



# The Twitcher

January  
2026

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Allan Benson (0457 458 274) Wendy Mitchell (0423 388 529) & Robyn Price      Volume 21, No. 1

| DATE    | ACTIVITIES  | LEADER/SPEAKER                       |
|---------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 27/1/26 | <b>Next Meeting:</b> Members' night<br><b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks  | <b>Michael Scobie</b>                |
| 31/1/26 | <b>Outing:</b> Murrays Run<br><b>Meet:</b> Meet 8.30am The Letter "A".<br>Cnr of Walkers Ridge Rd and George Downs Drive, Kulnura   | <b>Graham Nelson</b><br>0466 599 278 |
| 1/2/26  | <b>Breakfast with the Birds</b><br><b>Meet:</b> 7.45am Central Coast Wetlands - Pioneer Dairy, South Tacoma Road.<br>Cost \$8   | <b>CEN</b><br>Book 4349 4757         |
| 11/2/26 | <b>½ day Outing:</b> Saratoga and Davistown<br><b>Meet:</b> 8.30am Tennis Courts, Willaroo Rd, Saratoga   | <b>Doug Hocking</b><br>0427 800 428  |
| 24/2/26 | <b>Next Meeting:</b> Birding beyond Binoculars<br><b>Meet:</b> 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks<br><b>Note: For all Outings bring your morning tea and lunch. A chair is a good idea.</b> | <b>Akos Lumiuitzer</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: Member's night** will include the presentation of the Twitch Trophy and the Alan Morris Award, announcement of the winners of the 2025 Photographic Competition plus some short presentations from our members.

**Last Month's Meeting:** A very well-attended meeting, with 39 attendees, including our patron Alan Morris. Allan Benson gave a very interesting presentation about the trip he and his friend John did in June to Costa Rica. As well as birds Allan spoke about the population, economics and geography of this small country in Central America, comparing it to Chile and Peru which they visited briefly on the way. As well as Trogons and Tanagers we saw photos taken by John of a lot of very colourful and different birds (and some animals) - several owls, hummingbirds, macaws, the rather plain-looking Clay-coloured Thrush which is the national bird, and the amazing Resplendent Quetzal. Thanks, Allan!

**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 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.

**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**

**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) & pass to Wendy Mitchell for donation to charity.

**CAMPS 2026**

|   |                     |                                       |              |   |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Fri 6th - Sun 8th<br><b>March</b>       | <b>Narrabri</b>     | Gabrielle Rees                        | 0414 947 138 | Narrabri Big Sky Caravan Park<br>11-35 Tibbereena St, Narrabri<br>02 6792 1294<br><a href="http://www.southerncrossparks.com.au">www.southerncrossparks.com.au</a>                  |
| Tue 28th - Thu 30th<br><b>April</b>     | <b>Nundle</b>       | Doug Hocking                          | 0427 800 428 | Fossickers Caravan Park<br>103-119 Jenkins St, Nundle<br>02 6769 3355<br><a href="http://www.fossickersatnundle.com.au">www.fossickersatnundle.com.au</a>                           |
| Fri 11th - Sun 13th<br><b>September</b> | <b>Cootamundra</b>  | Christina Port                        | 0421 691 317 | Cootamundra Caravan Park<br>55 Macleay St, Cootamundra<br>02 6942 1080<br><a href="http://www.cootundracaravanpark.com.au">www.cootundracaravanpark.com.au</a>                      |
| Tue 20th - Thu 22nd<br><b>October</b>   | <b>Sandy Hollow</b> | Lynette Callaghan & Margaret Vallance | 0438 495 562 | Sandy Hollow Tourist Retreat<br>1618 Golden Highway, Sandy Hollow<br>02 6547 4575<br><a href="http://www.sandyhollowtouristretreat.com.au">www.sandyhollowtouristretreat.com.au</a> |

