



The Twitcher

May
2021

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

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

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DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
25/5/21	Next Meeting: Regent Honeyeater/Swift Parrot Surveys Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	Chris Timewell
29/5/21	Outing: San Remo Meet: 8.30 am Community Hall, Scaysbrook Avenue, Chain Valley Bay South	Christina Port REMEMBER TO REGISTER
9/6/21	½ day Outing: Munmorah State Recreation Area Meet: 8.30 am Birdie Beach Munmorah SCA. Note - National Parks Pass or \$8 fee applies.	Christina Port REMEMBER TO REGISTER 0421 691 317
15-16/5 2021	Swift Parrot /Regent Honeyeater Surveys	Nick Carson
22/6/21	Next Meeting: Central Coast Wetlands Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	Jeb Field

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 50 people which is in excess of the number normally attending our outings etc. People will still need to register their names with the leader prior to an outing or campout. **Please note:** Numbers may be limited at the discretion of the leader.

Campouts 2021:

Date	Details	Leader	Notes
14 th -16 th September	Cunnamulla: Cunnamulla Tourist Park 91 Watson St, Cunnamulla Phone 07 4655 1421	Michael Scobie 0411 243 433	NB: other accommodation options. Qld border needs to be open
15 th -17 th October	Barraba: Barraba Caravan Park 10-12 Bridge St, Barraba Phone: 02 6782 1818	Christina Port 0421 691 317	

Tonight's Speaker: Chris Timewell from Birdlife Australia will tell us about the updated survey method for Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater. Our Group participates twice a year in this important activity to survey for these critically endangered birds. This presentation is vital to keep us up to date.

Last Meeting: Last month's meeting was attended by 28 members who heard a very informative talk by Simon Gorta. The pelagic trips off the NSW coast have seen a shift in diversity and abundance of species, for example Southern Giant Petrel and Cape Petrel used to be relatively common but now they are rarities. Simon has analysed 385 pelagic trips from Port Stephens Sydney and Wollongong to try to correlate abundance of species with sea surface temperature and food abundance using chlorophyll and eddy strength as determinants. Simon found some correlations but his work is still in the preliminary stages.

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 626 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.

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 2021

Once again the Group will be conducting a Photographic competition.

Rules are as follows:

- Each person will be able to submit two photographs in each category.
- The categories are for code 1, code 2 and code 3 birds. The list of birds will be available on our Facebook page and as well as an email to our members. There will be an award from each category.
- The judge will be Dick Jenkin from the Hunter Bird Observers Club.
- Photographs must be taken in 2021 and within the Central Coast LCA. Please include the date and location with your entry,
- Entries will close on the 30th November 2021
- Winners will be announced at our Members night 25th January 2022
- Email entries to Allan Benson: aejsbenson@bigpond.com

WHAT WAS NEW April - May and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT June?

Once again, Chain Valley Bay South has delivered the goodies with Swift Parrot, Regent Honeyeater and Little Friarbird all being recorded albeit for short stays, Fuscous Honeyeaters have also been recorded at a number of the usual locations across the coast. The Terrigal Pelagic yielded some specialities including Kermadec Petrel: 3rd Central Coast record and the Arctic Tern: 5th Central Coast record, first since one seen by AKM in 2004 at Flat Rock, Munmorah SCA. The Yellow-billed Spoonbill at Chain Valley Bay is the first for some time - last record 23/5/2020 at the Dairy Swamp. There were 6 Square-tailed records for the month; Little Eagle keeps being reported indicating there are resident birds here at the moment. The last date for a White-breasted Woodswallow appears to be 22/4/2021, due back in August, which means they are only absent for four months. Black-necked Stork keeps being reported but only as a single bird which may mean they are nesting in our area. Yellow-faced Honeyeaters are in abundance everywhere there is blossom.

The Swamp Mahogany is still to reach full bloom in the north of the LGA so hopefully Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeaters will make a re-appearance. Keep an eye out for Rose Robin and it would be nice if a scarlet Robin made an appearance this year.

OUTING REPORTS

½ Day Outing: Wednesday April 14

DUBBO GULLY

Leader: Kaye Pointer

Dubbo Gully is a beautiful valley in the Mangrove Creek Weir Catchment that we can only access with a key when all the planets align. It has been hammered by bush fires and flood, so we were very keen to get in and see how it was going. Meeting Kaye Pointer at the meeting spot, we were all shocked to learn her Dad, Barry Pointer had passed on Tuesday. I stepped in and took over the outing although she did accompany us and we managed together. We had 23 people, some regulars and some new. Brenda Moore with local history knowledge joined us and we were able to see the graves of her Great Grandparents in the Cemetery.

