



# The Twitcher

August  
2024

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

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

Volume 19, No. 8

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
27/8/24	<b>Next Meeting:</b> Birding In Western Australia <b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	<b>Christina Port</b>
31/8/24	<b>Outing:</b> Dubbo Gully <b>Meet:</b> 8.30am Mangrove Mountain Shops, corner of Waratah and Wiseman's Ferry Rd, Mangrove Mountain	<b>Margaret and Kaye Pointer</b> 4374 1163
11/9/24	<b>½ day Outing:</b> St Hubert's Island, Bensville, Empire Bay and Bouddi NP <b>Meet:</b> 8.30am Maitland Bay Drive, St Huberts Island Park on the left just after the bridge.	<b>Christina Port</b> 0421 691 317
24/9/24	<b>Next Meeting:</b> Reptiles on the Central Coast <b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds <b>Note: For all Outings bring your morning tea and lunch. A chair is a good idea.</b>	<b>Dean Purcell</b>



**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:** The speaker tonight is our own Christina Port who will be telling us about a birding trip to Western Australia. We are looking forward to hearing about Christina's adventures and, of course, her stunning photos.

**Last Month's Meeting:** A big turnout of 37 members attended our last meeting to hear Dr Colette Livermore talk about what we call the RTA reserve but is officially called Palmdale Landcare. This group commenced in 2002 on 60 acres that the RTA had acquired to build the M1. The site was formerly open paddocks and farmed as an orchard along with dairy cattle. Colette showed some fascinating pictures of the site from both the very early days when it was owned by the Browns to the gradual rehabilitation of the site. It is amazing how much it has changed in such a relatively short period of time. Colette also provided a lot of detail about the trees, plants and weeds which now support a wide range of birds, mammals and reptiles.

**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 6th - Sun 8th <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 18th - Sun 20th <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.

**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 1300 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.

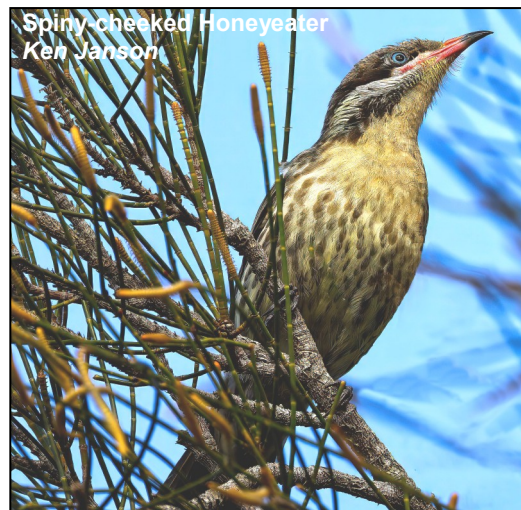
**Saving Stamps:** Please keep saving used stamps (on paper, trimmed) to pass to Wendy Mitchell for donation to charity.

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

The most exciting sighting for the month was a Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater recorded on the Kincumber- Davistown Bike Track. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters seem to be regular vagrants to the Central Coast, being reported most years.

The Emerald Dove at Ourimbah was an interesting record. It shows they turn up at random places but are very difficult to twitch. There were plenty of records for seabirds including White-fronted Terns and Brown Skuas. Only 7 active Osprey's nests have been reported this year down from 13 this time last year. Nesting activity for Noisy Miners, Kookaburras and Rainbow Lorikeets has been noted.

Fairy Martins and White-breasted Woodswallows have already returned and September should see more spring migrants. Channel-billed Cuckoos and Koels should be among the first.



### BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST: July 24

Frik Gautschi

Diana Hogan and Liz Noble recently reached milestone birthdays, duly celebrated at Water's Edge, The Entrance, where twenty-something birders filled half the café at this popular location. It was a beautiful sunny day, but decidedly chilly so just right for a cooked breakfast and caffeine hit.

At the previous Birthday Breakfast (8th April), Coleen Southall couldn't attend due to a mishap only a few days prior to the event, but all is good again and we were finally able to wish her belatedly and in person. Birthday cards were signed by everyone at the gathering; once again these were very special cards: prints of our very own Leonie Loewe's watercolours of local birds!

