



# The Twitcher

February  
2024

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

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

Volume 19, No. 2

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
27/2/24	<b>Next Meeting:</b> Sparrows in Mining Towns <b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	<b>Professor Simon Griffith</b>
2/3/24	<b>Outing:</b> Bucketty and Mogo <b>REMEMBER TO REGISTER</b> <b>Meet:</b> 8.30am The Letter "A", George Downes Drive, Kulnura	<b>Graham Nelson</b>  0466 599 278
13/3/24	<b>½ day Outing:</b> The Entrance, Picnic Point <b>REMEMBER TO REGISTER</b> <b>Meet:</b> 8.30am Picnic Point Tuggerah Pde, The Entrance	<b>Christina Port</b>  0421 691 317
26/3/24	<b>Next Meeting:</b> Shorebirds in the Hunter <b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	<b>Andrea Griffin</b>

**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.

**Tonight's Meeting:** Simon Griffith is a professor at Macquarie University in the School of Natural Sciences. He has a strong interest in Evolutionary Biology. He has a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) focused on Behavioural Ecology from the University of Leicester (UK).

Tonight, Simon will present his research of sparrows in mining towns as a means of tracking lead levels in the community.

**Last Month's Meeting:** Members' night attracted a good roll-up of 41 people for the presentation of the Twitcher's Trophy to Andy Robinson (who broke the record for the number of species seen in a year - 284) and of the Alan Morris Award for the most Birdata surveys to Allan Benson. The winners of the 2023 Photographic competition were announced -Brendan Tucker (common bird), Liz Noble (uncommon bird) and Nick Giles (Vagrant).



L to R:  
Brendan Tucker, Nick Giles, Liz Noble



Michael Scobie (L) congratulates Andy Robinson

As well, the audience was treated to a great presentation by Daniel McKean about a recent Plains Wanderer trip. His photos were stunning.

Doug Hocking told us about some birding history, while Malcolm Hill updated us on our very successful Facebook page.

**Webpage:** Don't forget to check out the Birding NSW Webpage [www.birdingnsw.org.au](http://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. A 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.

**CAMPS 2024**

Fri-22 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> <b>March</b>	<b>Orange</b>	Doug Hocking	0427 800 428	Canobolas Caravan Park 166 Bathurst Rd, Orange (02) 6362 7279
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> May - Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> <b>May</b>	<b>West Wyalong</b>	Christina Port	0421 691 317	Ace Caravan Park Cnr Newell Highway and Mid-western Highway West Wyalong (02) 6972 3061
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> <b>September</b>	<b>Karuah</b>	Graham Nelson	0466 599 278	Big 4 Karuah Jetty Caravan Park 88 Holdom Rd, Karuah 1800 005 552 or (02)4997 5520
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> <b>October</b>	<b>Harrington</b>	Alan Morris	0418 269 482	Harrington Beach Holiday & Caravan Park 50 Crowdy St, Harrington (02) 6556 1228

**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 January/February and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in March?**

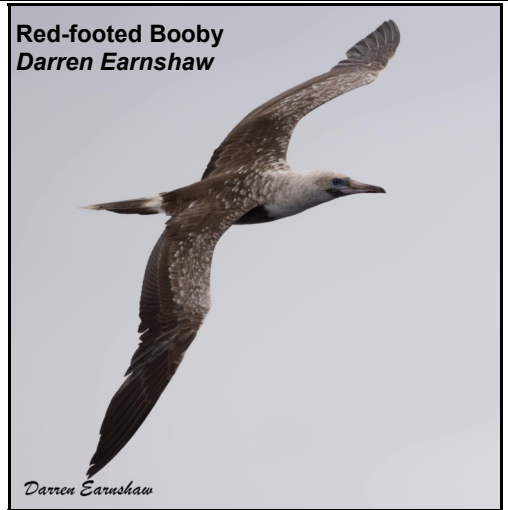
The exciting news for February was a cracking pelagic from Terrigal on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. A Herald Petrel was seen and well photographed. This is a first sighting for the Central Coast with less than 10 records for NSW. Also of interest was a Tahiti Petrel, only the second Central Coast record, and two White-tailed Tropicbirds. Other good sightings included Long-tailed Jaeger and Sooty Tern. A follow-up Pelagic on the 15<sup>th</sup> February was also a cracker. Two juvenile Red-footed Boobies were seen which is the first at sea record for the Central Coast, as well as a Kermadec Petrel (4<sup>th</sup> record) and a Black Petrel.



