



# The Twitcher

March  
2025

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Allan Benson (0457 458 274) Wendy Mitchell (0423 388 529) & Robyn Price      Volume 20, No. 3

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
25/03/25	<b>Next Meeting:</b> Olfactory Misinformation to Protect Shorebirds  <b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds	<b>Dr Catherine Price</b>
29/03/25	<b>Outing:</b> Bull's Quarry and Mt Penang <b>REMEMBER TO REGISTER</b>  <b>Meet:</b> 8.30am Entrance to Tunnel fire trail Woy Woy Rd, Woy Woy	<b>Frik Gautschi</b>  0404 467 097
9/04/25	<b>½ day Outing:</b> Munmorah SRA <b>REMEMBER TO REGISTER</b>  <b>Meet:</b> 8.30am Birdie Beach Drive - near Elizabeth Drive	<b>Christina Port</b>  0421 691 317
22/04/25	<b>Next Meeting:</b> Bar-tailed Godwits and creative Student Learning  <b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite McDonalds  <b>Note: For all Outings bring your morning tea and lunch. A chair is a good idea.</b>	<b>Dr Christine Hatton</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 Dr Catherine Price who will be talking about her research into protecting nesting shorebirds. Introduced predators, such as foxes, rats and cats, threaten beach-nesting birds, hunt both the eggs and chicks of threatened species such as Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, Beach Stone-curlews, Hooded Plovers and Little Terns. A single predator can wipe out entire nesting colonies in a single night or two. Current tools such as fox control and fencing are often not as effective as they need to be in order to protect nesting birds and chicks, and new tools are urgently needed in Australia and globally.

Researchers have demonstrated that 'hiding' birds from predators using smell can reduce egg predation by up to 70%. By targeting the senses that predators use to find nests, we can now exploit 'sensory misinformation' using odour to trick predators but not interfere with the birds themselves. Developing these new techniques so that shorebird wardens, community groups and land managers can use them could be a game changer for protecting our shorebirds. As well as smell, we also need to know if sound cues betray the location of nestlings and fledglings so that we can expand the effectiveness of these sensory tactics.

Funds raised by the 2024 Twitchathon contributed to Dr Price's research. Dr Price is well acquainted with the Central Coast. Her PhD thesis was a study on the Bush Stone-curlews on the Central Coast.

### Tragic News

John Wallace, one of the stalwarts of our group, passed away suddenly after a fall.  
A fitting tribute will be published in the next newsletter.

Our condolences to Rowena and family.

**Last Month's Meeting:** A good crowd of 34 members heard Ann Lindsey give an entertaining and informative presentation on the breeding of Black-necked Storks in the Hunter. She documented a number of breeding events. Fledging Black-necked Storks is a challenge as they nest in the tops of small melaleucas which are prone to high winds and rain. Several times the nest was blown out of the tree. This has resulted in relatively high mortality for the chicks. The novel step of installing a nest tower was undertaken, funded by Local Land Services and co-ordinated by HBOC. The tower was helicoptered into place but as yet the Storks have shown no interest in using it.

It begs the question of how successful our local Black-necked Storks have been, fledging 3 young last year and 2 the previous year. The nest site still remains a mystery.

**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 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 2nd - Sun 4th <b>May</b>	<b>Scone</b>	Graham Nelson	0466 599 278	Scone Caravan Park 50 Kelly St, Scone (02) 6545 2024
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

**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 February/March and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in April?**

The most interesting recent sighting was a female Satin Flycatcher at the cemetery at Yarramalong. Leeanne Lemke's photos clearly showed the buff in the wing and the darker head. Sanderling at Picnic Point are the first records since 10/2/2023. An adult Brown Booby on a "special" Terrigal Pelagic was only the 4th record for the Central Coast. A Black Noddy was photographed at Soldiers. This is only the 6th record and the 3rd record in the past couple of months. In other sightings there were 6 reports of Blue-faced Honeyeaters. Obviously, they are becoming more common on the coast but still frustrating to twitch. Ospreys have been seen refurbishing their nests at Mariner's Stadium and Harry Moore Oval at Toukley. 10 Latham Snipe at the Dairy on the 4/2 indicates there were many there this year. The first of the autumn migrants have returned with multiple records of Spangled Drongos. Gang-Gangs have returned to Palmdale Road feeding on the Liquid Ambers.



