



The Twitcher

October
2023

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

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

Volume 18, No. 10

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
24/10/23	Next Meeting: Birding in Western Australia Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	Christina Port
28/10/23	Outing: Chain Valley Bay REMEMBER TO REGISTER Meet: 8.30am Community Hall, Scaysbrook Ave, Chain Valley Bay South	Leeanne Lemke 0412 233 594
8/11/23	½ day Outing: Wattle Tree Road REMEMBER TO REGISTER Meet: 8.30am 481 Wattle Tree Road, Holgate	Eileen Davies 0418 629 835
28/11/23	Next Meeting: Little Terns Breeding at Karagi Point Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds Note: For all Outings bring your morning tea and lunch. A chair is a good idea.	Andy Robinson



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.

Tonight's Speaker: Christina finally managed to get to Western Australian after several attempts were stymied by Covid. WA offers an entirely different suite of birds from the East Coast, which Christina was keen to see and photograph. Tonight, Christina will take us on that journey.

Last Month's Meeting: An excellent crowd of 39 people turned up to hear David Stowe give us a brilliant presentation on Bird Photography. Even for those who have no idea (and no interest) in ISO and F Stops etc., the fantastic photos that David used to illustrate his talk blew us all away. It made us realise that most people on our Facebook page just take pictures of birds. Its hard to imagine too many pushing a boogie board through 100's of metres of mud to get that perfect wader shot or dressing up in a Ghillie suit. The take home message was to learn to use your present camera properly. Don't spend a fortune to have all the gear but no idea.

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 over 1100 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. In doubt contact the outing leader.

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2023

Once again, we are running this competition which has been well supported in past years.

Rules are as follows:

- There are three categories– code 1 (common residents), code 2 (uncommon residents) and code 3 and 4 (Vagrants).
- Each photographer is allowed two entries in each category.
- Each photograph must be taken on the Central Coast in 2023. Please supply date and location with your entry.
- Closing date will be Friday 10th December.

Send entries to Allan Benson aejsbenson@bigpond.com

Winners will be announced at the club meeting on the 23rd January 2024. All photos will be shown at this meeting.

The judge, as in past years, will be Dick Jenkin from HBOC. The prizes this year will be wooden bowls from the master wood turner Rob Benson.

Thank you for your support.

WHAT WAS NEW in September/October and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in November?

The drying inland continues to push rarely seen birds to the coast. There are now four records of Rufous Songlark, 2 records of White-winged Triller (male at the Dairy and female at Kariong) and 3 Pallid Cuckoos at the Dairy as well. A female Turquoise Parrot has been photographed in Wyoming and Narara. Turquoise Parrots are common aviary birds and it is an unusual habitat for this species but . . . !



White-winged Triller



Pallid Cuckoo

Most of the spring migrants have returned including Fairy Martin, Latham's Snipe, White-breasted Woodswallow, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpiper, Red Knot, Great Knot, Golden Plover, Koel, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Olive-backed Oriole, Black-faced Monarch, Rufous Whistler, Dollarbird, Leaden Flycatcher, Brush Cuckoo, Rainbow Bee-eater, White-throated Gerygone and Sacred Kingfisher.

The balance of the spring migrants will return in October. We can expect reports of Rufous Fantail, Cicadabird and White-throated Needle-tails.

Hopefully even more inland species will come to the coast. Be on the lookout for Red-capped Robin, Red-backed Kingfisher, Masked and White-browed Woodswallows and possibly even Crimson and Orange Chat! Baillon's Crake seem to be everywhere but none reported from the Central Coast. Other possibilities include Glossy Ibis and even Painted Snipe and Black-tailed Native-hen. It is worth regularly checking the Migrant traps viz. The Entrance, especially Picnic Point, Tuggerah Salt Marsh at Lake Road, the Dairy and Wybung Head.

OUTING REPORTS

Outing: September 30

PEARL BEACH, WARRAH TRIG, PATONGA

Leader: Daniel McKeon

A warm Saturday morning at Pearl Beach Arboretum saw fourteen birders keen and ready for a big day in the south of the Central Coast. As we started the track we were greeted by a Superb Lyrebird in a tree. A great start to an interesting walk. The local art society were hosting PBEAT2023 a collection of nature-based artworks done by thirty different local artists. A collection of amazing works of art were spread along the walk and helped to distract from the lack of bird life. Highlights of our time in Pearl Beach were a fly over by a Pacific Baza, a distant Peregrine Falcon attacking a flock of Topknot Pigeons, a Leaden Flycatcher putting a show for us and a pair of Tawny Frogmouths that decided to look like trees to entertain us as we had morning tea.

