



The Twitcher

November
2025

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Allan Benson (0457 458 274) Wendy Mitchell (0423 388 529) & Robyn Price Volume 20, No. 11

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LEADER/SPEAKER
25/11/25	Next Meeting: The Costa Rica Experience – Trogons and Tanagers Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks	Allan Benson
29/11/25	Outing: Pearl Beach, Warrah Trig, Patonga Meet: Meet 8.30am Pearl Beach Arboretum, Crystal Ave, Pearl Beach	Daniel McKeon 0407 076 118
13/12/25	Christmas Outing: Mardi and Central Coast Wetlands Meet: 7.30am Murrumbung H'stead, 32 The Valley Way, Mardi (off Cobb's Rd) Morning tea and lunch will be at Central Coast Wetlands	Carole & John Carpenter 0409 045 361
27/01/25	Next Meeting: Members' night Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks	Michael Scobie



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: Allan Benson will report on a recent birding trip in Costa Rica, Chile and Peru. The main focus will be Costa Rica which is an amazing destination with an amazing number of special bird species. The emphasis will be on Trogons and Tanagers.

Last Month's Meeting: The 24 attendees were certainly rewarded for coming out on such a cold wet night by hearing about Daniel's 2 week trip "Herping Queensland and other Adventures" where he and a friend, Richard, & Richard's 2 sons went to the Winton area in search of reptiles. Daniel had wonderful photos of strange-named reptiles like Prickly Knob-tailed Gecko & Kristin's Spiny-tailed Gecko, as well as brilliant photos of a number of outback birds they happened to come across on their way, including 3 lifers. Well done, Daniel!

Webpage: Don't forget to check out the Birding NSW Webpage www.birdingnsw.org.au where there is plenty of info about outings, photograph gallery, and general info about the Club. Well worth a visit! Check out Central Coast Birders on Facebook as well! It has now reached 1600 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.

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

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

Central Coast Group, Birding NSW Photography Competition 2025

Once again, we are running this competition which has been well supported in past years. Rules are as follows.

- There are three categories-
 1. Any bird photographed on a Central Coast Group outing or camp in the last 3 years
Prize \$50, donated by Central Coast Group.
 2. Any bird photographed at Central Coast Wetlands/Pioneer Dairy in the last 3 years
Prize \$50, donated by Central Coast Wetlands Trust.
 3. Any bird photographed on the Central Coast in 2025
Prize \$50, donated by Central Coast Group.
- Each photographer is allowed two entries in each category.
- Please supply date and location with your entry.

Closing date will be Friday 12th December 2025. Send entries to Allan Benson aejsbenson@bigpond.com

The judge, as in past years, will be Dick Jenkin from HBOC.

Winners will be announced at the club meeting on the 27th January 2025. All photos will be shown at this meeting.

WHAT WAS NEW in October/November and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in December?

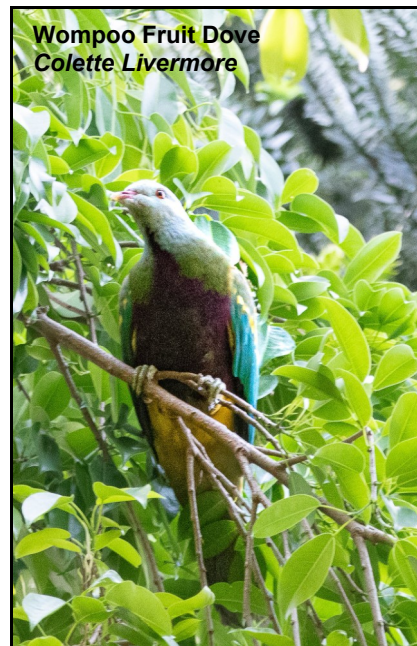
For the first time on many months there are no special highlights except for two records of Wompoo Fruit Dove; one dead at Bateau Bay and a live individual at Wyong Creek. These are the 15th and 16th records for the Central Coast. There were a couple of nice records from Katandra with a Sooty Owl and Owlet Nightjar. A Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo sighting at the Dairy is a good record.

Despite not very much rain, The Dairy and McPherson Road Swamps are very full. Water levels are starting to fall so muddy edges are starting to form. Hopefully this



will attract some waders. There are no "special" ducks on the Coast. Conditions inland are good so Freckled, Pink-ears and Shoveler are there. Little Terns have begun nesting at Karagi point. We hope it's a bumper season.

Breeding will be in full swing and will continue into December, so we can look forward to some good birding and interesting records.



