The Twitcher

October 2020

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Allan Benson (0457 458 274) Wendy Mitchell (4340 4870) & Robyn Price

Volume 15, No. 10

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
27/10/20	**Meeting:** Eaglehawk Pelagics and Endemic Birds of Tasmania REMEMBER TO REGISTER	**Allan Benson**
	Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	
31/10-1/11/2020	**Twitchathon**	
11/11/20	½ **Day Outing:** Pearl Beach and Warrah Trig	**Graham Nelson**
	Meet: 8.30 am Pearl Beach Arboretum, Opal Close, Pearl Beach REMEMBER TO REGISTER	0466 599 278
24/11/20	**Meeting:** Costa Rica - Bird Mecca of Central America	**John Rawson**
	Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	
28/11/20	**Outing:** Hexham Swamp, Ash Island and Stockton Spit	**Christina Port**
	Meet: 8.30 am Minmi Oval, Woodford St, Minmi REMEMBER TO REGISTER	0421 691 317

Note: For all Outings bring your morning tea and lunch. A chair is a good idea.

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.

Meetings & Outings:
We have resumed outings and campouts. At the time of writing the government has restricted outdoor gatherings to 30 people. We can work around that and keep the groups to 30 while maintaining social distancing. People will need to register their names with the leader prior to the outing.

Please note: Numbers may be limited at the discretion of the leader.

Tonight's speaker: Allan Benson will detail the birds seen on a pelagic trip out of Eaglehawk, Tasmania, in May 2019 and explain why this pelagic birding trip is regarded as the best in the world. In addition, finding the endemic Tasmanian birds and other interesting species will be discussed.

Last Meeting: 25 people attended our September meeting to hear an entertaining talk by legendary Big Year Birder, John Weigel who spoke in detail about Birding in Alaska on his 2019 epic Big Year. After reading about birders finding vagrants in such exotic locations such as Attu, Adak and St Paul, many of us harboured romantic notions of birding in Alaska. After hearing John's talk and seeing his photos, we were filled with admiration for John's tenacity to chase "little brown birds" in the most appalling and desolate conditions.

Saving Stamps: Please keep saving used stamps (on paper, trimmed) to pass to Colin Mitchell for donation to charity.

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 Birders on Facebook as well! It now has now reached 556 members - great job Malcolm Hill! The Facebook page is a huge success allowing bird-related issues to reach over 550 people on the Central Coast. Although the quality of the information varies and tends to get abused by overzealous photographers, overall, the reward is well worth the effort that Malcolm has put in.

Total Fire Ban Days and Outings

Outings may be cancelled on days of total fire bans. This will be determined on a case by case basis and will depend on the planned birding site being accessible and the potential risk. This decision will be made by the leader. If the outing is cancelled it will be published on Central Coast Birders Facebook. If in doubt contact the outing leader.

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW - PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2020

To recognise that many of our members are primarily keen photographers, the club will be organising a bird photographic competition for 2020. Rules are as follows:

- Each person will be able to submit two photographs in each category.
- The categories are code 1 (common residents), code 2 (uncommon residents) and code 3 (vagrant birds). The list of birds will be available on our Facebook page as well as in an email to our members. There will be an award for each category.
- Judge will be Dick Jenkin from the Hunter Bird Observers Club.
- Photographs must be taken in 2020 and within the Central Coast LGA. Please include the date and location with your entry.
- Entries will close on the 30th November.
- Winners will be announced at our Members night 26th January 2021.
- Email entries to Allan Benson: *aejsbenson@bigpond.com*

WHAT WAS NEW September - October and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in October - November?

September has been a cracking month for birding. All the Spring migrants have now been recorded. Sacred Kingfishers were suddenly everywhere on more or less the same day. Black-faced Monarch are back at the RTA Reserve, Rufous Fantail how been seen for a week or so but don't seem to be common. Brush Cuckoo were seen at Palm Grove Nature Reserve and a couple of Cicadabird have been heard or seen.

Cicadabird
Daniel McKeon

Arguably, the most exciting find was a Masked Owl at Peace Park Gorokan by Jay Beckton as this was a lifer for many of the birders who saw the bird. It is unusual to see an Owl in the day-time and it is easy to see why when it is being viciously and relentlessly attacked by Ravens, Magpies and Butcherbirds.

Masked Owl
Daniel McKeon

Equally as exciting was a pair of Varied Trillers found at the Ourimbah Rest Area by David Russell. There have been a couple of records previously but this is the first time a pair has been seen. They have moved to the RTA Reserve and breeding activity has been noted.

Varied Triller
David Russell

The "island" off Soldiers Point is more or less accessible at low tide and there have been a number of our rarer waders observed including a Sanderling and Red Knot and Wandering Tattler. A Rufous Songlark and a Spotted Harrier were observed at Lake Road.

