



The Twitcher

August
2023

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

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

Volume 18, No. 8

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
22/8/23	Next Meeting: Birds of Prey Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	Biggles Csolander
26/8/23	Outing: Glenola Reserve and Bunning Creek REMEMBER TO REGISTER Meet: 8.30am St Barnabas Church, Yarramalong Rd, Yarramalong	Margaret & Kaye Pointer 4374 1163
13/9/23	½ day Outing: The Coastal Lagoons REMEMBER TO REGISTER Meet: 8.30am Remembrance Drive, Wamberal	Frik Gautschi 0404 467 097
26/9/23	Next Meeting: Bird Photography Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	David Stowe

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 \$4 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 31 people turned up to hear Daniel McKeon give an entertaining presentation about a trip to western NSW and Queensland. The highlights of the trip were Cameron's Corner, Sturt National Park, Opalton and Lark's Quarry south of Winton. The ultimate aim of the trip was to see the Opalton Grasswren, which was successful, but many other exciting birds were seen along the way. Daniel saw 13 lifers for the trip. Daniel's presentation was accompanied by some excellent photographs of both birds and scenery.

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 1000 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 800 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.

Vale Tom Karplus



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Tom Karplus. Tom was President of Birding NSW from 2009. Over that time he provided a strong guiding hand to ensure the organisation flourished. Tom died at 72 years of age after a short illness. He was diagnosed with liver cancer only 4-6 weeks prior to his death but acquired an infection in hospital which ultimately led to his passing.

He remained working as a vascular surgeon at Concord Hospital until his illness was diagnosed. He had an eclectic range of interests which included the arts, sport, medicine and of course birding. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and he has left big shoes to fill at Birding NSW.

John Carpenter, Doug Hocking and Michael Scobie represented our group at his funeral. Carole Carpenter arranged for flowers to be sent to Elisabeth on our behalf. Our deepest condolences to Elisabeth.

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.

WHAT WAS NEW in July/August and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in September?

The birds have become more active since the weather warmed up in August. This is to be expected as the birds will or have commenced breeding so they are establishing territories and thus are more active and vocal.

Some unusual recent sightings include a European Goldfinch at the Dairy. This is the first record since 2019. The Wood Sandpiper has returned to the Dairy. It must like it there as it will be the 6th year in a row it has spent the summer there. The last record was March 2023.

A very unusual report was a Dusky Woodswallow at Noraville. This is unusual for two reasons. Firstly, Dusky Woodswallows are migrants and a report in mid-July is noteworthy.

Secondly, a record so close to the coast is also very unusual. Normally they are recorded at Mangrove Mountain and Bucketty. Noisy Pittas have been reported from four locations in this period. They are becoming more established here.

Rufous Whistlers, Orioles, Latham's Snipe, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, White-breasted Woodswallows and White-throated Gerygones are due from about 15/8. By the beginning of September, other waders are due, as well as Leaden Flycatcher, Koel and Channel-billed Cuckoo. From mid- to late- September, Sacred Kingfisher, Black-faced Monarch and Dusky Woodswallow will start to be seen.