OUTING REPORTS

Camp Out: October 21 - 23

SOUTH WEST ROCKS

Leader: Alan Morris

28 people attended the second of the two spring camps organised by the Central Coast Group of Birding NSW, with people not only travelling from the Central Coast but also from Grafton, Sydney, Laurieton and Lakewood.

Not only was our aim to have a pleasant social time checking out the birdlife of the North Coast birds and the birdlife of the lower Macleay River Valley, but also to contribute systematically to the Australia Bird Atlas and to the NSW Bird Atlassers' projects.

Our visit followed one week after 20-25 mm of rain that had fallen locally, but also there had been good rains in September so that there was plenty of water in the fresh water wetlands in and around South West Rocks. All the paddocks looked green and the wetlands, with all the waterbirds, were picture perfect. The only issue was that because of the excellent seasonal conditions that are currently being experienced in north-west NSW and South-west Queensland, many waterbird species were a bit light on as they were away breeding in places like the Macquarie Marshes, the Moree Water Courses and the Queensland Channel Country/Lake Eyre Basin. This was the fourth campout that included South West Rocks, run by our Club; Graeme Catt leading a camp there in October 2007; Doug Hocking led a camp at Stuarts Point, in October 2017 which included a day spent in and around South West Rocks and Hat Head; Christina Port led the October 2019 Camp, so it was time for me, now a local on the Mid North Coast, to lead the 2025 camp at the Rocks! Overall, we had three lovely sunny days for bird watching!

Our camp was based around the Ingenia Holiday Park, in Gordon Young Drive, South West Rocks, which has been upgraded with many more cabins, since our first camp there in 2007. From here we made visits to Boyters Lane, Suez Rd and Rainbow Reach areas of Jerseyville, Gladstone, Belmore River, Kinchela and Seale Rd Swamp, Hat Head National Park, Arakoon and the Back Creek area and the lower Macleay estuary of South West Rocks. We utilized the Games Room and kitchen facilities near the Park's Swimming Pool for our 5pm get-together and Bird Call. There is much bushland around this caravan park and its timbered banks of Back Creek, so the Park itself provides good birding opportunities for morning walks for birders and photographers alike. This Camp was held mid-week because even though it was held outside of any holiday period, South West Rocks is a very busy place on weekends now that the weather has warmed up.

Friday 21st: We spent the first hour along back creek and the Park's adjoining bushland, where we saw nesting Olive-backed Oriole, and there were Bee-eaters, Dollarbirds, Leaden Flycatchers, Black-faced Monarchs, Brush Cuckoo, White-throated Gerygones, many Noisy Friarbirds, Figbirds, Satin Bowerbirds and a Shining Bronze-Cuckoo to see as well as a group of 23 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. We moved off to the Old Quarry Track and Matty's Flat boat ramp on the banks of the Macleay River, where a number of rainforest species, like Regent & Satin Bowerbirds, Cicadabird, Scarlet Honeyeater, Golden & Rufous Whistlers were seen along with the first of many Brahminy Kites. Mangrove species like Brown Honeyeater & Mangrove Gerygone were found. Our first morning tea was taken at the pleasant Matty's Flat boat ramp picnic area. From here we proceeded around to Boyters Lane Jerseyville where we birded up to lunch time and then returned to Camp for lunch. The best birds here were a lone Brolga (the female is suspected to be on a nest in near vicinity), 100s of Grey & Chestnut Teal, many Pied Stilts, several pairs with young chicks, a lone Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterels. Great, Plumed & Little Egrets, Pacific Herons, nesting Striped Honeyeaters, Reedwarblers & Little Grassbirds, and many Royal Spoonbills, Coots and Pelicans. After lunch we first visited the Trial Bay Jail site and inspected the new upgrading of the Arakoon NP camping area, to be finished by Christmas. The sea was flat and the only birds to be seen were a few Short-tailed Shearwaters a long way out. So we then visited Back Creek tidal flats, the best birds here being 2 Eurasian Whimbrels and a Black-shouldered Kite, and a Hobby landing on an old Osprey's nest. Our final stop was at the Arthur Street stake-out for the nesting Barking Owls in urban South West Rocks. Only the male was present in the tree adjoining the nesting tree where the female is known to be on the nest. He was the most photographed bird of the day. Blue-faced Honeyeaters were also present, 122 species on our first day!



