



The Twitcher

February
2025

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Allan Benson (0457 458 274) Wendy Mitchell (0423 388 529) & Robyn Price Volume 20, No. 2

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
25/02/25	Next Meeting: Artificial Nest sites for Black-necked Storks Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	Ann Lindsey
1/03/25	Outing: San Remo Meet: 8.30am Richardson and Wills Roads, San Remo	REMEMBER TO REGISTER Leeanne Lemke 0412 233 594
12/03/25	½ day Outing: Central Coast Wetlands Meet: 8.30am Carpark, Gavenlock Rd, Tuggerah	REMEMBER TO REGISTER Graham Nelson 0466 599 278
25/03/25	Next Meeting: Olfactory Misinformation to Protect Shorebirds Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	Dr Catherine Price
29/03/25	Outing: Bull's Quarry and Mt Penang Meet: 8.30am Entrance to Tunnel fire trail Woy Woy Rd, Woy Woy Note: For all Outings bring your morning tea and lunch. A chair is a good idea.	REMEMBER TO REGISTER Frik Gautschi 0404 467 097



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: Black-necked Storks are unusual visitors to the Central Coast. Although they may be breeding on the Central Coast, the nest site has not been located. In the Hunter, a rate-limiting step to breeding success is the lack of suitable nest sites. HBOC has been active in advocating for artificial nest sites to be established. Ann Lindsey will tell us all about this project tonight.

Last Month's Meeting: A good crowd of 34 members attended our 'members night' to see Andy Robinson awarded the Twitcher's Trophy and Graham Nelson presented with the Alan Morris Award for completing the most Birddata surveys in 2024. The audience was able to view all the entries to the 2024 Photographic competition and were amazed at the high standard. The winners and runners-up were announced. Daniel McKeon showed some absolutely stunning photos of North Queensland birds from a recent trip to Cairns. Doug Hocking presented an interesting look at Gundabooka National Park.

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 1400 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.

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.

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

CAMPS 2025

Fri 14th - Sun 16th March	Batemans Bay	Christina Port	0421 691 317	Pleasurelea Tourist Resort 438 Beach Rd, Batemans Bay (02) 4472 4258
Fri 2nd - Sun 4th May	Scone	Graham Nelson	0466 599 278	Scone Caravan Park 50 Kelly St, Scone (02) 6545 2024
Tue 2nd - Thu 4th September	Parkes	Doug Hocking	0427 800 428	Spicer Caravan Park 37a Albert St, Parkes. (02) 6862 6162
Tue 21st - Thu 23rd October	South West Rocks	Alan Morris	0418 269 482	Ingenia Caravan Park Gordon Young Drive, South West Rocks (02) 6566 6264

BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST

Michael Scobie, Wendy Mitchell, Judy Clark, Chris Jamieson, Nerida Carter and Graham Catt will all be celebrating very significant milestone birthdays in February. Join them in celebration at 9am on **Monday 3rd March** at The Waterfall Cafe, Kariong. Please text Frik Gautschi on 0404 467 097 to confirm numbers. **NO presents!**

PAY YOUR MEETING DONATION ELECTRONICALLY
 Don't scratch around for cash!
 Graham Nelson has set up an account so your meeting donation can be paid electronically:
BSB: 063097 A/C: 89676934

2024 AWARDS

The Twitcher's Trophy is awarded to the birder who records the most species over the calendar year in the Central Coast Local Government Area. The award was initiated more than 10 years ago to encourage more people to go birdwatching.

The winner for the second consecutive year was Andy Robinson. Andy recorded a massive 293 species in 2024 breaking his own record of 284 sent in 2023. Andy worked hard to achieve this total but the point of difference this year was the pelagic boat trips from Terrigal. These trips, organised by Andy, involve going to the continental shelf about 50 km off Terrigal. Despite battling wind, waves and seasickness, Andy and a bunch of hardy souls managed to see a number of very rare seabirds for the Central Coast this year including Herald Petrel, South Polar Skua and New Zealand Storm Petrel. 54 species of seabird have now been observed off Terrigal.

The Alan Morris Trophy is awarded to the person who enters the most surveys into Birdlife Australia's data base. The award is named in honour of Alan Morris who is one the founding members of the Central Coast Group and is patron of Birding NSW. Alan has entered more than 20,000 surveys. The award was created to encourage birders to record their sightings to enhance the database. This database is a very important conservation tool. The winner in 2024 was Graham Nelson who recorded 483 surveys out of a total for the Central Coast of nearly 3,000. Great effort!



The awards were presented by Michael Scobie.

2024 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The 4th Annual Photographic Competition was conducted in 2024. The competition is judged in three categories - Common Birds, Uncommon Birds and Vagrants. 13 photographers entered 68 entries with the judge, Dick Jenkin from the Hunter Bird Observers Club, commenting on the very high standard this year.

The winner of the Common Bird section was Bruce Ward-Smith with a great action shot of a White-browed Scrubwren. This is not an easy bird to photograph as it skulks in the thickest part of the bush. Runner-up was Jennifer Carrigan with her shot of a Little Black Cormorant in the process of swallowing a fish.



