



# The Twitcher

May  
2025

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Allan Benson (0457 458 274) Wendy Mitchell (0423 388 529) & Robyn Price      Volume 20, No. 5

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
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27/05/25	<b>Next Meeting:</b> Birding by Boat on Port Stephens <b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks	<b>Alan Stuart</b>
31/05/25	<b>Outing:</b> Colongra Swamp <b>REMEMBER TO REGISTER</b> <b>Meet:</b> 8.30am Macleay Drive, Halekulani	<b>Daniel McKeon</b> 0407 076 118
11/06/25	<b>½ day Outing:</b> Empire Bay. (\$18 Ferry Ride) <b>REMEMBER TO REGISTER</b> <b>Meet:</b> 8.30am Woy Woy Ferry Wharf. Park in Brick Wharf Rd.	<b>Graham Nelson</b> 0466 599 278
24/06/25	<b>Next Meeting:</b> Bush Birds coping with Climate Change <b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks <b>Note: For all Outings bring your morning tea and lunch. A chair is a good idea.</b>	<b>Janet Gardiner</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:** Our speaker tonight is Alan Stuart who will be telling us about surveying birds by boat in Port Stephens. Port Stephens provides a variety of habitats so an interesting range of birds reside here including the southern-most regular sightings of Beach Stone-curlew.

**Last Month's Meeting:** Holiday times and wet weather reduced the audience to 24 but those present heard a very interesting presentation from Dr Christine Hatton about utilising the Bar-tailed Godwit as the basis of a drama-based exercise to provide years 4 and 5 children the opportunity to understand the delicate ecosystem in the Hunter Region. Mostly importantly it provided the children the chance to express themselves on this topic.

**Webpage:** Don't forget to check out the Birding NSW Webpage [www.birdingnsw.org.au](http://www.birdingnsw.org.au) where there is plenty of info about outings, photograph gallery, and general info about the Club. Well worth a visit! Check out Central Coast Birders on Facebook as well! It has now reached 1500 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.

### CAMPS 2025

Tue 2nd - Thu 4th <b>September</b>	<b>Parkes</b>	Doug Hocking	0427 800 428	Spicer Caravan Park 37a Albert St, Parkes. (02) 6862 6162
Tue 21st - Thu 23rd <b>October</b>	<b>South West Rocks</b>	Alan Morris	0418 269 482	Ingenia Caravan Park Gordon Young Drive, South West Rocks (02) 6566 6264

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

**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**

**WHAT WAS NEW in April/May and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in June?**

A very exciting record of a White Wagtail was reported. It was seen two mornings in a row by a lady doing her yoga session on the rock shelf below The Haven. She reported this to Andrew Robinson and along with Guy Dutson, he went to check it out. Unfortunately, all they saw was it flying away towards Terrigal. However, the photos were stunning. This is the first record for the Central Coast and only the 3<sup>rd</sup> for NSW.

Huge flocks of Topknot Pigeons have been reported in the Narara, Lisarow, Wyoming and Ourimbah areas. Kaye Pointer heard Swift Parrots flying above her house but despite conditions being ideal at historically significant places such as Joshua Porter Reserve at Chain Valley Bay and Sutton's Reserve at Bateau Bay, no others have been seen.

The last of the spring migrants - White-breasted Woodswallows - are massing for migration north with 85 being counted at Central Coast Wetlands. An interesting sighting of Restless Flycatcher and Red-browed Treecreeper from the Bucketty Waterhole.

Hopefully, June will bring Swift Parrots.



White Wagtail  
Amanda Ward-Collins

**OUTING REPORTS**

**Outing: April 26**

**CHAIN VALLEY BAY**

Meeting at Scaysbrook Ave Community Hall, it quickly became apparent that this was going to be a girl power outing. Judy, Carole, Elaine and I were all thrilled to enjoy a leisurely stroll around Chain Valley Bay. The walk down to Karignan Creek bridge, was surprisingly human free, being a Saturday morning. Noisy Friarbird and Yellow-faced Honeyeater were the dominant sound and sight. There were White-cheeked lower down, as were Variegated Fairywren and Eastern Yellow Robin. White-breasted Woodswallow were still evident at the creek, as were Welcome Swallow, but there was no sign of Southern Emu-wren, nor any ducks.