It was mostly quiet as we drove down and our normal stopping point had a fallen tree blocking the way. Once down past the bridge, we walked up the road and the extent of the latest big flood could be seen. Lewin's Honeyeater were probably the most common species, along with Grey Fantail, Grey Butcherbird, Striated Thornbill and Yellow Robins and a Scarlet Honeyeater called. We then entered the paddock to walk along the creek, plowing through the long grass and weeds until we needed a slasher. Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Variegated and Superb Fairy-Wrens, Eastern Rosella, Brown Thornbills and Willy Wagtail and the ringing call of Bell Miner were recorded. The Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were in

migration and passed over in groups. The recently arrived Tasmanian Silveryeyes were around in numbers. As we arrived back at the cars, a young Brown Goshawk flew across and landed briefly.

After morning tea, we moved to the Dam which was quiet except for Purple Swampen. Walking to the Cemetery we had multiple Fan-tailed Cuckoos calling and perched. Golden Whistler and a Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo was tree hopping. We headed up the road and saw Satin Bowerbird, Crimson Rosellas, King Parrots and a spooked Wonga Pigeon took off. The stragglers found a Rose Robin which we found again on the return journey.



**Dubbo Gully birders
Linda Johns**



**Golden Whistler
Linda Johns**

Brown Cuckoo-doves, Red-browed Finch and Brown Gerygone called. Lunch was enjoyed and a Wedge-tailed Eagle flew overhead. As we left a Lyrebird was heard calling up the hill.

Our final stop for the day at the Waratah Road turnoff proved profitable. We were greeted by a Brown Goshawk then Peaceful Doves, White-throated Treecreeper, Jacky Winter, Dusky Woodswallows, Varied Sitellas, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, a Sulphur Crested Cockatoo and Australian Raven called and flew over. A successful day with 58 species seen and heard.

Thanks everyone.

Christina Port

CAMPOUT, 22-24 April 2021

NORTH HAVEN

Leader: Alan Morris

The North Haven Camp based at the Reflections Holiday Park, 109 The Parade, North Haven was successfully held over three lovely sunny days and the 31 campers present located 125 species. The Caravan Park is set on the northern break wall of the Camden Haven River at North Haven and backs onto bushland, mainly Paperbark Swamp Forests and sand dune scrubs on the outskirts of the village. The North Haven area has recently suffered from some very heavy rain, and the biggest flood in the last 52 years inundated parts of North Haven, Laurieton and Dunbogan, during the week prior to Easter causing extensive damage. So much so that many roads into the State Forests and National Parks have been closed, which restricted our access into some of the known good birding sites. So, we were prepared to see fewer birds because of access issues and because the general Mid North Coast area was water-logged, with plenty of wetlands but few waterbirds!

On **Thursday** 22 April, we met at the Caravan Park at 8 am and birded along the North Haven Fire trail between the Camp ground and the Beach. Around the Camp were King Parrots, Figbirds, Satin Bowerbirds, Scaly and Rainbow Lorikeets. From the break wall outside of the Caravan Park, in the Camden Haven River, there were Cormorants, Darters and Gannets to see, while Sea-Eagles, Ospreys, Whistling & Brahminy Kites were seen at most estuaries and waterways. However, along the trail, the common birds were White-cheeked, Lewin's and Brown Honeyeaters, Superb & Variegated Fairy-wrens, Brown and Yellow Thornbills and the highlights were an adult male Varied Triller, Scarlet Honeyeaters, Large-billed Scrub-wren and Drongos. We then moved for morning tea to the Wall Reserve Playground cnr Edith St and The Parade, North Haven where one could get coffee across the road! Birds, coffee and good toilets, what more could you want!

After morning tea, we drove to the Bonny Hills Wetlands, located at the end of Rainbow Beach Drive. Alas the regular Jacana could not be found, but there were Hardheads, Coots and Moorhens, Tree Martins, a pair of Brown Quail, Bar-shouldered Doves, a pair of Pipits and the highlight was a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo. We returned to the camp for lunch and then went to Dunbogan, Camden Head and Gogleys Lagoon. The usual run of estuarine birds was soon picked up like Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwits and Pied Oystercatchers, Caspian Tern, Great & Little Egret, Striated Heron and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters at sea! By bird call we had seen 85 species for the day!



**Spangled Drongo
Jan Mohandas**

Friday morning, we departed 8 am for Lake Cathie where we birded along the Lake Cathie Village Track. There were both clumps of flowering Swamp Mahogany, as well coastal heath plants recovering from the bad bushfires of November 2019! Banksias and Bottlebrush were flowering on the heath, so our birds were dominated by Lorikeets, Little Wattlebirds and White-cheeked Honeyeaters, while Golden Whistlers, Spotted & Striated Pardalotes, Grey Fantails & Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were in the nearby Blackbutt Forest! We made a quick stop at Lake Cathie to find some waterbirds, then on to Rainbow Beach Surf Club at Bonny Hills for a morning tea/toilet stop. We birded in the Rainbow Beach bushland up until lunch and managed to get great views of Regent Bowerbirds and Azure Kingfisher.