Red Knot
Christina Port

STOP PRESS- A lone Regent Honeyeater was reported in a suburban back yard in Narara on the 14th October. It was observed again on the morning and afternoon of the 15th. It was a lone bird, associating with Little Wattlebirds and feeding in each Callistemon for only a few seconds to avoid being harassed. This observation highlights the plight of Regent Honeyeaters. Regents naturally flock to protect their feeding and nesting territory. Lone Regents have been observed calling like Little Wattlebirds but this bird's call has not been heard. Let's hope it finds some friends.

For October/ November keep an eye out for Spectacled Monarch they are always a possibility at the RTA Reserve. There is a dearth of waterfowl on the coast at the moment. This is unlikely to change with a La Nina event predicted which equates to rain in Western NSW meaning species like Freckled and Pink-eared Duck are unlikely to visit the coast. However, based on September results, anything could turn up so it's the best time of year to be out and about.

OUTING REPORTS

Narrandera Camp: 18-20th September **Leader Christina Port**

A great group met outside the Lake Talbot Tourist Park for our first outing since Covid-19 began. The countryside around Narrandera was looking amazing: beautiful greens, yellows and purple. Everywhere we drove and stopped the vegetation was lush and colourful. Fivebough Swamp at Leeton was our first destination on *Day 1* and we met up with local experts, Max Sullivan and Keith Hutton. The Swamp was in fantastic condition. Purple-backed Fairy-wrens and Nankeen Kestrel met us but then it got better as we walked in. A Brown Falcon posed and the ringing call of Australian Reedwarblers and the mournful call of the Little Grassbird were heard. We were able to see Red-necked Avocets and Stilts feeding, along with Australian Pelican and a Red-kneed Dotterel. Glossy Ibis and a Black Swan family were seen. A shy Buff-banded Rail was briefly seen and a Spotless Crake glimpsed by a lucky few. We walked further to where a large group of Yellow-billed Spoonbills roosted. We noted Purple Swamphens and Australasian Shovelers and a large group of Australian Shelducks flew through. Cockatiels flew through in groups. Golden-headed Cisticola, Whiskered Tern, Great Egrets and Black-tailed Native-hen were observed as well as a Swamp and Spotted Harrier as we walked to the Sewerage Treatment Works. Eurasian Coot, Hardhead, Australasian Grebe, Blue-billed Duck and a nesting Black Swan were highlights here. We headed back and Max pointed out two Brolgas that had returned to the fields. The people who returned early saw a Black-shouldered Kite and we had the Ibis trifecta, adding Straw-necked and White Ibis to our total. After lunch, we headed down Euroley Road and into a roadside reserve where we were greeted by the call of nesting White-winged Choughs. A Rufous Whistler called and we had great views of many Mistletoebirds. Superb Parrots flew through, landed and posed, Yellow Thornbill, Noisy Friarbirds and Grey Shrike-thrush were seen. The warning calls went up and there was an Immature Sparrowhawk circling above. We then travelled to McCaughey's Lagoon and as it is was almost dry, we only had a quick look. There were White-faced Herons, Superb Fairy-wrens, Weebills, Western Gerygone and a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike here. Next stop at Yanco Weir was a late lunch stop for many. Blue-faced Honeyeaters were seen along the roadside. We heard Spotted and Striated Pardalote; Noisy Friarbirds made a racket while we saw Western Gerygone again. Also present were White-plumed Honeyeaters, a Sparrowhawk, Black Ducks. Narrandera Wetlands was our final stop for the day where we noted Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, a Royal Spoonbill in breeding plumage, another Rufous Whistler, Little Friarbirds, and Sacred Kingfishers. Roosting here were Pelicans and a group of Little Black Cormorants while we also noted Purple-backed and Superb Fairy-wrens, a group of Silvereyes, Great Egret and 3 Pacific Black Ducks looking after 6 gorgeous ducklings. Red-browed Finch was our last bird for the day.

White-winged Chough
Christina Port

Day 2 had us on the road early heading to Campbell's Swamp north of Griffith. We walked into the ringing sound of Reed-warblers hiding from the howling wind. The hide had us looking at the male Musk Duck, Blue-billed Ducks, Hardheads, Magpie Geese, Coots and Pelicans. White-breasted Woodswallows and Red-rumped Parrots were looking for hollows in the dead ghost trees. A lone Red-kneed Dotterel hid amongst the reeds as we walked out and headed down the track beside the hide. Black Kites were high up hovering in the wind, Swamp Harriers were out too. There were lots of roosting birds in the dead trees including Royal and Yellow-billed Spoonbills, Magpie Geese, Australian Pelicans and Little Pied