L to R: Coleen Southall, Liz Noble,  
Diana Hogan  
Robyn Price



Diana has barely missed an outing, come rain or shine, not to mention attending many of our famous Camps, making her a core member of Central Coast Birders. Liz, although a more recent addition to the group, wasted no time in announcing her presence with beautiful photographs (which included a prize-winner or two) and regular posts on Facebook.

The gathering included some of our founder members, notably our patron, Alan Morris. Alan and Anne were visiting the Coast for a few days from their new home in Laurieton, so they also attended our monthly meeting at Tuggerah the following evening.

Michael Scobie welcomed everyone, said a few words, wished Diana and Liz a very happy birthday, and handed

them the signed cards. The prompt and tasty catering got everyone's nod of approval and our chatter pretty much drowned out other diners in the café.

## OUTING REPORTS

**Outing: July 27**

**CHAIN VALLEY BAY**

**Leader: Leeanne Lemke**

Cancelled due to wet weather. However, Graham Nelson braved the conditions -

For those who were going to go on the Chain Valley Outing I did it for you.

I was up early and decided to go. I did look at the radar and weather report and thought Leeanne would cancel it. She did the right thing. Knowing how fickle weather can be I went on the off chance it wouldn't be too bad. In general, the rain wasn't that heavy but constant enough you needed a jacket and umbrella. I didn't particularly want to get the camera too wet so I left it behind and just took my umbrella and binoculars.

**Karignan Creek trail** - we saw 33 Species: Chestnut Teal, Australian Wood Duck, Crested Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Buff-banded Rail, Osprey, Sacred Kingfisher, Laughing Kookaburra, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Australian King-Parrot, Eastern Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Superb Fairy-wren, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Spotted Pardalote, White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Thornbill, Varied Sittella, Golden Whistler, Eastern Whipbird, Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie, Grey Butcherbird, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Magpie-lark, Eastern Yellow Robin, Welcome Swallow.

Morning tea at **Joshua Porter Reserve** - we saw 17 Species: Black Swan, Pacific Black Duck, Mallard, Silver Gull, Striated Heron, Great Egret, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Australasian Darter, Laughing Kookaburra, Rainbow Lorikeet, Little Wattlebird, Noisy Miner, Australian Magpie, Grey Butcherbird, Magpie-lark, Welcome Swallow.

**The Goat Track** - we saw 34 Species: Black Swan, Mallard, Australian Wood Duck, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull, Australian Pelican, Australian White Ibis, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Laughing Kookaburra, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Variegated Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren, Scarlet Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Bell Miner, Noisy Miner, Spotted Pardalote, Golden Whistler, Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie, Grey Butcherbird, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Australian Raven, Magpie-lark, Welcome Swallow.

Being so close I decided to go to **Frazer Park** where we saw 14 Species: Silver Gull, Eastern Reef Egret, Australasian Gannet, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Laughing Kookaburra, Rainbow Lorikeet, Superb Fairy-wren, New Holland Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Red Wattlebird, Eastern Whipbird, Australian Magpie, Red-browed Finch, Welcome Swallow.

I was planning to go back to Koala Park and San Remo but instead decided to try **Soldiers Point** to see what the storm



Australasian Darter  
Graham Nelson



may have blown in even though it was a northerly. Once there I ate your lunch. Very nice. Someone knows I like chicken and avocado. We saw 17 Species: Crested Pigeon, Silver Gull, Greater Crested Tern 70, Australasian Gannet, Great Cormorant, Great Pied Cormorant, Osprey, Black-shouldered Kite, Laughing Kookaburra, Galah, New Holland Honey-eater, Little Wattlebird, Eastern Whipbird, Willie Wagtail, Australian Raven, Red-browed Finch, Welcome Swallow. I didn't see much out to sea other than whales and dolphins.

**2pm** - I decided to head home. I was going past it so I stopped in at **The Sensory Garden Nth Entrance**. I saw 24 Species. Black Swan 86, Pacific Black Duck, Chestnut Teal, Crested Pigeon, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull, Caspian Tern, Greater Crested Tern, Australian Pelican 100, Great Egret, White-faced Heron, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Little Pied Cormorant 15, Pied Cormorant 35, Little Black Cormorant 700+, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Superb Fairy-wren, Red Wattlebird, Noisy Miner, Australian Magpie, Grey Butcherbird, Willie Wagtail. In all you saw 68 Species and walked 6.5km. It was a slightly wet but good day. Graham Nelson

**½ Day Outing: August 14  
CREEK AND GIRRAKOOL**

**MOONEY MOONEY  
Leader: Doug Hocking**

Eight hardy birders turned up for the outing. However, it was showering, turning to rain and the outing was abandoned by 9:30 am.

