



The Twitcher

November
2023

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

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

Volume 18, No. 11

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
28/11/23	Next Meeting: Little Terns Breeding at Karagi Point Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	Andy Robinson
2/12/23	Outing: Ash Island Meet: 8.30am Minmi Oval carpark. 84 Woodford Road, Minmi	Daniel McKeon 0407 076 118
9/12/23	½ day Xmas Outing: Mardi and Central Coast Wetlands Meet: 7.30am Murrumbung Homestead, 32 The Valley Way, Mardi (off Cobb's Rd) Morning tea and lunch will be at Central Coast Wetlands	Carole & John Carpenter 0490 045 361
23/01/24	Next Meeting: Members' Night 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.	Michael Scobie 0411 243 433



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:

Andy Robinson: Andy has been very involved in monitoring and protecting the Little Tern colony at Karagi Point on behalf of Central Coast Council. Despite the potential of disturbance from fishermen, New Year's Eve celebrations etc, this colony has exhibited more breeding activity than any other colony in NSW. Tonight, Andy will report on the 2022-23 breeding season and tell us the outlook for the coming year.

Last Month's Meeting:

After a couple of false starts our eventual speaker was Michael Scobie presenting on his adventure travelling down the Warburton River to Lake Eyre. The crowd of 28 was entertained by Michael's anecdotes of the trip which included a lot about mud, pushing the boats through the shallows, assisting the even older members of the group, putting his medical training into practice and recounting the experiences of the tour leader, Rex Ellis. Michael was able to document a range of birds on the trip with some excellent photographs. While many were the back end of waterbirds flying away, he also had some lovely shots of the local bird life.

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. If 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 October/November and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in December?

It has been a very exciting month with a range of rarities visiting the Coast. A Terek Sandpiper (5th record) turned up at the Tuggerah Bay Salt Marsh. The Superb Fruit Dove at Narara was a very nice record (10th record) particularly as it was an adult male. Most previous records have been of immature birds colliding with windows. A Baillon's Crake was found at Springfield Pond Wetlands. This bird has been well twitched and photographed. Baillon's Crake have been reported everywhere so it is nice to have a Central Coast record. At last, we had a record of a Red-kneed Dotterel at Pioneer Dairy. However, it was a one-day-wonder. as were the Wandering Whistling-Ducks at Dooralong Wetland. A juvenile Rose-crowned Fruit Dove (9th record) was found at Chittaway Point and stayed for several days.

Perhaps the most exciting record was two Little Shearwaters that were observed and well photographed on a Terrigal pelagic. This is only the 5th record and most previous records have been beach-cast birds. Another Pallid Cuckoo was seen at Kariong. A record of a Satin Flycatcher at the Dairy was an unusual record there. The last Satin Flycatcher was at Kulnura in 2019. Another two Satin Flycatchers were reported from Narara Ecovillage.

Little Shearwater



Of note, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers have returned in reasonable numbers after being scarce in recent years.

Up to 20 have been seen at Pioneer Dairy and good numbers have been observed from other sites in Tuggerah Lakes. The last spring migrant to arrive were White-throated Needletails with the first record on the 8th November.

Superb
Fruit-Dove
Greg



Rose-crowned
Fruit-Dove
Chris Jamieson



December will continue to be more of the same but local and migrants will be finishing breeding. We are keeping our fingers crossed that more inland birds 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!. 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**½ Day Outing: October 11****JILLIBY, DOORALONG, LEMON TREE****Leaders: John & Carole Carpenter**

A pleasant, mild spring day was forecast for our planned club outing and 19 keen birders met at the Jilliby Cemetery. Car-pooling was the order of the day due to restricted stopping areas and private property at Lemon Tree. Our first stop was at the large waterhole along Jilliby Rd. We were pleasantly surprised by the number of water and bush birds here including Grey and Chestnut Teal, Black Duck, Dusky Moorhen, Purple Swamphen, White-necked Heron, Superb Fairywren, Cisticola, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Yellow Thornbill, Little Corella, Topknot Pigeon, Fan-tail Cuckoo, Wonga Pigeon, Grey and Pied Butcherbird and Bar-shouldered Dove. The total species count was an impressive 36. A short, slow drive along Dunk's Lane added Crested Pigeon, Rock Dove, Satin Bowerbird, Little Wattlebird, Grey Fantail and Noisy Friarbird. Continuing along Jilliby Rd, we saw a large flock of White Ibis in Beaven Lane as well as the usual common ducks at a farm dam and a flock of Red-browed Finches. Spring was certainly in the air as White-naped Honeyeaters were feeding young and we found a Yellow Robin on a nest in the lantana. Fairy Martins were nesting in their characteristic bottle-shaped nests under the eaves of the last house. A flock of King Parrots was lovely to see. Dooralong Hall was our next stop and a walk along Dittons Rd added Variegated Wren, Brown Cuckoo-dove, Scarlet Honeyeater, Brown Thornbill, Brown Gerygone, Brown Goshawk, a pair of Collared Sparrowhawk and an Eastern Spinebill enjoying the nectar of a Honey-suckle.

Black-fronted Dotterel
Leonie Loewe



After morning tea, we headed to the private property at Lemon Tree. The dam wall was an excellent viewing point for the many waterbirds. We added Hardhead, Eurasian Coot, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorant, Intermediate Egret, about six Black-fronted Dotterel and a surprise find: a Latham's Snipe. The walk through the horse paddock was extremely dry and quiet, adding only White-throated Treecreeper. A Jacky Winter was spied atop a very tall gum tree. Other birds heard were Golden Whistler, Black-faced Monarch, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, and the ever elusive White-throated Gerygone. Our species count here was 43 in about an hour of surveying. We will hand this list to the owners with our grateful thanks. Back at Dooralong Hall for lunch, where sharp eyes found a Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring in the clouds. As much as we tried to locate a White-throated Gerygone, we were not successful. This was a most enjoyable and rewarding outing with great company and many helpers to finish with a total of 81 species recorded.