White-browed Scrubwren
Bruce Ward-Smith



Sooty Oystercatcher
Jesse Hewling

The Uncommon Bird category was won by Jesse Hewling with a nicely composed shot of two Sooty Oystercatchers. It gave Jesse great pleasure to be one up on his mother, Tricia Sweet who was runner-up with a stunning shot of a pair of Black-necked Storks.

There were only 9 entries in the vagrant section but the clear winner was Daniel McKeon with an action shot of a South Polar Skua attempting to harass a Flesh-footed Shearwater. This shot was taken on a Terrigal Pelagic and was the first record for the Central Coast of a South Polar Skua. Runner-up was Therese Elsey with another great action shot of Plumed Whistling Duck.

The winners received a hand-made framed print by Neville Cayley (of "What Bird is That" fame) of the bird they had photographed. The frame was made by Daniel McKeon.

WHAT WAS NEW in January/February and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in March?

At this time of year the birding is slow. The birds have completed breeding thus are not calling or responding because they are not defending territories. Probably the most interesting record is a Turquoise Parrot at Munmorah. Turquoise Parrots are only occasional visitors to the coast. Black Noddy has been observed twice. These were only the 3rd and 4th record for the Central Coast. The Wood Sandpiper and Red-kneed Dotterel have been showing well at the Dairy. Little Penguins at Terrigal and McMasters are nice records. We know they are there but they are rarely seen. There were 3 observations of Black -Necked Storks and 8 records of Glossy Black Cockatoo. This is good news as the bush fires in 2019 destroyed a lot of their feeding habitat. 7 Whimbrel on the summer Brisbane Water survey was a good number and good news.

March will be more of the same. The spring migrants will gradually move north with Fairy Martins the first to go- there are only a few stragglers left. Others will follow. We will eagerly await the autumn migrants such as Double-banded Plover, Restless Flycatcher and, hopefully, Swift Parrot.

OUTING REPORTS

Outing: February 1

MOGO

Leader: Graham Nelson

There was fog above Yarramalong Rd as I drove to the Letter A at Bucketty. The day was looking to be a good day weather-wise and it was. Unfortunately, on the bird front it was quiet. 23 of us met at the Letter A and did the normal trip.



South Polar Skua
Daniel McKeon

Standing waiting for people to arrive there were a number of small birds in the bush opposite us. Walking down Walkers Rd there were very few birds. We drove to Convict Corner where it wasn't looking promising but eventually a few birds showed up. Bucketty Dam had almost no birds. Mogo campground wasn't much better. We finished the day with lunch at Mangrove Dam.

There weren't more than about 20 birds at each site. None of the big target birds were seen. The Spotted Quail-thrush, Painted But-ton-quail, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Dusky Woodswallow or Rockwarbler were not seen. People were still happy to get their honeyeaters for the year. Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater and Yellow-faced Honeyeater. The Leaden



Flycatcher, Noisy Friarbird and Black-faced Monarch didn't go amiss either. With less to see we walked slower and took more photos of what there was to see. Unfortunately for us Ash saw a Shinning Bronze-Cuckoo a few days later at Mogo Campground.

While the birding was limited the day was perfect and people just enjoyed socialising. Since the fire and with very little flowering, the birds just aren't in the area. There was water in the little pond in front of Mogo campground which was good to see. Next year I will look at finding a private property to visit along Murray's Run Rd and continuing through Luguna to Wollombi.

We only found 43 species for the Mogo Outing. Five of us went to Jack Gear on our way home and found an extra 12 species. Thanks to all who joined me and made it a great day.



World Wetlands Day Breakfast with the Birds: February 2

CENTRAL COAST WETLANDS, TUGGERAH

Kaye Pointer

Celebrating 20 years of Breakfast with the Birds for World Wetlands Day 2025.

On a warm humid Sunday morning, the main pond level was high after recent rains, as 10 birders gathered to see what birds were at the Wetland and share their interest and knowledge with CEN's Breakfast with the Birds participants (100+ including volunteers and staff). Five groups (led by Allan Benson, Nick Carson, Christina Port, Graham Nelson, Kaye Pointer), saw or heard the 64 species of birds present.

Participants also learned the importance of the wetland and surrounding creeks and woodlands for the resident/nomads and migratory birds as well as drought, fire refuge for birds and wild-life. Other talks on site history, indigenous artefacts and opportunities to assist with planting trees or water bug ID were interesting. The activities and talks all aim to improve understanding of our natural world and how it is all interconnected.

The Central Coast Wetlands area is also important as a filter and slowing area for the water from the hinterland on its path to Tuggerah Lake, The Entrance and the ocean.



Below is a list of the birds recorded (heard calls and sightings) from about 7.00am to 12.00 pm (not in any particular order).

Magpie-lark, Willy Wagtail, Australian Magpie, Common Starling, Masked Lapwing, Red-rumped Parrot, Welcome Swallow, Tawny Grassbird, Common Myna, Noisy Miner, Bell Miner, Red Wattlebird, Figbird, Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Eurasian Coot, Purple Swamphen, Australian White Ibis, Great Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Royal

Spoonbill, Torresian Crow, Darter, Cattle Egret, Black Swan, White-faced Heron, Australasian Grebe, Golden-headed Cisticola, Pied Butcherbird, Grey Teal, Whistling Kite, Australian Pelican, Swamp Harrier, Black-shouldered Kite, Australian Hobby, Rock Dove, Great Egret, Straw-necked Ibis, Australian Pipit, Rufous Fantail, Olive-backed Oriole, Little Lorikeet, Dollarbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Red-kneed Dotterel, Buff-banded Rail, Dusky Moorhen, Hardhead, Australian Raven, Laughing Kookaburra, Rainbow Lorikeet, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Brown-Cuckoo Dove, Lewin's Honeyeater, Satin Bowerbird, Superb Fairy-wren, Pheasant Coucal.