After lunch we met at the Kew hotel carpark and from there travelled down to Sunnydale Rd on the Motorway and into Ivers Lane where we birded along a road through tall wet forests. Special birds here were White-naped and Scarlet Honeyeaters and Striated, Yellow and Brown Thornbills. As we were leaving Ivers Rd, an adult male Black-necked Stork was seen in a roadside paddock then it took off and great views were had by all campers! We then moved back onto the Motorway and on to the Johns River Community Hall. Here White-headed and Topknot Pigeons were found, Bar-shouldered Doves were calling, another Varied Triller was seen and a flock of 12 King Parrots were encountered. On the way home some people saw a Wedge-tailed Eagle. We saw 82 species for the day and our total was 102 for the two days.

Saturday, we departed 8.00 am for the Cattai Wetlands at Coopersnook. Some recent flood damage caused some diversions on the circuit track but overall, it was an easy walk around the wetland. From the hide we saw a pair of Wandering Whistling Ducks with 4 ducklings (which is unusual for that site) and White-breasted Woodswallows but alas no Jacanas! On the walk we did see 4 Shining Bronze-Cuckoos, 3 Sacred Kingfishers, an immature Black-face Monarch, Tawny



Grassbird, Reed Warblers, Variegated and Superb Blue Wrens, Striped Honeyeaters, a Rufous Whistler, another Drongo and a lone Rufous Fan-tail, Yellow-rumped Thornbills were seen in farmland on the way out of the site. We took our morning tea here before heading off to the Harrington Rainforest. It was pretty quiet in the rainforest, although we did see Brown Gerygones and another Varied Triller. Mangrove Gerygones were found in the mangroves when exiting the rainforest along with plenty of Yellow Robins, Figbirds and Golden Whistlers.

The Harrington break wall gave us the bird of the trip, a South Island Pied Oystercatcher and Christina Port got some stunning photos. Also here were Red-capped and Double-banded Plovers, 2 Pacific Golden Plovers, Bar-tailed Godwits and a Whimbrel. We could see the Osprey coming and going from their nest in the Norfolk Island Pine and Brahminy, Whistling Kite and Sea-Eagle were all seen here too! We returned via the Coopersnook Wetlands where we found our only Royal Spoonbills for the trip, an Australasian Grebe, Striped Honeyeaters and the usual waterbirds. As some members returned through Kew, they managed to see a group of five Pacific Baza with one calling juvenile! Great spotting!

We returned to the North Haven Camp Ground for a quick bird list, recording 107 species for the day, and 125 for the trip. We then re-assembled at the North Haven Bowling Club for a very pleasant dinner and drinks and expressions of thanks for the leaders and the good company of all those who participated. During the Camp, a special card was prepared for members to express their condolences to Kaye and Margaret Pointer on the death of their father and husband Barry. John and Carole Carpenter left the Camp early on Saturday morning to be present at Barry's Memorial Service held at Mangrove Mountain Union Church that same afternoon, taking our card with them.

Alan Morris

Outing: Saturday May 1

CAMS WHARF/ SWANSEA

Leader: Daniel McKeon

A flurry of last-minute registrations saw twenty-nine keen birders meeting at the car park of Wrightson Park in Cams Wharf. Hopes were high for a few special birds after recent sightings of Swift Parrots at nearby Chain Valley Bay. There were Parrots a plenty but none of the Swift variety. Musk, Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets filled the trees around the park along with the usual suspects of Noisy Miners et al. A walk along Raffertys Road had the group spotting a vari-

ety of Honeyeaters, including Scarlet, White-cheeked, Yellow-faced and the odd White-naped Honeyeater. A pair of Regent Bowerbirds was sighted high in the trees but flew off before some of our group were able to get a look. A Fan-tailed Cuckoo could be heard calling from nearby but never popped out to say hello in person. A Spotted Pardalote could also be heard at various times. Brown Thornbill, Silvereye and Red-browed Finch were busy feeding in the under-growth along the roads edge. Morning tea was had by the banks of Lake Macquarie where Pied, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants were added to our list. All up we had recorded forty-five species in and around the Park, a good start to what would turn out to be a long day.



Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
Linda Johns

We left Cams Wharf and headed to Galgabba Point in Swansea. The large attendance meant we had to change plans a bit and move our parking area to further down the road. Thank you to Meryl Newton for knowing the area well enough for us to all be able to park. We started down the track that headed out to the point with an array of various bush birds keep us amused as we trudged along. Red-browed Finch, Brown Gerygone, Grey Fantails, Scarlet Honeyeaters, Rainbow Lorikeets, Eastern Yellow Robin, White-browed Scrubwren all made the presence known as we walked along. As we came out of the bush and walked closer to the lake, we started to see Black Swan, Little and Great Egrets, Little Pied Cormorant and Silver Gull in and around the water's edge. A pair of Mangrove Gerygone right at the point got people's hearts a flutter with a few lifers being handed out to the happy outing attendees. After a long walk we made our way back to the cars with a quick stop to help Judy Clark try and find a Geocache to add to her list. We are better birders than geocachers it would seem. Sorry Judy.

We made our way to the park near Coon Island at Swansea for some lunch and a well earned sit down. A lone White-bellied Sea-Eagle was a good start to the next leg of our journey. A pair of Brahminy Kite were an even better start. We hadn't left the park yet and the birds were coming thick and fast. A Brown Honeyeater kept us busy trying to get better views of it and some Yellow Thornbill had us checking to see if a Striated Thornbill was hidden amongst them. Rumour has it there was. Out at the point we searched the sandbars for some rarities. Australian Pied Oystercatcher and Bar-tailed Godwit were as rare as it got unfortunately so we headed back. A juvenile Sacred Kingfisher put on a bit of a show for some members of our group and a Blue-faced Honeyeater ended the day proper.

We said our goodbyes and a group of eight of us continued on to the day's bonus spot, Belmont Lagoon. A quiet walk along the canal bought us out near the water treatment plant where a mixed flock of Honeyeaters were feeding. Little Wattlebird, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Scarlet Honeyeater dominated their ranks but a surprise member of their group had us on the hunt. The unmistakeable pink bill of the Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater was spotted and we searched long and far to re-find it so the rest of the group could get a look. As it was starting to get late, we gave up the chase and headed back to the cars. Tired and needing a good sit down we called it a day.

Thank you to everyone who came and made it an enjoyable day, and thank you to the 79 species that showed up to give us something to look at.

TERRIGAL PELAGIC - Friday 16th April 2021

Leader: Andrew Robinson

SKIPPER: Paul Minto / VESSEL: Sea Runner

OBSERVERS: Andrew Robinson, Dean Purcell, Dion Hobcroft, David Mitford, Rob Hynson, Allan Benson, David James, Christina Port, Darren Earnshaw, Levi Brown, Graham Nelson, Jayden Walsh, Chris Dryburgh

CONDITIONS & TRIP SUMMARY: With the potential for a strong wind warning to be issued there was some trepidation that we might not get out but as conditions eased slightly and following some reassurance to the skipper that all on board were 'sea fit' the decision was made to try our luck. Upon arriving at Terrigal Boat Ramp for an early start we were greeted with a cool, overcast and showery day with moderate to strong winds forecast at 20-30+ km/h from the S - SW. The swell was a messy one from the south at about 1m, however it soon became apparent we were dealing with seas up to 2m, which in combination with a strong southerly current made for an 'interesting' day at sea to say the least. In fact, several experienced sea birders commented that it was without doubt the wettest they have been on a pelagic trip! We departed Terrigal Haven at 6:30am and motored east at a much slower rate than we had hoped due to these conditions. The first hour or so was mostly uneventful with only a few Crested Terns about and the expected Wedge-tailed and Flesh-footed Shearwater along with a few distant Fluttering Shearwater and the odd Australian Gannet. We soon

had cause to briefly stop the boat however, as the first Black-browed Albatross of the day joined us, quickly followed by a Campbell Albatross which was a nice lifer for some on board. There was no time to linger though and we settled back in for what remained between us and the shelf.

Conditions continued to deteriorate making for a slow, wet, and sometimes wild trip out. At 9 am and still short of the shelf we stopped the boat a second time as we were greeted with a distant Wilson's Storm Petrel, a pair of Providence Petrel and our first Shy and Buller's Albatross for the day - the latter representing a lifer for some and providing nice views and a few photos opportunities to boot. So, with spirits reasonably high and despite the soaking received by some (Graham Nelson you certainly soldiered on) we made our final push for the shelf. Reaching the shelf at about 9:45am we continued to a depth of 250 fathoms to commence what was to be our first and only drift for the day. We soon had a very visible and odorous slick in place which was quickly supplemented with Dean Purcell's potent berley mix. We drifted back over the shelf in an NNW direction and were soon rewarded with our first Grey-faced Petrel of the day, reasonable numbers of Flesh-footed and Wedge-tailed Shearwater (including some in beautiful fresh plumage), excellent views of Wilson's Storm Petrel, several Black-browed Albatross (including a few immature birds) and a single Fluttering Shearwater that kept its distance. This activity and the hope of something rarer kept us on our toes and as we continued our drift the call of 'Jaeger' soon went up as a fairly distant bird gave a quick and obscured flyby (much to Christina's disappointment) as it headed east. Views were sufficient however for it to be determined a Long-tailed Jaeger; the second for the year on a Terrigal Pelagic. We were soon joined by 10 or more very obliging Wilson's Storm Petrel (keeping Darren happy), along with a short staying Short-tailed Shearwater and a long-staying Sooty Shearwater that some on board described as their best ever views of this often-recalcitrant species. We all enjoyed some close forays by the Sooty Shearwater before it settled on the water adjacent the boat and proceeded to impress with its deep diving skills - Dion timed the bird as being fully submerged for 15 seconds on one occasion!

