



# The Twitcher

September  
2025

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Allan Benson (0457 458 274) Wendy Mitchell (0423 388 529) & Robyn Price Volume 20, No. 9

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
23/9/25	<b>Next Meeting:</b> The NSW Big Year <b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks	<b>James Bennett</b>
27/9/25	<b>Outing:</b> Glenola, Yarramalong <b>Meet:</b> Meet 8.30am St Barnabas Church, Yarramalong Rd, Yarramalong	<b>Margaret &amp; Kaye Pointer</b> 4374 1163
8/10/25	<b>½ day Outing:</b> Jilliby, Lemon Tree <b>Meet:</b> 8.30am Cemetery, Corner of Hue Hue and Jilliby Rds, Jilliby	<b>John and Carole Carpenter</b> 0490 045 361
28/10/25	<b>Next Meeting:</b> Birders contribution to bird conservation <b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks	<b>Guy Dutson</b>

**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:** James Bennett is our speaker tonight. This will be a special night for Central Coast Birders. James is a first-class birder, a world-class photographer and a very, very talented musician. James will talk about his 2024 NSW Big Year where he broke the record. A Big Year is how many birds can be recorded in a calendar year. This requires skill, patience, persistence, lots of time and luck. As well, James has very generously agreed to perform a couple of his songs.

**Last Month's Meeting:** An excellent crowd of 31 attendees came to hear Doug Hocking talk about his recent trip to the birding Meccas of Iron Range and Yungaburra in North Queensland. Doug provided a very entertaining talk about the birds, reptiles and his birding experiences.

**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.

### CAMPS 2025

Tue 21st - Thu 23rd October	<b>South West Rocks</b>	Alan Morris	0418 269 482	Ingenia Caravan Park Gordon Young Drive, South West Rocks (02) 6566 6264
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**BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST**

John Carpenter will be celebrating a very significant milestone birthday next week. Please join him in celebration at 9am on Monday, October 13, at Waterfall Café, Mt Penang Gardens. Text Frik Gautschi on 0404 467 097 to confirm numbers. Remember - NO presents!

**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.

**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 August/September and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in October?**

The spring migrants have been returning with new species being recorded almost daily. The list so far includes Fairy Martin, White-breasted Woodswallow, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Koel, Latham's Snipe, Dollarbird and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

The first Pink-eared Duck for 2025 were seen at the Dairy. There have been a least three sighting of Black-necked Stork. Spotless Crake and Lewin's Rail have been heard at the Eco Village and the Dairy. A White-winged Triller at the Dairy appears to have been blown in by the strong westerly winds.

The balance of the spring migrants will return in the coming weeks. Hopefully spring weather will see some good birding.

**OUTING REPORTS**

**Outing: August 30**

**DUBBO GULLY**

**Leaders: Kaye and Margaret Pointer**

Chill north westerly winds deposited sleet on the ranges, before blowing across Mangrove Mountain, reminding the birders that winter was not over yet. "Rugged-up", the group was keen to see some birds. Common birds such as Superb Fairy-wren, Little Wattlebird, Magpie Lark, and Wood Duck started our list. Cars and passengers all sorted! Some members of the group headed off down Waratah Road. A change of plan!! The lead car battery decided it was time to give in. The early departures were oblivious as they were suitably entertained trying to glimpse an elusive Striated Pardalote, while other car arrangements were made.

A Wedge-tailed Eagle manoeuvred in the wind as we started our morning stroll southwest of the Mangrove Creek bridge. Grey Shrike-thrush, Satin Bowerbird, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Fantailed Cuckoo, and Golden Whistler foraged in the lee of the hill. A short walk across the bridge only gave us glimpses of another unidentified raptor, while a Lyrebird mocked us with Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo calls from the dense vegetation.

After morning tea in sunshine to warm us up, we drove to the edge of the wetland below Fairview Homestead, where Darter, Little Pied Cormorant and a White-necked Heron were quickly listed. Walking south down Ten Mile Hollow Road, we had a short delay watching and waiting for a large, Red-bellied Black Snake to decide which direction to move off the road. Brush Turkey, Bell Miner, and Spotted Pardalote made their appearance, as did 2 pairs of Golden Whistler who put on a brief territorial display. A European Blackbird held up our progress. If only it were a Bassian Thrush!

A pair of Jacky Winter and a very large (but thankfully distant) Red-bellied Black Snake were of interest near the main waterhole and Cemetery.