We headed up the hill to Warrah Trig with the hope of finding some birds amongst the coastal heath. A White-eared Honeyeater made its presence known as we walked along the track heading towards the lookout. Apart from that it was a rather quiet walk. At the lookout we were greeted with a stunning view of the Hawkesbury River and by a little chirping bird off to the side of the fenced area.



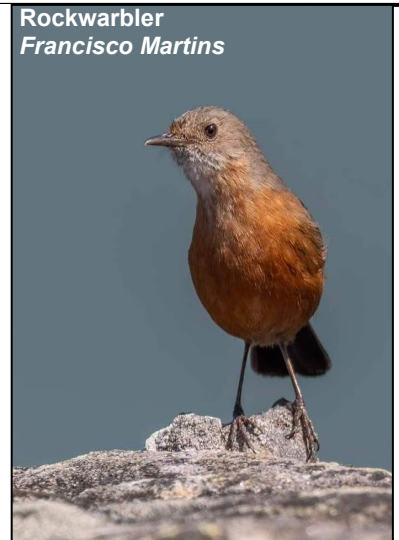
At Warrah Trig Lookout
Liz Noble

A pair of Rockwarbler were showing us who's boss of the lookout and put on a show for the remainder of our visit. A Spotted Pardalote calling and foraging from the tree tops kept the attention of some of our group while the rest tried to turn passing Silver Gulls into Albatross from the lookout.

We started back on along the return track and stumbled upon a beautiful Cunningham's Skink happily basking on a rock to the side of the path. A few New Holland Honeyeaters and some scattered Scrubwrens and we were back at the cars and ready to move on to Patonga.

As this outing was scheduled on a long weekend during school holidays, Patonga was a rather popular place when we arrived. After driving around, we found enough parking for everyone only to be told that we couldn't park there and would have to move again. We moved all the cars and sat down to have our lunch when a White-bellied Sea-Eagle flew directly overhead. After lunch and a bit of a chat we walked along the creek. Whistling Kites and Osprey were on the hunt along with all the local species of Cormorant and some Pelicans. We ventured down the track at the end hoping to find a Mangrove Gerygone but to no avail.

It had been a great day and this was our first true dipped species. Thank you to everyone who came along, the members are what make these outings so enjoyable, birds are just a bonus with 55 species seen on the day.



Camp: September 15th - 17th

GLOUCESTER

Leader: Graham Nelson

Finally, my first camp was on after two false starts (Covid and illness). I started on Tuesday the 12th to check things were alright for the weekend. Unfortunately, there were a few places we couldn't go anymore. So, some re-jigging was needed. I did manage to find a few birds and nail them down for a surprise.

Friday: I chose this day for Gloucester Tops to avoid the weekend warriors.

Starting at 8am we headed out to the Grey-crowned Babblers at the cemetery. We did get a brief but poor view of them. A number of people went back Monday morning, also with no luck. Phillip Siao, with persistence, was able to see around 20. Continuing down Gloucester Tops Rd, a Brown Goshawk took our eye and Wedge-tailed Eagles glided on the thermals above the hill for ages. We carried on to a small bridge where I had nailed down a Restless Flycatcher. Some Yellow-rumped Thornbills came over to say hello as well.

Onward to the Gloucester Tops campgrounds for morning tea and a short walk. Most of the birds were heard or seen in the campground. The Rose Robin call captured our attention. After morning tea, we called it in. It jumped around the trees and most of us got to see it. We then turned our attention to the young Lyrebird scratching around in a culvert, in the open no more than about five metres away. On the way up to the Tops we stopped to play the Paradise Riflebird call with no luck. We turned down Kerripit Trail to the end car park. Continuing down the trail there is a shoe cleaning station to protect the habitat from deadly bacteria and fungi. You



must do it in both directions. A track to the right took us down to an emergency chalet which gives shelter from the occasional snow storm. Unfortunately, there weren't many birds around. The Red-browed Treecreepers that are there every time I go, were nowhere to be seen. We played the Paradise Riflebird call again and a single call was heard but not enough to identify it.

Lunch was at the picnic ground near the track to the falls. There were a few Honeyeaters and a few other common birds. Gabrielle



found Buff-rumped Thornbill. The Crescent Honeyeaters that are normally around were not. No one found me an Olive Whistler or a Rufous Scrub-bird even though I had offered ice cream as a reward. The day was disappearing so we headed home via Rawdon Vale where I was hoping to find Pheasant Coucal, Quail, Golden-headed Cisticola or a Brown Falcon. None of them would come out to play but it was a nice drive home anyway.

Saturday: We headed out along the Scone Rd towards Barrington Tops. Driving along we saw two Black-shouldered Kites on a dead tree and a Wedge-tailed Eagle was glimpsed in a tree.

