

BIRDING NSW

BIRDING BULLETIN No 187 UPDATE FEBRUARY 2023

CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2023

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU STILL NEED TO BOOK FOR OUTINGS AND CAMP OUTS!

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGES TO THE DATES FOR THE CENTRAL COAST OUTINGS AND MEETINGS.

Please check on the Outings Page on the website for the latest guidelines regarding COVID restrictions and for any changes/cancellations related to weather or other events.

FEBRUARY 2023

Wednesday 8 February Central Coast Half Day Outing. Saratoga and Davistown
Meet at 8.30 am at Saratoga tennis court car park, Willaroo Rd, Saratoga. Central Coast UBD map 97. D9. Lunch at cars. Leader: Doug Hocking 0427 800 428. Booking is required by contacting the leader.

Saturday 11 February Club Outing: Bonnie Vale, Royal National Park. Meet at 8:30 am in the Bonnie Vale Picnic Area at Bundeena in the Royal National Park. Lunch at cars. Leader: Dick Dallimore. 0429 919 515. Booking in advance is required by emailing activities@birdingnsw.org.au

Tuesday 14 February Club Meeting: The Henry Carmichael Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7:30 pm. "Olfactory misinformation: Using "fake news" to protect shorebirds from invasive predators". Speaker: Dr Catherine Price. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING**

Hunter Wetlands Weekend Saturday 18 February – Sunday 19 February: Lower Hunter Wetlands. An opportunity to explore one of the major areas for migratory waders in New South Wales.

On Saturday, meet at 9.00 am underneath the north end of Stockton Bridge. Turn off Fullerton Street, Stockton. We will spend the morning at Stockton Spit. The afternoon will be spent birding on Ash Island.

On Sunday, we will meet at 9:00 am at Hunter Wetlands Centre, 1 Wetlands Place, Shortland. Please note that there is an entrance fee. Coffee and light snacks are available at the Centre.

Lunch will be at cars on both days. Camping or cabins are available at the Stockton Caravan Park but please make your arrangements for accommodation as soon as possible. Leader: Allan Richards 0432 064 660. Booking in advance is required by emailing activities@birdingsw.org.au

Wednesday 22 February Midweek Outing: Wattle Forest, Royal National Park. Meet 8:30 am at Wattle Forest Picnic Area near Audley. Turn into Lady Carrington Drive at Audley, then right over the timber bridge to the western side of the river. Turn left and meet at the last car park. Lunch at cars. Leader: Sue Willis 0403 768 488. Booking in advance is required by emailing activities@birdingsw.org.au

Tuesday 28 February Central Coast Meeting: Meet at 7:30 am at Progress Hall in Anzac Street, Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks. Central Coast UBD map 49, C15. “Getting to know Rufous Scrub-birds”. Speaker: Alan Stuart

MARCH 2023

Saturday 4 March Central Coast Outing: Bucketty and Mogo. Meet at 8.30 am at “The Letter A” at the corner of George Downs Drive and Walkers Ridge Road, Bucketty. Lunch at cars. Leader: Graham Nelson 0466 599 278. Booking is required by contacting the leader.

Tuesday 7 March Club Meeting: Meet at the Henry Carmichael Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7:30 pm. “The Southern Superb Lyrebird: an ecosystem engineer and impacts of the 2019/20 megafires on its habitat”. Speaker: Dr Alex Maisey

Wednesday 8 March Central Coast Half Day Outing: The Entrance. Meet at 8.30 am at Picnic Point Reserve, off Tuggerah Parade, The Entrance. Central Coast UBD Map 61, A12. Lunch at cars. Leader: Christina Port 0421 691 317. Booking is required by contacting the leader.

Saturday 11 March Club Outing: Sydney Olympic Park. Meet at 8.30 am at Belvedere Lake, Bicentennial Park, Parking Area P10D. Proceed through the main gates, along the road past the Conference Centre until the lake is on your left-hand side. The parking area is on the right, just after crossing the bridge. Gradient: easy. Leader: Elisabeth Karplus 0421 665 553. Booking in advance is required by emailing activities@birdingsw.org.au

Saturday 18 March Club Outing: Emu Plains area. Meet at 8.30 am at Emu Green Reserve, corner of Palomina Road and Russell Street, Emu Plains. Lunch at cars. Leader: Judy Clark 0413 550 899. Booking in advance is required by emailing activities@birdingsw.org.au

Central Coast Group Camp 24 - 26 March: Coonabarabran. Leader Alan Morris
The camp will be based at Getaway Tourist Camp, 9286 Oxley Highway, Coonabarabran. Please contact the leader, Alan Morris, on 0418 269 482 before booking your accommodation.