Camp: October 27 - 29**GUNDAGAI****Leader: Christina Port**

Wet and windy Sydney was left far behind as we started the Gundagai Camp on a beautiful, crisp sunny day. Sacred Kingfisher, White-throated Treecreepers and the variations of Crimson Rosellas ssp flaveolus were the first birds recorded at our start. Our first stop of the day was Doctors Hill. The wind was blowing but we had great views of many birds, with the Restless Flycatchers greeting us at the gate. The highlights were a hovering Black-shouldered Kite and although, the Diamond Firetail played hard to get they eventually gave views. Also seen were Crested Shrike-tit (one of many seen over the weekend), Rufous Songlark, Dusky Woodswallow, Common Bronzewing and Superb Fairywrens. We had morning tea at Richmond Park, Tumut, along with Red Wattlebird, Pied Currawong, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird and Crimson Rosellas. At Tumut Wetlands, a Nankeen Night-Heron flew off as did a Swamp Harrier. On the water were Hardhead, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal and Australian Wood Duck, Little Pied Cormorant, Straw-necked Ibis, Australasian Darter and Little Black Cormorant. Perched on the dead trees were Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, and Little Corella and around the edges Purple Swamphen, Eurasian Coot and Dusky Moorhen were all seen. The White-throated Gerygone called, and Yellow-faced Honeyeater were seen. We could hear Rainbow Bee-eaters somewhere. The Red-rumped Parrots came in to bathe. We enjoyed the walk around the trees in the wetlands.

Lunch was taken amongst the Cotton Wood Trees at Brandy Mary Park down beside Blowering Dam and the cottony seeds were everywhere. The White-winged Choughs were around as well as Olive-backed Oriole, Rufous Whistler, a Nankeen Kestrel perched high and we could hear a Flame Robin as we toured the park and weir on the creek. Then onto the Weriboldera State Forest. An enjoyable walk along the road with Shining Bronze Cuckoo, Fuscous Honeyeater and Satin Bowerbirds joining our growing list. Here also were Variegated Fairywrens, Eastern Whipbirds and an Eastern Yellow Robin building a nest. Our last stop of the day was the Gundagai Common amongst the gnarly River Red Gums and old Railway Bridge spanning the Murrumbidgee Floodplain. White-plumed Honeyeater, Tree Martin and Striated Pardalote in hollows were highlights here.

Saturday was another gorgeous day and we headed out along the verdant countryside on Brungle Road. We stopped at the bridge and walked along the road to the ponds. Australasian Darter, Fairy Martin, Whistling Kite and eventually great views of a White-throated Treecreeper near the river's edge were recorded. We travelled onto Brungle Township parking and walking along the roadside. White-necked Heron, White-faced Heron, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Spotted Pardalote, Grey Fantail, White-throated Gerygone, all gave great views. Dollarbirds were calling in the distance and later seen on the wires. Our morning tea stop was Bila Park, Tumut, and after our coffee we had a leisurely walk along the Tumut River as it raged along. Sacred Kingfisher, Grey Fantail, White-throated Gerygone, Red-browed Finch and Superb Fairywren were seen along the banks. Out to Adelong Falls where we enjoyed lunch with Pied Currawong and then explored some of the Callitris trees. Striated Thornbill and a small Cunningham Skink were added to our list and a visit to the Falls produced Eastern Spinebill, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Silvereye feeding on many varieties of Bottle Brush that were flowering well. Little Eagle (Light Morph), Whistling Kite and Brown Falcon were circling above in the thermals. Our final stop of the day was a visit to Turners Travelling Stock Route and the watering hole in the corner attracted many species, including a brief visit from Superb Parrot, Common Bronzewing, Rufous Songlark, Brown Treecreeper and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike.



Superb Parrot
Christina Port

Sunday our last day had us stopping along the Nangus Road and exploring two places along the Murrumbidgee River. White-browed Scrubwren, Red-browed Finch, Nankeen Kestrel and calling Rainbow Bee-eater were finally found at the first stop along with Blue-faced Honeyeater under the River Red Gums. The second stop was a sandy beach area and we had much better views of the Rainbow Bee-eater as well as Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Western Gerygone and Silvereye all coming down to a sheltered spot to drink. A Fan-tailed Cuckoo was heard calling. We stopped for morning tea at the Nangus Community Hall and then walked the neighboring cemetery where we had wonderful views of Superb Parrots flying and posing in the trees. Striated Pardalote, White-winged Triller and better views of a Western Gerygone were also recorded. On to Billabong Creek we saw White-winged Choughs with nests and a Magpie-lark on a nest. Dollarbirds were seen flying along with Little Friarbird and Grey Shrike-thrush. A young White-winged Triller had everyone trying to sort it out and then we saw a pair of Superb Parrots partaking in courtship feeding. Those that saw the Parrots missed the Echidna as it waddled over the road. Back to camp for lunch and a rest to recharge our batteries. The afternoon had us exploring the South Gundagai Cemetery and adjacent area. Here we added European Goldfinch and House Sparrows to the list. The adjacent area had Pied Butcherbird, Crested Shrike-tit, more Sacred Kingfishers, another difficult to ID young White-winged Triller and a Peaceful Dove was calling.

Our final stop for the camp was Jessop's Lagoon. We stopped at two spots and walked along the road until we'd seen it all. Our first stop had Black Swan, Glossy Ibis, Hoary-headed Grebe, Australian Shoveler, Grey Teal and a lone Chestnut Teal. Driving down further we had Australian Shelduck but both birds took off and not everyone got to see them. A Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Australian Reed-Warbler, and Little Grassbird was calling. Our final bird of the camp was a little Black-fronted Dotterel. Back to camp for the final bird call. Thanks so much to all who attended. A friendly camp with lots of great birds and company. 115 birds were seen and heard.