Once the climb starts you enter Alpine type country which feels a little different to Gloucester Tops. The first stop was Cobark Lookout giving a great view of the landscape. The best bird was the Topknot Pigeons. We continued to Cobark Picnic area and we found a few Rose Robin and Striated Thornbill. Next stop was Honeysuckle Picnic area.

Amongst other birds Crescent Honeyeaters were calling - there were at least four, but they didn't show themselves. After morning tea, we had a delightful walk through the Antarctic Beech rainforest and Tall Mountain Banksias (honeysuckles). We took it slowly seeing Yellow-throated & Large-billed Scrubwren, hearing a Lyrebird and more Rose Robins. We drove to the Thunderbolt Lookout parking where I was hoping for a special surprise. I walked back on the road and played a call with no luck.



However, then a male and a female Flame Robin came in to enthral us. After asking the information centre for other birding spots in lieu of places we couldn't go they said Polblue swamp was teeming with birds, native animals and brumbies. We arrived for lunch but it looked a little desolate. After lunch we went for a walk and found water was still trickling into the swamp. Apart from a few common birds another Flame Robin gave even better views. No other animals or even brumbies were seen. I was thinking we should have gone back to Copeland Gold Mine for lunch. A few of us stopped at Copeland Gold Mine on the way back. It was so dry and unfortunately the only birds of note were the three Wompoo Fruit-doves. Rowena found a Brown Falcon on the way home. On the way home we could see the glow of flames and ashes on top of the mountain. Unfortunately, a back-burn got away.

The good thing about going to Gloucester Tops and Barrington Tops was that we escaped the heat. It was 32 & 35° respectively. For Saturday night. I booked at the bowling club Chinese restaurant for 6.30pm. I did suggest we get there and order about 6pm as I was informed that there would be 80 cricketers there too. Better than the 120 they had the weekend before. Luckily most people received their dinners at 6.30pm before the cricketers.

Sunday: I left the best and easiest day till last. We were glad to get away from the smoke and drove down Bucketts Rd where we stopped at a large dam with lots of water birds. On Faulklands Rd and the river we found a number of birds including Yellow Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, and Golden and a Rufous Whistler. We stopped at Barrington Pioneer Cemetery to see White-throated Gerygone. Whilst they were calling, they would not show either. Instead, a Striated Pardalote gave us great views on a fence.

Turning into Barrington Rd West we were greeted with a Brown Falcon and an Australian Pipit. On the drive down to Rocky Crossing a Black-shouldered Kite and Brown Goshawk made themselves known. Rocky Crossing had many birds. A White-throated Gerygone decided to show itself during morning tea along with a Collared Sparrowhawk, White-winged Choughs, Rufous Whistler and a Leaden Flycatcher. It is a nice drive to Woko National Park but there weren't many birds to see on the way. We had lunch and then some went wandering. Soon there was rumours of a Wompoo Fruit-dove. While most chose to go home after lunch, those that stayed were rewarded as we found three more Wompoo Fruit-doves, a number of Olive-backed Orioles and a Leaden Flycatcher. Shortly after that we decided it was too hot. Apparently, it was 40°.

Although it didn't go to my plan everyone said they enjoyed it. The most commonly seen or heard birds were: Tree Martins, White-throated Gerygone, White-headed Pigeon, Crimson Rosella and Rose Robins. No Albatross were seen. We ended up with a bird count of 114 species and I probably saw another 5 species leading up to the camp. I would like to thank those who came to the camp.