The west end of Waratah Road was still windy. Views of White-bellied Sea Eagle, Grey Goshawk, White Ibis, Eastern Rosella, Crested Pigeon, and Eastern Spinebill extended our list. Windy conditions made birding Waratah Road and Dubbo Gully a little challenging. Spotted Pardalote, Jacky Winter and 3 raptors were interesting sightings. The 50 birds, seen or identified by call, was down on the May ½ day count of 62 species. The leaders extend their appreciation, for the companionship and assistance of the 8 birders. Thank you to Central Coast Council for allowing us access to Dubbo Gully.

**Camp: September 2 to 4**

**PARKES**

**Leader: Doug Hocking**

The last Central Coast Birders Camp Out in Parkes was mid-September 2014, so it was time to visit again, albeit, it was early September. For a change it was a mid-week camp. The weather was cold and crisp at night with warm sunny days. Whilst it was a dry, hard summer, adequate winter rains fell and after several wet years, the bird habitat was in excellent

condition. Some of the Mugga Ironbarks were flowering, but most other Eucalypts were not. This was probably reflected in the limited numbers of small honeyeaters observed. We stayed at Spicers Caravan Park where there was a good range of birds including Musk and Rainbow Lorikeets, Eastern Rosella, Galah, Red-rumped Parrot, Pied Currawong, a Southern Boobook calling at night, Yellow-throated Miner, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Apostlebird and White-Winged Chough to name a few.

Our first visit on Tuesday was to a dirt track between the road and the airport and we were not disappointed. Yellow Thornbill, Grey Fantail, Weebill, Rufous Whistler, Western Gerygone, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Olive-backed Oriole, Little Friarbird, Fantail Cuckoo and Striated Pardalote were heard at all sites over the camp. We then proceeded to Bumberry Dam, the old Parkes Water Supply, and we saw Little Pied Cormorant, Dusky Moorhen, Superb Fairywren (seen at most sites), Crested Pigeon, a deserted Swans nest with 4 large eggs, Grey Shrike-thrush, White-plumed Honeyeater, Dusky Woodswallow, Brown-headed Honeyeater, White-browed Babbler, Restless Flycatcher, White-throated Treecreeper. We then moved to Lake Endeavour, the new Parkes Water Supply, and saw – Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebe, Black Swan, Little Pied Cormorant, Nankeen Kestrel, Striped Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Australian Hobby, Mistletoe-bird, White-eared Honeyeater, Kookaburra, White-faced Heron. We visited the Ridge Trail in Goobang National Park which was fairly quiet, however, there were Buff-rumped Thornbill, Striped Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-winged Chough and White-faced Heron.

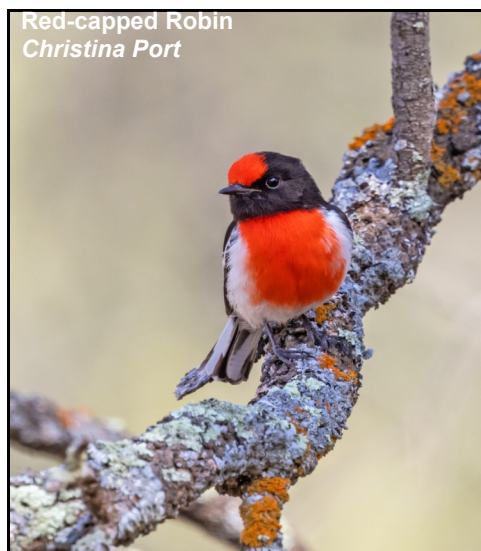
In the afternoon we went to the Sewerage Treatment Works where we were hosted by Michael Chambers, Manager – Environment and Sustainability - who is responsible for the development of the old treatment works to become a birding destination. Whilst it is early days, tree planting is well underway along with access tracks and a river walk included. It will be opened to the public later this year and will be an excellent destination. We had great views of Baillon's Crake feeding and swimming in the shallows, Pied Stilt, Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebe, Reed Warbler, Little Grassbird, Brown Gerygone, Little Raven and the usual Ducks.

A trip to the Central West is not complete without a visit to Gum Swamp, Forbes. We travelled down via Back Yamma Road with a visit to the edge of Back Yamma Forest. We saw our first Superb Parrot which we saw at 3 different sites around Parkes – a check on eBird appeared to show that these are the first returned sightings following their absence during the winter months (AKM). Birds seen – Grey-crowned Babbler, White-winged Chough and Apostlebird nesting, Pied Butcherbird, Rufus Songlark, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Royal Spoonbill, Peaceful Dove, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Blue Bonnet, Eastern Yellow Robin and Magpie Geese on Lake Forbes. At Gum Swamp, using the new bird hides, the usual ducks were seen, however, the highlight were 8 Freckled Ducks, Hardhead, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Whistling Kite, Little Eagle, Hobby, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Cockatiel, (surprisingly the only sighting for the trip).