The birds are starting to become a little more active since the weather has cooled off a bit. Spring migrants have mostly moved north with White-breasted Woodswallows the last to go. We will eagerly await the autumn migrants such as Double-banded Plover, Restless Flycatcher, Rose Robin and, hopefully, Swift Parrot.

**BUMPER BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST ON MARCH 3**

**Frik Gautschi**

February produced no less than 6 - yes, six! – milestone birthdays within the Central Coast group: Graeme Catt, Wendy Mitchell, Michael Scobie, Judy Clark, Chris Jamieson and Nerida Carter all made the cut this time. They celebrated their respective big days with some 30 birders at Waterfall Café, Mt Penang Gardens. Judy is, strictly speaking, not from our neck of the woods, but by now she is even more than just an honorary member by virtue of having hardly ever missed an outing here. She has also been charged with the formal liaison between Birding NSW and our sub-group for the last few years.

Our patron, Alan Morris, attended with his wife Anne, coming all the way from their home in Laurieton. While on the subject of big names, there were six founder-members of Central Coast Birders (established in 1995) in attendance: John and Carole Carpenter, Margaret and Kaye Pointer and of course Alan and Anne.

It almost took longer to sign the many cards than to place our orders, but with that out of the way the gathering got into full swing on the covered balcony situated directly over the rustic lily pond with its waterbirds.

Allan Benson handed out the signed birthday cards and said a few words. Graeme’s membership dates back to almost our founding year, Wendy is tireless in co-editing our Twitcher and seeing to its timely printing and Michael has been our Coordinator/Leader for the past few years. Judy’s unflinching presence at our outings was duly noted, and more recent additions to our tribe, Chris and Nerida, have both been making significant contributions with their Facebook posts and entries in our photographic competitions.



**Wendy, Chris, Michael, Nerida Judy, Graeme (front) Christina Port**

The Café did us proud with good fare and prompt service and the weather was mild, with overcast conditions just clearing in time for the lucky few who ventured out for a walk afterwards, spotting a Spangled Drongo in the process!

**OUTING REPORTS**

**Outing: March 1**

**SAN REMO**

**Leader: Leanne Lemke**



**Double-barred Finch  
Leanne Lemke**

The first day of autumn and after a cloudy morning, the clouds cleared. 19 keen birders headed off into the reserve at San Remo hoping to break the drought on the slow birding recently. Graham Nelson had already started the list while we were registering people with the highlight being three noisy Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo's flying over.

It was pretty quiet at the top end of the reserve with an unidentifiable raptor flying in the distance which was a possible Peregrine Falcon but not certain enough to make the list. A Brown Goshawk soon followed which did make the list and a few White-cheeked Honeyeaters calling from coastal heathlands of the reserve. Down the bottom was a different story and the birdiest spot of the day. Here we saw some great birds including

Double-barred Finches, Mistletoebird, Scarlet Honeyeater, Striated, Brown and Yellow Thornbills, Red-browed Finch, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Lewin’s Honeyeater, Willie Wagtail, Superb Fairy-wren, migrating Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and more.

With tummies growling it was time to head to Koala Park for morning tea where there were the friendly butcherbirds as usual and up above were White-throated Needletails flying over for the rest of the time here. This was base for the rest of the day with a group staying behind to explore the park while the rest of us set off to explore the tracks behind this area.



**San Remo birders  
Leanne Lemke**

Well, that may have been a mistake considering the weather. It was stinking hot and I'm glad no one died on my watch. I was a candidate for sure ha-ha-ha!! Anyway, the birds had done the sensible thing and lay low. So, the best birds seen here were a young Sacred Kingfisher and a few small species. While we could hear the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos calling, returning to the lunch spot, we learned that the group that stayed behind had witnessed 50 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos flying over and landing in front of them which was a very special sight. We had an enjoyable lunch and it was lovely company with some new people I hadn't met before and some regulars too. Thanks to everyone who came along.

We ended up with a total of 44 species which is still very quiet. Let's hope the cooler weather brings the birds out for us all.

**Half-day Outing: March 12**

**CENTRAL COAST WETLANDS**

**Leader: Graham Nelson**

Once again, the day didn't start out to be very promising. I arrived at Gavenlock Rd at 7.30am. It was raining lightly but the sky was bleak and looked like it had set in. At 8.10am, with numerous cancellations, I was thinking most people had decided not to come. They did start to arrive and we ended up with 12 people for the day. For once the weather bureau was correct. We ended up with very little rain that cleared by 11am.

