August 2018

# The Twitcher

## CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Alan Morris (4334 2776) Wendy Mitchell (4340 4870) & Robyn Price Volume 13, No. 8

| DATE | ACTIVITIES | | LEADER/SPEAKER |
|---|---|---|---|
| **28/8/18** | **Meeting:** Wildlife Surveys in the Gosford Region.<br>**Meet:** 7.30 pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds | | **Warren Brown** |
| **1/9/18** | **Outing:** Quorrobolong<br>**Meet:** 8.30 am Shell Service Station, Freemans Waterhole | **LAC** | **Alan Morris**<br>0418 269 482 |
| **12/9/18** | **Half Day Outing:** Dubbo Gully<br>**Meet**: 8.30 am cnr Wisemans Ferry Rd & Waratah Rd, Mangrove Mtn | **LAC** | **Margaret Pointer**<br>4374 1163 |
| **21-23/9/18** | **Camp-out:** Cootamundra Caravan Park<br>**Meet:** 8.30 am 55 Mackay St, Cootamundra, each morning.<br>Birding in Jindalee NP, local State Forests, Ulandra NR, Bethungra Railway Spiral and travelling stock Reserves. Returning to lunch in town each day. | | **Alan Morris**<br>0418 269 482 |
| **25/9/18** | **Meeting:** Threatened Reptiles of the Central Coast.<br>**Meet:** 7.30 pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds | | **Jaydn Walsh** |
| **19-21/10** | **Camp-Out:** Ocean Lake Caravan Park, Bermagui<br>**Meet:** 8.30 am each morning at caravan park. Birding in adjoining State Forests, National Parks, Wapengo and Wallaga Lake | | **Christina Port**<br>0421 691 317 |

**Note: LAC** = Lunch at cars & bring it and a chair with you!

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

**Tonight's Speaker:** Our speaker tonight is **Warren Brown**, Coastal & Estuary Officer for Central Coast Council. With a 10-year background in terrestrial ecology prior to working for the local Council, he has a particular interest in terrestrial and arboreal mammals. For the past 9 years Warren has been responsible for implementing various Coastal Zone Management Plans on the Central Coast. Funding was received by the former Gosford Council in 2012 for baseline fauna surveys throughout the Gosford Coastal Open Space Reserves, known as COSS. These covered approximately 49 reserves and 100 survey sites. For these surveys Warren developed some special techniques to locate and photograph these creatures and tonight he will talk about the results and the more detailed, targeted surveys which have followed.

**Last Month's Speaker:** Local birder, **Daniel McKeon** regaled us with a presentation on a trip to the Birdlife Australia's Gluepot Reserve, and the SA Government's Bimbowrie Conservation Park, and Bush Heritage's, Boolcoomatta Reserve, all in South Australia undertaken by Daniel McKeon, Luke Ullrich and Andrew Robinson in October 2017. The trip also included stops in Euston to photograph the Regent Parrot, Mildura to photograph Yellow Rosellas, Port Augusta's Desert Park where Redthroats and Western Field Wrens were seen and photographed, and finally an afternoon in Cobar at the Newie Tank where Spotted Bowerbirds and European Blackbirds flourish!. A very dry landscape made the birding tough but a great trip was had by all and lots of new birds were seen along with a whole new landscape to explore in the heart of Mallee country in South Australia. Some highlights at Gluepot were great photographs of Yellow-throated and Black-eared Miners; Major Mitchell Cockatoos, Mulga Parrots, Mallee Ringnecks and Blue Bonnets, Splendid Fairy-wrens, Gilbert's Whistlers and Striated Grass-wrens. The anecdotes of the trip and comparisons with another recent trip doing basically the same route in early July 2018 made the presentation entertaining and very informative. Thank you Daniel!

**Welcome to Visitors and New Members**: 35 members and friends attended the Meeting on 24/7/18 and a visitor Owen Williams was made welcome. **Apologies** were received from Diana & Barry Dean, Val & Don Moon, Grace Bryant, Rosanna Jones, John & Rowena Wallace, Wendy Mitchell, Ella De Jong and Richard Cassel. We welcomed back a num-

ber of members who had been away on prolonged travels, particularly to Cape York and northern Australia. It was announced at the meeting that Graeme Catt had been admitted to hospital a week before and that on the night of the meeting was being operated on!. The members expressed their best wishes to Graeme and to Pat, and a Card was signed for Graeme by all. It was also mentioned that Barry Pointer's 80th birthday would be celebrated at the Mangrove Mountain Community Church on August 15th at 8.30-900 am and everyone would be welcome to join in the breakfast to celebrate with Barry.

Following on from the presentation given to the Club by Matthew Herring on the Bitterns in the Ricefields Project in May 2018, it was decided to run a raffle for two months using donated prizes to raise money for the Bitterns in Rice Project and whatever was received from the raffle the Club would match. At the July Meeting the second of the raffles was held and together the two raffles raised $240, matched by the club with another $240, we were able to donate $480 for the project. Many thanks to the people who donated the prizes.

People are encouraged to bring their own coffee cups to the meetings so as to reduce the plastic/polystyrene cups that that will be sent to landfill, for those people who remember to do this, congratulations! Thanks to Malcolm Hill's expertise, the collar microphone and pocket box, work well and there are now no problem with anyone hearing the speaker or the leader!

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

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

**Guess What ! There really is a new Central Coast Annual Bird Report 2008 now for sale at the meeting for $5**. Unbound copies of the 2009 and 2010 Reports are available too! Be up to date with your bird observations and check to see how rare are some of the uncommon visitors to your garden or favourite patch. Paul Shelley and Nick Carson assisted in the preparation of the documents.

**SAVING STAMPS TO HELP SAVE THE ALBATROSSES**
Ella de Jong has done a fantastic job collecting stamps for the RSPB over a long period of time, but she will be finishing up at the end of this year. She will continue to process the stamps that are 'in the pipeline' until then. Thank you Ella for all you have done towards the protection of Albatrosses and Giant Petrels from the effects of inefficient longline fishing. Colin Mitchell has offered to continue the good cause in 2019.

**WHAT WAS NEW July-August and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT August-September?**

During July and early August, there have been some interesting finds, and these include the return of **Avocets** to our Region with a pair visiting the Dairy Swamp over two week period while a pair were at the Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh for one day, and a **Red-kneed Dotterel** at Jilliby Swamp, seen on 29/6 & 7/8. The continued sightings of the **Brahminy Kites** at Patonga and Toukley would indicate that there are probably two pairs still hanging around the Central Coast, will they breed here too? There have been 50 reports of **Square-tailed Kites** from 1/1-12/8 which is a record for the period, while there were 9 reports of **Pacific Bazas** from across the Region in the last month, where have they been in the meantime?