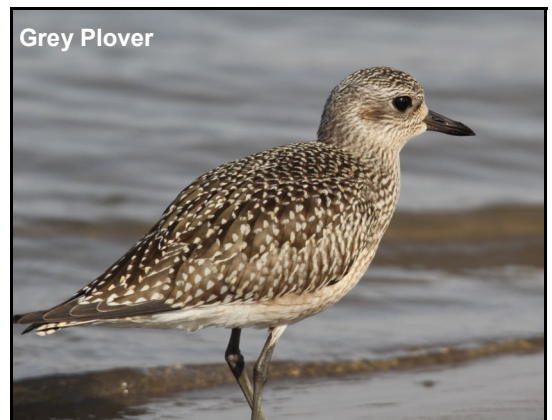
| Treasurer's Report 2025 |                | 2026 (budget)  |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Opening Balance</b>  | 677.99         | 707.15         |
| <b>Income</b>           |                |                |
| Meeting donations       | 1473.06        | 1400.00        |
| Central Coast Wet-land  | 50.00          |                |
| Other                   | 100.00         |                |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>1623.06</b> | <b>1400.00</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>      |                |                |
| Hall hire               | 550.00         | 550.00         |
| Tea coffee etc          | 131.32         | 130.00         |
| Printing                | 201.20         | 80.00          |
| Purchase printer        | 379.25         |                |
| Photo comp              | 165.00         | 150.00         |
| Computer                | 33.97          |                |
| Donations               | 20.00          | 50.00          |
| Sundry                  | 63.16          | 150.00         |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>1543.90</b> | <b>1110.00</b> |
| <b>Profit/loss 2025</b> | <b>79.16</b>   | <b>290.00</b>  |
| <b>Balance in hand</b>  | <b>707.15</b>  | <b>997.15</b>  |

The \$4 meeting donation is designed to cover the hall hire, tea coffee etc and the printing of the Twitcher.

We have now bought our own printer which will reduce printing costs from m around \$330 per year to less than \$100.

We run a small surplus for contingencies.

**Editor's Note:** A huge thank you to Graham Nelson for his management of the treasurer's role.



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

Probably the most interesting sighting was a Grey Plover (see above) identified retrospectively after being photographed at Soldiers Beach. An unusual Pacific Golden Plover at Blue Bay generated some interest but it turned out to be - well an unusual Pacific Golden Plover. Sightings of a Beach Stone-curlew (see over) at Little Bouddi Beach and Blue Bay were the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> records and the first record since April 2022. The Great Knot at The Entrance was the first record



Beach Stone-curlew

since October 2023. A Fairy Tern with the Little Terns at Karagi Point was the 4<sup>th</sup> record. The White-tailed Tropicbird on the December Terrigal Pelagic was the 5<sup>th</sup> record.

Noisy Pittas are showing up all over the place and are now a relatively common resident. There were 11 records in this period from a variety of sites. The Emerald Dove sightings at the RTA reserve are the first records for a while there. The Wood Sandpiper has returned to the Dairy. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year it has resided there.

The birds have finished nesting and are no longer defending territories and thus not responding to playback. However, everybody is keen to start their 2026 Twitch list so everybody is looking. The first spring migrants to depart will be Fairy Martins.

### OUTING REPORTS

**Outing: November 29, 2025**

**PEARL BEACH, PATONGA**

**Leader: Daniel McKeon**

A very warm day saw twenty-four birders meet at the tennis courts at Pearl Beach hoping to catch something special in the area before the group broke up for Christmas. The usual suspects of Noisy Miners and Little Wattlebirds greeted us in the carpark but a distant call got everyone's attention. A Sahul Cicadabird was calling loudly and seemed to be getting closer to us. An extensive search of every bump and nodule in the surrounding trees came up short and we headed into the arboretum for our scheduled walk.

It was quiet along the walk but a Satin Bowerbird busying itself in the undergrowth caught our attention while some calling Pacific Koel and Channel-billed Cuckoo had us all looking skyward to try and catch a glimpse. A fly-by of a Brown Gos-hawk was a brief distraction before we set off once again. A search along Crystal Avenue for feeding Glossy Black Cockatoos came up fruitless but the walk back had everyone fascinated by a pair of nesting Brown Gerygone. Fairywrens, Whipbirds and Yellow Robins accompanied the group back along the remainder of the path to the carpark where we were once again met by calling Cicadabirds. Again, however, we were unable to catch sight of them.



Pearl Beach Birders  
Rick Noble

Due to the conditions on the day National Parks decided to shut the parks because of a total fire ban. We agreed that it would be unsafe and unwise for us to go past a locked gate on the road to Warrah Trig Lookout for our next scheduled location, thus causing our day to be cut a little short.