SPECIES LIST**SEPTEMBER 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	2	30/9/2023 Elizabeth Bay, Lake Munmorah	Steve Bowman
Brush Turkey	1	21/9/2023 Killarney Vale garden	Daniel McKeon
Brush Turkey	6	22/9/2023 Ansells Pt, Geoffrey Rd, Chittaway	John Carpenter
Brown Quail	3	13/9/2023 Ravensdale Rd, Yarramalong	Allan Benson
Brown Quail	3+	9/9/2023 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Brown Quail	2	14/9/2023 West Gosford	Darren Earnshaw
Brown Quail	3	30/9/2023 Mount White	Gary Jackson
Pheasant Coucal	AF	18/9/2023 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	11/9/2023 Kariong	Diane Warman
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	11/9/2023 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	12/9/2023 Eighth Ave, Toukley	Leeanne Lemke
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	17-18/9/23 Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Eastern Koel *	1	5/9/2023 Springfield Pond Reserve	Pearl Peril
Eastern Koel *	1	5/9/2023 McKenzie Reserve, Budgewoi	Meryl Newton
Eastern Koel *	1	13/9/2023 Umina Beach	Ken Janson
Brush Cuckoo *	1	26/9/2023 Old Rutile Track, Elizabeth Bay	Allan Benson
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	9/9/2023 Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Peter Brown
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	26/9/2023 Old Rutile Track, Elizabeth Bay	Allan Benson
Tawny Frogmouth	2	22/9/2023 on power poles, Ansells Point	Carole Carpenter
Brush Bronzewing	1	10/9/2023 Magenta Shores	Andrew Robinson
Peaceful Dove	2	11/9/2023 Waratah Road North, Mangrove Mtn	Julie Peksis
Topknot Pigeon	40	4-9/9/2023 Ourimbah M1 Motorway rest area	Diana Shang
Topknot Pigeon	9	13/11/2023 Wye	Dianne Loewe
Topknot Pigeon	11	15/9/2023 Point Clare	David Lamont
Buff-banded Rail	1rk	9/9/2023 found dead, Eighth Ave, Toukley	Leeanne Lemke
Buff-banded Rail	1	11/9/2023 Lisarow	Anthony Gill
Buff-banded Rail	2	11/9/2023 Halekulani	Wendy Gilchrist
Aust. Spotted Crake	1	30/9/2023 Tuggerah Wetlands	Andrew Robison
Spotless Crake	2	30/9/2023 Tuggerah Wetlands	Andrew Robison
Pacific Golden Plover *	1	15/9/2023 Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Allan Benson
Red-capped Plover	8	4-10/9/23 The Entrance Channel & Karagi Pt	Andrew Robison
Double-banded Plover **	1	3-10/9/23 Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robison
Latham's Snipe	2	1/9-9/9/23 Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Latham's Snipe	3	10-12/9/23 Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Eastern Curlew	1	28/9/2023 Pretty Beach tidal flats	Wendy Harvey
Common Greenshank *	1	10/9/2023 The Entrance Channel & Terilbah Is.	Kerr Brad
Bar-tailed Godwit *	3	9/9/2023 Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Andrew Robison
Red Knot *	1	14/9/2023 Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Dean Purcell
Curlew Sandpiper *	3	6-9/9/23 Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Allan Benson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1	2/9/2023 Tuggerah NR, South Tacoma	Andrew Robison
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *	1	5/9/2023 8 on 29/9, Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *	15	6-10/9/23 Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Allan Benson
Red-necked Stint	12	3/9/2023 30 on 9/9, Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robison
Brown Skua	2	15/9/2023 Terrigal pelagic	Kerr Brad
Shy Albatross	1	3/9/2023 Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robison
Shy Albatross	21	15/9/2023 Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robison
Black-browed Albatross	2	3/9/2023 Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robison
Black-browed Albatross	23	15/9/2023 Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robison
Buller's Albatross	5	15/9/2023 Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robison
Providence Petrel	4	15/9/2023 Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robison
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	800+	3/9/2023 Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robison
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	500+	15/9/2023 Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robison
Fluttering Shearwater type	4000+	3/9/2023 Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robison
Fluttering Shearwater type	500+	15/9/2023 Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robison