Barking Owl
Marie Kobler

Day 2: We were off first to the road that follows the western side of the Belmore River through the most picturesque green landscapes with herds of dairy cows, and beef cattle with their accompanying flocks of Cattle Egrets with well-tended gardens and large houses, This road finally back crosses the Belmore River and we turned into Seale Rd which first passes the Roost Tree Ponds, where a group of Night Herons and Royal Spoonbills are known to spend the day. We saw 9 Night Herons today but often there are more at this site, then onto the famous Seale Road Swamp. It did not disappoint! Both sides of the road had expansive open water wetlands and shallow, very wet paddocks, full of Black Swans, some with cygnets, 60+ Pacific Herons, many Great, Plumed, Cattle and Little Egrets, 100s of Grey & Chestnut Teal and Black Ducks. There were Sea-eagles, Swamp Harriers, Black-shouldered Kites, 3 Whistling Kites and two Hobbies hunting over the

wetlands. The top bird had to be the adult male Black-necked Stork with two very brown youngsters, seemingly just out of the nest, At the western end of this road, still in the swamp, up to 3 Forest and some Sacred Kingfishers were seen along with White-breasted Woodswallows and Australian Grebes. The wetland was at its best for our visit! We returned from here along the eastern side of the Belmore River, again with great scenery, to the very pleasant Gladstone Riverside park with its nice rotunda, picnic area, toilet facilities, lovely shade trees and a coffee shop across the road with a Kestrel overhead! After morning tea we made a quick visit to Barnetts Lagoon west of Gladstone and while there were plenty of waterbirds to see, the main highlight was a Yellow-billed Spoonbill and some Starlings and House Sparrows (hard birds to see locally these days)! In the afternoon we headed first to Suez Road, Jerseyville, usually a good place to see Australian Spotted Crakes, but the water level was too high. However we did see a Latham's Snipe, then we slowly crawled along Rainbow Reach Road, again amongst beef cattle and dairy cows and picked up more Swamp Harriers. We finished the day at the old Boat Ramp Reserve at Plummers Lane, where there was a Sooty Oystercatcher, waiting out the high tide on the opposite bank, & another Swamp Harrier. The Bird count that evening was 106 for the day with a total of 141 for the two days!



Thursday: Our final day was spent mostly at Hat Head National Park and surrounds, with visits to Hat Head Inlet, Korogoro estuary, and the Hat Head littoral rainforest track. Morning tea was at the Korogoro Creek Bridge, then the trail along the Creek adjacent to Gap Road, with lunch under the paperbarks on Hat Head Rd within the Reserve. Highlights were Leaden Flycatchers, Shining & Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos, Drongo, Scarlet Honeyeaters with fledged young, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Dollarbirds and Forest Ravens. We finished early out there and so came back for people to pursue some other birds they had not seen elsewhere, like nesting Grey Goshawk, near the Camp, and better views of the Sharpies at Boyters Lane. The photos, when viewed later, revealed that one of the Sharpies was actually a Curlew Sandpiper & another was a Pectoral Sandpiper! At the end of the day at Bird Call we had seen 120 species, total camp list was therefore 148! We finished the day with dinner at the South West Rocks Country Club, and speeches by Christina Port, thanking Alan & Anne for leading the Camp, this his last Camp as leader. Doug Hocking spoke about the fact that since 1998, there have been 89 camps of which Alan had led 32! A presentation was made to Alan for his leadership of this and many other camps. Previous South West Rocks Camps saw bird lists of 134, 142 & 143 species, but we were helped by the fact that recent sightings by other birders are on eBird so referencing to recent sightings can easily be made.

Outing: November 1

TERALBA

Leader: Meryl Newton

With a very wet day forecast, 10 eager birders gathered at Tulkaba Park, Teralba, hoping for at least a few hours of dry. First stop was Weir Rd, which did not disappoint. Hundreds of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers took to the air, just as we arrived, providing many with fantastic photo opportunities. The borehole had nice mudflats, which allowed easy, close viewing of the Sharpies, a couple of Red-kneed Dotterels, a Curlew Sandpiper and Latham's Snipe. It was nice to see breeding colours on many of the Sharpies. Pied Stilts were well represented as well.

Morning tea was held back at Tulkaba Park, where a decision was made to go to Bunnings Swamp, (Ironbark Creek) Wallsend. After visiting there a few days previously, I knew the group would enjoy a new loca-



tion, that is very easy access, and that they would also hopefully see some good birds. It didn't disappoint. Wandering Whistling Ducks, Hardheads, numerous Latham's Snipes, and a Horsfield Cuckoo made a brief appearance. The vegetation around the swamp is also great for woodland birds, including Red-rumped Parrots, and a (well spotted by Gabrielle), Mistletoebird.

