



The Twitcher

May
2022

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

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

Volume 17, No. 5

DATE ACTIVITIES LEADER/SPEAKER

24/5/22	Next Meeting: Impact of Global Warming on Birds	Simon Griffith
	Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	
28/5/22	Outing: Swansea REMEMBER TO REGISTER	Daniel McKeon
	Meet: 8.30am Carpark for Coon Island Nature Reserve, Dobinson Drive, Swansea	0407 076 118
8/6/22	½ day Outing: Munmorah State Recreation Area REMEMBER TO REGISTER	Christina Port
	Meet: 8.30am Birdie Beach Carpark	0421 691 317
23/4 - 5/6/22	Regent Honeyeater/ Swift Parrot Surveys	Nick Carson
		0417 488 760
28/6/22	Next Meeting: Identifying Thornbills and Fairywrens	Allan Richardson
	Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	

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.

Campouts 2022

Tues13th -Thu 15th September	Cunnamulla	Michael Scobie	0411 243 433	Cunnamulla Tourist Park 91 Watson St, Cunnamulla. Phone: 07 4655 1421
Fri 14th- Sun 16th October	Barraba	Christina Port	0421 691 317	Barraba Caravan Park 10-12 Bridge St, Barraba. Phone: 02 6782 1818

Tonight's Speaker: Simon Griffith is a Professor of the School of Natural Sciences at Macquarie University. Simon's research has focused on the intersection of physiology and environmental variation and the fitness of the population to respond to major environmental challenges. Tonight, he will be talking about the impact of a warming climate on birds, a topic that is highly relevant in the context of the controversy around climate change,

Last Month's Meeting: It was disappointing that only 23 members attended our last meeting to hear about the problem of domestic and feral cats on birdlife. Allan Benson talked about the rarely appreciated impact on wildlife of domestic cats that are allowed to roam freely. Annika Nystrom from Australian Wildlife Conservancy outlined the great work that AWC is conducting by reintroducing threatened mammal species in fox-proof and feral cat-proof enclosures. This work has enabled species such as Numbat and Bilby to fight back from the brink of extinction. Annika replied to a couple of questions. The cost of exclusion fencing is around \$30,000-\$50000 per kilometre. Access to the Pilliga site is still restricted but the ecologists said there is no difference in the bird population inside to outside the fence except for ground nesting birds such as Spotted Quail-thrush and Painted Buttonquail.

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 has now reached 762 members and keeps growing steadily each month - great job Malcolm Hill! The Facebook page is a huge success allowing bird-related issues to reach over 700 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.

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

The 'big wet' has continued to put a dampener on birding (excuse the pun). However, there have been some significant sightings. The Beach Stone-curlew at Blue Lagoon and Bateau Bay has hung around and it was well twitched by many birders. An immature White-winged Triller showed well at the Dairy for several days and some birders were lucky enough to tick a White-winged and Varied Triller in the same day. The immature White-tailed Tropicbird taken into care at Budgewoi was only the third record for the Central Coast.



Topknot Pigeon

In non-vagrant news: Shoveler, Musk Duck and White-necked Heron have returned to the coast. Hopefully Pink-eared and Freckled Duck will follow. The Black-necked Storks continue to appear intermittently. Gang-gang Cockatoo have been well twitched at the end of Palmdale Road. Big flocks of Top-knot Pigeons have been observed feeding on Camphor Laurel. They have been joined by flocks of Pied Currawong feeding on privet. Fuscous Honeyeaters have been recorded at Bulls Quarry.

We are still hopeful, but not confident, that Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeaters will turn up but the Swamp Mahogany has minimal flower this year.

There is a possibility of Scarlet Robins and Restless Flycatchers being found.

OUTING REPORTS

1/2 Day Outing: April 13, 2022

MANGROVE MOUNTAIN

Leaders: Margaret & Kaye Pointer

Despite a forecast for showers, 12 dedicated birders met beside Mangrove Mountain Hall. As Dubbo Gully was closed, we resorted to Plan B which was to bird at Waratah Road and Mangrove Dam. From beneath umbrellas at our meeting point we saw four Crimson Rosellas and two Gang-gangs before we drove west along Waratah Rd. Our vehicles disturbed at least twenty Eastern Rosellas feeding on the roadside grass seeds. A Jacky Winter perched on the power-lines and seven Yellow-rumped Thornbills landed on the top of a rickety fence.