Noisy Pitta  
Palmdale Landcare Group

Black-necked Storks are being seen regularly at McPherson Rd Swamp and the Dairy. A juvenile Noisy Pitta was photographed at the RTA Reserve. This is the first breeding record here.

The Spring migrants are still here but have finished breeding thus not being very vocal. This applies to our resident birds as well. Birding in March will remain challenging for bush birds. The spring migrants will begin to leave - the first to go will be Fairy Martins.



Red-footed Booby  
Darren Earnshaw

Darren Earnshaw

## OUTING REPORTS

Outing: January 27

CENTRAL COAST WETLAND

Leader: Christina Port

For our first venture of the year, we had a great outing based at the Central Coast Wetlands as we dodged the heat wave from the previous day and had much cooler conditions. Our first walk headed down the back in misty rain around the creek area with White-faced Herons at the trough, Black-shouldered Kite, Grey Butcherbird, Eastern Rosella, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and the constant buzzing of Fairy Martins and Red-browed Finch. Brown Quail were flushed and took off at great speed. Two White-necked Herons came in close by to feed in the field. We had great views of Red-rumped Parrots on the track and trees, as well as a number of White-breasted Woodswallows hawking. A Pipit posed and Southern Emu-wrens were seen by a few. Finally, a Pheasant Coucal that had been calling gave us views in the distance. We headed down the creek in the Greenfleet paddock and recorded Rufous and Grey Fantails, Brown Gerygone, Variegated Fairy-wren, and a Nankeen Night Heron racing us down the creek. The mosquitoes were ferocious so we didn't hang around as we crossed the bridge and travelled down the other side of the creek. Lots of Kookaburras called and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were feeding in the flowering gums. Sacred Kingfishers, Dollarbirds and a Brown Goshawk were added to our list as we headed to morning tea with a Torresian Crow calling.



Southern Emu Wren  
Tricia Sweet



The Group  
Christina Port

After a very welcome morning tea, where we had a Swamp Harrier flying in the distance, we did the loop, first spooking 3 Latham's Snipes and Noisy Miners. On the ground feeding on the Bunya Pine cones were Large-billed Corellas, Little Corellas, and a lone Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. A lone Royal Spoonbill was seen as we headed down the road to see onto the water. It is so dry the view was mostly blocked by weeds but a Great Cormorant, Black-fronted Dotterel, Chestnut Teal, and Black-winged Stilt were seen. From the pergola Plumed Egret, Australian Wood Ducks, Pacific Black Ducks, and Grey Teal were added to our list. A Pied Butcherbird called and two Topknot Pigeons landed on top of the fig trees.

After lunch we headed down to South Tacoma, with a Striated Heron and Silver Gulls seen. The walk to the end was quiet, with an Olive-backed Oriole, a few Yellow Thornbills and Striped Honeyeater calling. From the point we could see Great Cormorant, Pied Cormorants, a Great Egret, Black Swans, and plenty of Australian Pelicans.

The last stop of the day was at McPherson's Road Swamp and the Golden-headed Cisticola called and showed himself, Royal Spoonbills, Australian White Ibis and two Swamp Harriers were seen by those of the group remaining.

Thanks everyone for an enjoyable day for the 29 attendees with 91 species seen and heard.