European Goldfinch
Andrew Robinson



Wood Sandpiper
David Schuemaker



Dusky Woodswallow

OUTING REPORTS

Outing: July 29

DUBBO GULLY, MANGROVE MOUNTAIN

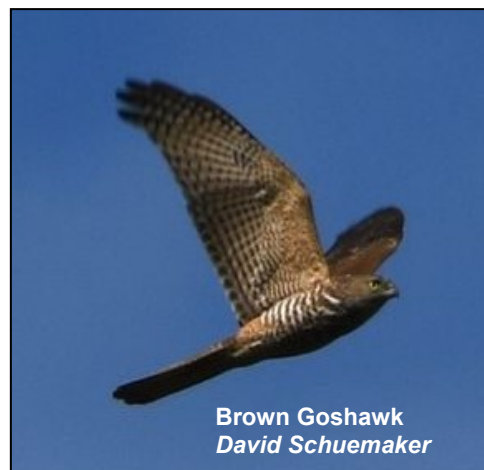
Leaders: Margaret & Kaye Pointer

Seventeen members met at Mangrove Mountain Hall, corner of Wisemans Ferry and Waratah Rd on what was a mild winter's day. In Waratah Rd, we recorded more than 20 common species including Glossy Black Cockatoo, Blackbird, Bar-shouldered Dove, White-faced Heron, Cattle Egret, Bell Miner, Willy Wagtail and a Raven carrying sticks. Then our plans came unstuck. Within sight of the gate an animated local was hanging out the window of their vehicle telling us we had to get out of the way as they were running late.

This meant eight cars had to reverse up hill. A vehicle slipped into the deep gutter while allowing the local to be able to pass. An attempt was made to tow the vehicle out but it was unsuccessful. Ultimately a tow truck was required. Three people stayed to sort out the stuck vehicle while the others drove carefully past and down to Mangrove Creek Bridge. Here the wattles, all decked in gold, framed the lower slopes of the hills. A short walk down the creek, which was quite low, saw large flocks of Satin Bowerbirds, along with King Parrot and Lewin's Honeyeater feeding on privet berries. The highlight was a Brown Goshawk circling while we had late morning tea.

The drive down to below "Fairview Homestead" and the waterhole added Wonga and Brown Pigeon, Little Pied Cormorant, Australasian Grebe, and Purple Swamphen. Walking along the road through shady Acmena shrubs we saw White-naped Honeyeaters gleaning insects as it warmed up. It was nice to see a different area of the gully as we got the opportunity to look at Thumbnail Orchids and ferns on the mossy rocks. A few were fortunate to see White-necked Heron and Lyrebird.

A late lunch at the cars gave some people the opportunity to look around the old homestead. We stopped briefly to look around the old cemetery and saw a small flock of Silvereyes. The planned short stop to collect cars parked near the bridge took a little longer than anticipated as there was the now freed vehicle and one other car. A Grey Goshawk circling over



Brown Goshawk
David Schuemaker



Dubbo Gully Birders
Leonie Loewe

the creek was a bonus. The three people left at the top had heard a Restless Flycatcher and a few other birds. A few people departed for their afternoon activities while most stopped at the end of the sealed road to see Brown Quail, Peaceful Dove, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, and two Little Eagle, adding eight species to our list.

Thank you all for your company, spotting skills, patience and particularly for looking out for one another. We had a total of 62 birds for the day.