Gavenlock Fire Trail was about knee-high overgrown by grass so we spent 30 minutes about 15m in just standing and watching. Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Grey Fantail, Eastern Whipbird, Red-brow Finch, Superb Fairy-wren, Silvereye, Yellow & Brown Thornbills, Brown Gerygone and Red-whiskered Bulbul all came through that area. Before the others arrived, I had heard Emu-wrens. Including on the road we had 41 species. About 100 White-throated Needletails flew through and over 120 Little Corellas were in the church grounds.

Judy was the first to drive in the Dairy. She stopped when three Brown Quail were startled. Two went straight through the fence to the railway while the third wandered down the road before finding a big gap to go through. Fifteen Common Starlings were startled and flew while a few Red-rumped Parrots sat on the wire watching. We slowed down driving past the lagoon and were rewarded with a Wood Sandpiper. As people alighted from their cars, I wandered down to make sure everyone was able to get a view of it. On my way back to my car someone had found the Black-fronted Dotterel. So back down the line I went telling them where it was. I headed back to my car asking if everyone had seen the birds but I must have missed Keith who couldn't find them. We went to the shelter of the gazebo but couldn't find much. A Plumed Egret was sitting on the fence that goes down into the water. The rest were usual suspects. During morning tea a Collared Sparrowhawk flew past.

After morning tea, we went around the bottom loop near the self-composting toilets. Ash Mullahey told me he has just seen three more Brown Quail down there. They were nowhere to be seen by us. Not a lot to be found around that loop but there were 12 or so White-breasted Woodswallows huddled in a dead tree, 18 Straw-necked Ibis overhead and 25 Cattle Egret had moved to the lagoon edge. The sun came out about a third of the way into that walk making it very hot with 99% humidity. We were entertained by a Grey Shrike-thrush and a Whistling Kite at the end of the loop. A few went back to the seating area while the rest did the Green Fleet loop. Mostly Thornbills and Gerygones were seen but White-browed Scrubwren, Eastern Yellow Robin and Golden Whistler were added to our list.

We arrived back for lunch. The day was thrown out a little by not doing McPhersons Swamp and by the rain - it turned into a more laid-back wander. We ended up calling it a day. On the way out I stopped to see if I could get a reasonable photo of the Wood Sandpiper but could not see it. I did find 2 Black-fronted Dotterels in the open. Keith stopped behind me so he managed to get a good view of them. I could not show him one Wood Sandpiper so I showed him two! I found one across on the spit but just behind the Dotterels, on a clump of grass surrounded by water and, hidden by more grass, was the second Wood Sandpiper.

Thanks to the nice bunch of people who came for a wonderful wander of the Dairy. Total of 79 species were seen.

I did ask the others but ended up going alone to South Tacoma (31 species) where I saw a juvenile Rufous Whistler, juvenile Olive-backed Oriole, Golden Whistler, Striped Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, 2 White-bellied Sea-eagles sitting on the little island at the end and a Whistling Kite who came to join the party.