We headed down to Pearl Beach and walked along the creek adding plenty of Cormorants and Pelicans to our list. A White-bellied Sea Eagle put on a show for us whilst a distant Whistling Kite had everyone guessing at its identity. We made our way back to the picnic area near the caravan park and sat for lunch where we were entertained by a very curious Lace Monitor who

was quite unbothered by people. At one point the Monitor headed on its way and was promptly set upon by the local Brush Turkeys, much pecking and tail whipping ensued and our day was at an end.

A very hot last outing of the year, with less birds than is ideal, was made all the better by the company of the attendees on the day.

Thank you to all who participated and I hope to see you all again in the new year.



Brown Cuckoo-dove  
Liz Noble

**Christmas Outing:**

**December 13**

**MARDI & CENTRAL COAST WETLANDS**

**Leaders: Carole & John Carpenter**

Very welcome recent rain after a hot dry spell made for a most pleasant day for our outing. 16 keen birders arrived for our early 7.30am start. With no cicadas, the birds were out and about enjoying the refreshing weather. The usual birds around the house were seen or heard, such as the Koel and Channel-billed Cuckoos, Wonga Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Red-browed Finch, King Parrot, White-throated Treecreeper and Bell Miner.



**King Parrot**  
*Christina Port*

We headed up the hill to the fire trail. A big thank you to Graham who had cleared the track to make walking easier, when we were unable to do it. Olive-backed Oriole, Yellow Robin, Lewin's and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Grey Fantail, Scarlet Honeyeater were about with a good sighting of a Rufous Fantail and a Cicadabird called.

We walked as far as the reservoir before returning to the house, having seen some very special birds, the highlight being a pair of Cicadabirds, where we noted the differences in their plumage, thanks to Christina and her camera. Good views were also had of Black-faced Monarch, Leaden Flycatcher, Grey Shrike-thrush, Rufous and Golden Whistlers, 2 more Rufous Fantails and Superb & Variegated Fairy-wrens.

John had a very important meeting to attend, so he was unable to accompany us as we headed to the Central Coast Wetlands to meet up with the rest of our group for a very welcome morning tea. Our first walk was towards the composting toilet and along the newly made and mowed track. Good birds here were Sacred Kingfisher, Tawny Grassbird, Red-rumped Parrot, Satin Bowerbird and White-breasted Woodswallow with young. The leading birders flushed Brown Quail. Latham's Snipe were at the small dam and Southern Emu-wren were seen by a lucky couple.

Some birders returned to the lunch area while the rest walked along the creek track in the Greenfleet Paddock. Our 4<sup>th</sup> Rufous Fantail for the day was seen; Brown Gerygone, Silvereye, Brown Thornbill & Olive-backed Oriole plus nest. Raptors seen on this walk were Collared Sparrowhawk, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Swamp Harrier, Whistling Kite & Nankeen Kestrel. White-throated Needletail were seen on high.

After lunch, a rest and plenty of socialising, Michael Scobie thanked all those people who help with the running of our club by arranging Speakers, Outings, Camps, Twitchers, meetings, etc and presented them with a chocolate-filled Christmas stocking.

Our last walk for the day was around the buildings and along the creek with several sightings of the Latham's Snipe, a Plumed Egret, Torresian Crow and Long-billed Corella. During the day the usual common water birds were noted, along with Wood Sandpiper, Black-fronted Dotterel & Buff-banded Rail.



**Whistling Kite**  
*Christina Port*

As we were preparing to leave, a lone Yellow-billed Spoonbill flew into view, a special last bird for the day, making our bird count about 94 species. We had 36 birders in attendance, including Tom Wilson, President of Birding NSW for our last outing of the year.

We thank you all for joining us with your friendship, your help with bird identification and for making a really great day.

