



The Twitcher

April
2025

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Allan Benson (0457 458 274) Wendy Mitchell (0423 388 529) & Robyn Price

Volume 20, No. 4

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
22/04/25	Next Meeting: Bar-tailed Godwits and Creative Student Learning Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks	Dr Christine Hatton
26/04/25	Outing: Chain Valley Bay REMEMBER TO REGISTER Meet: 8.30am Community Hall Car Park Scaysbrook Ave, Chain Valley Bay	Meryl Newton 0435 780 380
14/05/25	½ Day Outing: Dubbo Gully REMEMBER TO REGISTER Meet: 8.30am Cnr Wiseman’s Ferry and Waratah Roads, Mangrove Mountain	M & K Pointer 4374 1163
27/05/25	Next Meeting: Birding by Boat on Port Stephens Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks	Alan Stuart

Note: For all Outings bring your morning tea and lunch. A chair is a good idea.



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, Dr Christine Hatton, is a Senior Lecturer in Drama in the School of Education at the University of Newcastle, Australia. Her research interests include gender in drama education and innovative approaches to curriculum using the arts to help young people to develop their ethical imaginations. Recent research projects have investigated teacher artistry, theatre for young audiences, and the impacts of sustained arts residencies in schools.



This presentation will explore an ongoing research study in Hunter region schools that uses drama pedagogy to activate students’ ethical imaginations in a shared inquiry process across a range of curriculum areas. The project’s main thematic focus is the local wetland environment, and its rehabilitation needs for the endangered shorebirds that visit each year, in particular, the Bar-tailed Godwit. This drama work with primary and secondary students aims to develop their ecological understandings, enabling them to work with complex issues through role play and puppetry in a fictional community called Castlemaine, situated within our region. Students work collaboratively to restore a wetland environment as scientists, journalists, historians and geographers, grappling with real world challenges such as colonial legacies, government mismanagement and community disinterest. The role play as human experts then shifts to puppetry, where students create and perform with godwit puppets, giving them an embodied relation with these courageous birds. Results so far point to the benefits of a drama led approach to help young people to make kin with the more-than-human world that surrounds them.

Last month’s meeting: 28 members heard Dr Catherine Price give an entertaining and informative presentation on her research into using olfactory disinformation to protect nesting shorebirds. This involves spreading “false” scents around the nesting colonies so the predators ignore the “real” targets. The ultimate experiment involved nesting Black Stilts, Wrybills, Double-banded Plovers and South Island Pied Oystercatchers in New Zealand. There are a plethora of predators in New Zealand including cats, stoats and hedgehogs. The results were impressive with significant increases in fledging rates compared to previous breeding events.

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 now has now reached 1400 members. A great job Malcolm Hill! The facebook page is a huge success allowing bird related to issues to reached 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 on to Wendy Mitchell for donation to charity.

CAMPS 2025

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

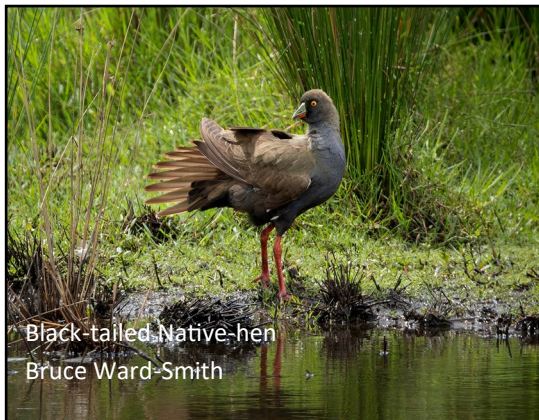
PAY YOUR MEETING DONATION ELECTRONICALLY

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 March/April and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in May?



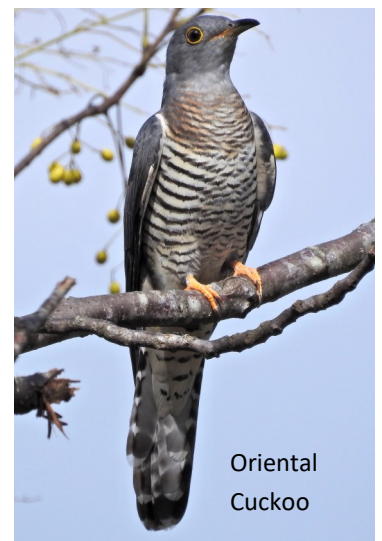
Black-tailed Native-hen
Bruce Ward-Smith

Some interesting records in the last month. Firstly, a Black-tailed Native-hen was observed at the Dairy. This is only the 5th record for the Central Coast and it was well twitched by one and all. An Oriental Cuckoo was also found at the Dairy. This is a rare visitor to our area.