**SPECIES LIST****FEBRUARY 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	
Brown Quail	2	12/2/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Sue Gurling
Brown Quail	6	27/2/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Tawny Frogmouth	1	21/2/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Owlet-Nightjar	1	3 & 15/2/25	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Owlet-Nightjar	1	6/2/2025	Doyalson North	Meryl Newton
White-throated Needletail	400	22/2/2025	Bonnal Rd, Erina	Nick Carson
White-throated Needletail	100	25/2/2025	0800 hrs Wamberal lagoon	Graham Nelson
White-throated Needletail	150+	25/2/2025	0900 hrs Budgewoi to Munmorah SRA	Leeanne Lemke
Pacific Swift	8	28/2/2025	Munmorah SCA	Andrew Robinson
Pacific Swift	10	28/2/2025	Toukley Ave, Toukley	Leeanne Lemke
Pacific Swift	30	28/2/2025	Magenta Shores	Leeanne Lemke
Pheasant Coucal	1	7/2/2025	Tuggerah NR South Tacoma	Andrew Robinson
Channel-billed Cuckoo	2	1/2/2025	Henry Parry Drive, Gosford	Gary Jackson
Channel-billed Cuckoo **	1	1-10/2/25	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	21 & 25/2	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Peaceful Dove	2	4-25/2/25	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Lewin's Rail	1	19/2/2025	Cresthaven Wetlands	Nick Carson
Aust. Spotted Crake	1	7/2/2025	Fishburn Cres, Watanobbi	Nick Carson
Bush Stone-curlew	1	12/2/2025	Empire Bay	Carole Carpenter
Bush Stone-curlew	1	21-23/2/25	Magenta Shores	Leeanne Lemke
Pacific Golden Plover	7	4/2/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Elizabeth Noble
Red-capped Plover	4	3 & 24/2	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Red-kneed Dotterel	1	1/2/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	22/2/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Ruddy Turnstone	5	4/2/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Elizabeth Noble
Latham's Snipe	10	1-15/2/25	max 10 on 4/2, Central Coast Wetlands	Bruce Ward-Smith
Latham's Snipe	1	27/2/2025	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Whimbrel	7	4/2/2025	Brisbane Water Waterbird survey	Michael Scobie
Red-necked Stint	74	4/2/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Elizabeth Noble
Red-necked Stint	6	24/2/2025	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Sanderling	3	26-28/2/25	Pelican Point, Wyrabalong NP	Steve Bowman
Grey-tailed Tattler	4	4/2/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Elizabeth Noble
Wandering Tattler	1	2-28/2/25	Blue Bay Reefs	Elizabeth Noble
Common Greenshank	1	3/2/2025	The Entrance Channel	Andrew Robinson
Pomarine Jaeger	1	8/2/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Little Penguin	1	9/2/2025	into care, Pelican Beach, Wyrabalong NP	Cathy Gillmore
Little Penguin	1	14/2/2025	off Norah Head Reefs	Leeanne Lemke
Little Penguin	1	15/2/2025	in surf, Blue Bay Reefs	Jacq Teff
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	1	8/2/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	1	8/2/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Shy Albatross	1	8/2/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-necked Stork	2	5 & 7/2/25	Tuggerah NR South Tacoma	Andrew Robinson
Red-tailed Tropic-bird	1	8/2/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Grey-faced Petrel	6	8/2/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Short-tailed Shearwater	8	8/2/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Flesh-footed Shearwater	130	8/2/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	45	8/2/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Nankeen Night-Heron	1	5/2/2025	Cresthaven Wetlands, Bateau Bay	Nick Carson
White-necked Heron	1	7/2/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Osprey	1	5/2/2024	Tuggerah NR, South Tacoma	Andrew Robinson
Osprey	2+N	23/2/2025	Harry Moore Oval, Toukley	Mel Stratton
Osprey	2+N	26/2/2025	Gosford Stadium	Gary Jackson
Pacific Baza	1	7/2/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Pacific Baza	1	8/2/2025	Mount White	Sue Watts