Lunch was had in the carpark, with rain very imminent. Most decided to pack it in, with a few very hardy birders happy to follow me to Bulbul Crescent, Fletcher, being also a new-to-many, terrific birding location. Although it was pelted down by then, we did get distant views of 5 Freckled Ducks. As always, a wonderful day out with a very enthusiastic crew, 73 species sighted, and I thank all for allowing me to show them a few spots for them to go back to in the future.



Outing: Wednesday, November 12

COASTAL LAKES AND LAGOONS

Leader: Frik Gautschi

15 birders met up at Remembrance Rd, Wamberal on a perfect day. It was cool, almost windless, and it hadn't rained for more than a week, so the areas surrounding the various lakes were not only dry and firm, but mercifully devoid of leeches and mosquitoes.

Wamberal Lagoon was relatively quiet but the firm bank enabled us to have a good view of the edges. Other than a few Cormorants, Chestnut Teals and Mallard-Black Duck hybrids, there was nothing noteworthy - just Welcome Swallows and Silver Gulls. A Sacred Kingfisher, then an Olive-backed Oriole, were heard but not seen; it remained the closest we got to seeing either all day. Once we reached the open field at Wairakei Road Playground there were a few Brown Thornbills which kept us guessing for a while, then a Satin Bowerbird. Lastly, a pair of Chestnut Teals in the creek, making a hasty retreat with their clutch of ducklings. The walk back along the road was much more rewarding: a parent-and-fledgling pair of Tawny Frogmouths huddled together above the footpath. 24 species so far.

Next stop was Terrigal Lagoon where we checked out the forest at the end of Florida Rd. Another Oriole was only heard, but a Figbird showed itself as did another Satin Bowerbird. Superb Fairywrens were everywhere but hard to spot. Finally, a female Golden Whistler had us all guessing as to its age, but the highlight was a White-browed Scrubwren's nest tucked away in a clump of mistletoe where we witnessed multiple visits from the parent birds. Only 16 species here, down from 19 last year and decidedly down from 29 species the year before. Morning tea was enjoyed in the park opposite Terrigal Scout Hall. There were a few Masked Lapwings foraging on the lawn, including three chicks.

We then headed to Avoca Beach. From Heazlett Park we walked across the bridge, having seen both Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Little Corellas nesting in hollows in a neatly-trimmed dead tree [well done, Council!], then seeing a further three nests from the bridge: that of a Pied Stilt, a Black Swan and a Magpie Lark's mud structure, the latter a giveaway to its former name of "Mudlark". We continued down a service lane on the edge of Avoca Lagoon where we saw two Topknot Pigeons feeding in a Coral Tree, then a Dusky Moorhen, Purple Swamphen and Australasian Darter - all single birds but adding to the list nevertheless.

We returned to Heazlett Park via the Scout Hall, from where we saw a Striated, er.. Little Heron and settled down for an early lunch under the large Ficuses on the edge of Bulbararing Lagoon. Two Nankeen Night-herons sat frozen in the high canopy above our lunching patch. Two more occupied nesting hollows were visible from where we sat: one by a Kookaburra, the other by a Rainbow Lorikeet. Eight nests in a day (all in natural sites) may be a record! 21 species over lunch, up from 19 last year and 10 the year before.

Captain Cook Lookout at Copacabana was our final stop where we were greeted in the carpark by a splendid-looking male Brush Turkey. We heard an Eastern Whipbird and Grey Butcherbird, and saw a Pied Currawong, Channel-billed

Cuckoo and several Welcome Swallows but, once at the Lookout, surprisingly no seabirds – not even Silver Gulls. We patiently looked around for the anxiously-awaited appearance of.....and there it was – a Peregrine Falcon! After two passes right in front of us, it was joined by a second bird and we were entertained for several minutes as they floated way down to the water, then effortlessly soaring up to our level. There was much speculation as to their age(s) and relationship, but what mattered was that they had showed themselves and had offered such great photo opportunities.

Peregrine Falcon
David Lamont



Bird-wise the sea remained quiet, but no sooner had the excitement of the Falcons faded, than the appearance of a small pod of dolphins broke the calm surface of the sea. At first a group of around ten, then another small group appeared perhaps 300 metres away, and before long hundreds of dolphins lazily swam about, occasionally making small leaps out of the water – all distributed in small groups. There weren't any tell-tale seabirds hovering about; hence they didn't appear to be feeding. But as awesome as this conclusion to the day might have been, nothing could have thrilled us more than those free-spirited Peregrine Falcons. Someone heard what could have been a Pallid Cuckoo but, despite trying to call it in, there was no response and this one accordingly didn't make our list. With that, we called it a day. 7 species here.