Cormorants. The Cockatiels were battling the wind. In the swamp side bush, Rufous Songlarks called and were eventually seen as well as Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Singing Honeyeaters, White Winged Trillers and Purple-backed Fairy-wrens. A Hobby was also seen along with Glossy Ibis. We moved to Lake Wyangan for morning tea and sat watching the scene, with Yellow-throated Miners up close and on the water rafts of Eurasian Coots. A pair of Swamp Harriers were hunting along the water's edge. A drive along the waterfront produced a large group of Avocets. On to the Griffith Golf Club where Grey-crowned Babblers were seen by some and the Apostlebirds put on a show. Around the back near the airport we had Australian Ringnecks and Bluebonnets along with Galahs and a Pied Butcherbird. Our next stop was the Cocoparra NP amongst the White Cypress Pines and Bimble Box. We had lunch at the Jacks Creek Picnic Area. Bar-shouldered Dove and Peaceful Doves flew up as we drove in. A Rufous Whistler, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Sacred Kingfisher, Eastern Yellow Robin, White-plumed Honeyeaters and Dusky Woodswallows joined us as we ate lunch. We headed down the Jacks Creek track afterwards. It was so beautiful with wildflowers and amazing rocky cliffs overhead. The birds calling included Western Gerygone, Rufous Songlark, Grey Fantail and White-browed Babblers. We saw a Shining-bronze Cuckoo, a lone Double-barred Finch, White-winged Triller and a male Hooded Robin. The track was blocked by a fallen tree and we could not go further unfortunately. Our last stop for the day was to be Wattle Dam to watch the birds coming into drink. We travelled down the Whitton Stock Route Road. Unfortunately, it turned into rather an adventure as we navigated the badly deteriorated roads. In the end, we never made it although 4-wheel driving skills were tested on the way. We enjoyed afternoon tea in Binya State Forest and added a Crested Bellbird, and Common Bronzewing to our list.

Day 3 and the place was very wet with heavy rain over night but miraculously by the time we were leaving the rain was gone, and we were able to enjoy a dry day. Our first stop was the pine-box woodland area of Buckingbong State Forest. Here we had to dodge puddles but the area was alive with birds. We observed Red-capped Robins, Apostlebirds, Yellow -rumped Thornbills, Western Gerygones, Red-rumped Parrots and White-winged Choughs. A walk along the road produced great views of a Brown Treecreeper, an obliging pair of Cockatiel and Jacky Winters. Morning tea was at Gillenbah Rest Spot with more Western Gerygones, White-winged Triller and the Apostlebirds kept calling. We headed into the Gillenbah State Forest where the track was much better and we were able to drive in. We added Inland Thornbill, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill and Brown-headed Honeyeaters to our growing list. Bluebonnets were seen on the way in and two Common Bronzewing on the way out. After a leisurely lunch at camp, we headed to Five-mile Reserve near Narrandera, where we saw Sacred Kingfisher, Darter, Fairy Martin, Cockatiel, Little Black Cormorant, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Egret, a pair of Whistling Kites and White-bellied Sea-eagles soaring overhead with Peaceful Doves calling. We also saw Yellow Rosellas, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Grey Butcherbirds and many Galahs and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. Onto the Rocky Water holes and we noted a Pied Butcherbird, Purple-backed Fairy-wrens with Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, and Eurasian Coot on the water. Our last new bird for the trip was a White-throated Gerygone.

We headed down to the Narrandera Common, hoping to see a Koala. Everybody was happy as one was found even if it was a neck breaking view. As we had our final bird call a group of Superb Parrots in glorious light flew passed us giving a final fleeting view.

This was our first camp since the start of Covid-19. It was less social perhaps than previous camps with social distancing in play but 133 birds seen and heard. Thank you everyone who attended.

Narrandera Campers
Robyn Price

UNUSUAL GOSFORD-WYONG SIGHTINGS SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2020

Species List: the names and the order in which they occur are in accordance with the new Birdlife and IOC System, as presented in "The Australian Bird Guide" P. Menkhorst et al 2016.

* = First return of migrants ** = Last birds to depart LN = biggest number since January OW = Over-winter

Little Penguin	1	8/10/20	Avoca Point	Nick Carson
Black-necked Stork	1	23/9/20	Tuggerawong, Tuggerah Lake	per C Carpenter
Intermediate Egret	1	4/10/20	Central Coast Wetlands	Bill Lancaster
Nankeen Night-heron	3	29/9/20	Budgewoi Creek	Steve Merrett
Osprey	2	22/9/20	Toukley/Canton Bch Sports Oval	Bill Lancaster

