm Hill for managing to photograph the Nankeen Night-heron and also add it to his Twitch total!

If you want to join the Central Coast Twitch, an exercise that helps you identify, classify and record the birds that you see, please contact Alan Morris and he will add your name to the List.

The 2018 Twitch is only into its 12th day and you can see that the CC Twitchers have really been out and about since the first of January! Carole and John Carpenter have put in a great effort to be already at 146 & 145 respectively for the 2018 Twitch.

Set out below are the totals that I have at hand on 12/1/2018.

C C TWITCH TOTALS	2017	2018		2017	2018
Alan Morris	251	132	Nick Carson	180	100
Allan Benson	250	116	Michael Scobie	178	54
Carole Carpenter	219	146	Judy Clark	176	
John Carpenter	217	145	Robyn Price	168	
Daniel McKeon	215	96	Diana Hogan	160	58
Kaye Pointer	211		Rex Schmidt	153	54
Margaret Pointer	206	50	Coleen Southall	143	
Christina Port	203	112	Mike Kuhl	136	
Rowena Wallace	201	39	Malcolm Hill	111	
Krystyna Lonergan	198	106	Steve Merrett	108	52
Noel Lonergan	197	109	Luca McKeon	84	
David Catt	195		Colin Mitchell	82	
Mark Shanks	189		John McLennan	30	
Graeme Catt	184		Jack Brand	0	70
Andrew Melville	183				

OSPREYS NESTING AT THE ENTRANCE

The attached photo by Grace Bryant of one of the Ospreys that nested successfully at the Entrance in 2017, shows a male bird by plumage because it has a complete white breast, whereas females have a fine band of dark feathers across the breast (known as a necklace), and immatures have a very broad breast band of dark feathers while juveniles have a brown hood and breast! The banded bird 028-15451 had gone into care in Newcastle as a young bird and was released at Valentine on Lake Macquarie in 2014.

Osprey with band —Grace Bryant

This male banded bird was first observed at Wamberal and then The Entrance in 2016 primarily by Christina Port (who first noted the band on 28/11/16) and Grace Bryant, when it was one of a pair attempting to nest on the top of the Norfolk Island Pine near the bridge and boathouse. That nesting was unsuccessful but they re-nested again in April 2017 and successfully raised two chicks that can still be seen around the Entrance Channel. They were the only pair of Ospreys that successfully fledged young in 2017 on the Central Coast. The other 3 pairs at Erina, Gosford and Kincumber all lost their eggs and or young! However it was only recently that persistent work by Grace Bryant, Peter O'Brien and other members of The Entrance Camera Club, enabled Grace to get a close up photo of the band on the Osprey's leg in order to determine the number of the band and hence the banding details. The details of the band have been forwarded to the Australian Bird & Bat Banding Office in Canberra ACT.

YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO SURVEYS

The number of sightings 35, was down for December, (37 reports Nov, 29 for Oct, 48 for Sep, 23 for Aug, 36 for Jul, 15 in Jun, 20 in May, 29 in Apr, 37 in Mar, 25 in Feb) and these were forwarded to Jessica Rooke. The maximum seen at any one place was 30 at Hallekulani on 3/12 (Steve Merrett) and 30 at Kariong on 23/12 (Christina Port). This time it was John & Carole Carpenter who submitted the most reports (5), followed by the Pointer family with 4 reports. Other contributors were Barbara & Andrew Melville (3), Steve Merrett (1), L. Lemke (1), Richard Cassels (1), Christina Port (2), Alan Kwok (1), Graham Nelson (2), Margaret Austin (1), Jack Brand (1), Karen Coy (1), A. & A. Morris (2), Dianne Warman (2) and Noel & Krystyna Lonergan (2). There were three separate reports of adults feeding juveniles at Karagi Pt, Mangrove Mtn and Murrumbung HSD Mardi. Dr John Martin, Ecologist at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney who is managing the project while Jessica is overseas said that "It is a shame that none of the YTBC fitted with transmitter have ventured into your patch. Some have gone south to Jervis Bay and to the Southern Highlands near Goulburn. Others have spent a lot of time in the city – to my surprise". (AKM).

BUSH STONE-CURLEW REPORT AS AT 12/1/18

Henderson Rd Pair. Having lost their first chick to a predator on 27/10/17, this pair re-nested on 23/11/17, one chick hatched 26/12, last seen 12/1 and all is going well for them at this stage.

St Johns College /Umina HS pair. These two eggs hatched on 26/10/17 at the St Johns Primary School, the female has a metal band on the left leg (101-23851, banded on St Huberts Island 2006). The 1 surviving chick is going OK and on 11/12 was back with its parents in the school garden. No recent reports for either site but they are expected to be present at one location!

Broadwater Drive Saratoga near Boardwalk. There would appear to be two pairs in the back yards of these houses, one pair includes black/white & an unbanded bird and it is this pair at the Kincumber end, but no land owners have reported any nesting. B/W last seen 30/12 but on 5/1/18, a bird was seen on a nest!