**SPECIES LIST****NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 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

**November**

|                            |         |             |   |                  |
|----------------------------|---------|-------------|---|------------------|
| Brown Quail                | 6       | 13/11/2025  | Narara Eco Village                          | Guy Dutton       |
| Owlet-Nightjar             | 1       | 9/11/2025   | Wyee  | Leonie Loewe     |
| White-throated Needletail  | 50      | 11/11/2025  | Toukley Ave, Toukley                        | Lianne Lemke     |
| White-throated Needletail  | 100     | 13/11/2025  | 0930 hrs Wyee                               | Leonie Loewe     |
| White-throated Needletail  | 50      | 17/11/2025  | 1015 hrs Wyee Rd, Wyee                      | Michael Price    |
| White-throated Needletail  | 50      | 26/11/2025  | 0830 hrs Avoca Beach                        | Louise Finch     |
| Pheasant Coucal            | 1       | 25/11/2025  | Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah            | Kim Farley       |
| Pallid Cuckoo              | 1       | 16/11/2025  | Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah            | Jeff Peters      |
| Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo  | 1       | 25/11/2025  | Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah            | Kim Farley       |
| Shining Bronze-Cuckoo      | 1       | 14/11/2025  | Katandra Reserve, Wyoming                   | Jason Brown      |
| Shining Bronze-Cuckoo      | 1       | 18 & 24/11  | Murrumbung HSD, Mardi                       | Carole Carpenter |
| Shining Bronze-Cuckoo      | 1       | 30/11/2025  | Palmdale                                    | Nick Carson      |
| Emerald Dove               | 1       | 16/11/2025  | Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve                  | Phil Stockwell   |
| Brush Bronze-wing          | 1       | 28/11/2025  | Magenta Shores                              | Liz Noble        |
| Buff-banded Rail           | 2       | 9 & 20/11   | Erina                                       | L.Emery/BW Smith |
| Buff-banded Rail           | 1       | 18/11/2025  | Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah            | Steve Davies     |
| Spotless Crake             | 1       | 30/11/2025  | Central Coast Wetlands                      | Hayley Winch     |
| Beach Stone-curlew         | 1       | 12/11/2025  | Little Beach, Bouddi NP                     | Deb Holloman     |
| Beach Stone-curlew         | 1       | 24/11/2025  | Blue Bay Reefs                              | Neryl Richards   |
| Bush Stone-curlew          | 2+N     | November    | Nautical Village, South Kincumber           | Doug Hocking     |
| Bush Stone-curlew          | 1       | November    | Empire Bay with nesting Masked Lapwings     | Doug Hocking     |
| Bush Stone-curlew          | 1       | 25/11/2025  | Macmasters Beach                            | Lovinia Leon     |
| Black-winged Stilt         | 4 nests | 30/11/2025  | Nesting North Tacoma/Rocky Point            | Steve Davies     |
| Black-fronted Dotterel     | 4       | 26-27/11/25 | possibly nesting, Central Coast Wetlands    | Nick Carson      |
| Latham's Snipe             | 3       | 25-27/11/05 | Dairy Swamp, Central Coast Wetlands         | Alan Morris      |
| Latham's Snipe             | 1       | 28/11/2025  | Wyee Swamp                                  | Leonie Loewe     |
| Bar-tailed Godwit          | 35      | 4/11/2025   | North Tacoma/Rocky Point                    | Robert Griffith  |
| Bar-tailed Godwit          | 34      | 27/11/25    | 19 Anells Pt/Chittaway Pt, 11 Sth Chittaway | Alan Morris      |
| Bar-tailed Godwit          | 5       | 27/11/2025  | The Entrance Channel                        | Alan Morris      |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper     | 35      | 24-27/11/25 | Anells Point & Chittaway                    | Liz Noble        |
| Curlew Sandpiper           | 1       | 9/11/2025   | Soldiers Point Reef                         | Tom Wilson       |
| Red Knot                   | 5       | 25/11/2025  | Chittaway South Reserve                     | David Sexton     |
| Wood Sandpiper             | 1       | 26/11/2025  | Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah            | Tricia Sweet     |
| Fairy Tern                 | 1       | 11/11/2025  | Karagi Point, The Entrance                  | Nick Carson      |
| Little Tern                | 260     | November    | 80 breeding prs, 100 non-br, Karagi Point   | Nick Carson      |
| Black-necked Stork         | 2       | 26/11/2025  | Tuggerah STW                                | Liz Noble        |
| Black Bittern              | 1       | 8/11/2025   | McGrath Close, Lisarow                      | Greg Shaw        |
| Osprey                     | N+1Y    | 2/11/2025   | Polytec Stadium, Gosford                    | Malcolm Hill     |
| Osprey                     | 2       | 26/11/2025  | The Entrance Channel                        | Graham Nelson    |
| Osprey                     | 2,1Y    | 28/11/2025  | nesting Doyle St, South Kincumber           | Laurie Smith     |
| Royal Spoonbill            | 32      | 27/11/2025  | roosting & feeding Central Coast Wetlands   | Alan Morris      |
| Pacific Baza               | 1       | 9/11/2025   | Fern Rd, Ourimbah                           | Kara Dunn        |
| Pacific Baza               | 1       | 14/11/2025  | Katandra Bushland Reserve, Matcham          | Jason Brown      |
| Pacific Baza               | 2       | 24/11/2025  | Tuggerah Straight                           | Darren Earnshaw  |
| Black-shouldered Kite      | 1       | 18/11/2025  | Cresthaven Wetlands, Bateau Bay             | Nick Carson      |
| Square-tailed Kite         | 1       | 7/11/2025   | Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah Creek           | Darren Earnshaw  |
| Square-tailed Kite         | 1       | 16 & 24/11  | Niagara Park                                | Nerida Carter    |
| Square-tailed Kite         | 1       | 20/11/2025  | cnr Entrance & Old Gosford Rds, Wamberal    | Graham Nelson    |
| Brown Goshawk              | 1       | 2/11/2025   | Red Cedar Place, Ourimbah                   | Paul Shelley     |
| Grey Goshawk (white morph) | 1       | 4/11/2025   | Heather Ave cnr Wyong Rd                    | Darren Earnshaw  |
| Grey Goshawk               | 1       | 5/11/2025   | Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah            | Arnie Boyaci     |