Osprey	2N+Y	11/10/20	new nest Pacific Hwy, Munmorah	Meryl Newton
Pacific Baza	2	20/9 & 5/10	Narara Eco Village	Richard Cassels
Pacific Baza	2	29/9/20	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Pacific Baza	2+N	4/10/20	Palm Grove NR	Daniel McKeon
Square-tailed Kite	1	16/9/20	Avoca Drive, Avoca	Darren Earnshaw
Brahminy Kite	1	25/9/20	Avoca Beach	Laurie Smith
Brown Goshawk	1	16/9/20	Jack Gear Oval, Yarramalong	David Russel
Brown Goshawk	1	17/9/20	Ourimbah Ck Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Brown Goshawk	1	19/9/20	Palmdale	Michael Ronan
Grey Goshawk	2	17/9, 11/10	Ourimbah Ck Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Grey Goshawk	1	19/9/20	Ravensdale, Yarramalong	Rick Gatenby
Grey Goshawk	2	21/9/20	Jack Gear Oval, Yarramalong	Phillip Siao
Spotted Harrier	1	27/9/20	Lake Rd, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	16/9/20	Yarramalong	Gordon Arthur
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	19/9/20	Palmdale	Michael Ronan
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	30/9/20	Kulnura	Linda Johns
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	3/10/20	Bumble Hill Rd, Yarramalong	Julie Peksis
Little Eagle	1	30/9/20	Kulnura	Linda Johns
Lewin's Rail	1	11/10/20	Wyong	Andrew Robinson
Bush Stone-Curlew	2 N+2E	20/9/20	Kincumber Cres Res, Davistown	per Nick Carson
Bush Stone-Curlew	1	24/9/20	found Concord, released Kincumber	Pam Stykowski
Pacific Golden Plover *	2	24/9/20	Blue Bay Reefs	Elisabeth Noble
Latham's Snipe *	1	6/10/20	Springfield Pond	Pearl Peril
Whimbrel	1	27/9/20	Soldiers Point Reefs	Christina Port
Wandering Tattler *	1	25/9/20	Soldiers Point Reef	Laurie Smith
Red Knot *	1	25/9/20	Soldiers Point Reef	Laurie Smith
Red Knot *	1	11/10/20	Budgewoi Lake, San Remo	Christina Port
Curlew Sandpiper *	2	25-27/9/20	Soldiers Point Reef	Laurie Smith
Sanderling *	1	25-27/9/20	Soldiers Point Reef	Allan Benson
Little Tern *	2	2/10/20	Soldiers Point Reefs	Steve Merrett
Common Tern *	10	27/9-2/10	Soldiers Point Reefs	Christina Port
White-fronted Tern **	5	2/10/20	Soldiers Point Reefs	Steve Merrett
Whiskered Tern	2	9/10/20	South Tacoma	Luke Ullrich
Owlet Nightjar	1	2-30/9/20	x5 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Emerald Dove	HC	16 & 22/9	Narara Eco Village	Richard Cassels
Peaceful Dove	2	6/9/20	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Common Bronzewing	1	27/9/20	Kariong garden	Karen Cee
Azure Kingfisher	1	13/9/20	Narara Eco Village	Richard Cassels
Azure Kingfisher	2	18/9/20	Jack Gear Oval, Yarramalong	Gordon Arthur
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	7-19/9/20	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	15/9/20	Doyalson North & Narara Eco Village	Newton/Cassels
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	16/9/20	Jack Gear Oval, Yarramalong	David Russell
Rainbow Bee-eater *	6	15-25/9/20	Bunning Creek	Gordon Arthur
Rainbow Bee-eater *	12	16-25/9/20	Ravensdale, Yarramalong	David Russell
Rainbow Bee-eater *	10	29/9-4/10	Jack Gear Oval & Bunning Creek	Linda Johns
Dollarbird *	4	29/9/20	Narara Eco Village	Richard Cassels
Dollarbird *	2	2/10/20	Toukley Golf Course	Leeanne Lemke
Dollarbird *	2	3/10/20	Round Drive, Avoca Beach	Ash Mullahey
Noisy Pitta	3	25/9-5/10	Jilliby SCA Hidden Valley, Ourimbah Creek	David Russell
Noisy Pitta	1	9/10	Jilliby SCA Hidden Valley, Ourimbah Creek	Allan Benson
Nankeen Kestrel	2	30/9/20	The Skillion, Terrigal	Nikola Markovina
Australian Hobby	1	29/9/20	Carlton Rd, Erina	Darren Earnshaw
Brown Falcon	1	21/9/20	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Peregrine Falcon	1	17/9/20	Chittaway	Daniel McKeon
Peregrine Falcon	1	25/9/20	Toukley	Leeanne Lemke
Peregrine Falcon	2	25/9/20	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Pheasant Coucal	HC	5-18/9/20	x3 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer

Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	8/9/20	Terrigal	Nikola Markovina
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	2	13/9/20	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	15/9/20	Kulnura	Anna Pillich
Eastern Koel *	AM	6/9/20	AF on 25/9 Killarney Vale	Daniel McKeon
Eastern Koel *	AM	16/9/20	AF on 2/10 Narara Eco Village	Richard Cassels
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	19/9/20	Palmdale	Michael Ronan
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	21/9/20	Bouddi NP	Nick Carson
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	29/9, 8/10	Dairy Swamp CCW, Tuggerah	David Russell
Brush Cuckoo *	2	30/9/20	Palm Grove NR, Ourimbah Creek	Allan Benson
Brush Cuckoo *	1	4/10/20	Ourimbah Creek RTA Res	Daniel McKeon
Masked Owl	1	28/9/20	Peace Park, Gorokan	Jay Becton
Sooty Owl	1	20/9/20	Jilliby SCA Hidden Valley	Allan Benson
Sooty Owl	HC	9/10/20	Narara Eco Village	Richard Cassels
Powerful Owl	HC	17/9/20	0247 hrs Narara	Julie Peksis
Powerful Owl	1	5/10/20	Fletchers Glen, Bouddi NP	Peter Scott
Powerful Owl	2A+J	5/10/20	Copacobana	Doug Beckers
Barking Owl	HC	11/10/20	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Southern Boobook	HC	19/9/20	Wamberal	Nikola Markovina
Southern Boobook	HC	24/9/20	Narara/Niagara Park	Julie Peksis
Southern Boobook	HC	29/9/20	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Glossy Black Cockatoo	4A+1DY	2-24/9/20	x5 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	19/9/20	Doyalson	Michael Price
Gang Gang Cockatoo	2	13-19/9/20	x2 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Little Lorikeet	2	22/9/20	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Little Lorikeet	2	12/10/20	Yengo NP, Bucketty	Mike Kuhl
Regent Bowerbird	1	20/9/20	Erina	Malcolm Hill
Regent Bowerbird	2	7/10/20	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Jan Mohandas
Southern Emu-wren	2	7/10/20	Dairy Swamp CCW, Tuggerah	Jan Mohandas
White-naped Honeyeater	5	17/9/20	Ourimbah Ck Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
White-naped Honeyeater	6	27/9-3/10	Hidden Valley, Ourimbah Creek	Rex Schmidt
Brown-headed Honeyeater	2	5 & 22/9	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
White-throated Gerygone *	1	6-11/9/20	x2 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Spotted Quail-thrush	1	13/10/20	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Allan Benson
Varied Sittella	1	18/9/20	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Varied Sittella	5	29/9/20	George Downs Drive Kulnura	Linda Johns
Crested Shrike-tit	2	4-20/9/20	x3 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Crested Shrike-Tit	2	19/9/20	Palmdale	Michael Ronan
Rufous Whistler *	1	6/9/20	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Rufous Songlark	1	27/9'/20	Lake Road, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Rufous Whistler *	2	12/9/20	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Cicadabird * HC	1	29-30/9/20	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Cicadabird * HC	1	8/10/20	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	John Weigel
Cicadabird *	1	11/10/20	Jilliby	Daniel McKeon
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1	4/10/20	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Daniel McKeon
Varied Triller	**2**	**17/9-8/10**	**nest building Ourimbah Creek RTA Res**	**Edwin Vella**
Dusky Woodswallow *	2	22/9/20	Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	Laurie Smith
Dusky Woodswallow *	2	4/10/20	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Daniel McKeon
Torresian Crow	1	11/10/20	Ourimbah Ck Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Rufous Fantail *	1	14/9/20	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Rufous Fantail *	1	25/9/20	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	David Russell
Rufous Fantail *	1	25/9/20	Jilliby SCA Hidden Valley, Ourimbah Creek	David Russell
Black-faced Monarch *	1	18/9/0	Jack Gear Oval, Yarramalong	Jan Mohandas
Black-faced Monarch *	1	19/9/20	Palmdale	Michael Ronan
Black-faced Monarch *	3	23/9/20	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Bob Montgomery
Leaden Flycatcher *	1	26-27/9/20	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Jacky Winter	1	2-16/9/20	x3 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Jacky Winter	2	16/9/20	Yarramalong	David Russell

Bassian Thrush	1	16-21/9/20	x2 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Bassian Thrush	1	4/10/20	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Jenny Stiles