Outing: October 28

CHAIN VALLEY BAY

Leader: Leeanne Lemke

Being my first time to lead an outing, I was a little nervous as the list grew to 20. How can I keep everyone happy, I don't have a first aid kit, wish I knew my trees better and other thoughts interrupted my sleep the night before. Not being able to find the car keys in the morning had me further rattled. I needn't have worried as I was met by a group of lovely people happy to be there.

A forecast clear day after the preceding days of heavy rain, had us all convinced it was just heavy dew dripping off our cameras as we set off from the Chain Valley Bay Community Centre, all keen for a good day's birding. A few birds showed up in the carpark for their photo including King Parrot. As we headed down towards Karignan Creek all was fairly quiet and we figured the birds were hunkered down waiting for some sunshine. A surprise pair of Buff-banded Rails (a lifer for some) in yards backing onto the forest was a nice surprise quickly followed by a Spotted Pardalote, White-

cheeked Honeyeater and Olive-backed Oriole along the path. A little Eastern Yellow Robin bravely serenaded us while we all stood watching. Other birds heard calling were Fan-tailed Cuckoo, White-throated Treecreeper, Bar-shouldered Dove, and Golden Whistler. As we reached the bridge the first of 2 Sacred Kingfishers (possibly same bird) was seen along with Welcome Swallow, Bar-shouldered Dove and Australasian Darter up a tree. Also, the first of 4 Striated Herons was seen on the dead branches laying in the creek and Superb Fairywrens met us on the other side of the bridge.



Striated Heron
Leonie Loewe

We followed the path around to the banks of Lake Macquarie where we saw White-faced Heron, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Pied Cormorant, White-breasted Woodswallow, Great Egret, more Striated Herons and a distant Peregrine Falcon chasing birds over nearby Vales Point Power Station. The trees here also had Magpie-larks and a Scaly-breasted Lorikeet which was a lifer for some. Heading back across the bridge another rather large Sacred Kingfisher was calling from a nearby branch and gave us excellent views as did a young Welcome Swallow. Superb and Variegated Fairywrens were seen on the path ahead and John Carpenter had heard a Pheasant Coucal calling while we were gone. Morning tea was taken at Joshua Porter Reserve followed by a walk around the water's edge and more waterbirds seen - the highlight being Tree Martins setting up camp on one of the moored yachts. By this time the sun had come out and we decided the goat track was worth a look as one of us had never seen a Mangrove Gerygone. Unfortunately, we dipped although we may have heard one. We also didn't see the Sea-eagle's nest that used to be visible from here but did see White-breasted Woodswallows nesting in a dead tree and feeding their young (they ARE grey and white, just a bit smaller). A Scarlet Honeyeater was also seen by Julie in the Casuarinas down there. Back up top, an Oriental Dollarbird was seen (another lifer for some) as well as a Square-tailed Kite which spooked a huge flock of Cormorants. We then saw a pair of Whistling Kites and a Collared Sparrowhawk once back at the cars.



Chain Valley Bay Outing
Leonie Loewe

Having worked up an appetite, we headed back down the coast to Koala Park, Lake Munmorah, for lunch hoping to see some Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos (husband saw 25 at Lakes Beach at this time so that's where they were) but no luck. Some cheeky locals, Magpies, Pied Butcherbirds, Noisy Miners were trying their luck and seemed to be on a first name basis with Judy Clark. Some went home from here but those still keen went on to San Remo to look for the Double-barred Finch. We didn't see those but we did see Rufous Whistler, Striated and Brown Thornbills, a pair of

Osprey up on the Tower seen by Robyn and Diana and the highlight for me to end the day was John Carpenter spotting the Striated Pardalote allowing me to get my first clear shot of one. Thanks John and thanks so much everyone who came along for making it such a great day. Special thanks to Graham Nelson and Carol Carpenter for being the list masters. A total of 73 species was seen on the day.

½ Day Outing: November 8

HOLGATE

Leader: Eileen Davy

On a bright sunny morning 14 birders met outside our gate and spent the time searching the bush and treetops for birds. A White-throated Treecreeper and a succession of Topknot Pigeons were notable. Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Magpie, Australian Raven and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were observed. A Brush Turkey which crossed the road further up added a bit of excitement. A Wonga Pigeon hooted constantly and had been since early morning. A Brown Cuckoo-Dove was seen earlier. A lone White-headed Pigeon added to the list. In addition, a Black Duck and Channel-billed Cuckoo were seen flying by. Three Galahs and a Pied Currawong completed our



Wonga Pigeon

observations here. We then strolled down the driveway where the little birds very active in trees and shrubs, then explored the paddock for some time. Several Yellow Robins, an Eastern Spinebill, Brown Gerygone, Brown Thornbill, White-browed and Yellow-throated Scrubwren, along with a Large-billed Scrubwren were spotted. A Green Catbird delighted us and Satin Bowerbirds were seen. We were lucky to get a glimpse of a female Regent Bowerbird. Grey Fantails and a Rufous Fantail were seen and a cheeky Whipbird darted around. We then moved behind the house, looking into the rainforest where similar small birds were seen. A Brush Turkey was scratching on Burt the turkey's mound, but I don't think it was our resident Burt, who did not refurb his mound this season. Moving up the slope on far side, a Yellow-throated Scrubwren was seen with a nest hanging in a small tree. During morning tea, a Grey Fantail came to the birdbath several times, and a Whipbird was moving around in the Ginger plant close to where we sat. After morning tea most of us walked around the corner to Pollard Close, where we saw Brown Thornbills in a Lilly Pilly hedge. Some other birds seen during the morning were an Eastern Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, King Parrot, Welcome Swallow and some Red-browed Finches. Heard calling but not seen during the morning were: Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, (very vocal lately), Fan-tail Cuckoo, Scarlet Honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Black-faced Monarch, Dollarbird and a Lyrebird. One sad find, a resident in Pollard Close showed us a dead Spotted Pardalote which had flown into his window but a Spotted Pardalote was heard calling.