Central Coast Group - Birding NSW

Black-necked Stork	A	6/9/2023	Kanwal paddocks, Wyong North	Robert Olive
Nankeen Night-heron	1	15/9/2023	Avoca Lagoon Oval	Frik Gautschi
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	23/9/2023	private property pond, Lemon Tree	Carole Carpenter
Common Tern	1	3/9/2023	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Eastern Osprey	A+N	7-12/9/23	new nest Comms Tower at Erina Fair	Gary Jackson
Eastern Osprey	2A+3Y	11/9/2023	adult found injured, Gosford Stadium	Gary Jackson
Eastern Osprey	N+1Y	19/9/2023	Comms. Tower, Ocean Drive, Woy Woy	Laurie Smith
Eastern Osprey	1	8/9/2023	Colongra Bay, Lake Munmorah	Bill Lancaster
Eastern Osprey	1	8/9/2023	Terrigal	Soelast Soelastijons
Pacific Baza	1	30/9/2023	Patonga	Daniel McKeon
Pacific Baza	1	16-24/9/23	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Black-shouldered Kite	1	9/9/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Square-tailed Kite	1	10/9/2023	Munmorah SCA	Andrew Robinson
Whistling Kite	1	2 & 11/9/23	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Brahminy Kite	1	26/9/2023	Old Rutile Track, Elizabeth Bay	Allan Benson
Brown Goshawk	1	5/9/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Brown Goshawk	1	6/9/2023	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Peter Brown
Brown Goshawk	1	10/9/2023	Magenta Shores	Andrew Robinson
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	15/9/2023	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Allan Benson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	6-30/9/23	x4 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	17/9/2023	Ourimbah Ck Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	19/9/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	25/9/2023	Chain Valley Bay	Meryl Newton
Dollarbird *	1	30/9/2023	Lake Munmorah	Steve Bowman
Dollarbird	1	30/9/2023	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Rainbow Bee-eater **	4	10/9/2023	Magenta Shores	Andrew Robinson
Rainbow Bee-eater **	5	12-25/9/23	Bunning Creek Rd, Yarramalong	David Schuemaker
Sooty Owl	HC	24/9/2023	Avoca Heights	Nick Carson
Southern Boobook	HC	4/9/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Southern Boobook	HC	13/9/2023	Portsmouth Rd, Erina	Malcolm Hill
Southern Boobook	HC	23-24/9/23	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Nankeen Kestrel	2	6-18/9/23	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Peter Brown
Nankeen Kestrel	1	10 & 26/9	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Nankeen Kestrel	1	14/9/2023	Mann's Rd, West Gosford	Darren Earnshaw
Australian Hobby	1	11/9/2023	North Entrance	Leeanne Lemke
Australian Hobby	1	2/9/2023	Wyoming	Andrew Robinson
Brown Falcon	1	5-21/9/23	x4 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Peregrine Falcon	1	2/9/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Peregrine Falcon	1	13/9/2023	Capt Cook Lookout, Copacabana	David Schuemaker
Peregrine Falcon	1	26/9/2023	Old Rutile Track, Elizabeth Bay	Allan Benson
Yellow-tailed Bla Cockatoo	16	21/9/2023	Pearl Beach-Patonga bush track	Harry Jackson
Glossy Black Cockatoo	7	11/9/2023	Mount White	Sue Watts
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	11/9/2023	Tommo's Loop, Brisbane Water NP	Ken Janson
Glossy Black Cockatoo	4	23/9/2023	Dubbo Gully, Mangrove Mountain	Bronwyn Houlihan
Gang Gang Cockatoo	10	29/9/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Little Lorikeet	2	2/9/2023	Yengo NP, Bucketty	Andrew Robinson
Noisy Pitta	2	18/9/2023	Strickland SF, Narara	Allan Benson
Noisy Pitta	1	21/9/2023	Palmdale	Michael Ronan
Superb Lyrebird	1	3/9/2023	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Superb Lyrebird	1	11/9/2023	Greengrove, Lower Mangrove	Allan Benson
Scarlet Honeyeater *	6	3/9/2023	returned to Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Brown Honeyeater	2	14/9/2023	West Gosford	Darren Earnshaw
Striated Thornbill	A+J	6/9/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Striated Thornbill	6	19/9/2023	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
White-throated Gerygone *	1	2/9/2023	Wye	Leonie Loewe
White-throated Gerygone *	2	13/9/2023	Ravensdale Rd, Yarramalong	Allan Benson
White-throated Gerygone *	1	15 & 26/9	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer

Varied Sittella	2	23/9/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Crested Shrike-tit	2	17/9/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Crested Shrike-tit	2	18/9/2023	Henry Kendall gardens, Wyoming	Ann Juan
Rufous Whistler	AM	9/9/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Rufous Whistler	6	14/9/2023	Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	Tricia Sweet
Rufous Whistler	2	25/9/023	North Doyalson	Meryl Newton
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	3	29/9/2023	Bucketty Waterhole	Andrew Robinson
White-winged Triller	AM	29/9/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
White-breast Woodswallow *	2	4/9/2023	Picnic Point Res, The Entrance	Sonia Boughton
White-breast Woodswallow *	2	7/9/2023	Chittaway Point West	Chris Barnes
White-breast Woodswallow *	1	14/9/2023	Avoca Beach	Nick Carson
Rufous Fantail *	1	18/9/2023	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Ann Juan
Black-faced Monarch *	2	11-18/9/23	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Black-faced Monarch *	1	17/9/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Leaden Flycatcher *	1	15-30/9/23	Murrumbung HSD Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Leaden Flycatcher *	AM	25/9/023	North Doyalson	Meryl Newton
Leaden Flycatcher *	6	25/9/2023	Redgum Trail, Noraville (Wyrabalong NP)	Steve Bowman
Leaden Flycatcher *	2	30/9/2023	Warrah Trig/Coastal Lookout, BWNP	Daniel McKeon
Jacky Winter	2	3/9/2023	Yarramalong	David Schuemaker
Rose Robin	1	5/9/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Brown Songlark	1	8-11/9/2023	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Rufous Songlark	1	9/9/2023	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Rufous Songlark	1	11/9/2023	Richard Woodbury Reserve	Allan Benson
Rufous Songlark	1	24/9/2023	Elizabeth Bay Boat Ramp	Steve Bowman
Bassian Thrush	1	18-21/9/23	x3 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Bassian Thrush	1	21/9/2023	Mount White garden	Leeanne Lemke