Black-shouldered Kite	1	6/2/2025	Tuggerah St, Lisarow	Darren Earnshaw
Black-shouldered Kite	1	7/2/2025	Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Square-tailed Kite	1	2/2/2025	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Square-tailed Kite	1	6/2/2025	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Square-tailed Kite	2	8/2/2025	Bourke Rd, Umina	Nick Carson
Brahminy Kite	A	12/2/2025	St Huberts Island	John Carpenter
Wedge-tailed Eagle	4	1/2/2025	Terrigal	Mark Smith
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	3-22/2/25	x9 Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	23/2/2025	Phegans Bay, Woy Woy	Xander Ireland
Little Eagle	1	9/2/2025	Woongarra	Shane David
Little Eagle	1	15/2/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Mel Stratton
Brown Goshawk	1	7 & 23/2	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Brown Goshawk	1	9/2/2025	Rotherham St, Bateau Bay	Nick Carson
Grey Goshawk	1	6,17 & 28/2	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Grey Goshawk	1	23/2/2025	Jilliby	Kym Beechey-Smith
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	3/2/2025	Murrumbung HSD Mardi	John Carpenter
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	6/2/2025	Bloodtree Rd Central Mangrove	Gary Jackson
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	9/2/2025	Waratah Rd North, Mangrove Mtn	Julie Peksis
Powerful Owl	HC	7/2/2025	0400 hrs Alan Davidson Oval, Narara	David Schuemaker
Powerful Owl	HC	6/2/2025	0430 hrs Halling Close, Kariong	Christina Port
Powerful Owl	HC	20/2/2025	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Powerful Owl	A+J	21/2/2025	Yattalunga	Darren Earnshaw
Nankeen Kestrel	1	5/2/2025	Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Nankeen Kestrel	1	10/2/2025	Bateau Bay	Andrew Robinson
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	1, 20-27/2	max 6 on 27/2, Wyee	Kennedy/Loewe
Glossy Black Cockatoo	3	8/2/2025	Murrumbung HSD ,Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	10/2/2025	Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	Allan Benson
Gang Gang Cockatoo	2	2 & 22/2	Mangrove Mountain Hall	Kaye Pointer
Red-rumped Parrot	8	1/2/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Andrew Robinson
Turquoise Parrot	IM	1/2/2025	Wybung Road, Munmorah SCA	Ian Hemmings
Noisy Pitta	J	9/2/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Mike Kuhl
Brown-headed Honeyeater	2	4/2/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	8/2/2025	Bourke Rd, Umina	Nick Carson
Blue-faced Honeyeater	3	9/2/2025	Rotherham St, Bateau Bay	Nick Carson
Blue-faced Honeyeater	3	10/2/2025	Oberton St, Kincumber	Danny O'Brien
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	1	12/2/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mountain	Margaret Pointer
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	2	18/2/2025	Mangrove Dam Lookout	Kaye Pointer
White-throated Gerygone	1	1/2/2025	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Mangrove Gerygone	2	12/2/2025	Saratoga Island, Saratoga	Doug Hocking
Varied Sittella	4	8/2/2025	6 +J on 14/2 Tathra Taila HSD, Man. Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Cicadabird	1	6/2/2025	Mount Alison, Wyong	Andrew Robinson
Cicadabird	AF	27/2/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2	19/2/2025	Erina Heights	Darren Earnshaw
Leaden Flycatcher	1	28/2/2025	Picnic Point Reserve	Christina Port
Rufous Fantail	1	17/2/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Spangled Drongo *	2	28/2/2025	Picnic Point Reserve	Christina Port
Double-barred Finch	2	19/2/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Double-barred Finch	2	23/2/2025	Finns Rd, Kulnura	Graham Nelson
Bassian Thrush	6	18-27/2/25	Upper Palmdale	Michael Ronan
Bassian Thrush	1	26/2/2025	Strickland SF, Narara	Mark Smith

### Breeding and other records February 2025

**White-throated Needle-tail:** 11 additional reports for January, total 28 in all, and 20 reports for Feb; **Pacific Koel:** J fed by Red Wattlebird, Central Coast Wetlands 3/2 (MSt); **Square-tailed Kite:** 1 Mangrove Mtn Hall 3/2 (KPo), 1 Cresthaven Wetlands, Bateau Bay 5/2 & 1 Wyong Christian School 7/2 (NCa), 1 Wyoming 21/2 (ARo), 1 The Entrance Rd Bateau Bay 23/2 (DOB), 1 Phegans Bay, Woy Woy 23/2 (XIr), 2 Glenning Valley 25/2 (ARo); **Brown Goshawk:** 2J at nest Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 9/2 (KPo); **Wedge-tailed Eagle:** 1 Wyee 1/2 (LLO), 2A+J Tathra Taila

HSD Man. Mtn 5/2 (KPo); **Collared Sparrowhawk**: 1 Cresthaven Wetlands, Bateau Bay 5/2 (NCa), 1 Wyee 11/2 (LLO); **Sacred Kingfisher**: A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 27/2 (KPo); **Powerful Owl**: 1 Gosford Golf Course 2/2 (RBe); **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo**: 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 7/2 (KPo), 2 Kincumba Mountain 18/2 (NCa); **Satin Bowerbird**: A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1/2 (KPo); **Blue-faced Honeyeater**: 2 Henderson Rd Saratoga 4/2 (DHo), 1 Bourke St Ettalong Bch 8/2 (NCa); 1 Lake Munmorah 15/2 (JTe); **Little Wattlebird**: 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD <an. Mtn 27/2 (KPo); **Eastern Whipbird**: A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 5/2 (KPo); **Rufous Whistler**: A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 5/2 (KPo); **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**: A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1/2 (KPo); **Red-whiskered Bulbul**: 2A+2Y Terrigal 10/2 (M); **Red-browed Finch**: A+6 DY Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 1/2 (KPo), 2A+N Mount White 8/2 (SWa).  
*Happy Birding!*

**TWITCH LIST February 2025**

John Carpenter	166	Margaret Pointer	140	Robyn Price	87
Nick Carson	165	Chris Jamieson	130	Frik Gautschi	83
Carole Carpenter	162	Krystyna Lonergan	125	Doug Hocking	82
Kaye Pointer	158	Daniel McKeon	120	Gabrielle Rees	74
Allan Benson	154	Diana Hogan	90	Lynette Callaghan	52
Julie Peksis	143	Judy Clark	89		

John Carpenter is the current leader with Nick Carson and Carole Carpenter close behind. A cut-off date of the 1<sup>st</sup> May for 2025 Twitch registration will be implemented.

**BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD 2025**

Alan Stuart	58	Guy Dutson	6	Leanne Lemke	2
Graham Nelson	44	C Clutterbuck	6	Stuart Fleming	2
Allan Benson	31	Michael Berg	5	Meryl Newton	1
Robyn Price	13	David Schuemaker	5	Michael Scobie	1
Frik Gautschi	7	Doug Hocking	3	Daniel McKeon	1

We are off to a very slow start in 2025 with only 238 surveys submitted compared 314 in 2024. Only 106 surveys were entered in February.

Alan Stuart has opened up a nice gap 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. Birdata is one way, as a birder, you can make a contribution to bird conservation.

**SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS February Survey**

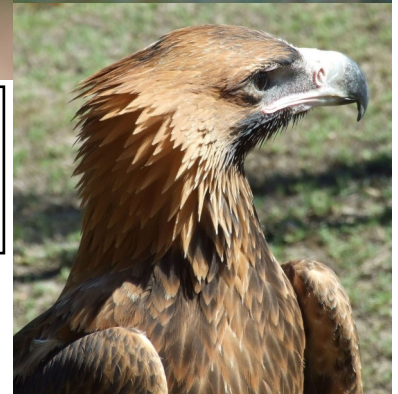
Six observers found 300 odd waterfowl on the ponds. The majority were Pacific Black Duck but there were a fair number of Hardhead and Australasian Grebe. It looks like the operator is keeping the water levels relatively low in anticipation of dredging the ponds. Highlights were a Musk Duck, a Shoveller and 4 species of raptor. Total species count was 53 which is a new record.

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

**STATE BIRD EMBLEMS**

Can you name the bird emblems for each state and territory?  
 See photos on Page 8.

The answers will be discussed at the meeting and posted on Facebook.



<u>Above Left</u> Black Swan Laughing Kookaburra White-backed Magpie	<u>Above Centre</u> Brolga Gang-gang Cockatoo	<u>Above Right</u> Yellow Wattlebird Helmeted Honeyeater Wedge-tailed Eagle
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## Terrigal Pelagic Trip Report: Saturday March 1

**Andrew Robinson**

What was a rather routine trip in terms of pelagic birding was made up for with an awesome crew and some interesting creatures of the deep. The trip out wasn't much fun initially but conditions thankfully eased as we made our way to the shelf. Flesh-footed Shearwaters were a mainstay, along with small numbers of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters also in attendance. Upon reaching the shelf break a Pomarine Jaeger made a brief appearance before re-finding us and providing some good views as it made several close passes of the boat. After drifting for close to 2 hours and with limited bird activity / low diversity, we ventured a second drift in deeper water. While this didn't produce anything of note, both Grey-faced Petrel and a Hutton's Shearwater were welcome additions.



**Pomarine Jaeger**  
**Andrew Robinson**

Of greater interest throughout the day was the 'wet stuff' with both Pantropical Spotted and Offshore Bottlenose Dolphins providing reasonable views, along with excellent views of Mako Shark and 2 different Whaler sharks, one with a Remora in tow. An unidentified Marlin and Sunfish were also observed, while the golden-green and blue flashes of Dolphinfish were regularly seen off the back of the boat.

Come 1pm it was time to head for shore and just when it looked like the run of 22 straight Terrigal trips with Shy Albatross being recorded was going to come to an end, a hungry individual joined us and proceeded to follow us for much of the pleasant though uneventful return trip.

In total 10 pelagic species were seen beyond The Haven with 6 of those Tubenoses.

As follows:

Shy Albatross – 1, Grey-faced Petrel – 3 (2), Short-tailed Shearwater – 2, Flesh-footed Shearwater – 180 (150), Wedge-tailed Shearwater – 50 (15), Hutton's Shearwater – 2 (1), Pomarine Jaeger – 2 (1), Greater Crested Tern – 1, Silver Gull – 6 (4), Australasian Gannet – 1.