We parked the cars at the parking area just before the steep descent into Dubbo Gully. Two less-able members were happy to stay with the cars while the rest trudged down the hill as far as the first pull-over bay. The Rockwarbler, seen here the previous day, was absent. Blackbutt was flowering and attracted White-eared and White-cheeked Honeyeaters. We spied thornbills and a goshawk perched high above the rocks but the distance made a positive ID impossible. However, back at the car park, three Varied Sittellas foraged in the trees above us. Back in Waratah Rd, a White-bellied Sea-eagle was observed roosting near a farm dam, while there was an Australasian Grebe in the dam opposite. A Black-shouldered Kite flew over pasture paddocks and some observers were lucky to record European Blackbird and Grey Butcherbird.



Gang-gang Cockatoo

Mangrove Dam was very full. A lone Little Black Cormorant roosted in a dead tree. Heavy flowering on Eucalypts attracted lorikeets and honeyeaters including White-naped and Yellow-tufted. A Grey Shrike-thrush sat nearby while we chatted and ate lunch. On the way home, some very excited members had close views of a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles perched in a dead tree. Even overcast days offer interesting birds!!

Outing: April 30, 2022**CHAIN VALLEY BAY****Leader: Meryl Newton**

A small but enthusiastic crew of birders attended the Chain Valley Bay outing. A leisurely stroll, from the Community Hall, along the Karignan Creek pathway and into Chain Valley Bay North, found that birds were few and far between as almost nothing was flowering. A Brown Cuckoo-Dove was seen at the hall, an unusual species in this location. A Brown Goshawk was the most interesting bird seen along the pathway. White-cheeked Honeyeaters, a few Variegated Fairy-wrens in moult, Red-browed Finches, Little Wattlebird, White-browed Scrubwren and Brown Thornbill completed this list. Surprisingly, lots of Cattle Egrets were seen on one of the little islands. A Grey Shrike-thrush was heard near the creek.

Morning tea was held at Joshua Porter Reserve where again almost nothing was in flower. The highlight was a White-bellied Sea-eagle flying low across the lake. After a meander behind the houses, we were all treated to a small flock of Spotted Pardalotes high up on a branch. Unfortunately, the distance and dreadful light combined to make photography almost impossible. Also in these trees were Varied Sittella.

With rain imminent, we chose to go to Koala Park at Doyalson for shelter and lunch. Judy's Butcherbird from this outing last year, now an adult, once again turned up, bringing two juveniles who entertained us with their has-sling for food. All up the species count was 46 which was about 40 more than expected given the conditions. However, as always, it was fun to catch up with such terrific company.



Spotted Pardalote

28 April to 1 May 2022**GLOUCESTER CAMP OUT****Alan Morris**

What turned out to be an over 80's mini-camp at Gloucester was held 28th April to 1st May. The planned Club Camp-out was cancelled due to the hospitalisation of the proposed Camp Leader, Graham Nelson. Those participating were John and Rowena Wallace, Robyn Price, Diana Hogan, Lorraine Johnstone, Colin Howdon and Alan & Anne Morris (the latter and Diana were made Honorary 80-year-olds!). We based ourselves at the Gloucester Caravan Park as this was where participants had retained their bookings. Alan was elected leader for the first two days and Colin for the final day! It was fitting that Colin led the last day as he was born and raised in Gloucester. A total of 76 species were seen in a fairly laid-back activity because much time was taken up with social activities and catching up with the activities of families and friends. Lorraine Johnstone contributed much local advice. Many roads into the surrounding State Forests and National Parks were still closed.

Visits were made to the Gloucester Cemetery to see the very friendly Grey-crowned Babbler, the Yellow-rumped Thornbills and Jacky Winters that were feeding and perching amongst the gravesites. As well, there were many bush birds and King Parrots found feeding in trees near the cemetery. The Gloucester Waste Water Treatment Plant provided views of the usual waterbirds but also a Brown Falcon, the only one for the camp. The Camp Ground itself was full of Fig-birds and White-headed Pigeons feeding on Camphor Laurel fruits and some White-necked Herons.