A few birds were seen and heard including Little Lorikeet, Brown Gerygone, Superb Lyrebird, White-naped Honeyeater, Satin Bowerbird, Wonga Pigeon and White-throated Tree-creeper.

Access to the Mooney Creek trail off Karool Road is now much improved, better luck next time with the weather.

We had morning tea at Girrakool with a very welcomed Orange Madeira Cake made by David Lamont's grandson at his TAFE Course.



**SPECIES LIST**

**JULY 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
Australasian Shoveler	8	5-25/7/24 Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Tricia Sweet
Brush Turkey	22	23/7/2024 Murray St, Bateau Bay	Alan Morris
Brown Quail	5	7/7/2024 Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Julie Peksis
Hoary-headed Grebe	1	3/7/2024 Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Leeanne Lemke
Hoary-headed Grebe	40	7/7/2024 Budgewoi Lake, seen Malvina St, Lakehaven	Noel Lonergan
Tawny Frogmouth	3	5/7/2024 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Owlet-Nightjar	1	17/7/2024 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	12/7/2024 Palmdale Rd, Palmdale	Peter Stevens
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	13/7/2024 Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Nick Carson
Emerald Dove	1	8/7/2024 Mill Street, Ourimbah	Allan Benson
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	60	2/7/2024 at feeder Murrumbung HSD Mardi	John Carpenter
Topknot Pigeon	4	4/7/2024 feeding in Lilly Pillies, Wyoming	Darren Rickets
Buff-banded Rail	1	4-26/7/24 Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Peter Brown
Buff-banded Rail	1	12/7/2024 Sunrise Ave, Budgewoi	Craig Marshall
Buff-banded Rail	1	13/7/2024 Aust. Reptile Park, Somersby	Facebook
Sooty Oystercatcher	6	15/7/2024 The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Double-banded Plover	1	13 & 22/7 Pelican Point, Norah Head	Trent Freeman
Black-fronted Dotterel	6	21/7/2024 Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Brown Skua	1	16/6/2024 Soldiers Pt/ Entrance Bombie Sea-watch	Andrew Robinson
Brown Skua	9	19/7/2024 Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Brown Skua	1	22/7/2024 Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Alan Morris