**Superb Parrot**  
*Philip Siao*

© Philip Siao



**Red-capped Robin**  
*Christina Port*

After morning tea we headed toward Bogan Gate, stopping at Calarie Reserve and saw Brown-headed Honeyeater, Speckled Warbler, Double-barred Finch, and Black Kite. We then headed to Warragal Road and Coopers Road for a lunch under the River Red Gums. Few birds were seen however but it was a pleasant spot for lunch. We then headed to Monumea Gap on the way to Bogan Gate. We had brilliant views of our first and only Red-capped Robin, but it was a highlight. We saw Singing Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Inland Thornbill, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Rufous Whistler, and a Peregrine Falcon on the communication tower. In Bogan Gate there were few birds, however, Common Myna, Starlings and House Sparrows were feeding in the one group by the roadside - three non-native species. On a brief stop at the Bogan Gate Cemetery we saw Little Friarbird, Blue-faced Honeyeater, and a Chough's nest. On the way back to Parkes we saw at least 10 Common Bronzewing.

We had a pleasant dinner at the Coachman Inn which has long been an establishment of note in Parkes.

On the last day we visited Goobang National Park and the Baldry/ Gumble area. On the way out we went down Coobang Road where we had great viewing (15 metres) of Grey-crowned Babbler's nest building. We then went down Old School and Terrill Road where we saw great views of Superb Parrot, Peaceful Dove and Yellow Thornbill. At a road-side stop at the entrance to Goobang National Park we saw Little and Musk Lorikeets and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater. We had morning tea at Baldry Hall. Some of the birds seen were Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Fairy Martin, Red-rumped Parrot, Pied Butcherbird and Superb Fairy-wren. We then visited the Spring Creek Trail Picnic Area in Goobang National Park where we had excellent views of 2 Diamond Firetails feeding on the ground, Brown Goshawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Straw-necked Ibis and Olive-backed Oriole. The lack of little honeyeaters was again obvious, despite a large population of Noisy Friarbirds feeding in flowering Mugga Ironbarks.



**Diamond Firetail**  
*Christina Port*

We then proceeded along Baldry Road, heading for Gumble. A highlight was a Ground Cuckoo-shrike (a new bird for some), Brown Falcon (dark morph) and a Sacred Kingfisher. Our destination was the Gumble area, Windaus Road and

Killonbutta – south-west woodland Nature Reserve but better known as Gumble Scrub. We recorded White-winged Triller, Dusky Woodswallow, Jacky Winter and Australasian Pipit. 10 Diamond Firetails were seen on the 1st September. In the Gumble Scrub we saw Speckled Warbler, Fuscous Honey-eater and a female Golden Whistler. We had lunch at the Gumble Hall. We headed back to Parkes via Bocobora Road where there were Diamond Firetail, Brown Falcon and Common Bronzewing.



**Lunch at Gumble Hall**  
*Doug Hocking*

We saw 132 Species that included some not-so-common birds. My thanks to all the 14 participants for making it a great camp and of course Graham Nelson for his navigating and birding. It was great to have Alan and Anne Morris at the camp.

**½ Day Outing: September 10**

**BENSVILLE**

**Leader: Christina Port**

An extremely wet Wednesday had me waiting at St Huberts Island and to my surprise two people turned up.

We headed down to our first stop and found Noisy Miner and Brown Honeyeater in the mangroves. An Eastern Curlew, Little Egret and Little Pied Cormorant flew by. A Mistletoebird was in the mistletoe. We wandered down and passed a Masked Lapwing covering babies and a Chestnut Teal pair flew in.

Our second stop was Palmers Lane, and the rain eased a little with White-faced Heron and Australian White Ibis feeding on the lawns. We saw Superb Fairywren, Red-browed Finch, Laughing Kookaburra, Galah. A calling Eastern Yellow Robin and Lewin's Honey-eater became difficult to see as the rain got heavier.

Our final stop before morning tea was Bensville Wharf where we had White-breasted Woodswallows on the poles, distant Black Swans, and Great Egret. A calling Sacred Kingfisher was heard but not seen. The Silver Gulls were collecting nesting material and taking it to an old boat.