The total count for the day was 49 species, comparable with 51 last year, and not bad given how quiet some areas appeared. Bird(s)-of-the-day had to be the Peregrine Falcons, closely followed by those two Tawnys. Contact the leader for a full list of species seen/heard.

Thank you to all the attendees for your contributions and great company.

SPECIES LIST

OCTOBER 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

Brown Quail	2	20/10/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Graham Nelson
Owlet-Nightjar	2	12/10/2025	Katandra Reserve, Matcham	Nick Carson
Pheasant Coucal	HC	8/10/2025	Dooralong Hall	Carole Carpenter
Pheasant Coucal	2	25/10/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Graham Nelson
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	1 & 23/10	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	3	8/10/2025	Dooralong Hall	Carole Carpenter
Pacific Koel *	1	1/10/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Pacific Koel *	2	4/2/2025	Wamberal	Karmel Baker
Pacific Koel *	2	6/10/2025	Fagans Park, Point Clare	John Davis
Brush Cuckoo*	1	8/10/2025	Little Jilliby	Carole Carpenter
Brush Cuckoo*	1	10/10/2025	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	Nick Carson
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	8/10/2025	Little Jilliby	Carole Carpenter
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	J	31/10/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Julie Peksis
Brown Cuckoo-dove	30	5/10/2025	waiting to be fed, Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	1D	15/10/2025	15th CC record East Bateau Bay	Barbara Blades
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	1	20/10/2025	16th CC record, Wyong Creek	Colette Livermore
Buff-banded Rail	2	20-30/10/25	x3 Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Steve Davies
Bush Stone-curlew	2+N	October	Nautical Village, South Kincumber	Nick Carson
Bush Stone-curlew	1	21/10/2025	Church St, Chittaway Point	Nick Carson
Pied Oystercatcher	2	31/10/2025	Saratoga Jetty	Andrew Melville
Pacific Golden Plover	5	12/10/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Colette Livermore
Ruddy Turnstone	5	12/10/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Colette Livermore
Lathan's Snipe	5	12-30/10/25	x4 Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Colette Livermore
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	7	12/10/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Colette Livermore
Red-necked Stint	5	15/10/2025	North Tacoma Point to Rocky Point	Steve Davis
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	15/10/2025	North Tacoma Point to Rocky Point	Steve Davis