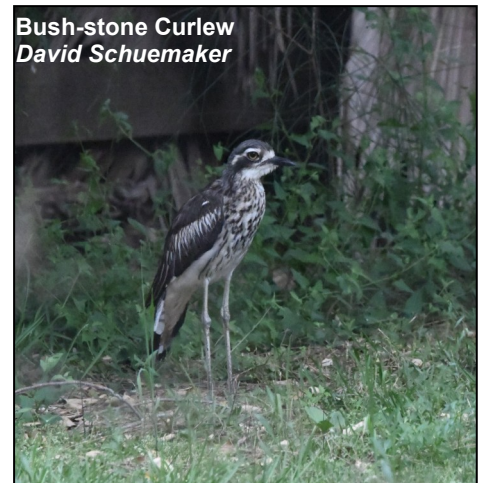
**Half day Outing: February 14**

**SARATOGA/ DAVISTOWN**

**Leader: Doug Hocking**

On a steamy February day, 25 Birders met at Saratoga Oval to observe the birds of the inter-tidal areas of the Brisbane Waters, adjacent wetlands and some forested areas of the Peninsula. We first went to Saratoga Island, which is in fact a man-made sand island, created by dredging of the adjacent channel to facilitate the ferry services from Woy Woy. The highlights as usual were the Mangrove Gerygone, Brown Honeyeater and overhead a flock of 50 White-throated Needle-tails. Other birds observed were Yellow Thornbill, Sacred Kingfisher, Far Eastern Curlew, Little Egret, Pied Oystercatcher, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Striated Heron, Grey Butcherbird, Juvenile Australasian Figbird, Long-billed and Little Corellas, Australasian Darter, Masked Lapwing, Rainbow Lorikeet, Silveryeye, Magpie, Magpie Lark, Noisy Miner, Spotted Dove, Kookaburra, Great Egret, Little Pied Cormorant, Pelican, White Ibis, Silver Gull, Little Black Cormorant, Chestnut Teal, Northern Mallard, Galah, Australian Raven and Australian Wood Duck.

We then moved to Davistown Boardwalk and bike track that traverses a forested area and wetlands. The highlight was the lone Bush-stone Curlew on the Boardwalk. Interestingly one of the bike riders/bowlers we met from Davistown reported a lone Bush-stone Curlew on the verandah of the Davistown RSL viewing itself in the window. Other birds observed included White-breasted Woodswallow, Rufus Fantail, Red Wattlebird, Brown Thornbill, Superb Fairy-wren, Bar-shouldered Dove, Brown Gerygone, Eastern Whipbird, Australasian Figbird feeding on a palm, Welcome Swallow, White-browed Scrub-wren, Common Myna, Satin Bowerbird, Red-browed Finch, Spotted Pardalote, Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike, Crested Pigeon, Eastern Rosella, Channel-billed Cuckoo.



**Bush-stone Curlew**  
*David Schuemaker*



**Lunch at Kincumber**  
*Robyn Price*

Morning Tea was taken on the Cockle Channel at Il-loura Reserve, where a Little Egret was seen. We then moved on to Broadwater Park, Kincumber, to access the walking track with mown verges, Broadwater Foreshore and Eucalypt Forest. Birds observed were Black Swans, Currawong, more White-throated Needle-tails (15), Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Yellow-throated Scrub Wren, Bell Miner, Sea Eagle (3 for the day), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo.

Some 70 species were seen for the day, a good tally given the hot and humid weather.

**SPECIES LIST**

**JANUARY 2024**

**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	12	28-29/1/24	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Ruddy Shelduck (escapees)	3	6/1/2024	McPherson Rd Swamp, Tuggerah	David Shuemaker
Musk Duck	29	30/12/2023	Colongra Lake	Andrew Robinson
Brown Quail	2	6/1/2024	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mtn	John Carpenter
Brown Quail	1	8 & 11/1/24	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Hoary-headed Grebe	5	28-30/12	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Great-crested Grebe	5	30/12/2023	Colongra Lake	Andrew Robinson
Owlet-Nightjar	HC	10/1/2024	Murrumbung HSD Mardi	John Carpenter
White-throated Needle-tail	2500+	1/1/2024	Wyoming to East Gosford	Andrew Robinson
White-throated Needle-tail	500	6/1/2024	Lake Rd, Tuggerah	Graham Nelson
White-throated Needle-tail	300	16/1/2024	1400 hrs Chittaway Point	Daniel McKeon