|                             |     |             |                                  |                  |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Grey Goshawk                | 1   | 24/11/2025  | Wyong Milk Factory               | Michael Nascawen |
| Collared Sparrowhawk        | 1   | 4/11/2025   | Heather Ave cnr Wyong Rd         | Darren Earnshaw  |
| Little Eagle                | 1   | 14/11/2025  | Pacific Motorway, Somersby       | Veeraj Sharma    |
| Rainbow Bee-eater           | 6+N | 24/11/2025  | Pelican Beach, Wyrabalong NP     | Michael Nascawen |
| Rainbow Bee-eater           | 2   | 28/11/2025  | Magenta Shores                   | Liz Noble        |
| Masked Owl                  | RK  | 19/11/2025  | M1 Motorway, Alison              | Ian Benson       |
| Southern Boobook            | HC  | 4-5, 30/11  | Murrumbung HSD, Mardi            | John Carpenter   |
| Southern Boobook            | 1   | 9/11/2025   | Lakes Grammar School, Warnervale | Leonie Loewe     |
| Powerful Owl                | 1   | 4/11/2025   | Burrawang St, Ettalong           | Tanha Dunn       |
| Powerful Owl                | 1   | 14/11/2025  | Katandra Bushland Reserve        | Rick Worthy      |
| Powerful Owl                | 1   | 6/11/2025   | Rumbalara Reserve, Gosford       | Rod Lennon       |
| Nankeen Kestrel             | 2   | 5-6/11/2025 | Terrigal Skillion                | Sharon Deverill  |
| Nankeen Kestrel             | 1   | 12/11/2025  | Jilliby                          | Sam Lambeth      |
| Nankeen Kestrel             | 1   | 14/11/2025  | Bird Corner, Wyee                | Leonie Loewe     |
| Australian Hobby            | 1   | 8/11/2025   | Ourimbah                         | Greg Shaw        |
| Peregrine Falcon            | 1   | 12-13/11/25 | Captain Cook Lookout, Copacabana | Frik Gautschi    |
| Peregrine Falcon            | 1   | 29/11/2025  | Cresthaven Wetlands, Bateau Bay  | Nick Carson      |
| Glossy Black Cockatoo       | 2   | 9/11/2025   | Kincumba Mountain Reserve        | Zee Merven       |
| Glossy Black Cockatoo       | 2   | 9/11/2025   | Bird Corner, Wyee                | Leonie Loewe     |
| Noisy Pitta                 | 2   | 12-13/11/25 | Katandra Reserve, East Matcham   | Rick Worthy      |
| Noisy Pitta                 | 1   | 19/11/2025  | Chandler Lane, Wyong Creek       | Ryan Nash        |
| Noisy Pitta                 | 1   | 20/11/2025  | Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve       | Nick Carson      |
| White-naped Honeyeater      | 6   | 9 & 29/11   | Murrumbung HSD, Mardi            | Carole Carpenter |
| Blue-faced Honeyeater       | 2   | 30/11/2025  | Tuggerah Westfield Car Park      | Linda Deverill   |
| Mangrove Gerygone           | 2   | 12/11/2025  | Pelican Island NR, Woy Woy       | Nick Carson      |
| Cicadabird                  | 1   | 4-8/11/25   | Murrumbung HSD, Mardi            | John Carpenter   |
| White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike | 2   | 13/11/2025  | Bird Corner, Wyee                | Leonie Loewe     |
| Varied Triller              | 1   | 30/11/2025  | Ourimbah Creek RTA               | Sooraj Sekhar    |
| Dusky Woodswallow           | 2+N | 9/11/2025   | Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty     | Guy Dutson       |
| Rufous Fantail              | 1   | 6/11/2025   | Murrumbung HSD, Mardi            | Carole Carpenter |
| Black-faced Monarch         | 2+N | 27/11/2025  | Holgate garden                   | Eileen Davy      |
| Leaden Flycatcher           | 2   | 2 & 25/11   | Murrumbung HSD, Mardi            | Carole Carpenter |
| Leaden Flycatcher           | F   | 9/11/2025   | Mountain Rd, Halloran            | Leonie Loewe     |
| Rose Robin                  | 1   | 14/11/2025  | Katandra Reserve, Wyoming        | Jason Brown      |
| Mistletoebird               | AM  | 25/11/2025  | San Remo                         | Shaun Harris     |
| Bassian Thrush              | 1   | 3/11/2025   | Upper Palmdale                   | Bruce Ward-Smith |