Black Bittern
Christina Port

**Barking Owls** were reported from three locations at Bouddi NP, Bensville and Wyoming, which is good news! **Blue-faced Honeyeaters** continue to be in the news with sightings at Budgewoi, Berkeley Vale, Umina and Tuggerah Westfield, you just don't know they will turn up next! **White-breasted Woodswallows**, **Fairy Martins** and **Tree Martins** returned to the Tuggerah Wetlands on 8/8/18 so expect many more! **Fuscous Honeyeaters** keep turning up too, this time there were 12+ at the commencement of the Kellys Firetrail Mt White 30/6-1/8, and other 3+ were at the Spotted Gum Hill in Tuggerah NR, South Tacoma. The recent Report of a **Black Bittern** on Ourimbah

Fairy Prion
*Dean Purcell*

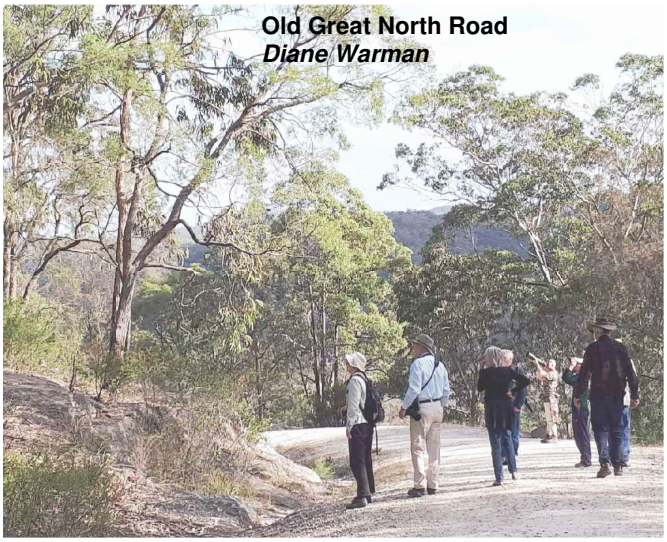
Creek, is the first for some months! There have been more reports of **Black-browed, Shy** and **Yellow-nosed Albatrosses, Fluttering & Hutton's Shearwater, White-fronted Terns** and **Fairy Prions** out at sea, and see separate report on the Swansea pelagic, so continue to keep your telescopes on the ready! Keep your eye open for **Swift Parrots** which are still being recorded elsewhere in coastal NSW and watch out for some **Regent Honeyeaters** which might come down to the coast from the Central Tablelands. The breeding season is now well underway for many of our resident birds, particularly **Spotted Pardalotes**, **Brown Thornbills**, **White-browed Scrub-wrens, Striped Honeyeaters** and **Fairy-wrens**. Amongst the migrants, **Wedge-tailed Shearwaters**, **Latham's Snipe**, **Rufous Whistlers, White-throated Gerygones** and **Dusky Woodswallows** should return in mid to late August, and the local **Bronze-Cuckoos** should be setting up their territories. **Koels** and **Channel-billed Cuckoos** can be expected at the end of August. **Double-banded Plovers** are now moulting into the breeding plumage and will have all departed by the end of the month for New Zealand.

**OUTING REPORTS**

**Spencer & Dharug NP: 28 July 2018** **Leaders: Margaret & Kaye Pointer**

The eclipse of the earth and the moon was hidden by clouds for most of us, and light cloud persisted, as we travelled south along Wisemans Ferry Rd to Spencer on the Hawkesbury River but cleared to sunshine later for this outing. Following the lower reaches of Mangrove Creek we noticed frost damage on most of the roadside vegetation. Even the giant Fig Tree at Mill Creek was badly affected by frost! Spencer wharf was chilly but plentiful birdlife kept 15 birders busy, including our regular Sydney visitors and a first time photographer, David Russell! Resident waterfowl were not disturbed by our fishermen and their craft, Royal Spoonbill, Pelican, Great Egret, White-faced Herons, Little Pied & Little Black Cormorants, hardly moved from their roosts.

Across Wisemans Ferry Rd and up the hill, 50+ Musk Lorikeets noisily jostled for the best blossoms on the tall Ironbark and Stringybark trees. Eastern Rosellas, Rainbow Lorikeets and a Galah seemed more interested in backyard free feeding sites! A very distant Wonga Pigeon called repeatedly! A larger bird in a distant tree had observers puzzled until Kaye realized it had a crest! Fortunately this bird flew in our direction and landed in a nearby tree, cameras clicked furiously. The barred breast feathers were clearly visible, a Pacific Baza was a special tick for many people present. We moved off to nearby Ingoola Rd and walked to the end, More Musk & Rainbow Lorikeets, Little Wattlebirds, Silvereye, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, King-Parrots and Superb Fairy-wrens were listed. At our Cohens Creek stop, Spotted Pardalote, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Swamphens were present but the eucalypts only had a few frost burnt blossoms. At Gunderman, Eastern Yellow Robins, Red-browed Finch and Cattle Egrets and Superb Lyrebirds were seen. Only Graham spotted the Bar-shouldered Doves at the Muskoka horse paddock!


Old Great North Road
*Diane Warman*

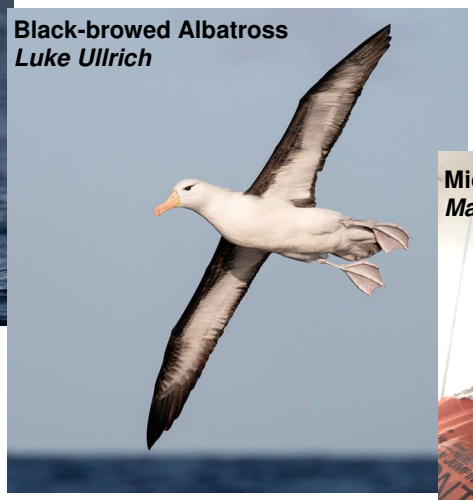
Morning tea was taken at Mill Creek camping area Dharug NP. Bird highlights were a much photographed male Rose Robin, Common Bronzewing, Crimson Rosella, Brown Thornbill, Golden Whistler & Striated Thornbill. From there we walked to the picnic area and added shy Variegated Fairy-wrens, Shining Bronze and Fan-tailed Cuckoos and Varied Sittellas! The resident Brush Turkey defended his territory as we ate lunch back at the Camp Ground. Because of limited parking at the Great North walk trackhead, we carpooled from Mill Creek. The convict built road was a challenge for those members over 70+ but the rewards were a Rock Warbler, Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters and another Shining Bronze-Cuckoo. A rewarding day in good company and wonderful birds were seen. Our score was 62 species for the day. (Margaret Pointer)

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
*David Russell*

**Swansea Pelagic: Thursday 2 August 2018** **Leader: Mick Roderick**

The Swansea Pelagic finally got out, having been cancelled because of rough weather on 27/7/18 The results were in line with expectation for light winds and little swell, but we thought we might be lucky and get one or two more species. Best bird of the day was a White-faced Storm-Petrel out on the Shelf and we had about 40 Fairy Prions come and check us out! There were three species of Albatross, approx 14 Yellow-nosed, 5 Black-browed and 3 Shy Albatross and they were seen both close inshore and out on the Shelf. We saw about 110 Fluttering Shearwaters on the way out, inshore, and double that number on the way back, and a handful of Hutton's both inshore and out wide, and one lone Wedge-tailed Shearwater about 5kms from Swansea, being a very early return from its northwards migration, There was a single White-fronted Tern and a Brown Skua. We were accompanied by Crested Terns and Silver Gulls all day. We had a number of talented Central Coast photographers on board and accompanying this note are some examples of their skills!