Half-day Day Outing: August 9

Leader: Doug Hocking

MOONEY MOONEY CREEK, GIRRAKOOL & POPRAN NATIONAL PARK

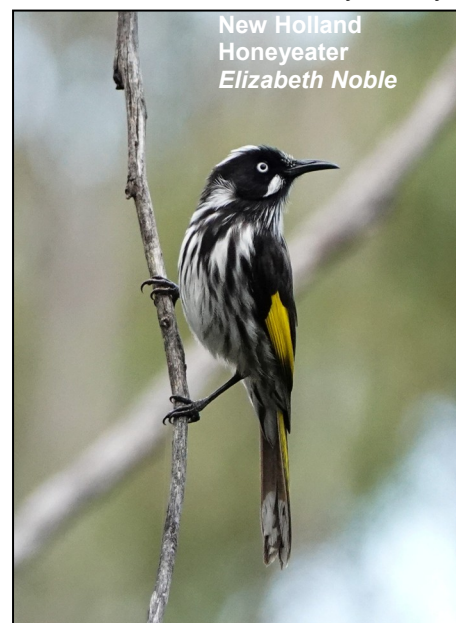


Doug's Group
Elizabeth Noble

It was a cold winter's morning at the meeting place on the tidal estuary of Mooney Mooney Creek, at the junction of Karool Road, Pacific Highway, Mooney Bridge and the Great North Walk. Unfortunately, Karool Road was far too wet and muddy to bird, however, the Piles Access Track was accessible which is a mix of eucalypt forests running down to the creek, swamp oaks and mangroves. The birding proved to be good with birds finally starting to move as spring approaches. We saw 35 species before we left the bridge and car park. Birds observed in the bridge area and Piles Creek included large numbers of Noisy Friarbirds, Lyrebird (4), King Parrot, Rainbow Lorikeets, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Bell Miner, Eastern Whipbird, Eastern Yellow Robin, White-throated Treecreeper, Pied Currawong, Brown Gerygone, Satin Bowerbird, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, large numbers of Eastern Spinebills, Grey Shrike-thrush, Scarlet Honeyeaters with several immature males, Brown and Yellow Thornbill, Silvereye, Fairy

Martin, Australasian Grebe, Pacific Black Duck, Mistletoebird, Australian Magpie, Grey Fantail, Variegated Fairywren, Superb Fairywren, White Ibis, Golden Whistler, and two Glossy Black Cockatoos flying high overhead.

We then travelled up to the Calga/Mount White area in the vicinity of Kelly's Creek Trail adjacent to the Popran National Park in the sandstone ridge country. This is a reliable spot for Fuscous Honeyeaters and we weren't disappointed. Birds here included Pied Butcherbird, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, White-browed Scrub Wren, Collared Sparrowhawk and Fantail Cuckoo. We then went to Girrakool National Park for morning tea and to walk the Girrakool Loop. On the way up, one kilometre from Mooney Creek on the wet sandstone, a Rockwarbler was spotted. By now the sun was shining and high in the sky with a light breeze. The understorey of native species was in full flower and looking beautiful. Birds seen were Little Friarbird (a code 3 bird with last record July 2019), New Holland Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Red Wattlebird, Bar-shouldered Dove, large numbers of Scarlet Honeyeater, Square-tailed Kite, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Raven, along with many birds we had already seen.



New Holland
Honeyeater
Elizabeth Noble

There were 17 Birders on the outing and we welcomed Garry Allenby from Kincumber who joined us for the first time. It was a pleasant outing in ideal weather with the habitat looking its best and 58 species were seen and heard.