**December**

|                           |      |            |                                      |                  |
|---------------------------|------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Musk Duck                 | 3    | 20/12/2025 | Chittaway Creek, Chittaway Creek     | Mike Kilburn     |
| White-throated Nightjar   | 1    | 1/12/2025  | Ourimbah SF, Ourimbah                | Nick Carson      |
| White-throated Nightjar   | 4    | 10/12/2025 | Mount White                          | Allan Benson     |
| White-throated Needletail | 90   | 13/12/2025 | 0830 hrs Lisarow                     | Darren Earnshaw  |
| White-throated Needletail | 200  | 15/12/2025 | 0930 hrs Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve  | Leeanne Lemke    |
| White-throated Needletail | 200  | 23/12/2025 | Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah          | Darren Earnshaw  |
| Pacific Swift             | 6    | 16/11/2025 | The Entrance Rd, Wamberal            | Nick Carson      |
| Pacific Swift             | 5    | 29/11/2025 | Parraweena Rd, Gwandalan             | Tyler Monachini  |
| Great Crested Grebe       | 1    | 20/12/2025 | Chittaway Creek, Chittaway Creek     | Mike Kilburn     |
| Pheasant Coucal           | 1    | 9/12/2025  | Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah     | Allan Benson     |
| Emerald Dove              | 1    | 29/12/2025 | Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve           | Allan Benson     |
| Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo | 2A+J | 6-9/12/25  | Central Coast Wetlands               | David Schuemaker |
| Buff-banded Rail          | 1    | 30/12/2025 | Long Jetty                           | Elaine Elliott   |
| Shining Bronze-Cuckoo     | J    | 16/12/2025 | fed by Brown Thornbill, CCW Tuggerah | Leeanne Lemke    |
| Latham's Snipe            | 1    | 4-20/12/25 | Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah     | Rob Montgomery   |
| Eurasian Whimbrel         | 1    | 2 & 16/12  | Soldiers Point Rock Platform         | Nick Carson      |
| Bar-tailed Godwit         | 20   | 2/12/2025  | Davistown foreshore                  | Laurie Smith     |
| Bar-tailed Godwits        | 39   | 21/12/2025 | Chittaway Creek, Chittaway Creek     | Nick Carson      |
| Great Knot                | 1    | 23/12/2025 | The Entrance Channel                 | Nick Carson      |