Grey-crowned Babbler
Robyn Price

Barrington Village had its Nankeen Kestrels and Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Rocky Crossing on the Barrington River had plenty of Choughs, Straw-necked Ibis and Little Corellas. Copeland Common yielded more Choughs, Bell Miners and Pheasant Coucal and the historic Copeland Village and State Conservation Area yielded the usual rainforest species of Bowerbirds, Scrubwrens, Brown Cuckoo-Doves, Crimson Rosellas and Bar-shouldered Doves. A visit to Woko National Park near Rookhurst, gave us views of 5 different Wompoo Fruit-Doves, Emerald Dove, Lyrebird, Brown Goshawk, Col-lared Sparrowhawk and Wedge-tailed Eagle. On the Saturday a trip highlight to nearby Craven was a covey of Brown Quail. Thank you, Rowena and John, for bringing this little camp to fruition and Robyn Price for the photos.

SPECIES LIST**APRIL – MAY 2022**

Bird names used and the order in which they occur are in accord with the IOC World Birdlist Version 11.1.2021

First Migrant arrival *	Last Migrant departure **	LN = biggest number since January	OW = Over-winter
Musk Duck	4	1/5/2022 Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson

Australasian Shovelers	12	19/4/2022	Tuggerah Bay, Chittaway	Luke Ullrich
Australasian Shovelers	3	25/4-7/5	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Owlet-Nightjar	1	2-27/4/22	x4 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	11/4/2022	Doyle St, Kincumber	Michael Tyriss
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	3	15-25/4/22	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Matt Egan
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	16/4/2022	Davistown Boardwalk	J Nina Rua
Brush Cuckoo **	1	16/4/2022	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Peaceful Dove	4	1-29/4/22	x8 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Peaceful Dove	1	13/4/2022	Dogtrap Rd, Somersby	Margaret Pointer
Peaceful Dove	2	26/4 & 1/5	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Topknot Pigeon	12	14/4/2022	Wyoming	Margaret Pointer
Topknot Pigeon	50	14/4/2022	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Topknot Pigeon	200	25/4/2022	Lisarow	Andrew Robinson
Topknot Pigeon	300	9/5/2022	Lisarow	Andrew Robinson
Hoary-headed Grebe	20	25/4/2022	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Buff-banded Rail	1	29/4/2022	Chittaway Point	Rob Montgomery
Buff-banded Rail	2	5-7/5/2022	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Kelly Connor
Eurasian Coot	36	14/4/2022	McPherson Rd Swamp, Tuggerah	Carole Carpenter
Painted Button-quail	2	4-13/4/2022	x6 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Painted Button-quail	2	13/4/2022	Central Mangrove	Andrew Robinson
Beach Stone-Curlew	1	11-25/4/22	Blue Lagoon & Bateau Bay reefs	Julie Peksis
Pied Oystercatcher	12	6/5/2022	Point Frederick, Brisbane Water	Gary Jackson
Sooty Oystercatcher	16	11/4/2022	Blue Lagoon Caravan Pk and reefs	Allan Benson
White-tailed Tropic-bird	1m	10/3/2022	blown ashore Budgewoi, went into care	Cathy Gilmore
Providence Petrel	20	30/4/2022	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	100+	30/4/2022	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Campbell Albatross	1	30/4/2022	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-browed Albatross	3	30/4/2022	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Flesh-footed Shearwater	50+	30/4/2022	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	15	30/4/2022	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Short-tailed Shearwater	10	30/4/2022	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Sooty Shearwater	1	30/4/2022	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Hutton's Shearwater	1	30/4/2022	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-necked Stork	2A	15 & 19/4	Tuggerah Bay, Chittaway	Luke Ullrich
Striated Heron	2	7/5/2022	Tuggerawong, Tuggerah Lakes	Graham Nelson
Nankeen Night-Heron	2	7/5/2022	Budgewoi Bridge	Frank Ullrich
Eastern Osprey	1	25/4/2022	Gosford Stadium nest tower	Graham Nelson
Eastern Osprey	2	4-7/5/2022	at nest site, Harry Moore Oval, Toukley	Mel Stratton
Eastern Osprey	1	4/5/2022	Tel. tower, Enterprise Dve, Berkeley Vale	Michael Price
Pacific Baza	2	29/4-1/5/22	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Pacific Baza	2+N	30/4/2022	Avoca Drive, Kincumber	Danny O'Brien
Black-shouldered Kite	1	18/4/2022	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Julie Peksis
Black-shouldered Kite	2	1/5/2022	Central Mangrove	Andrew Robinson
Square-tailed Kite	1	1/5/2022	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Square-tailed Kite	1	3/5/2022	Gorokan Drive, Lake Haven	Meryl Newton
Square-tailed Kite	1	9/5/2022	Wybung Head, Munmorah SCA	Mel Stratton
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	2-30/4/22	x5 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	4/4/2022	Mangrove Mountain Hall	Margaret Pointer
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	29/4/2022	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Brown Goshawk	1m	12/4/2022	Avoca Beach	Laurie Smith
Brown Goshawk	1	29/4/2022	Brisbane Water NP, Tascott	Michael Tyriss
Brown Goshawk	1	6/5/2022	Toukley Ave, Toukley	Leeanne Lemke
Grey Goshawk	1	25/4/2022	Central Coast Hwy, Magenta Shores	Geoffrey Coates
Grey Goshawk	1	25/4/2022	Tumbi Umbi	Chris Howell
Grey Goshawk	1	30/4/2022	Tumbi Umbi	Ali Maree
White Goshawk	1	5/5/2022	Somersby	Darren Earnshaw
Nankeen Kestrel	1	15-18/4/22	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Michael Tyriss