**Shy Albatross**
***Daniel McKeon***



**Black-browed Albatross**
***Luke Ullrich***

**Michael Scobie & Malcolm Hill**
***Malcolm Hill***

(Allan Benson)

**Tuggerah Wetlands Half-Day Outing: Wednesday 8 August 2018** **Leader: Alan Morris**

The combined Birding NSW/Cumberland Bird Observers Club Half Day outing took place in fine, sunny but somewhat windy weather at the Tuggerah Wetlands. Starting in the cold at McPherson Rd Swamp, then moving to the Central Coast Wetlands, and finishing at the Tuggerah STW. Thirty two people met at the gate into McPherson Swamp including 8 CBOC members and 31 BNSW members (7 of the 8 CBOC members are also members of BNSW!), including Geoff White and Sam Leong, first time attendees to our activities! Overall there were few waterbirds on the Swamp although a pair of Swans are still on the nest, but Grey Goshawk & a Whistling Kite flew over, a Swamp Harrier coursed over the reedbeds and an adult Sea-Eagle checked us out! Two Topknot Pigeons were feeding in Camphor Laurel trees, a Kookaburra appeared to take a Masked Lapwing chick from a flat roof on an adjoining industrial building, and the first two White-breasted Woodswallows for the season were seen and photographed on the telegraph wires, last reported date was at the same location on 23/4/18 and this is an early return date for them. Some lucky people saw Southern Emu-wrens, and several Tawny Grassbirds were seen but they were not yet calling. We left there for the Dairy Swamp, having seen 37 species!

Today was the day that Fairy Martins in good numbers returned to the Central Coast at the Dairy Swamp, having departed for points north in January 2018. In addition there were about 20-30 Tree Martins as well, in numbers not seen since March. This is an average return date for the Fairy Martins. Also on the Dairy Swamp were 2 Red-necked Avocets, Black-fronted Dotterels, a pair of nesting Black Swans, Pipits were in the grass, once again Whistling Kites, an immature Sea-Eagle and Swamp Harrier cruised the reedbeds, and a Nankeen Kestrel, a Grey Goshawk & a Hobby were present, and Topknot Pigeons were visiting the local Camphor Laurel trees too!

**Dairy Swamp Birders and Bulls**

Morning tea was taken at the picnic tables where Figbirds and Striped Honeyeaters were heard calling. A walk down through the Greenfleet paddock found a pair of Azure Kingfishers on Tuggerah Creek and Variegated Fairy-wren, Brown Gerygones and a Drongo in the creek-side vegetation. A Black-shouldered Kite was perched near a paddock, another adult Sea-eagle flew over and Superb Fairy-wrens, White-browed Scrub-wrens, Yellow Robin and Red-browed Finches fed along the trails slashed through the grass and low vegetation. We lunched back at the Picnic area where another immature Sea-Eagle was seen.

Our final stop was at the Tuggerah STW where the plug has been pulled and the water level has drastically dropped from where it was two weeks ago! There was no sign of the Pink-eared Ducks but 38 Australasian Shovelers was a good find, as well as good numbers of Grey Teal, Hardhead and Hoary -headed Grebes. Also present was a White-necked Heron, 2 Black-fronted Dotterel and 5 Royal Spoonbills. All up 32 people saw 85 species in total for the day which included 7 species of raptors, and was a pretty good total for a winter half day outing! (Alan Morris)

Azure Kingfisher
*Carol Edwards*

**UNUSUAL GOSFORD-WYONG SIGHTINGS JULY - AUGUST 2018**

**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**.

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| Black Swan | 711 | 26/7/18 | Brisbane Water Waterbird Survey | Alan Morris |
| Black Swan | 1721 | 27/7/18 | Tuggerah Lakes at 16 sites | Alan Morris |
| Australasian Shoveler | 25 | 15/7-5/8 | Tuggerah STW | John Carpenter |
| Hardhead | 200 | 27/7/18 | Colongra Swamp, Budgewoi | Grace Bryant |
| Pink-eared Duck | 22 | 15/7-5/8 | 33 on 22/7 Tuggerah STW | Carole Carpenter |
| Black-browed Albatross | 8 | 2/8/18 | Swansea pelagic | Darren Earnshaw |
| Yellow-nosed Albatross | 20 | 2/8/18 | Swansea pelagic | John Carpenter |
| Yellow-nosed Albatross | 1 | 4/8/18 | Cpt Cook Lookout, Copacobana | Nikola Markovina |
| Shy Albatross | 3 | 2/8/18 | Swansea pelagic | Ian Benson |
| Fairy Prion | 1 | 22/7 & 5/8 | Norah Head | Daniel McKeon |
| Fairy Prion | 1 | 22/7/18 | Copacobana | Nikola Markovina |
| Fairy Prion | 40+ | 2/8/18 | Swansea pelagic | Nick Carson |
| Wedge-tailed Shearwater* | 1 | 2/8/18 | Swansea pelagic | Michael Scobie |
| Fluttering Shearwater | 300 | 24/7/18 | Killcare Beach | Phillip Bernie |
| Fluttering Shearwater | 400 | 2/8/18 | Swansea pelagic | Christina Port |
| Hutton's Shearwater | 2 | 2 & 5/8 | Norah Head (photo) | Nala Llubnrut |
| Hutton's Shearwater | 10+ | 2/8/18 | Swansea pelagic | Carole Carpenter |
| Black Bittern | 1 | 19/7/18 | Ourimbah Creek, Chittaway | Christina Port |
| Striated Heron | 1 | 1/8/18 | Long Jetty | Alan Morris |
| Striated Heron | 1 | 1/8/18 | Chittaway Point West Reserve | John Carpenter |
| White-necked Heron | 1 | 14/6/18 | Borrisbrook Rd, Mangrove Mtn | Margaret Pointer |
| White-necked Heron | 3 | 8/7/18 | Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands | Christina Port |
| White-necked Heron | 1 | 28/7/18 | Wamberal Lagoon | Catherine Walker |
| Nankeen Night-heron | 4 | 5/7/18 | Avoca Lagoon | Frik Gauchi |
| Nankeen Night-heron | 20 | 19/7/18 | Ourimbah Creek, Chittaway | Christina Port |
| Nankeen Night-heron | 2 | 26/7/18 | Eulalia St Wharf mangroves, Davistown | Alan Morris |
| Straw-necked Ibis | 31 | 2/7/18 | Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn | Kaye Pointer |
| Osprey | 2 | 5 & 31/7 | Budgewoi | Daniel McKeon |
| Osprey | 2 | 5/7/18 | Avoca Lagoon | Frik Gauchi |
| Osprey | 2+N | 6-31/7/18 | x3 Rawson Rd, Woy Woy | Smith/Whittaker |
| Black-shouldered Kite | 1 | 22/6/18 | Ourimbah Creek RTA Res | Darren Earnshaw |
| Black-shouldered Kite | 2 | 8 &23/7 | Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn | Kaye Pointer |
| Square-tailed Kite | 1 | 30/6/18 | Dulkara Park, Umina | Michael Price |
| Square-tailed Kite | 1 | 3/7/18 | 2 on 22/7 Malison St, Wyoming | A & B. Melville |
| Square-tailed Kite | 1 | 13/7/18 | Bensville | Graham Paice |
| Pacific Baza | 1 | 14/7/18 | Gosford Golf Course | Robin Benson |
| Pacific Baza | 1 | 22/7/18 | Saratoga | Lisa Brand |
| Pacific Baza | 1 | 27-28/7/18 x2 | Tuggerah Oval, Tuggerah | Laurie Smith |
| Wedge-tailed Eagle | 2 | 7-22/7/18 x6 | Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn | Kaye Pointer |
| Wedge-tailed Eagle | 1 | 9/7/18 | West Gosford | Nikola Markovina |
| Wedge-tailed Eagle | 1 | 5/8/18 | Mangrove Mountain | Georgina Shaw |