A very pleasant morning's bird watching, good weather, good company, 47 species were recorded, 10 of which were only heard calling.

SPECIES LIST

OCTOBER 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
Wandering Whistling Duck	2	22/10/2023 Dooralong Swamp	Daniel McKeon
Brown Quail	1	11/10/2023 Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Hoary-headed Grebe	4	1/10/2023 Tuggerah WTP	Andrew Robinson
Tawny Frogmouth	1	19/10/2023 Wyong Tennis Club	Carole Carpenter
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	2/10/2023 Wildwoods, Kincumber	Diane Warman
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	2/10/2023 Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	31/10/2023 Billabong St, Woy Woy	Greg Shaw
Pacific Koel *	1	14/10/2023 Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Pacific Koel *	1	16/10/2023 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Pallid Cuckoo	3	2 & 15/10 Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Allan Benson
Pallid Cuckoo	1	15-16/10/23 Mount Penang Gardens	Andrew Robinson
Pallid Cuckoo	1	29/10/2023 Mangrove Mountain Sports Oval	Margaret Pointer
Brush Cuckoo	1	22/10/2023 Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Matt Egan
Brush Cuckoo	1	25/10/2023 Footes Point Rd, Ourimbah	David Russell
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	2	15-21/10/23 Mount Penang Gardens	Guy Dutson
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	22/10/2023 Budgewoi Creek & Island	Craig Marshall
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	10 & 16/10 Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Common Bronzewing	1	14/10/2023 Settlers Rd Yengo NP, Bucketty	Andrew Robinson
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	40+	30/10/2023 Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Brush Bronzewing	1	22/10/2023 Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	Graham Nelson
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	1	31/10/2023 Chittaway Point East (9 th record?)	Chris Jamieson
Aust. Spotted Crake	1	1-2/10/23 Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Aust. Spotted Crake	1	20/10/2023 Gavenlock Rd Swamp	Guy Dutson
Buff-banded Rail	1	2-25/10/23 Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Paul Fuller
Buff-banded Rail	1	29/10/2023 Chain Valley Bay	Leeanne Lemke
Spotless Crake	3	1/10/2023 Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Baillon's Crake	1	16/10/2023 Springfield Pond Wetland	Nick Carson
Painted Button-quail	1	14/10/2023 Settlers Rd, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Dean Purcell
Painted Button-quail	2	14-22/10/23 x3 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Painted Button-quail	1	30/10/2023 Avoca Beach	Darren Earnshaw
Pied Oystercatcher	2A+J	29/10/2023 Chittaway Point West	Michael Breheny
Pacific Golden Plover	1	2/10/2023 Chittaway Point West	Andrew Robinson
Red-capped Plover	8	4/10/2023 The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	7/10/2023 Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	Guy Dutson
Black-fronted Dotterel	2A+3Y	23-25/10/23 Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	David Schuemaker

Red-kneed Dotterel	1	22/10/2023	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Daniel McKeon
Ruddy Turnstone	18	7/10/2023	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Latham's Snipe	6	2-25/10/23	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Latham's Snipe	1	15 & 23/10	Mount Penang Parklands, Kariong	Guy Dutson
Latham's Snipe	1	12 & 24/10	Wyee Pond	Leonie Loewe
Bar-tailed Godwit	13	1/10/2023	39 on 15/10, Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Andrew Robinson
Bar-tailed Godwit	3	18/10/2023	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Guy Dutson
Bar-tailed Godwit	19	30/10/2023	Chittaway Creek, Tuggerah Lake	Sophia Walker
Great Knot	1	1-22/10/23	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Andrew Robinson
Red Knot	1	7/10/2023	Chittaway Point West	Andrew Robinson
Red Knot	1	11-15/10	6 on 18/10, Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Leeanne Lemke
Curlew Sandpiper	1	1/10/2023	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Andrew Robinson
Curlew Sandpiper	1	8/10/2023	Chittaway Point West	Andrew Robinson
Curlew Sandpiper	10	22/10/2023	Pelican Point, Norah Head	Steve Bowman
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	8	1-10/10/23	12 10/10, 30 on 25/10 Central Coast Wtlds	David Schuemaker
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	37	6-8/10/2023	18 on 8/10, Chittaway Point West	Andrew Robinson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	40	15/10/2023	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Andrew Robinson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	11	30/10/2023	Chittaway Creek, Tuggerah Lake	Sophia Walker
Red-necked Stint	24	7/10/2023	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Wood Sandpiper	1	2-15,27/10	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Terek Sandpiper	1	15-18/10/23	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Andrew Robinson
Grey-tailed Tattler	3	7/10/2023	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Parasitic Jaeger	1	28/10/2023	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Whiskered Tern	1	14/10/2023	Chittaway Point West	Nick Carson
Little Tern	14	7/10/2023	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Common Tern	1	7/10/2023	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Common Tern	1	28/10/2023	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-browed Albatross	1	28/10/2023	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Yellow-nosed Albatross	1	28/10/2023	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Shy Albatross	1	28/10/2023	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Sooty Shearwater	8	28/10/2023	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Short-tailed Shearwater	300	7/10/2023	off Munmorah SCA	Andrew Robinson
Short-tailed Shearwater	2000	28/10/2023	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	1000+	7/10/2023	off Munmorah SCA	Andrew Robinson
Little Shearwater	2	28/10/2023	Terrigal pelagic	Archie Brennan
Hutton's Shearwater	6	28/10/2023	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Fluttering Shearwater	60	28/10/2023	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black Bittern	2+N	22/10/2023	Ourimbah Creek, Chittaway	Brendon Tucker
Black Bittern	1	26/10/2023	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Ann Juan
Black Bittern	1	31/10/2023	Chittaway Point East	Chris Jamieson
Nankeen Night-Heron	1m	16/10/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	2	24/10/2023	Gorokan on Tuggerah Lake	Daniel McKeon
Osprey	1+N	22/10/2023	Mingara Lights Tower	Graham nelson
Osprey	A+J	22/10/2023	on nest, Harry Moore Oval, Toukley	Robyn Price
Osprey	1	26/10/2023	Erina Creek, Erina	Lee Emery
Pacific Baza	1	10/10/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Pacific Baza	2	21/10/2023	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Pacific Baza	1	25/10/2023	Avoca Beach	Laurie Smith
Black-shouldered Kite	1	22/10/2023	Alison, near Wyong	Graham Nelson
Black-shouldered Kite	2	24/10/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Peter Brown
Black-shouldered Kite	1	28/10/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Square-tailed Kite	1	8/10/2023	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Square-tailed Kite	1	17/10/2023	Central Coast Hwy, Matcham	Darren Earnshaw
Square-tailed Kite	1	17/10/2023	Putty Beach, Killcare	Peter Scott
Brahminy Kite	1	10/10/2023	Avoca Bch/Winney Bay	Laurie Smith
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	7/10/2023	Somersby	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	10-29/10/23	x4 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer

Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	22/10/2023	Dooralong	Daniel McKeon
Little Eagle	1	30/10/2023	Erina Heights	Ashley Mullahey
Grey Goshawk	1	2/10/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Grey Goshawk	1	22/10/2023	Mt Penang Gardens, Kariong	Graham Nelson
Grey Goshawk	1	25-27/10/23	x3 Tathra taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Brown Goshawk	1	1/10/2023	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Andrew Robinson
Brown Goshawk	2	9-28/10/23	x3 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Brown Goshawk	2	16/10/2023	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	6/10/2023	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	7/10/2023	Mount Penang Gardens	Andrew Robinson
Azure Kingfisher	1	15/10/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Kate Robertson
Azure Kingfisher	4	11-31/10/23	Milk Factory, Wyong River	Rick Gatenby
Azure Kingfisher	1	22/10/2023	Dooralong	Daniel McKeon
Sacred Kingfisher *	2	10/10/2023	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	17/10/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	20/10/2023	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Dollarbird *	1	4/10/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Dollarbird *	2	22/10/2023	Kulnura	Anna Pillich
Rainbow Bee-eater	4	1-4/10/2023	Jack Gear Oval, Yarramalong	Neryl Richards
Rainbow Bee-eater	4	15/10/2023	Magenta Shores	Peter Mortimer
Sooty Owl	HC	2/10/2023	0500 hrs Killcare	Peter Scott
Barn Owl	J	13/10/2023	into care from Gwandalan	Sam Chatfield
Southern Boobook	HC	16/10/2023	0015 hrs Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Southern Boobook	HC	16/10/2023	Winney Bay, Avoca	Laurie Smith
Southern Boobook	HC	19/10/2023	Murrumbung HSD ,Mardi	John Carpenter
Barking Owl	HC	15/10/2023	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Graham Nelson
Nankeen Kestrel	1	7/10/2023	Munmorah SCA	Andrew Robinson
Nankeen Kestrel	1	24/10/2023	Winney Bay/Avoca Beach	Laurie Smith
Australian Hobby	1	13/10/2023	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Brown Falcon	2	19-30/10/23	x3 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Peregrine Falcon	1	23/10/2023	Avoca Beach	Laurie Smith
Noisy Pitta	HC	21/10/2023	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Superb Lyrebird	AF	29/10/2023	Glenworth Valley Riding School	Elaine Elliott
Glossy Black Cockatoo	3	1/10/2023	Pearl Bch-Patonga Fire trail	Tim Morgan
Glossy Black Cockatoo	3	26/10/2023	Erina Heights	Darren Earnshaw
Gang Gang Cockatoo	2	14-15/10	Mogo Camp Yengo NP, Bucketty	Andrew Robinson
Gang Gang Cockatoo	8	15/10/2023	Bucketty waterhole	Graham Nelson
Little Lorikeet	12	20/10/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Musk Lorikeet	10	12/10/2023	Tuggerah Hall	Carole Carpenter
Turquoise Parrot	F	2/10/2023	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Turquoise Parrot	AF	9-15/10/23	Deane St, Narara	Natalie Szymbrak
Superb Lyrebird	AM	25/10/2023	Pearl Beach Arboretum	Gary Jackson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	2	1/10/2023	wool gathering Tathra Taila HSD, Man. Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Brown-headed Honeyeater	4	16/10/2023	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Graham Nelson
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	4	29/10/2023	Mangrove Dam Lookout	Kaye Pointer
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	19/10/2023	Point Clare	David Lamont
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2+N	19/10/2023	Kingfisher Shores	Marj Kibby
Striated Pardalote	2	28/10/2023	Chain Valley Bay	Leeanne Lemke
White-throated Gerygone	1	12/10/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
White-throated Gerygone	2	13/10/2023	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mtn	Graham Nelson
White-throated Gerygone	1	14/10/2023	Settlers Rd Yengo NP, Bucketty	Dean Purcell
Spotted Quail-thrush	1	14-15/10/23	Settlers Rd Yengo NP, Bucketty	Dean Purcell
Rufous Whistler	10	16/10/2023	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Graham Nelson
Cicadabird *	1	11/10/2024	Katandra Reserve, Matcham	Rick Worthy
Cicadabird *	1	20/10/2023	Ourimbah Rest Area, M1 Motorway	Paul Lynch
White-winged Triller	1	2-10/10/23	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Archie Brennan
White-winged Triller	1	7/10/2023	Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	Andrew Robinson