Central Coast Group - Birding NSW

White-throated Needletail	200	24/1/2024	1030 hrs Toukley Golf Course	Leeanne Lemke
Pacific Swift	3	6/1/2024	Lake Rd, Tuggerah	Graham Nelson
Pheasant Coucal	2	5/1/2024	Central Mangrove	Andrew Robinson
Pheasant Coucal	1	27/1/2024	Central Coast Wtlds, Tuggerah	Christina Port
Channel-billed Cuckoo	2J	2/1/2024	begging, Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	J	12/1/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Julie Rathbone
Brush Cuckoo	1	22/1/2024	Ourimbah Creek RTA Res	Jenny Stiles
Brush Cuckoo	1	24/1/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Peaceful Dove	2	5/1/2024	Central Mangrove	Andrew Robinson
Peaceful Dove	1	8/1/2024	Waratah Rd North, Man. Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Bar-shouldered Dove	6	18/1/2024	Murrumbung HSD Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Topknot Pigeon	2A+2DY	22/1/2024	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Buff-banded Rail	1	27/12/2023	Ansell's Pt, Chittaway	Andrew Robinson
Buff-banded Rail	1	31/1/2024	Wyong	Christine Reid
Spotted Crake	1	28/12-8/1	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Baillon's Crake	4	28/12-8/1	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Painted Button-quail	1	21/12, 21/1	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Bush Stone-curlew	3	19/1/2024	Beachfront Pde St Huberts Island	Derene White
Bush Stone-curlew	2A+2Y	22/1/2024	Nautical Village, Sth Kincumber	Doug Hocking
White-headed Stilt	24	28/12/2023	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	30/12/2023	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Andrew Robinson
Ruddy Turnstone	6	12/1/2024	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Carole Carpenter
Latham's Snipe	1	2/1/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Jan Mohandas
Latham's Snipe	1	6/1/2024	Bushells Ridge Rd, Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Eastern Curlew	2	28/1/2024	Saratoga foreshore	Julie Peksis
Bar-tailed Godwit	18	30/12/2023	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Andrew Robinson
Curlew Sandpiper	6	12/1/2024	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Carole Carpenter
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	15	28/12/2023	28 on 6/1, Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Sanderling	1	11/1/2024	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Leeanne Lemke
Wood Sandpiper	1	29/1/2024	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Chris Jamieson
Whimbrel	1	21/1/2024	Point Frederick	Gary Jackson
Common Greenshank	1	4/1/2024	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Fairy Tern	2 prs	January	Karagi Point, The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
Black-necked Stork	2+J	3-5/1, 27/1	McPhersons Rd Swamp, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Black-necked Stork	1	20-31/1/24	Dairy Swp, Central Coast Wtlds, Tuggerah	Julie Peksis
White-necked Heron	4	1-4/1/24	Wyong Creek village & Yarramalong	John Carpenter
Nankeen Night-heron	1	7/1/2024	Dooralong	Andrew Robinson
Nankeen Night-heron	3	24/1/2024	Wyong Milk Factory, Wyong River	Neryl Richards
Osprey	1	11-12/1/24	Soldiers Point	Carole Carpenter
Osprey	2A+2Y	21/1/2024	Terrigal Haven	Zee Merven
Black-shouldered Kite	1	1/1/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Elizabeth Noble
Black-shouldered Kite	1	10/1/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Pacific Baza	1	7/1/2024	Ourimbah M1 Motorway Rest Area	Michael Tyris
Pacific Baza	1	10/1/2024	Bushells Ridge Rd, Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Pacific Baza	3	18/1/2024	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Square-tailed Kite	2	1/1/2024	Murrumbung HSD Mardi	John Carpenter
Square-tailed Kite	1	3/1/2024	Wyong Rd Tuggerah	Danny O'Brien
Square-tailed Kite	1	8/1/2024	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	12-31/12	x7 Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1,1	1/1/2024	Erina Heights & Avoca Bch Bowling Club	Ashley Mullahey
Wedge-tailed Eagle	3	23 & 27/1	Narara	Nerida Carter
Brown Goshawk	1	1/1/2024	Serpentine Rd, Erina Heights	Ashley Mullahey
Brown Goshawk	2	5/1/2024	Central Mangrove	Andrew Robinson
Brown Goshawk	1	7/1/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Jenny Stiles
Sacred Kingfisher	A+2J	19/1/2024	Chain Valley Bay Cycle Track	Tricia Sweet
Rainbow Bee-eater	4	5/1/2024	Bunning Creek, Yarramalong	John Carpenter
Southern Boobook	2A+2Y	21/1/2024	Wildwood, Kincumber	Dianne Warman