Another rare visitor was a Spotted Harrier observed in Munmorah SRA. Good numbers of White-throated Needletails and Pacific Swifts have been reported. An observation of 20 Black Kites over Gosford was a very interesting record. Subsequently there were records

from Woy Woy tip. Flocks of Topknot Pigeons are being seen, particularly along the railway line between Ourimbah and Lisarow where they are feeding on Camphor Laurel. The expected autumn migrants have arrived with Double-banded Plover, Restless Flycatcher, Rose Robin all being observed.

Spring migrants have mostly moved north with White-breasted Woodswallows the last to go. Hopefully we will see Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeaters as the Swamp Mahogany is starting to flower. Fuscous Honeyeaters should arrive soon.



Oriental Cuckoo

OUTING REPORTS**Outing: 29th March****BULL'S QUARRY AND KARIONG****Leader: Frik Gautschi**

Cancelled because of wet weather.

Camp: 14th-16th March**BATEMANS BAY****Leader: Christina Port**

It was our first outing in Batemans Bay since the devastating bushfires of 2020. There were plenty of birds, but diversity appeared to be down from the last outing in 2017. Batemans Bay looked fantastic with the weather being clear and quite hot. We met at the Pleasurelea Caravan Park camp kitchen for our first meeting on Thursday evening to register, to chat about plans and organise car pooling. A Common Bronzewing dropped in to say hello as we chatted. Off to a good start!

On **Friday** we travelled to the south and our first stop was Potato Point. We started with Little Wattlebird, New Holland Honeyeater and Superb Fairy-wren. A short drive to Eurobodalla National Park and then we walked the start of the Jemisons Point Trail. The Coastal Banksia was full of Brown Thornbill, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, a Brown-headed Honeyeater, Golden Whistler and Red-browed Finch. Lewin's Honeyeater, Grey Shrike-thrush, White-browed Scrubwren, Grey Fantail and as we finished, with a female Leaden Flycatcher. At Brou Lake we enjoyed morning tea amongst the shade of the Spotted Gums. The birds were mostly quiet but Red Wattlebird, Australian Magpie and Australian Raven were recorded and a large Lace Monitor provided much excitement. Out on the spit there were plenty of Silver Gulls, a pair of Pied Oystercatchers and on the lake in the distance Black Swans.

We drove to Congo for a walk out to the rocks. We saw Silver Gull, Sooty Oystercatcher, Crested Tern with Pied and Great Cormorants. We then enjoyed lunch followed by a drive to Bingi, where we walked the Bingi Dreaming track. There was a good mixture of birds where we saw Variegated Fairy-wren, Silvereye, Crimson Rosella and Common Bronzewing. The lagoon was quiet apart from a White-faced Heron. As we walked out our first raptor was a Black-shouldered Kite that flew over quickly followed by three White-bellied Sea-Eagles enjoying the wind blasting over the headland - us not so much! A Jacky Dragon posed and Whistling Kite were seen on the way back to camp.

On **Saturday** we headed north. The weather was glorious and we were competing for parking with fishermen, surfers, and swimmers. Our first stop was Racecourse Beach on the way to Kioloa. A very obliging Eastern Yellow Robin, Spotted Pardalote, Lewin's Honeyeater, Spangled Drongo and the ever present Little and Red Wattlebirds were recorded. As well there were New Holland Honeyeater and a pair of Golden Whistlers. As we headed to O'Hara headland the only Sacred Kingfisher for the trip flew across the road. A Spotted Dove, Australian Pelicans, and Sooty Oystercatchers were on the rocks and our first Australasian Gannets were seen off the headland. As we walked around, the highlight there was a posing adult Sea-eagle. Everyone got great views. Pied Currawong, Silvereye and White-browed Scrubwren along with the Superb Fairy-wren were in the coastal scrub.



Leaden Flycatcher
Philip Siao

After morning tea, we headed to Bawley Point. A pair of Masked Lapwings was all we saw until a Wedge-tailed Eagle flew in the distance. He disturbed a pair of immature Sea-eagles who passed us flying at speed. We then drove to Depot Beach where we enjoyed lunch amongst the towering Spotted Gums listening to Brown Gerygone, White-throated Treecreeper, Spotted Pardalote. A Pied Currawong watched us eat. A screech of a flying Grey Currawong heard and seen. The Scarlet Honeyeaters were calling from the top of the huge trees.