SPECIES LIST

JULY 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	
Australian Shoveler	2	4/7/2023	Doyalson North	Meryl Newton
Brown Quail	1	1/7/2023	Tuggerah NR	Andrew Robinson
Brown Quail	5	3/7/2023	McPherson Rd Swamp, Tuggerah	Leeanne Lemke
Brown Quail	5	8/7/2023	Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Hoary-headed Grebe	400+	24/7/2023	Berkley Vale Foreshore, Tuggerah Lake	Christina Port
Pheasant Coucal	1	7/7/2023	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Pheasant Coucal	1	9/7/2023	Wisemans Ferry Rd, Somersby	Barbara Melville
Pheasant Coucal	1	30/7/2023	Central Mangrove	Andrew Robinson
Brush Bronzewing	1	19/7/2023	Magenta Shores	Arnie Boyaci
Peaceful Dove	2	28/7/2023	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mtn	Allan Benson
Topknot Pigeons	9	22/7/2023	Ourimbah	David Schuemaker
Buff-banded Rail	2	1-29/7/23	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Rob Montgomery
Buff-banded Rail	1	15/7/2023	Chittaway	Andrew Robinson
Spotless Crake	1	13/7/2023	Wyong	Andrew Robinson
Painted Button-quail	2	25-27/7	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Pied Oystercatcher	6	25/7/2023	Magenta	Andrew Robinson
White-headed Stilt	145	8-29/7/23	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Andrew Robinson
Red-capped Plover	2	9/7/2023	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Red-capped Plover	6	9-14/7/23	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Black-fronted Dotterel	8	29/7/2023	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Ruddy Turnstone	9	9/7/2023	Soldiers Point Reef	Andrew Robinson
Eastern Curlew	1	27/7/2023	St Huberts Island	Laurie Smith
Black-necked Stork	1	8/7/2023	Waratah Rd, Mangrove Mtn	Julie Peksis
Black-necked Stork	1	13/7/2023	Koindah Waters GC, Wyong	Andrew Whitaker
Black-necked Stork	AM	16 & 27/7	CCW & McPherson Swamp, Tuggerah	Mel Stratton
Black Bittern	1	15/7/2023	Ourimbah Creek, Chittaway	Andrew Robinson
Striated Heron	1	24/7/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Striated Heron	1	26/7/2023	Woy Woy waterfront	Rob Montgomery
Nankeen Night-Heron	1	9/7/2023	Avoca Lagoon	Andrew Robinson
Nankeen Night-Heron	3	15/7/2023	Ourimbah Creek, Chittaway	Christina Port
White-necked Heron	1	4/7/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Glenys Rae
Eastern Reef Heron	1	9/7/2023	Munmorah SCA	Andrew Robinson
Intermediate Egret	1	13/7/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Royal Spoonbill	26	8/7/2023	McPherson Road Swamp, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Straw-necked Ibis	1	23-30/7/23	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Osprey	2+N	5-23/7/23	Terrigal CBD, nest on crane	Darren Earnshaw
Osprey	2+N	8/7/2023	cnr Walu Av & Ocean Drive, Halekulani	Michael Price
Osprey	2+N	1-8/7/2023	Lake Munmorah Tele Tower	Meryl Newton
Osprey	2A+N+3Y	27-29/7/23	Gosford Stadium	Gary Jackson
Pacific Baza	2	22/7/2023	Tuggerah Creek, Central Coast Wetlands	David Schuemaker
Pacific Baza	1	26/7/2023	Wyongah garden	Chris Jamieson
Black-shouldered Kite	2	2-30/7/23	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Darren Earnshaw
Black-shouldered Kite	2A+2Y	4-7/7/23	Ironbark Rd, Mangrove Mtn	Gary Jackson
Black-shouldered Kite	1	8/7/2023	Mount Penang Gardens	Andrew Robinson
Square-tailed Kite	1	5/7/2023	Terrigal/Avoca	Nikola Markovina
Brahminy Kite	1	1/7/2023	Winney Bay, Avoca Beach	Laurie Smith
Brahminy Kite	A	24-26/7/23	Snapper Point, Munmorah SCA	Nick Carson
Brahminy Kite	J	24/7/2023	Buff Point, Budgewoi Lake	Nick Carson
White-breasted Sea-Eagle	N+Y	29/7/2023	Wagstaff/Lobster Beach	Wendy Harvey
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	2-30/7/23	x8 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	15/7/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Daniel McKeon
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	23/7/2023	Mardi Dam	Allan Benson
Little Eagle	1	27/7/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Tricia Sweet
Little Eagle	1	29/7/2023	Dubbo Gully, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Brown Goshawk	1	2/7/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Brown Goshawk	1	8/7/2023	Tuggerah NR	Andrew Robinson
Brown Goshawk	1	29/7/2023	Dubbo Gully, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	16/7/2023	Wyong	Andrew Robinson
Grey Goshawk	1	15/7/2023	Ourimbah	Andrew Robinson
Grey Goshawk (White morph)	1	29/7/2023	Lakes Beach Bike Track	Allan Benson
Noisy Pitta	1	1/7/2023	Hidden Valley, Jilliby SCA	Matt Egan
Noisy Pitta	HC	3/7/2023	Upper Palmdale	Leeanne Lemke