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| Grey Goshawk (white) | 1 | 27/7 & 3/8 | Boundary Rd Kincumber | Diane Warman |
| Grey Goshawk | 1 | 28-31/7/18 x2 | Magenta Shores | Luke Ullrich |
| Grey Goshawk | 2 | 3/8/18 | Spotted Gum Hill, Tuggerah NR | Alan Morris |
| Brown Goshawk | 1 | 23/6/18 | South Kincumber | Carol Edwards |
| Brown Goshawk | 1 | 27/6/18 | Clare Mace Cres, Berkeley Vale | Daniel McKeon |
| Brown Goshawk | 1 | 4/7/18 | Narara Eco Village | Richard Cassels |
| Collared Sparrowhawk | 1 | 18/7/18 | Narara Eco Village | Richard Cassels |
| Collared Sparrowhawk | 1 | 3/8/18 | Erina | Malcolm Hill |
| Brahminy Kite | Im | 25/6, 31/7 | Toukley East | Leeanne Lemke |
| Brahminy Kite | A | 23/7/18 | Toukley East | Leeanne Lemke |
| Brahminy Kite | A | 31/7/18 | Patonga Beach | Christina Port |
| Buff-banded Rail | 1 | 12/7/18 | Davistown Boardwalk | Doug Hocking |
| Bush Stone-curlew | 1 | 30/6 & 17-21/7 | St Johns Primary Schl, Umina | June Caynes |
| Bush Stone-curlew | 2 | 26/7/18 | Kincumber Cres, Davistown | Clara Clutterbuck |
| Bush Stone-curlew | 3 | 25-31/7/18 x4 | Saratoga Wetlands at night | Alan Skinner |
| Red-necked Avocet | 1 | 29/6/18 | Jilliby Ck, Dooralong | Allan Benson |
| Red-necked Avocet | 2 | 23/7-2/8 | Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands | Alan Morris |
| Black-winged Stilt | 2 | 28/7/18 | Wamberal Lagoon | Catherine Walker |
| Pied Oystercatcher | 17 | 26/7/18 | Brisbane Water Waterbird Survey | Andrew Melville |
| Sooty Oystercatcher | 9 | 8/7 & 6/8 | Blue Bay Reefs | Krys Lonergan |
| Pacific Golden Plover * | 3 | 7/8/18 | Toowoon Bay/Blue Bay Reefs | Morris/Carson |
| Red-capped Plover | 2 | 28/6-1/8 | The Entrance Channel | Graham Nelson |
| Double-banded Plover ** | 10 | 8/7/18 only 6 by 7/8 | Blue Bay Reefs | Lonergan/Morris |
| Red-kneed Dotterel | 1 | 29/6 & 7/8 | Jilliby Swamp, Jilliby | Nick Carson |
| Black-fronted Dotterel | 4 | 29/6-7/8 | Jilliby Swamp, Jilliby | Nick Carson |
| Eastern Curlew | 7 | 26/7/18 | Brisbane Water Waterbird Survey | Michael Scobie |
| Red-necked Stint | 10 | 8/7/18 | Blue Bay Reefs | Krys Lonergan |
| Brown Skua | 1 | 2/8/18 | Swansea Pelagic | Malcolm Hill |
| White-fronted Tern | 3 | 24/6/18 | Little Beach, Bouddi NP | Nick Carson |
| White-fronted Tern | 2 | 28/6-29/7 x3 | Wamberal Lagoon | Graham Nelson |
| White-fronted Tern ** | 16 | 5/8/18 | Norah Head Reefs | Alan Morris |
| Caspian Tern | 23 | 25/7/18 | The Entrance Channel | Alan Morris |
| Caspian Tern | 14 | 26/7/18 | Brisbane Water Waterbird Survey | Andrew Melville |
| Peaceful Dove | 15 | 16-24/6/18 | Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn | Margaret Pointer |
| White-headed Pigeon | 20 | 20/6/18 | Gosford Private Hosp., Nth Gosford | Noel Lonergan |
| White-headed Pigeon | 1 | 18/7/18 | Lake Rd, Blackwall Bay | Wil Chronopoulos |
| Azure Kingfisher | 2 | 8/8/18 | Tuggerah Ck ,Central Coast Wetlands | Carol Edwards |
| Sacred Kingfisher | 1 (OW) | 17/7/18 | Chain Valley Bay North | Marge Kibby |
| Sacred Kingfisher | 1 (OW) | 13/7/18 | Blackwall Bay | Rob Montgomery |
| Sacred Kingfisher | 1 (OW) | 31/7/18 | Picnic Point Saltmarsh | Alan Morris |
| Nankeen Kestrel | 1 | 1 & 25/7 | Soldiers Point Carpark | Bernie Gibson |
| Nankeen Kestrel | 2 | 3/7/18 | Terrigal Haven | D. Russell |
| Australian Hobby | 1 | 27/7/18 | Kincumber Hotel | Danny O'Brien |
| Australian Hobby | 1 | 2/8/18 | Narara Valley High School | Richard Cassels |
| Australian Hobby | 1 | 7/8/18 | Jilliby Swamp | Allan Benson |
| Brown Falcon | 1 | 26/6/18 | Old Foots Rd, Palmdale | Noel Lonergan |
| Peregrine Falcon | 2 | 23/6/18 | Avoca Beach shops | Nick Carson |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1 | 24/6/18 | Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn | Kaye Pointer |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1 | 26/6/18 | Wamberal Lagoon | Graham Nelson |
| Yellow-tailed Bla Cocky | 35 | 29/7/18 1015hrs | Kariong | Christina Port |
| Yellow-tailed Bla Cocky | 2+1DY | 30/7/18 0800 hrs | Magenta near North Entrance | Michael Price |
| Yellow-tailed Bla Cocky | 10 | 30/7/18 0835 hrs | Murray St, Bateau Bay | Alan Morris |
| Glossy Black Cockatoo | 2 | 23/7/18 | Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn | Margaret Pointer |
| Glossy Black Cockatoo | 4 | 25/7/18 | Bucketty Waterhole | Darren Earnshaw |
| Glossy Black Cockatoo | 1 | 6/8/18 | Kariong Eco-Garden | Peter Street |