Powerful Owl	A	7/1/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Julie Peksis
Australian Hobby	1	6-24/1/24	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Leeanne Lemke
Nankeen Kestrel	1	10/1/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Nankeen Kestrel	1	21/1/2024	Terrigal Haven	Zee Merven
Brown Falcon	2	12/12-31/1 x6	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Peregrine Falcon	2	27/1/2024	Wamberal Water Tower	Ashley Mullahey
Glossy Black Cockatoo	1	23/1/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Kylie Wilson
Gang Gang Cockatoo	2	24/12, 24/1	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Musk Lorikeet	8	13/1/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Southern Emu-wren	2	19/1/2024	Chain Valley Bay Cycle Track	Tricia Sweet
Southern Emu-wren	2	27/1/2024	Central Coast Wtlds, Tuggerah	Christina Port
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	1	22/12-3/1	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Striated Pardalote	2	21/1/2024	San Remo	John Carpenter
Rock Warbler	2A+2Y	1/1/2024	Koolewong	Tricia Sweet
Striated Thornbill	2	25/1/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Chestnut-rump Heathwren	2	3/1/2024	Warrah Trig, Brisbane Water NP	Tricia Sweet
Varied Sittella	4	13/12/23	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Varied Sittella	6A+J	3 & 13/1/24	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Varied Sittella	4	6/1/2024	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mtn	Carole Carpenter
Cicadabird	AM	25/12/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Cicadabird	AF	20/1/2024	Dairy Swp, CC Wtlds, Tuggerah	Julie Peksis
Varied Triller	AM	5-7/1/24	Ourimbah M1 Motorway Rest Area	Michael Tyriss
Varied Triller	HC	16/1/2024	Footts Rd, Ourimbah	David Russell
White-winged Triller	F	7/1/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	7	2/1/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
White-breast Woodswallow	2A+2DY	2/1/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Peter O'Brien
White-breast Woodswallow	12	27/1/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Christina Port
Jacky Winter	2	2/1/2024	Bunning Creek, Yarramalong	Carole Carpenter
Jacky Winter	2	5/1/2024	Central Mangrove	Andrew Robinson
Jacky Winter	2A+J	18/1/2024	Bushells Ridge Rd, Wyee	Leonie Loewe
White-winged Chough	6	23/1/2024	Bucketty	Allan Benson
Fairy Martin	20A+Y	1/1/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Elizabeth Noble
Double-barred Finch	6	21/1/2024	San Remo	Carole Carpenter
Double-barred Finch	2	28/1/2024	Mangrove Mountain	Lynette Callaghan