Our final stop of the day was the Cullendulla Nature Reserve and the Mangrove Board Walk. Yellow Thornbill, Grey Shrike-thrush, Variegated Fairy-wren, Grey Fantail were seen and Pied Oystercatchers and Masked Lapwings were on the tidal flats. It was a surprise to hear Gang Gangs calling from the other side. A female Leaden Flycatcher was observed as we headed to our cars.

Sunday was another very hot day. We started at the Deep Creek Dam seeing Little Raven at the turn off and Brown Goshawk and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos as we drove down. Purple Swampheens and a flock of 17 Little Lorikeets were the highlights here. We headed into the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens. Golden Whistler, Spotted Pardalote and Yellow-faced Honeyeater were here. Down the bottom we saw White-browed Treecreeper, White-naped Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, and a calling Grey Currawong. Crimson Rosella and Eastern Yellow Robins posed and Superb Lyrebird finished a great visit. We then enjoyed morning tea in the café before heading off to Runnyford Bridge.

Walking over the Buckenbowra River, White-faced Heron and Pacific Black Duck, King Parrot, and Welcome Swallow were recorded. The pond over the other side had our first Australasian Grebe, Great Egret, Intermediate Egret and Masked Lapwing and Australian White Ibis.

Lunch was at camp before we headed to Buttewarra Point. Prolific Red and Little Wattlebirds were again seen but the highlight was watching the swimming and sleeping seals from the lookout. Australasian Gannets, migrating Silvereyes, unspecified Woodswallows, Eastern Yellow Robins and Variegated Fairy-wrens were observed here.

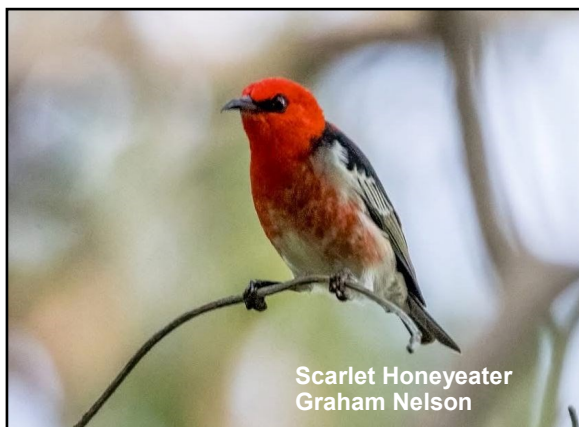
At Mossy Point boat ramp we finally saw a Caspian Tern, another White-bellied Sea-eagle and a very large stingray worrying the Australian Pelicans. Our last stop for the Camp was the Tomakin Sewage Treatment works. Here we added Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Australian Wood Duck and Eurasian Coot.

Thanks to everyone who attended. Lots of birds and great company.

Half-day Outing:

MUNMORAH SRA

Leader: Graham Nelson



Scarlet Honeyeater
Graham Nelson

15 of the usual suspects met Graham Nelson at the Birdie Beach Car Park on a pleasant warm, sunny autumn day. Graham was a late call-up as the advertised leader, Christina Port, was unwell. The carpark was dominated by Rainbow Lorikeets and Little Wattlebirds.

The first walk was the Moonee fire trail. A Spangled Drongo flying over the cars was a nice addition to our list. The walk produced lots to entertain the punters. Honeyeaters were everywhere with Yellow-faced and New Holland the most common but there were White-cheeked, White-naped and Scarlet as well. Several male Scarlet Honeyeaters posed nicely for the photographers and a showy male Mistletoebird delighted the observers. The hoped-for Tawny-crowned Honeyeater failed to materialise.

Morning tea was taken at Frazer Beach. A tern hunkered down amongst the Crested Terns and Silver Gulls attracted attention but it was only a juvenile Crested. Out to sea several Gannets were seen against a backdrop of gathering storm clouds. A White-bellied Sea-eagle was spotted soaring over Wybung Head.

The lookout at Wybung Head produced the same Sea-eagle and a Brown Goshawk. Despite our best efforts a White-faced Heron on the rock shelf couldn't be turned into a Reef Egret. A walk along the headland only turned up Superb Fairy-wrens, Silvereyes, a Willie Wagtail and all the 4 Cormorant species we get.

A total species count for the day was a low 39 but some nice birds among them. A huge thanks to Graham for leading a very interesting day in one of the most scenic places on the Central Coast.