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| Gang-gang Cockatoo | 6 | 7/7/18 | Upper Palmdale Road | Krys Lonergan |
| Scaly-breasted Lorikeet | 4 | 3/7/18 | Norah Head | Michael Price |
| Musk Lorikeet | 2 | 29/6/18 | Gorokan | Deborah Raymont |
| Musk Lorikeet | 25+ | 20/7/18 | Buff Point | David Peet |
| Little Lorikeet | 9 | 3/7/18 | Dulkara Rd Reserve, Umina | Michael Price |
| Red-rumped Parrot | 10 | 21/6/18 | Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands | Margaret Pointer |
| Channel-billed Cuckoo | A | 2/7/18 | over-wintering Lions Park, Chittaway | Christina Port |
| Pheasant Coucal | 1 | 3/8/18 | Hill St North, Tacoma | Allan Benson |
| Shining Bronze-Cuckoo | 1 | 22/6/18 | Ourimbah Creek RTA Res | Darren Earnshaw |
| Shining Bronze-Cuckoo | 1 | 28/7/18 | Mill Ck, Dharug NP | Margaret Pointer |
| Shining Bronze-Cuckoo | 1 | 1/8/18 | Glenning Valley | Ian Benson |
| Fan-tailed Cuckoo | 1 | 20/7/18 | M1 Ourimbah Rest Area | Krys Lonergan |
| Powerful Owl | HC | 14-30/6 x10times | Brisbane Water NP, Umina | Robert Payne |
| Barking Owl | HC | 12/7/18 | Henry Kendall Village, Wyoming | Rob Montgomery |
| Barking Owl | 1 | 21/7/18 | 1840 hrs North St ,Bensville | Alan Kwok |
| Barking Owl | HC | 5/8/18 | Little Beach, Bouddi NP | Nick Carson |
| Southern Boobook | HC | 1-5/8/18 | Brisbane Water NP, Umina | Robert Payne |
| Green Catbird | 1 | 23/7/18 | Ourimbah Ck RTA Res | Alan Morris |
| Regent Bowerbird | 2 | 27/6/18 | Erina | Malcolm Hill |
| Regent Bowerbird | AM | 29/7/18 | Terrigal | Catherine Walker |
| Brown Honeyeater | 1 | 4/8/18 | Boardwalk, Davistown | Laurie Smith |
| Striped Honeyeater | 2 N | 9/8/18 | Berkeley Creek, Berkeley Vale | Christina Port |
| Blue-faced Honeyeater | 2 | 15/6 &26/7 | Budgewoi | Steve Merrett |
| Blue-faced Honeyeater | 6 | 30/6/18 | Kurraba Pde, Berkeley Vale | Mairin Ireland |
| Blue-faced Honeyeater | Im | 5/7/18 | Tuggerah Westfield Carpark | Margaret Pointer |
| Brown-head Honeyeater | 2 | 30/6/18 | Girrakool, Brisbane Water NP | Doug Hocking |
| Brown-head Honeyeater | 6 | 2/7-22/7 | x6 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn | Kaye Pointer |
| Fuscous Honeyeater | 3 | 30/6/18 | 12+ on 1/8, Kellys Trail, Mt White | Doug Hocking |
| Fuscous Honeyeater | 3 | 3/8/18 | Spotted Gum Hill, Tuggerah NR | Alan Morris |
| Rock Warbler | 2 | 28/7/18 | Old Great North Road, Dharug NP | Rex Schmidt |
| Buff-rumped Thornbill | 7 | 9/8/18 | Bushells Ridge East | Alan Morris |
| Spotted Quail-thrush | 3 | 25/7/18 | Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty | Darren Earnshaw |
| Varied Sittella | 5 | 25/6-20/7 | x7 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn | Kaye Pointer |
| Varied Sittella | 5 | 28/7/18 | Doyle St Reserve, Kincumber | Mick Roderick |
| Varied Sittella | 6 | 1/8/18 | Kingfisher Shores, Chain Valley Bay | Marge Kibby |
| Crested Shrike-tit | 2 | 22/6/18 | Ourimbah Creek RTA Res | Darren Earnshaw |
| Crested Shrike-tit | 2 | 26/6/18 | Old Foots Rd, Palmdale | Krys Lonergan |
| Crested Shrike-tit | 1 | 20/7/18 | Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn | Kaye Pointer |
| Dusky Woodswallow | 2 | 30/6/18 | Girrakool, Brisbane Water NP | Doug Hocking |
| White-breast Wd'swallow* | 2 | 8/8/18 | McPherson Rd Swamp, Tuggerah | Sam Leong |
| Spangled Drongo | 1 | 11/7/18 | Lakes Beach, Budgewoi | Steve Merrett |
| Spangled Drongo | 1 | 12/7/18 | Ocean St Carpark, Budgewoi | Meryl Newton |
| Spangled Drongo | 1 | 8/8/18 | Greenfleet Pdk Central Coast Wetlands | Dick Dallimore |
| Rose Robin | AM | 26/6/18 | 4M on 30/6 Pearl Beach Arboretum | L.Smith/Payne |
| Rose Robin | 2AM | 30/6/18 | Mooney Mooney Ck Brisbane WMP | Doug Hocking |
| Rose Robin | AM | 28/7/18 | Picnic Area Mill Ck ,Dharug NP | David |
| Tree Martin | 2 | 21/6/18 | Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands | Kaye Pointer |
| Tree Martin * | 30 | 8/8/189 | Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands | Graham Nelson |
| Fairy Martin * | 6 | 8/8/18 | Jilliby Swamp | John Carpenter |
| Fairy Martin * | 30 | 8/8/189 | Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands | Alan Morris |
| Mistletoebird | 6 | 24/7/18 | Berkeley Ck, Berkeley Vale | Alan Morris |
| Mistletoebird | 1 | 3/8/18 | Davistown Boardwalk | Laurie Smith |
| European Blackbird | AM | 10/7/18 | Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn | Kaye Pointer |
| Bassian Thrush | 3 | 20/6-24/7 x6 | Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn | Kaye Pointer |
| Bassian Thrush | 2 | 23-27/7 | Ourimbah Ck RTA Res | Alan Morris |

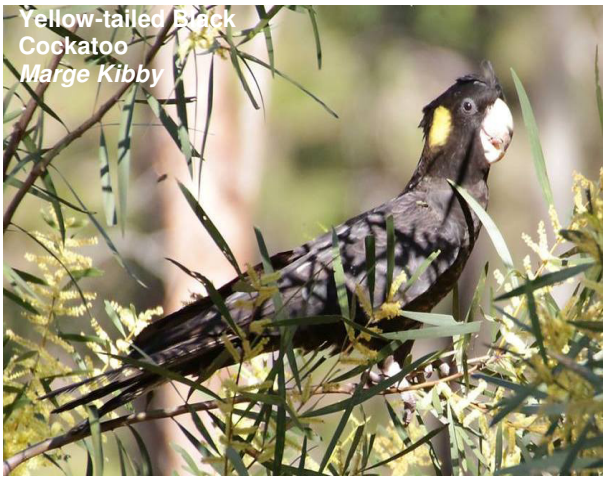
* = First return of migrants ** = Last birds to depart LN = biggest number since January OW = Over-winter

