



# The Twitcher

November  
2024

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Allan Benson (0457 458 274) Wendy Mitchell (0423 388 529) & Robyn Price      Volume 19, No. 11

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
26/11/24	<b>Next Meeting:</b> Australian Big Year 2022: A Record-Breaking Bird Photography Adventure  <b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	<b>Charuka Abhayawickrama</b>
30/11/24	<b>Outing:</b> Ash Island and Stockton Spit <b>REMEMBER TO REGISTER</b>  <b>Meet:</b> 8.30am Minmi Oval carpark, 84 Woodford Road, Minmi	<b>Daniel McKeon</b>  0407 076 118
14/12/24	<b>Xmas Outing</b> <b>REMEMBER TO REGISTER</b>  <b>Meet:</b> 7.30am John and Carole Carpenters, Cobbs Rd, Mardi Morning Tea at Pioneer Dairy	0490 045 361
29/01/25	<b>Next Meeting:</b> Members' Night  <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>Allan Benson / Michael Scobie</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:** Prepare to join an extraordinary journey across Australia's most stunning and remote landscapes with Charuka Abhayawickrama, the man behind the Australian Big Year 2022—a remarkable quest to photograph 772 bird species in just one calendar year, setting a new record! What began as a personal passion for birdwatching turned into a thrilling adventure that took Charuka to every corner of the Australian continent, including far-flung places like Macquarie Island, the Torres Strait, and Christmas Island. Through this engaging presentation, Charuka will share the story of his adventure - capturing the beauty of birds, overcoming challenges, and creating lasting memories along the way. In this presentation, you'll discover:

- The Start of the Journey: How Charuka's initial goal of photographing 600 birds grew into a year-long journey to photograph a record-breaking 772 species.
- Exploring Australia's Vast Wilderness: From the northern tip of the Torres Strait to Tasmania's southern reaches, and even to remote islands like Macquarie and Christmas, Charuka travelled across the country in pursuit of Australian birds.
- The Challenges and Victories: Learn about the obstacles Charuka encountered, including unpredictable weather and elusive birds, and how he persevered to complete his record-breaking journey.
- Building Connections Along the Way: Hear the heartwarming stories of strangers who became friends, as Charuka met fellow bird enthusiasts who helped guide him along the path to success.
- Lessons in Patience and Perseverance: Charuka's journey is a testament to the power of passion, dedication, and discipline - qualities essential not only to birding but to life itself.
- Setting a New Record: Relive the moment when Charuka's hard work paid off, as he broke the Australian record for the most birds photographed in a single year, a remarkable achievement celebrated across the birding community.

Whether you're a birding enthusiast, a wildlife photographer, or simply seeking inspiration, this presentation offers something for everyone. Don't miss the opportunity to hear Charuka's captivating story of chasing birds, discovering Australia, and achieving a once-in-a-lifetime goal.

**Last Month's Meeting:** 35 members attended our last meeting to hear Michael Scobie talk about his trip to the Gulf of Carpentaria staying at 7 Emu Station and the AWC property Pungalina. This was a very entertaining talk with Michael showing lots of photos of his trip. Michael managed some remarkable photographs with his pocket camera. This was definitely an adventure.

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

**Total Fire Ban Days and Outings:** Outings may be cancelled on days of total fire bans. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will depend on the planned birding site being accessible and the potential risk. This decision will be made by the leader. If the outing is cancelled it will be published on Central Coast Birders Facebook. If in doubt contact the outing leader.

### Central Coast Group, Birding NSW Photography Competition 2024

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

- There are three categories- Code 1 (common residents), Code 2 (uncommon residents) and Code 3 and 4 (Vagrants).
- Each photographer is allowed two entries in each category.
- Each photograph must be taken on the Central Coast in 2024. Please supply date and location with your entry.
- Closing date will be Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Send entries to Allan Benson [aejsbenson@bigpond.com](mailto:aejsbenson@bigpond.com)

Winners will be announced at the club meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025. All photos will be shown at this meeting.

The judge, as in past years, will be Dick Jenkin from HBOC.

The prizes this year will be Neville Cayley prints of your winning bird, framed by Daniel McKeon.

### VALE: BORIS BRANWHITE

Michael Price

Boris sadly passed away peacefully on 6<sup>th</sup> November after suffering from cancer. He was born in Albury in 1946 and with his two brothers was involved in orchid preservation. He discovered a number of new species on the Central Coast and worked tirelessly to protect their habitat.

Boris was always supportive of the Central Coast Bird club, contributing sighting reports, especially of Powerful Owl, and leading an outing at Wadalba before housing development there.

Boris worked closely with the Royal Botanic Gardens and the National Parks and Wildlife Service over the location, distribution and classification of the Ground Orchids in the Central Coast LGA, and worked hard on the conservation of the Spotted Gum/Forest Red Gum trees in and around Wadalba, particularly for the protection of Powerful Owl, Masked Owl and Sea-Eagle nesting sites. These same trees were important for the migrating Swift Parrots from Tasmania which, in autumn and winter, often fed on the nectar and lerps of these trees.



Boris Branwhite  
with Deb Raymont

We owe the presence of many local bushland areas to Boris' dedication and persistence in fighting for their preservation. His partner Debbie Raymont shared Boris' interest in environmental conservation and supported his work. Our condolences go to her and family.

## RETIREMENT PLANS

Carole Carpenter

Trevor and Margaret Waller are moving from their busy Sydney urban area to Bundaberg in spacious sunny Queensland. Trevor and Margaret have been members of Birding NSW for many years and will continue their membership in Queensland.

The Central Coast Group have had the pleasure of their company at our camps and outings, Trevor always being so ready to share his knowledge, identification and his scope. Trevor has been our guest speaker on several occasions where we were transported to many overseas countries that most of us could only dream about, with his great photos of birds and countries. Included would be photos of their accommodation and always a special picture of their bathroom.

Trevor and Margaret were with us on our recent outing to Pearl Beach & Patonga and wished to say thank you to all our club members for their friendship and support over the years. We wish them all the best with their move to Queensland.

## BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST

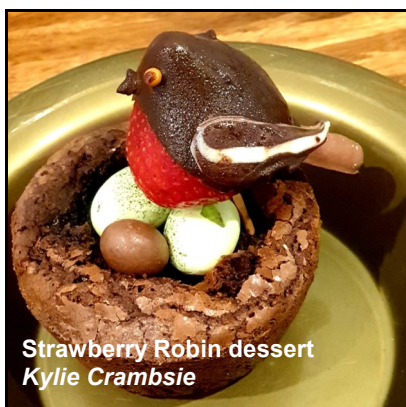
John Wallace celebrated his very significant milestone birthday on November 11<sup>th</sup> at The Waters Edge Café, The Entrance. A good crowd of 22 members turned up to help John celebrate. They all enjoyed the excellent food offered by the café along with great company.

It was good to see some faces we haven't seen for a while. Michael Scobie had a few words to say to mark the occasion discussing John's interest in rocks by bringing along a few samples. John described himself as a birdwatcher.



## CALLING ALL BIRD NERDS! YOU CAN HELP OUR NATIVE BIRDS WHILE HAVING A FUN NIGHT OUT! COMPETE FOR BIRD-THEMED PRIZES AND THE TITLE OF BIGGEST BIRD NERD AT AN AVIAN TRIVIA FUNDRAISING DINNER.

Proceeds go to BirdLife Australia to aid their work saving endangered species. Our first bird trivia night was a great success with everyone having a great time and together we raised \$832 for BirdLife Southern NSW to support their education and outreach work.



Form a team with your birding buddies or come alone and make new friends! For just \$35 you get to 3 course home-cooked dinner (vegan & non-vegan options), lots of chances to win birdy prizes in the trivia comp and games of luck, plus a take-home gift for all.

There will also be original bird art and prints donated by local artists for auction or sale.

**When:** Saturday 22nd Feb 2025, from 5pm (for socializing & nibbles) for 6pm start

**Where:** private home just north of Hornsby. Guest bedrooms are available for a few people.

**Contact** Kylie at [ky.anne@outlook.com](mailto:ky.anne@outlook.com) to put your name down. Places are limited!

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

The most interesting recent record was the White-chinned Petrel seen on the Terrigal Pelagic on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November. This was only the second record; the last was in 2014. An adult male Satin Flycatcher at Mangrove Mountain was a nice record. Satin Flycatchers are recorded every couple of years or so.

The Spectacled Monarch at Strickland State Forest is the first record for a while. The Red-browed Treecreeper at Watagan Forest Rd, Jiliby was a good record. Red-browed Treecreepers were semi-regular along Settlers Rd, Bucketty a few years back. A sighting at this low elevation is most unusual. There was a potential sighting of an Australian Painted-snipe at the Dairy but this could not be confirmed.

White-throated Needletails are late this year but sighting reports are coming in. It looks like there is a resident Little Eagle around Mangrove Mountain/Peats Ridge. There have been records of Rufous Songlark and White-winged Triller from a number of places.

Breeding is in full swing with lots of offspring being fed by parents.

December will bring more of the same.

Spectacled Monarch



## OUTING REPORTS

**Outing: October 18 - 20**

**HARRINGTON CAMP**

**Leader: Alan Morris**

The Central Coast Birders Camp at Harrington 18-20 October 2024 was a great success. The 24 campers saw 173 species of birds which we believe is the highest number species seen on any of the Club's three-day camps. The previous record being a camp led by Graham Catt in October 2016, also to Harrington when 164 species were seen. The Club started running four, 3-day camps a year to contribute records from Regional NSW to the Birdlife Australian 2<sup>nd</sup> Bird Atlas 1998-2002 and once the Atlas was completed, we then provided our data to the Continuing Atlas now called Birddata . All the sightings go into eBird as well. During this camp, we also contributed to the Great Aussie Bird Count each day. Unfortunately, ill health prevented Graham Catt from returning to this Camp, however a tradition was maintained in that Graham's son Chris, and daughter, Lindy Frost joined the Camp and provided valuable input on locations to visit and local information. Twelve members who attended the 2016 Camp were also present at the 2024 Camp! While it rained overnight each night of the Camp, and two out of three mornings were overcast and a shower or two fell, the rain did not greatly impact on the camp. The visit to the Harrington rainforest, however, was drizzly and a bit wet, so that the birds were very quiet and the leeches were active!

The campsite at Harrington backs onto the Harrington rainforest and the Manning River estuary so that the camp was ideal for birding and therefore we spent the first morning exploring the rainforest reserve and the estuarine bays near the Harrington Breakwall and Marine Rescue Centre. Highlights here were the abundance of Leaden Flycatchers, which remained true for the whole camp, as wherever we went, we saw or heard them! Two Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves were calling in the Reserve and several birders had fleeting views. As well, Varied Triller, Shrike-tit, Spectacled Monarch and Rufous Fantail were seen. We took morning tea at the Harrington Marine Rescue Centre and checked out the waders at the Breakwall. The best birds here were a pair of Pied Oystercatchers with two chicks, 4 Sanderling, 1 Greater and 1 Siberian Sand Plovers, 4 Red-necked Stint, a Great Knot and 4 Australian Gull-billed Tern, with many Crested and Little Terns. We spent the rest of the morning at Crowdy Heads, where the Humpback Whales put on a great display and a few Short-tailed and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were present with them. A Black-shouldered Kite, a Little Friarbird, and a pair of Sooty Oystercatchers with one chick and a Pipit were the remaining highlights!

During the afternoon we visited the Coopernook Road wetlands where Graham Nelson managed to photograph a Bailon's Crake and a few people had fleeting views of it. Also present were 7 Pacific Golden Plover, Striped Honeyeater, Pacific Heron, Little Grassbird, Reed Warbler, Cattle Egret, Sacred Kingfisher and a Rufous Whistler, in all 34 species here! Afterwards we finished up at Cattai Wetlands, where Jacana, Sittella, Black-faced Monarch, White-throated & Brown Gerygone, Regent Bowerbird, Brush & Fan-tailed Cuckoos and 30 other species were seen and or heard. By the end of the day, we had recorded 131 species, which was a great effort.