Allan Benson



Wybung Head
Robyn Price

SPECIES LIST

MARCH 2025

Bird names used and the order in which they occur are accord with the the IOC World Birdlist Version 11.1.2021

First migrant arrival *	Last migrant departure **	LN = biggest number since January	OW = Over-winter
March			
Hardhead	1	5/3/2025	Springfield Wetland
Hardhead	1	5/3/32025	Gosford Racecourse
Australasian Shoveler	4	2/3/2025	Ansells Point, Chittaway
Australasian Shoveler	8	9 & 27/3	Tuggerah STW
Brown Quail	2	5 & 18/3	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain
Brown Quail	6	12/3/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah
Brown Quail	4	23/3/2025	Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong
			Nick Carson
			Nick Carson
			Alan Morris
			Andrew Robinson
			Margaret Pointer
			Ash Mullahey
			Andrew Robinson

Owlet-Nightjar	1	2/3/2025	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Margaret Pointer
Owlet Nightjar	1	18/3/2025	Doyalson North	Meryl Newton
Hoary-headed Grebe	12	9 & 27/3	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
White-throated Needletail	100+	5/3/2025	0830 hrs Lisarow	Darren Earnshaw
White-throated Needletail	200	8/3/2025	Tumbi Creek, Tumbi Umbi	Nick Carson
White-throated Needletail	2000	8/3/2025	Tumbi Umbi	Andrew Robinson
Pacific Swift	15	28/2/2025	Narara Eco Village	Guy Dutson
Pacific Swift	250	18/3/2025	Cromarty Hill, Foresters Beach	Nick Carson
Pacific Swift	760	21/3/2025	Narara Eco Village	Guy Dutson
Channel-billed Cuckoo **	J	15/3/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Linda Deverell
Oriental Cuckoo	A	26/3/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Mika Id
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	1/3/2025	Borisbrook Rd Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	24/3/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Allan Benson
Peaceful Dove	2	2-26/3/25	x4 Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Margaret Pointer
Bar-shouldered Dove	9	9/3/2025	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Margaret Pointer
Topknot Pigeon	18	10-27/3/25	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Meryl Newton
Topknot Pigeon	50	27-30/3/25	Ourimbah	Andrew Robinson
Topknot Pigeon	30	30/3/2025	Wyoming	Andrew Robinson
Black-tailed Native-hen	1	27/3/2025	5th LGA record. Central Coast Wetlands	Andrew Robinson
Lewin's Rail	1	11/3/2025	Cresthaven Wetlands, Bateau Bay	Nick Carson
Bush Stone-curlew	2	1/3/2025	Magenta Shores	Elizabeth Hunt
Sooty Oystercatcher	8,11	6 & 31/3	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Sooty Oystercatcher	29	11 & 17/3	Blue Bay Reefs	Nick Carson
White-headed Stilt	47	30/3/2025	Tuggerah WWTP	Andrew Robinson
Pacific Golden Plover	8	17/3/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Andrew Robinson
Double-banded Plover *	1	6/3/2025	Pelican Point, Norah Head	Hitomi Ward
Double-banded Plover	1	8/3/3035	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Double-banded Plover	1	17/3/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Andrew Robinson
Red-capped Plover	4	6/3/2025	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Red-capped Plover	5	8/3/3035	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Black-fronted Dotterel	10	1-22/3/25	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Alan Morris
Black-fronted Dotterel	8	6-25/3/25	Tuggerah STW	Andrew Robinson
Red-kneed Dotterel	1	22/3/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Bar-tailed Godwit	12,3	6/3 & 31/3	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper **	1	16/3/2025	Tuggerah NR	Andrew Robinson
Red-necked Stint	32	17/3/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Andrew Robinson
Red-necked Stint	12	31/3/2025	The Entrance Channel (in big seas)	Nick Carson
Ruddy Turnstone	15	8/3/3035	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Wood Sandpiper	2	12-27/3/25	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Graham Nelson
Grey-tailed Tattler	5	8 & 20/3	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Grey-tailed Tattler	6	17/3/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Andrew Robinson
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	31/3/2025	The Entrance Channel	Nick Carson
Wandering Tattler	1	17 & 31/3	The Entrance Channel (in big seas)	Nick Carson
Brown Skua*	1	21/3/2025	Terrigal Inshore	Andrew Robinson
Pomarine Jaeger	1	1/3/2025	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Pomarine Jaeger	1	8/3/3035	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Black Noddy	1	15-22/3/25	Soldiers Point & Norah Head	Nick Giles
Little Tern **	2	14/3/2025	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
White-faced Storm-Petrel	bc	9/3/2025	Terrigal Beach	Jeff Drudge
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	38	28/3/2025	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Shy Albatross	1,6,4	1,13 & 28/3	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Buller's Albatross	1	13/3/2025	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Grey-faced Petrel	3, 22	1 & 28/3	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Providence Petrel	6	28/3/2025	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Kermadec Petrel	2	28/3/2025	5th CC record, Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Gould's Petrel	1	28/3/2025	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Short-tailed Shearwater	2,2	1 & 28/3	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Flesh-footed Shearwater	150,	1,13, 28/3	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	50,100	1 & 28/3	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	5000	8/3/3035	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson

Hutton's Shearwater	2	1/3/2025	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Fluttering Shearwater	1,3	8 & 28/3	Norah Head	Andrew Robinson
Brown Booby	A	13/3/2025	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Australasian Gannet *	1	1/3/2025	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-necked Stork	2	16/3/2025	Tuggerah Bay, Tuggerah NR	Andrew Robinson
Black-necked Stork	2	26/3/2025	flying over Wyong	Hitomi Ward
Nankeen Night-Heron	Im	1/3/2025	Naturia Ave Budgewoi	Graham Nelson
Nankeen Night-Heron	A	23/3/2025	Milk Factory, Wyong River	Michael Tyriss
Osprey	1	13/3/2025	Terrigal Haven	Andrew Robinson
Osprey	1	16 & 27/3	The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
Pacific Baza	4	23/3/2025	Rotherham St Bateau Bay	Nick Carson
Black-shouldered Kite	2	15/3/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Michael Nanscawen
Black-shouldered Kite	1	25/3/2025	Bay Village Bateau Bay	Daniel McKeon
Black-shouldered Kite	1	27/3/2025	private property, Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Square-tailed Kite	2	1/3/2025	Budgewoi	Gary Jackson
Square-tailed Kite	1	13/3/2025	Umina	Ken Jansen
Square-tailed Kite	1	13/3/2025	Springfield	Linda Deverell
Brahminy Kite	1	10/3/2025	Rip Bridge, Daleys Point	Tricia Sweet
Brahminy Kite	1	17/3/2025	Avoca Beach	Laurie Smith
Black Kite	20	16/3/2025	Gosford Racecourse	Jason Brown
Black Kite	1	16/3/2025	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Neryl Richards
Black Kite	3	18/3/2025	Woy Woy Tip	Darren Earnshaw
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	1-31/3/25	x7 Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	10-13/3/25	Morgans Rd Mount White	Sue Watts
Wedge-tailed Eagle	3	12/3/2025	Mt Penang Gardens, Kariong	Gary Jackson
Little Eagle (DM)	1	3/3/2025	Mount Penang Parklands	Chris Jamieson
Brown Goshawk	1	1/3/2025	San Remo	Leeanne Lemke
Brown Goshawk	1	4 & 28/3/25	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Brown Goshawk	1	13/3/2025	Umina	Ken Jansen
Grey Goshawk	1	18-23/3/25	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	12/3/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Graham Nelson
Azure Kingfisher	1	23/3/2025	Milk Factory, Wyong River	Michael Tyriss
Sacred Kingfisher	A+2Y	4-7/3/2025	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Dollarbird	1	1/3/2025	Terilbah Reserve North Entrance	Alan Morris
Southern Boobook	HC	1/3/2025	Rumbalara Reserve, Gosford	Elaine Elliott
Powerful Owl	HC	5/3/2025	Murrumbung HSD Mardi	Brian Carpenter
Powerful Owl	HC	26/3/2025	John Whitney Drive Gosford	Elaine Elliott
Nankeen Kestrel	1	8/3/2025	North Gosford	Gary Jackson
Nankeen Kestrel	2	10-22/3/25	Terrigal	Michael Nanscawen
Nankeen Kestrel	2	18-20/3/25	Norah Head	Neryl Richards
Australian Hobby	1	27/3/2025	Central Coast Wetlands	Marie Kobler
Yellow-tailed Bla Cockatoo	50+	1/3/2025	San Remo Oval	Meryl Newton
Yellow-tailed Bla Cockatoo	100+	17/3/2025	Ourimbah	Gary Jackson
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	3/3/2025	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2A+J	6/3/2025	Ourimbah Creek Rd Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	16/3/2025	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Gang Gang Cockatoo	8	14-28/3/25	Upper Palmdale	Georgina Madison
Gang Gang Cockatoo	26	18/3/2025	Ravensdale	Louise Salter
Gang Gang Cockatoo	14	23/3/2025	Kulnura	Shaun Harris
Little Corella	120	12/3/2025	Gavenlock Rd Tuggerah	Graham Nelson
Eastern Rosella	26	27/3/2025	Mount Penang Parklands	Andrew Robinson
Little Lorikeet	10	6/3/2025	Central Coast Wetlands	Tricia Sweet
Little Lorikeet	2	8/3/2025	Sutton Reserve, Bateau Bay	Nick Carson
Superb Lyrebird	1	13/3/2025	Murrumbung HSD Mardi	John Carpenter
Superb Lyrebird	1	16/3/2025	Upper Palmdale	Neryl Richards
Southern Emu-wren	3	22/3/2025	Tuggerah NR South Tacoma	Andrew Robinson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	2	1/3/2025	San Remo	Julie Peksis
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	23/3/2025	McPherson Rd Swamp	Julie Peksis
Cicadabird	1	9 & 22/3/25	Murrumbung HSD Mardi	John Carpenter
Varied Sittella	6	1-26/3/25	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer

Black-faced Monarch	A+J	1-4/3/2025	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Leaden Flycatcher	1	1-15/3/25	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Leaden Flycatcher **	F	24/3/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Allan Benson
Spangled Drongo *	1	1/3/2025	Terilbah Reserve North Entrance	Alan Morris
Spangled Drongo *	1	2/3/2025	Lakes Beach Budgewoi	Meryl Newton
Spangled Drongo *	1	3-6/3/2025	Mount Penang Parklands	Judy Clark
Rose Robin	1	1/3/2025	Palmgrove Nature Reserve	John Carpenter
Mistletoebird	1	1/3/2025	San Remo	Leeanne Lemke
Fairy Martin **	2	27/3/2025	Cresthaven Wetlands, Bateau Bay	Nick Carson
Double-barred Finch	10	1/3/2025	Mount Penang Parklands	Leeanne Lemke

Breeding and other records for March 2025:

Tawny Frogmouth: 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 13/3 (JCa); **White-throated Needletail:** 17 reports by 5 observers; **Pacific Swift:** 2 Gosford Racecourse 6/3, 2 Pateman Rd Erina 21/3 (NCa), 10 Norah Head 21/3 (JPe), **Fan-tailed Cuckoo:** A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 23/3/ (KPo); **Black-shouldered Kite:** 1 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 12/3 (KPo), 1 North Shelley 14/3 (NCa); **Square-tailed Kite:** 1 Toowoong Bay 17/3 (ARo); **Brown Goshawk:** 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 26/3 (CCa), 1 Central Coast Wetlands 27/3, 1 Wyoming 31/3 (ARo); **Wedge-tailed Eagle:** 1 Ingoola Rd Spencer 17/3 (KPo); **Yellow-tailed Bla Cockatoo:** 2A+2J Tahra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 18/3 (MPo); **Gang Gang Cockatoo;** 2A+J Upper Palmdale 14/3 (NCa); **Superb Fairy-wren:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 12/3 (MPo); **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 18/3 (KPo); **Leaden Flycatcher:** F+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 5/3 (KPo); **Eastern Whipbird:** A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 9/3 (KPo).
 Good birding!

CENTRAL COAST TWITCH 2025

Nick Carson has a good lead at this stage with Allan Benson second.
 A cutoff date for registration for the Twitch of 1st May will be implemented.

Nick Carson	181	Margaret Pointer	150	Robyn Price	96
Allan Benson	170	Krystyna Lonergan	140	Gabrielle Rees	90
Carole Carpenter	167	Doug Hocking	139	Judy Clark	89
Christina Port	165	Chris Jamieson	130	Frik Gautschi	88
Kaye Pointer	162	Daniel McKeon	120	Lynette Callaghan	64
John Carpenter	161	David Schuemaker	120		
Julie Peksis	157	Diana Hogan	97		

BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD 2025

We are catching up to 2024 results with YTD 2025 number now 404 compared with 434 in 2024. Hopefully this trend will continue.

Alan Stuart has opened up a nice gap on the field with Graham Nelson and Allan Benson trailing by a fair margin. Birdata is one way, as a birder, you can make a contribution to bird conservation We still need more observers, putting in more surveys.

Alan Stuart	92	C Clutterbuck	9	Leeanne Lemke	2
Graham Nelson	62	Michael Berg	5	Stuart Fleming	2
Allan Benson	43	David Schuemaker	5	Meryl Newton	1
Robyn Price	21	Doug Hocking	3	Daniel McKeon	1
Frik Gautschi	19	Michael Scobie	3		
Guy Dutson	9	Ann Lindsey	3		

Swift Parrot Surveys will commence on the 26th April and run until 28th June. Hopefully we will see Swifties this year. Every survey completed is greatly appreciated.

SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS - MARCH SURVEY

Eight observers found 320 waterfowl on the ponds. The majority were Pacific Black Ducks but there were a fair number of Hardhead and Australasian Grebe. It looks like the operator is keeping the water levels relatively low in anticipation of dredging the ponds. Highlights were a Musk Duck, a good number of Hoary-headed Grebe and 6 Shoveler. Total species count was 43 which is about average for this survey.

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

ANOTHER RECORD BREAKER: LITTLE TERN BREEDING SEASON SUMMARY 2024/25

Karagi Point, The Entrance North

Andrew Robinson

Little Terns arrived on the Central Coast in early October before numbers steadily built around The Entrance, with courtship and nest prospecting soon commencing. The first clutches were detected in early November, though many were lost to Silver Gull predation. A window for breeding success was then made possible as peak nesting occurred throughout December before an incredible fledging event in early January followed by further losses to avian predation. A significant east coast low impacted the nest site in late January which resulted in colony dispersal. Adults with fledglings were then observed throughout late January/early February at various coastal locations on the Central Coast and are thought to have departed by late February.

Best practice management was again implemented throughout the 2024/25.

This included: installation & maintenance of robust conservation fencing, interpretive & regulatory signage, construction of a sand levee to mitigate the threat of inundation (this management action saved the nest site on several occasions), regular rubbish removal, a program of weekly nest monitoring, a successful fox control program, avian predator intervention, environmental education and community engagement, a range of communications and media and high-risk events management including several site closures to manage increased visitation.

Despite the litany of threats present, Karagi Point was once again the highest performing site in NSW with an estimated 175 breeding pairs (350 breeding adults), 251 nests (525 eggs) and 228 fledglings being confirmed. This is the highest fledgling count ever recorded in NSW and made up nearly half (45%) of the states total fledglings last season. More broadly, nesting was detected at 24 sites along the NSW coast with other high performing sites including Lake Conjola, Corrie Island, Swansea Channel, Manning River North and Shoalhaven River. Of note, the number of breeding pairs in NSW has more than doubled over the last 5 seasons which is largely credited to 5 consecutive years of best practice management and resulting breeding success at Karagi Point during that period.

Terrigal Pelagic Trip Report, Friday 28th March 2025

Andrew Robinson .

As has been the case during recent trips it was an uneventful voyage out with moderate numbers of southbound Wedge-tailed Shearwater and a few each of Fluttering and Short-tailed Shearwater seen. Closer to the shelf slope we started to pick up Flesh-footed Shearwaters before starting our first drift just on 9am.



With a solid slick soon in place, activity ramped up when 3 Pterodromas were seen in quick succession with Grey-faced Petrel, Providence Petrel and a semi-obliging Gould's Petrel that made a few passes. A few Shy Albatross were seen, while Flesh-footed Shearwater and Wilson's Storm Petrel numbers steadily built with 25 of the later recorded.

Perhaps the highlight of the day was a large Smooth Hammerhead Shark that appeared mid-morning providing incredible close views for over an hour. After getting our Hammerhead fill (not literally of course) we decided to motor back up the slick before heading back to The Kink, having drifted some 7.5 nautical miles on a strong south current.

This soon proved the right call as not long after kicking off our second drift we were rewarded with both intermediate and dark morph Kermadec Petrels, which were only the 3rd and 4th records for the Terrigal Pelagic trips, with the darker individual offering good views for all on board. As a bonus this rather scarce NSW species was a lifer for several on board!

Come 1:30pm it was time to head for shore, but not before an aberrant / partially leucistic Grey-faced Petrel with extensive pale primaries showed up and had us guessing for a few moments. The journey back was once again mundane with the only notables being a Shy Albatross that followed the boat for a while, with a few Australasian Gannet and another Fluttering Shearwater.

In total 12 pelagic species were seen beyond The Haven with 10 of those Tubenoses.

As follows:

Shy Albatross – 4 (2), Providence Petrel – 6 (1), Kermadec Petrel – 2 (2), Grey-faced Petrel – 22 (13), Gould's Petrel – 1, Wilson's Storm Petrel – 38 (25), Short-tailed Shearwater – 2 (1), Flesh-footed Shearwater – 100+ (60), Wedge-tailed Shearwater – 100+ (15), Fluttering Shearwater – 3 (1), Silver Gull – 2, Australasian Gannet – 3 (1).

