



The Twitcher

July
2023

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

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

Volume 18, No. 7

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
25/7/23	Next Meeting: Birds of Prey Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	Biggles Csolander
29/7/23	Outing: Dubbo Gully Meet: 8.30am Mangrove Mountain Shops, Cnr Wiseman's Ferry and Waratah Roads, Mangrove Mountain	Margaret & Kaye Pointer 4374 1163
9/8/23	½ day Outing: Mooney and Girrakool Meet: 8.30am Karool Rd (off Pacific Highway), Mooney Mooney	Doug Hocking 0427 800 428
22/8/23	Next Meeting: Ticking the Opalton Grasswren Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	Daniel McKeon

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.

Camps 2023

Gloucester	Fri 15 th - Sun 17 th September	Graham Nelson	0466 599 278	Gloucester Holiday Park, Denison St, Gloucester (02) 65581720
Gundagai	Fri 27 th - Sun 29 th October	Christina Port	0421 691 317	Gundagai Tourist Park 1 Nangus Rd, Gundagai (02) 6944 4440

Tonight's Speaker: Biggles Csolander is a specialist raptor photographer. He will take us through his extensive collection of excellent photos and provide some ID tips on this notoriously difficult group of birds to identify.

Last Month's Meeting: A good crowd of 36 people turned up to hear Alan Morris give an impressive presentation about Cuckoo Hosts in Australia. Alan's talk was very detailed providing us with information on which species each cuckoo species parasites, along with some interesting insight into Cuckoo behaviour. He also gave an explanation of why the populations of cuckoos has changed over time.

Meeting Cost

The donation for our monthly meeting needs to be increased to \$4. Although we had a healthy surplus in years gone by, COVID and the subsequent reduction in meeting attendees has meant this surplus has been run down to the point that we need to take action. We actually have minimal costs - only hall hire and the printing of the newsletter plus some incidentals. However, the Council has increased the hall hire fee and thus we need to be asking for an increased donation.

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 990 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.

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

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 June/July and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in August?

In general birding is still very quiet as expected for this time of year. Gusty, cold westerly winds have not been kind to the birds or birders. The most interesting record this month was three Banded Lapwing at the Dairy. This species is a very infrequent visitor, with the last record in 2018 and the one before in 2009. The expected Restless Flycatcher did turn up at Waratah Rd. Mangrove Mountain. Restless Flycatchers visit most winters. The record of Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters at the Dairy and Blue Haven is a very interesting record for this part of the Coast.



It is still hoped that Swift Parrots will be recorded again. There have been reports of Barn Owls in the Hunter so they may be seen on the Central Coast. There have been sparse reports of Drongo and the only White-Fronted Terns recorded are from the last pelagic off Terrigal.

The birds will become more active as the daylight hours lengthen and resident birds start breeding. The spring migrants will return in August with Fairy Martins the first, followed by Rufous Whistler and White-throated Gerygone. There are usually reports of Koels and Channel-billed Cuckoos in late August, so keep an eye and ear out.

OUTING REPORTS

Outing: July 1

BOW WOW GORGE

Leader: Daniel McKeon

Our day started with sixteen chilly but keen birders meeting at Freemans Waterhole service station. After a good chat and some coffee for a few of the early risers we set off to Bow Wow Gorge, an amazing property that has remained relatively untouched for decades.

We were greeted by our host for the day, Craig, and after a quick run through of some of the history of the place and some historic bird sighting tales to whet our appetites we were off. Our walk started with a crossing over a fossil riddled creek bed. Some birds in the canopy kept our attention as we climbed up the hill towards the top of the gorge. These included White-naped, Brown-headed and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters. A male Rose Robin played hide and seek with the observers, while good views were had of White-throated Tree-creeper. A stunning view of the rocky cliffs on the other side greeted us and gave us a chance to re-gather and prepare for the next leg of the walk, the descent into the base of the gorge. The climb down was steep and some found sliding down to be the best way to go. At the base we followed the creek until we came to a spot we could climb up and walk along the old bullock trail to start making our way back. A few quick stops to check various spots for possible Owls and we were back at the homestead for morning tea and a regroup.

Our next spot was down Whittings Lane at Quorrobolong where we managed to add a few birds to our list including Blue-faced Honeyeater and Black-shouldered Kite. A stop at a local wetland had various waterfowl being added to the list as well as some distant circling Wedge-tailed Eagles.