White-winged Chough	6	22/10/2023	Dooralong	Daniel McKeon
Black-faced Monarch	3	12/10/2023	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Rufous Fantail *	1	4/10/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Rufous Fantail	1	21/10/2023	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Leaden Flycatcher	1	8/10/2023	Erina	Graham Nelson
Leaden Flycatcher	1	9/10/2023	Katandra Reserve, Matcham	Richard Worthy
Leaden Flycatcher	4	15/10/2023	Mill Creek, Dharug NP	Graham Nelson
Rose Robin	AM	14/10/2023	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Australian Reed-Warbler	7	1-2/10/2023	Tuggerah WWTP	Andrew Robinson
Little Grassbird	4	1/10/2023	Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Eurasian Blackbird	1	13/10/2023	Mangrove Mountain Store	Graham Nelson
Eurasian Blackbird	1	22/10/2023	Mt Penang Gardens, Kariong	Graham Nelson

Breeding and some other records - October

Channel-billed Cuckoo: Carrington St Res 15/10 (GDu) 1 Pippi Point Davistown 18/10 (IMo), 1 Reeve St Somersby 19/10 (JBr), 1 Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh 21/10 (MEg) & Noraville (LCo), 1 Ourimbah Ck Chittaway 22/10 (BTu) & Budgewoi Ck 22/10 (CMA), 1 Terrigal Drive Terrigal 27/10 (CAn), 1 Coral Tree Place Point Clare 28/10 (JVa) & Narara Ecovillage (GDu); **Pallid Cuckoo:** 1 Frazer Beach, Munmorah SCA 15/10 (ASm); **Topknot Pigeon:** N+Y Narara 27/10 (NCa); **Purple Swamphen:** 2A+4 chicks Wyee Oct (LLO); **Painted Button-quail:** AF Matcham 9/10 (ASc); **Masked Lapwing:** 2A+1Y Wyee Oct (LLO); **Osprey:** 1 The Entrance 7/10 (ARo) J Empire Bay 11/11 (EHu); **Pacific Baza:** 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 17/10 (JCa); **Square-tailed Kite:** 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 17/10 (CCa), 1 Bulls Quarry & 1 Mardi 22/10 (GNe), 1 Avoca Beach 24/10 (LSm); **Brown Goshawk:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 9/10 (KPo), 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 14, 19/10 (JCa); **Long-billed Corella:** 2+N Central Coast Wetlands 24/10 (PBr); **Superb Fairywren:** N+Y in garden Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 22/10 (MPo); **White-cheeked Honey-eater:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 31/10 (MPo); **White-winged Triller:** 1 Berkeley Creek, Berkley Vale 28/10 (GDu); **Grey Shrike-thrush:** nesting tree hollow Mangrove Mtn 6/10 (MPo); **Australian Magpie:** 2A+J Wyee Oct (LLO); **Eastern Yellow Robin:** 2+N in *Banksia serrata* Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 9/10 (KPo), 2A+N2Y Wyee Oct (LLO).
Good Birding!

CENTRAL COAST TWITCH - NOVEMBER, 2023

Andrew Robinson	275	Noel Lonergan	197	Gabrielle Rees	166
Graham Nelson	267	Carole Carpenter	193	Rowena Wallace	163
Dean Purcell	252	Kaye Pointer	186	Diana Hogan	161
Allan Benson	233	Daniel McKeon	185	Frik Gautschi	146
Christina Port	215	Doug Hocking	184	Judy Clark	146
David Schuemaker	214	John Carpenter	183	Michael Scobie	140
Chris Jamieson	198	Julie Peksis	181	Robyn Price	140
Krystyna Lonergan	197	Margaret Pointer	179	Andrew Melville	132
				Paul Shelley	127

Congratulations to Andrew Robinson for breaking Tim Faulkner's 2013 record of 272 for the most species seen in a year and the year is not over! A great effort by Graham Nelson to post his best personal score. There are still about 6 weeks to report so the final numbers will be interesting.

BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD SEPTEMBER, 2023

Allan Benson	278	Guy Dutson	80	David Schuemaker	21	Anna Pillich	18
Graham Nelson	239	Frik Gautschi	64	Daniel McKeon	21	M and K Pointer	18
Alan Stuart	233	Robyn Price	32	Michael Scobie	19	Leanne Lemke	16
Nick Carson	223	Doug Hocking	28	Greg Shaw	19	C Clutterbuck	7

For October, a good number of 171 surveys were recorded. YTD 1211 surveys have been completed in 2023 compared to 1129 in 2022. Allan Benson has retained the lead, followed by Graham Nelson but Alan Stuart is making a

big effort. We would like to see more birders putting in more surveys. Birddata is one way, as a birder, you can make a contribution to bird conservation.

SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

October Survey

6 observers completed the survey. The best birds seen were five Latham Snipe, Pacific Baza, and Grey Goshawk. There were an estimated 600 water fowl on the ponds which is similar to the previous month. Total species count, however, was 47 which is a little above the standard species count.

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

Regent Honeyeater Update

Some relatively good news for Regents. They are breeding in the Capertee Valley with a least 10 nests recorded and 12 chicks fledged. The team is actively protecting nests from possums and gliders by putting collars on the nest trees. This appears to be working. In exciting news two of the females nesting are zoo-bred birds both released at the Tomalpin woodlands- one in 2021 and the other in 2022. The recovery team is really pleased with this news as it demonstrated that zoo-bred birds are not only surviving but also breeding successfully. In light of this successful breeding event a mini-release of 14 zoo-bred birds is planned for November.

NSW Twitchathon 2023

The 2023 Twitchathon is done and dusted (see results on page 12). Seven teams competed in the 30-hour race, the winner for the third year in a row being Let's Wing It (Steve Edwards, Mike Kuhl and Nick Carson) with 260 Species seen or heard. In the 8-hour race the winner was Alan Morris's team with 151, followed by our local team of Michael Breheny, Margaret and Kaye Pointer with a very creditable 137 species, all within the Central Coast LGA. Twelve teams competed. Another eight teams competed in the 3-hour race and the Dodgy Drongos were the clear winner with 105 species.