Central Coast Group - Birding NSW

Noisy Pitta	1	8/7/2023	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Matt Egan
Noisy Pitta	1	8/7/2023	Ourimbah Ck Ourimbah	Andrew Robinson
Nankeen Kestrel	1	4/7/2023	Wye	Mark Smith
Nankeen Kestrel	1	10-22/7/23	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Stephen Clark
Nankeen Kestrel	1	26/7/2023	Munmorah SCA	Fiona Rudd
Australian Hobby	1	22/7/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Australian Hobby	1	30/7/2023	Lee Rowans Gardenworld, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Peregrine Falcon	1	3/7/2023	with Feral Pigeon, Wadalba	Jay Em
Sooty Owl	2	1/7/2023	Yarramalong	Andrew Robinson
Sooty Owl	1	14/7/2023	McMasters Beach	Andrew Robinson
Sooty Owl	1	28/7/2023	Wyoming	Andrew Robinson
Southern Boobook	1	6/7/2023	Warnervale	Hitomi Ward
Southern Boobook	HC	17/7/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Southern Boobook	4	28/7/2023	Wyoming	Andrew Robinson
Powerful Owl	1	9/7/2023	Terrigal Lagoon	Peter Brady
Powerful Owl	2+N	21-22/7/23	Rumbalara Reserve, Gosford	Nick Carson
Gang Gang Cockatoo	2,4	15 & 20/7	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Gang Gang Cockatoo	6	25/7/2023	Kulnura Public School	Kaye Pointer
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	3-8/7/2023	Mangrove Mountain Hall	Lynette Callaghan
Glossy Black Cockatoo	1	9/7/2023	Peats Ridge Road	Andrew Melville
Glossy Black Cockatoo	3	22-28/7/23	The Springs Golf Course, Kulnura	Lewis McNulty
Little Lorikeet	22	1/7/2023	Porters Creek Wetland	Andrew Robinson
Little Lorikeet	10	15/7/2023	Tuggerah NR	Andrew Robinson
Musk Lorikeet	2	21/7/2023	Kincumber	J. Nina Rua
Musk Lorikeet	3	27/7/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Australian King Parrot	30+	22/7/2023	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Bob Montgomery
Australian King Parrot	30+	29/7/2023	Dubbo Gully, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Superb Lyrebird	1	28/7/2023	Pearl Beach Arboretum	Gary Jackson
Regent Bowerbird	5	3/7/2023	Ourimbah Rest Area, M1 Motorway	Leeanne Lemke
Southern Emu-wren	2	16/7/2023	Wyong	Andrew Robinson
Southern Emu-wren	4	22-29/7/23	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Tricia Sweet
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	3/7/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Daniel McKeon
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	40+	10/7/2023	migrating, Tathra Taila HSD, Man. Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	1	8/7/2023	Empire Bay NR	Andrew Robinson
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	3+	9/7/2023	Tuggerah Creek, Central Coast Wetlands	David Schuemaker
White-eared Honeyeater	2	1/7/2023	Porters Creek Wetland	Andrew Robinson
White-eared Honeyeater	2	14/7/2023	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Allan Benson
White-eared Honeyeater	2	27/7/2023	Warrah Trig, Brisbane Water NP	David Schuemaker
Noisy Friarbird	10	8/7/2023	Kariong garden	Wendy Mitchell
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	14/7/2023	Narara Oval	David Schuemaker
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	18/7/2023	Shelley Beach	Darrin Lawton
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	2+	14/7/2023	Waratah Road North, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	4	28/27/2023	Ironbark Rd Mangrove Mtn	Allan Benson
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	3	30/7/2023	Central Mangrove	Andrew Robinson
Large-billed Scrub-wren	3	19/7/2023	Fountaindale	Trent Freeman
Yellow-throated Scrub-wren	2	29/7/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Peter Brown
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	2	28/7/2023	Berecry Rd, Mangrove Mtn	Allan Benson
Spotted Quail-thrush	1	14 & 20/7	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Allan Benson
Varied Sittella	4	17/7/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Varied Triller	AM	11 & 26/7	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Peter Brown
Dusky Woodswallow	1	29/7/2023	Budgewoi Rd, Noraville	Allan Benson
White-winged Chough	4	14/7/2023	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mountain	Margaret Pointer
Spangled Drongo	2	9/7/2023	Redgum Trail, Wyrribalong NP	Chris Jamieson
Spangled Drongo	1	9/7/2023	Narara	Andrew Robinson
Spangled Drongo	2	28/7/2023	Lakes Beach Bike Track	Allan Benson
Jacky Winter	7	7/7/2023	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Jacky Winter	1	9/7/2023	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Jacky Winter	2	30/7/2023	Central Mangrove	Andrew Robinson
Jacky Winter	2	28/7/2023	Ironbark Rd, Mangrove Mtn	Allan Benson
Rose Robin	AM	26/7/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Little Grassbird	2	27/7/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Tricia Sweet
Bassian Thrush	2	3/7/2023	Upper Palmdale	Leeanne Lemke
Bassian Thrush	1	12/7/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
European Goldfinch	1	29/7/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson

Breeding and some other records - July

Brown Quail: 1 Bouddi Peninsular 29/7 (KIH); **Masked Lapwing:** N+4 eggs Central Coast Wetlands 22/7 (TSw); **Osprey:** 2+N Tunkuwallin Oval, Gwandalan, 2+N Charmhaven, Hylton Moore Oval Gosford 30/6-13/7 (Mlr), 1 Norah Head 3/7 (KGr), 1 Munmorah SCA 9/7 (ARo), 2A+N Doyle St Kincumber 14/7 (LSm), 2+N Harry Moore Oval Toukley 13-27/7 (LLe, MPr), 1 Jenny Dixon Beach 19/7, 2A+3Y Gosford Stadium 27/7 (GJa); **Brown Goshawk:** 1 Wadalba 13/7 (ARo); **Black-shouldered Kite:** 1 Mangrove Mtn Hall 23/7 (KPo), 1 Central Mangrove 30/7 (ASRo); **Nankeen Kestrel:** 1 Central Mangrove 30/7 (ARo); **Southern Boobook:** HC Murrumbung HSD Mardi 26 & 30/7 (CCa); **Glossy Black Cockatoo:** 2 Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn 16/7 (KPo), 2 Ourimbah Ck Rd Ourimbah 27/7 (FEa), 1 injured Gwandalan 29/7 (JHu); **Eastern Spinebill:** 2+N in Gynea Lily flower, Tathra Taila HSD Man.Mtn 30/7 (KPo); **Jacky Winter:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn 28/7 (KPo).

Good Birding!

CENTRAL COAST TWITCH - AUGUST, 2023

Andrew Robinson	251	Daniel McKeon	180	Diana Hogan	152
Graham Nelson	240	Krystyna Lonergan	178	Gabrielle Rees	150
Dean Purcell	222	Noel Lonergan	177	Rowena Wallace	148
Allan Benson	213	Kaye Pointer	173	Frik Gautschi	140
Christina Port	206	Julie Peksis	169	Judy Clark	135
Carole Carpenter	189	Chris Jamieson	166	Andrew Melville	129
David Schuemaker	184	Margaret Pointer	161	Michael Scobie	124
John Carpenter	181	Doug Hocking	158	Robyn Price	123
				Paul Shelley	115

Andrew Robinson has maintained his substantial lead. 251 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 in for Andrew, giving the field a chance to catch up.

BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD, JULY 2023

Nick Carson*	205	Frik Gautschi	52	Daniel McKeon	18	C Clutterbuck*	11
Allan Benson	198	Rebecca Citroni*	27	Doug Hocking	17	Anna Pillich	8
Graham Nelson	134	Robyn Price*	28	David Schuemaker	17	M & K Pointer*	6
Alan Stuart	123	Guy Dutson	25	Leanne Lemke	13	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 July, 203 surveys were recorded. YTD 858 surveys have been completed compared to 973 in 2022. Nick Carson has shot to the lead, boosted by Swift Parrot surveys, closely followed by Allan Benson and Graham Nelson. 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.