We headed to Poppet Head Park at Kitchener for lunch and our final stop of the day. A long lunch was had as Blue-faced Honeyeaters entertained us by scrounging food. After a long morning of walking, I think we were all happy for a sit down. But the birds wouldn't wait so we headed over to the walk around the dam to see what we could find. Yellow-tufted Honey-eater and a Satin Bowerbird were added to the list before we found the walkway damaged and unable to be passed so we turned around and headed out to the park once again. Goodbyes were said and we headed off. Some lucky participants found Grey-crowned Babblers on their way home.

It was a great day, if a bit tiring, and 65 species of birds were seen all up. Thank you to Craig for letting us enjoy his amazing property and to Allan Benson for helping to organise everything.

Half-day Day Outing: July 12

STRICKLAND STATE FOREST

Leader: Christina Port

It was a glorious winter's morning when fifteen keen birdwatchers met up at Banksia Picnic Area of Strickland SF. A pair of Green Catbirds flittered around up high chasing each other and a Crimson Rosella flew through. Down on the ground a pair of Grey Shrike-thrush were much easier to see as they hopped around us and gave us great views. A pair of Eastern Yellow Robin, a group of Striated Thornbills and Brown Thornbills were seen.



Green Catbird

White-browed Scrubwrens were in the underbrush and we also had Eastern Spinebills and Noisy Friarbirds.

We eventually left the sunny top area and headed down to the Lower Carpark, where there was not much sun. We crossed Stoney Creek and headed down the track listening to the constant call of Brown Gerygone and a distant Wonga Pigeon. Brown Cuckoo-doves, Eastern Yellow Robins, Whipbirds and Yellow-breasted Scrubwren calling and seen as well as a secretive Golden Whistler. Just as we turned

around beside a giant Brush Turkey mound a Superb Lyrebird called in the distance.

We enjoyed morning tea at the Banksia Picnic Area before heading down Dog Trap Road and going to the Ourimbah Rest Area. We walked to the fish weir, with Grey Butcherbird, Superb and Variegated Fairywrens, Silveryeyes, and Lewin's Honeyeaters easily seen. Red-browed Finch and then Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos were added to the list and returning to the car park we found John had had a Grey Goshawk circling him.



A great day's birding. Thanks everyone who came.

SPECIES LIST

JUNE 2023

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	26	18/6/2023	Colongra Lake, Lake Munmorah	Andrew Robinson
Musk Duck	M,F	28/6/2023	Tuggerah STW	Allan Benson
Australasian Shoveler	1	27-29/6/23	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Paul Fuller
Australasian Shoveler	8	28/6/2023	Tuggerah STW	Allan Benson
Pink-eared Duck	1	5-28/6/23	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Allan Benson
Brown Quail	1	9/6/2023	Ronald St, Narara	Amy Cashmore
Brown Quail	2	29/6/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Paul Fuller
Great Crested Grebe	1	18/6/2023	Colongra Lake, Lake Munmorah	Andrew Robinson
Pheasant Coucal	1	15/6/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Owlet-Nightjar	1	27/6/2023	2330 hrs Tathra Taila HSD, Man. Mtn	Kaye Pointer
White-headed Pigeon	12	28/6/2023	Upper Palmdale	Alan Morris
Topknot Pigeon	11	28/6/2023	Magenta Shores	Alan Morris
Hoary-headed Grebe	2	5-29/6/23	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Julie Peksis
Hoary-headed Grebe	5	28/6/2023	Tuggerah STW	Allan Benson
Buff-banded Rail	1	13/6/2023	Tuggerawong, Tuggerah Lake	Mark Smith