Breeding and some other records September - October

Pacific Black Duck: A+5 ducklings Dairy Swp CCW 3/10 (MNe)**; Crested Pigeon:** N+Es Wadalba 3/10 (DRaymont); **White-faced Heron:** 2A+2Y Springfield10/10 (PPeril); **Royal Spoonbill:** 1 pr nesting near Wyong Golf Course 6/10 (GBr); **Osprey:** 8 nesting pairs, Munmorah, San Remo, Toukley, The Entrance, Gosford Stadium, Rileys Island, Doyle St Kincumber & Erina Depot; **Pacific Baza:** 2 Palmgrove NR 30/9 (ABe), 2 nest building Ourimbah Ck RTA Res 5/10 (DMcK), 2 Kingfisher Shores 8-12/10 (MKi); **Brown Goshawk**: 2A+1DY Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 8-12/9, new nest under construction 13-17/9 (KP), 2A+N Hardys Bay 5/10 (PScott); **Grey Goshawk:** 1 Main Rd Toukley 25/9 (LLe), 1 Dairy Swamp 29/9 (DRu); **Wedge-tailed Eagle:** x10 2 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1-27/9 (MP); 1 Narara Eco Village 1/10 (RCa), 1 Wattletree Rd Holgate 11/10 (EDa); **Masked Lapwing:** 2A+N4E The Entrance 30/9 (CCooper); **Black-winged Stilt:** 2A+1Y Picnic Pt Res (FUl); **Tawny Frogmouth:** 2A+N Long Jetty 11/10 (ENo); **Channel-billed Cuckoo:** 1 Wyong & 1 Narara Eco Village 16/9 (JNelson/RCassels), Koolewong 20/9 (MGoulie) & 1 Charmhaven (STyrell), 1 Ettalong 20/9 (LRainford), 1 Umina 21/9 (ASnow), 1 Toukley 22/9 (LLe), 1 Mangrove Mtn 24/9 (MP), 6 Kincumber 3/10 (DWa); **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo:** x6 1 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 2-26/9 (KP); **Powerful Owl:** HC Narara Eco Village 4-9/10 (RCa); **Southern Boobook:** 2 HC Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 24/9 (KP); **Sacred Kingfisher:** 1 Chittaway Shops 17/9 (MP), 1 Kingfisher Shores Chain Valley Bay 22/9 (MKi), 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 2/10 (CC); **Rainbow Bee-eater:** 4 North Entrance 11/10 (MMelville), 2 Picnic Pt 12/10 (RGa); **Peregrine Falcon:** 2 Box Head, Bouddi NP 10/10 (LKoch); **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo:** 2A+1DY Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 11 & 24/9 (KP); **Eastern Rosella:** Nest in fence post Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 13-29/9 (MP); **Superb Fairy-wren:** 2 nests Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 11/9 (MP); **Little Wattlebird:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1/9 (MP); **Noisy Friarbird:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 13-30/9 (KP); **Brown Thornbill:** 2A+2DY Tathra Taila HSD Man., Mtn 25/9 (KP); **Striated Thornbill:** A+2DY Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 7/9, A+2DY on 18/9 (KP), 2A+2DY on 14/9 (BP); **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike:** 2+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 8/9 (KP); **Varied Triller:** 2A+N Ourimbah Ck RTA Res 3/10 (EVe); **Olive-backed Oriole:** 2+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 21/9 (KP): **Black-faced Monarch:** 2 Ourimbah Ck RTA Res 2/10 (JMo)**; Australian Magpie:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 10/9 (MP); **Grey Fantail:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 8/9 (KP), another nest on 21-25/9 (BP); **Rufous Fantail:** 1 garden at Lisarow 4/10 (DEa); **Magpie-Lark:** N+2Y Dairy Swp CCW 3/10 (MNe); Yellow Robin: 2+N Yarramalong 8/10 (PMortimer); **Eastern Yellow Robin:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1/9, new nest 24/9 (MP); **Welcome Swallow:** 2A+3DY Jack Gear Oval 3/10 (JPeksis).

Good Birding!

CENTRAL COAST TWITCH 2020

Allan Benson has opened up a small but significant lead and hit the “magic” number of 250. Daniel McKeon is making a late surge to move into second place. This is still a close-run race and there is still a long way to go. Spring migrants and pelagic birds look like the best chance of adding to lists.

TWITCH LIST – OCTOBER 2020

Allan Benson	250	Kaye Pointer	198	Michael Scobie	155
Daniel McKeon	246	Nick Carson	194	Diana Hogan	140
Graham Nelson	241	David Catt	192	Robyn Price	136
Christina Port	233	Mike Kuhl	191	Andrew Melville	125
Krystyna Lonergan	205	Margaret Pointer	187	Judy Clark	120
Noel Lonergan	204	Doug Hocking	170	Coleen Southall	108
Carole Carpenter	201	Graeme Catt	170		
John Carpenter	198	Rowena Wallace	169		

BIRDATA SURVEYS 2020

There are now 80 active observers putting sightings into bird data, an increase from 26 prior to Ian Benson’s presentation in February 2020. Total number of surveys YTD 2020 is 801, It is great to see some new names on the list of surveys per month. Hopefully more people can be bought up to speed once meetings resume properly and some tutorials can be conducted Please remember to record your sightings.

SURVEYS 2020

Allan Benson	230	Doug Hocking	58	Robyn Price	11
Nick Carson	215	Daniel McKeon	36		
Graham Nelson	176	Michael Scobie	29		

Allan Benson retains the lead in October but Nick Carson has an intensive three days of birding on the Twitchathon so it is likely he will be the new leader come November. Please keep reporting and recording your sightings.

SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

Regular surveys have been booked for the Wednesday following the club meeting at 9.30 am at the Ibis Road entrance. There are almost no water birds but water levels are low so there is a chance that something interesting will turn up. Despite of lack of waterbirds, 36 species were recorded on our last survey. If you are interested, please contact Allan Benson.

MCPHERSON ROAD SWAMP

"Our" track has now been mown. Hopefully, there will ongoing attention to eradicating the invasive weeds.