Grey-tailed Tattler	3	12/10/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Colette Livermore
Wandering Tattler	1	21/10/2025	Blue Bay Reefs	Bruce Ward-Smith
Long-tailed Jaeger	1	10/10/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Whiskered Tern *	3	10/10/2025	Tuggerah Bay, Saltmarsh	Nick Carson
Little Tern *	3	7/10/2025	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	Nick Carson
Little Tern *	130	16-31/10/25	incl. 40 breeding birds, Karagi Point	Nick Carson
Little Tern	4	25/10/2025	Tuggerawong, Tuggerah Lake	Steve Davies
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	10	10/10/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Antipodean Albatross	1	10/10/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
White-capped Albatross	8	10/10/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Black-browed Albatross	2	10/10/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Cook's Petrel	1	10/10/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Flesh-footed Shearwater	20	10/10/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	80	10/10/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Short-tailed Shearwater	1	10/10/2025	Terrigal pelagic	Steven Edwards
Black-necked Stork	2	11/10/2025	flying over Wyong River	Kelly Nash
Black-necked Stork	2	17/10/2025	McPherson Rd Swamp	Noel Lonergan
Black-necked Stork	Pr	26/10/2025	Wye Wetland Reserve	Leonie Loewe
Pacific Baza	1	4/10/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Jan Mohandas
Pacific Baza	2	15-19/10/25	Central Coast Hwy, Erina Heights	Darren Earnshaw
Pacific Baza	1	16/10/2025	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah Creek	Darren Earnshaw
Black-shouldered Kite	1	11/10/2025	Ourimbah M1 Motorway Rest Area	L. Deverell
Letter-winged Kite	1	5/10/2025	1st CC record, Norah Head Reserve	Shaun Harris
Square-tailed Kite	1	1 & 13/10	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Square-tailed Kite	1	4-27/10/25	x3 Wybung Head Munmorah SCA	Wendy Newbury
Square-tailed Kite	1	6/10/2025	Ourimbah Creek Rd Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Brahminy Kite	1	2/10/2025	on rocks at Munmorah SCA	Kim Pryor
Brown Goshawk	2+N	1/10/2025	Erina Heights	Darren Earnshaw
Brown Goshawk	1	9/10/2025	Lemon Tree, Jilliby	Carole Carpenter
Brown Goshawk	1	15/10/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	4/10/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	8/10/2025	Lemon Tree, Jilliby	Carole Carpenter
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	23/10/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Little Eagle	1	October	Narara Ecovillage	Guy Dutson
Azure Kingfisher	2	8/10/2025	Lemon Tree, Jilliby	Carole Carpenter
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	1/10/2025	Murrumbung HSD Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	6/10/2025	Munmorah SCA	Shaun Harris
Rainbow Bee-eater	4	27/9/2025	Glenola Farm, Yarramalong	Kaye Pointer
Rainbow Bee-eater	2	20/10/2025	Oval, Yarramalong	Arnie Boyci
Dollarbird	2	8/10/2025	Lemon Tree, Jilliby	Carole Carpenter
Dollarbird	1	15/10/2025	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Southern Boobook	1HC	15/10/2025	Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah Creek	Darren Earnshaw
Southern Boobook	1	25/10/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Sooty Owl	1	12/10/2025	Katandra Reserve, Matcham	Nick Carson
Southern Boobook	HC	8/10/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Southern Boobook	HC	9/10/2025	Gilda Drive, Narara	Julie Peksis
Southern Boobook	3	12/10/2025	Katandra Reserve, Matcham	Nick Carson
Powerful Owl	2A,2Y	26/10/2025	? Narara	Ben Stewart
Nankeen Kestrel	1	6-29/10/25	Snapper Point, Munmorah SCA	Shaun Harris
Nankeen Kestrel	1	13/10/2025	Norah Head Reserve	Mark Smith
Australian Hobby	1	2/10/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Lachlan McNamara
Peregrine Falcon	1	2/10/2025	West Gosford	Darren Earnshaw
Peregrine Falcon	1	17/10/2025	Crackneck Lookout, Wyrabalong NP South	Tony Nicolaci
Glossy Black Cockatoo	1	14/10/2025	Narara Ecovillage	Allan Benson
Little Lorikeet	2	1/10/2025	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Noisy Pitta	1	2-3/10/25	Narara Ecovillage	Guy Dutson
Noisy Pitta	1	5/10/2025	Upper Palmdale Rd, Palmdale	Tom Wilson

Noisy Pitta	2HC	8/10/2025	Little Jilliby	Carole Carpenter
Noisy Pitta	2	11/10/2025	Katandra Bushland Reserve, Matcham	Nick Carson
Green Catbird	1	11/10/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Brown-headed Honeyeater	2	1,15,31/10	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Singing Honeyeater	1	16/10/2025	1st CC Record, Karagi Pt, The Entrance	Nick Carson
White-throated Gerygone	2,	1-31/10/25	Wye	Leonie Loewe
White-throated Gerygone	2,2	8/10/2025	Dooralong Hall & Lemon Tree	Carole Carpenter
White-throated Gerygone	1	20/10/2025	Ourimbah SF	Nick Carson
Striated Thornbill	4	15/10/2025	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Varied Sittella	2	12/10/2025	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Crested Shrike-tit	1	4/10/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Jan Mohandas
Rufous Whistler	2	1/10/2025	Wye	Leonie Loewe
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	Pr	15/10/2025	Wye	Leonie Loewe
White-winged Triller *	Pr	9-26/10/25	3 on 11/10 Central Coast Wetlands	Dean Purcell
Varied Triller	1	6-9/10/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Dean Purcell
Cicadabird *	1	4, 16-24/10	Murrumbung HSD ,Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Cicadabird *	1	9/10/2025	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Allan Benson
Black-faced Monarch*	1	5/10/2025	Cedar Brush Creek, Yarramalong	Shaun Harris
Spectacled Monarch *	1	10/20/2025	Katandra Bushland Res, Matcham	Nick Carson
Spectacled Monarch *	1	14-16/10/25	Narara Ecovillage	Guy Dutson
Leaden Flycatcher *	1	1,25/10/25	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Leaden Flycatcher	F	12/10/2025	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Colette Livermore
Satin Flycatcher	AM	9-16/10/25	Narara Ecovillage	Guy Dutson
Rufous Fantail *	1	2/10/2025	Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming	Rob Montgomery
Rufous Fantail *	1	10-12/10/25	Murrumbung HSD, Mardi	John Carpenter
Rufous Fantail *	1	14/10/2025	Strickland SF, Narara	Michael Nanscawen
Jacky Winter	1	1/10/2025	Wye	Leonie Loewe
Jacky Winter	2	8/10/2025	Lemon Tree, Jilliby	Carole Carpenter
Rufous Songlark *	3	6-26/10/25	Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah	Julie Peksis
Bassian Thrush	1	5/10/2025	Cedar Brush Creek, Yarramalong	Shaun Harris
Bassian Thrush	1	9-20/10/25	Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve	Allan Benson
Bassian Thrush	1	19/10/2025	Mount White	Ian Bradshaw
Common Blackbird	1	22/10/2025	Finns Rd, Kulnura	Nick Carson