Nankeen Kestrel	2	1/5/2022	Terrigal Drive, Terrigal	Darren Earnshaw
Nankeen Kestrel	2	4/5/2022	Harry Moore Oval, Toukley	Rick Gatenby
Southern Boobook	HC	22/4, 1&10/5	Mt Ettalong	Robert Payne
Barking Owl	HC	1-4/5/22	Austin Butler Oval, Woy Woy	Andrew Walker
Powerful Owl	HC	16/4/2022	2100 hrs Wildwood, Kincumber	Dianne Warman
Powerful Owl	HC	17/4/2022	1800 hrs Wambina NR, Matcham	Ashley Mullahey
Powerful Owl	HC	26/4/2022	2156 hrs Toukley Ave, Toukley	Leeanne Lemke
Noisy Pitta	HC	29/4/2022	Ourimbah Ck Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	16 & 19/4	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	11/4 & 1/5	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Gang Gang Cockatoo	2	21/4/2022	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Gang Gang Cockatoos	11	13/4-8/5/22	Palmdale Rd, Upper Palmdale	James Bennett
Gang Gang Cockatoo	9	1/5/2022	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Frank Ullrich
Musk Lorikeets	2	11/4/2022	Blue Lagoon Caravan Pk and reefs	Julie Peksis
Little Lorikeet	6	11/4, 1-4/5	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Little Lorikeet	9	14/4/2022	Kibble Park, Gosford	Kaye Pointer
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	4	25/4/2022	Chain Valley Bay South	Peter Mortimer
Red-rumped Parrot	5	14-25/4/22	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Rob Montgomery
Regent Bowerbird	2G&4BB	15/4/2022	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Greg Shaw
Regent Bowerbird	3	27/4/2022	Avoca Beach	Laurie Smith
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	11	26/4/2022	migration underway Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Fuscous Honeyeater	4	29/4/2022	12 on 4/5, Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	Allan Benson
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2A+2J	2-7/5/2022	Westfield, Tuggerah	David Russell
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	4/5/2022	cnr Dudley St & Coraldeen Av, Gorokan	Krystyna Loneragan
Brown-headed Honeyeater	6+	15/4/2022	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
White-naped Honeyeater	8A4Y	15/4/2022	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Buff-rumped Thornbill	6	15/4/2022	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	4	26/4 & 1/5	Waratah Rd Nth, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Rock Warbler	2	29/4/2022	Brisbane Water NP, Tascott	Michael Tyriss
Crested Shrike-tit	1	12/4/2022	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
White-winged Triller	ImM	14-19/4/22	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	David Russell
Varied Triller	3	14-19/4/22	Ourimbah Rest Area, M1 Motorway	Daniel McKeon
Varied Sittella	4+	10/4 & 25/4	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Varied Sittella	4	7/4/2022	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Varied Sittella	10	16/4/2022	Ourimbah Rest Area, M1 Motorway	Daniel McKeon
White-breast Woodswallow**3		18/4/2022	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Julie Peksis
Dusky Woodswallow	3	18 & 29/04	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Dusky Woodswallow	3	2/5/2022	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mtn	Allan Benson
Olive-backed Oriole	2	11/4-10/5/22	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Rufous Fantail **	1	10-21/4/22	x3 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Jacky Winter	8	1/5/2022	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Rose Robin	2	15-20/4/22	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Matt Egan
Australian Reed Warbler **	1	14/4/2022	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Rob Montgomery
Little Grassbird	A+J	17-24/4/22	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Tom Wilson
European Blackbird	1	4/4 & 30/4	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer

Breeding and some other records April – May 2022

Pacific Black Duck: A+4 ducklings Dairy Swamp CCW 15/4 (BLA); **Chestnut Teal:** 2A+12Y Berkeley Vale foreshore 24/4 (RWood); **Masked Lapwing:** 2A+4 chicks Memorial Park Woy Woy 25/4 (LRainford); **Purple Swamphen:** A+Chick Dairy Swamp 18/4 (JP); **Little Black Cormorant:** 3 nests Wallarah Ck 8/5 (SEd); **Brown Goshawk:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 10/4, AF on 18-19/4, 2 on 27/4 (MPo), 1 Dairy Swamp 9/5 (ENo), 2 Mangrove Mtn 7/5 (ARo); **Grey Goshawk:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 13/4, 28/4 (KPo), 1 Toukley Ave Toukley 6/5 (LLe), 1 Tuggerah STW 7/5 (ARo); **Wedge-tailed Eagle:** 2 Kiola Rd Kulnura 13/4 (JCa), 2 Ourimbah 1/5 (DSc), 1 Man. Mtn 1/5 (ARo), 2 Ourimbah 8/5 (DSc); **Powerful Owl:** HC Ettymalong Ck Umina 13/4, HC Mt Ettalong 1/5 (RPa); **Nankeen Kestrel:** 1 Central Mangrove, 1 Man.Mtn 1/5 (ARo); **Glossy Black Cockatoo:** 2 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 27/4 (KPo); **Gang-gang Cockatoo:** 8 Mangrove Mtn 7/5 (ARo); **Satin Bowerbird:** F+J Tathra Taila HSD M. Mtn 25/4 (MPo); **Scarlet Myzomela:** 2A+2Y Murrumbung HSD Mardi 26/4 (JCa).

Good birding!

CENTRAL COAST TWITCH - MAY, 2022

David Schuemaker	220	Noel Lonergan	154	David Catt	104
Graham Nelson	205	Margaret Pointer	150	Rowena Wallace	103
Allan Benson	177	Doug Hocking	147	Diana Hogan	100
Carole Carpenter	169	Dean Purcell	143	Judy Clark	97
Daniel McKeon	167	Julie Peksis	142	Meryl Newton	83
Nick Carson	164	Michael Scobie	132	Coleen Southall	76
John Carpenter	162	Gabrielle Rees	125	Graeme Catt	76
Kaye Pointer	156	Paul Shelley	125	Robyn Price	75
Krystyna Lonergan	154	Andrew Melville	109	Nikola Markovina	40

David Schuemaker's total of 220 is very impressive for this time of year. The law of diminishing returns will catch up with David and lots of people will get closer as time goes by.

BIRDATA SURVEYS 2022

Graham Nelson	106	M & K Pointer	14	Nick Carson	6	Guy Dutson	4
Allan Benson	85	C Clutterbuck	11	Alan Morris	5	Daniel McKeon	4
Rebecca Citroni	46	Michael Scobie	8	Doug Hocking	4	Anna Pillich	1
Andrew Melville	25	David Schuemaker	8	Frik Gautschi	4		

For April 2022, an improved but still disappointing 117 surveys were recorded on the Central Coast. This is almost certainly due to birding being restricted because of the rain and the illness of some key observers. Hopefully, the Swift Parrot surveys will boost numbers.