Buff-banded Rail	1	17/6/2023	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Ness Familo
Buff-banded Rail	1	21/6/2023	Umina Beach	Andrew Robinson
Lewin's Rail	!	29/6/2023	McPherson Road Swamp	Sophie Walker
White-headed Stilt	63	25/6/2023	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Andrew Robinson
Banded Lapwing	3	25/6/2023	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Chris Rehberg
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	30/6/2023	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Sophie Walker
Brown Skua	14	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
White-fronted Tern	1	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	14	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-browed Albatross	23	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Campbell's Albatross	11	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Shy (White-capped) Albatross	16	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Yellow-nosed Albatross	26	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Buller's Albatross	15	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Shy Albatross	16	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Southern Giant Petrel	1	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Providence Petrel	10	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Fluttering type Shearwater	4	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Australasian Gannet	33	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Providence Petrel	10	23/6/2023	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-necked Stork	pr	18/6/2023	McPherson Road Swamp, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Black-necked Stork	1	25/6/2023	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
White-necked Heron	1	13/6/2023	Dooralong	Mary Stokes
Intermediate Egret	1	12/6/2023	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	3/6/2023	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Osprey	2+N	1-30/6/23	Gosford Stadium	Darren Earnshaw
Osprey	1+N	25-30/6/23	Mingara Flood Lights	Graham Nelson
Osprey	1+N	28/6/2023	Comm's Tower, Ocean Drive, Woy Woy	Darren Earnshaw
Osprey	2+N	30/6/2023	Flood Lights, Hilton Moore Oval, E Gosford	Mairin Ireland
Black-shouldered Kite	2	14-29/6/23	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Maria Stokes
Black-shouldered Kite	1	24/6/2023	Mount Penang Gardens	Andrew Robinson
Black-shouldered Kite	1	25/6/2023	Porters Creek Wetland	Andrew Robinson
Square-tailed Kite	1	9/6/2023	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Square-tailed Kite	1	13/6/2023	Ourimbah	Allan Benson
Square-tailed Kite	1	21/6/2023	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Brahminy Kite	1	20/6/2023	Wamberal	Andrew Robinson
Brown Goshawk	1	4/6/2023	Kulnura	Andrew Robinson
Brown Goshawk	1	4/6/2023	Ourimbah	Andrew Robinson
Brown Goshawk	1	25/6/2023	Lisarow	Darren Earnshaw
Grey Goshawk	1	9/6/2023	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Jan Mohandas
Grey Goshawk	1	11/6/2023	Ourimbah	Andrew Robinson
Grey Goshawk	1	25/6/2023	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	3/6/2023	Chittaway	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	4-30/6/23	X9 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	9/6/2023	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	16/6/2023	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Little Eagle	1	17/6/2023	Kangy Angy	Andrew Robinson
Azure Kingfisher	1	5/6/2023	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Noisy Pitta	1	8/7/2023	Ourimbah Creek, Ourimbah	Andrew Robinson
Sooty Owl	1	20/6/2023	Narara	Lachlan Macrae
Powerful Owl	AM	16/6/2023	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Powerful Owl	2	15-30/6/23	Narara	Lachlan McRae
Nankeen Kestrel	2	7-28/6/23	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Nankeen Kestrel	1	12/6/2023	Kariong	Andrew Robinson
Nankeen Kestrel	1	25/6/2023	Mingara Club House	Graham Nelson
Australian Hobby	1	9/6/2023	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Australian Hobby	1	11/6/2023	Central Coast Wetlands	Andrew Robinson

Australian Hobby	1	13/6/2023	Tuggerawong, Tuggerah Lake	Mark Smith
Brown Falcon	1	6 & 9/6/23	Mangrove Mountain	Pointer/Robinson
Peregrine Falcon	1	7/6/2023	on Tower, Kariong Juvenile Justice Centre	Sue Watts
Yellow-tailed BI Cockatoo	2A+J	2-28/6/23	x8 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Gang Gang Cockatoo	20	1-28/6/23	Upper Palmdale	Therese Elsey
Gang Gang Cockatoo	3	4/6/2023	Kulnura	Andrew Robinson
Gang Gang Cockatoo	6	21/6/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	24/6/2023	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	29/6/2023	Mangrove Mountain Hall	Lynette Callaghan
Little Lorikeet	10	16/6/2023	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Little Lorikeet	10	21/6/2023	Bonny Boy Gully, Summerland Point	Nick Carson
Little Lorikeet	6	24/6/2023	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Musk Lorikeet	10	29/6/2023	Woy Woy	Darren Earnshaw
Crimson Rosella	20	25-28/6/23	Upper Palmdale	Alan Morris
Red-rumped Parrot	6	6/6/2023	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Christy Bryson
Superb Lyrebird	1	23-28/6/23	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Regent Bowerbird	15	17/6/2023	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	David Schuemaker
Southern Emu-wren	3	25/6/2023	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Andrew Robinson
Southern Emu-wren	AM	28/6/2023	Tuggerah STW	Leeanne Lemke
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	120	7/6/2023	migrating Tathra Taila HSD, Man. Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Fuscous Honeyeater	10	25/6/2023	Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	Leanne Lemke
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	5/6/2023	Kerry Crescent, Berkeley Vale	Rex Schmidt
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	12/6/2023	Westfields, Tuggerah	Daniel McKeon
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	3-16/6/2023	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Julie Peksis
Brown Honeyeater	6	12 & 21/6	Brisbane Water NP	Andrew Robinson
Rockwarbler	2	28/6/2023	Koolewong	Tricia Sweet
Buff-rumped Thornbill	14	17/6/2023	Wallarah	Andrew Robinson
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	4	21/6/2023	Mangrove Mountain	David Schuemaker
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	5	24/6/2023	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Varied Sittella	7	18/6/2023	Borrisbrook Rd, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Crested Shrike-tit	1	2/6/2023	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Varied Triller	AM	25/6/2023	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Peter Brown
Pied Currawong	1	4/6/2023	Cedar Brush Creek	Andrew Robinson
White-winged Chough	7	4/6/2023	Kulnura	Andrew Robinson
Spangled Drongo	2	12/6/2023	Brisbane Water NP	Andrew Robinson
Restless Flycatcher	1	23/6/2023	Waratah Rd, Mangrove Mtn	Allan Benson
Jacky Winter	7	4/6/2023	Cedar Brush Creek	Andrew Robinson
Jacky Winter	2	21/6/2023	Mangrove Mountain	David Schuemaker
Jacky Winter	1	25/6/2023	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Rose Robin	2	3/6/2023	Strickland State Forest, Narara	Andrew Robinson
Mistletoebird	1	21/6/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Bassian Thrush	3	13/6/2023	Strickland State Forest, Narara	Allan Benson
Bassian Thrush	1	25/6/2023	Upper Palmdale	Darren Earnshaw

