



The Twitcher

September
2024

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

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

Volume 19, No. 9

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
24/9/24	Next Meeting: Threatened Reptile Breeding Program, Taronga Park Zoo Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	Dean Purcell
28/9/24	Outing: Teralba and surrounds Meet: 8.30am Tulkaba Park, York St, Teralba	REMEMBER TO REGISTER Meryl Newton 0435 780 380
9/10/24	½ day Outing: Dooralong, Jilliby and Lemon Tree Meet: 8.30am Cemetery, corner Hue Hue and Dooralong Roads	REMEMBER TO REGISTER Carole Carpenter 0490 045 361
22/10/24	Next Meeting: Safari to the Gulf 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



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: Something different this evening from our speaker Dean Purcell. Dean is a keen local birder but his day job is working with reptiles at Taronga Park Zoo. Tonight Dean will be outlining the breeding program for threatened reptiles at the zoo.

Last Month's Meeting: A good turnout of 34 members attended our last meeting to hear Christina Port talk about a trip to Western Australia in October 2023. Christina covered over 14,000 km and spent \$2705 on diesel in an epic trip. She managed to find and photograph many of the Western Australian endemic birds including Red-capped Parrot, Western Corella, Carnaby's and Baudin's Black-cockatoo, both Fairy-wrens. Red-eared Firetail plus many more. She managed to dip on "The Big Three" at Cheynes Beach but they are never easy. The audience was thrilled to see such stunning photos.

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.

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 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.

CAMPS 2024

Fri 18th - Sun 20th October	Harrington	Alan Morris	0418 269 482	Harrington Beach Holiday & Caravan Park 50 Crowdy St, Harrington (02) 6556 1228
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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 August/September and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in October?

OMG, the strong westerly winds at the end of August and the beginning of September bought a plethora of goodies. Top of the list was an Inland Dotterel at Karagi Point. The first for the Central Coast and an amazing record. A Little Button-quail was found in a backyard in Berkeley Vale - the 5th record for the Central Coast.

Mt Penang was the hotspot with not only a pair of Banded Lapwing but Brown Songlark (9th record), Rufous Songlark and White-winged Triller.

A Rufous Songlark and White-winged Triller were also found at Magenta. The Kelp Gull recorded at Norah head was the 7th record.

Around Tuggerah Lakes Whiskered Terns, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Bar-tailed Godwits have been spotted.



Inland Dotterel
Andrew Robinson



Brown Songlark
Andrew Robinson



Banded Lapwing
Andrew Robinson

In addition, the usual spring migrants have started to appear including Rainbow Bee-eater, Rufous Whistler, Black-faced Monarch, White-throated Gerygone, Leaden Flycatcher, Channel-billed Cuckoo and Koel.

October will see the balance of migrants arrive and breeding will be in full swing.

The best month to go birding.

OUTING REPORTS

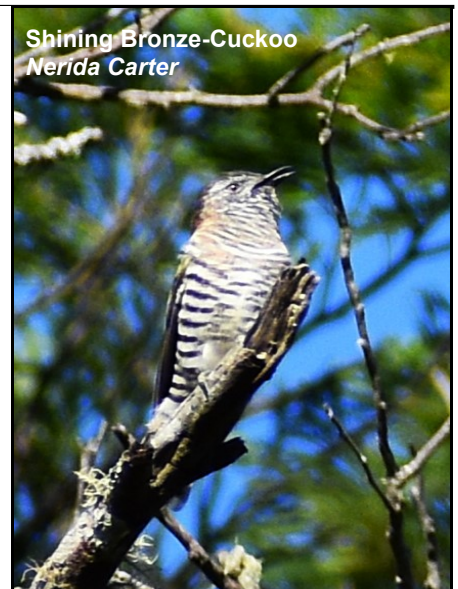
Outing: August 31

DUBBO GULLY

Leaders: Kaye and Margaret Pointer

14 birders met near the corner of Waratah and Wisemans Ferry Road, Mangrove Mountain on a mild late winter morning, although the wind was forecast to increase. We started our list with White-throated Gerygone, quickly adding 20 species such as Striated and Yellow Thornbill, Noisy Friarbird, Common Blackbird and male Rufous Whistler, before carpooling

for our day in Dubbo Gully. Once through the gate, our usual first stop was near Dubbo Gully Bridge. The highlight of the walk here was a Shining Bronze-Cuckoo calling from a dead wattle branch, providing good views. The Willie Wagtails, Golden Whistler, Yellow-faced and Lewin's Honeyeaters and Black Ducks went about their daily business.



Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
Nerida Carter

A Jacky Winter and Grey Fantail joined us for morning tea and a flock of 10 Red Wattlebirds flew south. After morning tea, we drove to the 2nd locked gate, just south of Donny's Track, stopping briefly to see a family of Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo and a Spotted Pardalote. Our walk south along Ten Mile Hollow Road past the pond and Fairview Homestead Site added White-necked Heron, White-browed Scrubwren and Wonga Pigeon. We paused to observe several Eastern Yellow Robins sharing a morsel, and listening to the local Lyrebird who would not show. Eventually we turned around for our return walk just short of Simpson's Track.

There was little bird activity during our lunch break, back at the cars. A short stop, near the large wetland to walk to St Thomas Cemetery, added Kookaburra and a Purple Swamphen called from the back of the wetland. Most of the birds seen or heard on this short walk were repeats from earlier in the day. Heading up Dubbo Gully Road to the intersection with Waratah Road was quiet. It is always worth checking out the birds here and to see if all the birders are present. No-one was left in the gully! At the checkout point we added Hardhead, Olive Backed Oriole, Australian King Parrot, Noisy Miner, Spotted Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Eastern Rosella, and Masked Lapwing. Thankfully the wind, although strong on the hill tops was much gentler in the valley.

Informed by those wearing step-counting devices, we had walked about 8 kilometers during the day and counted 61 species (which is about an average for a Dubbo Gully outing - checking back through our outing reports since 2003). Some members of the group saw 3 lifers for the day out! All members were content to follow my lead!! Thank you! We were all able to enjoy the birds, company, and the day.

Campout: September 6th - 8th

KARUAH

Leader: Graham Nelson

Setting out a few days early to check out some previous sites and some new ones was advantageous. I changed the schedule a little and made a little less travelling for Friday. The eager campers arrived Thursday afternoon and settled in. After a short welcoming meeting we had our first BBQ together. Most of us barbecued every night except Saturday which was Chinese at Karuah Bowling Club. I gave it an 8/10 but some of the other camps have been slightly better. The weather was great all weekend and the strong winds and rain held off for us. Including the camp site, we stopped at 30 sites. The birds started chirping at 5am every day making it hard to sleep in. I think all of us did at least a half hour walk around the grounds every morning. There was very little flowering on our travels except the camp did have some gums in flower. Something I hadn't thought about for this camp was the tide. Unfortunately, it was high tide during the day but mostly that only stopped us from seeing a few other birds that I saw at low tide.



Crested Shrike-tit
Steve Merritt

Friday, we headed south to Old Swan Bay Rd, Ferodale, Finnan Park, Raymond Terrace, Morpeth, up to Seaham and back to Twelve Mile Rest stop. Old Swan Bay Rd provided a Crested Shrike-tit, White-throated Gerygone (everywhere), Golden Whistler (everywhere), White-naped Honeyeater, White-throated Tree-creeper, Fan-tailed Cuckoo and Little Lorikeet flew across. Ferodale didn't deliver much. Finnan Park is at the bottom of Grahams-town Dam, the local water supply. It delivers a number of ducks & raptors throughout the year. We were able to see all three Grebes, Musk Duck, most of the Cormorants and White-faced & White-necked Heron. A few got the chance to see an Echidna walking across the park.

We stopped at the park under Seaham Road Bridge. The wind had picked up and the tide was high so the only bird of interest was the Red-rumped Parrots. Just up the road is Raymond Terrace Wetlands which houses the local Grey-headed Flying-fox colony. It also had 200+ White Ibis, 20+ Nankeen Night-Heron, Royal Spoonbill, Fairy Martin and Tree Martin. Lunch was at Morpeth Common only 12km away. It supplied 33

species including Sacred Kingfisher, Nankeen Kestrel, Australasian Pipit, more Nankeen Night-Heron and Yellow-billed Spoonbill. Driving up to Seaham Wetlands we saw another 32 species - another Yellow-billed Spoonbill, at least 4 different raptors and a glimpse of a Grey-crowned Babbler. Last stop was on Nine Mile Rd at the back of the Twelve Mile Rest stop. Whenever I have stopped there and the trees are in flower there have been a number of birds. Unfortunately, no flowering but we did pick up our first Rufous Whistler. For the first day the species count was 102!