### Breeding and some other records - January

**Black Swan:** 2A+2Y McPherson Rd Swamp 2/1 (CCa); **Brush Cuckoo:** J fed by Little Wattlebird, Lake Rd Tuggerah 1/1 (ENO); **Buff-banded Rail:** 2A+2Y Lake Rd Tuggerah 1/1 (ENO); **Square-tailed kite:** 1 Ourimbah 24/12, 1 Wyoming 1/1, 1 Umina 6/1 (ARo), 3 Wyoming 23/1 (EDA); **Pacific Baza:** 3 Koolewong 24-27/1 (TSw); **Wedge-tailed Eagle:** 2 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1-21/1 (MPo), 2 Wamberal Water Tower 27/1 (AMu); **Brown Goshawk:** 2 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 7/12 (JCa), 1 Wisemans Ferry Rd Somersby 12/1 (KPo), 2J Mount White 21/1 (SWa), 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 6/1 (MPo); **Sacred Kingfisher:** 2A+2Y Ourimbah Ck RTA Res 23/1 (CPo); **Dollarbird:** 3A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 3/1 (KPo); **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo:** 3+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 15-18/12, 2A+J on 3-15/1 (MPo); **Variegated Fairy-wren:** 2A+2Y Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 9/1 (KPo); **Rufous Whistler:** A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 23/1 (KPo); **Grey Butcherbird:** 2A+2Y Murrumbung HSD Mardi 1/1 (JCa); **Pied Butcherbird:** 2A+2Y Murrumbung HSD Mardi 1/1 (JCa); **Eastern Yellow Robin:** 4A+2Js Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 25/12 & 14/1 (KPo); **Rufous Fantail:** 2A+N Ourimbah Creek RTA Res 23/1 (CPo); Jacky Winter: 2 Waratah Rd Nth Man. Mtn 8/1 (KPo); **Silvereye:** Nest Building Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 4/1 (KPo); **Red-browed Finch:** 2A+Nest Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 4/1 (KPo)

Good Birding!

### SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

### January Survey

A good roll-up of 11 observers completed the survey. Nothing special was seen although most participants managed to add something to their 2024 twitch lists. Total species count was 39 indicating it was a slow day. Total waterbird count was 420.

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

**TWITCH LIST      February 2024**

Graham Nelson	202	Christina Port	130	Diana Hogan	106
Carole Carpenter	155	Krystyna Lonergan	130	Robyn Price	105
John Carpenter	152	Doug Hocking	117	Rowena Wallace	89
Allan Benson	151	Margaret Pointer	114	Frik Gautschi	86
Kaye Pointer	145	Chris Jamieson	112	Gabrielle Rees	75
Julie Peksis	136	Michael Scobie	107	Judy Clark	55

Graham Nelson has certainly hit the ground running with a massive 202 species recorded in January. This is going to be very challenging for the other participants to chase down

**BIRDATA SURVEYS      YTD      2024**

Graham Nelson	95	Robyn Price	7	Nick Carson	3
Alan Stuart	32	Frik Gautschi	6	Daniel McKeon	2
Allan Benson	26	Michael Scobie	6	David Schuemaker	2
C Clutterbuck	7	Guy Dutson	4		

For January 2024, 208 surveys were completed. This is a significant improvement on 2023 when 148 surveys were entered. The big contributor to this total was Graham Nelson with a massive 95 surveys.

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.

**SUMMER WATER BIRD SURVEY – BRISBANE WATERS KBA****SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 2024**

Doug Hocking

The Summer Survey of water birds was carried out on the above date at a very low tide. Michael Scobie skippered his most comfortable boat with Christina Port, Allan Benson and Doug Hocking making up the 4 Surveyors. The standard survey route was followed being Paddys, Lintern, Davistown Channels, Bensville and St Hubert's and Riley's Island Channel then down to Orange Grove and the Pelican colony. There were increased numbers of Black Swans and White Ibis, which could be attributed to the dry season inland. There were two Whimbrel sighted which was good. The Eastern Curlews and Bar-tailed Godwits again were in low numbers and one Bar-tailed Godwit sighted was the lowest number ever.

The search of the records (Alan Morris) since 1997 show Eastern Curlews peaked in 2002-2003 at 56 and Bar-tailed Godwits also peaked in 2002 at 49. Whimbrels peaked in 2001 at 13, however 10 were recorded in 2018. The numbers of these species crashed after this. However, it should be noted there were no records between 2003 and 2016, there was probably a gradual decline in numbers during this period.

**\*\*\* See Page 8 for table of records \*\*\***

**Terrigal Pelagic Friday 2nd February 2024 – 'The Day of The Herald'**

Andrew Robinson

Firstly, thanks everyone for coming on the first Terrigal pelagic of the year, which for obvious reasons was a very special trip/experience that was great to share with everyone.