Breeding and some other records - June

Osprey: 1 Ourimbah Ck 3/6 (ARo); 1 Fagan Pk Gosford 15/6 (GNe), 2+N Erina Council Depot Jun. (DEa), 2+N Lake Munmorah Comm's Tower 30/6 (MNe); **Brown Goshawk:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn 2 & 9/6 (KPo), 1 North Entrance 20/6 (ARo); **Grey Goshawk:** 2 Palmgrove 17/6, 1 Porters Creek Wetland 25/6 (ARo); **Gang Gang Cockatoo:** ImM Ourimbah Ck Rd Ourimbah 2/6 (DEa), HC Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 14/6 (MPo). *Good Birding!*

BIGNET MEETING

Bignet is the biannual meeting of the bird groups in NSW. The Central Coast Bird Group has not attended these meetings since Alan Morris departed the coast, so we would be pleased if anybody would like to volunteer to attend the next meeting at the Hunter Wetlands Centre Shortland on behalf of our group. The meeting is on Saturday 2nd September. There is a general meeting and a series of interesting talks organised by the Hunter Bird Observer Club. More detail can be obtained by emailing Allan Benson aejsbenson@bigpond.com.

CENTRAL COAST TWITCH - JULY, 2023

Andrew Robinson	248	Kaye Pointer	171	Rowena Wallace	148
Graham Nelson	223	Krystyna Lonergan	168	Gabrielle Rees	148
Allan Benson	202	Daniel McKeon	167	Doug Hocking	144
Christina Port	200	Noel Lonergan	167	Frik Gautschi	134
Dean Purcell	193	Julie Peksis	166	Judy Clark	132
Carole Carpenter	189	Margaret Pointer	158	Andrew Melville	125
David Schuemaker	184	Chris Jamieson	157	Michael Scobie	124
John Carpenter	180	Diana Hogan	152	Robyn Price	123
				Paul Shelley	115

Andrew Robinson retains his substantial lead in July. 248 is a really impressive number at this stage of the year. However, there is a long way to go and the Law of Diminishing Returns will start to kick for Andrew, giving the field a chance to catch up.

BIRDATA SURVEYS 2023

Nick Carson*	145	Frik Gautschi	39	Robyn Price*	16	C Clutterbuck*	11
Allan Benson	139	Rebecca Citroni*	27	Doug Hocking	13	Anna Pillich	8
Graham Nelson	132	Guy Dutson	25	David Schuemaker	14	M & K Pointer*	6
Alan Stuart	77	Daniel McKeon	17	Leanne Lemke	12	Michael Scobie*	4
						Vicki Stokes*	2

NB: There is a glitch in Birdata. Not all surveys are showing so numbers are under-reported. Hopefully, this will self-correct over time. Although surveys were showing last month, earlier surveys are still missing. For those people with * against their name, their totals are under reported.

For June, 197 surveys were recorded. YTD 656 surveys have been completed compared to 817 in 2022. Nick Carson has shot to the lead boosted by Swift Parrot surveys, with Allan Benson and Graham Nelson close behind. We would like to see more birders putting in more surveys. Birdata is one way, as a birder, you can make a contribution to bird conservation.

SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS**June Survey**

The 13 observers who turned up for the survey in the drizzling rain were disappointed about the scarcity of waterfowl on the ponds. In total, the final count was 180 which is one of our lowest survey numbers. In saying that there were two Musk Ducks, 7 Shovelers, numbers of Hoary-headed Grebe and a co-operative Southern Emu-wren which made the survey worthwhile. 41 species for the survey was about average for our survey.

The survey takes place the Wednesday after our meeting. Meet at the Ibis Rd entrance at 9.30 am. All welcome.