Bird activity soon declined however, and we found ourselves smack bang between two rain squalls which saw a significant increase in wind and swell and made life even more uncomfortable for the best part of an hour. As we waited out the squall Christina spotted a reasonably large fin which kept everyone interested and eventually turned out to be a Tiger Shark. We persisted for another hour or so but by 1:15pm decided we'd had enough and the decision was made to head for dry land, having drifted for approx. 7 nautical miles in an NNW direction. No sooner had we settled in for the slow journey back when the call of Kermadec Petrel rung out from Dave Mitford. The boat was brought to an abrupt halt and all onboard had reasonable albeit distant and departing views of this uncommon species, which was another lifer for some on board and only the 3rd record for the Central Coast (LGA) of NSW. As a nice bonus we were joined by our second Short-tailed Shearwater (in tail moult) and the second Buller's Albatross of the day, with this individual alighting close to the boat and providing outstanding views and photo opportunities. The bird stayed with us for much of the return journey.

This seemed some reward for our persistence in adverse conditions and we again set our sights for shore. As we slowly motored along in a SE direction for Terrigal Haven and with most saturated by this stage, the call again went up from the ever-alert Dave Mitford, this time however it was for 'Arctic Tern'. The boat could not be stopped quickly enough as excitement levels ran high and all onboard scrambled for their binoculars for what was only the 5th Central Coast (LGA) record for this scarcely observed species on the east coast. As it turned out we need not have worried about the scramble as this pelagic migrant stayed with the boat for perhaps 3 minutes, offering up crippling views in the process. Dion provided an excellent account of why this was indeed an immature Arctic Tern in non-breeding plumage, ruling out the other Tern species it could be confused with in the process. The contrasting, narrow, dark trailing edge to the outer primaries was clearly evident, however it was the birds distinctive flight that was most notable and on full display as it daintily hovered no more than 10m from the boat, dropping slightly only to resume its hover before gracefully dropping again to gently pluck berley from the ocean surface. It's no exaggeration to say that this was not only a thing of beauty but a beautiful few moments for all on board. Allan Benson probably summed it up best soon after when he was heard to comment: "How good was that!". As expected, this was a new bird for over half on board!



Arctic Tern
Christina Port

Setting foot back on dry land at about 4:30pm was a relief for all including the skipper and after exchanging some quick pleasantries everyone bailed for a much-needed hot shower, although some had further to travel home than others. Despite the rough conditions I think everyone would agree it was a pretty cracking day at sea with 18 pelagic species seen in total, the highlights of which were obviously Arctic Tern and to a lesser extent Kermadec Petrel.

BIRD LIST (PELAGIC):

Silver Gull: 20, (10). Greater Crested Tern: 30, (6). Arctic Tern* 1. Long-tailed Jaeger: 1. Wilson's Storm Petrel: 20+, (10). Black-browed Albatross: 9, (4). Campbell Albatross: 2, (1). Shy Albatross: 3, (1). Buller's Albatross: 2, (1). Grey-faced Petrel: 3, (2). Providence Petrel: 7, (2). Kermadec Petrel* 1. Wedge-tailed Shearwater: 50+, (5). Sooty Shearwater: 2, (1). Short-tailed Shearwater: 2, (1). Flesh-footed Shearwater: 200+, (20+). Fluttering Shearwater: 3, (2). Australasian Gannet: 12, (2)

*Asterisk represents trip highlight while parenthesis denotes the approx. maximum number of that species seen at any one time

OTHER AT SEA BIRDS: Australian Pelican (2), Eastern Osprey (1), Willie Wagtail (1), Welcome Swallow (1)