**Leader: Meryl Newton**



The Girls  
Meryl Newton

Morning tea was at Joshua Porter Reserve with plenty of time to observe the blossoming Swamp Mahogany, again dominated by

Rainbow and Scaly Breasted Lorikeets, which took to the skies with a fly-over by immature and adult White-bellied Sea-eagles. Tree Martins were also still around. As we were having a good look around the back of the waterfront houses, while chatting with residents, we got great views of a Brahminy Kite catching fish on the far side and flushed a Striated Heron. We decided to also have lunch at the reserve as weather was ideal, and such a pleasant place. We then returned to the carpark at the community hall, to wander along Tall Timbers fire trail, as the others hadn't been there before. A bit quiet bird wise, with distant sound of Grey Shrike-thrush and fly-over of Little Lorikeets, a highlight! 43 species seen all up, which didn't reflect what a treat it was to lead such a small but enthusiastic group.



Brahminy Kite  
Meryl Newton

**Camp: May 2 - 4****SCONE****Leader: Graham Nelson**

The days leading up to the camp were not looking too bright, especially with rain on Wednesday. However, fortune smiled upon us with delightful weather featuring morning fog and sunny afternoons. Although the campground was not up to our usual high standards, it was relatively clean and comfortable, allowing us to make the most of the situation. Initially, we had 24 participants, but due to injuries and family obligations, that number dwindled to 16.

We kicked off Friday with a bang! At the back of Scone on Noblet Rd, we discovered the Community Recycling Centre, which was home to over 100 Black Kites. We also spotted large flocks of Common Starling, Rock Dove and Little Corella. A friendly gentleman across the road informed us that he believed over 400 Black Kites roosted against the mountain wall. The group was so taken with the sight that they jokingly suggested I could cancel the rest of the camp! Throughout the day we observed small groups of these magnificent birds.

A bit further back was the Scone Mountain Trail, offering stunning views of Scone and serving as a corridor for 19 common bird species that morning. We then moved on to Gundy which is an open, lightly timbered grassland with big paddock trees. Stopping at Alma Rd TSR, the highlight was the Striated Pardalote. Then on to the showground for morning tea. Gabrielle was fortunate enough to spot a Spotted Harrier en route. Just behind the pub, I had previously discovered a Restless Flycatcher during my reconnaissance, which was now joined by a Jacky Winter. During our morning tea, two adult White-bellied Sea-eagles soared overhead.



After crossing a long ford with a few inches of water, we stopped on a closed side road at Glenbawn Dam where we observed Whistling Kite, an immature White-bellied Sea-eagle, a Wedge-tailed Eagle, a pair of Peregrine Falcons, Great Crested Grebe, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater and Apostlebird. Wedge-tailed Eagles were a common sight throughout our camp journey, with Nankeen Kestrels and Black-shouldered Kites making appearances every few kilometres. Lunch was enjoyed at Glenbawn Dam, which features a pleasant picnic area across from the Kiosk. Although there is a \$15 entry fee per car, I managed to talk them out of it. Each car required a different key code for exit. We spotted waterbirds and various small birds, Australian King Parrot, and a Brown Falcon, to name a few. On our way to Aberdeen, I checked a small dam on private property, where I had previously seen a Black-fronted Dotterel during my reconnaissance, but unfortunately, the water had risen and it was no longer present. At the Aberdeen Sewage Treatment works, we encountered the usual waterbirds and heard Little Grassbirds calling. A bridge on Dartbrook Rd had been promising during my reconnaissance but was lacklustre when we stopped. Although Zebra Finches and Double-barred Finches were absent that day, Elaine managed to spot them the following day.