On Saturday we headed north to Tea Gardens, Hawks Nest, Mungo Brush and Bombah Point. The newer area of Tea Gardens is built backing on to waterways. One of these spots seems to be a haven for waders. Apart from the 47 Royal Spoonbills, there were a few kangaroos in backyards and a fat eel a few feet long. Tea Gardens waterfront hosts a lot of waders. It also has a Flying-fox colony and right where you see them are two Whistling Kite nests 200 metres apart, both active. Thanks, Liz, for the heads up. It also had some Australian King-Parrot, Brown Honeyeater and White-headed Pigeon. We stopped at Hawks Nest Beach to try and find a Gannet for the list but only managed to take in the wonderful views and a Brown Goshawk. Morning tea at Winda Woppa gave us fleeting views of a Leaden Flycatcher and Shining Bronze-Cuckoo. We also added Sooty Oystercatcher and a Brahminy Kite. Although Mungo Brush is a site for some nice doves, nothing was heard or seen through the thick canopy. The Leaden Flycatcher, Regent Bowerbird, Yellow-throated Scrubwren and the Brown Cuckoo-Dove that I had seen only a few days prior didn't show their faces either. We did find a nice Green Tree Snake sunning itself but it didn't stick around for a photo. At the end of lunch, we were graced with two Green Catbirds. Boomeri Campground that had offered me a Sacred Kingfisher and Rufous Whistler a few days earlier also didn't give much on the day. A number of people had not been across Bombah Point Ferry before so were pleasantly surprised when they got to do so. It must be the shortest ferry trip in Australia. Most took the opportunity to buy an ice cream on the other side. Not far up the road is Korsmans Landing Campground. It was a bit busier and noisier than when I did the recon but it looks a nice place to camp. We had run out of time so my thoughts of going to Bulahdelah were cancelled. We still drove out that way which has bush and a number of dams with ducks and herons on them. Two months earlier I saw Black Swans with three cygnets in the middle of a field. We did flush a Common Bronzewing and others saw a Grey Goshawk.

Sunday, we started at Swan Bay for the morning. Connection Trail isn't far down Swan Bay Rd. It was a little treasure-trove giving us 33 species including Jacky Winter, Leaden Flycatcher, Rufous Whistler, Striated and Spotted Pardalote. Now it was time for the serious waders at the end of Swan Bay Road. Sooty & Pied Oystercatchers, Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey-tailed Tattler, Eastern Curlew, Sacred Kingfisher (presumed nesting), Osprey nesting, Australian King-Parrot and a Grey Fantail nesting. We dipped on the Whimbrel and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers I had seen. Morning tea was back at camp then north to Pindimar. The boardwalk had Sacred Kingfisher, Whistling Kite, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, White-throated Gerygone, Satin Bowerbird and a few others but nothing new. Pindimar beach had an active Osprey nest but high tide didn't allow for waders. Lunch was at the Lions Club Lookout, Monkey Jacket on Myall Way. The height of the hill allowed us to look out over the top of Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest. We got to watch a group of Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes chase each other and see a few raptors soar through the sky. We finished off at Longworth Park under Karuah Bridge.



The camp was done and dusted all too soon. Getting the convoy through the traffic on the first day was stressful but only ended up with one hiccup. I was a little concerned that we would mostly see waders and not many woodland type birds. I was very relieved when we ended up with birds across the board. So, after 30 sites we ended up with 132 species. There were a number of common birds but it was nice to see them in one place. Thanks to Jan and Margaret for being tail-end Charlie and to my driver Gabrielle for putting up with my dad jokes.

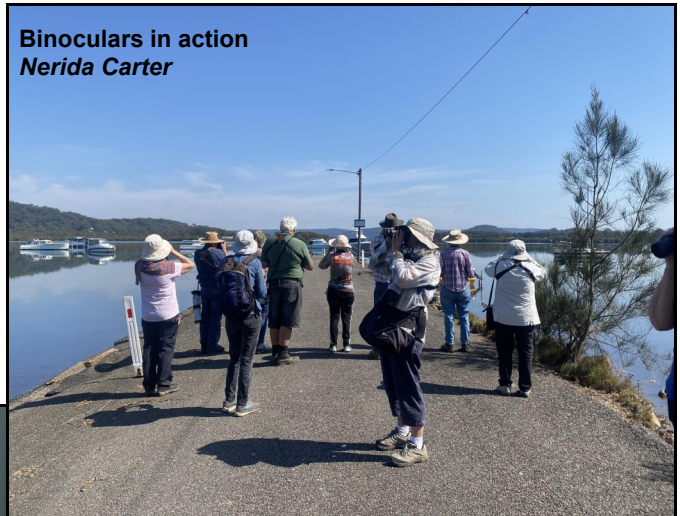
½ Day Outing: September 11 BENVILLE, EMPIRE BAY, AND BOUDDI NP Leader: Christina Port

The sun shone - a glorious spring day as 17 birders met at St Huberts Island, overlooking the beautiful Brisbane Water. We saw Pied, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants and a Great Egret fishing in front of us. Welcome Swallow, White-breasted Woodswallow and Australian Figbird were feeding in a mulberry bush. Once everyone had arrived, we headed down to our first spot in the mangroves where we had Brown Honeyeaters calling as well as Grey Butcherbird, Galah

and a Sacred Kingfisher calling in the distance. A walk down the lane onto the tidal flats had an Eastern Curlew feeding close in, with Little Egret, Caspian Terns and distant Crested Terns.