On Saturday Doug Hocking corralled the troops up to the Rotary Park at Kew from where we started the day birding the Camden Haven area. At the Carpark there was a Pheasant Coucal and Channel-billed Cuckoos were calling. Our first stop for the day was Stingray Point, part of Henry Kendall Reserve at Laurieton. Highlights here were a pair of White-bellied Sea-Eagles near their nest and they subsequently put on a calling display. Also here was a pair of Noisy Friar-



birds attending a nest, a Striated Heron was present on the oyster leases with Cormorants and Darters, Leaden Flycatchers, White-throated Gerygone and Sacred Kingfishers. At another site within this Reserve, we saw Ospreys, Brahminy Kite, two Bazas and another Sea-Eagle, Scarlet Honeyeaters Rufous Fantail and Cicadabird. All up 33 species for the Reserves. We moved then to the Dunbogan Rotary Park for lunch with views over the Camden Haven River and the water entry into Gogley's Lagoon. Special birds here were more Osprey, Brahminy Kite, White-breasted Woodswallow and Wood Ducks with ducklings. We moved onto Pilot Beach, and after checking out Wash-house Beach where we found a pair of Red-backed Fairy Wren which put on a great display. We then saw Brown Goshawk, White-cheeked Honeyeaters and a flock of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos.



Harrington Camp Birders  
Alan Morris

We lunched at this reserve where there are excellent picnic facilities. The afternoon was then spent at the northern entry to Crowdy Bay National Park, at South Dunbogan. There were no new birds for the list here but great views of Brush Cuckoo, Golden & Rufous Whistlers, Leaden Flycatchers and Black-faced Monarch. We returned early to get ready for the Camp dinner at the Harrington Bay Hotel, prior to which we did the bird count in the caravan park where it was found we saw 109 species for the day, bringing our total to 149.

Our final day was spent in the Manning Valley, starting first at Wingham Brush rainforest, where the Flying Foxes noise and smell was overpowering. However, we managed to see plenty of brilliantly coloured Brush Turkeys maintaining their mounds, White-headed and Topknot Pigeons, all three Scrub-wrens, Rufous & Grey Fantail and an Azure Kingfisher. There was only one Russet-tailed Thrush but everyone obtained great views. All up 28 species. We took morning tea here before heading to Bootawa Dam (Taree's water supply dam). Highlights here were Wedge-tailed Eagle, 3 Hoary-headed & 12 Great Crested Grebes, Wonga Pigeon, Hardheads and a White-winged Triller was calling. From here we found our way through Tinonee, Old Bar and then onto Saltwater NP, Wallabi Point, where we had lunch. Our lunch was interrupted by the many Regent and Satin Bowerbirds, Koel, Lewin's Honeyeater, Varied Triller and Figbird feeding on a fruiting tree in the Picnic Area.



Russet-tailed Thrush  
Jan Mohandas

On the lagoon there were Red-capped Plover, Red-necked Stints, a Pacific Golden Plover and Pied Oystercatcher. Finally, we moved onto Mud Bishops Point. Unfortunately, it was high tide at Farquhar Inlet so there were few birds to see there but, in the Reserve, there was a Tawny Frogmouth on a nest, Scaly-breasted Lorikeets at a nest hole, a pair of Brown-headed Honeyeaters feeding a fledgling and more Rufous Fantails. We finished the day with 128 species, making the grand total of 173 species for the trip. I would like to thank all those people who assisted me in running and managing the Camp, especially Doug Hocking, and club president Michael Scobie, so making the Camp a great success.

**Outing: October 26**

**PEARL BEACH AND PATONGA**

**Leader: Daniel McKeon**

A beautiful spring day greeted twenty-four keen birders at the Pearl Beach Arboretum. All were eager to see some interesting birds and have a good chat and enjoy the lovely day.

A walk around the tracks of the arboretum showed the usual suspects with a few highlights being a displaying pair of Satin Bowerbirds, a calling Superb Lyrebird and a distant calling Wonga Pigeon. The hopes for a Glossy Black-Cockatoo sighting were dashed but Pied Currawong and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo kept everyone entertained.

At morning tea most members of our group wandered down the road to where a local had given us a tip that a pair of Tawny Frogmouths were nesting and had young. Back at the park where morning tea was underway a Pacific Baza hunting in the trees on the other side of the oval got everyone excited. Brief glimpses were all we could achieve but there was enough for a definitive ID. A new year bird for most and a lifer for some. Channel-billed Cuckoo and Musk Lorikeet fly-overs made for an eventful break.

Our next stop was up to Warrah Trig. The road had been closed for months so the hopes of getting in were not high. However, Graham did a drive by first thing in the morning and let us know it was open, so we worked it in. The walk to the lookout produced White-eared Honeyeater but not a lot else. The lookout itself was very quiet, a few distant Cormorants and an even more distant White-bellied Sea-Eagle were about all. A lone Rockwarbler was heard by one group member but unfortunately it was never sighted.



We headed down the hill to Patonga and stopped for some lunch. Some Mallard type ducks joined us and a teenage-looking bedraggled Masked Lapwing also kept us company. A fly-over by a Whistling Kite helped bump up our bird list. We headed to the creek to begin our last walk of the day. An odd sight welcomed us as we saw a small group of Cattle Egret happily standing amongst the mud and mangroves on the opposite bank, chasing Sea Cows perhaps?

Pied, Little Pied, Black and Great Cormorants were all present on the oyster leases. An Australasian Darter was happily ducking and diving about in front. We began our walk and came across a juvenile Lace Monitor looking like the birds in the tree may be on the menu. Not much farther up the creek we found an even younger Lace Monitor harassing the local Sulphur-crested Cockatoo population, but the Cockies were giving as good as they got.

A Striated Heron landed on a boat and gave excellent views as it tried out its sea legs. An Eastern Koel had us playing Where's Wally in a pine tree as it loudly called away.

As a White-bellied Sea-Eagle tempted all the photographers by looking like it was going to do a close fly by down the creek before turning and heading the opposite way we called an end to the outing.

A great day was had by all even if the birding was a bit slow. Seventy species were seen and heard. Thank you to all who came along and thank you to all who helped organise the day. See you all again next year.