**White-breasted Woodswallow**  
*Francisco Martin*

A Little Pied Cormorant was fishing and one of the Woodswallows chased off a Striated Heron giving us a view as they both zoomed off.

Morning tea was at Empire Bay Tennis Courts after a quick look at the mangroves. The only bird calling was a Grey Butcherbird. We had views of Eastern Rosella and Galah. The Olive-backed Oriole stayed hidden and we finished with Australian Figbirds flying over. The rain came bucketing down and we called it quits for the day. Thanks to Francisco and Pat for your great company.

## SPECIES LIST

**AUGUST 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  
 Bold – Threatened and or rare species

Musk Duck	5	27/8/2025	Colongra Lake	Guy Dutson
Brown Quail	2	5/8/23025	Wyrabalong NP North	Arnie Boyaci
Hoary-headed Grebe	25	27/8/2025	Colongra Lake	Guy Dutson
Tawny Frogmouth	2	28/8/2025	Narara Eco Village	Guy Dutson
Tawny Frogmouth	2	29/8/2025	returned to summer roost tree Tathra Taila	Kaye Pointer
Tawny Frogmouth	2	30/8/2025	Central Mangrove	John Davis
Owlet-Nightjar	1	28/8/2025	Narara Eco Village	Guy Dutson
Pheasant Coucal	1	28/8/2025	Sandra St Firetrail, Jilliby	Elliott Poulter
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	27/8/2025	Koondah Waters, Wyong	Darren Earnshaw
Fantailed Cuckoo	1	10/8/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Ross Pointer
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	28-31/8/25	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	27/8/2025	Patonga	Phillip Slack
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	16/7/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Ross Pointer
Peaceful Dove	2	5 & 8/8/25	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Buff-banded Rail	2	31/8/2025	Ansells Point, Chittaway	Carole Carpenter
Lewin's Rail	1	8/8/2025	Narara Eco-Village	Guy Dutson
Spotless Crake	1	8/8/2025	Narara Eco-Village	Guy Dutson
Latham's Snipe *	1	27 & 31/8	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Christina Port
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *	2	31/8/2025	Ansells Point Chittaway	John Carpenter
Red-necked Stint	1	19/8/2025	Karagi Point, The Entrance	Kerr Brad
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	19/8/2025	Karagi Point, The Entrance	Nick Carson
Eastern Curlew	2	30/8/2025	Amy St Boatramp, Kincumber Broadwater	Greg Shaw
White-fronted Tern **	2	3/8/2025	Karagi Point, The Entrance	Felix Watson
White-fronted Tern **	4	4/8/2025	The Skillion, Terrigal	Nick Carson
Antipodean Albatross	3	15/8/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Black-browed Albatross	1	15/8/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Black-browed Albatross	1	17/8/2025	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Nick Carson
Yellow-nosed Albatross	1	15/8/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
White-capped Albatross	1	15/8/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
White-faced Storm-Petrel	6	15/8/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Northern Giant-Petrel	1	15/8/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Providence Petrel	40	15/8/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Fairy Prion	1	15/8/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Wedge-tailed Shearwater *	1	15/8/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Fluttering Shearwater	5	15/8/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Black-necked Stork	AM	3/8/2025	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Black-necked Stork	1	26/8/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Kelly Nash
Black-necked Stork	AM	27/8/2025	vacant land nr Westfield, Tuggerah	Michael Price
Black Bittern	1	12/8/2025	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Anna Durkin
Nankeen Night-heron	1	16/8/2025	Bateau Bay Mangroves	Karina Morgan
White-necked Heron	1	25/8/2025	Tuggerah STW	John Carpenter
White-necked Heron	1	31/8/2025	Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands	Carole Carpenter
Osprey	1+N	4/8/2025	Gosford Stadium	Darren Earnshaw