Our next stop was Palmers Lane, Bensville. Brown Gerygone were calling while Lewin's Honeyeater, Grey Fantail, Red Browed Finch, and many Superb Fairywrens were seen. Further down Golden and Rufous Whistlers, Brown and Yellow Thornbills and the call of Scarlet Honeyeater up high were added to our list. At the water's edge a Mangrove Gerygone called then left never to be seen or heard again; a Fan-tailed Cuckoo called constantly. A White-faced Heron with another Eastern Curlew were feeding on the mud flats. Just around the corner was Bensville Wharf and here we had Australasian Darter, Silver Gull and, in the distance, a pair of Pied Oystercatchers on a sand bar. Satin Bowerbird were seen and as we were leaving Scaly-breasted Lorikeets were heard calling.

Onto Empire Bay Tennis Courts for morning tea. We watched an attentive Noisy Miner parent feeding a young bird and Australian Wood Ducks were present. A local lady spotted us



Bush Stone-curlew
Leonie Loewe



and invited us down the road to see a Bush Stone-curlew. We then went into the mangroves at the back of the courts dodging baby Masked Lapwings hiding in the grass. The mangroves were quiet except for a pair of Olive backed Orioles and, back at the cars, a Striped Honeyeater was seen.

We drove to the Cockle Bay Walk and had great birds calling and seen including Grey Fantail, Spotted Pardalote, Grey Shrike-thrush, Eastern Yellow Robin, White-throated Treecreeper, White-cheeked Honeyeater and Varied Sitella.

Our last stop for the day was the Dingeldei Picnic Area in Bouddi National Park where we enjoyed lunch with great birds and company. Striated Thornbill, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, and a Pied Currawong were added to the list. Thanks everyone for a great morning.

SPECIES LIST

AUGUST 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
Hardhead	140 24/8/2024	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Brown Quail	2 3/8/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Tricia Sweet
Brown Quail	2 23/8/2024	Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	Peter de Jongh
Hoary-headed Grebe	5 10/8/2024	Kincumber Broadwater	Greg Shaw
Hoary-headed Grebe	4 24/8/2024	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Owlet-Nightjar	1 4/8/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Owlet-Nightjar	2 15/8/2024	Pelican Point Carpark, Wyrabalong NP	Archie Brennan
Pheasant Coucal	1 29/8/2024	Warnervale	Hitomi Ward
Pacific Koel *	2 27-29/8/24	Narara Oval	David Schuemaker
Pacific Koel *	1 29/8/2024	Noraville	Steve Bowman
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1 6/8/2024	Ourimbah Rest Area M1 Motorway	Deryk Engel
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1 26/8/2024	Berkeley Creek, Berkeley Vale	Felix Watson
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1 31/8/2024	Dubbo Gully	Judy Clark
Topknot Pigeon	2A+N 15/8/2024	Narara	Nerida Carter
Topknot Pigeon	2 30/8/2024	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Hitomi Ward