### **½ Day Outing: November 13**

### **COASTAL LAKES AND LAGOONS**

**Leader: Frik Gautschi**

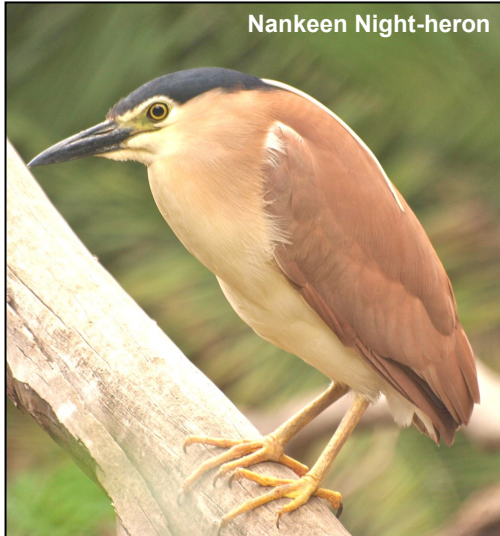
15 birders defied the bleak weather forecast, meeting up at Remembrance Rd, Wamberal, on an overcast but windless day. At least 50 mm rain had fallen in the area the previous day and overnight and was duly telling in both a full lagoon and the drenched surrounding terrain.

Wamberal Lagoon was at its quietest, on top of which the water level prevented us from reaching the edge for a proper view. Other than a few cormorants, Chestnut Teals and Mallard-Black Duck hybrids, there was nothing noteworthy - just Welcome Swallow and Silver Gull. The situation improved when White-throated Needletails were spotted high above us, albeit in limited numbers. Once we reached the open field at Wairakei Road Playground, a lone White Ibis and little flock of Wood Ducks made for easy spotting, but we had to count on calls alone from within the surrounding sodden bushland to add other species, notably an Eastern Yellow Robin, White-browed Scrubwren and a Satin Bowerbird. A solitary Topknot Pigeon flying overhead was another exception, bringing our subtotal here to 29 species.

Next stop was Terrigal Lagoon where the forest was again waterlogged and the path near the road not much better. A hatch of noisy cicadas added to our woes, but we couldn't miss a pair of Channel-billed Cuckoos moving around lazily in the tall casuarinas, perhaps searching for a host's nest? Only 19 species here, decidedly down from 29 species last year. Morning tea was in the park opposite Terrigal Scout Hall.



We then headed to Avoca Beach, having a quick look for the Nankeen Night-herons in the picnic area at Heazlett Park (which were easily spotted), before car-pooling off to Copacabana, hoping to see a Peregrine Falcon before the rain set in. After anxiously scanning the cliff above Winney Bay from Captain Cook Lookout for twenty minutes, we had to settle for the ever-present Welcome Swallows, rather vocal Grey Butcherbirds somewhere close – we heard them at all our stops - and steadily increasing rain droplets.



We returned to Avoca Beach and settled down for an early lunch under the large Ficuses on the edge of Bulbararing Lagoon. Four Nankeen Night-heron were ultimately counted in the high canopy above our lunching patch. There were a few Little Corellas foraging on the playing field to add to a Figbird and Oriole calling, lots of Noisy Miners, an unseen Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Lorikeets and two Kookaburras which made regular feeding visits to their nesting hollow in a tall Blackbutt. It wasn't hard to see that cicadas were on the menu! The rain mercifully held off.

19 species over lunch, up from 10 last year.

The total count for the day was 51 species, comparable with 52 last year, and not bad given how quiet some areas appeared. (Bird-of-the-day had to be the Nankeen Night-herons.) Contact the leader for a full list of species seen/heard. Thank you to all the attendees for your contributions, great company, and kind comments on Facebook.

## SPECIES LIST

OCTOBER 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	9	5-6/10/24 Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Andrew Robinson
Musk Duck	1	19/10/2024 Colongra Lake	Andrew Robinson
Australasian Shoveler	1	12/10/2024 Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Hoary-headed Grebe	8	7-12/10/24 Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
White-throated Nightjar	1	19/10/2024 former Wyong LGA	Andrew Robinson
Tawny Frogmouth	2A+1Y	30/10/2024 Doyalson North	Meryl Newton
Owlet-Nightjar	1	6-31/10/24 Borrisbrook Rd, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
White-throated Needletail *	2	5/10/2024 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
White-throated Needletail	20	23/10/2024 Maidens Brush Rd, Wyoming	Jason Brown
White-throated Needletail	4,3	27 & 28/10 Wye	Leonie Loewe
White-throated Needletail	1	29/10/2024 Norah Head	Graham Nelson
Pheasant Coucal	1	3/9 & 9/10 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain	Margaret Pointer
Pheasant Coucal	2	17/10/2024 Doyalson North	Meryl Newton
Pheasant Coucal	1	18-19/10/24 Wye	Leonie Loewe
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	18/9/2024 Jilliby	John Carpenter
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	5/10/2024 Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	Andrew Robinson
Channel-billed Cuckoo	4	12/10/2024 John Whiteway Drive, Gosford	Elaine Elliott
Pacific Koel *	1	5/9/2024 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Brush Cuckoo *	1	5/10/2024 Tuggerah Nature Reserve, South Tacoma	Andrew Robinson
Brush Cuckoo *	1	11/10/2024 Forest of Tranquility, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Brush Cuckoo	1	12/10/2024 Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	11-12/9/24 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	5/10/2024 Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Julie Peksis
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	12/10/2024 Katandra Reserve, Holgate	Rick Worthy
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	1/10/2024 Magenta Shores	Kylie Wilson
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	14/10/2024 Pelican Point, Carpark, Wyrabalong NP	Mel Stratton
Common Bronzewing	2	26/10/2024 Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Michael Tyriss
Peaceful Dove	5	1-9 -31/10 x6 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Peaceful Dove	2	5/10/2024 Wye	Leonie Loewe
Peaceful Dove	2	4/10/2024 Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson

Pacific Emerald Dove	1	25/10/2024	The Orchards, Lisarow	Allan Benson
Bar-shouldered Dove	2+J	23/9/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Bar-shouldered Dove	2	23/10/2024	Yarramalong	John Davis
Topknot Pigeon	2	1/10/2024	Strickland SF, Narara	Paul Fuller
Buff-banded Rail	2	13/10/2024	Ansells Pt, Chittaway	Andrew Robinson
Buff-banded Rail	1	15-23/10/24	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Peter Brown
Buff-banded Rail	2	19/10/2024	Colongra Lake	Andrew Robinson
Black-tailed Native-Hen	1	6-7/10/24	Dickson Rd, Jilliby	Ann Lindsey
Spotless Crake	1	3-12/10/24	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Mel Stratton
Baillon's Crake	1	28/10/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Painted Button-quail	AF	1-5/10/24	garden, Mount White	Sue Watts
Painted Button-quail	1	19/10/2024	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Painted Button-quail	AM	28/10/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Bush Stone-curlew	2,2Y	18/9/2024	2 chicks Nautical Village (but disappeared)	Doug Hocking
Bush Stone-curlew	N2E	23/10/2024	re-nested Nautical Village 10 days before	Doug Hocking
Bush Stone-curlew	2	22/10/2024	Davistown Boardwalk	Christina Port
White-headed Stilt	38	6-12/10/24	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Black-fronted Dotterel	4	7 & 12/10	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	7/10/2024	Jilliby	Andrew Robinson
Pacific Golden Plover	1	13/10/2024	Chittaway	Andrew Robinson
Pacific Golden Plover	2	19/10/2024	Soldiers Point	Andrew Robinson
Ruddy Turnstone	4	29/9-12/10	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Ruddy Turnstone	16	19/10/2024	Soldiers Point	Andrew Robinson
Latham's Snipe	6	3-25/10/24	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Meryl Newton
Bar-tailed Godwit	61	8-16/10/24	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Bar-tailed Godwit	13	13/10/2024	58 on 26/10, Chittaway Point West	Andrew Robinson
Bar-tailed Godwit	105	25/10/2024	combined Tuggerah Lake total	Andrew Robinson
Whimbrel	1	9/10/2024	Brisbane water	Andrew Robinson
Eastern Curlew	2	30/10/2024	St Huberts Island	Laurie Smith
Red Knot *	1	6/10/2024	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Marina Fascianelli
Red Knot *	10	8-19/10/24	19 on 24/10, The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Red Knot *	1	9-27/10/24	24 on 27/10, Chittaway Point West	Andrew Robinson
Curlew Sandpiper	3	9/10/2024	Chittaway Point West	Andrew Robinson
Curlew Sandpiper	1	19/10/2024	Soldiers Point Reefs	Andrew Robinson
Curlew Sandpiper	1	24/10/2024	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	6	27/9-19/10	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	38	7-25/10/24	Chittaway Point West	Andrew Robinson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	12	21/10/2024	Ansells Point, Chittaway	David Schuemaker
Red-necked Stint	3	8-23/10/24	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Red-necked Stint	58	16/10/2024	Blue Bay Reefs	Nick Carson
Red-necked Stint	60	19/10/2024	Soldiers Point	Andrew Robinson
Wood Sandpiper	1	5-25/10/24	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Grey-tailed Tattler	2	12/10/2024	Soldiers Point	Leeanne Lemke
Kelp Gull	1m	11/10/2024	Norah Head (9 <sup>th</sup> CC record)	Andrew Robinson
Caspian Tern	35	16/10/2024	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Caspian Tern	1	19/10/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Australian (Gull-billed) Tern	1	13-14/10/24	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Whiskered Tern	25	6-7/10/24	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Tom Wilson
Whiskered Tern	1	7/10/2024	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Little Tern *	32	8-12/10/24	Soldiers Point/Beach	Andrew Robinson
Little Tern *	70	10-13/10/24	Karagi Point, The Entrance (200 by 23/10)	Andrew Robinson
Little Tern *	70	15/10/2024	Terilbah Island, The Entrance	Graham Nelson
Sooty Tern	3	12/10/2024	Soldiers Point	Leeanne Lemke
Black-browed Albatross	3+	12/10/2024	Lakes Beach, Budgewoi	Leeanne Lemke
White-capped Albatross	1+	12/10/2024	Lakes Beach, Budgewoi	Leeanne Lemke
Short-tailed Shearwater	500 p.min	2/10/2024	passing Norah Head heading southwards	Andrew Robinson
Grey-faced Petrel	2	27/9/2024	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson



Australasian Gannet	100+	2/10/2024	Shelley Beach, Bateau Bay	Sye Watts
Great Cormorant	380	19/10/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Eastern Reef Egret	1	27/10/2024	Norah Head Reefs	Daniel McKeon
Osprey	2	15/10/2024	on nest at Mingara Tower	Graham Nelson
Osprey	N+Y	19-23/10/24	Gosford Stadium	Gary Jackson
Osprey	2+N+Y	31/10/2024	Woy Woy CBD	Therese Elsey
Pacific Baza	2	29/9/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Pacific Baza	2	3/10/2024	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Pacific Baza	1	7/10/2024	Terrigal	Kylie Wilson
Black-shouldered Kite	1	4/10/2024	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Black-shouldered Kite	1	5/10/2024	Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	Andrew Robinson
Black-shouldered Kite	1	19/10/2024	Colongra Lake	Andrew Robinson
Square-tailed Kite	1	5/10/2024	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Square-tailed Kite	2	5/10/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Square-tailed Kite	1	6/10/2024	Terrigal	Kylie Wilson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	2/9 -31/10	x22 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	5/10/2024	Wattletree Rd, Holgate	Eileen Davy
Little Eagle	1	14/9/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Little Eagle	1	21/10/2024	Peats Ridge Public School	Kaye Pointer
Brown Goshawk	2+N	3-9/9-31/10	x20 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Brown Goshawk	1	6/10/2024	Terrigal	Kylie Wilson
White Goshawk	1	4/10/2024	Lemontree private property	per J Carpenter
Grey Goshawk	1	2/9/-31/10	x12 Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Grey Goshawk	1	5/10/2024	Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	Andrew Robinson
Grey Goshawk	1	18/10/2024	Werepi St, Lakes Beach	Leeanne Lemke
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	12/10/2024	Strickland SF Arboretum, Narara	Julie Peksis
Azure Kingfisher	1	12/10/2024	Strickland SF, Narara	Julie Peksis
Azure Kingfisher	1	23/10/2024	Wyong Milk Factory	Laurie Smith
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	7-30/9/24	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	3/10/2024	Bulls Quarry, Brisbane water NP	Ken Jenson
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	17/10/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Rainbow Bee-eater	6	7-9/10/2024	Pelican Pt Carpark, Wyrabalong NP	Mel Stratton
Rainbow Bee-eater	4	23/10/2024	Yarramalong	Laurie Smith
Rainbow Bee-eater	6	25/10/2024	Magenta Beach Dunes	Neryl Richards
Dollarbird *	1	2/10/2024	10 on 5/10, Tathra Taila HSD, Man. Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Dollarbird*	1	10/10/2024	Terrigal	Kylie Wilson
Dollarbird *	2	12/10/2024	Lakes Beach Track, Budgewoi	Leeanne Lemke
Nankeen Kestrel	1	15/10/2024	Mingara Comms. Tower	Graham Nelson
Nankeen Kestrel	1	27/10/2024	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Brown Falcon	2	2/9, 6-11/10	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Australian Hobby	1	4/10/2024	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Australian Hobby	1	6/10/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Australian Hobby	1	16-19/10/24	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Peregrine Falcon	2	4/10/2024	Captain Cook Lkt, Copacobana	Nerida Carter
Peregrine Falcon	1	5/10/2024	Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	Andrew Robinson
Peregrine Falcon	1	29/10/2024	chasing Rock Pigeons, Gosford CBD	David Schuemaker
Masked Owl	1	19/10/2024	Northern Wyong area	Andrew Robinson
Southern Boobook	HC	10/9/2024	2335 hrs Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Southern Boobook	HC	15 & 17/10	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Southern Boobook	14	19/10/2024	Seen & head, former Wyong LGA	Andrew Robinson
Powerful Owl	HC	17/10/2024	2220 hrs Noraville	Michael Price
Powerful Owl	1	26/10/2024	Bouddi NP	Andrew Robinson
Yellow-tailed Bl. Cockatoo	22	5/10/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Glossy Black Cockatoo	4	3-8/10/24	Somersby	Caroline Pankhurst
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2A+J	15/10/2024	Wildwoods, Kincumber	Diane Warman
Glossy Black Cockatoo	5	21/10/2024	Glenworth Valley, Peats Ridge	Elaine Elliott
Gang Gang Cockatoo	20	1/9/2024	Mangrove Mountain Hall	Louise Salter