Tuesday 28 March Central Coast Meeting: Meet at 7:30 am at Progress Hall in Anzac Street, Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks, Central Coast UBD map 49, C15. "Bushfires around Mangrove Mountain". Speaker: Kaye Pointer

Wednesday 29 March Midweek Outing: Jamieson Park. Meet at 8:30 am in James Wheeler Place, Wheeler Heights. Easy walking walk at Jamieson Park. Carry morning tea and lunch at cars. Leader: Coleen Southall 9982 5453 or 0410 549 321. Booking in advance is required by emailing activities@birdingsw.org.au

APRIL 2023

Saturday 1 April Central Coast Outing: San Remo and surrounds. Meet at 8.30 at the corner of Richardson and Wills Roads, San Remo. Central Coast UBD map 31, N3. Leader: Meryl Newton 0435 780 380. Booking is required by contacting the leader.

Easter Club Campout 7 - 10 April: Forbes area and Nangar National Park. Stay in accommodation in Forbes or camp in the caravan parks in Forbes or in Nangar National Park. For details regarding activities, please book in advance by emailing activities@birdingnsw.org.au. Allan has booked accommodation for himself at the Apex Riverside Tourist Park, 88 Reymond Street, Forbes. Leader: Allan Richards 0432 064 660

Please check the website at <http://www.birdingnsw.org.au/> or contact the leader before the outing if you are uncertain whether the outing is going ahead. Participants on Central Coast outings need to book in advance by contacting the outing leader.

The current COVID guidelines for club outings

- **Now up to 25 participants including the leader may attend day club outings**
- **Participants still need to book in advance by emailing the Activities email (activities@birdingnsw.org.au) for Sydney outings or by contacting the leader for Central Coast outings. They will still need to sign the attendance sheet on the day.**
- **It is recommended that everyone attending should be fully vaccinated.**
- **Please do not attend if you are unwell with flu like symptoms.**
- **Safe distancing of 1 person per 2 sqm outdoors must be observed.**
- **Although face-masks are not required for outdoors activities, it is recommended that they are worn.**

WORLD WETLANDS DAY. FEBRUARY 2, 2023

The theme for this year's World Wetlands Day is 'It's time for wetland restoration'. Various activities are planned in Sydney Olympic Park and the schedule can be found at <https://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/Whats-On/Family-and-Leisure/World-Wetlands-Day>

BIRDING NSW'S KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS PROJECT: GRENFELL BIRD SURVEY, MARCH 25th, 2023

The twenty second survey will take place on Saturday, March 25th, 2023, weather and Covid-19 permitting. This survey was cancelled in September 2022 because of the wet conditions. Previous and new surveyors are welcome. We hope to have the usual activities around the survey with BYO everything meals on Friday and Saturday evenings. If you would like to take part and are not already on my list, please contact me for further information on emhodson@exemail.com.au.

THE GREAT INLAND GLOSSY COUNT IS BACK AGAIN IN 2023: FEBRUARY 18 and FEBRUARY 25, 2023

This is part of a project, aiming to secure the inland population of the Glossy Black Cockatoo in NSW, coordinated by the Central West Local Land Services in partnership with NSW NPWS, Forest Corp NSW and the Dubbo Field Naturalists. The project team is looking for volunteers to assist with the counts on one or more of those weekends. As per last year, you can choose to be involved in one or more of the count weekends as suits you best. This is a great opportunity to visit some of our inland National Parks and state forests as part of a large-scale citizen science project. The only equipment required are a pair of binoculars, a notepad and the ability to travel to the site.

Dates for the surveys this year are as follows:

- 18 February - Pilliga Forests and surrounds (registrations close on 15 February)
- 25 February - Goonoo National Park and surrounds (registrations close on 22 February)

All participants need to register via the NPWS Volunteer portal. Details about the count and links to the registration portal can be found at

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/events/the-great-inland-glossy-count>.

If you have previously registered and/or participated in the Count, you can log into your VIP account via <https://app.betterimpact.com/Login/> and select your preferred weekend.

Registered participants will be emailed further information about how the surveys will be run during the week prior to each count. If you have any questions please email either Libby McIntyre (Libby.Mcintyre@lls.nsw.gov.au) or Adam Fawcett (Adam.Fawcett@environment.nsw.gov.au).