Cattle Egrets
Liz Noble

Migratory birds are likely to fly north in the next few months - Latham's Snipe, Wood Sandpiper, Koel, White-breasted Woodswallow, White-throated Needletail, Clamorous Reed-Warbler.

Congratulations and thank you to all organisers and participants for another successful World Wetlands Day Breakfast with the Birds.

Half-day Outing: February 12

SARATOGA/DAVISTOWN

Leader: Doug Hocking

On a fine warm day with light winds, 21 birders met at Saratoga Oval to observe the birds of the inter-tidal areas of the Brisbane Waters, adjacent wetlands and some forested areas of the Peninsula which make up the Brisbane Water KBA. We first went to Saratoga Island. That is a man-made sand island, created by dredging of the adjacent channel to facilitate the ferry services from Woy Woy. The tide was kind to us and allowed easy access to the island, however we nearly got wet feet on the way back. As usual the Mangrove Gerygone did not disappoint and there were good numbers of highly-coloured Yellow Thornbills. There were also Brown and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Sacred Kingfisher, Far Eastern Curlew, Little Pied Cormorant, White-bellied Sea Eagle and in the distance an unusual sighting of a Swamp Harrier circling over Spike Milligan Bridge. Other birds, both on the island and around the oval, included – Grey Butcherbird, Magpie, Crested Pigeon, Noisy Miner, Masked Lapwing, Welcome Swallow, Eastern Rosella, Spotted Dove, White Ibis, Superb Fairy-wren, Pacific Black Duck, Silver Gull, Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, Galah, Mallard, and Wood Duck.



Saratoga Birders

It was then onto the Davistown Boardwalk. On the way, at the Henderson Road Historic Cemetery, Blue-faced Honeyeaters were heard calling, the first time for me in Saratoga after living here for 40 years. At the start of the Boardwalk there were good views of Bar-shouldered Dove, Brush Turkey, Sacred Kingfisher, Grey Fantail, Brown Thornbill, Eastern Yellow Robin, Kookaburra, White-faced Heron, a very dark Chestnut Teal, more Brown Honeyeaters, Sacred Kingfisher. The Bush-stone Curlew that is normally there was not sighted and has not been seen for the last 3 months.

Morning Tea was taken on the Cockle Channel at Illoura Reserve, with Australian Pelican, Pied Cormorant and Great Cor-

morant. We then went to Seabreeze Park at Kincumber where Graham Nelson took over as I had to leave early.

The tide was high and the sun too. The Kincumber Boardwalk was quiet to start with in the open area. We heard a Spangled Drongo in the bush, but it didn't want to play with us. Before getting to the Davistown end, the bush became alive – 10 brightly coloured Red-browed Finches were feeding on grass seed, a Golden Whistler sat in the tree for us – there were Yellow Robins, Yellow and Brown Thornbills and Brown Gery-



Mangrove Gerygone
Chris Jamieson

goness. There was a Rufus Fantail sighted at the front of the group and there were 3 more very colourful male Variegated Fairy-wrens in the lantana.

Some other birds seen and heard on the day included Masked Lapwing, Greater Crested Tern, Great Egret, Little Black Cormorant, Australasian Darter, Long-billed and Little Corella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Satin Bowerbird, Eastern Spinebill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Spotted Pardalote, White-browed Scrubwren, Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike, Eastern Whipbird and Australian Raven.

A total of 62 Species.