OTHER: Tiger Shark

UNUSUAL GOSFORD-WYONG SIGHTINGS

MARCH - APRIL 2021

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
Brown Quail	10	6 & 20/4/21	West Gosford
Musk Duck	3	2/5/2021	Colongra Lake Munmorah
Black-browed Albatross	9	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic
Buller's Albatross	2	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic
Campbell's Albatross	2	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic
Shy Albatross	3	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	10+	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic
Kermadec Petrel	1	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic
Grey-faced Petrel	3	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic
Providence Petrel	7	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic
Sooty Shearwater	2	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic
Short-tailed Shearwater	2	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic
Flesh-footed Shearwater	50+	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	200+	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic
Hoary-headed Grebe	10+	2/5/2021	Colongra Lake, Munmorah
Black-necked Stork	1	11/4/2021	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	2/5/2021	Chain Valley Bay South
Osprey	1	19-25/4/12	Chain Valley Bay South
Osprey	1	22/4/2021	Gosford Waterfront
Osprey	1	24/4/2021	Lake Munmorah
Square-tailed Kite	2	12/4/2021	Colongra Swamp
Square-tailed Kite	1	14/4/2021	Toukley Ave, Toukley
Square-tailed Kite	A+2J	15/4/2021	Lake Haven
Square-tailed Kite	1	20/4/2021	Chain Valley Bay South
Brahminy Kite	2	23/4 & 1/5	Fraser Bch Munmorah SCA
Brahminy Kite	A	27/4/2021	Avoca Beach
Brown Goshawk	1	14/4/2021	Mangrove Mountain Store
Brown Goshawk	1	17/4/2021	Killarney HSD, Mardi
Grey Goshawk	1	12/4/2021	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	14/4/2021	Dubbo Gully
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	21/4/2021	Mangrove Dam Reservoir
Little Eagle	1	11/4/2021	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve
Little Eagle	1	23/4/2021	Ourimbah Ck Rd, Ourimbah
Spotless Crake	1	22/4/2021	Dairy Swamp, CCW, Tuggerah
Painted Button-quail	1	19/4/2021	Kulnura
Painted Button-quail	1D	1/5/2021	Wambina NR, Matcham
Red-capped Plover	8	1/5/2021	Pelican Point, Norah Head
Double-banded Plover	3	1/5/2021	Pelican Point, Norah Head
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	2/5/2021	Colongra Lake, Munmorah

Long-tailed Jaeger	1	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Arctic Tern	1	16/4/2021	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Peaceful Dove	2	14/4/2021	Waratah Rd North, Man. Mtn	Jan Mohandas
Topknot Pigeon	120	17/4/2021	Curt Rock Creek, Ourimbah	Andrew Robinson
Topknot Pigeon	75	18/4/2021	Ourimbah near Garden Centre	Christina Port
Topknot Pigeon	100+	22/4/2021	Matcham	Bill Fergusson
Southern Boobook	1	11/4/2021	cnr Pindarri Av & Wyong Rd Berkeley Vale	Graham Nelson
Southern Boobook	1	1/5/2021	Hidden Valley, Jilliby SCA	Davis Russell
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	15/4/2021	Dairy Swamp, CCW, Tuggerah	Hitomi Ward
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	21/4/2021	Mangrove Dam carpark	Nick Carson
Powerful Owl	1	30/4/2021	Wyrrabalong NP	Andrew Robinson
Nankeen Kestrel	1	27/4/2021	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Leeanne Lemke
Peregrine Falcon	1	19/4/2021	Terrigal Beach	Darren Earnshaw
Peregrine Falcon	1	27/4/2021	Dairy Swamp, CCW, Tuggerah	Leeanne Lemke
Peregrine Falcon		2/5/2021	Jacksons Rock, Avoca Beach	Laurie Smith
Australian Hobby	1,1	24/4/2021	Dairy Swamp, CCW, & Tuggerah	Lemke/Robinson
Australian Hobby	1	1/5/2021	McPherson Rd Swamp	Andrew Robinson
Owlet-Nightjar	3+	1/5/2021	Hidden Valley, Jilliby SCA	David Russell
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	80	11/4/2021	Lemon Tree	Graham Nelson
Yellow-tailed Bla Cockatoo	80+	24/4/2021	Ourimbah Creek Bridge on M1	David Russell
Glossy Black Cockatoo	1	16/4/2021	Mangrove Mountain Store	Hitomi Ward
Galah	28	16/4/2021	Large no. for Pioneer Ave, Tuggerah	Carole Carpenter
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	2	24/4/2021	Umina	Carol Edwards
Little Lorikeet	4	17/4/2021	Dairy Swamp, CCW, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Little Lorikeet	4	26/4/2021	Terrigal High School	Nick Carson
Little Lorikeet	3	5/5/2021	The Round Drive, Avoca Beach	Ash Mullahey
Little Lorikeet	2,2	5/5/2021	Kincumber & Warnervale	Nick Carson
Musk Lorikeet	40+	3/5/2021	Valley View PS, Wyoming	Barbara Melville
Swift Parrot	8	18/4/2021	Tall Timbers Rd, Kingfisher Shores	Marj Kibby
Swift Parrot	10	18-22/4/21	Joshua Porter Res, Chain Valley Bay	Daniel McKeon
Southern Emu-wren	3+	22/4/2021	San Remo	Lachlan McRae
Brown-headed Honeyeater	2	24/4/2021	San Remo	Leeanne Lemke
Large-billed Scrub-wren	2	19/4/2021	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Jan Mohandas
Striated Pardalote	1	25/4/2021	Doyalson	Andrew Robinson
Varied Sittella	3	11/4/2021	Sandra St Fire Trail, Jilliby	Graham Nelson
Varied Sittella	4	14/4/2021	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mtn	Christina Port
Dusky Woodswallow **	4	14/4/2021	9 on 30/4, Waratah Rd Nth, Man. Mtn	Christina Port
White-breast Wswallow **	1	11/4/2021	Sandra St Fire Trail, Jilliby	Graham Nelson
White-breast Wswallow **	2	11/4/2021	Dairy Swamp, CCW, Tuggerah	Graham Nelson
White-breast Wswallow **	4	18/4/2021	Joshua Porter Res, Chain Valley Bay	Graham Nelson
Pied Currawong	16	18/4/2021	large no. for Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
White-winged Chough	11	11/4/2021	Greendale Lagoon, Dooralang	Graham Nelson
Restless Flycatcher	1	30/4/2021	Waratah Rd, Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Spangled Drongo	1	15/4/2021	Chain Valley Bay	Diane Warman
Spangled Drongo	1	3/5/2021	McPherson Rd Swamp, Tuggerah	Laurie Smith
Jacky Winter	2	14 & 30/4	Waratah Rd North, Man. Mtn	Jan Mohandas
Rose Robin	AF	14/4/2021	Dubbo Gully	Jan Mohandas
Rose Robin	AM	23/4/2021	Ourimbah Ck Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Rose Robin	1	21/4/2021	Mangrove Dam carpark	Nick Carson
Rose Robin	AM	4/5/2021	Rainforest Track, Rumbalara Reserve	Nick Carson
European Blackbird	2	24/4/2021	Bloodtree Rd, Central Mangrove	Carole Carpenter