YTD, 440 surveys have been completed, well down on 2021

Birdata is one way, as a birder, you can make a contribution to bird conservation. We still need more observers, putting in more surveys. The "Alan Morris" Trophy for 2022 will only count surveys done in the Central Coast LGA.

(NB: Mogo 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. All welcome.

The April survey revealed a step change in the number of waterfowl present with total count being in the order of 600-700 birds. This is double the number of previous surveys. Of significance, a pair of Australian Shoveler were recorded along with up to 100 Hardhead. Previously we were excited to see any Hardheads. There were good numbers of Grey Teal, Black Duck, and Chestnut Teal, Coot as well as Australasian Grebe, a couple of Hoary-headed Grebe and Dusky Moorhen. Unfortunately, there were 6-8 Mallards present. Total species count was 46.

Swift Parrot / Regent Honeyeater Survey

Nick Carson

No Swifties or Regents have been sighted on the coast to date. It is likely Swift Parrot will come to Joshua Porter at some stage but are unlikely to stay long because conditions are far from ideal. There are good numbers of Swift Parrots in Victoria and they are in Canberra and the South Coast.

Please complete your allocated surveys.

EXHIBITION OF INTEREST TO CENTRAL COAST BIRDERS

Jenny McCracken

I would like to extend an invitation to all of the members of the Central Coast Bird Group, to attend the opening of my upcoming exhibition. A large part of the work is focused on representations of a selection of locally extinct (to NSW) endangered and threatened species of birds, which may be of interest to some of your members.

The exhibition is on at the Gosford Regional Gallery and will run from April 30th till June 19th. The bulk of the bird images reference specimens from the collections of the Australian and Victorian national museums.



TERRIGAL PELAGIC: April 29, 2022

The first Terrigal Pelagic of the year finally went ahead in calm conditions. We had low diversity with 13 species observed in total, including 8 Procellariiforms with the highlights being Providence Petrel 20 (3) and Wilson's Storm Petrel 100+.

Also seen were: Campbell Albatross 1, Black-browed Albatross 3 (2), Flesh-footed Shearwater 50+ (15), Wedge-tailed Shearwater 15 (3), Sooty Shearwater 1, Short-tailed Shearwater 10 (2), Hutton's Shearwater 1.

What we lacked in species richness the Wilson's Storm Petrel did their best to make up for in abundance and despite our best efforts to turn up a rarer species of Storm Petrel amongst them we left shelf waters somewhat wondering what could have been.



Andrew Robinson

The day was 'saved' however with some excellent cetacean action with a very obliging pod of Pygmy Killer Whales late in the day - a lifer mammal for most on board. Also seen were concurrent pods of Pantropical Spotted and Common Bottlenose Dolphins.

All in all it was an enjoyable day at sea, with good company and excellent conditions - at least in comparison to recent trips.

2022 SWANSEA PELAGICS

• 28th July • 20th October

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

DO BIRDERS MAKE GOOD TOURISTS? 'IN THE 90S YOU'D GET SOME DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS LOOKS'

Jo Stewart

Birdwatching tours are selling out, bush resorts are listing local birds on their websites and caravan park owners are sharing tips about where to find certain species. All over Australia, birdwatching is having a moment. A report released in April by BirdLife Australia reveals the economic impact of birdwatching tourism, with domestic birding trips contributing an estimated \$283m to the Australian economy annually, much of this in regional communities.

The owner of Great Northern Birdwatching Tours, David Mead, understands how much pulling power Queensland's birds have. When he first opened the business in 2013, he ran various tours. He now caters exclusively to birdwatchers, partly due to demand, but also because he likes travelling with them.

"Birdwatchers are great people," Mead says. "Whether they're looking at birds, reptiles or plants, they're involved and observant. They love the environment and are focused on conservation." As well as running tours, Mead participates in citizen science, contributing data on species such as the endangered Gouldian finch. Before the pandemic, almost half of Mead's clients were from overseas, mainly from the UK and US. Since Australia's borders have reopened, forward bookings for his small-group birding tours are strong, with some 2023 departures already sold out. "Birding is

massive in North Queensland because you can find about half of Australia's birds here," Mead says, naming species such as Palm Cockatoos and Eclectus Parrots as draw cards. People will travel a long way to find the Palm Cockatoo at the top of Cape York. . He says birdwatching brings tourism dollars to small businesses in out-of-the-way places. For example, when visiting the remote community of Lockhart River in Cape York, Mead's groups stay in Indigenous-owned accommodation. "It certainly benefits little towns in the middle of nowhere. In Birdsville, Bedourie and Boulia we stay in motels and eat in the one pub or restaurant in town each night."