**Comments**

Other reports and many breeding records include **Black Swan:** 711 in Brisbane Water (DH), highest count since surveys were carried out and 1721 on Tuggerah Lakes 26/7 (AM), 2A+4 tiny cygnets Jilliby Swp 8/8 (CC), occupied nests at McPhersons & Dairy Swamps 8/8 (CP); **Pied Cormorant:** 151 birds & 94 nests at The Entrance 25/7 (AM), 106+15 nests St Huberts Is/Brisbane Water 26/7 (DH); **White-necked Heron:** 1 x5 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 14/6-7/8 (MP), 6 Tuggerah STW 1/7-8/8 (Eileen Davy), 1 Narara Eco Village 19/7 (RCa); **Striated Heron:** 1 Narara Eco Village 11/7 (RCa); **Black-shouldered Kite:** Narara Eco Village 11-15/6, 2-6/7 (RCa), 2 Budgewoi 15/6 (SMe),1 McPherson Rd Swp 8/7 (CP), 1 Dairy Swamp CCW 20/7 & 8/8, Jilliby Swamp 7/8 (AB); **Wedge-tailed Eagle:** 2 x4 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 15-25/6 (KP), 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 20/7 (CC), 1 Ourimbah Ck RTA Res 27/7 (CP); **Grey Goshawk:** M&F Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 24/6 (KP), North Avoca 27/7 (NMk), 3 McPhersons, Dairy Swp & Tuggerah Ck CCW 8/8, Eastern Way Killarney Vale 9/8 (AM); **Brown Goshawk:** 2 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 22/6 & 12/7 (MP,KP), 1 Murray St Bateau Bay 23/7 (AM); **Square-tailed Square:** Wamberal Lagoon 26/6 (GNe), Umina 9/7 (Ed), Murray St Bateau Bay (AM), 2 Berkeley Vale 7/8 (DMcK); **Pacific Baza:** Narara Eco-Village 16/7 (RCa), Chain Valley Bay Nth 17/7 (MKy), Narara Eco Village 15/7 (RCa), Spencer Store 28/7 (KP), Tuggerah STW 4/8 (DMcK), Boundary Rd Kincumber 8/8 (DW); **Masked Lapwings**: 2A+Y Gavenlock Rd Tuggerah 8/8 (AM); **White-fronted Tern:** 2 The Entrance Channel 27-28/6 (LU), 1 Swansea pelagic 2/8 (MRo); **Tawny Frogmouth:** 2 Jenny Dixon Res Norah Hd 15/6 (SMe), 2 Lake Munmorah 24/6 (FU), 2 Long Jetty 5/7 (CP), 1 Tarragal Gen Village Wyoming 18/7 (GShaw), 2 Lions Pk Nth Chittaway 23/7 & Bluebell Pk 23-24/7, 2 Berkeley Vale wharf 23/7, Berkeley Ck and Chittaway 25/7(CP), 1 pr Henry Kendall Village, Wyoming 3/8 (RMo), 2 Chittaway Pt West 5/8 (CC); **Nankeen Kestrel:** 5/8 Magenta Shores, 1 Dairy Swamp 8/8 (AM); **Australian Hobby:** 1 Dairy Swamp CCW 8/8 (AM); **Peregrine Falcon:** 1 Murray St Bateau Bay 25/7 (AM), 1 Bateau Bay 4/8 (GBr), 1 Alison 7/8 (AB); **Southern Boobook:** HC Brisbane Water NP Umina 14 & 28/6 (RP), Murray St Bateau Bay 6/8 (AM); **Blue-faced Honeyeater:** 1 Tapestry Rd Umina 8/8 (DMcK); **Varied Sittella:** 6 Wyong Creek 5/8 (MK); **Rose Robin:** AF Glenola Res Bunning Ck 29/6 (AB), AM Girrakool BWNP 30/6 (DHo), 1 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 9/7 (KP), AM Dulkarra St Parklands, Umina 19/7 (MNe), 1 Ourimbah Ck RTA Res (CP), AM Lake Rd Wetland & Chittaway Pt West 30/7 (AM); **Bush Stone-curlew, Osprey & Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos:** See separate reports. Good Birding! (AM)

**YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO SURVEYS FOR JULY 2018**

The number of sightings in July was 49, which is well up on July 2017 and average for our monthly reports of late (37 for June, 40 for May, 63 for April, 47 for March, 42 for February, 65 for January 2018, 35 reports for Dec 2017, 37 for Nov 2016, 29 for Oct, 48 for Sep, 23 for Aug, 36 for Jul, 15 in Jun, 20 in May, 29 in Apr, 37 in Mar, 25 in Feb) and these were forwarded to Dr John Martin. Last year we had some large flocks like 100+ and 52 but there was nothing like that this July! The maximum seen at any one place was 35 at Kariong by Christina Port and 10 at Murray St Bateau Bay on 30/7 by Alan Morris. The most reports for May (15) were submitted by Kaye Pointer. Other contributors were A. & A. Morris (1), Michael Price (1), , Jack Brand (1), Meryl Newton (2), Robin Walker (2), Noel Lonergan(1), Richard Cassels (4), Diane Warman (6), Laurie Smith (1), A& B. Melville (3), N. Markovina (1), Steve Merrett (2), A. Benson (1), P.Bernie (1) and A.Brewin (1). All up 18 people contributed! This month YTBC were seen feeding on the cones/ seedpods of *Banksia ericifolia* & *B. Serrata, Hakea tereticornis*, *Acacia elata & A. longifolia*, and *Petrophile pulchella*. Thankyou for continuing to report these sightings as they contribute to the overall knowledge of the movement of YTBC across the Greater Sydney Regions.


Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
*Marge Kibby*

**CENTRAL COAST TWITCH 2018**

There have been some great Twitches during July, with many Australasian Shovelers and Pink-ears at the Tuggerah STW, Albatrosses off Norah Head, Swansea pelagic and Captain Cooks Lookout at Copacobana, a Brahminy Kite at Toukley & Patonga, as well as Avocets, Fuscous Honeyeaters and Drongos. If you want to join the Central Coast Twitch, an exercise that helps you identify, classify and record the birds that you see, please contact Alan Morris and he will add your name to the List.

Set out on the next page are the totals that I have at hand on 12/7/2018.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alan Morris | 226 | Andrew Melville | 175 | Jack Brand | 136 |
| Allan Benson | 222 | Kay Pointer | 173 | Steve Merrett | 122 |
| Christina Port | 210 | Margaret Pointer | 173 | Diana Hogan | 120 |
| Carole Carpenter | 204 | Graeme Catt | 168 | Mike Kuhl | 120 |
| Daniel McKeon | 202 | Doug Hocking | 168 | Robyn Price | 120 |
| John Carpenter | 201 | Michael Scobie | 158 | Malcolm Hill | 112 |
| Graham Nelson | 200 | Rex Schmidt | 158 | Coleen Southall | 73 |
| Krystyna Lonergan | 195 | Rowena Wallace | 155 | Colin Mitchell | 46 |
| Noel Lonergan | 187 | Richard Cassels | 149 | | |
| Nick Carson | 182 | Judy Clark | 137 | | |

Please advise me if these totals are incorrect. (AM)

**Pacific Baza**
***Laurie Smith***

**Brahminy Kite**
***Leeanne Lemke***

**BUSH STONE-CURLEW REPORT AS AT 12/8/18**

In summary it would appear that there are still eight breeding pairs currently in and around Brisbane Water, the most pairs since the Gosford Friends of the Bush Stone-Curlew have been monitoring this population 1998-2018. The breeding pairs at Umina HS are currently absent. Set out below is the current situation at each known site if there was a change from the previous July newsletter.