Buff-banded Rail	1	27/7/2024	Karignan Ck Trail, Chain Valley Bay	Graham Nelson
Buff-banded Rail	3	3-24/8/24	Ansell Point, Chittaway	Andrew Robinson
Lewin's Rail	2	6 & 31/8	Ourimbah Rest Area M1 Motorway	Chris Chapman
Little Button-quail	AF	31/8/2024	Lakedge Ave, Berkeley Vale nr Berkeley Ck	Elka Peet
Red-capped Plover	1	4/8/2024	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Red-capped Plover	2	9/8/2024	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Red-capped Plover	1	16/8/2024	Pelican Point, Norah Head	Nick Carson
Double-banded Plover	3	4/8/2024	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Double-banded Plover	1	6 & 16/8	off Pelican Point, Norah Head	Nick Carson
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	3/8/2024	Dairy Swamp, CCW Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	24/8/2024	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Banded Lapwing	2	30/8/2024	Mt Penang Parklands, Kariong	Andrew Robinson
Ruddy Turnstone	3	4/8/2024	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Red-necked Stint	7	4/8/2024	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Red-necked Stint	1	6/8/2024	off Pelican Point, Norah Head	Nick Carson
White-fronted Tern	1	3/8/2024	Karagi Point, The Entrance	Kerr Brad
Fluttering type Shearwater	500	6/8/2024	off The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
Fluttering type Shearwater	200	6/8/2024	off Pelican Point, Norah Head	Nick Carson
Fluttering type Shearwater	1000	16/8/2024	off Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Shearwater *	10	16/8/2024	off Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Black Bittern	1	3/8/2024	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Eastern Reef Heron	1	27/7/2024	Fraser Beach Munmorah SCA	Graham Nelson
Plumed Egret	1	16/8/2024	Cresthaven Wetlands	Nick Carson
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	4/8/2024	Tuggerawong Public School	Rachel Flett
Osprey	2A+N	14/8/2024	Gosford Stadium	Rob Montgomery
Osprey	1	24/8/2024	Chittaway Point West	Mike Kilburn
Osprey	2+N	August	in NI Pine behind usual site The Entrance	Graham Nelson
Pacific Baza	1	3/8/2024	Saratoga	Chris Chilton
Pacific Baza	1	11/8/2024	Point Frederick	Gary Jackson
Pacific Baza	1	23/8/2024	Chittaway Bay	Felix Watson
Black-shouldered Kite	1	2/8/2024	Doyalson	Andrew Robinson
Black-shouldered Kite	1	5/8/2024	Narara Eco Village	Peter Mortimer
Black-shouldered Kite	1	16-17/8/24	Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	Julie Peksis
Square-tailed Kite	1	1/8/2024	Wyong Rd, Berkeley Vale	Allan Benson
Square-tailed Kite	1	6/8/2024	Rumbalara Reserve, Gosford	Danny O'Brien
Square-tailed Kite	1	26/8/2024	Wybung Head, Munmorah SCA	Mel Stratton
Brahminy Kite	1	3/8/2024	Chittaway	Andrew Robinson
Brahminy Kite	1	18/8/2024	Budgewoi Lake Golf Course	Leeanne Lemke
Whistling Kite	2+N	29/8/2024	Patonga Beach	Gary Jackson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	28/7/2024	Ironbark Rd, Mangrove Mountain	Guy Dutson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	23/8/2024	Kincumber Mountain Reserve	Graham Nelson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	30/8/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Little Eagle (DM)	1	16/8/2024	Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	Andrew Robinson
Little Eagle	1	24/8/2024	Kincumber Mountain Reserve	Nerida Carter
Little Eagle	1	23/8/2024	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Peter de Jongh
Brown Goshawk	1	16/8/2024	Pelican Point Carpark	Nick Carson
Brown Goshawk	1	31/8/2024	Mt Penang Gardens, Kariong	Jason Brown
Brown Goshawk	1	31/8/2024	Ourimbah Rest Area M1 Motorway	David Schuemaker
Grey Goshawk	1	6/8/2024	Ourimbah Rest Area M1 Motorway	Chris Chapman
Grey Goshawk	1	30/8/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	9/8/2024	Cresthaven Wetlands	Nick Carson
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	11/8/2024	Davistown Boardwalk	James Brown
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	31/8/2024	Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Sooty Owl	1	10/8/2024	Narara Eco Village	Guy Dutson
Masked Owl	1	25/8/2024	Calga	Luca Canguro
Sooty Owl	RK	31/8/2024	M1 Motorway near Peats Ridge off-ramp	Allan Benson
Southern Boobook	1	11/8/2024	Maroney Rd, Mangrove Mountain	Logan Trass