TRIP REPORT**Terrigal Pelagic, June 23****Andrew Robinson**

With sunny skies, light NW winds (initially) and a small 0.9m SE swell in place, 14 of us, along with Skipper Minto, departed Terrigal Haven at 6:30am and were soon making a beeline for the shelf slope feature known as 'The Kink' some 24 nautical miles southeast of Terrigal. Although wind direction in the lead up to the trip wasn't ideal, sea temperatures had finally dropped to about 18.5 degrees which was encouraging. With plenty of participants on board new to sea birding there was a real sense of excitement and anticipation which is always a great way to start a trip!

After a slow start we were soon amongst the birds with Australasian Gannet making their obligatory appearance for this time of year, along with distant Black-browed and Shy type Albatross. Soon enough though we had some close passes from Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross for which we stopped the boat to give all on board a better look, although this turned into a 15-minute intermission as several Black-browed and Shy (presumed White-capped) Albatross joined the party, closely followed by the day's first Brown Skua.

We were soon motoring again and were able to add both Campbell and Buller's Albatross and a few distant Fluttering type Shearwater to the trip list. Brown Skua numbers also continued to build and by the time we arrived at the shelf we had 4 individuals in tow, with 2 more soon to follow.

Arriving at 'The Kink' right on 9am, we set about working on the all-important slick (which I have to say was a cracker) and commenced the first of two drifts. After a quiet period, activity soon picked up, with Albatross abundance gradually increasing, along with a friendly White-fronted Tern and the first of regular appearances from Providence Petrel and Wilson's Storm Petrel, with the later frustratingly keeping their distance for most of the day.

At 10:30am and just as we were getting ready to motor back up the slick and start a second drift in the hope of picking up some additional species, the call went up for Giant Petrel, with an individual making a close pass and allowing for photo opportunities before settling on the water some distance away and eventually being lost to view. There was some conversation about which taxon this was at the time, though a closer look of the photos indicates a Southern Giant Petrel!



Southern Giant Petrel
John Bennett

After it became clear the Giant Petrel wasn't interested in 'playing the game', we motored back up the slick to commence our second drift. While this didn't result in any new species being added to the trip list, it did provide those on board with closer flybys from Buller's Albatross along with a stunning Campbell Albatross which settled on the water at the back of the boat as it greedily inhaled a few left-over Slimy Mackerel.

It soon became clear we'd maxed-out in terms of species diversity and as the wind was building earlier than expected the call was made at 12:00pm to head for land in what turned out to be the right call as a rough old trip back ensued, although conditions gradually improved the closer we got to shore. As expected at this time of year, several groups of Humpback Whale were seen on the return trip, but

it wasn't until we were close to shore that we were afforded good views and some photo opportunities as plenty of tail slapping went down.

The day's highlights were Albatross diversity, with 5 species present throughout much of the day, although we were only ever able to confirm 4 species in view at any one-time (with Shy Albatross being less conspicuous at shelf waters). That said, all 5 species provided excellent, close views at one point or another which kept all on board entertained. At least 6 Brown Skua remained with us for most of the day which is considered a good count. The White-fronted Tern plucking morsels from the surface was also a joy to watch. But the winner was the Southern Giant Petrel which is a new bird for Terrigal pelagic trips – being the 39th species recorded beyond The Haven! I have to say though, that the real highlight for me was seeing so many on board seeing new birds for the first time!!

In total 15 species were seen beyond The Haven with 9 of those being Tubenoses. All in all, a very solid Winter pelagic trip with great company and birds.

As always, a massive thanks to Skipper Paul Minto, Nick Carson for his help chumming and all who participated. The next Terrigal Pelagic is yet to be confirmed but is planned for mid / late August – if anyone is interested, please feel free to send me a message or an email at andyfredrobbo@hotmail.com.

Trip list (beyond Terrigal Haven) as follows:

Wilson's Storm Petrel – 14 (2), Black-browed Albatross – 23 (3), Campbell Albatross – 11 (2), Shy Albatross (White-capped Albatross) – 16 (3), Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross – 26 (5), Buller's Albatross – 15 (2), Providence Petrel – 10 (2), Southern Giant Petrel – 1, Fluttering type Shearwater – 4, Brown Skua – 14 (6), White-fronted Tern – 1, Crested Tern – 22 (5).

*Parenthesis denotes the maximum of that species seen at any one time.