SWIFT PARROT SURVEYS**July 2023**

56 Swift Parrot Surveys from 52 sites have been completed in July 2023 compared with 35 in 2022.

Allan Benson	30	Robyn Price	6	Doug Hocking	2
Nick Carson	15	Guy Dutson	2	Leanne Lemke	1

SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS**July Survey**

Twelve observers turned up for the survey on a beautiful, warm sunny day. Once again there was a scarcity of waterfowl on the ponds. In total, the final count was only 130 which is our lowest survey count. It is somewhat of a mystery that there were no Pacific Black Ducks present. Pacific Black ducks are resident on the Coast. The ponds are very low at the moment but what impact that has on waterbird numbers is unknown. Two Musk Ducks are still present. It was, however, a raptor day with Pacific Baza, Hobby, Whistling Kite, Grey Goshawk and Swamp Harrier all being recorded. 46 species for the survey was a good result.

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

A meeting with the Council has revealed that permanent fencing will be erected in the next 6-18 months. Provision will be made to access a couple of birdwatching viewing points for the ponds. They will also be dredging the sediment from the ponds which means that we will not have access while this is occurring.

TRIP REPORT**Terrigal Pelagic, August 12****Andrew Robinson**

Something a little different for what was our eleventh Terrigal pelagic trip. With a small south swell and light WNW winds, we departed earlier than usual and headed for the southern most of the Norah Head Canyons some 34 nautical miles NE of Terrigal. A trip to the Southern Canyons had been talked about for some time but is only possible out of Terrigal in benign conditions due to the extra travel time that comes with it. The Southern Canyon is approx. 10 miles further than our usual destination and is where Swansea run pelagic trips have historically gone, albeit to the features a little further north.

Departing at 6:15am, it was a mostly uneventful trip out, with early sightings of small Fluttering Shearwater rafts, regular Gannet flybys, distant Mollymawks and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and some Humpback Whale action, including a calf. An Eastern Curlew heading south approx. 4 miles from Terrigal was also a nice surprise and perhaps a returning bird.

Reaching the Canyon at 9:30am, we'd already had reasonable views of Black-browed, Buller's and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross but were now hopeful of adding a few new species to the trip list. We immediately set about creating the all-important slick and commenced drifting. This had the desired effect as a few White-faced Storm-Petrel soon arrived, before being joined by a pair of Fairy Prion and more of the above-mentioned Albatrosses - although most were unfortunately reluctant to settle on the water. A moulting and seemingly very hungry Sooty Shearwater soon joined the party and proceeded to make short work of the odd discarded Pilchard.

White-faced Storm-Petrel numbers steadily built, and by 11am the slick was a thing of beauty as well over 20 birds fluttered, glided, skipped and plucked morsels from the water's surface. Regular Albatross flybys kept everyone interested and we eventually had decent views of Shy Albatross, along with a few close Providence Petrel passes.



White-faced Storm-Petrel
Andrew Robinson

All to soon it was time to head back and we settled in for what was a pleasant but rather monotonous return trip with few birds seen. It wasn't until we were about 8 miles from shore that things became a little more exciting, with rafts of both Fluttering and Hutton's Shearwater flushed by the boat and providing reasonable views in the process. This was shortly followed by a loafing NZ Fur Seal and two pods of (Short-beaked) Common Dolphin that followed in the boat's wake with breaching juveniles for added entertainment and a nice way to wrap up the trip.

In total 14 species were seen beyond The Haven, 11 of those being Tubenoses. All in all, it was an enjoyable Winter pelagic trip with good company and wildlife. As always, a massive thanks to Skipper Paul Minto, Captain Chum (co-organiser Dean Purcell) and all that joined us. The next Terrigal Pelagic is planned for Friday 15th September, so if anyone is interested, please feel free to get in touch.