Aussie Bird Count: The most commonly sighted bird in Australia right now

Livia Gamble and Rachel Iorfino

Last October, 57,000 Australians participated, tallying more than 3 million birds!

Leading the count, the vibrant Rainbow Lorikeet is once again the most frequently sighted species. Since the count began in 2014, the Rainbow Lorikeet has been the most seen – that's over 10 years of reigning supreme!

The top four birds observed over the past eleven years have remained consistent, with the Noisy Miner, Australian Magpie, and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo following the Rainbow Lorikeet. The Aussie Magpie reached new levels this year, with one in two Aussies spotting the black and white swooper.

Across the nation, here were the most spotted birds:

Rainbow Lorikeet

Noisy Miner

Australian Magpie

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Welcome Swallow

Galah

Silver Gull

Australian White Ibis

House Sparrow

Little Corella

Surprisingly, only one bird in the top ten is an introduced species – the House Sparrow. Found mostly in the east, south and north of Australia, they mostly inhabit in cultivated areas and urban spaces where humans live (no wonder it's so frequently spotted!). The beloved 'bin chicken' also made it to the top again this year, after its inaugural appearance in 2024.

The most interesting part of the Aussie Bird Count is the regional and state variations in bird population. While the top ten are all heavily featured throughout the country, no states or territories shared the same top three birds. This shows an amazing avian diversity!

Why does the Aussie Bird Count exist?

So, why count birds? BirdLife Australia relies on this data to shape its Bird Conservation Strategy, aiming to halt bird extinctions by 2032 and overall bird declines by 2050. The insights gleaned from the count help identify challenges facing native birds, including declining reporting rates of smaller, specialist species such as Silvereyes and Fairy-wrens. The Aussie Bird Count celebrates Australia's rich birdlife and is a crucial tool in safeguarding the future of its avian inhabitants.

While all of the birds in the top are quite clearly thriving and successful species, there are still many threats that they face. From habitat loss to introduced species to mysterious diseases like Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome, these problems could start to have an impact on our avian population. That's why the Aussie Bird Count is such an important endeavour.

When is the 2025 Aussie Bird Count?

The next Birdlife Aussie Bird Count will run from the 20-26 of October in 2025. For citizen scientists who want to contribute before then, BirdLife Australia runs an online platform called Birdata, which contributes to the nonprofit's year-round work.

VALE JOHN ROLAND WALLACE 1934 to 2025

John was born on 3rd November 1934 in Sydney. He had two younger sisters, Beverley and Pat. After leaving school in 1951 John joined the Lands Department in Bridge St Sydney as a trainee draughtsman and later transferred to Newcastle where he trained as a surveyor, working in Armidale and Glen Innes in 1954-55. He graduated as a qualified Land Surveyor in 1959 and worked mainly up the NSW north coast.

Rowena and John met at a mutual friends' wedding and married in March 1961. They settled at Beacon Hill and had three children, Scott, Lucinda and Kristin. In 1977 they moved to Bathurst where John took up the position of Chief Trigonometrical Surveyor for the Central Mapping Authority. John loved being in the bush and worked in much of country NSW. He had a wonderful relationship with his work colleagues.



John and Rowena had much sadness in their family; losing their daughter Lucinda and grand-daughter Ellen in December 1999 and later their son, Scott in December 2021. John loved his grand-daughter, Josie, and his 2 great-grandchildren Elysia and River Roland, who was named after John. He always enjoyed their visits.

While they were still living in Bathurst, John and Rowena would join our Bird Club outings when they came to stay in their then holiday house on the Central Coast. They first came to meetings in 2000 and soon became welcome and valued members of our group. They organized 2 very successful camp weekends firstly in 2005 in the Bathurst area, and again in 2009 at Sandy Hollow. They bought a caravan in 2000 and did many trips to various parts of Australia in it for 20 years, as well as using it at our camps.

In 2007 when John and Rowena made their permanent home at Wamberal, they regularly attended Bird Club activities. Although a non-birder, John always supported Rowena and at camps came to bird call and was happy to socialise afterwards, making many friends discussing politics and football over a BBQ & drink.

John was very interested in Geology and collected and polished rocks, often going home with several special rocks after a weekend camp. He enjoyed his garden and grew native orchids, often finding and pointing out orchids on walks. At Club meetings John would often be the first to ask a really good question of the guest speaker, that would have others saying "why didn't I think of that question?"

He had many interests and was a valued member of the Australian Plant Society Central Coast Group, the Bateau Bay Men's Shed and Wamberal Dunecare as well as our Bird Club. He was a good friend and will be greatly missed by us all.