Gang Gang Cockatoo	5	28/10/2024	Bucketty	Allan Benson
Little Lorikeet	4	10/10/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Noisy Pitta	2	1-19/10/24	Strickland SF, Narara	Paul Fuller
Noisy Pitta	2	23/10/2024	Upper Palmdale	Rick Worthy
Superb Lyrebird	2	5/10/2024	Strickland SF, Narara	Michael Tyris
Red-browed Treecreeper	2	20/10/2024	Watagan Forest Road, Jilliby	Andrew Robinson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	4	4/10/2024	Yengo NP, Bucketty	Andrew Robinson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	2A+J	24/9/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
<b>Regent Honeyeater</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10/10/2024</b>	<b>near Rumbalara Reserve, North Gosford</b>	<b>per Elaine Elliott</b>
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	23/10/2024	Point Clare	David Lamont
White-throated Gerygone *	6	18/9/2024	Jilliby, Dooralong & Lemongrove	Carole Carpenter
White-throated Gerygone	2	4/10/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
White-throated Gerygone	2	7/10/2024	Jilliby	Andrew Robinson
Mangrove Gerygone	2	3/10/2024	Brickworks Rd, Woy Woy	Greg Shaw
Mangrove Gerygone	1	3/10/2024	Carawah Reserve, West Gosford	Kim Farley
Mangrove Gerygone	2	28/10/2024	Bateau Bay Mangroves	Nick Carson
Varied Sittella	2+N	10/9/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Varied Triller	3	27/10/2024	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Crested Shrike-tit	2	6/10/2024	Strickland SF, Narara	Andrew Robinson
Crested Shrike-tit	2	16/9, 4/10	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Rufous Whistler	2	6/10/2024	Somersby	TC Nguyen
Cicadabird *	1	1/10/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Cicadabird *	2	4/10/2024	Yengo NP, Bucketty	Andrew Robinson
Cicadabird *	AF	11/10/2024	Yengo NP, Bucketty	Jan Mohandas
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2	4/10/2024	Yengo NP, Bucketty	Andrew Robinson
White-winged Triller	AF	5/-8/10/24	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Maria Stokes
White-winged Triller	1	9/10/2024	Dooralong Hall	Gabrielle Reeves
Dusky Woodswallow *	4	4/10/2024	Yengo NP, Bucketty	Andrew Robinson
Black-faced Monarch *	1	7/9/2024	3 on 15/10, Tathra Taila HSD, Man. Mtn.	Kaye Pointer
Black-faced Monarch *	1	16/9/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Black-faced Monarch	1	9/10/2024	Upper Palmdale Road	Bruce Ward-Smith
Spectacled Monarch *	1	7/10/2024	Strickland SF, Narara	Andrew Robinson
Leaden Flycatcher *	1	13/9/2024	Spencer	Kaye Pointer
Leaden Flycatcher *	M,2F	24/9/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Leaden Flycatcher	2	20/10/2024	Wyrabalalong NP	Michael Tyris
Satin Flycatcher	AM	12/10/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Rufous Fantail *	1	16/9/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Rose Robin	1	16/9/2024	Palmgrove NR, Palm Grove	Carole Carpenter
Rose Robin	AM	1/10/2024	Strickland SF, Narara	Paul Fuller
Rose Robin	1	10/10/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
White-winged Chough	4	4/10/2024	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
White-winged Chough	4	9/10/2024	Lemontree private property	John Carpenter
Rufous Songlark	1	5/10/2024	Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	Andrew Robinson
Rufous Songlark	2	20/10/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Rufous Songlark	1	27/10/2024	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Little Grassbird	2	19/10/2024	Colongra Lake	Andrew Robinson
Double-barred Finch	6	5/10/2024	San Remo	Meryl Newton
Mistletoebird	2	4/10/2024	San Remo	Meryl Newton
Bassian Thrush	1	7-20/9/24	x3 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
European Blackbird	2	25/10/2024	The Orchards Village, Lisarow	Allan Benson

#### Breeding and other records October 2024

**Tawny Frogmouth:** 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 28/10 (JCa), A+N Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 3-9/10 (KPo); **Channel-billed Cuckoo:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 9 & 19/9 (MPo); **Brush Cuckoo:** 1 Tuggerah NR 25/10 (ARo); **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo:** 1 Ourimbah Ck RTA Res & 1 Magenta Shores 24/10 (TEI, NRi); 24/10 **Wonga Pigeon:** A+N Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 11/9 (KPo); **Bush Stone-curlew:** 1 Henderson Rd Saratoga 2/10 (JHo), 2 HC Saratoga