SWIFT PARROT AND REGENT HONEYEATER UPDATE

Beau Meaney

An important reminder that Round 2 of our biannual Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater surveys started on **Saturday 15th July, and continuing through until 27th August 2022!**

All search and survey efforts for these two critically endangered species during this period are welcomed, encouraged and greatly appreciated, whether that be opportunistic 'roaming' searches, or structured surveys via the *Swift Parrot Search* program. To reiterate from previous mail-outs, for our monitoring to serve our needs for these two critically endangered species, our monitoring approach must be made up of a mixture of both incidental and structured searches. Importantly, any **records of either species, irrespective of survey dates, is incredibly important and valuable information to us!**

We can't stress enough that for Regent Honeyeater sightings in particular, let us know ASAP by emailing woodland-birds@birdlife.org.au or using the freecall number (1800-621-056) - as well as documenting any leg colour band combinations and other relevant details (e.g., number of birds, behaviour, etc.). Regent Honeyeater sightings are very big news (including some of the very latest news – read on!), and it's crucially important that we follow-up on sightings on-the-ground and monitor the birds. We can easily miss our chance to do this if reports are received too late.

A quick re-cap on Swifties and *Swift Parrot Search* surveys since you last heard from us:

We have a new record for the number of surveys completed in Round 1 for Swift Parrot Search (SPS), with 1,268 surveys completed this year – an improvement of 138 surveys from our previous Round 1 record! An excellent effort from everyone involved. Let's keep the momentum and do the same for Round 2!

The Swiftie season as a whole has seen a more even comparison between Victoria and New South Wales in terms of the proportion of sightings, with both states a source of reasonably steady reports. Some notable locations where recurring sightings have occurred since early-June are: **(VIC)** Serendip Sanctuary, Warby-Ovens National Park (Boweya and Killawarra sections), Gobarup NCR and Crosbie NCR; **(NSW)** Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, Kurnell (Tabbigai Gap Trail Ponds) and Dharawal National Park (Fire Trail).

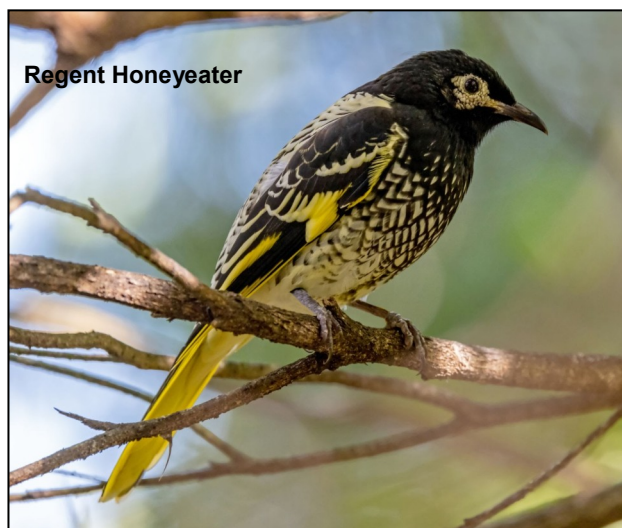
We haven't received any sightings from the **ACT** since mid-May. Prior to that, birds were seen at a number of locations, including repeat sightings in Mount Majura Nature Reserve and Justice Robert Hope Park in Watson.

After a one-year hiatus, Swifties have again arrived in **south-east QLD** after 6 birds were detected in Durikai State Forest on June 28. This remains as the only QLD sighting to date, and so we encourage birders in that part of the world to search and survey in Durikai (SPS sites exist there too!) and other areas of suitable habitat for the species.

A Quick Update on Regent Honeyeaters:

The post-release monitoring and tracking of Regents in the Lower Hunter wound up in late April, with the final observation of birds being an exciting mix of five zoo-bred and wild birds seen feeding in a backyard in Stanford Merthyr on flowering bottlebrushes. This happened after a total of nine Regent Honeyeaters had been recorded feeding in *Banksia oblongifolia* south of Kurri Kurri. In fact, it wasn't long after the Banksia had 'finished' that we lost track of all birds, except for the five at Stanford Merthyr. The way that our monitoring ended really typified the 2022 captive release, which was highlighted by 'clusters' of Regents, including mixed flocks of zoo-bred and wild birds.

Since then, we have had an exciting development with one of our transmitter birds being spotted very briefly on the western edge of Morisset, in Lake Macquarie. This bird could not be identified but was photographed at a location where three other Regent Honeyeaters had been found, including a bird that was filmed calling at a Little Wattlebird but using Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater calls, there have been other Regents found in the vicinity of these birds at Morisset and all birds have been feeding on the abundant blossom of Swamp Mahogany trees. Between these two 'clusters' of Regents, it has been the largest aggregation in Lake Macquarie (also a KBA) since 2011, which is very promising news. Excitingly there were two more birds found north of Woolgoolga last week – again feeding on Swamp Mahogany blossom.