TWITCHATHON 2020

The Twitchathon has been running now, in NSW and the ACT, for close to 30 years. In this time, between us, we have managed to raise very significant funds for a range of conservation projects. At the BIGnet meeting in early September the members decided that we should take up the running of the Twitchathon for 2020 to maintain this event and raise funds for the project that had already been selected. We are keen to see if we can raise another $20,000 this year like last year. As a result of the tight time schedule and Covid-19 we're making some changes this year. However, the premise remains the same: have fun, go bird-watching, raise some funds for a worthwhile project and keep safe while you do so. While 2020 has been dominated by Covid-19, last year was dominated by bush fires. Huge swathes of our country were burnt and myriad animals lost their lives. So how appropriate that our chosen project this year is **"The Origma Enigma – Where are NSW cryptic birds after the bushfire and how can we save them?"** The project is focussed on the Origma, Rufous Scrub-bird, Eastern Bristlebird and Ground Parrot in sites ranging from Jervis Bay to the Scenic Rim. Surveying these species and understanding current population levels and locations is key to their survival along with habitat recovery and a better understanding of behaviour. This very worthy project will support their recovery.

We are maintaining the same Twitchathon formats as in the last few years, but with some modification:

- The **Big Weekend** will be a 30-hour, mega twitch for the crazy and dedicated with a target well above 200 species being their goal.
- We have reverted to the name **Champagne** for a more sedate and now 8-hour event for those who want something more relaxing and sedate.
- Finally, the 3-hour **Birdathon** is also retained. This offers something for a whole range of participants, from experienced bird watchers who don't have the time or inclination for the Big Weekend to the novices looking for a chance to cut their teeth.

One of the other things that we do not have time to organise is the sponsorship and prizes that have been on offer ever since the inception of the Twitchathon. Apologies for this. We hope you will still want to be involved for fun and conservation, regardless. There's always the kudos of raising the most funds, recording the most species, finding the rarest bird, getting the biggest bang for your buck from the fewest kilometres travelled and sadly the biggest dip. We'll still publicise your sterling performance. Dates are: **Saturday 31st October - Sunday 1st November**

Peter West NSW and ACT Twitchathon Coordinator

Central Coast members will be competing in two teams: *"Let's Wing It"* (Mike Kuhl and Nick Carson) and Margaret and Kaye Pointer's team *"Which Is It".* They would appreciate your sponsorship.

LITTLE TERNS

After flooding in Tuggerah Lake earlier in the year, Central Coast Council dug a channel at The Entrance which washed away the sand spit where Little Terns nest. However, the spit has now reformed. A complicating factor is that Council has a dredge working relatively close to the nesting site and the there are concerns for the breeding success of Little Tern this year. The Council is taking this very seriously and have engaged a consultant to monitor the Little

Terns. The good news is that dredging will cease about mid-November and Council have plans for an extensive fence this year. The condition of the sand spit looks ideal with plenty of shell grit in the sand and the right type of vegetation growing on the dunes. 24 Little Terns with some in breeding plumage were observed at the site in mid-October. We will keep our fingers crossed.

How long do Little Terns live?

More than 25 years according to this record!

Geoff White photographed a Little Tern at Soldiers Beach rock platform on 26/1/2020. Geoff's photograph was good enough to be able to decipher the band number and Geoff submitted his record to the Australian Bird and Bat Banding scheme. ABBS determined that this bird was banded at the Manning River Estuary, Harrington, on 21/02/1994 which meant this Little Tern was banded 25 years, 11months and 5 days ago. A remarkable record Geoff!!

Little Tern
Geoff White

Birdwatchers versus Twitchers

Allan Benson

A recent article in National Geographic outlined the differences between Birdwatchers and Twitchers in the UK. The good guys (birdwatchers) "entails making careful notes each bird one sees, even it is the most boring bird imaginable. It entails having the greatest respect for them and making strenuous efforts to minimise disturbance". Twitchers (the bad guys) on the other hand, "are only interested in adding birds to their list, so when a vagrant bird is blown off course, the poor bird finds itself unable to feed as it is surrounded by twitchers and dies".

The above view is a simplistic and anachronistic view from the UK. This polarising view of the birding world is far less relevant in Australia where the term birder is preferred and where the birders' interest tends to fall on a continuum for the definition above. Very few people fall at one end or the other. For example, Mick Roderick and Alan Morris, both make or have made major contributions to bird conservation in Australia yet both keep bird lists and will make an effort to see a new bird within their region of interest. The birder with the highest total in Australia with a list of 900 species, Mike Carter, has authored many scientific papers. Alan Morris introduced the "Annual Central Coast Twitch" to encourage people to go birding and to contribute to Birdata surveys. The most useful contribution every birder can make to bird conservation is to be a member of Birdlife Australia and to complete Birdata surveys, which then tracks population trends and allows problems to be identified and management plans put in place.

The majority of modern birders take photographs with the advent of modern digital technology. Bird photographers, like the twitcher versus birdwatcher argument will fall on a continuum, ranging at one end where the primary purpose of the photograph is to record a sighting, to the other end where the objective is to obtain the "best" photograph where in many cases the photographer has no idea which species is being photographed. Bird photography also raises some serious ethical birding issues.

SWANSEA PELAGIC UPDATE - Dates for 2020

Tuesday 6th October- cancelled due to the weather. The trip has been rescheduled for Wednesday 2nd December. Covid is making life difficult and restricting numbers on the trip.