White-fronted Tern	1	4/7/2024	Norah Head Reefs	Hitomi Ward
White-fronted Tern	2	5/7/2024	Terrigal Haven	Nick Carson
White-fronted Tern	1	25/7/2024	Tallow Beach, Bouddi NP	Guy Dutson
Caspian Tern	58	16/6/2024	large number! The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
Little Penguin	2	25/7/2024	Tallow Beach, Bouddi NP	Guy Dutson
Albatross abundance	100+	16/6/2024	Soldiers Pt/ Entrance Bombie Sea-watch	Andrew Robinson
Wandering (Gibson's) Alb	1	19/7/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-browed Albatross type	40	23/6/2024	The Entrance Bombie Sea-watch	Andrew Robinson
Black-browed Albatross	45	19/7/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Campbell's Albatross	1	19/7/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Shy Albatross	1	18/7/2024	The Entrance Bombie Sea-Watch	Andrew Robinson
Shy Albatross	4	19/7/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Yellow-nosed Albatross	1	23/6/2024	The Entrance Bombie Sea-watch	Andrew Robinson
Yellow-nosed Albatross	13	19/7/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Buller's Albatross	10	19/7/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Southern Giant Petrel	1	19/7/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Fairy Prion	15	16/6/2024	Soldiers Pt/ Entrance Bombie Sea-watch	Andrew Robinson
Fairy Prion	4	23/6/2024	The Entrance Bombie Sea-watch	Andrew Robinson
Fairy Prion	100+	19/7/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Fluttering type Shearwater	12	23/6/2024	The Entrance Bombie Sea-watch	Andrew Robinson
Fluttering Shearwater	8	19/7/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Grey-faced Petrel	1	16/6/2024	Soldiers Pt/ Entrance Bombie Sea-watch	Andrew Robinson
Grey-faced petrel	1	19/7/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Providence Petrel	11	19/7/2024	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-necked Stork	AF	4/7/2024	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	David Schuemaker
Little Black Cormorant	700+	31/7/2024	Terilbah Reserve, The Entrance	Graham Nelson
Reef Heron	1	20/7/2024	Timber Beach, Munmorah SCA	Elizabeth Noble
White-necked Heron	1	12/7/2024	Mangrove Rd, Somersby	Margaret Pointer
Plumed Egret	1	4/7/2024	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Peter Brown
Osprey	1+Nest	4-23/7/2024	Harry Moore Oval, Canton Beach	Les Parker
Osprey	2+Nest	4-23/7/24	Gosford Stadium	Dianne Warman
Osprey	2+Nest	7-23/7/24	Woy Woy CBD Ocean Beach Rd	S. Ireland-Webb
Osprey	2+nest	20/7/2024	Hylton Moore Oval, East Gosford	Sharyn Anne
Osprey	2+nest	24/7/2024	Telstra tower, Tunkuwallin Oval, Gwandalan	Mairin Ireland
Osprey	2+nest	23/7/2024	Mingara Comms. Tower	Mairin Ireland
Osprey	2+nest	27/7/2024	The Entrance Channel	Graham Nelson
Pacific Baza	1	2/7/2024	Wamberal	Darren Earnshaw
Pacific Baza	1	18/7/2024	Cresthaven Rd, Bateau Bay	Ian Kerr
Black-shouldered Kite	1	7/7/2024	Norah Head	Chris Richardson
Black-shouldered Kite	1	10/7/2024	McPherson Rd, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Black-shouldered Kite	1	15/7/2024	Woy Woy Tip	Darren Earnshaw
Square-tailed Kite	1	10-11/7/24	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Square-tailed Kite	1	17/7/2024	Wyong Rd & Pindarri Ave, Berkeley Vale	Graham Nelson
Square-tailed Kite	1	22/7/2024	McMasters Beach	J. Nina Rua
Brahminy Kite	1	18/7/2024	Toukley Golf Course	Leeanne Lemke
Brahminy Kite	1	28/7/2024	Chittaway	Andrew Robinson
Brown Goshawk	1	10/7/2024	Central Coast Wetlands	Leonie Loewe
Brown Goshawk	1	13/7/2024	Ashbrook Rd, Mount White	Emily Jenkins
Brown Goshawk	1	17 & 22/7	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Grey Goshawk	AF	3,17 & 24/7	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Grey Goshawk	2	22-26/7/24	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Peter Brown
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	20/7/2024	Billabong St, Woy Woy	Georgie Shaw
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	28/7/2024	Wyoming	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	15/7/2024	Woy Woy Tip	Darren Earnshaw
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	18/7/2024	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	21/7/2024	Ourimbah Rest Area M1 Motorway	Philip Siao
Little Eagle	1	26/7/2024	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Mel Stratton