Southern Boobook	1	30/8/2024	Karalta Rd, Erina	Bruce Ward-Smith
Southern Boobook	1	31/8/2024	Sunrise Ave, Budgewoi	Craig Marshall
Powerful Owl	1	1/8/2024	Walkers Ridge, Rd Bucketty	Archie Brennan
Powerful Owl	2A+2J	8-18/8/24	Rumbalara Reserve, Gosford	Nick Carson
Powerful Owl	HC	20/8/2024	0035 hrs Gilda Drive, Narara	Julie Peksis
Azure Kingfisher	1	3/8/2024	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Azure Kingfisher	2	25/8/2024	Wyong Creek at Dairy Factory	Ty Morgan
Rainbow Bee-eater *	6	31/8/2024	Magenta	Andrew Robinson
Australian Hobby	1	23/8/2024	Hawke Head Drive, Killcare	Frances Westwick
Nankeen Kestrel	1	2/8/2024	Doyalson	Andrew Robinson
Nankeen Kestrel	1	4/8/2024	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Nankeen Kestrel	1	4/8/2024	Pacific Highway, West Gosford	Gary Jackson
Australian Hobby	1	24/8/2024	The Entrance Rd, Long Jetty	Nick Carson
Brown Falcon	1	17/8/2024	South Tacoma	Helen Stynan
Peregrine Falcon	1	11/8/2024	Tony Doyle Tk, Brisbane Water NP	Tracey Wilson
Peregrine Falcon	1	24/8/2024	Gallipoli Ave, Woy Woy	Peter de Jongh
Superb Lyrebird	F+N	12/8/2024	Warrah Trig area, Brisbane Water NP	Ken Jansen
Superb Lyrebird	RK	31/8/2024	M1 Motorway near Peats Ridge off-ramp	Allan Benson
Noisy Pitta	2	24/8/2024	Upper Palmdale Road	Abbey Bhardwaj
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	23/7/2024	M2 Exit at Mardi/Tuggerah	Nick Carson
Glossy Black Cockatoo	3	11/8/2024	Rumbalara Reserve, Gosford	Ryan Douglas
Glossy Black Cockatoo	8	31/8/2024	Dubbo Gully	Noah Soderund
Gang Gang Cockatoo	6	31/8/2024	Cedar Brush Creek	Noah Soderlund
Little Lorikeet	2	14/8/2024	Mooney Mooney Creek	Doug Hocking
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	20	11/8/2024	Chain Valley Bay South	Andrew Robinson
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	2/8/2024	Davistown Boardwalk	Ken Jamieson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	5	28/7/2024	Ironbark Rd, Mangrove Mountain	Guy Dutson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	2	2/8/2024	Doyalson	Andrew Robinson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	2	24/8/2024	Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	Elaine Bennett
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	3	31/8/2024	Ourimbah RTA Reserve	David Schuemaker
Blue-faced Honeyeater	5	1-20/8/24	Rotherham St, Bateau Bay	Nick Carson
Blue-faced Honeyeater	3A+J	10/8/2024	Wyoming Oval	David Shuemaker
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	11/8/2024	Sandra Street Fire Trail, Jilliby	Nick Carson
Brown Honeyeater	3	11/8/2024	Davistown Boardwalk	James Brown
White-throated Gerygone *	2	24/8/2024	Blue Haven	Daniel McKeon
White-throated Gerygone *	1	31/8/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Buff-rumped Thornbill	3	11/8/2024	Sandra Street Fire Trail, Jilliby	Nick Carson
Rufous Whistler *	1	27/8/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Varied Sittella	4	28/7/2024	Ironbark Rd, Mangrove Mountain	Guy Dutson
Varied Sittella	6	4/8/2024	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Varied Sittella	4	29/8/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Varied Triller	AM	7 & 23/8	Ourimbah Rest Area M1 Motorway	Bruce Ward-Smith
Dusky Woodswallow *	2	26/8/2024	Mangrove Dam Lookout	Margaret Pointer
White-breast Woodswallow *	3	3/8/2024	Koolewong	Chris Palmer
White-breast Woodswallow *	8	25/8/2024	McPherson Rd, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Olive-backed Oriole *	1	11/8/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Olive-backed Oriole *	HC	29/8/2024	Copacabana and Hardys Bay	P. Neve/P. Scott
Pied Butcherbird	4	19/8/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain	Margaret Pointer
Jacky Winter	1	28/7/2024	Ironbark Rd, Mangrove Mountain	Guy Dutson
Jacky Winter	3	2/8/2024	Doyalson	Andrew Robinson
Jacky Winter	1	10/8/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Rose Robin	1	1/8/2024	Pearl Beach Arboretum	Peter Mortimer
Rose Robin	1	2/8/2024	Upper Palmdale	Nick Carson
Rose Robin	AM	30/8/2024	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Jenny Stiles
White-winged Chough	4	28/7/2024	Niclins Rd, Mangrove Mountain	Guy Dutson
White-winged Chough	6	2/8/2024	Dooralong	Christina Port

Spangled Drongo	1	8/8/2024	Nagari Rd, Woy Woy Tip	Darren Earnshaw
Spangled Drongo	1	16/8/2024	Pelican Point Carpark, Wyrabalong NP	Nick Carson
Spangled Drongo	1	30/8/2024	Pearl Beach Arboretum	Pat Neve
Australian Pipit	1	16-17/8/24	Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	Andrew Robinson
Australian Pipit	1	18/8/2024	Warnervale Airfield	Nick Carson
Fairy Martin *	12	2/8/2024	Doyalson	Andrew Robinson
Fairy Martin *	10	26/8/2024	Mangrove Dam Lookout	Kaye Pointer
Fairy Martin *	8	27/8/2024	Cresthaven Wetlands	Nick Carson
House Sparrow	8,4	2/8/2024	Cresthaven Shops & Big Flower Nursery	Nick Carson
Bassian Thrush	2A+2Y	3/8/2024	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Bassian Thrush	1	3 & 13/8/24	Upper Palmdale Road	M. Nanscarwen
Bassian Thrush	1	30/8/2024	Ourimbah RTA Reserve	Jenny Stiles
European Blackbird	1	22/8/2024	Mt Penang Gardens, Kariong	Walter Beyleveld