I'm sure everyone is aware by now of the sighting of a Herald Petrel, which is listed as critically endangered and is considered very rare anywhere in Australian waters but even more so this far south. From what I can gather, there are less than 10 NSW records, with only a few of those 'accepted'. This really was an exceptional sighting!

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<b>SUMMER SURVEY</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Silver Gull	32	50	64	70
Australian Pelican	200	200	300	230
Little Pied Cormorant	27	11	19	22
Pied Cormorant	93	25	18	34
Little Black Cormorant	8	10	6	7
Great Cormorant				1
Australasian Darter	28	10	8	18
Great Egret	1	0	1	16
Little Egret	1	1	0	11
White-faced Heron	10	10	31	26
Dusky Moorhen				1
Northern Mallard	80	102	158	92
Australian Wood Duck	7	9	18	27
Chestnut Teal	7	17	17	57
Grey Teal				3
Pacific Black Duck				1
Australasian Grebe	1	0	0	0
Black Swans	21	3	2	120
Crested Tern	18	8	1	5
Pied Oyster Catcher	8	11	23	25
Bar-tailed Godwit	21	7	4	1
Eastern Curlew	5	7	5	7
Whimbrel	0	0	1	2
Common Sandpiper	1	0	0	0
Striated Heron	3	7	7	2
Nankeen Night Heron (JUV)				1
White-bellied Sea Eagle	3	3	0	0
Eastern Osprey	1	2	2	0
Masked Lapwing	2	15	37	12
Welcome Swallow	23	35	25	78
Raven Spp	1	7	2	7
Channel-billed Cuckoo	2	3	0	0
Australian Magpie	7	2	1	4
Magpie Lark	2	2	6	5
White Ibis	13	53	42	62
Sacred Kingfisher	1	0	0	0
Laughing Kookaburra	2	2	0	0
White-breasted Wood Swallow	14	2	36(n)	6
Common Myna	5	0	0	0
Noisy Miner	5	2	0	1
Bell Miner	heard	0	0	0
Spotted Dove	1	1	0	5
Rainbow Lorikeet	9	2	3	3
Little Corella (Corella Species)	15	2	7(11)	19
Willy Wagtail	3	0	0	0
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	3	1	2	5
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	4	0	0	0
Brown Honeyeater	heard	0	0	0
Australian King Parrot		4	0	0
Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike		1	0	0
Dollar Bird		1	2	1
Little Wattlebird		1	2	0
Galah		12	2	7
Eastern Rosella		2	0	0
Australian Figbird		1	0	7
Australian Hobby			1	0



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While rightly overshadowed on the day, the other highlights were Tahiti Petrel, considered rare this far south and the second for a Terrigal Pelagic, and White-tailed Tropicbird (2), thought to be only the second and third live records for the Central Coast, NSW following an individual seen on our November 2023 trip. The Herald Petrel was the 43rd while the Tahiti Petrel was the 44th pelagic species recorded on these trips, which have now been running since early 2021, this being the 18th edition.

I'm sure most people keep their own records, but for those that don't I've included the trip list below. In total, 16 pelagic birds were seen beyond The Haven, with 10 of those Tubenoses.

- Shy Albatross – 2 (1)
- Grey-faced Petrel – 4 (2)
- **Herald Petrel – 1**
- **Tahiti Petrel – 1**
- Wedge-tailed Shearwater – 200+ (20)
- Short-tailed Shearwater – 14 (6)
- Sooty Shearwater – 2 (1)
- Flesh-footed Shearwater – 100+ (40)
- Fluttering Shearwater - 3 (1)
- Hutton's Shearwater – 2 (1)
- Fluttering type Shearwater – 18
- **White-tailed Tropicbird – 2 (1)**
- Pomarine Jaeger – 1
- Long-tailed Jaeger – 1
- Jaeger sp. – 2
- Sooty Tern – 2 (2)
- Greater Crested Tern – 3
- Silver Gull – 4

Also:

- White-throated Needletail – 3



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

## Breakfast with the Birds      4th February 2024

Breakfast with the Birds is organised by CEN (Community Environment Network) to coincide with World Wetland Day. About 50 people attended the day with a good contingent of our members. Bird walks were led by Nick Carson, Kaye Pointer, Graham Nelson and Allan Benson. Allan Benson gave a short talk about the importance of the Central Coast Wetlands.