The trip list (beyond Terrigal Haven) was as follows*:

White-faced Storm Petrel – 40+ (20+), Black-browed Albatross – 19 (3), Shy Albatross – 4 (1), Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross – 5 (1), Buller's Albatross – 9 (2), Providence Petrel – 8 (2), Fairy Prion – 6 (2), Wedge-tailed Shearwater – 4 (1), Sooty Shearwater – 1, Fluttering Shearwater – 160 (50), Hutton's Shearwater – 60 (60), Crested Tern – 9 (5), Silver Gull – 10 (6), Australasian Gannet – 70 (12).

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

RECORDINGS OF ENDANGERED BITTERN BIRD CALLS GIVE SCIENTISTS INSIGHT INTO IMPACTS OF FLOODS

Emily Doak

Recordings of the deep growls or booming calls of male Australasian bitterns in wetlands in southern New South Wales have sparked hope for the recovery of the endangered bird.

As floods in the Murray River approached the forest last September, Dr Znidarsic and her team rushed to place sound recorders. "We got out there as quickly as we could and we were basically deploying acoustic recorders up trees," she said. "Where we would normally walk, we actually had to kayak or use a boat."

The flood was the largest in a decade and water levels in the forest rose and then fell by about 4 metres.

When the research team retrieved the sound recorders months later, they were surprised to find that while the calls stopped as the water rose the birds became active as it receded.

"With the flooding event we thought because all the habitat was under water that was probably it for the breeding season," Dr Znidarsic said. "But as soon as that water level dropped, we saw a later-than-normal breeding season begin and the birds started to vocalise for a few months after that peak water."

To ensure bittern chicks successfully fledged, as it was so late in the season, additional water was delivered into the wetlands.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment's Paul Childs said it was a good result. "This outcome highlights the importance of long-term monitoring that helps to inform the adaptive management of environmental water and site-based management activities such as predator control, which are essential components for building Australasian bittern populations," he said.



BIRD WITH A WIRE: HOW TO TRACK ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S RAREST SPECIES

Miki Perkins

For much of their young lives, Australia's captive-bred Orange-bellied Parrots are kept under close watch by scientists trying to save one of the country's most beloved critically endangered species. Though numbers fluctuate, there are only around 140 left in the wild. Every animal counts. But each winter, when young birds are released along Victoria's coastline in the hope they meet with parrots that have migrated from Tasmania, they effectively disappear. Dispersed across hundreds of kilometres, the young birds have been fiendishly difficult for volunteer bird watchers to find. Scientists are trialling new trackers, not used in Australia before, that collect high-resolution information about the location of released Orange-bellied Parrots. Tiny one-gram radio transmitters have been painlessly attached to the base of tail feathers of the 19 birds released. These will fall off over time. "We know overwinter survival seems to be one of the major problems for this species," says Zoos Victoria senior manager Michael Magrath. "These new trackers will help us to determine how we best protect them from extinction."

One of only three migratory parrot species in Australia, Orange-bellied Parrots spend summers raising their chicks in hollow trees at Melaleuca, a small outpost in south-west Tasmania. As the weather cools, they fly hundreds of kilometres through autumn skies to the southern coast of the Australian mainland. To bolster their numbers, captive-bred birds have also been released on mainland Victoria for seven years, at locations where there is good salt marsh and coastal habitat. The partners in the program, which include Zoos Victoria, the Victorian government, Birdlife Australia and Deakin University, want to trial improved methods for tracking the birds.

Previously, they tried tiny, solar-powered backpack transmitters that weighed 2 grams, but found they were probably too heavy for the birds. This new trial uses a system called ATLAS and uses four receiver stations at Lake Connewarre near Geelong to pick up the signal from the transmitters, allowing them to track the bird's movements 24-7.

This is the first time the ATLAS tracking system has been used in the Asia Pacific. It has been used in the Netherlands to track Red Knots as well as in Israel to track bats and analyse their behaviour. "It pinpoints all the parrots every eight seconds and gives us an amazing insight into which parts of the habitat they are using and what they use it for," says Deakin University Professor Don Driscoll.