Breeding and other records - August

Black Swan: 2A+3 Y Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah 3/8 (TSw); **Chestnut Teal:** 2A+4Y Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah 3/8 (TSw); **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo:** 1 Upper Palmdale Rd 23/8 (PdJ), 1 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 23 & 29/8 (KPo), 3 Tuggerah Bay 31/8 (ARo); **Osprey:** 1 Copacabana 1/8, 1 The Entrance 5/8 (ARo), 1 Booker Bay 16/8 (GSh); **Black-shouldered Kite:** 1 Tuggerah 3/8 (ARo), 1 Hakone Rd Woongarah 18/8 (NCa), 1 Foresters Beach 19/8 (MBe) & Bonnal Rd Erina (NCa); **Square-tailed Kite:** 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 16-21/8 (JCa), Scenic Reserve 22/8 (NCa); **Wedge-tailed Eagle:** 1 x7 Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 1-23/8 (KPo); **Brown Goshawk:** 1 x6 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 10-28/8 (KPo); **Grey Goshawk:** 1 Mount Penang Gardens 7/9 (ARo); **Nankeen Kestrel:** 1 Tuggerah 3/8, 1 Magenta 31/8 (ARo); **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD M. Mtn 5/8 (KPo); **Glossy Black-Cockatoo:** 2 x3 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 2-10/8 (KPo), 10 Miandetta HSD Man. Mtn 13/8 (MRo), 2 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 24/8 (CCa), 5 Cedar Brush Creek 31/8 (NSo); **Blue-faced Honeyeater:** 1 Billabong St Woy Woy 29/8 (GSh); **Bassian Thrush:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD Man., Mtn 5/8 (MPo), 1 Narara Creek 28/8 (PdJ).

Good Birding!

TWITCH LIST August 2024

Graham Nelson	229	John Carpenter	183	Leonie Loewe	146
David Schuemaker	221	Kaye Pointer	176	Robyn Price	142
Allan Benson	214	Julie Peksis	168	Diana Hogan	141
Nick Carson	213	Chris Jamieson	167	Michael Scobie	132
Christina Port	201	Margaret Pointer	162	Frik Gautschi	132
Krystyna Lonergan	189	Doug Hocking	158	Judy Clark	120
Daniel McKeon	189	Rowena Wallace	151	Paul Shelley	118
Carole Carpenter	185	Gabrielle Rees	146		

Graham Nelson has maintained his solid lead but a dark horse has emerged in the form of David Schuemaker. It should make last few months very interesting.

BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD 2024

Allan Benson	265	Robyn Price	61	Doug Hocking	20
Graham Nelson	253	Frik Gautschi	38	David Schuemaker	20
Nick Carson	237	Guy Dutson	32	Michael Scobie	19
Alan Stuart	228	C Clutterbuck	26	Daniel McKeon	12
Leeanne Lemke	76	Meryl Newton	20	Leonie Loewe	9

For August 2024, 244 surveys were completed compared with 185 in 2023. YTD 2024, 2484 surveys were completed. This is a significant improvement on 2023 where 2179 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.

RESULTS 2ND SWIFT PARROT SURVEY 2024

Thank to everybody who made the effort to complete Swift Parrot Surveys in this period.

We did 125 surveys at 84 sites in 2024, compared with 93 surveys at 84 sites in 2023. So, a great result, Key sites were visited multiply times but unfortunately no Swift Parrots were found. The bottom line is nothing is flowering except Blackbutt at a couple of sites. With the wet weather the trees are putting their resources into new growth rather than flowering.

The contributors to the surveys were: Allan Benson (52), Nick Carson (15), Robyn Price (14), Graham Nelson (12), Nerida Carter ((10). Frances Westwick (7), Daniel McKeon ((6), Hitomi Ward (3), Nicki Hutley (2), Leonie Loewe (2) and Alan Morris, Gary Sanders, and Greg Shaw

SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

August Survey

Five observers found the ponds reasonably full but still almost no waterfowl. Only 50 odd grebes (Australasian and Hoary-headed) plus a handful of Pacific Black Duck and a single Musk Duck were found. However, 46 species were recorded with the highlights being 2 Black-fronted Dotterel, Reed-warbler, 2 Swamp Harriers, Whistling Kite and a Black-shouldered Kite.

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

WINTER WATERBIRD SURVEY - Brisbane Water KBA Tuesday 13th August 2024

Doug Hocking

The Winter Bird Survey was carried out on the above date. Weather conditions were light winds, overcast with some light drizzle. Temperature was around 17 degrees. There was an outgoing tide with reasonable areas of the intertidal zone exposed. There were some slight changes to the bird population. Pelican numbers were down approximately 100 birds, however, mating activity was high and young birds were observed in the colony. Approximately half the number of Little Pied Cormorants were seen. There were 11 over wintering Bar-tailed Godwits and 5 White-bellied Sea Eagles compared to 1 or 2 in previous years. Black Swan and Pacific Black Duck numbers were down, probably due to good season inland, however 4 Grey Teal were sighted, the first in the last 4 years of surveying. Whilst only 20 Little Black Cormorants were seen, Chris Port, Christina's husband sighted 1000 near Woy Woy and St Huberts Island, while fishing on the 14th August.