|                          |       |            |                                      |                   |
|--------------------------|-------|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Wandering Tattler        | 1     | 3-18/12/25 | Blue Bay Reefs                       | Joel Poyitt       |
| Wood Sandpiper           | 1     | 6-20/12/25 | Central Coast Wetlands               | David Schuemaker  |
| Little Tern              | 300   | 12/12/2025 | Karagi Point, The Entrance           | Nick Carson       |
| Little Penguin           | 1     | 10/12/2025 | Terrigal Haven                       | Paul Minto        |
| Pomerine Jaeger          | 1     | 19/12/2025 | Terrigal pelagic                     | Stephanie Owen    |
| Wilson's Storm-petrel    | 9     | 19/12/2025 | Terrigal pelagic                     | Stephanie Owen    |
| White-faced Storm-Petrel | 1     | 19/12/2025 | Terrigal pelagic                     | Stephanie Owen    |
| White-tailed Tropicbird  | 1m    | 19/12/2025 | Terrigal pelagic                     | Stephanie Owen    |
| White-capped Albatross   | 3     | 19/12/2025 | Terrigal pelagic                     | Stephanie Owen    |
| Flesh-footed Shearwater  | 7     | 19/12/2025 | Terrigal pelagic                     | Stephanie Owen    |
| Wedge-tailed Shearwater  | 15    | 19/12/2025 | Terrigal pelagic                     | Stephanie Owen    |
| Sooty Shearwater         | 1     | 19/12/2025 | Terrigal pelagic                     | Stephanie Owen    |
| Short-tailed Shearwater  | 4     | 19/12/2025 | Terrigal pelagic                     | Stephanie Owen    |
| Black-necked Stork       | AM    | 12/12/2025 | Central Coast Wetlands               | Jenny Stiles      |
| Nankeen Night-heron      | 1     | 7/12/2025  | Wyong River                          | Liz Noble         |
| Osprey                   | 2+N   | 3/12/2025  | Polytec Stadium, Gosford             | Darren Earnshaw   |
| Osprey                   | 2     | 31/12/2025 | Terrigal Haven                       | Nerida Carter     |
| Pacific Baza             | 1     | 1,23-29/12 | Ourimbah Creek Rd, Ourimbah          | Darren Earnshaw   |
| Pacific Baza             | 1     | 2-21/12/25 | Niagara Park                         | Nerida Carter     |
| Pacific Baza             | 2+N   | 6/12/2025  | Umina                                | Jessica Gosman    |
| Black-shouldered Kite    | 1     | 3/12/2025  | Pacific Hwy, Lisarow                 | Darren Earnshaw   |
| Square-tailed Kite       | 1     | 2/12/2025  | Niagara Park                         | Nerida Carter     |
| Square-tailed Kite       | 1     | 13/12/2025 | Mardi                                | Ashleigh Porter   |
| Square-tailed Kite       | 1     | 16/12/2025 | Palmdale                             | Leeanne Lemke     |
| Wedge-tailed Eagle       | 1     | 1/12/2025  | Milk Factory, Wyong River            | Bruce Ward-Smith  |
| Wedge-tailed Eagle       | 2     | 8/12/2025  | Koolewong                            | Mairead Young     |
| Little Eagle             | 1     | 10/12/2025 | Mount White                          | Daniel McKeon     |
| Brown Goshawk            | 1     | 3/12/2025  | Central Coast Hwy, Erina Heights     | Darren Earnshaw   |
| Grey Goshawk             | 1     | 2/12/2025  | Erina Council Depot                  | Darren Earnshaw   |
| Grey Goshawk             | 1     | 2/12/2025  | Erina Heights                        | Darren Earnshaw   |
| Grey Goshawk             | 1     | 2/12/2025  | Wyong River                          | Bill Lancaster    |
| Rainbow Bee-eater        | 4     | 4/12/2025  | Pelican Point carpark, Wyrabalong NP | Jen Nesbitt-Hawes |
| Powerful Owl             | 1     | 5/12/2025  | Henry Kendall Gardens, Wyoming       | Konrad Seslahr    |
| Powerful Owl             | 1     | 23/12/2025 | Wamberal                             | Karmel Baker      |
| Nankeen Kestrel          | 2     | 17 & 31/12 | Terrigal Skillion                    | Nerida Carter     |
| Gang Gang Cockatoo       | 1     | 3/12/2025  | Wyong Creek                          | Meryl Newton      |
| Noisy Pitta              | 1     | 3/12/2025  | Upper Palmdale                       | Meryl Newton      |
| Noisy Pitta              | 1     | 31/12/2025 | Ourimbah Creek RTA Reserve           | Meryl Newton      |
| Southern Emu-wren        | 2     | 4/12/2025  | Chain Valley Bay                     | Shaun Harris      |
| Blue-faced Honeyeater    | 2     | 1/12/2025  | Copacabana Beach                     | Zee Merven        |
| Blue-faced Honeyeater    | 2     | 1/12/2025  | Terrigal                             | Rod Lennon        |
| Blue-faced Honeyeater    | 2A+2Y | 30/12/2025 | Palmer St, North Tacoma              | Steve Davies      |
| Scarlet Honeyeater       | 2A+N  | 30/12/2025 | Wyong                                | Bill Lancaster    |
| Varied Sittella          | 5     | 8/12/2025  | Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah     | Leanne Lemke      |
| Cicadabird               | 1     | 8/12/2025  | Murrumbung HSD, Mardi                | John Carpenter    |