The highlight of the day was a Black-necked Stork flying majestically above our heads to land in the Dairy swamp. Other good birds were Wood Sandpiper, Black-fronted Dotterel, Latham's Snipe, Hobby and Buff-banded Rail.

## LEONARDO DiCAPRIO CALLS ON AUSTRALIA TO SAVE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SWIFT PARROT

Lisa Cox

Global superstar Leonardo DiCaprio has called for an end to native forest logging in Australia to protect the habitat of the critically endangered Swift Parrot. The Hollywood actor and conservationist highlighted the plight of Guardian Australia's bird of the year, telling his 62 million Instagram followers that destruction of the parrot's breeding habitat in Tasmania continues, despite experts estimating just 750 swift parrots remained in the wild. "The Australian government has promised that it will prevent any new extinctions. Conservationists continue to encourage them to uphold their zero-extinction commitment," DiCaprio wrote.



“The only way to protect the Swift Parrot, and hundreds of other threatened Australian forest species, is to end native forest logging across Australia and Tasmania.”

The swift parrot is a migratory species that spends winters in Victoria and New South Wales and summers nesting in forests scattered across the island state of Tasmania depending on where its main food sources, blue and black gums, are flowering.

A CSIRO-published guide in 2021 estimated the population had slumped to about 750, down from 2,000 a decade ago. Peer-reviewed studies have found it could be extinct in 10 years if no action was taken to improve its protection, and that forestry is the greatest threat to its survival.

Recent research by scientists at the Australian National University found the rate of decline was accelerating and without drastic conservation action there could be a mean population of just 58 birds by 2031.

DiCaprio’s post pointed to last week’s court victory for the Bob Brown Foundation which secured a temporary injunction on logging in an area of forest south of Hobart.

“Leonardo DiCaprio has put Tasmania on the map big time, and the plight of the Swift Parrot is now well and truly global,” Bob Brown said. “We are delighted to see Leonardo’s full endorsement of our campaign to end native forest logging and save the critically endangered swift parrots. We are inviting Leonardo to Tasmania to see this beautiful island, its forests and wildlife for himself.”

## **BIRDWATCH: ON THE TRAIL OF THE SHY ALBATROSS IN AUSTRALIA**

Stephen Moss

As one seabird enthusiast once proclaimed: “Real birds eat fish.” That was certainly true of the species I was hoping to encounter on my first oceanic quest in the southern hemisphere.

A dozen of us boarded the first Sydney Pelagic trip of the year, chugging out of the famous harbour early one January morning. We soon left the Silver Gulls and Crested Terns behind, before coming across the first of a quintet of shearwaters: Wedge-tailed, Short-tailed, Flesh-footed, Hutton’s and a single Streaked, a scarce visitor from Japan.

Other notable species included the Long-tailed Skua, also from the northern hemisphere; the Grey-faced Petrel, which breeds only on New Zealand’s North Island; and a tiny Wilson’s Storm petrel, fluttering low over the waves like a seaborne house martin.

But for me, the highlight of the trip was a seabird at the very opposite end of the size scale: the Shy Albatross. Several of these huge birds circled the boat, attracted by the foul-smelling mixture of oil and fish offal we were throwing overboard. One individual was not shy at all: sitting in the sea just a few metres away, allowing me to obtain some memorable photos. The only albatross endemic to Australia, it nests on three islands off Tasmania, with a world population of just 25,000 breeding birds. As ever with these mighty seabirds, it was a privilege to share in their life for a few hours, after which, tired but happy, we chugged back into port.



*Editor’s Note.* The Shy Albatross is one of the more common albatrosses seen off the Central Coast. It is a regular on Terrigal Pelagics and can even be sea-watched off Norah Head.