**Saratoga Wetlands/Recreation Reserve.** The Henderson Rd pair with chick, turned up here on 24-25/1 where they remained until 5/3/18, subsequently only A+Im 6-8/3, but not seen since (14/3) as the two colour-banded adults and chick relocated to 79 Henderson Rd Saratoga where they have been up to 13/6/18. However female+chick back on 26/4 for one night only, then single unbanded bird there on 1/5/18, 3 birds present on the night of 1/6/18 (JB) and 4 nights 25-31/7 (ASk).

**St Johns College /Umina HS pair.** 2A+J last seen at St Johns 11/12/17. Subsequently 3 birds seen at Umina HS 26/12. Nesting attempted & was unsuccessful. A single unbanded bird re-appeared at St Johns School 10-12/4/18, 24-31/5 and 14-30/6, and again 12-21/7. Recently a single unbanded bird was at the High School beginning of May, but breeding pair have not been present since May 2018, however 2 birds HC at Dulkara Street Park on Umina on 19/7, which could be these birds!.

**Broadwater Drive Saratoga near Boardwalk**. On 30/1/18, Jack Brand reported seeing two BSC at this site but the birds were not together. Single birds seen 19/2, 5/3-9/3, 10/4, 15/4, 11/6 (bla/whi) & 30/7-1/8.

**Bouddi Pony Club/Nautical Village**. Shirley Green reported that the adult pair re-nested at the usual site about 27/12/17, still on nest 12/1 and 2Y hatched on 25/1, all seen 29/1, but one chick disappeared by 13/2, by 10/3/18 the chick was no longer present (7 weeks old?), adults still present 15/3-1/6.

**69 Kincumber Cres Davistown**. This pair were back at the usual site on 16/6/18 and 26/7/18.

**OSPREY REPORT JULY-AUGUST 2018**

The four Osprey pairs in Brisbane Water are all presumed now to be brooding their eggs in their nests at Mariners Stadium Gosford (24/7-6/8), Erina Council Works Depot (1/8), South Kincumber STW (26/7), and Communications Tower, Rawson St Woy Woy (12-31/7) see photo! The Entrance Channel pair can be seen regularly at the new

nest on the northern end of Terilbah Island, Tuggerah Lake, where Luke Ullrich photographed both birds. However on the evening of 5/8, two ospreys were feeding on light poles on the bridge which could suggested that the nest was not occupied, or laying has yet to commence, however the next day one was on the nest and the other sitting alongside the nest! Other Ospreys have been reported from 2 Wamberal Lagoon 26/6-5/7, 1 Kurraba Pde Berkeley Vale 30/6, up to 2 Budgewoi 5/7 & 31/7, 2 at Avoca Lagoon 5/7, 1 Toukley 24/7, 1 Woy Woy and 1 St Huberts Islands 27/7, 1 Terrigal Lagoon floodlight tower 29/7, 1 Dairy Swamp CCW 3/8 and Wyong River at Wyong 7/8. In this reporting period there were 33 reports of Ospreys, which is the most reports for any month!

**Osprey on Woy Woy tower**
***Laurie Smith***

**CASPIAN TERNS**

A Caspian Tern colour banded with an orange flag No 77 was photographed by Maurice Ashton at Buff Point, Budgewoi Lake on 23 July 2018. Information returned from the Australian Bird and Banding Scheme advises that the bird was banded as a chick on Mud Island, Port Phillip Bay, Victoria on 29/11/2012. This is consistent with previous information received for colour-banded Caspian Terns both in Budgewoi Lake and Brisbane Water. However Christina Port photographed a colour-banded bird at Blackwalls Bay 19/7/2012, which had been caught and banded as an adult at Manns Beach, Corner Inlet Victoria. Tuggerah Lakes has some significance for Caspian Terns because large numbers can be found feeding and roosting on the lakes. There was a maximum of 86 Caspian Terns on Tuggerah Lakes in April 2008, 82 in Jan 2010 and 72 in April 2010. The highest count that I have made this year though is only 46 at The Entrance Channel on 2/6/18 . (Alan Morris)

**Caspian Tern**
***Maurice Ashton***

**BRISBANE WATER WINTER WATERBIRD SURVEY 26 JULY 2018**

Thanks to the generosity of Michael Scobie for the use of his boat, Andrew Melville, Doug Hocking and Alan Morris had a pleasant trip around Brisbane Water in sunny conditions, starting and finishing from Gosford Boat Ramp. The most significant feature of the survey was the amount of Swans on Brisbane Water. There were **711 Black Swans** and we saw concentrations of over 100 birds at Erina Bay, Yattalunga/Saratoga, Blackwall Bay and on Kincumber Broadwater where there were 343 Swans! The highest previous count was 80 in 1998! I have never had so many Swans on Brisbane Water and it is not usual to have high counts in winter, for on Tuggerah Lakes the highest counts are in Jan-Feb. The count of 17 Pied Oystercatchers was pretty average although it is the highest count in 3 years; Even though the surveys commenced in July 1997, Ospreys (2 this time) have only been recorded in Feb & Jul 2018, despite the fact that there are 4 pairs now nesting around Brisbane Water! White Ibis numbers (24) were way down from the 85 seen in February, whereas Little Black Cormorants at 354 are the highest for the past 10 years but slightly less than 375 recorded in July 1998. Pelicans, including those nesting on Ramsay Island at 389 was a pretty average number, while Pied Cormorants, which now nest on a small mangrove islet off St. Huberts Island were counted at 106 plus 14 nests, which is the highest number ever, exceeding the previous highest count of 30 in July 1999. No Bar-tailed Godwits, Whimbrels or Grey-tailed Tattlers were seen, although 7 over-wintering Eastern Curlews were counted. Two Nankeen Night-herons were seen at Eulalia St Wharf, Davistown and this is the first time they have appeared in the count, and the number of Caspian Terns (14) was the highest count ever but no Striated Herons (5 in Feb 2018). All up we saw 27 species of waterbirds compared to 29 species in February 2018. Note that in the monthly waterbird Survey of Tuggerah Lakes done 26-31/7/18, there were **1723 Swans** counted which is a bit lower than usual for a winter count, summer counts can reach 6000 birds! (Alan Morris)

**RATS, OWL AND POISONS**

If the cold winter nights have lead to you having a rat problem- eating your plants, invading your roofs, chewing your electrical wires – spare a thought for our owls. New research by Mike Lohr on Southern Boobook Owls in Western Australia has revealed that an alarmingly high number (74%) of the birds tested had been exposed to commonly-used rat poisons, specifically “Anticoagulant Rodenticides”. Both the percentage of birds exposed, and the levels of

exposure, were very high by international standards. Nestlings were also found to be affected. The highest levels of exposure were found in Boobooks near areas of human occupation, compared to areas of native vegetation or agriculture. International studies suggest that the birds at most risk of secondary poisoning are those on border between urban and rural areas with moderate housing density (like the Central Coast of NSW).