Breeding and some other records April – May

Square-tailed Kite: 1 Toukley Ave Toukley, took a Masked Lapwing chick 14/4 (LLe); **Brown Goshawk:** 1 Charm-haven 25/4 (ARo); 1 Lisarow 17/4 (DEa), 1 Bushells Ridge 24/4, North Tacoma 24/4 (ARo); **Purple Swamphen:** 2A+J Dairy Swamp 14/4 (MNewton); **Dusky Moorhen:** As+many chicks Dairy Swamp 24/4 (TSweet); **Masked Lapwing:** 2A+N Dairy Swamp 11/4, 2A+1Y on 2/5 (DMcK), 2+2y Toukley 14/4 (LLe). **Good Birding!**

CENTRAL COAST TWITCH - MAY, 2021

Andrew Robinson	225	Daniel McKeon	177	Rowena Wallace	138
Allan Benson	217	Krystyna Lonergan	176	Andrew Melville	138
Dean Purcell	212	Noel Lonergan	169	Judy Clark	134
Christina Port	210	Margaret Pointer	168	Robyn Price	134
Nick Carson	198	David Catt	165	Coleen Southall	129
Graham Nelson	193	Doug Hocking	161	Gabrielle Rees	118
Carole Carpenter	189	Diana Hogan	145	Michael Scobie	117
John Carpenter	184	Graeme Catt	142	Mike Kuhl	104
Kaye Pointer	183				

Andrew Robinson has continued to maintain a solid lead. However, there are some good totals being recorded right across the board.

BIRDATA SURVEYS 2021

Allan Benson	124	Nick Carson	46	David Marquand	30
Graham Nelson	110	Guy Dutson	45	C Clutterbuck	13
Andrew Melville	48	Rebecca Citroni	43	Daniel McKeon	12

For April, 214 surveys with 22 active observers were recorded which is a significant increase on previous months. Nick Carson recording Swift Parrot surveys has made a big difference. YTD, we have recorded 583 surveys with 50 active observers. This will extrapolate to over 1500 surveys for 2021 which would a significant improvement on last year.

Birddata is one way, as a birder, you can make a contribution to bird conservation. We will ramp up our efforts in 2021 and have a target of 2000 surveys. We need more observers, putting in more surveys.

The “Alan Morris” Trophy for 2021 will only count surveys done in the Central Coast LGA.