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

## Terrigal Pelagic Trip Report: Saturday March 13

### Andrew Robinson

On the back of ex-tropical cyclone Alfred this was an impromptu trip in the hope of picking up some wind driven vagrants and while this didn't exactly eventuate it was worth a crack. In contrast to recent trips, the voyage to the shelf was a pleasant affair that saw a regular stream of southbound Wedge-tailed Shearwaters encountered early on, followed by a distant Jaeger sp, a Shy Albatross or 2 and a few Fluttering type Shearwaters. Arriving at the shelf slope around 9am we soon had reasonable numbers of Flesh-footed Shearwaters that were attracted to the slick along with a brief Buller's Albatross appearance that was something of a surprise given the time of year and lead-in conditions.

Soon after, the bird of the day approached from the back of the boat before making several close passes and providing excellent views for all on board. It was an adult female Brown Booby which was a first for Terrigal Pelagics!

Bird activity then died down and we motored out to deeper waters to try our luck which resulted in a recently returned Providence Petrel, Grey-faced Petrel, a few Hutton's Shearwater, a Wilson's Storm Petrel that made several reasonably close passes and several, mostly distant, Shy Albatross.

Once again bird activity dropped off, and we ventured a third drift at the start of the shelf slope, that unfortunately didn't produce any new birds for the day, before heading for terra firma. The trip back was uneventful until about 8km from shore some dolphins with a congregation of Wedge-tailed Shearwater in attendance were seen several hundred metres away. Motoring over for a closer inspection we found a large pod (100+) of porpoising Common (Short-beaked) Dolphins that ensured a superb end to the day.



The Brown Booby was only the 4th record for the Central Coast LGA and the 55th pelagic species (excluding Cormorants) seen on Terrigal trips, this being the 32nd edition. In total 14 pelagic species were seen beyond The Haven with 9 of those Tubenoses.

As follows:

Shy Albatross – 6 (2), Buller's Albatross – 1, Providence Petrel – 1, Grey-faced Petrel – 2 (1), Wilson's Storm Petrel – 1, Short-tailed Shearwater – 2 (1), Flesh-footed Shearwater – 60 (35), Wedge-tailed Shearwater – 280 (50), Hutton's Shearwater – 3 (1), Fluttering type Shearwater – 2, Jaeger sp. – 1, Greater Crested Tern – 1, Silver Gull – 8 (4), BROWN BOOBY – 1, Australasian Gannet – 2 (1).

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

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## Book Review – *Birds of the Menindee Lakes Area: 3rd Edition* by Geoff Looney

### Review by Dick Cooper

The Menindee Lakes are located in south-western New South Wales, approximately 110 kilometres southeast of Broken Hill. They form a series of 19 shallow natural depressions fed by the Darling River. Developed as a water storage system for Broken Hill, mining, irrigation, and farming, the lakes and their surrounding woodlands, shrublands, and arid landscapes provide a rich habitat for a diverse array of bird species.

Geoff Looney, a long-time Menindee resident, is a passionate advocate for the region. Since joining the NSW Bird Atlassers (NSWBA) in 1995, he contributed valuable bird records to our database and in the process developed extensive knowledge of the district's avifauna. An avid bird photographer, experienced guide, and regional nature tour operator, Geoff has combined his keen observations with his photography to produce this book—encouraged by fellow local birders Todd Murphy and Bruce Knight.

Now in its third edition, *Birds of the Menindee Lakes Area* showcases 207 bird species observed by Geoff. For the first time, this edition highlights his impressive bird photography, featuring images of 181 species he has personally photographed. The book is well-structured and visually appealing, presenting key details such as the year of first sighting, months of occurrence, habitat information, locality maps, and nesting records. It serves as an informative, well-organized, and easy-to-read guide covering most of the expected bird species in the area.

Expert birder Bruce Knight only recorded 233 species within 45 kms of Menindee, including a notable sighting of approximately 20 Painted Finches in August and September 2007—a species Geoff hopes to encounter in the future.

In summary, this well-presented and valuable publication reflects Geoff's deep knowledge, enthusiasm, and appreciation for the region's birdlife. I highly recommend it to bird enthusiasts and nature lovers.

The book is available through regional bookstores at the recommended retail price, but copies can be purchased directly from Geoff for \$40 plus \$6 postage.

For orders or inquiries, contact:

#### **Geoff Looney**

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