Breeding and some other records - September

Channel-billed Cuckoo: Other arrivals: 4 Mt White 17-22/9 (SWa), 1 Woongarra 21/9 (NEs), 1 Killarney Vale 25/9 (DMcK), 1 Woy Woy 25/9 (LRa), 1 Terrigal 29/9 (NMA); **Eastern Koel:** 2 Davistown & Killarney Vale 23/9 (DMcK); 1 Seabreeze Park, Kincumber 25/9 (CPo) & North Avoca (LWi); **White-headed Pigeon:** A+J Murrumbung HSD Mardi (JCa); **Buff-banded Rail:** 1 Central Coast Wetlands 12/9 (LLe), 2 Ansell's Pt Chittaway 22/9 (JCa); **Masked Lapwing:** 2A+2 chicks Pacific St Long Jetty 19/9 (MPo), 2A+1J Ansell's Pt 22/9 (CCa); **Osprey:** No nesting pair at Erina Depot, nest now deserted 19/9 (DEa), 2A Toukley Oval 10/9, 1 The Entrance Bridge 11/9 (ARo); **Brown Goshawk:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 3/9, nest found 11-30/9 (KPo), 1 Waratah Rd North 11/9 (JPe), 1 Crackneck Lkt, Wyrabalong NP 26/9 (TNg); **Nankeen Kestrel:** 2A at nest hole Central Coast Wetlands 12/9 (LLe); **Glossy Black Cockatoo:** 5 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 4/9 (KPo); **Brown Thornbill:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 10/9 & 25/9 (KPo); **Striated Thornbill:** A+J Borrisbrook Rd Man, Mtn 10/9 (KPo); **Leaden Flycatcher:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn 29/9 (KPo).
Good Birding!

CENTRAL COAST TWITCH - OCTOBER, 2023

Andrew Robinson	263	Krystyna Lonergan	188	Gabrielle Rees	161
Graham Nelson	252	Noel Lonergan	188	Diana Hogan	160
Dean Purcell	244	Daniel McKeon	185	Rowena Wallace	155
Allan Benson	226	John Carpenter	181	Frik Gautschi	146
Christina Port	215	Kaye Pointer	177	Judy Clark	144
David Schuemaker	214	Doug Hocking	175	Michael Scobie	137
Carole Carpenter	191	Julie Peksis	170	Robyn Price	135
Chris Jamieson	189	Margaret Pointer	169	Andrew Melville	132
				Paul Shelley	127

Andrew Robinson has maintained his substantial lead. 263 is a really impressive number at this stage of the year. It may be Andy is heading towards a new record which is in the 270's. This will depend on which vagrants turn up in the remainder of the year.

BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD SEPTEMBER, 2023

Allan Benson	259	Frik Gautschi	80	Daniel McKeon	19	Leanne Lemke	16
Nick Carson	220	Guy Dutson	74	Greg Shaw	19	Anna Pillich	14
Alan Stuart	194	Robyn Price	32	M and K Pointer	18	Michael Scobie	13
Graham Nelson	170	Doug Hocking	28	David Schuemaker	17	C Clutterbuck	6

For September only 110 surveys were recorded. YTD 1040 surveys have been completed in 2023 compared to 1017 in 2022. Allan Benson has retained the lead, followed by Nick Carson but Alan Stuart is making a big effort. 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**September Survey**

A good crowd of 8 observers completed the survey. Most were hoping for Baillon's Crake which have been widely reported in coastal areas. However, the ponds were not ideal for Crakes with too much water. Waterfowl numbers had increase significantly since the last survey with 650 counted. Total species count, however, was an impressive 52 species being recorded with the highlights being a good variety of raptors.

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

WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL (*HIRUNDAPUS CAUDACUTUS*) REPORT FOR 2022/23 SEASON.

Mike Tarburton

I think it is about time to get outside for some exercise and some fresh air, as well as to scan the skies for any swifts in our district. There are three species found in parts of Australia but if we lived in Papua New Guinea, we would have 9 species to scan for. Possibly that is one reason we enjoyed our 8 years in PNG.

Many of the WTNT cross PNG to get to Australia, but they have not reached there as yet this season. 100+ WTNT were seen on 5th Sep in China, and smaller numbers have been seen heading in our direction over Taiwan. At the Kenting N.P. Raptor Obs Spot, 2 were seen on 2nd Sep, 1 on 6th, 3 on 9th and then 6 a little nth of there on the 10th Sep. Not to be outdone 2 FTS were seen at Darwin on 7th Sep.