Central Coast Group - Birding NSW

Sacred Kingfisher	1	18/7/2024	Gosford Regional Gallery, East Gosford	Ann Juan
Azure Kingfisher	1	17/7/2024	Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	J. Nina Rua
Southern Boobook	1	10/7/2024	Billabong St, Woy Woy	Greg Shaw
Powerful Owl	1	23/7/2024	Rumbalara Reserve, Gosford	Rob Montgomery
Powerful Owl	1	30/7/2024	near Toukley Bridge, Gorokan	Nan Farmilo
Nankeen Kestrel	2	4-22/7/24	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Peter Brown
Nankeen Kestrel	1	12/7/2024	Palmdale Rd, Palmdale	Peter Stevens
Nankeen Kestrel	1	26/7/2024	Wybung Head, Munmorah SCA	Shane Kennedy
Australian Hobby	1	3/7/2024	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Leeanne Lemke
Australian Hobby	1	3/7/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Australian Hobby	1	28/7/2024	Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Brown Falcon	1	1,18, 23/7	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Brown Falcon	2	23/7/2024	courtship flights, Waratah Rd Nth, Man. Mtn	Alan Morris
Peregrine Falcon	1	2/7/2024	Captain Cook Lkt, Copacabana	Colette Livermore
Peregrine Falcon	1	3/7/2024	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Leeanne Lemke
Peregrine Falcon	1	31/7/2024	taking Rainbow Lorikeet Kitchener Pk, Ettalong	Darren Earnshaw
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	50+	14/7/2024	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Garry Jackson
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	26	24/7/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	3/7/2024	Pateman Rd, Erina	Nick Carson
Glossy Black Cockatoo	6	7/7/2024	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	21/7/2024	Kincumber Mountain Reserve	Elaine Elliott
Gang Gang Cockatoo	2	29/6/2024	Mangrove Mountain area	Andrew Robinson
Gang Gang Cockatoo	5	1-14/7/24	Upper Palmdale	Bill Lancaster
Gang Gang Cockatoo	13	4/7/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Crimson Rosella	18	21/7/2024	Upper Palmdale	Alan Morris
Crimson Rosella	2	30/7/2024	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Red-rumped Parrot	14	10/7/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Sonia Boughton
Noisy Pitta	1	12 & 19/7	Palmdale Rd, Palmdale	Peter Stevens
Noisy Pitta	1	21/7/2024	Ocean Beach CP, Umina	Colin Foreman
Varied Sittella	4	12/7/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Southern Emu-wren	3	7-24/7/24	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Julie Peksis
White-naped Honeyeater	25	5/7/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Brown-headed Honeyeater	8	14/7/2024	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	1	17 & 24/7	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	10/7/2024	Terrigal	Archie Brennan
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	6/7/2024	Rotherham St, Bateau Bay	Nick Carson
Blue-faced Honeyeater	4	19/7/2024	Wyoming Oval	David Schuemaker
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	2	29/6/2024	Mangrove Mountain area	Andrew Robinson
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	2	23/7/2024	Warrah Trig, Brisbane Water NP	Joshua Bergmark
Rock Warbler	4	7/7/2024	Warrah Trig, Brisbane Water NP	Leeanne Lemke
Rock Warbler	2	23/7/2024	Mangrove Dam Wall Picnic Area	Alan Morris
Spotted Quail-thrush	AM	23/7/2024	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	Allan Benson
Varied Sittella	4	23/7/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Golden Whistler	2M,2F	9/7/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
White-breast Woodswallow	2	20/7/2024	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Aden Van Der Stel
Jacky Winter	8	29/6/2024	Mangrove Mountain area	Andrew Robinson
Rose Robin	1	12/7/2024	Wadalba	Sonia Boughton
Rose Robin	AM	21/7/2024	Koolewong	Kathy Stringfellow
Rose Robin	1	24/7/2024	Narara Eco Village	Guy Dutson
Red-browed Finch	100+	2/7/2024	at feeder, Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
House Sparrow	2	12/7/2024	Cresthaven Shops, Bateau bay	Nick Carson
Bassian thrush	2	2-21/7/24	Upper Palmdale	Colette Livermore
Bassian Thrush	2	18/7/2024	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Bassian Thrush	1	23/7/2024	Kulnura	Paul Hins
Bassian Thrush	1	23 & 28/7	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
European Blackbird	1	5/7/2024	Ourimbah Rest Area M1 Motorway	James Churches
European Blackbird	2	18/7/2024	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw

**Breeding and other records - July**

**Osprey:** 1 The Entrance 30/6-27/7 (ARo), 3 on 22/7 (AMo), 1 South Tacoma 12/7 (SBr), 1 Terrigal 23-25/7 (PMo), 1 Central Coast Wetlands 24/7, 1 Karignan Ck Chain Valley Bay, 1 Soldiers Point 27/7 (GNe); **Black-shouldered Kite:** 1 Mt Penang Gardens 21/7 (ARo), 1 Railway Cres Lisarow 25/7 (DEa), 1 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 30-31/7 (MPo); **Square-tailed Kite:** 1 Umina Beach 19/6 (ARo), 1 Pearl Beach Arboretum 30/7 (GJa), 1 Fountaindale 31/7 (ARo); **Wedge-tailed Eagle:** 2 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 9,19/7 & 28-31/7 (KPo), 2 Saltwater Ck Kincumber 21/7 (DWa), 1 Central Coast Wetlands 20/7 (AVS), 1 Waratah Rd Man. Mtn 25/7 (MPo); **Nankeen Kestrel:** 1 Waratah Rd Mangrove Mtn 25/7 (MPo), 1 Duffys Oval Terrigal 29/7 (NCa); **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD M. Mtn 9/7, 24/7 (KPo); **Glossy Black Cockatoo:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD M. Mtn 19, 22-23/7, 2 on 29-31/7 (KPo); **Rainbow Lorikeet:** 2A+!J Tathra Taila HSD M. Mtn 5/7 (KPo); **Blue-faced Honeyeater:** 1 Westfield Tuggerah 21/7 (ARo), 2 Erina Heights 22/7 (DEa); **Rose Robin:** 1 Upper Palmdale 19/7 (ZBa), AM Pearl Beach Arboretum (GJa); **Bassian Thrush:** 1 Mill Creek Camp, Dharug NP 24/7 (FBa). Good Birding!