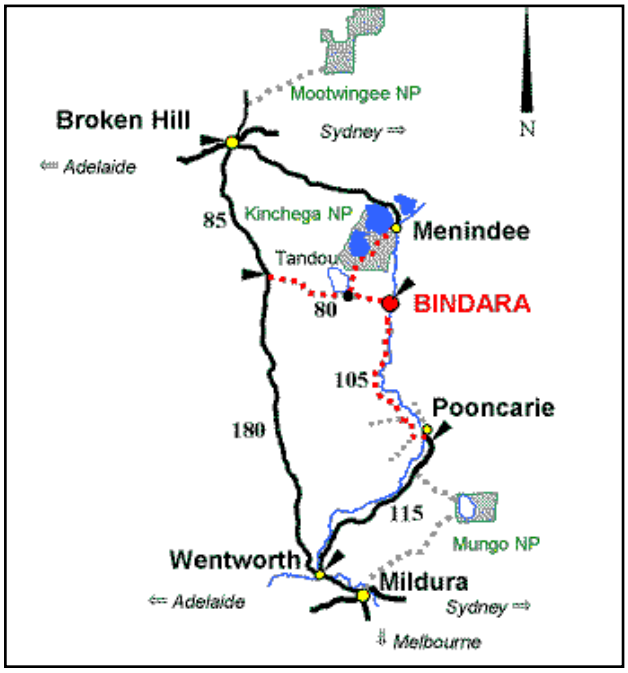
Contact Allan Benson - *aejsbenson@bigpond.com*

Where to go Birding in Western NSW

This is the first in a series for places to go birding west of Darling River. It is important to go in the right season (i.e. not the middle of summer) and when there has been some rain. All roads are dirt so a 4WD is advised. The birds listed were what was seen in a good season in August 2020 and is by no means a definitive list.

BINDARA: Bindara is located on the Darling River between Menindee and Pooncarie.

There are two cottages available with access to a camp kitchen starting at $120 per night. The owner will supply meals as well. The camp sites are brilliant with hot showers and flush toilets located right on the river bank. Cost is $15 per person per night.



Habitat: River Reds Gums along the river and Black Box in the paddocks. There are sand dunes near the entrance to the homestead which are worth exploring for a different suite of birds.

Birds: Grey Shrike-thrush, Red-rumped Parrot, Apostlebird, Willie Wagtail, Crested Pigeon, White-plumed Honeyeater, Welcome Swallow, Laughing Kookaburra, Australian Raven, Galah, Major Mitchell Cockatoo, Brown Tree-creeper, Black-fronted Dotterel, Whistling Kite, Striped Honeyeater, Australian Wood Duck, Peaceful Dove, Australian Ringneck, Magpie-lark, Australian Magpie, Bluebonnet, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Yellow-throated Miner, Mistletoebird, Emu, Restless Flycatcher, Grey Fantail, Red-capped Robin, Australian Owlet-nightjar (it is present at the campsite and can be called out in the day time).

KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK / MENINDEE AREA

Australian Shelduck, White-plumed Honeyeater, Magpie-lark. Chestnut-crowned Babbler, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Australian Ringneck, Purple-backed Fairy-wren, Chirruping Wedgebill, Peaceful Dove, Little Friarbird, Caspian Tern, Australian Pelican, Australian Reed-warbler.

NELIA GAARI: Situated on the west side of the Darling River, road half way between Menindee and Wilcannia.

There is accommodation in the Overseer's cottage which has five bedrooms and sleeps up to 12 people which is terrific value at $95 per couple plus $20 per person. Again, the campsites are great, right on the river bank with showers and toilets. Cost $10 per person per night.

Habitat: Riverine vegetation dominated by River Red Gums. The property is about 60,000 acres so there is access to the Mulga and sand dune country

Birds: Grey-Shrike Thrush, Collared Sparrowhawk (nesting). Nankeen Night-Heron, Whistling Kite, Magpie-lark, Willie Wagtail, Little Corella, Australian Wood Duck, Crested Pigeon, White-plumed Honeyeater, Little Crow, Peaceful Dove, Welcome Swallow, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Galah, Bluebonnet, Apostlebird, Australian Ringneck, Chestnut-crowned Babbler, Crested Bellbird, Budgerigar, Purple-backed Fairy-wren, Restless Flycatcher, Cockatiel, White-breasted Woodswallow, Australian Magpie, Restless Flycatcher, Mulga Parrot, Pied Butcherbird, Southern Whiteface, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Red-capped Robin, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler, Black-breasted Buzzard, Red-rumped Parrot, Black Kite, White-necked Heron, Common Bronzewing, Bourke's Parrot

Highlights here were nesting Collared Sparrowhawk as well as Black-breasted Buzzard but the magic moment was staking out of dam in the evening (with drinks and nibbles) and watching up to 25 Common Bronzewing land on the dam bank, then slowly and cautiously march down to the water. Six Bourke's Parrots here was a real surprise as it is well east and south of their core range.