Painted-snipe
Darren Earnshaw



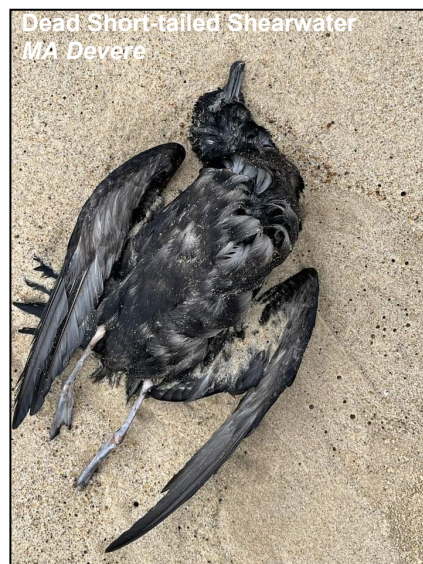
So far over \$14,000 has been raised for "The Australian Painted-snipe Project" which aims to place radio trackers on Painted-snipe to provide insights into their winter sites, drought refuges, movement patterns and unknown strongholds. The target of \$30,000 is likely to be reached. Margaret, Kaye and Michael will be more than happy to take your contribution.

In the latest news the first radio tracker was placed on a female Painted-snipe nicknamed Gloria at Balranald. Gloria was one of 25 birds at this site. In news closer to home a pair of Painted-snipe affectionately called Elvis and Priscilla entertained a multitude of twitchers and photographers for several days at Richmond. Apparently, there were 113 entries on ebird recording this pair.

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER WRECKS

Wrecks of Short-tailed Shearwaters numbering 100's of birds are being seen on our beaches. The explanation is that Short-tailed Shearwaters breed mostly on the islands of Bass Strait and Tasmania in our summer. They then migrate to the northern hemisphere to the Bering Sea, come down the coast of California then return to their breeding grounds in Bass Strait. As they have to cross the tropics there is little food available so they are in a weakened state when they reach our shores. Wrecks occur when these weakened birds strike adverse weather events off the NSW coast. These wrecks, that happen every couple of years, have little impact on the population of Short-tailed Shearwaters which is estimated at 23 million birds.

Comments have been made that the proposed wind farm off Newcastle will adversely impact shearwaters. This is highly unlikely. Shearwaters are called



Dead Short-tailed Shearwater
MA Devere

shearwaters because they use the wave face to generate lift and conserve energy. Therefore, they always fly very close to the water as do albatross. In addition, the proposed wind farm is about 20 km off the coast in what birders call the “blue desert”. We see birds inshore and off the shelf which is 60 km out but very little in the 15km to 50 km + zone. Seabirds that are potentially at risk (because they fly higher) are gulls, terns and gannets. However, as there is little available food in this area, so there are few birds there. The caveat to this is that the wind farm structures will effectively be Fish Attracting Devices (FAD) which will increase the availability of food but also increase the risk of collision with the turbines.

Ironically, the greatest threat to Short-tailed Shearwaters in particular and seabirds in general is climate change. As the oceans warm, the shearwaters have to travel even further south from their breeding grounds to get food, increasing the risk of the chicks perishing. While one wind farm will not have any measurable impact on climate change it is one piece of a very complex process.

RIDER ON THE STORM: Shearwater seabird catches an 11-hour ride over 1,000 kilometres in a typhoon

Alison Mize

In 2021 Typhoon Faxai barrelled into southeastern Japan with windspeeds nearing 200 km/hr and provided scientists with a rare glimpse into the capacity of seabirds to withstand extreme storm conditions—conditions that seabirds may increasingly be faced with under future climates. New research from Japan published in *Ecology* suggests that increasingly severe weather driven by climate change may push oceangoing seabirds to their limits. In August 2019, Kozue Shiomi, a seabird biologist at Tohoku University, attached GPS bio-loggers to 14 adult Streaked Shearwaters (*Calonectris leucomelas*) from a nesting colony on Mikurajima, a small island near Tokyo, as part of a study on the species homing behaviour. In September of that same year, an exceptionally power-



ful storm, Typhoon Faxai, barrelled into southeastern Japan, causing considerable physical damage to the mainland. But the typhoon, with wind speeds nearing 200 km/hr, also provided scientists with a rare glimpse into the capacity of seabirds to withstand extreme storm conditions—conditions that seabirds may increasingly be faced with under future climates. Analysis of tracking data following the passage of Typhoon Faxai revealed that while most of the tagged shearwaters appeared to be either unaffected by or had managed to circumvent the storm, one male had not been so lucky. Over the 11-hour period during which this shearwater bird was tracked, it completed five full circular loops of 50–80 km diameter each and was transported a total distance of 1,146 km.

Under normal conditions, Streaked Shearwaters typically fly at speeds of 10–60 km/hr and altitudes below 100 m, and remain at sea; by contrast, tracking data indicated that the bird caught in the storm had attained speeds of 90–170 km/hr, soared to an altitude of 4700 m, and was carried over mainland Japan before the typhoon swung back into the Pacific Ocean.

Although it cannot be known for certain, it is possible that the shearwater was capable of escaping from the typhoon but instead chose to ride it out until the storm moved back over the ocean. Like most birds adapted to a life at sea, Streaked Shearwaters typically fly at very low altitudes, an efficient flight strategy over the open ocean that also puts them at higher risk of collisions with buildings, power lines and vehicles when over land. Moreover, they are clumsy on solid ground, and if forced to land, have difficulty taking off, rendering them highly vulnerable to predation.