This season there were 3517 reports sent in, or published where I could find them. This is a few less than the 3885 reports last season. Unfortunately, the number of reports that did not give a count of the birds was still significant as it dropped only two, from 89 to 87 which is still not as good as the 30 five years ago. The largest flock reported was of 5,000 birds, again seen by Demetris Bertzeletos at Surfside in Sthn NSW on 3rd March.

This season, there were no records for June, two for July (NSW & Qld) and three for August (two in Qld & one in NSW). Only two sightings were made in September, one from Qld, one from NSW. Sthn NSW & Vic had a very wet cold start to Summer, and this appears to have delayed the arrival of WTNT to both areas. The first Victorian sightings were made by Treeswift Tours at Bunyip S.P. on 6th Nov. exactly one month after last year's first sighting. Colin Brownlie made one just inside Vic on 8th Nov. Rather than going into Victoria some went to Norfolk Island, and Lord Howe Island. The first Tas sighting was made on 26 Dec by Paul Jones. The first SA sighting was made on the 5th Mar. by Hugh Possingham. The first ACT sightings were made on 13 Jan. – 101 days later than last year – but still earlier than usual.

There were 12 sightings in ACT, 2 on Cocos Islands, 6 on Lord Howe & 2 on Norfolk Island, 1,831 in NSW, 1 in Northern Territory, 1,050 in Qld, 6 in S.A., 65 in Tas, and only 538 in Vic compared to 714 last year.



A big thank you is due to local bird club officials who have forwarded sightings from their members – very much appreciated.

The average flock size this season is indicating a levelling off in the decline, so please keep counting for another one of two years so we can determine if the Japanese breeding efforts with artificial nest boxes are starting to pay off.

Irene Allan once again recorded the most sightings (106), then Andy Jensen (90), myself (68), Michael Ronan (66), Bas Hensen (61), Andrew McConville (52), Colin Brownlie (50), Rod Gardner (46), Tom Wilson (44), David Flumm (42), Adrian Dick (38), Hans Wohlmuth (36), & Tom Tarrant (35).

Thanks again to all those who have taken the trouble to send me your sightings. It does not matter whether you sent in 1 report or more than 100, they are all useful in helping determine the WTNT population status and defining other aspects of their behaviour.

SWIFT PARROT NAMED 2023 AUSTRALIAN BIRD OF THE YEAR WINNER

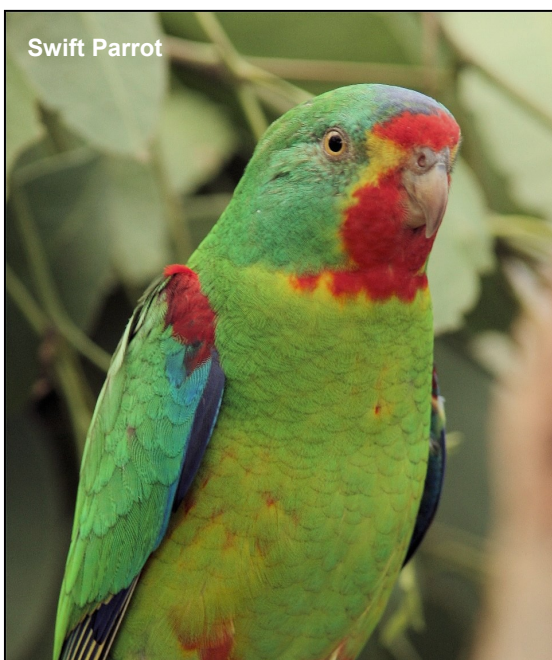
Lisa Cox

The critically endangered swift parrot is the 2023 Australian bird of the year. Voters in the Guardian/BirdLife Australia biennial poll have used this year's competition to send a message that they want to see the habitat of the world's fastest parrot protected. After ranking around 10th place during the early days of voting, the Swift Parrot emerged as a frontrunner this week amid a grassroots campaign to raise awareness about its desperate situation.

In the final 24 hours of polling, 11,171 votes were cast for the Swift Parrot, placing it 442 points ahead of the Tawny Frogmouth, which received 10,729 votes. "This was definitely a concerted vote from people who were captivated not just by the birds themselves but their plight," BirdLife Australia's national public affairs manager, Sean Dooley, said.

Both the Swift Parrot and the Tawny Frogmouth had high profiles in this year's competition. The Swift Parrot was in the headlines before the launch of the poll after Guardian Australia revealed a recovery plan – recently announced by the environment minister, Tanya Plibersek – had not been shared with the experts who helped develop it and failed to adequately address logging of its breeding habitat in Tasmania or clearing of habitat on the mainland.