Bush Stone-curlew —Jack Brand

Bouddi Pony Club/Nautical Village. This pair nested just inside the fence of the Nautical village 8/10 and hatched 2/11, one chick died but the other going ok on 7/12. On 20/12 a single unbanded bird was hanging around the Nautical Village office and then on 29/12 there was a young unbanded bird on the foreshore at the end of North St Bensville! Shirley Green reported that the adult pair re-nested at the usual site about 27/12/17 still on nest 12/1.

St Huberts Island. Nesting at 46 Marina View Rd St Hubert's Island occurred on 31/10/17, a property owned by the Billington family who are located right on the waterfront and have a pair of bronze Black-necked Stork sculptures in their front garden easily seen from the water. On 28/11/17, Chris Port saw from his boat when out fishing, 2 adults with 2 tiny chicks in the garden of the house. 3 birds seen 17-18 January 2018.

Shelley Beach Rd Empire Bay. Three birds have been reported in the reserve of this street but no one has looked for any banded birds since 23/10/17. On 20/12/17 a check by AKM could find no birds, however on 12/1/18, Julie McTaggart reported 2A+2 chicks on Palmers Lane at 6.50 hrs! Great news!.

Samantha Crescent, Kincumber. Residents have reported hearing Bush Stone –Curlews calling in and near Samantha Cres and Carrack Reserve, Kincumber but we have had no one having seen the birds. They have occurred in this area in the past. No recent reports.

Kincumber Crescent Davistown. Finally located back at this site by Doug Hocking on 7/11/17 but no recent sightings!

Saratoga Wetlands/Recreation Reserve 2 were present and calling on Willaroo Rd at night on 23/10/17 but the birds were not clearly seen. No recent reports.

Please report any sightings. Alan Morris

LITTLE TERNS BREEDING AT KARAGI POINT, THE ENTRANCE – 3 January Update

First thing Wednesday morning 3/1/18 I visited the Little Tern nesting site at Karagi Point. Inside the fence there were birds on three nests, at one nest site both adults were present. Inside the fence were 2 adult male Red-capped Plover adults and one female was seen on the beach, nesting now appears to have finished for the Plovers. On the beach were 2 non-breeding Little Terns and one adult in breeding plumage was seen, later there were 4 Little Terns on the sandbar in the middle of the Channel. Since my previous report of 2/12/17, I have made two other trips including this report, and would appear that although some eggs could have hatched, no chicks reached fledgling stage at this point.

SWANSEA PELAGIC 8/12/17 REPORT BY ALLAN BENSON

A good contingent of Central Coast birders (Allan Benson. Alan Morris, Christina Port, Daniel McKeon, Michael Scobie, Doug Hocking, Rowena Wallace, Carol and John Carpenter and Noel Lonergan) enjoyed a pleasant trip with good sea conditions and plenty of birds around the boat. Highlights of the trip were a Buller's Shearwater which unfortunately was not seen by everybody even though we stopped the boat, and a juvenile Sooty Tern. A very distant Cookilaria could not be identified although the photos taken suggested a Cooks. Late Shy and a single Wandering Albatross were a pleasant surprise especially as we didn't see them on our winter trip. There were also fair numbers of Black browed Albatross as well a Juvenile Campbell's was identified.

This summer trip is all about Shearwaters and they didn't disappoint with lots of Wedge-tails, a few Short-tails and some Flesh–foots. Two Huttons were identified from photos and a single Fluttering was seen. There was also a single Sooty Shearwater. Pomerine and Arctic Jaegers put on a great show for the photographers and at last we saw good numbers of Wilson's Storm Petrels (~ 30) as well as 4 White-faced Storm-Petrels. Good numbers of Pterodromas had been seen recently elsewhere along the Coast and we had high hopes this would be repeated on this trip. Unfortunately we only had a couple of Grey-faced Petrel. We saw good numbers of both Indo-pacific and Bottle Nose Dolphins and a couple of Marlin leaping out of the water out toward the shelf

Pomarine Jaeger —Christina Port

In all 22 species were recorded which all in all was one of our best trips out of Swansea.

The next trip is Friday 9th March 2018 which is booked out at this stage but there is a reserve list. The winter trip is the 20th July and we are running an October trip this year on the 4th October. Contact Allan Benson on email – aejsbenson@bigpond.com

BIRDS

22 species recorded outside the heads (including the Cookilaria) was an excellent count and the highest for a Swansea boat in recent years. An unidentified tern that may not have been a Common would have taken the tally to 23. Counts are totals for birds seen outside the heads (with the maximum number visible from the boat at one time in brackets) – many are estimates. Taxonomy follows the BirdLife Australia Working List V2.1.