**TWITCH LIST July 2024**

Graham Nelson	219	Daniel McKeon	171	Robyn Price	142
Allan Benson	214	Chris Jamieson	167	Gabrielle Rees	136
Nick Carson	203	Julie Peksis	165	Diana Hogan	136
Christina Port	197	Margaret Pointer	162	Michael Scobie	132
Krystyna Lonergan	184	Doug Hocking	158	Frik Gautschi	123
Carole Carpenter	183	Rowena Wallace	147	Paul Shelley	114
John Carpenter	179	Leonie Loewe	142	Judy Clark	110
Kaye Pointer	176				

Graham Nelson has maintained his solid lead with Allan Benson slowly chipping away at that lead with the rest of the field well behind. Nick Carson has made a significant move.

**BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD 2024**

Allan Benson	216	Robyn Price	51	C Clutterbuck	18
Graham Nelson	215	Frik Gautschi	34	Doug Hocking	17
Nick Carson	211	Guy Dutson	28	David Schuemaker	12
Alan Stuart	188	Meryl Newton	20	Leonie Loewe	7
Leeanne Lemke	76	Michael Scobie	19		

For July 2024, 143 surveys were completed compared with 222 in 2023. YTD 2024, 2240 surveys were completed. This is a significant improvement on 2023 where 1029 surveys were entered. The leaders are neck and neck with a lot of surveys still to come.

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 July Survey**

Six very disappointed observers found the ponds at their lowest level ever and almost no waterfowl. Only 50 odd ducks and grebes were found and only 22 species counted in total when we expect that number to be around 40.

This is in marked contrast to the June survey where the ponds were very full. It is suspected that the council may be preparing the ponds to be dredged.

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

## SWIFT PARROT SURVEYS UPDATE

For July, only 30 surveys were completed. Contributors were Allan Benson (17), Robyn Price (5), Hitomi Ward (3), Frances Westwick (2), Gary Sanders, Greg Shaw and Alan Morris.

Conditions have been terrible - cold, wet and windy. Nothing is flowering and there haven't even been Rainbow Lorikeets at most sites surveyed.

## REGENT HONEYEATER NEWS

Mick Roderick

The release has gone well. It's been a different experience to the two previous Tomalpin releases, with birds being very mobile and there being a lack of 'clusters' as happened in 2022 in particular. The reason for their mobility could be because of the fact that the Spotted Gum did not flower as well as we'd anticipated. Our apiarist said it could be explained by that cohort of trees favouring foliage-growth over flowering and that's consistent with what we've observed. Still, it has been a very good Spotted Gum season in the Lower Hunter overall, with a minimum of 32 (wild) Regent Honeyeaters found, including the three 2022 zoo-bred birds at Iomar. Here's a dot-point breakdown of what we've observed during this release:



Regent Honeyeaters:  
recently released at Kearsley School  
Mick Roderick

Here's a dot-point breakdown of what we've observed during this release:

- First release **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July – 24 birds total**, with 7 birds wearing transmitters. Two of the wild birds were at the release site early on the morning of the first release but they unfortunately weren't there when we unzipped the tents.
- Second release **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July – 25 birds total**, with 17 birds wearing transmitters.
- One male bird from the first cohort returned to the tents and was recaptured by Taronga, assessed and subsequently taken back to Sydney.
- Two intact transmitters have been found on the ground but both of these are likely Houdini jobs, with evidence of the bird slipping out (e.g. broken harness at weak point).
- At present we have 3 birds still being found inside Tomalpin (a male tx, female tx and a female non-tx). It is likely I think that other non-tx birds are in there, but they are hard to search for!
- We have at least six birds feeding on flowering Callistemons in suburban Cessnock/Kearsley/Weston. The exciting news here is that three of these birds (all of them non-tx) are in/near the grounds of Kearsley Public School and have very much settled in, with UMRW (male) and UMPP (female) behaving as a pair, with wing-down quivering displays etc. Other Callistemon birds are singletons.
- We also have another exciting group of birds using bushland at Pelaw Main, also coming out and feeding in a large flowering Spotted Gum on the corner of a street near the bushland. This group is comprised of 2x transmitter birds (male and female), a non-tx female and a WILD BIRD. The wild bird was literally found on the second day we were monitoring the zoo birds. There hasn't been much sign of pairing but we are confident the wild bird is a male, so there's the potential for two pairs here.
- The other exciting thing that happened is having one of our female tx birds (UMWP) joining the long-staying and male-dominated flock at Saw Pit Road, Kitchener. Last Monday I counted 13 unbanded birds at this site, plus UMWP). The interesting thing now that has happened is she has disappeared and this morning the team couldn't find any sign of ANY wild birds! Keep in mind that this flock has been present since the 31<sup>st</sup> May. We will return to see in coming days if indeed the wild birds have departed, but we will prioritise trying to relocate UMWP, which might necessitate the use of an aircraft – to be determined!
- Otherwise, we have had a bunch of "runners" – probably seven or eight tx birds that have moved out of signal range, like UMWP now has.



In non-release news, we have had two reports of two unbanded birds elsewhere – two along the Goulburn River and two at Copeton Dam Caravan Park (all confirmed with photos). The latter is exciting because reports of two birds in that part of NSW are very few and far between these days. Ross Crates from ANU has kicked off NRHMP surveys in parts of the Upper Hunter and BirdLife will get cracking on surveys in the Lower Hunter later this week. I understand Ross will start in earnest in the Capertee in the next few weeks too (we are also meeting with Mudgee NPWS next week about nest-protection).

## **SCIENTISTS RELEASE MILLIONS OF MOSQUITOES FROM HELICOPTERS IN ATTEMPT SAVE RARE BIRD SPECIES: 'YOU CAN'T NOT TRY'**

Mandy Carr



The Guardian reported that only 17 Hawaiian Honeycreeper species are left. There were once more than 50, according to the National Park Service. They are dying in part from mosquitoes that carry malaria and were introduced to the Hawaiian Islands from America and Europe in the 1800s. The birds have no immunity to the disease, so they are at risk of dying after only one bite.

The Scarlet Honeycreeper is the most vulnerable because it has a 90% chance of dying after being bitten by an infected mosquito,

The population of the Kaua'i Creeper has also decreased significantly. In 2018, there were 450, and as of 2023, there were only five, the Guardian reported.

The rest of the honeycreeper birds live at elevations above 4,000-5,000 feet. Mosquitoes don't typically go that high because it's too cold, but they are going to higher elevations as the global temperature rises.

The U.S. National Park Service, the state of Hawaii, and the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project have partnered to use the incompatible insect technique. The Guardian explained that this method involves dropping mosquitoes with "a naturally occurring bacterium that acts as birth control." It stops the female mosquitoes from reproducing. The program consists of dropping 250,000 male mosquitoes from helicopters weekly.

## **NEW SPECIES DISCOVERED FLYING ABOVE CHILE MOUNTAINS. 'RIGHT UNDER EVERYONE'S NOSES'**

Irene Wright

Looking out the window of a skyscraper in Santiago, Chile, the towering, snow-capped Andes mountains look back at the country's bustling capital city. Flitting over the skyscrapers and office buildings up to the higher elevations is a small, black bird, flying from the Pacific Ocean to the west up to its mountain breeding grounds. It's a storm-petrel — and a new species.

"Imagine that high up over one of the largest cities in the southern hemisphere, storm-petrels fly daily from the ocean to the high mountains," researcher Alvaro Jaramillo said in a July 29 Facebook post. "Birders see them when watching the full moon over the city."

Jaramillo, along with colleagues from around Chile, Hawaii, New Zealand and Peru, took a closer look at the Santiago natives and discovered some of the birds were different. They published their findings July 29 2024 in the journal *Zootaxa*. "It is amazing that this cryptic species was right under everyone's noses during all of this time," Jaramillo said.

Using mist-nets, the researchers travelled up into the mountains to capture, photograph and sample the birds, according to the study. When they compared the genetics of the Santiago species to other storm-petrels found in South America, they didn't match. "The various taxa we suggest should be elevated to species have substantial genetic differences," Jaramillo said. "But more importantly, they are ecologically different, with possible breeding areas in very different places."