Observers were Christina Port, Michael Scobie and Doug Hocking. As usual it was a comfortable survey in Michael's Boat.

Survey Route – Paddys, Lintern, Cockle (Davistown) Channels, Bensville and St Huberts Island and Rileys Island Channel then Orange Grove and the Pelican Colony.

See result table on Page 11

OFFICIALS TO BOMB ALBATROSS-EATING MICE, SOLVE PROBLEM 'ONCE AND FOR ALL'

by Tom Howarth

In a bid to protect one of the world's most crucial seabird populations, conservationists have announced a bold plan to eradicate invasive mice from Marion Island, a remote South African territory located roughly 1,250 miles southeast of Cape Town. The island's unique ecosystem is under severe threat as an overpopulation of mice has begun preying on albatrosses and other seabirds, consuming their eggs and even attacking birds.

"The densities of mice have literally increased by about 500 percent over the last 30 years," Anton Wolfaardt, project manager of the Mouse-Free Marion project told *Newsweek*. "The seabirds have no evolutionary defence mechanism against this novel predator. And so, they literally just sit on their nests while night after night the mice nibble away at them, eventually causing them to become fatigued and die for a variety of reasons."



Among the island's avian residents is the Wandering Albatross, known for its impressive 11.5-foot wingspan—the largest of any bird in the world. About a quarter of the global population of this species nests on Marion Island, making the situation even more critical.

Gruesome evidence presented at a recent meeting of BirdLife South Africa included images of bloodied birds with severe injuries, some with flesh eaten away from their heads. If left unchecked, the attacks could contribute to the local extinction of 19 out of the 29 seabird species that breed on the island, according to the Mouse-free Project

The plan—a joint endeavour between the South African Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries and the environmental NGO BirdLife South Africa—is to deploy helicopters to drop 600 tons of pesticide-laced pellets across the island. The operation is estimated to cost around \$29 million, though only about a quarter of the necessary funds have been raised so far. Deploying hundreds of tons of poison onto a remote island is risky. There is a possibility that some birds may consume the poisoned mice, potentially coming to harm.

Despite this, Wolvaardt remains "confident of the ecological benefits," and says that steps have been taken to minimize unintended consequences. For instance, the toxin that will be used is not water-soluble, preventing it from contaminating the island's water sources. Additionally, the eradication mission is scheduled for winter, when the mice are most vulnerable, and many of the summer-breeding seabirds have left.

"Based on experience of previous operations, we know that the majority of mice—perhaps 85 to 90 percent—will die underground in their burrows, where they are obviously less accessible to scavenging birds," Wolvaardt said.

"There really is a massive ecological conservation imperative, and we'd suggest an ethical one as well." But carrying out the operation during the harsh sub-Antarctic winter poses significant challenges. "When you're dealing with strong winds and poor visibility, one has to account for that in your planning," Wolvaardt said.

WINTER SURVEY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Silver Gull	60	40	72	40	44
Australian Pelican	150	150	212	250	150
Little Pied Cormorant	44	40	51	130	65
Pied Cormorant	11	17	22	30	20
Little Black Cormorant	8	300	111	57	20
Australasian Darter	15	5	11	16	12
Great Egret	9	6	10	15	15
Little Egret	7	2	11	12	11
Royal Spoonbill	13	10	21	20	10
White-faced Heron	4	10	7	21	17
Nankeen Night Heron	1	2	0	0	0
Northern Mallard	23	25	65	83	52
Australian Wood Duck	1	0	0	4	2
Chestnut Teal	11	8	5	20	20
Caspian Tern	8	6	9	16	9
Crested Tern	2	2	0	3	0
Pied Oyster Catcher	8	5	9	16	19
Bar-tailed Godwit	12	10	0	4	11
Eastern Curlew	6	0	7	1	1
White-bellied Sea Eagle	2	1	2	1	5
Eastern Osprey	1	2	1	4	2
Masked Lapwing	1	1	12	6	9
Welcome Swallow	6	5	50	3	2
Australian Raven	1	2	18	4	8
Black Swan		2	2	87	45
Striated Heron		1	1	0	0
White Ibis		5	14	18	35
Black Pacific Duck			15	53	8
Brown Honeyeater			2	0	0
Rainbow Lorikeet			8	6	7
Australian Magpie			6	3	7
Magpie Lark			2	1	4
Kookaburra				1	0
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo				2	0
Great Cormorant				2	0
Hoary-headed Grebe				26	0
Little Corella				41	23
Black-winged Stilt				2	0
Grey Teal					4