Anticoagulant Rodenticides can be divided into First Generation ones (FGAR's) like Warfarin and Coumatetryl (e.g. in the brand Racumin), and Second Generation ones (SGAR's) like Brodifacoum (the chief ingredient in most Ratsak brands, Bromadiolone (in some Ratsak products) and Difenacoum (in some Big Cheese Products). Despite persisting for up to 35 days, the FGAR's are not considered a major threat to wildlife like owls , compared to the SGARs, which can last for 200-250 days. Unfortunately FGARs are less effective at killing rats.

The study looked at Boobooks because they are fairly common and widely distributed all over Australia. The very high level of exposure in this species was alarming enough, but the author suggests that other species like Barking Owl and Masked Owl may be even more at risk, as, unlike Boobooks, they concentrate on rodents all year round. While Mike's recent seminar in Sydney was titled "Silent Night" and focused on owls, AGR's pose many much wider risks. Many raptors, frogmouths, herons, ibises and ravens eat rats. Dogs, cats and children have been poisoned by direct contact and consumption, 28 Ruddy Turnstones were poisoned in Western Australia, and in California 2 Mountain Lions died of secondary (or perhaps even tertiary) AGR poisoning.

Boobook Owl
*Richard Cassels*

Australia's regulation of AGR's was found to be considerably more lax than other developed countries, with SGARs widely available and used. There is no doubt that rats can certainly be a real health and safety problem. So what options seem to be left if you have a rat problem? Non-toxic solutions all have their challenges. Learning to live with Diamond Pythons is not an option for everyone, but is very environmentally friendly. Trapping rats requires skill and a tolerance for small-scale carnage! Cats will kill rats but, as consummate bird-killers, they should not be allowed to free range. The Brisbane City Council used to employ rat catchers with trained fox terriers, and this skill could be worth reviving. If you feel you HAVE to use a poison, try Racumin first. If you employ a licensed pesticide company, choose one like Systems Pest Management that uses poisons only as a last resort. Best of all, try and eliminate all possible food sources for rats. It was nice to think that suburban backyards could be sanctuaries for wildlife. The unregulated use of cheap rat poisons in developed countries suggests, very sadly, that this may no longer be the case. We urgently need better regulation, and new, safer solutions. (Richard Cassels)

**Notes** Reference: Michael T. Lohr. Anticoagulant rodenticide exposure in an Australian predatory bird increases with proximity to developed habitat. Science of the Total Environment 643 (2018) 134–144.
See also: *http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-12/something-killing-barn-owls-in-victoria/9980016*
More about managing rats: *http://neln.org.au/2018/06/natural-rat-management/.*

**ROSE ROBINS ON THE CENTRAL COAST IN 2018**

The people who attended the Spencer/Dharug Outing on Saturday 30th July saw a number of Rose Robins and some delightful photos of Rose Robins by Rex Schmidt and David Russell have been published on our Facebook Page from that outing. On 30 July I saw adult male Rose Robin at both Lake Rd Tuggerah and Chittaway Point West which made me think that there have been more reports than usual so far this autumn/winter for this specie. Looking back though the club's records I see that until the last few years the most reports received for Rose Robins was 22 reports from 18 sites in 2004.

Rose Robin
*Rex Schmidt*

So I decided to see what has happened in the past two years. A check of our records shows that in 2017 there were 34 reports from 17 sites, and so far with still two months to go for Rose Robins in the woodland areas of the LGA (usually all have departed into the moun-

tain rainforests and wet gullies by the end of September), there has already been 34 reports from 19 sites. As it is generally the same people reporting the Rose Robins from one year to the next, it would appear that maybe the drought and dry weather has pushed more Rose Robins to the Coast and hence they are more common this year and last year than usual. Both 2017 and 2018 have had dry winters and springs and possibly more birds are coming closer to the Coast for the slightly better conditions that can be found here than the drought conditions that are occurring just to west of the LGA. I thank Rex Schmidt for his photo of the male Rose Robin. The number of coloured males, seem to be reported in a ratio of 3:1 of brown birds for whatever reason than I am aware of. (Alan Morris)

**LATHAM'S SNIPE COUNTS**

Just a reminder that the snipe counts are scheduled for the following dates: September 15, November 10 and 12 January 2019. Count the Snipe at your local wetland and notify Alan Morris who will collect the information and pass it onto the National Organisers! Latham's Snipe start returning to the Coastal wetlands from about 15/8 so keep a watch out for them!

**SWIFT PARROT & REGENT HONEYEATER SURVEYS 4-5 AUGUST 2018**

**Regent Honeyeater**
***Peter O'Brien***

21 members took part in the Swift Parrot/Regent Honeyeater National Surveys in and around 4-5 August 2018 at 52 sites on the Central Coast. Alas no Swift Parrots were recorded at any of our sites, although Fuscous Honeyeaters were found at two sites and many sites had larger numbers of Musk & Rainbow Lorikeets feeding mainly in flowering Blackbutt and Forest Red Gums. However, outside of our area, recently one Regent Honeyeater was found at Old Bar, 21-22/7/18 and another six Regent Honeyeaters were present at the Hunter Botanical Gardens from 26/7-8/8/18. These are the first Regent Honeyeaters reported in NSW since January 2018! It was one of our own members, Darren Earnshaw and wife Fifi who found the Regent Honeyeater at Mud Bishop Point, Old Bar, feeding in a coast Banksia *Banksia integrifolia*.

**Darren Earnshaw**
***Peter O'Brien***

Darren was on his way to Port Macquarie to see the Swift Parrots in the Sturt University Carpark. So not only did he see a Regent Honeyeater at Old Bar, by that afternoon he had found the Swift Parrots in the car park as directed - two lifers in one day! The next day Liam Murphy, a very keen birder and part-time Regent Honeyeater researcher from Port Macquarie, returned at daylight to Old Bar and photographed the Regent Honeyeater there by 7am! One of the Regent Honeyeaters at the Botanic Gardens was a colour-banded bird that had previously been banded near Bogee TSR Glen Alice in 2014, and successfully bred near Goulburn River NP in October 2017.

Photographs are by Peter O'Brien of a happy Darren Earnshaw and a Regent Honeyeater at Hunter Botanic Gardens.

**Albatross the Film** will be showing at the Hub at Erina Fair August 31st (Friday Evening) 7:30pm to 8:30pm!! Central Coast Council and Australian Seabird Rescue have come together to air a FREE SCREENING of this magnificent and moving film on the Laysan Albatross and what PLASTIC is doing to them. A very artistic and incredibly cinematic film that takes you up close with this beautiful birds that I PROMISE YOU will move you to the absolute core.

**ALBATROSS** is a powerful visual journey into the heart of a gut-wrenching environmental tragedy.

On Midway island, in the remote North Pacific Ocean, Laysan albatross chicks lie dead on the ground, their bodies filled with plastic. ALBATROSS takes us on a journey, as we face this tragedy we must also confront our own complicity head on. Chris Jordan, an Internationally-acclaimed photographer returned to Midway over many years with his team, documenting the cycles of life and death, and capturing stunning and intimate portraits of these magnificent seabirds. With the goal of getting this story known widely he has generously made this film available for FREE screenings.

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**