Oval on 10/9 (per DHo), 2 Kincumber Cres Davistown 1/10 (DHo), HC Cockle Channel, Empire Bay 10/10 (per DHo); **Masked Lapwing:** 2A+4 chicks 5/5 (MSt); **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** 16 Colongra Swamp NR 19/10 (GDu), 1 Soldiers Pt 19/10 (ARo); **Red Knot:** 1 Soldiers Pt Reefs 19 /10 (ARo); **Red-necked Stint:** 4 Chittaway Pt west 25/10 (ARo); **Little Tern:** 3 Picnic Pt The Entrance 28/10 (RMo); **Osprey:** 2 Colongra Lake 19/10 (Aro), 1 Wyong River 30/10 (RGa); **Pacific Baza:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 9/9 (KPo), 1 Mangrove Mountain 4/10 (ARo), 2 Erina Heights 29/10 (DEa); **Square-tailed Kite:** 1 Gosford CBD 18/10 (GJa). **Brown Goshawk:** A+N Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 14, 19-24/9 (KPo); **Grey Goshawk :** A+Nest in top of pine Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 30/9, 1-31/10 (MPo), 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 22 & 28/10 (CCa), 1 Mt Penang Gardens 10/11 (ARo); **Laughing Kookaburra:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 18/9 (MPo); **Dollarbird:** 1 Mangrove Mtn 4/10 (ARo); **Australian Hobby:** 1 Mt Penang Gardens 12/10 (ARo), 1 Ourimbah Ck Rd Ourimbah 20/10 (DEa); **Peregrine Falcon:** 1 takes a Little Wattlebird Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 16/10 (KPo), 1 Central Coast Wetlands 19/10 (ARo); **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn 8-10/9, 14/9, 3/10, 4/10, 7/10, 12/10 (KPo); **Glossy Black Cockatoo:** 2A+J Murrumbung HSD Mardi 17 & 24/10 (JCa), 2 Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 24 & 31/10 (MPo); **Variegated Fairy-wren:** 3A+2J Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 25/10 (KPo); **Scarlet Honeyeater:** 2A+N Mangrove Mtn (19/10 (SDo); **Eastern Spinebill:** A+N Henry Kendall Gardens 14/10 (RMo); Brown-headed Honeyeater: 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 8/10 (KPo); **Brown Gerygone:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 6/9 (KPo); **Brown Thornbill:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 15/9 (KPo); **Striated Thornbill:** A+3J Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 3-16/10 (KPo); **Yellow-throated Scrub-wren:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 22/9, 4/10 (KPo); **Varied Sittella:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 1-20/9 (KPo); **Grey Shrike-thrush:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 30/9, 8/10 (KPo); **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 5-26/10 (KPo); **Grey Fantail:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 30/9 (KPo); **Eastern Yellow Robin:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 9/9, 15/9, 25/10 (KPo), N+eggs Ourimbah Ck Rd Ourimbah 8/10 (DEa); **Red-whiskered Bul Bul:** 2+N Point Clare 23/10 (DLa); **Bassian Thrush:** A+J Tathra Taila HSD M.Mtn 17/9, A+J on 8/10 (KPo). Good Birding!

**TWITCH LIST** **October 2024**

Andrew Robinson	280	Daniel McKeon	190	Leonie Loewe	158
Graham Nelson	242	John Carpenter	187	Gabrielle Rees	155
Nick Carson	236	Kaye Pointer	186	Robyn Price	151
Allan Benson	223	Chris Jamieson	184	Diana Hogan	147
David Schuemaker	221	Julie Peksis	176	Michael Scobie	142
Christina Port	202	Margaret Pointer	173	Frik Gautschi	138
Krystyna Lonergan	195	Doug Hocking	171	Alan Morris	136
Carole Carpenter	191	Rowena Wallace	160	Judy Clark	129
				Paul Shelley	120

Andrew Robinson is sitting on a massive total of 280. There is every chance he will break his own record for the Central Coast Twitch set in 2023.

**BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD 2024**

Graham Nelson	371	Robyn Price	67	Doug Hocking	21
Allan Benson	289	Frik Gautschi	46	David Schuemaker	21
Alan Stuart	288	Guy Dutson	36	Meryl Newton	20
Nick Carson	275	C Clutterbuck	36	Daniel McKeon	13
Leeanne Lemke	76	Michael Scobie	27	Leonie Loewe	9
				Ann Lindsey	8

For October 2024, 177 surveys were completed compared with 179 in 2023. YTD 2024, 2822 surveys have been completed. This is a significant improvement on 2023 where 2304 surveys were entered. Graham Nelson has taken a solid lead.



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

## **SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS**

## **October Survey**

A good crowd of 10 observers found the ponds reasonably full. There were about 280 water fowl on the ponds dominated by Hardhead but including Australasian Grebe as well as Hoary-headed Grebe, Shoveler, Black Duck and Chestnut and Grey Teal. 51 species were recorded.

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

## **TWITCHATHON - OCTOBER 26 8-Hour Category 'Which-is-it' Team Report**

Kaye Pointer

**Team: Michael Breheny, Margaret and Kaye Pointer**

Weather below 12°C start partly cloudy near calm

Start 6am Mangrove Mountain

Site 1. "Tathra Taila" Mangrove Mountain, 48 species Honeyeaters, Cuckoos, Fantails, Brown Goshawk, Tawny Frogmouth, Wrens, Thornbills and Gerygones, Sacred Kingfisher, Pigeons and Doves, Black-faced Monarch.

Site 2. Waratah Road Mangrove Mountain - Rosellas Wood Duck, Yellow Thornbill, Black Duck, Rockwarbler, Rufous Songlark (Identifying and locating the Songlark took some time) and many of the usual birds.

Site 3. Mangrove Sports Field - White Faced Heron, Rainbow Lorikeet.

Site 4. Kulnura Primary School - Red Wattlebird

Enroute to Mangrove Dam Purple Swamphen, White-browed Scrubwren, Richards Pipit, Starling.

Site 5. Mangrove Dam lookout. Bell Miner, Lyrebird, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Little Black and Great Cormorant, Fairy Martin, Spotted Pardalote, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Brush Cuckoo.

Site 6. Kulnura area - House Sparrow, Leaden Flycatcher, Red-whiskered Bul Bul.