Pelagic birds resort to a wide range of tactics to avoid being caught within the tumult of large storms. Red-footed boobies and great frigatebirds, for instance, often take to the wing and ascend to high altitudes, allowing storms to pass below, whereas Eastern brown pelicans simply sit them out, remaining grounded until conditions improve. Still others elect to stay within the eye of the storm, where winds are calmer.

But as warmer air and surface-water temperatures intensify storms throughout the world's ocean basins, questions are being raised about the ability of oceangoing birds to endure powerful storms that are projected to be a common occurrence. As Shiomi notes, improving understanding of how oceangoing birds cope with extreme weather will provide essential insight into the response—and resilience—of seabirds to the increasingly adverse environmental conditions expected under future climates.

THE ACAP MONTHLY MISSIVE

Australia's Lord Howe Island is declared free of introduced rats and mice following a successful eradication operation in 2019

Lord Howe Island is a World Heritage natural property situated some 600 km off the coast of New South Wales, Australia, in the Tasman Sea. The 1 455-ha island is inhabited by a resident population of 455 (in 2020), which can nearly double with the presence of tourists. The island supports important breeding populations of several species of shearwaters and petrels ([click here](#)).

Following a 15-year period of research and planning, in 2019 the Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Project conducted a combined aerial and ground-baiting operation to rid the island of its introduced Ship or Black Rats *Rattus rattus* and House Mice *Mus musculus*.

The prevailing “rule of thumb” is that two years should elapse before declaring a treated island rodent free, allowing for any survivors to breed up to detectable levels. However, although it looked promising that success had been achieved in the 18 months following the baiting operation, in April 2021 a male and a pregnant female rat were caught on the island, only a few months before the two years was up. A quick response followed with ground baiting, use of detection dogs and monitoring camera stations, resulting in a total of 96 rats (44 adults and 52 juveniles) being caught by August 2021, with no further records of live animals being made since then. All rats caught were within the Settlement part of the island.

With the two-year wait then deferred until mid-2023 as a consequence of these rodents being detected, it is now pleasing to report that following a two-week survey conducted in July 2023 there has been no sign of rats or mice on Lord Howe Island for over two years. This was reported in the monthly Lord Howe Island Board's *Community News* of 25 September 2023.

More than 950 detection device checks were undertaken during the survey, using 140 tracking tunnels, 32 trail cameras, and 300 wax tags and chew cards, along with sweeps with detection dogs. The results were then analysed and confirmed by independent experts from the New Zealand Department of Conservation's Island Eradication Advisory Group. The formal check followed regular checks with dogs and camera surveillance throughout the past two years in that part of the island where the inhabitants live. In contrast, no live mice have been recorded on Lord Howe since early July 2019.



Lord Howe Island; photograph by Ian Hutton

Breeding success of Black-winged Petrels *Pterodroma nigripennis* increased dramatically from as little as 2.5% to 67% within one year of removal of Lord Howe Island's rodents, showing the undoubted conservation value of the eradication project. Similarly, abundances of other bird species and of endemic invertebrates on Lord Howe have increased by orders of magnitude since 2019. For example, the endemic and Endangered Lord Howe Woodhen *Hypotaenidia sylvestris* has increased in population size from fewer than 500 prior to 2019 to 1147 in the last (incomplete) survey conducted in November 2022 – and in the 1970s there only 20-30 birds! In another success, the Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra* is now breeding on the main island for the first time since the rodents were eradicated.

.... From Page 10

Preliminary results for the 2023 NSW and ACT Twitchathon: 27 teams

30 Hour Twitchathon: 7 teams

Team	Team contact	Number of birds seen	Rarest/Best Bird
Let's Wing It	Steve Edwards	260	Pied Honeyeater
Hunter Home Brewers	Mick Roderick	253	Pied Honeyeater
Broken Hill Buzzards	Dan Williams	227	Buderigar
Binoculars	Tim Hosking	222	Little Woodswallow
Dunbogan Drongos	Peter West	218	Red-backed Buttonquail
Silent Pittas	Kim Touzel	160	Noisy Pitta
Lord Howe Island Woodhens	Liam Murphy	38*	Little Pied Cormorant

***Maximum expected species on LHI would be 40**

8 Hour Twitchathon: 12 teams

Team	Team contact	Number of birds seen	Rarest/Best Bird
Not So Swifts	Tim Morris	151	Scarlet Robin
Which is it?	Michael Breheny	137	Pallid Cuckoo
Lousy Jacks	Paul Burcher	135	Barking Owl
Nagy Maggies	Miranda Moore	134	Great Crested Grebe
Lake Cargelligo Birds	Rebecca Van Dyk	131	Bar
Robin Hoods	David White	125	Bassian Thrush
Western Babblers	May Whittall	106	White-winged Fairywren
The City Chicks	Jo Hanley	101	Grey Goshawk
Champagne Shrike-tits	Elisabeth Karplus	100	Australian Painted Snipe
Western Warblers	Adrianne Harris	87	Eastern Curlew
Happy Hoopoes	Ian Jeffrey	86	Scarlet Honeyeater
Mattheson Mopokes	Jo Cameron	49	Red-capped Robin

Birdathon: 8 teams

Team	Team contact	Number of birds seen	Rarest/Best Bird
Dodgy Drongos	Grant Brosie	105	Brush Cuckoo
Bidgee Boobooks	Glen Currie	76	Spotted Harrier
Gunnedah Galahs	Frances Wright	73	Marsh Sandpiper
Love at First Snipe	Bastian Fox Phelan	70	Pink-eared Duck
Snowy Searchers	Kelly Stubbs	65	Black-fronted Dotterel
Wooden Spoonbills	Evelyn May	62	Baillon's Crake
Bumble Hillers	Judy Harrington	53	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
Nap Nappers	Janet Hume	51	Inland Thornbill
Snowy Searchers	Kelly Stubbs	65	Black-fronted Dotterel