SPECIES LIST

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

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
Musk Duck	1	22/12/2024	Tuggerah NR/Lake Andrew Robinson
Musk Duck	AM	20/1/2025	Fagans Park, Point Clare, Brisbane Water Grey Shaw
Musk Duck	Im	21/1/2025	Chittaway Point West Leonie Loewe
Brown Quail	HC	14/12/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah Carole Carpenter
Stubble Quail	HC	14/12/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah John Carpenter
White-throated Nightjar	1	28/12/2024	Mount White Andrew Robinson
Tawny Frogmouth	1	14-16/12,5/1	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi John Carpenter
Tawny Frogmouth	2	11/1/2025	Wyoming Barbara Melville
Owlet-Nightjar	1	6-13/12/24	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain Kaye Pointer
Owlet-Nightjar	1	6/1/2025	Mimosa Ave, Budgewoi Sam Chatfield
White-throated Needletail	350	5/1/2025	McPhersons Rd, Tuggerah Andrew Robinson
White-throated Needletail	200	21/1/2025	Toukley Ave, Toukley Leanne Lemke
White-throated Needletail	400	26/1/2025	Werepi St Budgewoi Leanne Lemke
White-throated Needletail	100	27/1/2025	0730 hrs Murrumbung HSD, Mardi Carole Carpenter
Pacific Swift	7	22/1/2025	Toukley Ave, Toukley Leeanne Lemke
Pacific Swift	50	28/1/2025	Toukley Golf Course, Toukley Leeanne Lemke
Pacific Swift	3	30/1/2025	Central Coast Wetlands Nick Carson
Pheasant Coucal	1	13/12/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain Kaye Pointer
Pheasant Coucal	1	15/12/2024	Mangrove Mountain District Andrew Robinson
Pheasant Coucal	1	4/1/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah David Schuemaker
Channel-billed Cuckoo	4	6/12/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain Kaye Pointer
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	J	1/12/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn Kaye Pointer
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	9/12/2024	Munmorah SCA Nick Carson
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	4/1/2025	Magenta Shores Mark Smith
Pacific Emerald Dove	1	1/1/2025	Orchards Village, Lisarow Allan Benson
Common Bronzewing	1	29/12/2024	Watagan Forest Drive, Jilliby Nick Carson
Brush Bronzewing	1	9/12/2024	Munmorah SCA Nick Carson
Peaceful Dove	4	13/12/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain Kaye Pointer
Bar-shouldered Dove	22	6/1/2025	Erina Works Depot Nick Carson
Topknot Pigeon	5	26/1/2025	Upper Palmdale Julie Peksis
Buff-banded Rail	6	27/12, 5/1	Chittaway Point Andrew Robinson
Buff-banded Rail	1	1/1/2025	Terilbah Reserve, North Entrance John Carpenter
Buff-banded Rail	1	9-12/1/25	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah Meryl Newton
Sooty Oystercatcher	27	1-29/1/25	Blue Bay Reefs Julie Peksis
Bush Stone-Curlew:	1	28/12/2024	Henderson Rd ,Saratoga Ross Pointer
Bush Stone-curlew	2	11/1/2025	Nautical Village, South Kincumber Leeanne Lemke
Bush Stone-curlew	1	25-26/1/25	Magenta Shores garden Jessica Rooke
Black-winged Stilt	45	10/1/2025	Chittaway Point West Andrew Robinson
Pacific Golden Plover	9	13-29/1/25	Blue Bay Reefs Andrew Robinson
Pacific Golden Plover	4	18/1/2025	The Entrance Channel Andrew Robinson
Grey Plover	Im	9/1/2025	8 th CC Record Henry St, Chittaway Point David Schuemaker
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	5/1/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah Andrew Robinson
Red-kneed Dotterel	1	14, 30/12	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah Carole Carpenter

Ruddy Turnstone	10	13/1/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Andrew Robinson
Ruddy Turnstone	6	18/1/2025	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Eastern Curlew	1	1-3/1/2025	The Entrance Channel	Hitomi Ward
Great Knot	2	13/1/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Graham Nelson
Red Knot	1	11/1/2025	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	18	5-18/1/25	Chittaway Point West	Andrew Robinson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	4	10-12/1/25	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	13	13/1/2025	Tuggerawong Foreshore	Meryl Newton
Red-necked Stint	80	13/1/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Graham Nelson
Red-necked Stint	32	17/1/2025	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Latham's Snipe	1	4/1/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Latham's Snipe	1	1-8/1/2025	near Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Latham's Snipe	1	9/1/2025	in roadside drain, Charmhaven	Michael Tyriss
Wood Sandpiper	1	4-11/1/25	2 on 12/1, Central Coast Wetlds, Tuggerah	Meryl Newton
Grey-tailed Tattler	7	1-7/1/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	John Carpenter
Grey-tailed Tattler	5	18/1/2025	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Grey-tailed Tattler	1`	18/1/2025	Chittaway Point West	Andrew Robinson
Wandering Tattler	1	13-29/1/25	Blue Bay Reefs	Andrew Robinson
Wood Sandpiper	2	1/1/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Common Greenshank	1	24/12,7,17/1	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Common Greenshank	1	16/1/2025	Terilbah Reserve, North Entrance	Leeanne Lemke
Black Noddy	1	16/1/2025	Terilbah Reserve, North Entrance	Leeanne Lemke
Little Tern	470	17/12/2024	350 breeders, 120 non-breeders Karagi Pt	Andrew Robinson
Little Tern	14A+J	19/1/2025	Rocky Point, Tuggerah Lake	Meryl Newton
Little Penguin	1	13/1/2025	McMasters Beach & Point	Andrew Robinson
Little Penguin	2	8 & 31/1	Terrigal Haven	Nick Carson
Black-browed Albatross	2	4/1/2025	Terrigal – Norah Head pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Shy (White-capped) Albatross	2	4/1/2025	Terrigal – Norah Head pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	10,000	4/1/2025	Terrigal – Norah Head pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Flesh-footed Shearwater	10	4/1/2025	Terrigal – Norah Head pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Fluttering Shearwater	10	4/1/2025	Terrigal – Norah Head pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-winged Petrel	1	4/1/2025	Terrigal – Norah Head pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-necked Stork	2	14/12, 8/1	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Black-necked Stork	1	7/1/2025	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Australian Darter	11N	1/1/2025	Ourimbah Creek, Chittaway	Christina Port
Black Bittern	1	1/1/2025	Ourimbah Creek, Chittaway	Christina Port
Pacific Reef Egret	1	26/1/2025	Catherine Hill Beach, Sth reefs	Jenny Stiles
Little Egret	6 prs	1/1/2025	nesting Ourimbah Ck, Chittaway mouth	Christina Port
Osprey	1	28/12/2024	Saratoga Wetlands	Ross Pointer
Osprey	2A2Y	26/1/2025	Toukley (Harry Moore Oval pr)	Leeanne Lemke
Osprey	1	26/1/2025	Werepi, St Budgewoi	Leeanne Lemke
Pacific Baza	2	28/12/2024	Henderson Rd, Saratoga	Ross Pointer
Pacific Baza	1	2/1/2024	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Pacific Baza	4	11-19/1/25	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah Creek	Darren Earnshaw
Black-shouldered Kite	1	25/12/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Black-shouldered Kite	3	3/1/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Leonie Loewe
Black-shouldered Kite	1	26/1/2025	San Remo	Julie Peksis
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	8-23/12/24	x12 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	12/12/2024	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	14/12-9/1	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Sophia Walker
Little Eagle (dk morph)	1	3/1/2025	cnr Hue Hue Rd & Jilliby Rd, Alison	Carole Carpenter
Little Eagle	1	25/1/2025	Mangrove Mountain Hall	Leeanne Lemke
Black Kite	2	27/1/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Square-tailed Kite	1	1/1/2025	Wyong Rd, Chittaway	Allan Benson
Square-tailed Kite	1	5/1/2025	Springfield Road, East Gosford	Linda Deverill
Square-tailed Kite	1	5-7/1/2025	Rumbalara Reserve, Gosford	Elaine Elliott
Brown Goshawk	2+N	3-20/12/24	x5 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer

Central Coast Group - Birding NSW

Brown Goshawk	1	4/1/2025	Ourimbah	Paul Fuller
Brown Goshawk	1	17/1/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Grey Goshawk	A+J	13-24/1/25	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Julie Peksis
Grey Goshawk	1	26/1/2025	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	25/12/2024	Dunks Lane, Jilliby	Nick Carson
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	1/1/2025	Ourimbah Creek, Chittaway	Christina Port
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	24/1/2025	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Azure Kingfisher	2	4/1/2025	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Azure Kingfisher	1	15/1/2025	Wyong Dairy Factory, Wyong Creek	Karmel Baker
Rainbow Bee-eater	6	6/12/2024	Bunning Creek Rd, Yarramalong	Nick Carson
Southern Boobook	HC	1/12/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Barking Owl	HC	13/1/2025	Koolewong	Tricia Sweet
Powerful Owl	AM	7/1/2025	Rumbalara Reserve, Gosford	Grace Bryant
Powerful Owl	HC	21 & 26/1	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Ann Juan
Nankeen Kestrel	1	1, 13, 25/1	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Nankeen Kestrel	1	13/1/2025	Terrigal Oval	Mark Smith
Nankeen Kestrel	1	19/1/2025	Mann St Gosford	Gary Jackson
Australian Hobby	1	31/12/2024	North Entrance	Nick Carson
Australian Hobby	2A+2Y	14/12 - 5/1	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Australian Hobby	1	12 & 26/1	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah Creek	Darren Earnshaw
Brown Falcon	2	23/12/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Peregrine Falcon	1	13/12/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain	Margaret Pointer
Peregrine Falcon	1	9/1/2025	Avoca Beach	Nick Carson
Peregrine Falcon	1	10/1/2025	Chittaway Point West	Andrew Robinson
Yellow-tailed Bla Cockatoo	52	15/12/2024	Mangrove Mountain District	Andrew Robinson
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	12 & 23/12	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Glossy Black Cockatoo	8	5/1/2025	Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	Christina Port
Glossy Black Cockatoo	3	11/1/2025	flying over Umina Bch to Pearl Beach	Georgia Madison
Gang Gang Cockatoo	4	28/12/2024	Olney SF, Dooralong	Andrew Robinson
Little Lorikeet	2	12/12/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain	Margaret Pointer
Little Lorikeet	4	14/12/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	John Carpenter
Little Lorikeet	2	1-7/1/2025	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Noisy Pitta	1	11-26/1/25	Upper Palmdale	David Schuemaker
Noisy Pitta	1	13/1/2025	private property, Yarramalong	per Louise Salter
Superb Lyrebird	1	23/1/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Southern Emu-wren	3	9/1/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Sophia Walker
Brown Honeyeater	2	23/12/2024	Cresthaven Wetlands, Bateau Bay	Nick Carson
Blue-faced Honeyeater	9A+Js	9/1/2025	Narara Oval	David Schuemaker
Striped Honeyeater	2A+2DY	21/1/2025	Chittaway Point West	Leonie Loewe
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	1	14/12/2024	Calga	Nick Carson
Spotted Quail-thrush	2	19/12/2024	Old Great North Road, Yengo NP	Nick Carson
Logrunner	3	20/12 & 6/1	Walkers Ridge Rd, Onley SF	Guy Dutson
Varied Sittella	6	28/12/2024	Bushells Ridge Road	Nick Carson
Varied Sittella	7	1/1/2025	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Varied Sittella	3	19/1/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	David Schuemaker
Crested Shrike-tit	1	25/12/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
White-bellied cuckoo-shrike	3	19/12/2024	Old Great North Road, Yengo NP	Nick Carson
Cicadabird	1	14 & 16/12	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Varied Triller	AM	24/1/2025	M1 Motorway Ourimbah Creek Rest Area	Collette Livermore
Black-faced Monarch	A+J	24/12/2024	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Black-faced Monarch	1	1/1/2025	Point Claire	David Lamont
Black-faced Monarch	1	1/1/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Rufous Fantail	1	12/1/2025	Strickland SF, Narara	Igor Vyvey
Jacky Winter	2+1Y	23/12-1/1	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Brown Songlark	1	14/12/2024	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Carole Carpenter
Fairy Martin	20A+Js	8/1/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	David Schuemaker
Little Grassbird	4	5-10/1/25	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson

Bassian Thrush	1	13/12/2024	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Margaret Pointer
European Blackbird	pr	4/12/2024	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Margaret Pointer

Breeding and other records December 2024 - January 2025

Black Swan: 2A+4Y Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah 4/1 (DSc); **Chestnut Teal:** 2A+4 ducklings Long Jetty 3/12 (ENo); **European Mallard:** F+5Y Davistown 28/12 (RPo); **Eastern Koel:** J Doyalson 18/1 (MNe), J Chittaway Point West 21/1 (LLW), J at Magenta Shores and Doyalson Nth with Red Wattlebirds 26/1 (MNe); **White-throated Needle-tail:** 17 reports for Jan; **Pacific Swift:** 1 Cresthaven Ave Bateau Bay 17/12 (NCa), 1 Tuggerah NR Sth Tacoma 22/12, 2 Tuggerah STE 29/12 (ARo), 2 Lakes Bch Budgewoi 22/1 (Lle), 2 Toowoong Bay 26/1 (NCa); **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo:** J fed by Brown Thornbill 11 & 25/12 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 11/12 (KPo); **Buff-banded Rail:** 2A+J Wyee 1/1 (LLe), 1 Wyoming 15/12 (ARo), 1 Central Coast Wetlands 10/1 (ARo); **Pacific Baza:** 1 Henry Kendall Gardens 26/1 (AJ); **Square-tailed Kite:** 1 Avoca Drive 28/12 (RPo), 1 Tuggerah 30/12 (ARo), 1 Niagara Park 9 & 26/1 (NCa), 1 Erina Fair 10/1 & 1 Old Nursery, Ourimbah 11/1 (GJa), 1 Barralong Rd Springfield 11/1, and 1 Avoca Drive & 1 Kincumber on 13/1 (DOB), 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 13 & 23/1 (JCa), 1 Narara 15/1 (ARo), 1 Toukley Ave Toukley 21/1 (LLe), 1 Gwandalan 22/1 (BSh), 1 Point Clare (DLA) & 1 Mt White (SWa) 23/1, 1 Henry Kendall Gardens 31/12 (RMO); **Collared Sparrowhawk:** 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 7-10/1 (CCa), 1 Wyee 25/1 (LLe); **Sacred Kingfisher:** A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1/12 (KPo); **Dollarbird:** J in nest hole Central Coast Wetlands 4/1 (JPe); **Australian Hobby:** 2 Wyee 1/1 (LLe), 1 The Entrance 2/1 (ARo); **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man Mtn 1/12, 16-17/12 (MPo), 4A+2Y Murrumbung HSD Mardi 6/2 (JCa); **Glossy Black Cockatoo:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 10/12 (KPo), 2 Mount White 19/1 (SWa), 7 Pearl Beach 19-22/1 (GMA), 6 Tommo's Loop, Brisbane Water NP 22/1 (KJa), 2A+J Murrumbung HSD Mardi 30/1 (JCa); **Aust. King Parrot:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1/12 (KPo); **Satin Bowerbird:** AF+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 26/12 (KPo); **Superb Fairy-wren:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 10/12 (MPo); **Variegated Fairy-wren:** AM+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 18/12 (KPo); **Eastern Spinebill:** A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 13/12 (KPo); **Red Wattlebird:** J Chittaway Pt West 21/1 (LLW); **Striated Thornbill:** 4A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1/12 (KPo); **Large-billed Scrubwren:** 2A+2J Tathra Taila HSD Man.Mtn 22/12 (KPo); **White-browed Scrubwren:** 5A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 18/12 (KPo); **Yellow-throated Scrub-wren:** J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 13/12 (KPo); **Eastern Whipbird:** A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 9/12, 18/12 (KPo); **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike:** 2A+2J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 22/12 (KPo); **White-breasted Woodswallow:** 2A+2DY Central Coast Wetlands 14/12 (CCa); **Aust. Magpie:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 15/12 (MPo); **Grey Butcherbird:** 2A+J Central Coast Wetlands 14/12 (CCa), A+J Murrumbung HSD Mardi 5/1 (JCa); **Eastern Yellow Robin:** A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 13/12 (MPo), A+J Bulls Quarry, BWNP 5/1 (CPo).

Happy Birding!