BIRDLIFE SHOALHAVEN'S STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

BirdLife Shoalhaven (BLS) will provide a grant of up to \$4,000 to fund a research project in 2023, that will improve bird conservation and/or a better understanding of birds in the Shoalhaven. To be eligible you must be a student currently enrolled in a higher degree course at an NSW or ACT university.

While it is not a requirement, projects focused on threatened species or with field work carried out within the Shoalhaven, will be highly regarded. The grant must be used to directly support the project or its dissemination, for example on-ground bird conservation work, education programs or materials, project equipment and materials, or travel to relevant conferences. The successful applicant will be required to give a presentation on their project at a BLS event or other conference and submit an article in a future BLS Magazine.

The deadline for applications is 31st March 2023. The application guidelines and form can be downloaded by going to www.birdlifeshoalhaven.org/grant.html

If you have any queries, please contact Rob Dunn at president@birdlifeshoalhaven.org

2022 NSW REGENT HONEYEATER CAPTIVE RELEASE PROGRAMME COMMUNITY UPDATE #3

The Tomalpin Woodlands near Newcastle have played host to a large release of zoo-bred Regent Honeyeaters. This project would not have been possible without the local custodians, the Wonnarua people, who have allowed Mick Roderick and his team to undertake this important work with them on their Country. The release is being undertaken on land owned and managed by the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council. Fifty zoo-bred birds have been released in the area with 39 wearing radio transmitters. Alas two nests failed in December – one pair of birds comprised a wild bird with a zoo-bred bird while the other comprised two wild birds. The reasons for the nest failures are unknown. At the time of the report, there was widespread blossom, but the birds were also taking insects from the foliage of wattle trees and gleaning lerps. Lerp is the sugary substance produced by psyllid insects to protect themselves in their nymph stage. Regent Honeyeaters depend heavily on lerp. The next programme update should be available soon. If you would like to receive regular updates of this programme, please contact Mick Roderick on woodlandbirds@birdlife.org.au

TRACKING ENDANGERED AUSTRALIAN PAINTED-SNIPES

Matt Herring is leading a project to track the movements of the Australian Painted-snipe, Australia's rarest breeding waterbird. This species is listed as nationally and globally endangered. It is estimated that only 340 of these birds remain in the wild. They are difficult to see as they skulk in shallow wetlands among water plants and mud. To date, the Australian Painted-snipe has been relegated to the too hard basket for in-depth research. Matt and his team have raised almost \$120,000 to fund their research project to track the movements of these cryptic, near-mythical ghost birds using the latest satellite and mobile phone tower technology. Birding NSW has contributed \$5000 to this project. There is more information about the project and team members as well as photographs at <https://chuffed.org/project/paintedsnipe>.
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/08/vanishing-bird-the-mystery-of-the-near-mythical-australian-painted-snipe?>

BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA'S NEW BIRD CONSERVATION STRATEGY

BirdLife Australia has launched its new Bird Conservation Strategy, with ambitious targets to stop the extinction of birds by 2032, improve the status of 30% of threatened birds by

2032 and halt overall bird declines by 2050. The full document can be viewed via this link: <https://birdlife.org.au/our-impact/>

NSW BIRD ATLASSERS

The NSW Bird Atlassers monitor the birds of New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Lord Howe Island and the western Tasman Sea. Over 600 species have been recorded in this area. They maintain a comprehensive database of bird records in their area of interest and have published three volumes of their data. Apart from their monitoring role, the aims of the NSW Bird Atlassers include promoting the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitats and promoting the enhancement of the natural environment. If you would like to know more about the activities of this organisation, please contact Ian Bailey on ibails@bigpond.net.au

TREE PLANTING IN THE CAPERTEE VALLEY, 6 -7 MAY 2023

The next planting weekend will be on 6-7 May 2023. Further details will be provided in due course. However, if you have any queries in the interim, or would like to be included in the volunteer email list, please contact Wendy Fox at southernnsw@birdlife.org.au.

THE BIRDLIFE DISCOVERY CENTRE AND GUIDED WALKS

The Discovery Centre has re-opened after Christmas/New Year. It is open on Sundays from 10 AM to 3 PM. There will be Bird Walks on the last Sunday of each month @ 10:00 AM (no need to book!). The Discovery Centre is looking for new volunteers. If you are interested, please don't hesitate to contact Wendy at BirdLife Southern NSW by writing to: southernnsw@birdlife.org.au

CONSERVATION NEWS FROM BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA AND ELSEWHERE