Osprey	2+N	6/8/2025	Harry Moore Oval, Toukley	Mark Fuller
Pacific Baza	1	7/8/2025	Kitchener Reserve, Black Mountain	Darren Earnshaw
Black-shouldered Kite	2	4/8/2025	Woy Woy Tip	Darren Earnshaw
Black-shouldered Kite	2	14-31/8/25	Tathra Taila HSD, Man. Mtn	Margaret Pointer
Square-tailed Kite	1	19/8/2025	Karagi Point, The Entrance	Nick Carson
Brahminy Kite	1	8/8/2025	Birdie Beach, Munmorah SCA	Simon Keizer
Brown Goshawk	1	4/8/2025	Woy Woy Council Depot	Darren Earnshaw
Brown Goshawk	1	9 & 27/8/25	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah Creek	Darren Earnshaw
Brown Goshawk	1	29/8/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Nick Carson
Grey Goshawk	1	1/8-23/8/25	1 WM on 23/8, Tathra Taila HSD, Man. Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Grey Goshawk	1	4/8/32025	Erina Heights	Darren Earnshaw
Grey Goshawk	1	9/8/2025	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah Creek	Darren Earnshaw
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	26/8/2025	Billabong St, Woy Woy	Greg Shaw
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	8-25/8/25	x3 Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Jan Mohandas
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	20/8/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	30/8/2025	Dubbo Gully	Evangeline Fox
Little Eagle	1	5/8/2025	Narara Eco-Village	Guy Dutson
Spotted Harrier	1	3/7/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Ross Pointer
Azure Kingfisher	1	6/8/2025	Ourimbah Rest Area	Kelly North
Sacred Kingfisher	1	26/8/2025	overwintering in mangroves at Patonga	Phillip Slack
Australian Hobby	1	17/8/2025	Wyong CBD	Leonie Loewe
Peregrine Falcon	1	15/8/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Mel Stratton
Dollarbird *	1	7/8/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Tricia Sweet
Sooty Owl	1	28/8/2025	Narara Eco Village	Guy Dutson
Australian Boobook	1	31/8/2025	Central Mangrove	John Davis
Powerful Owl	HC	8 & 13/8/25	Tathra Taila HSD, Man. Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Powerful Owl	HC	23 & 27/8	0230 hrs Glida Drive, Narara	Julie Peksis
Nankeen Kestrel	1	4/8/2025	Woy Woy Tip	Darren Earnshaw
Nankeen Kestrel	1	5/8/2025	The Skillion, Terrigal	Nick Carson
Brown Falcon	1	10/7/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Ross Pointer
Peregrine Falcon	1	28/8/2025	Booker Bay Wharf	Phillip Slack
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	9/8/2025	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah Creek	Darren Earnshaw
Glossy Black Cockatoo	3	30/8/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Gang Gang Cockatoo	3	17/8/2025	George Downes, Drive Kulnura	Chris Palmer
Gang Gang Cockatoo	3	19/8/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Kaye Pointer
Gang Gang Cockatoo	7	27/8/2025	Bucketty Waterhole	Allan Benson
Red-rumped Parrot	8	10/8/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Mark Smith
Superb Lyrebird	1	14 & 22/8	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Noisy Pitta	1	28/8/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA, Reserve	Kim Farley
Southern Emu-wren	3	27/8/2025	Lake Rd, Tuggerah	Guy Dutson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	2	29/8/2025	Bushells Ridge Road	Dean Purcell
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	29/8/2025	Billabong St, Woy Woy	Greg Shaw
Rock Warbler	2	9/8/2025	Koolewong	Tricia Sweet
Rock Warbler	3	9/8/2025	Mount Ettalong Reserve	Paul Fuller
Mangrove Gerygone	1	27/8/2025	Patonga	Phillip Slack
Eastern Shrike-tit	3	29/8/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Gordon Arthur
White-winged Triller *	AM	27/8/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Guy Dutson
White-breast Woodswallow *8		27/8/2025	Central Coast Wetlands	Allan Benson
White-breast Woodswallow *3		31/8/2025	Woy Woy Waterfront	Greg Shaw
White-breast Woodswallow *2,2		31/8/2025	McPherson Rd Swamp & Central C Wtlds	Carole Carpenter
Torresian Crow	4	14/8/2025	Narara Eco-Village	Guy Dutson
Rufous Fantail *	1	23/8/2025	Fern Rd, Ourimbah	Kara Dunn
Spangled Drongo	1	3/8/2025	Norah Head Reserve	Leeanne Lemke
Spangled Drongo	1	5/8/2025	Thomo's Loop Track, Brisbane Water NP	Guy Dutson
Jacky Winter	1	31/8/2025	Mt Penang Gardens, Kariong	Hamish Pritchard
Rose Robin	1	31/8/2025	Central Mangrove	John Davis
Fairy Martin *	10	1/8/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Allan Benson

Fairy Martin *	10	27/8/2025	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah	John Weigel
Bassian Thrush	1	7/7/2025	Tathra Taila HSD, Mangrove Mtn	Ross Pointer