On Saturday, we ventured to Wingen TSR. An unplanned stop at Parkville by the road revealed a number of waterbirds that had moved in due to recent rainfall. Water Lane TSR, Wingen, was a veritable treasure trove, showcasing White-winged Chough, Grey-crowned Babbler, Scarlet, White-naped, Brown, Brown-headed, and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Mistletoebird, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Brown Treecreeper, Golden Whistler, Varied Sittella, Apostlebird and Common Bronzewing among others. There were so many birds that we couldn't identify them all. I could have easily spent another hour or two there, but morning tea was calling and we had a schedule to adhere to. Morning tea was held at Burning Mountain before heading to Murrurundi Cemetery. The cemetery appeared rather bleak and just as I was about to return to the cars, we stumbled upon a cluster of trees teeming with birds. We spotted Brown, Yellow, Buff-rumped, and numerous Yellow-rumped Thornbills, along with Golden Whistler, White-winged Chough, Varied Sittella, and White-throated Treecreeper. Paradise Park is a lovely spot to visit, but it requires a certain level of fitness and agility for the walk. We added Striated Thornbill and Dusky Woodswallow to our list.



Driving down Halls Rd, we crossed a creek bustling with small birds, although parking for six cars was limited. The Sewage Treatment works on the opposite side of the hill was not visible. During my reconnaissance I drove up Murulla St to see if I could get a glimpse. While I couldn't, I did discover a hive of activity with numerous small birds and honeyeaters, including a White-throated Gerygone and Speckled Warbler. Unfortunately, it was deserted when we visited. Variegated Fairy-wren and Crimson Rosella were about it. We did manage to spot some Topknot Pigeons and catch a glimpse of a Common Blackbird down the bottom of the hill. Along the river, we encountered at least 1,000 fruit bats, which I didn't recall seeing during my reconnaissance. It was time to return to the caravan park and prepare for dinner at the Bowling Club, which had forgotten about my reservation. I always order Mongolian Lamb at every camp to compare, and this time it was average, placing it at the bottom of my list. Barraba Bowling Club still holds the top spot. PS: The Scone RSL Chinese restaurant is excellent.

On Sunday, we began our day at the Bill Rose Sports complex. I couldn't locate the babbler I had seen during my reconnaissance, so we proceeded to the Sewage Treatment works. I utilised my ute as a viewing platform, as it has a step at the back. Unfortunately, we didn't spot any Pink-eared Duck, but we did see nearly everything else: Cattle & Great Egrets, Hardhead, Australian Darter, Fairy & Tree Martins, Eastern & Crimson Rosellas, Australian King Parrot, Nankeen Kestrel, Black-shouldered Kite, Black Kite, and Wedge-tailed Eagle, with John and Margot even finding a Tawny Frogmouth. We then drove up to Cressfield Rd and out to Washpools Picnic Area for morning tea. Grey-crowned Babbler, White-naped Honeyeater, Australian King Parrot, Golden Whistler, Varied Sittella and an Olive-backed Oriole kept us entertained. We even got to observe the Grey-crowned Babbler constructing a nest. At the Washpools Campground, we discovered two female Rose Robins. While travelling along Middlebrook Rd, we crossed a bridge that initially appeared quiet, but we soon spotted over 30 Zebra Finches. Numerous Double-barred Finches and Yellow-rumped Thornbills were also present and we believe we saw a pair of Diamond Firetail among them, although they did not reappear. A White-bellied Sea-eagle and Tree Martins were also observed.



Lunch was back at camp. In the afternoon, we set out on Bunnan Rd to Gibbergunyah Rd TSR, Owens Gap, a mixed Eucalypt, ironbark, pine woodland. It seemed like a promising location for Red-capped Robin, but unfortunately, none were found. We did, however, observe Brown, Yellow, and Buff-rumped Thornbills, White-throated Treecreeper, Olive-backed Oriole, Golden and Rufous Whistlers, Rose Robin, and Weebill. As we were heading back to the cars to return home, we played the call of the Red-capped Robin again but to no avail. We then tried our luck with the Speckled Warbler, and to our delight, they came right in, flitting around us from tree to tree. I was thrilled that we managed to find them.