Site 7. Jack Gear sports ground Yarramalong – Azure Kingfisher, Regent Bowerbird, Dusky Moorhen, Yellow-Throated Scrubwren, Brush Turkey

Site 8. Yarramalong Rd – Cattle Egret, Royal Spoonbill, Pacific, White-necked Heron, Chestnut Teal.

Site 9. McPherson Rd - adding several water birds, including Black Swan, and Black Fronted Dotterel, Grey Butcherbird.

Site 10 Central Coast Wetlands – Dipping on birds that should be seen on muddy edges, we saw, Kestrel, Swamp Harrier, Corellas, Red-rumped Parrot, and several regularly seen birds for the swamp. (1hour lunch break)

Site 11. Chittaway Bay/Point- Striped Honeyeater, Pied Oystercatcher, Bar-tailed Godwit, Greenshank, Caspian Tern, Great and Little Egret. Pied Stilt.

Finish 3pm Chittaway area.

Editor's Note: The full Twitchathon report was not available at the time of publication. However, the provisional winner is Let's Wing It (Steven Edwards, Mike Kuhl and Nick Carson) with a record-breaking 264 species. This is the fourth consecutive win for this team. Runner up was Hunter Home Brewers with 263 – so a really close result.



## Terrigal Pelagic Trip Report: Saturday November 2, 2024

Andrew Robinson

Departing Terrigal Haven at 6:30am, 16 of us headed out in much rougher conditions than were forecast, meaning a slow and often unpleasant trip out. It was a mostly uneventful trip out with the only real highlight an adult Sooty Tern about two thirds of the way to the shelf, though moderate numbers of Short and Wedge-tailed Shearwater and several Albatross sightings kept us on our toes.

Arriving at the start of the shelf slope about 9:30am we quickly commenced our first drift which immediately attracted Shearwaters, including Flesh-footed and plenty of apparently ravenous Short-tailed's that greedily fed at the back of the boat. A trio of obliging Pomarine Jaeger (including a lovely pale morph), soon joined the fray, as did a Black-browed, Campbell and Shy Albatross.

The trip highlight came shortly after however when a White-chinned Petrel snuck in close to the boat and began feeding on the water, often squabbling with shearwaters in the process. Around this time a Long-tailed Jaeger briefly joined the action and a distant Cookilaria petrel was also picked up heading away from the boat which upon review of photos revealed a Gould's Petrel.

After drifting for close to 2 hours and with no new birds coming into the boat, we made the call to head for deeper water (500 fathoms) for our second drift. Many of the birds from the first drift stayed faithful, including the White-chinned Petrel, while hungry Short-tailed Shearwaters only increased in number. Reasonable numbers of Grey-faced Petrel soon joined us, Providence Petrels and Sooty Shearwaters made the odd pass, a pair of adult Sooty Tern made a brief appearance and 10 or so Wilson's Storm Petrel worked the slick but only occasionally came close to the boat.

After a cracking few hours at the shelf, it was time to head for shore, but not before a few more species were added to the trip list when a White-faced Storm Petrel appeared on the slick and a Hutton's Shearwater offered mid-range views. As was the case on the way out, the return trip was rather monotonous with mostly Short-tailed Shearwaters and the odd Shy and Black-browed Albatross being seen.



**White-chinned Petrel**  
**Andrew Robinson**

The White-chinned Petrel was the 48th pelagic species on Terrigal trips and I believe only the second record for the Central Coast. Gould's Petrel, Long-tailed Jaeger and Sooty Tern are also considered noteworthy.

In total 22 pelagic species were seen beyond the Haven (the equal highest diversity seen on a Terrigal pelagic trip), with 15 of those Tubenoses.

As follows:

Black-browed Albatross – 7 (3), Campbell Albatross – 1, Shy Albatross – 10 (2), WHITE-CHINNED PETREL – 1, Grey-faced Petrel – 14 (6), Providence Petrel – 4 (1), Gould's Petrel – 1 (distant / brief views only), Wilson's Storm Petrel – 17 (White-faced Storm Petrel – 1

Short-tailed Shearwater – 1500+ (100+), Sooty Shearwater – 3 (1), Flesh-footed Shearwater – 35, Wedge-tailed Shearwater – 100+ (12) Hutton's Shearwater – 2 (1), Fluttering Shearwater – 4 (2), Pomarine Jaeger – 7 (3), Long-tailed Jaeger – 1, Sooty Tern – 4 (2), Greater Crested Tern – 1, Silver Gull – 1, Australasian Gannet – 12 (3)

Australian Pelican – 1

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

## BIRDWATCHERS FLOCK TO CUL-DE-SAC TO GLIMPSE RARE BIRD ON WASHING LINE

Alex Barton

Birdwatchers flock to the cul-de-sac to glimpse the rare bird - SWNS



Birdwatchers have flocked to a cul-de-sac in Yorkshire to glimpse a rare bird on a washing line.

The report of the Scarlet Tanager in Shelf, near Halifax, is believed to be the first time one of the birds has been spotted in Yorkshire.

The songbird usually travels between the eastern United States and lowland South American forests twice a year.

However, it is believed to have ended up on UK shores owing to a low-pressure system across the Atlantic that can affect migration patterns of birds.

Dozens of birdwatchers gathered along the street following reports of the sighting being shared online.

Geoffrey King, who has been birdwatching for 15 years, made a 220-mile (354km) trip from Weybridge in Surrey in the early hours of Monday.

He arrived at 9.30am, but had to wait five hours before the bird made an appearance. "It was very exhilarating," he told BBC.

Mr King, 67, was packing up his equipment and was ready to leave when the songbird finally arrived. He said: "I had basically given up. Somebody called and there it was at the top of the tree. It was a great relief to see it."

The scarlet tanager was Mr King's 478th species spotted in the UK, he said.

Another avian aficionado, Paul, who did not give his surname, said it was his first sighting of the species in nearly five decades of birdwatching.

The American Bird Conservancy says the scarlet tanager's song is often described as "like a robin with a cold".

The website BirdGuides said on X that the sighting was believed to be the first in Yorkshire.

"Never before seen in Yorkshire, the first-winter male scarlet tanager is just the eighth British record and the first since 2014," it said.

Male breeding birds have a bright red body with black wings and tails, while females and young birds have a yellowish-green body, according to Cornell University's All About Birds website.

It states that it is usually the duller yellowish birds that are spotted in the UK, having been swept off course by storms as they migrate south in the autumn.