Arctic Jaeger —Daniel McKeon

Wilson's Storm-petrel: 30 (25).
White-faced Storm-petrel: 3 (3). All pelagic, feeding in the slick.
Wedge-tailed Shearwater: 500 (300. Many birds followed us to the shelf and back.
Short-tailed Shearwater: 15 (2). Very small presence today.
Sooty Shearwater: 1. Single bird barrelled past about half way out on the outbound leg.
Flesh-footed Shearwater: 20 (15). All flew off a few miles short of the shelf but rejoined on the way back.
Fluttering Shearwater: 1. Single bird photographed on the return leg.
Hutton's Shearwater: 2 (1). A bird seen on both the outward and inward legs.
Fluttering-type Shearwater: 1. Only the one unidentified 'type' today.
Buller's Shearwater: 1. A bird appeared suddenly in the wake of the boat about 5 miles from the heads.
Wandering-type Albatross: 1. A bird feigned to come into the boat not long before reaching the shelf.
Black-browed Albatross: 2 (1). Single birds seen and photographed en-route to and from the shelf .
Campbell Albatross: 1. Sub-adult bird seen just after leaving the shelf for the inbound journey from deep water.
Black-browed type Albatross: 3. All indeterminate young birds.
White-capped Albatross: 1: A juvenile bird photographed not long after commencing return leg.
Shy-type Albatross: 8 (4). All indeterminate adult birds (good numbers for December).
Grey-faced Petrel: 3 (2). All pelagic, not really faithful to the boat for long.
Unidentified 'Cookilaria' Petrel: 2 (1). One bird at the shelf late in the drift stayed distant and scrutiny of heavily-cropped photos show that it was a pale-headed bird that was probably a Cook's.
Australasian Gannet: 8 (3). All inshore.

Arctic Jaeger: 4 (1). One bird harassing Silver Gulls, others followed the boat for a time.
Pomarine Jaeger: 12 (2). Two birds followed the boat to the shelf, but majority were seen inshore on return leg.
Sooty Tern: 1. A juvenile bird was seen & photographed flying away from the boat.
Common Tern: 1. Joined the boat briefly about 10 miles out on the outward leg.
Unidentified 'Commic' Tern: Whilst the Cookilaria and Sooty Tern were being watched one observer noticed a tern at great distance and photographed it (but did not call it). The images were extremely distant but the bird looks very interesting, with what appears to be a dark trailing edge to the entire underwing. With the arrival of Aleutian Terns at Old Bar (~75 miles north) there is a possibility that this bird could have been one of this species, but things like second year Common Tern can't be ruled out on the distant images.
Crested Tern: 30 (20). Most birds joined the boat late in the day.
Silver Gull: 502 (500). This is just to indicate that only 2 birds followed the boat prior to our return.

MAMMALS:
Indo-Pacific Common Dolphin: A few small pods throughout the day.
Offshore Bottlenose Dolphin: One pod out wide.

FISH
Marlin sp: 2 or 3 fish free-jumping at the shelf

ALEUTIAN TERN – A NEW BIRD FOR AUSTRALIA, ALMOST IN OUR BACK YARD!

In December 2016, Port Macquarie birder, Liam Murphy photographed Terns at Farquhar inlet near Old Bar. When editing his photos, nine months later, he discovered some of the Common Terns were not quite right. He consulted with some experts and it was concluded that they were Aleutian Terns. Aleutian Terns as the name suggest inhabit the Aleutian Islands, Alaska and surrounding areas in the Bering Sea. It is not very clear where they over-winter with sightings reported from the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. This was a very exciting discovery but left a lot of twitchers very disappointed.

Aleutian Tern —Daniel McKeon

Liam retuned to Farquhar Inlet on 11th December 2017 to discover 13 Aleutian Tern roosting. This started a stampede of twitchers all anxious to eye-ball this exciting find. Within a week more than 120 birders had seen the bird, with people travelling from Victoria and Queensland. The birds are still being seen and lots of Central Coast birders and members of the Sydney BNSW made the journey. Once the features are known, the terns are relatively easy to identify. The long wing projection beyond the tail gives the terns a "cocked" tail profile when roosting. Also characteristic are the short legs and the amount of white in the head. The ultimate feature to note is the dark tailing edge of the wing.

It is highly likely that Aleutian Terns have been visiting Australia for years but everybody has assumed they were Common Terns. Tern ID is never easy, so congratulations to Liam Murphy. Ian Benson advises that up until 10/1/2018, over 300 birders have now made the pilgrimage to Farquhar Inlet to see the Terns! The photograph is provided by Daniel McKeon. (Allan Benson)

Join us to celebrate World Wetlands Day at the Central Coast Wetlands, Pioneer Dairy.

Breakfast with the Birds - Saturday 3 February 8am to 11am

Registration 8am

Bird Watching tour 8:15-9am

Buffet Breakfast and Wetland talks 9-10am

Activities 10-11am (Dip netting, Nursery tour, native plant and weed ID walk plus plant sales and displays)

Cost is $10 per Adult and $6 per child

Please bring walking shoes and a fold up chair. Binoculars will also be useful for birdwatching.

Breakfast with the Birds is organised by the CEN's Waterwatch program and supported by the Tuggerah Reserve Trust, Community Environment Network and Birding NSW.

CEN's Waterwatch program is supported by Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government.

waterwatch NEW SOUTH WALES
Communities Caring for Catchments

Bookings Required by 5pm 1 February at CEN website www.cen.org.au/events or ring 4349 4757