**Breeding and other records: August 2025**

**White-faced Heron:** A+N Chittaway Pt 28/8 (GNe); **Black-necked Stork:** 1 Wyong roadside 27/8 (LLo); **Wedge-tailed Eagle:** 2 Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 6-31/8 (KPo), 2 Central Mangrove 30/8 (JDa); **Brown Goshawk:** 1 pr Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn 1-31/8 (MPo); **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo:** 2A+J Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 29 & 31/8 (MPo); **Eastern Yellow Robin:** 2A+N Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 8/8 (LPo); **Red-browed Finch:** Flock of 45 garden Tathra Taila HSD Man. Mtn 2/7 (MPo). *Good Birding!*

**TWITCH LIST August 2025**

Nick Carson	228	Krystyna Lonergan	167	David Schuemaker	120
Allan Benson	205	Doug Hocking	161	Frik Gautschi	115
Christina Port	185	Margaret Pointer	161	Diana Hogan	112
Carole Carpenter	181	Chris Jamieson	161	Robyn Price	110
Kaye Pointer	175	Daniel McKeon	142	Lynette Callaghan	100
Julie Peksis	175	Gabrielle Rees	135		
John Carpenter	170	Judy Clark	128		

Nick Carson has maintained his 20+ bird advantage over Allan Benson.

**BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD 2025**

Alan Stuart	225	Daniel McKeon	32	Leeanne Lemke	22
Graham Nelson	192	C Clutterbuck	31	Ann Lindsay	15
Allan Benson	168	Doug Hocking	30	Michael Scobie	15
Robyn Price	54	Meryl Newton	29	David Schuemaker	5
Guy Dutson	39	Frik Gautschi	29		

YTD 2025 number is now 1377 compared with 1730 in 2024.

Alan Stuart has opened up a gap on the field with Graham Nelson a close second 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.

**BIRD-A-DAY CHALLENGE**

Leeanne Lemke has completed her Bird-a-day challenge. This involved photographing a new bird every day. The wet weather finally caught up with her.

Leeanne's last bird was a Weebill taken at Singleton. This was bird 252. Great effort and well-done Leeanne.



**SWIFT PARROT SURVEYS July 18 to August 31, 2025**

Only 92 surveys at 62 /142 sites were completed. The weather has been awful and there was not a lot of bird activity at survey sites. No Swift Parrots were found at survey sites. The following number of surveys were completed:

Allan Benson	43	Robyn Price	8	Graham Nelson	4	Leonie Loewe	1
Greg Shaw	15	Arwen Ximenes	5	Frances Westwick	1		
Doug Hocking	9	Nick Carson	5	Guy Dutson	1		

**SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS**

**August Survey**

5 observers completed this survey on an overcast and warm day. In contrast to last month the ponds were very full after all the rain. There were 120 waterbirds on the ponds dominated by Hardheads. It is interesting how the composition of the waterbirds varies month to month. 42 species were recorded which is about average. The usual suspects were seen with no highlights.

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

**Trip Report**

**Terrigal Pelagic**

**August 15, 2025**

Stephanie Owen

**Departed:** 6:15am from The Skillion, Terrigal

**Conditions:** Seas – moderate swell to calm on return, Winds – light, Water Temperature – 17<sup>o</sup> at the Skillion, 19.7<sup>o</sup> at 310m.

The weather was forecast for light winds and a small swell with some rain showers. The rain showers proved to be correct, but the trip out proved to be much bouncier and with more potholes that the forecast had suggested. With a swell of 2m and a period of 7 seconds it was a bit bone shattering at times but with birds almost instantly appearing on leaving the Skillion we had other things to occupy us. Our first birds were Gannet and a young Black-browed Albatross with some Fluttering types in the mix. A stunning double rainbow formed as sunlight filtered through misty rain - providing a visual treat as bird activity briefly quieted.

Just before we reached the shelf we quickly stopped as a large dark shape emerged from the gloom and a Northern Giant Petrel flew by, with a brief visit past the back of the boat. We kept going and stopped for our first drift at 310m, putting out the Oilinator to start building the slick. Almost immediately two Providence Petrels appeared and increased their numbers over the course of the drift until we had 25 birds in sight at the one time. At 9:19am, 20 mins after our first Provs, a White-faced Storm-Petrel made an appearance, doing a lap across the bow and staying to dance around in the slick. It was later joined by 5 more that happily spent the drift doing laps around the boat. On the trip out the usual conversations were had about what birds we would like, or maybe expect, to see and one of the punters said he would like a Wandering type as it had been a bird that had escaped him on past pelagics. Unfortunately, he didn't hold up all that well on this pelagic and when the first Antipodean Albatross (Gibson's) arrived he missed the call. Fortunately, the bird did laps around the boat before settling on the water to feed and was joined by a further two birds over the course of our drift. A hard-won but satisfying tick for the ailing birder.