Due to the absence of a camp kitchen or outdoor seating area at the Caravan Park, we held our bird call sessions in the car park in front of the units each day. This made sharing food a bit more challenging, but we managed. There is a sense that the caravan park may close and be replaced with small houses, which would complicate future camps. However, there are several motels that are likely cheaper and more pleasant than the caravan park, so only time will tell. Everyone expressed enjoyment of the camp. They will no longer view it as merely a town to pass through but rather as a place filled with beautiful locations and excellent birding opportunities. We recorded 111 species, though I have yet to verify that number. The summer count may be higher.

I extend my gratitude to all who attended. You formed a small, close-knit group that made sharing Scone a pleasure.

**SPECIES LIST**

**APRIL 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	11/4/2025	Elizabeth Bay, Lake Munmorah	Nick Carson
Musk Duck	1	12/4/2025	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Australasian Shoveler	4	12/4/2025	Tuggerah WWTP	Andrew Robinson

Brown Quail	8	9-29/4/25	x6 Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
White-throated Nightjar	1	2/4/2025	Watagan Forests in Wyong Shire	Julie Peksis
Owlet-Nightjar	1	8 & 14/4	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Owlet-Nightjar	HC	13 & 24/4	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	1/4/2025	North Entrance	Maree Graham
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	9/4/2025	Munmorah SCA	Graham Nelson
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	13/4/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	13 & 20/4	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Emerald Dove	1	23-29/4/25	The Orchards Village, Lisarow	Allan Benson
Peaceful Dove	1	9/4/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Brush Bronzewing	1	9/4/2025	Wybung Head Rd, Munmorah SCA	Allan Benson
Topknot Pigeon	120+	12-21/4/25	500 on 20/4, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Topknot Pigeon	200+	23/4/2025	Niagara Park church	Julie Peksis
Topknot Pigeon	200+	29/4/2025	Lisarow	Rob Montgomery
Buff-banded Rail	2A3Y	1/4/2025	North Entrance Caravan Park	Les Blundell
Buff-banded Rail	1	7-20/4/25	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Neryl Richards
Buff-banded Rail	1	19/4/2025	Terilbah Reserve, North Entrance	David Lambert
Bush Stone-curlew	1	3/4/2025	Magenta Shores Golf Course	David McManus
Sooty Oystercatcher	33	1/4/2025	during high seas at The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
Double-banded Plover	2	2/4/2025	during high seas at The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
Bar-tailed Godwit	7	1-10/4/25	during high seas at The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
Red-necked Stint	10	1/4/2025	during high seas at The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
Pomarine Jaeger	1	11/4/2025	Wybung Head, Munmorah SCA	Nick Carson
Caspian Tern	54	1/4/2025	during high seas at The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	47	25/4/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
White-faced Storm-Petrel	3	25/4/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Campbell Albatross	2	25/4/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Short-tailed Shearwater	24	25/4/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Flesh-footed Shearwater	30	25/4/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	16	25/4/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Fluttering Shearwater	1	25/4/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-necked Stork	1	3/4/2025	flying over Tuggerah Sports Oval	Sue Watts
Eastern Reef Heron	2	7/4/2025	Putty Beach, Bouddi NP	Tricia Sweet
Osprey	1	1 & 16/4/25	during high seas at The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
Osprey	1	9/4/2025	Wybung Head, Munmorah SCA	Stephen Clark
Osprey	1	29/4/2025	nest building, Mingara tower	Michael Price
Pacific Baza	1	19/4/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Mel Stratton
Black-shouldered Kite	1	10/4/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Rob Montgomery
Black-shouldered Kite	2	10-16/4/25	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Black-shouldered Kite	2	20/4/2025	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Square-tailed Kite	1	4/4/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Square-tailed Kite	1	11 & 24/4	Niagara Park	Nerida Carter
Square-tailed Kite	1	21/4/2025	Narara	Andrew Robinson
Brahminy Kite	1	4/4/2025	Werepi St, Lakes Beach	Leeanne Lemke
Brahminy Kite	1	9/4/2025	Wybung Head, Munmorah SCA	Stephen Clarke
Brahminy Kite	1	12/4/2025	Budgewoi Lake, Toukley	Leeanne Lemke
Whistling Kite	3	20/4/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Brown Goshawk	1	6/4/2025	Wambina NR, Matcham	Michael Ronan
Brown Goshawk	1	9/4/2025	Wybung Head, Munmorah SCA	Carole Carpenter
Brown Goshawk	1	12/4/2025	Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	Graham Nelson
Grey Goshawk	1	2 & 16-25/4	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Grey Goshawk	1	4/4/2025	Werepi St, Lakes Beach	Leeanne Lemke
Grey Goshawk	1	30/4/2025	Niagara Park	Andrew Robinson
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	6/4/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	12/4/2025	Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong	Andrew Robinson
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	20/4/2025	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	12/4/2025	Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	Graham Nelson

Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	27/4/2025	Wamberal Nature Reserve	Karmel Baker
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	20/4/2025	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Little Eagle	1	29/4/20-25	San Remo	Allan Benson
Spotted Harrier	A	11/4/2025	Munmorah SCA	Jamie Cannon
Spotted Harrier	1	20/4/2025	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Southern Boobook	HC	3/4/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Southern Boobook	1	8/4/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Collette Livermore
Southern Boobook	HC	10/4/2025	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Powerful Owl	1	3/4/2025	Chittaway Bay South Reserve	Matthew Pataky
Powerful Owl	1	13/4/2025	into care from M1 Motorway, Bushells Ridge	Mark Smith
Powerful Owl	AF	21/4/2025	HC 0300 hrs Port Jackson Rd, Terrigal	Jeff Drudge
Nankeen Kestrel	1	5 & 13/4	Norah Head	Mark Smith
Nankeen Kestrel	1	9-10/4/25	Wybung Head, Munmorah SCA	Stephen Clarke
Nankeen Kestrel	1	20/4/2025	Budgewoi	John Davis
Australian Hobby	1	20/4/2025	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Australian Hobby	1	21/4/2025	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Peregrine Falcon	1	9/4/2025	Wybung Head, Munmorah SCA	Stephen Clark
Peregrine Falcon	1	12/4/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	100+	17/4/2025	flying west to east, Mount White	Sue Watts
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	13/4/2025	Konda Rd, Brisbane Water NP, Somersby	Andrew Melville
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	20/4/2025	Rumbalara Reserve, Gosford	Judy Robson
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	5/4/2025	Mangrove Mountain Hall	Margaret Pointer
Gang Gang Cockatoo	3	6/4/2025	Mangrove Mountain Hall	Kaye Pointer
Gang Gang Cockatoo	18	5-26/4/25	Upper Palmdale	Laura Chaffey
Little Lorikeet	4	26/4/2025	Chain Valley Bay North	Meryl Newton
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	12	26/4/2025	Chain Valley Bay	Meryl Newton
Turquoise Parrot	F	10/4/2025	Magenta Shores	Maree Hawker
<b>Swift Parrot</b>	<b>2+HC</b>	<b>13/4/2025</b>	<b>Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn</b>	<b>Kaye Pointer</b>
Superb Lyrebird	1	30/4/2025	at house, Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Noisy Pitta	1	14/4/2025	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Green Catbird	1	11/4/2025	hit window Winney Bay, into care	Laurie Smith
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	2	9/4/2025	Freemans Hill, Munmorah SCA	Allan Benson
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	40+	16/4/2025	migrating Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	100+	16/4/2025	migrating Central Mangrove	Michael Breheny
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	3400	30/4/2025	seen in 30 minutes, Reeves St, Narara	Guy Dutson
Fuscous Honeyeater	10	13-27/4/25	Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	Allan Benson
Fuscous Honeyeater	3	25/4/2025	Box Head, Bouddi NP	Frances Westwick
Brown Honeyeater	4	12-13/4/25	Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	Graham Nelson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	8	12/4/2025	Woy Woy Road, Brisbane Water NP	Andrew Robinson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	6	19-20/4/25	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Noisy Friarbird	20+	11/4/2025	migrating at Tathra Taila HSD, Man.Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Rock Warbler	1	19/4/2025	Warrah Trig, Brisbane Water NP	Julie Peksis
Striated Thornbill	6	6/4/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Buff-rumped Thornbill	4	29/4/2025	Bushells Ridge Rd, Wyee	Allan Benson
Varied Sittella	7	2 & 9/4	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Crested Shrike-tit	2	6/4/2025	Wambina NR, Matcham	Michael Ronan
Crested Shrike-tit	2	9/4/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Julie Peksis
Dusky Woodswallow	2	21/4/2025	Bucketty-Mogo Camp	Julie Peksis
<b>White-breasted W'swallow</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>6/4/2025</b>	<b>0600 hrs CC Wetlnds, Tuggerah</b>	<b>Guy Dutson</b>
Restless Flycatcher	1	7/4/2025	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Leaden Flycatcher **	F	9/4/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Julie Peksis
Rufous Fantail	1	3/4/2024	Wyee private property	Leonie Loewe
Spangled Drongo	2	4/4/2025	Werepi St, Lakes Beach	Leeanne Lemke
Spangled Drongo	1	16-20/4/25	Central Cost Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Melville
Spangled Drongo	1	18/4/2025	Avoca Beach	Louise Trail
Jacky Winter	2	20/4/2025	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Jacky Winter	3	23/4/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer

Silvereye * (Tasmania type)	2	3/4/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Australian Pipit	7	20/4/2025	Mangrove Mountain	Andrew Robinson
Bassian Thrush	1	6 & 18/4	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Bassian Thrush	1	10/4/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Julie Peksis
Bassian Thrush	1	15/4/2025	Upper Palmdale	Linda Deverill
European Blackbird	1	18/4/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer

**Breeding and other records April 2025**

**Topknot Pigeon:** 20 Wyoming 1/4 (KPo), 20 Central Coast Wetlands 4/4 & 70 Upper Palmdale 16/4 (BWS), 50 Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming 14/4 (RMO), 120 Tuggerah 21/4 (ARo), 20 Tathra Taila HSD Man.Mtn 22/4 (KPo), 100+ Narrara 26/4 (LBI). 15 Peats Ridge 28/4 (MPo); **Buff-banded Rail:** 1 Tumbi Creek 30/4 (BDo); **Brahminy Kite:** 1 Karignan Bay, Lake Macquarie 26/4 (MNe); **Brown Goshawk:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD M. Mtn 1-27/4 (KPo), Bulls Quarry, BWNP 13/4 & Mangrove Mtn 20/4 (ARo), 1 Niagara Park 20/4 (NCar), 1 Chain Valley Bay Nth 26/4 (MNe); **Wedge-tailed Eagle:** 2 x5 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1-11/5 , 1 Mangrove Mtn Hall 6/4 (MPo); **Powerful Owl:** 2 Rumbalara Reserve, Gosford 30/4 (NCa); **Nankeen Kestrel:** 1 Mt Penang Gardens 12/4 & Mangrove Mtn 20/4 (ARo); **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man.Mtn 15, 21 & 28/4 (KPo); **Glossy Black Cockatoo:** 2 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 5-9/4 (KPo); **Spangled Drongo:** 1 Doyalson North 30/4 (MNe); **New Holland Honeyeater:** 2A+2J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 12 & 20/4 (KPo).  
*Happy Birding!*

**TWITCH LIST April 2025**

Nick Carson	202	Margaret Pointer	150	Diana Hogan	100
Allan Benson	192	Chris Jamieson	150	Gabrielle Rees	100
Carole Carpenter	170	Krystyna Lonergan	140	Robyn Price	98
Christina Port	165	Doug Hocking	139	Judy Clark	97
Julie Peksis	165	Daniel McKeon	132	Lynette Callaghan	73
Kaye Pointer	164	David Schuemaker	120		
John Carpenter	162	Frik Gautschi	104		

Nick Carson has a good lead at this stage with Allan Benson second. A cut-off date of the 1<sup>st</sup> May for 2025 Twitch registration will be implemented.

**BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD 2025**

Alan Stuart	115	Guy Dutson	14	Meryl Newton	4
Graham Nelson	77	C Clutterbuck	12	Ann Lindsay	3
Allan Benson	69	Michael Scobie	8	Leeanne Lemke	2
Frik Gautschi	25	David Schuemaker	5	Daniel McKeon	1
Robyn Price	24	Doug Hocking	5		

The YTD 2025 number is now 518 compared with 688 in 2024. Hopefully, Swift Parrot surveys will narrow this gap. Alan Stuart has opened up a nice lead on the field with Graham Nelson and Allan Benson trailing by a fair margin.

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**

**April Survey**

The threat of rain meant only 2 observers completed this survey. The ponds were reasonably full after rain. 150 waterfowl were on the ponds. The majority were Pacific Black Ducks but there was a fair number of Hardhead and Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebe. Highlights were a Musk Duck, 30+ Hoary-headed Grebe and 9 Shoveler. Total species count was only 26, reflecting many species of expected waterbirds were absent, and the bush bird numbers were low.

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

**Swift Parrot Surveys**

**YTD**

**May 10**

112 surveys were completed YTD 10<sup>th</sup> May by 12 participants. Key sites such as Joshua Porter Reserve at Chain Valley Bay and Sutton Reserve at Bateau Bay have been surveyed multiple times. These are, historically, the most likely sites for Swift Parrots to visit. 18 Swift Parrots were recorded in Blacktown and note Kaye Pointer's record in the Species List.

Nick Carson	30	Leeanne Lemke	7
Allan Benson	23	Frances Westwick	4
Meryl Newton	12	Leonie Loewe	3
Daniel McKeon	10	Gary Sanders	2
Guy Dutson	9	Nerida Carter	2
Diane Warman	8	Robyn Price	2



**Terrigal Pelagic Trip Report: Friday April 25**

**Andrew Robinson**

A short trip report this month due to a rather uneventful day at sea with low species diversity. As always, an awesome crew made for a thoroughly enjoyable day out. Of note, no Pterodromas were observed and for the first time since March 2023 (25 trips), Shy Albatross was not recorded.

In total 10 taxa were seen beyond The Haven with 7 of those Tubenoses, as follows:

Campbell Albatross – 2 (1), Wilson's Storm Petrel – 47 (28), White-faced Storm Petrel – 3 (3), Short-tailed Shearwater – 24 (4), Flesh-footed Shearwater – 30 (12), Wedge-tailed Shearwater – 16 (3), Fluttering Shearwater – 1, Fluttering type Shearwater – 3, Silver Gull – 4 (3)

Greater Crested Tern – 8 (3), Australasian Gannet – 3 (1)



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

**VICTORIAN HELMETED HONEYEATERS RETURNED TO THE WILD IN HISTORIC RELEASE**

More than 20 iconic yellow and black helmeted honeyeaters have fluttered off into their new forest home on Bunurong Country in eastern Victoria. The birds were bred at Healesville Sanctuary near Melbourne as part of a conservation program establishing a crucial wild population in the fight against extinction. "Its historic distribution used to be from the Yarra Valley down to the Westernport Bay and through the hills of the Koo Wee Rup swamps," he said. Zoos Victoria estimated there were only 200 helmeted honeyeaters in the wild. The birds are listed as threatened under Victorian legislation and endangered under Commonwealth legislation. The species has not been seen in the Cardinia area since the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983.



The team at Healesville Sanctuary has been part of a national recovery plan for the species, with a focus on population management and the establishment of new colonies in the wild. Healesville Sanctuary's helmeted honeyeater breeding program lead, Kim Miller, said the team was hopeful the new population of birds at Cardinia would help improve the genetic diversity of the species. "Second to the problem of not much habitat, the remaining birds are actually quite inbred ... they could move towards extinction because of that lack of genetic diversity," Dr Miller said. Dr Bradsworth said Zoos Victoria had been working closely with other local organisations to rehabilitate the habitat ahead of the birds' release. "They are listed as critically endangered still, but we're actively working to help reverse their decline, and so one of those factors is through re-introductions into the wild, mainly with captive-bred birds," he said. "So now [our captive-bred birds] are sitting with stray populations out in the wild, which is absolutely fantastic."