New population projections for the species reported during the poll showed a team of researchers at the Australian National University had found the decline of the species was accelerating. Even without the key threat of logging of its habitat factored in, the modelling found there would be fewer than 100 individuals in the population by 2031, with a mean population of just 58 birds, unless there was drastic conservation intervention. Dooley said while the bird of the year poll was an uplifting display of the love people have for Australia's birds, this year's result demonstrated people were serious about protecting them. "The real thing about this – and this is why it's so tragic – is Swift Parrots are the most egregious example of how our nature laws are failing us," he said. "Because the situation could not be more stark or obvious." Dooley said the clear and distinct threat to the survival of the swift parrot was the destruction of its forest home, particularly through native forest logging. He said Australia had environmental laws in place that should be able to address that threat but the exemption granted to forestry operations covered by regional forest agreements meant that was not happening and "we are watching this bird go extinct". Australia has a biodiversity crisis and Dooley said the swift parrot's story was one of the worst examples of it. "In a field of abject despair, it's the most distressing case of all because it's within our powers to fix it and we refuse to," he said. "I hope the government hears this message. People really care about these beautiful birds. They care about what happens to them."



Dooley said he empathised with the many supporters of the tawny frogmouth, which placed second for the third poll in a row. "To all the

tawny lovers, hang in there. It will have its day," he said. "They're extraordinary birds. The fact they're still common and can be seen in every city in Australia is something to celebrate."

The total number of votes cast over the entire 2023 bird of the year poll was 321,000, with 55,384 of those votes cast in the final round.

Dooley said people appeared more passionate about the poll than ever. "The fact we've got to a point where people can talk about birds and their love of birds and it's not just magpies and kookaburras – 10 years ago that wouldn't have happened," he said. He said the competition prompted serious discussion about what was needed to secure the survival of many of the birds that featured. Four of the birds that made this year's Top 10 are threatened species. "Of all the threats that each individual species faces, the common denominator comes down to habitat destruction and degradation," he said. "If we had nature laws that address that one issue, our birds would have a much brighter future than they're currently facing."

HOLY GRAIL OF WATER, THE AUSTRALIAN PAINTED-SNIPE SPOTTED IN LAKE CARGELLIGO

Conor Burke and Sam Robinson

The discovery of the Australian Painted-snipe (*Rostratula australis*) at Lake Cargelligo has twitchers aflutter as sightings of the small bird are so rare that ornithologists do not even know what they sound like. According to ecologist and painted-snipe aficionado Matt Herring there has only been a handful of sightings so far in 2023, and this was the second in NSW this year. "The birds have become so scarce that every single sighting is huge," Dr Herring said. He said there are only an estimated 340 of the birds in existence.

The female snipe almost went unnoticed by Beth Fisher, a new member of the Lake Cargelligo Bird Watchers group, who did not realise its rarity. She spotted the bird on her property on her way to work and sent a snap to fellow twitcher and bird photographer Rebecca Van Dyk who dropped everything and rushed to the scene. "We were gobsmacked," she said. By the time she had arrived the skittish bird had tried to hide. "It was extraordinary. She lay flat on the ground. We could only just see her eye," she said. "We were just looking at each other smiling, putting out hands slowly to high-five each other. Thumbs up. It was the best feeling."



Dr Herring, who runs the Australian Painted-Snipe Tracking project said the birds are "sneaky" and "ninja-like" by nature, and therefore notoriously difficult to track. As a result, he said not much is actually known about them, including where they live for most of the year. "They like to remain undetected. They're super sneaky and hide amongst the water plants. That's one reason why they don't get seen," he said. "We suspect that they are migratory because about 99 per cent of all records in south-eastern Australia come for spring and summer, and then they vanish."

The snipe is found in shallow wetlands, including temporary and permanent lakes, swamps, and claypan. It has also been spotted in Queensland, Victoria, and the Northern Territory this year, and while this latest appearance is exciting for bird watchers Dr Herring said it was also cause for concern.

Numbers declined by 90 per cent between 1950 and 2005 and continue in a "staggering" downward trajectory, he said. Twitchers had expected to see more of the snipe this year after three consecutive La Nina events — there was a glut of sightings just after the millennium droughts — but that has not eventuated. He said more sightings were needed to help support his tracking project so more can be learnt about this slippery character. "It's a little bit pathetic that we only know the whereabouts of five birds. And that's been the case for six months," he said.

But he remains ever hopeful — after all, their elusive nature is also part of their allure. "They're so beautiful, so rare, and such a challenge to find and study," Dr Herring said. "It's just good encouragement to get out there this spring and summer and see if you can find the holy grail of wetlands."