After 3 1/2hrs doing a drift of only 0.9 mile we decided to 'up sticks' and try our luck on our way back in. The trip back was disastrous in regard to bird watching as we lost all our birds from the shelf and not a single bird was seen anywhere from horizon to horizon until we had one lone Black-browed Albatross. We stopped for another drift, hoping it was a sign that more birds would be along but despite our best oil and burly being offered to the sea gods it was not to be. We returned to the Skillion at 3pm, happy with a good day's birding and company.

In total 13 bird species were seen beyond The Haven as follows\*:



Gibson's Albatross  
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Crested Tern - 2 (2), Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross - 3 (2), Shy Albatross – 1 (1), Black-browed Albatross – 4 (2), Providence Petrel – 40 (25), Northern Giant Petrel - 1 (1), Fluttering Shearwater- 5 (4), Fluttering-type Shearwater - 5 (3), Australasian Gannet – 16(3), Silver Gull - 2 (2), Antipodean Albatross - 3 (3), White-faced Storm-Petrel - 6 (6), Wedge-tailed Shearwater - 1 (1), Great Cormorant - 1 (1).

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

## Regent Honeyeater Update

To date only 8 Regent Honeyeaters to the have been found or reported to Birdlife in 2025.

- One unbanded bird found at the Hunter Wetlands Centre in Shortland in outer suburban Newcastle – a rather atypical location (it was feeding on flowering Swamp Mahogany and ironbarks).
- Two unbanded birds in the Pilliga (one which was long-staying, from April to June) feeding on flowering White Box
- One unbanded bird found in a backyard in Pelaw Main in May after heavy storms (the bird apparently flew off)
- One unbanded bird in a very unusual location/habitat at Manly Dam on the 29<sup>th</sup> July
- Two unbanded birds in Queens Lake NR on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> August, feeding in Eucalyptus globoidea. These birds attracted some media attention and out of interest, the journalist tells me this has been the 2<sup>nd</sup> most popular Regent Honeyeater ‘online article’ published by the ABC, with ~86,000 clicks!
- Well-known “White-Mauve Red-Metal” (WURM) was photographed in his favourite haunt (One Mile Creek in Wangaratta) on the 4<sup>th</sup> August. WURM was last seen along Three Mile Creek in October 2023 and prior to that along One Mile Creek in
- October 2021. WURM was released on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in Chiltern making him 10 years, 3 months and 20 days post-release... (that’s 3765 days!). As exciting as it is, one does hope that he is not alone. No subsequent observations have been of him unfortunately. A photo of WURM is attached, noting that he has lost his white band from his left leg (which happened some time ago) and red band from his right leg.
- Unbanded Male at Capertee



## MYTHS BUSTED: HOW TO STAY SAFE THIS MAGPIE SEASON

by Laura Dare

*Zip ties? Umbrellas? Talking to magpies? We break down the best ways to avoid swooping magpies this season – and the myths that just won’t go away.*

As spring creeps in, so does the seasonal stress: swooping magpies are back. Whether you’re a cyclist, dog walker, or just someone trying to enjoy the sunshine without being dive-bombed, here’s what you need to know.

### It’s not personal (unless they remember your face)

Let’s start with why they’re swooping in the first place. Magpies aren’t out for blood – they’re just overprotective dads. During nesting season (August to October), some male magpies go full gladiator mode to protect their chicks. Most female magpies don’t swoop at all — they’re too busy incubating the eggs and looking after the nest. And here’s the twist: only around 10% of breeding males swoop, with even fewer actually making contact. Still, if you’ve been swooped before, you’re more likely to be swooped again. Magpies have insanely good facial recognition and can

remember people for up to 20 years. Some even seem to pass warnings on to their offspring – a kind of feathered family vendetta. They also have “preferences” – some target only cyclists, some go for pedestrians, and some... well, they're equal opportunity offenders.

They're also known to swoop at dogs – especially if your dog is off-lead or showing a little too much interest in their nesting tree. It's because some magpies see dogs as natural predators, even if your pup couldn't care less.

### **Magpie swooping myths – busted**

Let's bust a few myths that fly around during magpie swooping season.