As the honeyeaters establish themselves, a dedicated team will monitor and provide supplementary food to ensure the species thrives in its new location. Scientists from Healesville have managed to attach tiny VHF radio transmitters to the birds' tails, allowing them to track the birds, although Dr Bradsworth has managed to come up with his own way of identifying the colony. "All of the birds have unique colour combinations on their legs, so I can actually identify which individuals are which ... who they pair-off with, and where they go," he said. All involved hope the release is the beginning of re-establishing the iconic species. "This is really just the start," Dr Bradsworth said. "We do hope to increase the number of sites in years to come, bolster numbers with captive-born birds and hope that they thrive into the future."

## **ENDANGERED LITTLE TERNS RECORD HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL NSW BREEDING SEASON**

**By Emma Siossian**

Each spring, the small seabirds migrate thousands of kilometres across the ocean from East and South-east Asia to nest on Australian shores. They lay eggs directly on the sand where they are so well camouflaged, they become almost invisible, making them vulnerable to beach visitors and cars. They are also at risk from predators, flooding and, adverse weather conditions.

For the past 25 years, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has been involved in trying to conserve and monitor the species. The NPWS said since 2019 the breeding population had more than doubled. NPWS North Coast Branch threatened species project officer Kaitlyn York said that, in the most recent breeding season, more than 900 nests were recorded across the state — the second-highest number recorded in the past 24 years of monitoring. "It was an incredible year for the birds. We also counted at least 485 breeding pairs," she said. "That's a jump from last year's 430 breeding pairs, which was an increase on the previous year." The high number of breeding pairs

resulted in an estimated 510 fledglings, the highest count of fledglings recorded and a jump from last year's figure of about 370. "This is a positive result, that we will keep checking on every year," Ms York said. "There's a lot of effort going into the monitoring of these birds, and then, of course, the threat management."



Nests were spotted at 24 sites along the NSW coast, ranging from Wilsons Head in Yuraygir National Park in the Grafton area on the North Coast to Merimbula on the far South Coast. "The birds are very particular in where they choose to nest, there can be stretches of coast where there are no nesting birds," Ms York said. Ms York said Karagi Point on the Central Coast was a stand-out breeding site, where almost 45 per cent of the state's little tern fledglings were hatched in the last season. The NPWS said the Central Coast Council's "exemplary management" of the site was key to the breeding success.

Sites at Lake Conjola and Lake Wollumboola on the South Coast also experienced positive results, as did sites on the Mid North Coast. "Red Rock had a really good year, just north of Coffs Harbour, and one fledgling came out of a site called Station Creek at Yuraygir National Park north of Coffs Harbour," she said. "We've not recorded a successful fledgling there [possibly] ever, and definitely not in the past few years, so that's a great result."

Ms York said it was important for people not to become complacent. The conservation of migratory birds is complex because birds can face a range of threats at different stages — at nesting sites, during migration and at "wintering" sites, where birds congregate during the colder months. "They [little terns] are hopefully on the up, but we can't be sure [numbers] are increasing a lot, as these results could also be due to survey efforts and other factors, so they aren't out of the woods yet," Ms York said. Ms York said threat management remained a strong focus. "These birds face multiple threats. A big thing we push is making sure beachgoers pay attention to signage and fencing ... and keeping dogs on a lead and not disturbing these birds," she said. "Bad weather and big tides are another big one, which can unfortunately inundate their nests. "Given the number of obstacles they face to get their eggs through each season, to see these breeding numbers is incredible."

The acting deputy secretary of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Trish Harrup, said protecting little terns was a combined effort and there had been a "groundswell" of community support. "[It included] volunteers, NPWS staff, local councils, land managers, contractors, and stakeholders who conducted over 5,000 observations at nest sites this season," she said.

"Despite these promising numbers, these birds remain on the edge, and continued efforts are vital to protect them."