(NB: Moqo is not in this area)

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. The April survey recorded 40 species with the highlight 10 Shovelers.

MCPHERSON ROAD SWAMP

"Our" track has now been mown. Hopefully, there will on going attention to eradicating the invasive weeds. Birding here continues to be disappointing.

2021 SWANSEA PELAGICS

Please note: The boat is taking 18 @ \$120, so regulars get priority.

- Thursday 22nd July
 - Thursday 21st October

SEABIRDS WERE SO FAMISHED THEY ATE PUMICE STONES BEFORE MASS 'WRECK'

Nick Kilvert

When millions of dead and dying seabirds washed or dragged themselves ashore on Australia's east coast in 2013, scientists found something unexpected in their stomachs. The birds were Short-tailed Shearwaters — migratory ocean-going birds that spend the northern summer in the Arctic, before heading to southern Australia to breed, usually around September. Necropsies revealed that nearly 90 per cent had eaten pumice stone pebbles — stones created when explosive volcanic lava hits water and cools quickly. The birds had an average of four to five stones in their stomachs, some with many more.

The question for scientists was, had the birds starved because they had eaten the pumice stones and couldn't digest enough food, or were the pumice stones a symptom of their starvation?

Was an underwater eruption the cause?

In July 2012, a passenger on a commercial airline discovered an erupting underwater volcano out of the window of their plane during a flight from Samoa to New Zealand. The passenger reported what they had seen to scientists, including volcano researcher Scott Bryan from the Queensland University of Technology. Using the pumice on the sea surface, known as a pumice raft, as their starting point, the researchers were able to pinpoint the location of the eruption to a seamount in New Zealand waters that was not known to be volcanically active. "Havre [volcano] is in the Kermadec Islands ... the summit is about 900 metres below sea level and produced one of the biggest pumice rafts we've seen," Associate Professor Bryan said.

One of Dr Bryan's areas of interest is in how "life interacts with volcanism". A key part of that is how animals use pumice rafts to transport themselves across oceans. Because the Kermadec Islands eruption produced such a big rafting event, he had taken an interest and was one of a number of scientists who tracked the path of the pumice as it drifted across the Pacific and eventually began washing up on Australia's coast in 2013.

Birds were eating 'anything they could'

Meanwhile, other researchers were tracking the migratory path of the shearwaters, including some fitted with radio collars, according to study co-author Lauren Roman from the CSIRO.

"The birds we tracked left [the Arctic] between the 9th September and the 15th October and they were taking between eight and 20 days to get here," Dr Roman said. "When they start their journey, they travel pretty directly." By combining their knowledge of the birds' flight path with the track of the pumice raft from the Kermadec Islands, the researchers were able to pinpoint when the birds came across the raft and ate the pumice, Dr Bryan said. "The advantage we had with the pumice was we knew the source, we knew where it was because we'd been tracking it, and we therefore knew when the shearwaters had eaten it up." If the birds had eaten the pumice weeks before they began dying, it was possible that the pumice was the cause of their starvation. But as it turned out, the birds had come across the raft in the few days and hours before reaching the Australian coast, and were therefore already desperate for food. "They were in such a bad state through starvation that we could conclude that in the final hours and days they were eating anything they could," Dr Bryan said. "The pumice was quite small. They were very selective in the size they were eating."

Why were the birds starving?

So, the questions then became, why were the birds eating the pumice? And if it wasn't the pumice that caused the mass starvation, what was it? In answer to the first, as the pumice travels across the ocean, it does accumulate some life — things like corals and barnacles. It's possible that the birds thought they could get some sort of energy from eating the stones, but more likely they were simply acting out of desperation, Dr Bryan said.

"They were so starved that anything that looked like food, they went for it." This may have important implications for ocean plastics as well, according to Dr Roman.



"With increasing pressures from things like fisheries and climate change, which may be depleting their natural prey, there's more chance that the animal will be eating under duress and ingest something they shouldn't," she said. "It shows that these interacting threats may create a greater danger to the animals than either of the threats in isolation." In answer to the question of what caused the mass starvation, again, there are no definite answers, but there is evidence to suggest that the birds weren't able to find enough food over the Arctic summer. "It's likely something had gone wrong in the north, rather than something going wrong down here," Dr Roman said.

There are a range of reasons why seabird wrecks occur, according to ecologist Mary-Anne Lea from the University of Tasmania. One of the theories is that fish may out-compete the birds for food. "Shearwaters and pink salmon eat the same prey and there are big numbers of pink salmon every second year," Associate Professor Lea said. Other factors include storms that blow the birds off track, and things like overfishing. "The jury is still out on the patterns and it's partly because there are so many contributing factors," Dr Lea said.