All of these birds were first found by birders and as spring approaches BirdLife Australia are making a 'call-to-arms' (the armoury being binoculars and cameras) to help us locate where Regent Honeyeaters go next after winter.

Thanks again for your support and involvement in the conservation of our threatened and declining woodland birds. Even if you have only been able to search for an hour or two each monitoring period, all contributions help with the collective effort.

CAMPOUT PROCEDURES for Central Coast Group, Birding NSW

- Campouts will be limited to 20 birders.
- The leader is to be contacted prior to booking accommodation.
- Car-pooling may be necessary to enable all cars to park at some locations, otherwise the group will be unable to stop at these good birding areas.
- When there are several cars, please wait when turning off the main route for the following car to catch up.
- It is a custom at campouts to have a "Bird Call" in the BBQ area of the Caravan Park after the day's birding, to check all the birds seen during the day by everyone at the camp. People usually bring a drink and nibbles and socialise. Everyone is encouraged to attend the bird call to make sure no birds seen are omitted from the list for the camp.
- Generally, at campouts the group attends a local club or restaurant for dinner one night and usually has a BBQ meal together another night after bird call. Bird camps are a good time to socialise and get to know one another better.
- Please follow the leader's instructions. They are volunteers and have put a lot of time into organising the camp.
- It is best if everyone can keep up with the leader and stay together, where possible, so that all manage to see the birds and the leader is not constantly waiting for people to catch up.

NESTING OSPREYS IN CENTRAL COAST LGA 2023 BREEDING SEASON

Alan Morris & Mairin Ireland

I have always been interested in Ospreys nesting in NSW because when I joined the Fauna Panel Staff (the precursor to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the latter came into operation in 1967) as a Field Office in 1964, there were estimated to be only 10 pairs remaining on the Far North Coast because of predation by egg collectors and shooting by professional and amateur fishermen because Ospreys took meal size fish!!!.

In the early 1970s, the posting of some NPWS Law Enforcement Officers to the North Coast, brought about real change and nesting Brahminy Kites, Ospreys, Beach Stone-curlews, Peregrines and Little Terns, all subject to some deliberate persecution, became more successful. From the early 1970s, the Osprey population began to thrive and the birds have been breeding up and expanding their range southwards ever since. They initially were Scheduled as "Threatened Fauna" but nowadays in Coastal NSW they have become the second most common raptor, after the White-breasted Sea-Eagle.

Preliminary investigations by Mairin Ireland (Central Coast Council) and myself suggests that the current breeding season for Ospreys in the Central Coast

Osprey with catch
Linda Cuthbert



LGA has the highest number of breeding pairs that it has ever had, viz apparently 13 pairs currently attending to nests.

There were no nesting attempts in the combined Wyong and Gosford LGAs until 1996 when a pair were found nesting by Robert Payne in Kincumber Meadows, near Bensville, in a dead tree. The nest failed but nesting was attempted the following year again without success. Nesting was then attempted in a dead tree, near Lees Reserve, Chittaway 2002 to 2004 with some success but that tree eventually fell down and the birds then moved elsewhere.

The first regular successful nesting site was at the Erina Work Depot's Communications Tower. To prevent damage to the communications structures, staff constructed a special nesting platform, attached to the tower. The birds have nested there since and have been successful on many occasions. At one point a camera was attached to the nest site so that staff could check on the nesting success but that camera has not been operation for some years.

A similar artificial nesting structure was erected at the Gosford Stadium, in a position where sticks and branches no longer fell fall on patrons watching football matches.

Currently between us we can account for 13 nesting pairs as follows:

***Erina works depot:** still present, bringing sticks to nest 30/6/2023

***Kincumber Sewage Treatment Plant;** both birds present at or near the nest as seen by Laurie Smith week commencing 3/7/23.

***Gosford Stadium:** still present, sticks being brought to nest 12/7/2023

***Hylton Moore Oval**, East Gosford Baseball Field, nest on floodlights pole. Council will be leaving the nest alone and seeing if any intervention is required long term, nesting activity photographed 12/7/23

***Mingara Athletics Field.** New nest on Floodlights pole, which has been constructed very quickly by the birds. Nick Carson and Daniel McKeon have been providing regular reports. Council has contacted Club to provide information and the Club appears happy to leave the nest alone.

***The Entrance Bridge** site in a Norfolk Island Pine closest to the bridge near the Boat Hire wharf. Birds are still present and regularly sighted although the state of the nest is not known. Pied Cormorants have started nesting near this nest.