Breeding and other records: October 2025

Black Swan: 2A+2 cygnets Central Coast Wetlands 20/10 (GNe); **Purple Swamphen:** 2A+N at Dooralong & Lemon Tree 8/10 (CCa), A+2Y Central Coast Wetlands 19/10 (MSm); **Buff-banded Rail:** A+J Central Coast Wetlands 29/10 (MSm); **Masked Lapwing:** 2A+Y Central Coast Wetlands 4/10, 20/10 (GNe), 2A+Y North Tacoma 15/10 (SDa); **White-faced Heron:** N+3Y Chittaway Pt 31/10 (GBe); **Square-tailed Kite:** 1 Ourimbah M1 Motorway Rest Area 11/10 (LDe), 1 PGOCLandcare 16/10 (CLi); **Whistling Kite:** 2+N Central Coast Wetlands 20-25/10 (JNe); **White-throated Gerygone:** 2+N Dooralong 8/10 (CCa); **White-breasted Woodswallow:** A+2Y (MSm); **Grey Butcherbird:** N+Y Tuggerah 4/10 (ABo); **Willie Wagtail:** 2A+N Ourimbah Ck Rd 16/10 (DEa). *Good Birding!*

TWITCH LIST October 2025

Nick Carson	243	John Carpenter	175	Frik Gautschi	126
Allan Benson	216	Krystyna Lonergan	174	Diana Hogan	121
Christina Port	193	Margaret Pointer	165	David Schuemaker	120
Kaye Pointer	185	Chris Jamieson	164	Robyn Price	118
Carole Carpenter	182	Doug Hocking	161	Lynette Callaghan	113
Julie Peksis	180	Gabrielle Rees	146	Nick Carson's total of 243 is getting up toward the average seen most years.	
Daniel McKeon	179	Judy Clark	136		

BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD 2025

Alan Stuart	257	Guy Dutson	47	Meryl Newton	29
Graham Nelson	229	C Clutterbuck	42	Michael Scobie	27
Allan Benson	193	Frik Gautschi	36	Leeanne Lemke	22
Nick Carson	176	Doug Hocking	34	Ann Lindsay	17
Robyn Price	68	Daniel McKeon	33	David Schuemaker	5

October surveys were 131 compared to 178 in 2024. YTD 2025 number is now 1533 compared with 2041 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. Birdata is one way, as a birder, you can make a contribution to bird conservation.

SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS**September Survey**

46 species were observed completed this. We only counted 142 waterfowl on the ponds – Black Ducks and Grebes.

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

'NESTFLIX': PEREGRINE FALCON LIVESTREAM HAS AUSTRALIANS GLUED TO THEIR SCREENS

Helen Livingstone - Sydney

Since the end of August, tens of thousands of Australians have been tuning in to "Nestflix", a high drama 24-hour reality channel that first became a hit during the Covid pandemic. Sometimes compared to Game of Thrones, it features airborne fights, cuckolds, births, breakups and earthquakes, courtesy of its stars - the peregrine falcons who live at the top of a Melbourne skyscraper. Currently fans are waiting for the moment when this year's chicks, which began hatching at the end of September, attempt their first flight. They can be seen running up and down flapping their wings on the ledge – 34 storeys high – while their mother has been flying past with pigeons in her talons. "She's teasing the chicks, going 'You wanna eat? Well you gotta fly'," says Dr Victor Hurley, founder of the Victorian Peregrine Project. The goading and deliberate reduction in food encourages them to fly and helps them lose weight, he says. "Their wings are growing and getting bigger and they get a better wing load ratio to wing load area so they can lift off easier."