#### *All magpies swoop*

Nope. Most are chill. Only a small group of fiercely defensive dads get into swooping mode.

#### *They're aggressive jerks*

Not true. They're actually devoted, intelligent birds doing what any parent would – defending their young.

#### *They hate the colour yellow/purple/fluoro green*

There's zero evidence for this. Swooping is about behaviour and territory, not your fashion choices.

#### *Cable ties and fake eyes always work*

Sometimes they help. Sometimes they make you look like a walking craft project and the magpie doesn't care.

### **Zip ties, streamers and staring contests: What actually works?**

Here's what science (and savvy South Aussies) say might help:

Best bets:

- ✦ Avoid the area – seriously, just walk the long way round for a few weeks.
- ✦ Walk in groups – magpies tend to go after lone targets.
- ✦ Wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunnies – for protection and intimidation.
- ✦ Use an umbrella – held up, not swung.
- ✦ Get off your bike and walk it past known swooping zones.
- ✦ Stay calm – don't shout, run or flail. You'll just prove them right.

Mixed results:

- ✦ Fake eyes on the back of your hat/helmet – might work, might not.
- ✦ Zip ties, pipe cleaners, streamers, party hats – weird? Yes. Effective? Sometimes. At the very least, you'll warn others to steer clear.
- ✦ Talking to them – yes, really! Some people say regularly greeting local magpies keeps them on side.

Don't do this:

- ✦ Don't feed them to “make friends” – it can cause dependency or disease.
- ✦ Don't attack, yell at, or throw things – it can make them more aggressive (and it's illegal).
- ✦ Don't pick up a chick on the ground – it's probably a fledgling learning to fly.



## They're songbirds, not villains

Magpies aren't mindless swooping machines. They're incredibly intelligent songbirds that can:

- ✦ Mimic 35+ sounds – from other birds to dogs and car alarms
- ✦ Recognise and remember 100+ human faces
- ✦ Communicate with other magpies about who's friendly (or not)
- ✦ Solve problems and even introduce their young to trusted humans

And while they can hold a grudge, they can also form bonds – some people report magpies singing on their balconies or visiting every day.

## What if a magpie swoop goes too far?

While most swoops are just warnings, injuries can occasionally happen – usually from startled reactions like falling off a bike. Severe injuries are rare, and fatalities are extremely rare, often involving indirect causes like collisions or falls during an attempted escape. Magpies are a protected species in South Australia. Removal is only considered when a bird poses a genuine risk to public safety. If a swooping magpie on your route is getting a bit too bold, you can report it to your local council – they can install signs or manage the area to reduce risks.

You can also check sites like [magpiealert.com](http://magpiealert.com) to see if others have flagged that location.

And if possible, take a detour until the season passes. It's only temporary.

## It's not just the magpies

Magpies might have the worst PR, but they're not the only birds taking issue with your springtime stroll.

Other birds known to swoop in South Australia include:

- ✦ Magpie-larks (aka mudlarks): Often fly up from the ground and may attack their own reflections in car mirrors or windows.
- ✦ Masked lapwings (aka plovers): Loud, dramatic and not afraid to use their wing spurs (sharp spikes at the 'elbow' or carpal joint of their wings) if you get too close. They sometimes fake injuries to lure you away from their nests.
- ✦ Noisy miners and wattlebirds: Will swoop year-round to defend territory, not just during nesting season.
- ✦ Silver gulls, pelicans, ravens and kookaburras: Not so much territorial as they are opportunistic – these guys swoop to scavenge food, especially at picnics, beaches, and outdoor cafés.

Magpies get the most airtime because their swoops feel personal – but the truth is, most swooping birds are just trying to protect their home or grab your chips. And the same advice applies for all of them: steer clear of nesting sites, stay calm, protect your head, and never feed wildlife.

A bit of distance and respect goes a long way – no matter the species.

## From swooping to singing: learning to live with magpies

Magpies are part of the soundtrack of South Australian mornings. Outside of swooping season, they're curious, social, and great for gardens (they eat insects and snails!). In fact, they're so iconic here in SA that the Piping Shrike – a stylised white-backed magpie – is our official state emblem.

So yes, the bird that dive-bombed you last spring? It's also on your driver's licence. If we treat them with a bit of respect, they might just treat us the same way. Or at least let us walk to the bus stop in peace. Until then – wear a wide-brimmed hat, choose your walking routes wisely, and remember: it's not forever, just in nesting season.