TWITCH LIST January 2025

Nick Carson	153	Julie Peksis	124	Robyn Price	71
Carole Carpenter	147	Chris Jamieson	121	Gabrielle Rees	64
Allan Benson	145	Krystyna Lonergan	118	Diana Hogan	63
John Carpenter	143	Daniel McKeon	108	Judy Clark	50
Kaye Pointer	142	Doug Hocking	82		
Margaret Pointer	128	Frik Gautschi	72		

Nick Carson has got off a good start with 153 species to date, followed by Carole Carpenter and Allan Benson.

Several of the more regular observers have not recorded totals. A cut-off date for 2025 Twitch registration of 1st May will be implemented.

BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD 2025

We are off to a very slow start in 2025 with only 130 surveys submitted compared 216 in 2024.

Graham Nelson once again is in the lead with Alan Stuart close behind. There is a stack of birders yet to get off the mark. For figures, see Page 10.

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

Graham Nelson	29	Guy Dutson	5
Alan Stuart	25	C Clutterbuck	4
Allan Benson	17	David Schuemaker	3
Robyn Price	6	Doug Hocking	1
Frik Gautschi	6	Meryl Newton	1

SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

January Survey

Four observers found 440 waterfowl on the ponds. The majority were Grey Teal but 60 Coot, 70 Hardhead and 10 Hoary-headed Grebe were noted, Observers found the ponds reasonably full. 42 species were recorded with the highlight being White-necked Heron

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

Brisbane Water Survey: Tuesday February 4

Doug Hocking

The Summer Survey of water birds was carried out on the above date with a run out tide. Michael Scobie skipped his most comfortable boat with Christina Port, Daniel McKeon and Graham Nelson making up the 4 Surveyors. The standard survey route was followed being Paddy's, Lintern, Davistown Channels, Bensville and St Hubert's and Riley's Island Channel then down to Orange Grove and the Pelican colony. An absolute highlight for the survey was 7 Whimbrels distributed throughout the survey area. There were increased numbers again of Black Swans and White Ibis – this could be attributable to the dry season inland. The Eastern Curlews and Bar-tailed Godwits again were in low numbers. There was one Blue-faced Honeyeater also sighted, probably a first for this survey.

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

See Page 11 for records.

Terrigal Pelagic Trip Report: Saturday February 8

Andrew Robinson

The first Terrigal pelagic of the year was a wet and, at times, wild affair due to choppy seas. Despite the trying conditions, several notable species were seen at the start of the shelf slope including Black-bellied Storm Petrel, a distant Red-tailed Tropicbird and Black Petrel. Grey-faced Petrels made irregular appearances while large numbers of Flesh-footed Shearwater were present throughout the day. An uninterested Pomarine Jaeger and Shy Albatross were also observed.

The Black-bellied Storm Petrel and Red-tailed Tropicbird were only the 5th records respectively for the Central Coast LGA, while less than 10 Black Petrel have been recorded.

In total 11 pelagic species were seen beyond The Haven with 8 of those Tubenoses.

As follows:

Shy Albatross – 1, Black Petrel – 1, Grey-faced Petrel – 6 (2), Wilson's Storm Petrel – 4 (1), Black-bellied Storm Petrel – 1, Short-tailed Shearwater – 8, Flesh-footed Shearwater – 130 (100+), Wedge-tailed Shearwater – 45 (15), Pomarine Jaeger – 1, Red-tailed Tropicbird – 1, Greater Crested Tern – 3.



SUMMER SURVEY	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		SUMMER SURVEY	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Silver Gull	32	50	64	70	132		Common Myna	5	0	0	0	3
Australian Pelican	200	200	300	230	253	Fledged	Noisy Miner	5	2	0	1	11
Little Pied Cormorant	27	11	19	22	72		Bell Miner -	heard	0	0	0	
Pied Cormorant	93	25	18	34	55		Spotted Dove	1	1	0	5	
Little Black Cormorant	8	10	6	7	16		Rainbow Lorikeet	9	2	3	3	22
Great Cormorant				1	3		Little Corella (Corella Spe-	15	2	7(11)	19	13
Australasian Darter	28	10	8	18	12	Adults on	Willy Wagtail	3	0	0	0	1
Great Egret	1	0	1	16	12		Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	3	1	2	5	9
Little Egret	1	1	0	11	3		Yellow-tail Black Cockatoo	4	0	0	0	
White-faced Heron	10	10	31	26	37		Brown Honeyeater	heard	0	0	0	
Dusky Moor Hen				1			Australian King Parrot		4	0	0	
Northern Mallard	80	102	158	92	41	Young out	Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike		1	0	0	
Australian Wood Duck	7	9	18	27	7		Dollar Bird		1	2	1	
Chestnut Teal	7	17	17	57	94		Little Wattle Bird		1	2	0	4
Grey Teal				3			Galah		12	2	7	7
Pacific Black Duck				1	97		Eastern Rosella		2	0	0	
Australasian Grebe	1	0	0	0			Australian Fig Bird		1	0	7	8
Black Swans	21	3	2	120	292		Australian Hobby			1	0	
Crested Tern	18	8	1	5	18		Rock Dove					3
Pied Oyster Catcher	8	11	23	25	22		Pied Stilt					8
Bar-tailed Godwit	21	7	4	1	8		Blue Faced Honeyeater					1
Eastern Curlew	5	7	5	7	5		Grey Butcher Bird					1
Whimbrel	0	0	1	2	7							
Common Sandpiper	1	0	0	0			8 am to 10 am - 45 Species					
Striated Heron	3	7	7	2	7		Total Birds Counted					1454
Nankeen Night Heron(JUV)				1								
White-bellied Sea Eagle	3	3	0	0	3							
Eastern Osprey	1	2	2	0	1							
Masked Lapwing	2	15	37	12	19							
Welcome Swallow	23	35	25	78	23							
Australian Raven	1	7	2	7	7							
Channel-bill Cuckoo	2	3	0	0								
Australian Magpie	7	2	1	4	2							
Magpie Lark	2	2	6	5	2							
White Ibis	13	53	42	62	101							
Sacred Kingfisher	1	0	0	0	2							
Laughing Kookaburra	2	2	0	0	1							
White-breasted Wood Swallow	14	2	36(n)	6	9							