The business of birdwatching

Until recently, quantifying the scale of birdwatching tourism in Australia was tricky due to lack of data. BirdLife Australia's Bird and Nature Tourism Report, prepared by Dr Rochelle Steven, a conservation scientist at Murdoch University, uses data from Tourism Research Australia and a survey conducted in 2021. The report found that bird tourism is a fast-growing niche market and that birders spend more than the average tourist. "For someone from the UK, seeing something as common as a Rainbow Lorikeet is a huge thrill," Steven says. "The diversity of habitats and corresponding diversity of birds makes Australia the holy grail for birdwatchers."

Birdwatching was included in the national visitor survey conducted by Tourism Research Australia for the first time in 2019.

"We know how many whale-watching boats there are, how many days they go out and how many people each boat holds, so we can get an indication of the magnitude of whale-watching," Steven says. "But we can't do that for birdwatching as we don't have those surrogate measures to understand how many people are participating." She believes that putting an economic value on birdwatching can rally support for conservation at a community level, but with so many species on the brink, much more needs to be done. Despite having one of the worst wildlife extinction records in the world, Australia's unique wildlife is what makes it such an appealing destination for nature-based travel. Many regional communities now see that continued habitat destruction through logging and land clearing can have negative economic impacts. After all, once you've killed the golden goose, you can't get it back." If a community sees the value birdwatching brings to the local economy, that can shift the dialogue and drive policies at a local level," Steven says. "That patch of bush is now worth more to them left standing because they have birders coming to town visiting their coffee shops and pubs."

Avid birder and author of *The Big Twitch*, Sean Dooley, who also works for BirdLife Australia, says "there's hardly ever been any concerted, genuine effort at recognising bird-related tourism". Instead, birdwatching tourism has risen organically – birders know where birds are, and savvy local tourism businesses pick up on it. "The market for bird tourism is very knowledgeable," Dooley says. "Places that harbour threatened, endangered and must-see species, those birds become iconic for those regions. It's been a real boon for those places that have realised what they've got on their doorstep."

Living in a birder's paradise

Over the years Dooley has witnessed a shift in how birdwatchers are perceived in regional communities. He's visited the box-ironbark forests of Chiltern-Mt Pilot national park in north-east Victoria for decades, an area known for threatened species such as Regent Honeyeaters. "In the 90s, you'd get some deeply suspicious looks and occasionally, hostile scowls," he says. "But now the locals are used to these weirdo bird nerds staying in their town. Now, locals engage you in conversation about birds. That's a palpable change in community attitude."

Tasmania is another dream destination for birders. Only a 20-minute ferry ride from Kettering, Bruny Island is a haven for all 12 of Tasmania's endemic bird species, including the endangered Forty-spotted Pardalote, one of Australia's rarest birds. Launched in 2010, the biennial Bruny Island Bird festival attracts tourists and locals keen to celebrate the biodiverse island's avian residents.

Charlie Harkness, co-owner of Hundred Acre Hideaway, gets plenty of bookings from birders at her property, located in a valley abundant with birdlife including Swift Parrots and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. "We also have a pair of wedge-tails who have been known to fly down into the top paddock to procure a duck for breakfast," she says. "A great sight for the guests and a sad day for our farm ducks." Guests often spot birds from the deck of their cabin, but some go the extra mile. "One guest wandered around in the rain for a couple of hours in the hope of sighting his favoured birds," Harkness says.

In Queensland, Mead has also witnessed the extraordinary lengths (and cost) some will bear to tick a bird off their list. "One woman had been travelling Australia looking for a Red Goshawk for years – she'd never seen one as they're rare," he says. "When I took her to a nest site in Cape York, she cried her eyes out. It meant so much to her. "Some birdwatchers are crazy and fanatical, but they're just fantastic people."