Jaramillo said it's typical for storm-petrels to nest on islands, but others have now been seen at both inland deserts and mountains.

The new species is named *Oceanites barrosi*, or the Andean storm-petrel. The name honours ornithologist Rafael Barros Valenzuela who first recorded storm-petrels in Chile, and who became "one of the most prolific ornithologists in Chile during the 20th century," according to the study.

The bird is small — fitting in the palm of the hand — with short, rounded wings and a "square-cut tail," researchers said. The head, back, wings and rump are "blackish-brown," and there is a continuous white "band-shaped" patch on the back feathers, according to the study.



"We propose the name Andean Storm-Petrel due to its unique breeding area. Although a nest has not yet been found, the Andean Storm-Petrel is seen going in and out of high elevation areas during the breeding season, and many recently fledged juveniles have been found in elevations above the city of Santiago," researchers said.

There were previously three known species in the genus *Oceanites*, according to the study, but Jaramillo and the research team suggest they actually represent seven distinct species. Though the individual species are genetically different, morphologically (or on the outside), they look the same, Jaramillo said. "This will create some identification nightmares unfortunately, as some of the species level taxa we suggest should be elevated are not visually identifiable at this point," Jaramillo said. "But more importantly, three of these species have not had their nesting areas described yet, and for the other species many of the colonies are unknown so far. The conservation issues are complex when you don't know where they breed or how many there are!"

## Terrigal Pelagic Trip Report: Friday 19th July 2024

Andrew Robinson

16 of us enjoyed a solid trip out of Terrigal that included bird activity throughout on what was a cold day on the water. The trip to the shelf was largely uneventful, though several Brown Skua, reasonable numbers of Black-browed Albatross and the odd Fairy Prion and Fluttering Shearwater kept us on our toes, while a small pod of Short-beaked Common Dolphin was also briefly seen close to the boat. Closer to the shelf Albatross diversity increased with a few Indian-yellow Nosed and Buller's seen, along with the first Shy of the day.

Arriving at shelf waters before 9am we commenced our first drift which soon saw plenty of Albatrosses around the boat (both on the wing and water), including our first and only Campbell Albatross for the day. Fairy Prion numbers steadily built, though try as we might, we were not able to pick out any rarer Prion species on the slick. A Grey-faced Petrel was a nice addition soon after and was shortly followed by the first of several Providence Petrels for the day.

About mid-drift, things got a lot more interesting when in quick succession a Southern Giant Petrel, followed by a NZ Wandering Albatross (*gibsoni*), joined the party which put a huge smile on one person's face in particular! Unfortunately, the Wanderer didn't alight, only providing a few passes of the boat before continuing. The Giant Petrel however, proved very obliging and provided all on board with excellent views and photo opportunities.

Perhaps the highlight of the day though (at least from my point of view) was a large Blue Shark at shelf waters. The shark initially materialised in the slick before leaving, only to reappear 4 or 5 times over the next hour or so, allowing everyone on board incredible views of this stunning oceanic species.

After some good birding and plenty of laughs, soon enough it was time to depart with a mostly uneventful return trip ensuing, that is until the 8-mile mark when we ventured a second drift closer to shore. While no new birds were added to the trip list, we soon had a high count of 10 Black-browed Albatross around the boat along with 3 Brown Skua that allowed excellent close-up views. Several more Fluttering Shearwater whizzed past the boat closer to shore and we had mid-range views of a Humpback Whale. It was then time to get warm!

Of note, the Southern Giant Petrel (becoming increasingly rarer), was only the second record for a Terrigal Pelagic, while Fairy Prion numbers (100+) were the most seen on one of these trips. The count of 9 Brown Skua is also considered above average.



In total 15 species were seen beyond The Haven with 11 of those Tubenoses.

As follows: Black-browed Albatross – 45 (10), Campbell Albatross – 1, Shy Albatross – 4 (1), Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross – 13 (4), Buller's Albatross – 10 (3), New Zealand Wandering Albatross (*gibsoni*) – 1, Southern Giant Petrel – 1, Fairy Prion – 100+ (30+), Grey-faced Petrel – 1, Providence Petrel – 11 (2), Fluttering Shearwater – 8 (2), Brown Skua – 9 (3), Greater Crested Tern – 7 (3), Silver Gull – 2, Australasian Gannet – 23 (3).

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