BIRDWATCHING AND TWITCHERS PUMP BILLIONS INTO AUSTRALIA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY

Kristy Sexton-McGrath

Birdwatching is pouring billions into Australia's tourism industry and prompting calls for more to be done to promote the "undervalued" sector. Twitchers — birdwatchers who tally sightings or collect images of rare birds — are big business.

International visitors spent \$2.6 billion on travel that involved birdwatching in the year to June 2024, according to data from Tourism Research Australia, while domestic overnight travellers spent \$636 million over the same period, up from \$414 million in 2021 — a 53 per cent increase, national visitor-survey data showed.

Those figures include money spent on transport, accommodation, food, and activities by birdwatchers, as they chase rare species across the country, with many travelling long distances and spending thousands of dollars in pursuit of rare birds.

Conservation scientist Dr Rochelle Steven from Murdoch University said Australia was considered the "holy grail" of birding. Australia is home to the second-highest number of endemic bird species in the world, attracting birdwatching enthusiasts from across the globe. "It's easy for us to underestimate how valuable that experience is to international visitors," Dr Steven said. Despite its economic contribution, she said birdwatching remained largely overlooked in Australia, with little infrastructure or strategic focus compared to other nature-based tourism industries like whale watching. "In places like the UK, they have state-of-the-art bird hides and facilities because they understand the economic value of birdwatching sites," she said. Dr Steven said birders tend to be high-spending travellers. "Many are at a stage in life where they're not roughing it — they take holidays doing what they love, staying in nice accommodation, dining out, and supporting local tourism operators."

For David Mead, owner of Great Northern Birdwatching Tours, the boom in birding tourism is no surprise. He said his tours, which were often booked out a year in advance, took groups across Cape York, the Gulf of Carpentaria, western Queensland, the Simpson Desert, and parts of South Australia and Western Australia. "Far North Queensland is huge for birding — about half of Australia's bird species can be found here," Mr Mead said. "Palm cockatoos, are a major attraction. "Birding travellers fly in, hire cars, go to restaurants, and chase birds. Small communities really benefit. We use the whole town — food, fuel, and accommodation — for a few days. It's fantastic for small economies."

Tourism Australia said nature and wildlife were key drawcards for international travellers, with birdwatching experiences promoted through its campaigns. Managing Director Phillipa Harrison said the agency provided resources to help birders plan their visits.

Academics say the rise of bird-tracking apps like eBird is also driving demand. The app allows users to record and share bird sightings, while its checklist feature has spurred a global race to log as many species as possible in 12 months.

Melbourne couple Karen Vondruska and Nimal Karunajeewa took up birdwatching in 2020 during lockdowns and now plan trips around bird sightings, sometimes travelling at short notice, chasing online alerts. "We're planning a trip to Cape York just to see the Palm Cockatoo."

Melbourne and Sydney-based university professors Ben Adler and Steven Djordjevic are also among those who have travelled to Far North Queensland to see Australia's unique birdlife, enduring the summer heat and humidity for the chance to tick rare species off their lists. "It's a bit of a mecca for birders," Professor Adler said. "You get outdoors, get exercise, and experience the joy of seeing and photographing amazing birds." Professor Adler has several domestic and international birding trips planned this year, while Professor Djordjevic recently joined a chartered birdwatching cruise between Port Vila and Tasmania to see pelagic species — birds that live in the open ocean. "It's a really good way of connecting with nature and understanding the intricate balance of nature, because as the different flowering plants flower during the year, different swaths of birds come in to feed off of what's provided by those plants," he said.

Tasmania is another popular destination for birders, with Bruny Island home for all of the state's 12 endemic bird species. The island's three-day Bruny Island Bird Festival is held every two years and attracts birding enthusiasts from across the country and the globe.

Kate Millar, chief executive of conservation group Birdlife Australia, said birdwatching was not only a major tourism drawcard but helped support conservation efforts too. "Almost one in six Australian birds are threatened with extinction, so recognising the economic value of bird tourism could drive more investment in conservation."

Ms Millar said it was possible to strike a balance between conservation and responsible tourism practices to avoid over-tourism in sensitive areas. "Basic birdwatching is generally relatively light-on and uses existing infrastructure and the majority of people want to do the right thing," she said. "If people don't know or care about our birds, then it's hard to get the resources to protect them in the future."