***Harry Moore Oval Toukley.** On south side of Oval, Michael Price reports 12/7/23 that this nest is active.

***Gwandalan Tunkuwallin Oval** has a new nest on a Floodlights pole on the south west of the Oval, near Kanangra Drive Gwandalan as at 30/6/2023.

***Terrigal CBD:** Nest on the back of a private crane. Pair appear to be active in bringing sticks to nest. It is understood that NPWS has provided information to the builder who owns/operates the crane. Darren Earnshaw reported on this pair on 5/7/23.

***Communications Tower, Ocean Drive Woy Woy.** This nest was in use last year 2022. Bird photographed in nest on 28/6/2023

***Communications Tower, Lake Munmorah** near Traffic Lights on Pacific Highway & Central Coast Highway, Birds at nest on 8/7/23.

*New nest, **Communications Tower, Cnr Ocean Drive & Walu Ave, Halekulani**, reported 8/7/23

***Rileys Island Nature Reserve**, nest in Norfolk Island Pine, Graham Nelson reports that two birds present alongside and near the nest on 8/7/23 although it is not known whether the birds are actually nesting.

So, thirteen nesting pairs at present in the LGA. This does not mean that there will be thirteen successful; nesting attempts. The nests are subject to predation - Wedge-tailed Eagles and or Sea-Eagles may take the young; Whistling Kites, Ravens and Crows may steal the eggs or take the small chicks or hassle the adults so much as to make them abandon the nest, while heavy rain and hail could damage eggs and or kill the young! However, overall, some young will survive and so the population will continue to increase.

An update will be given next month.

Winter Water Bird Survey – Brisbane Water KBA Friday July 7, 2023

Doug Hocking

The Winter Bird Survey was carried out on the above date. Weather conditions were a moderate westerly – 13 degrees and clear skies. The Survey commenced at low tide; however, only small areas of the intertidal zone areas were exposed.

Of most significance in the birds sighted were 26 Hoary-headed Grebe, 53 Pacific Black Ducks and 87 Black Swans. The obvious observation to be made is these are water birds coming to the coast that have bred up in the wet season out west. It would also seem Pied Oystercatcher numbers are on the increase and also there were almost triple the number of Little Pied Cormorants to last year.

The observers were Christina Port, Graham Nelson, Michael Scobie and Doug Hocking. It was a comfortable survey in Michael's boat, however, the winds still whistled cold.

Survey Route was - Paddys, Lintern, Cockle (Davistown) Channels, Bensville and St Huberts and Rileys Island Channel, then Orange Grove and the Pelican Colony.

WINTER SURVEY	2020	2021	2022	2023
Silver Gull	60	40	72	40
Australian Pelican	150	150	212	250
Little Pied Cormorant	44	40	51	130
Pied Cormorant	11	17	22	30
Little Black Cormorant	8	300	111	57
Australasian Darter	15	5	11	16
Great Egret	9	6	10	15
Little Egret	7	2	11	12
Royal Spoonbill	13	10	21	20
White-faced Heron	4	10	7	21
Nankeen Night Heron	1	2	0	0
Northern Mallard	23	25	65	83
Australian Wood Duck	1	0	0	4
Chestnut Teal	11	8	5	20
Caspian Tern	8	6	9	16

WINTER SURVEY	2020	2021	2022	2023
Eastern Curlew	6	0	7	1
White-bellied Sea Eagle	2	1	2	1
Eastern Osprey	1	2	1	4
Masked Lapwing	1	1	12	6
Welcome Swallow	6	5	50	3
Raven Spp	1	2	18	4
Black Swan		2	2	87
Striated Heron		1	1	0
White Ibis		5	14	18
Black Pacific Duck			15	53
Brown Honeyeater			2	0
Rainbow Lorikeet			8	6
Australian Magpie			6	3
Magpie Lark			2	1
Kookaburra				1

Bird whistles

by Henry Grace, c 1960s

Henry Grace (1884–1966) was a passionate bird watcher and listener. After retiring from his job as an electrician, Grace spent hours in the Royal National Park recording bird calls using his own 'bird-code' notation based on Morse code and shorthand. Working from his shed in Jannali, Grace then invented intricate bird whistles made from metal tubing, wire and rubber bands, on which he could then play each individual bird call.

Grace spent days out in the bush with his camping gear loaded on his old pushbike. He could imitate around 60 native bird calls with his whistles, often so well that he fooled the birds themselves.

When his hearing deteriorated with age, Grace constructed metal ear trumpets in order to be able to hear his beloved birdsong.

He delighted in listening to the dawn chorus – it 'only lasted 20 minutes, but it was always one of the greatest pleasures of my life'.

brass tubing, wire and rubber bands
presented by Mrs D Grace, 1964
R 408-R 417