1. Despite challenging conditions, thousands of waterbirds are breeding throughout NSW wetlands. Recent flooding and water flow management in previous years have led to vast numbers of waterbirds, including large nesting colonies of Straw-necked Ibis and Royal Spoonbill, breeding at wetlands throughout the Northern and Central Murray Darling Basin. Although several waterbird species require flooding to breed, the recent extreme floods, that are impacting humans and animals alike, saw large areas of nesting colonies in the MDB go underwater. Researchers from the UNSW Sydney Centre for Ecosystem Science (UNSW-CES), however, have confirmed that many chicks managed to survive at the Booligal and Gayini wetlands in Southern NSW and the Narran Lake and Gwydir wetlands in Northern NSW, with some already taking flight. The Gayini Wetlands, an area

of significant conservation importance, is a roughly 88,000-hectare property in the Lowbidgee Floodplain, the largest remaining area of wetlands in the Murrumbidgee in the southern Murray-Darling Basin. The property is owned and managed by the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Nari Nari Tribal Council. Gayini, the Nari Nari word for water, is one of the largest wetland restoration projects in Australia and features a mix of environmental and Indigenous conservation and sustainable farming. The number of birds observed at Gayini include: 10-15,000 breeding pairs of Straw-necked Ibis; 300 breeding pairs of Royal Spoonbill; and 3500 breeding pairs of Pelicans.

<https://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/science-tech/despite-challenging-conditions-thousands-waterbirds-breeding-throughout-nsw>

2. Have you noticed that fewer insects smash into your windscreens now? As human activities rapidly transform the planet, the global insect population is declining at an unprecedented rate of up to 2 per cent per year. Amid deforestation, pesticide use, artificial light pollution and climate change, these creatures are struggling — along with the crops, flowers and other animals that rely on them to survive. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-12-11/insects-are-vanishing-flickering-fireflies-to-lowly-dung-beetles>

3. The first record of the endangered Eastern Bristlebird in Queensland since Black Summer bushfires was recorded singing in the hills of South-East Queensland recently, after not having been seen or heard there for three years. “Eastern Bristlebirds haven’t been seen in Queensland since the 2019 drought and bushfires,” said Callan Alexander, [Preventing Extinctions](#) Project Officer at BirdLife Australia. The results are testimony to long-term collaboration and persistence, good land management and the use of artificial intelligence. The finding was made by BirdLife Australia, after deploying acoustic monitors as part of surveys supported by Healthy Land & Water and the Australian Government. A recent funding boost from both Australian and Queensland Governments has allowed increased monitoring for Eastern Bristlebirds and led to the recording of 350 calls on five acoustic recorders in July and August last year. Using artificial intelligence software, sounds recorded by the monitors were analysed for the presence of Eastern Bristlebird songs, thanks to a partnership between the Queensland University of Technology and Queensland Department of Environment and Science. With more acoustic data to be analysed and further surveys to take place, hopes are high that the number of birds present, extent of territories and evidence of breeding will be determined. <https://birdlife.org.au/news/artificial-intelligence-finds-eastern-bristlebirds/>.

4. Five things you may or may not know about how Rose Robins differ from other Australian Robins

- Unlike most Australian robins, **Rose Robins do not generally pounce onto the ground to catch insect prey**; rather, they often flutter about the treetops like a fantail to pluck it from the foliage or snatch it in the air.
- **Rose Robins often undertake regular migration**; some disperse southwards in the springtime, though other robins head to higher elevations in the mountains instead, returning northwards or to lower elevations in autumn and winter.
- **Rose Robins spend the warmer months in moist eucalypt forests**, where they nest in shrubs, often in densely vegetated gullies.
- **The Rose Robin makes one of Australia's neatest nests**, being a compact cup made from moss, bark and plant fibres, all tightly bound together with spider webs and decorated with lichen.
- **Rose Robin nests are sometimes parasitised by various species of cuckoos**, including the Pallid Cuckoo, which is about three times larger than a robin <https://birdlife.org.au/news/5-things/>

5. For other stories go to <https://birdlife.org.au/news/page/2/>

COWRA WOODLANDS BIRDS PROGRAM

If you would like to take part in the Cowra surveys in 2023, please contact Dr Julian Reid on 0405 922 505 or via email to julian.reid@anu.edu.au. The survey dates are shown below.

Autumn: 15-16 April 2023

Winter: 15-16 July 2023

Spring: 14-15 October 2023

Summer 24: 17-18 Feb 2024

PARRAMATTA RIVER SHOREBIRD COUNTS

Monthly shorebird monitoring by volunteers continues at sites on Parramatta River as part of BirdLife Australia's national Shorebirds Programme. Please contact Gerry Duane at gerard@risingdune.com.au to volunteer.