The launch of 'Nestflix'

Dr Hurley was first tipped off to the peregrine nesting site on the office building at 367 Collins Street in 1991, the year he established the Victorian Peregrine Project, a volunteer group dedicated to the preservation of the species. But he realised the falcons were having no success because they had laid their eggs in a metal gutter, which acts as a heat sink, drawing warmth away from the nest. "Rain gutters in winter in Melbourne, that was always going to end badly," he says. Dr Hurley recommended the building managers put in a nest box - which they agreed to do - and the following year three chicks were born. A CCTV camera was put in to observe the nest in 1993 and every year at breeding time Dr Hurley would drag his large screen TV into the foyer so that people in the building could watch.

Then in 2017 a webcam was installed and "Nestflix" was broadcast live on YouTube. The falcons also have their own Facebook fan page with more than 50,000 members. "It's quite a supportive corner of the internet where people just enjoy watching birds," says Kylie Humrick, who joined the group in 2017 and has since become one of its moderators. "During Covid the group just exploded because it gave people a sense of connection to the world around them." "We hear a lot about how wildlife is struggling and it's good to see some birds that are thriving in the built environment," she adds. A favourite moment was in 2021 when the livestream captured a falcon being startled off the nest by an earthquake.

Fights and 'floaters'

Over the years the nest has been inhabited by six or seven different pairs of falcons, possibly more. The piece of central Melbourne real estate is "highly prized" by the birds, Dr Hurley says. "There's a guarantee of hot and cold running pigeons and sparrows all year round. So, foods laid on for them."

This, and the fact that Peregrine Falcons are extremely territorial - the closest they'll nest to each other is about 1.6km - has led to some spectacular fights over the nesting site with "floaters" - peregrines who haven't paired off or established their own territory - launching raids.

In 2022, drama ensued when a male falcon (described as "wimpy" by Dr Hurley) was replaced by a younger bird halfway through the incubation period after a weeks-long battle. The older male was almost certainly killed by the "step-father" who was "rubbish" at his new incubation duties, says Dr Hurley, although he notes that at least he didn't eat the chicks when they hatched as has been known to happen and did in fact provide them with their first feed. "People started referring to him as the dad that stepped up," says Ms Humrick.

Then in 2023, the resident female falcon appeared to have sustained brain damage after getting "beaten up" by another female. "She retained the territory for a couple of weeks but she was standing next to the eggs all night one night in winter so she was clearly not alright," says Dr Hurley. There were no chicks that year. Years earlier another female falcon was killed in a seven-hour fight that was so loud the building managers called Dr Hurley. Dr Hurley emphasises that these behaviours are natural and has rejected entreaties from falcon watchers to intervene. "These things kill other birds for a living, that's their specialty and when they're taking over nests there's no prisoner abuse scandal, they just kill each other."

Peregrine Falcons, which were once nearly wiped out in Australia due to the use of pesticides in agriculture, have staged a recovery since the 1980s when DDT and other chemicals were banned.

The birds - known as the fastest animals on earth, reaching speeds of up to 389km/h - are now to be found in almost every major city across the country, where tall buildings mimic the cliffs, they prefer in nature.

The peregrine chicks are expected to fledge any day now. But they still face challenges, not least their first flight, which for the chicks at 367 Collins Street is expected any day soon. The male chick is expected to fly first, possibly as early as Saturday, followed around a week later by his two sisters. Female chicks are typically 30% heavier than their brothers, so they take a little longer to develop the necessary strength to fly.

Dr Hurley hopes they all take their time as that means "they'll be stronger and more capable"; an ill-timed gust of wind could blow them into a window or they could land badly. One of last year's chicks had to spend several weeks at a rehabilitation centre after becoming trapped behind a glass balcony screen on another skyscraper.

Once they make their first kill, they'll be on their own, potentially chased out of the territory altogether depending on the ruthlessness of their parents. A 60% mortality rate in the first year means it's a "tough gig" being a young Peregrine Falcon, Dr Hurley observes, adding that such a rate is common among predators.

"If every lion that was born survived to become an adult and breed, you'd run out of zebra and wildebeest pretty quick."

It's not clear what has happened to the earlier chicks from Collins Street despite up to 40 being banded, but they will usually travel tens of kilometres away to establish their own territories and avoid inbreeding. If they survive their second year - two thirds do not - they can begin breeding at three.

Among the Facebook watcher's excitement is building ahead of the expected fledging. "Headed to Melbourne soon and binoculars already packed, hoping to spot them!" one group member posted this week. "Be still my freaked-out heart," another wrote as one chick perched close to the edge of the ledge.

"It's always an exciting time in the group; viewership definitely goes up the closer we get to fledging. People look forward to seeing them go out into the world," says Ms Humrick. "We don't know what happens to them after they fledge but it's nice to see them reach that but it's nice to see them reach that milestone."