### Breeding and other details November

**Tawny Frogmouth:** 2A+J Picnic Pt Reserve The Entrance 28/11 (LNo); **White-throated Needletail:** 6 Toukley Rd Toukley 7/11, 5 Wepi St Budgewoi & 20 Norah Head Lighthouse 11/11 (LLe); **Bush Stone-Curlew:** 2 Kincumber Cres Davistown calling at night Nov (DHo); **Black-winged Stilt:** 2A+N Killarney Vale 12/11 (NCa), 2A+N Avoca Lagoon 30/11 (DRi); **Masked Lapwing:** 2A+2Chicks 15/11 (DRi); **Osprey:** Parraweena Rd Gwandalan 29/11 (TMO); **Pacific Baza:** 1 Pacific Hwy Ourimbah 1/11 (KFa), 2 Katandra Reserve Wyoming 4/11 (JBr), 3 Ourimbah Creek Rd Ourimbah 30/11 (DEa), N+2Y Timbertop Dve Umina 30/12 (JGo); **Square-tailed Kite:** 1 cnr Central Coast Hy & Empire Bay Dve Kincumber 21/11 (DEa), 1 Murrumbung HSD Mardi 24/11 (JCa), 1 Henry Kendall Gardens 26/11 (RMO), 1 Wyoming 26/11, 1 Blackwall Garden 27/11, 1 Ourimbah Creek Rd Ourimbah 30/11 (DEa); **Grey Goshawk:** 1 Ourimbah Creek Rd Ourimbah 26/11 (DEa); **Noisy Pitta:** 1 Strickland SF Narara 12/10-23/11 (Be), 1 Katandra Reserve West, Wyoming 14/11 (JBr), 1

Upper Palmdale 30/11 (NCa); **White-breasted Woodswallow**: 2A+2DY Central Coast Wetlands 20/11 (PBr); **Australian Raven**: 2A+2DY Central Coast Wetlands 20/11 (PBr).

**Breeding and other details December**

**Tawny Frogmouth**: A+J Mt Penang Gardens 4/12 (NCa); **White-throated Needletail**: 40 Ourimbah Ck Rd Ourimbah 1/12 (DEa), 50 Central Coast Wetlands Tuggerah 13/12 (GNe); **Dusky Moorhen**: A+Y Mt Penang Gardens 4/12 (NCa); **Square-tailed Kite**: 1 Ourimbah Creek RTA Res 15/12 (Lie); **White-browed Scrub-wren**: 2A+J Holgate 5/12 (EDa).  
*Good Birding!*

**TWITCH LIST 2025 FINAL**

|                |     |                   |     |                   |     |
|----------------|-----|-------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Nick Carson    | 256 | Carole Carpenter  | 186 | Frik Gautschi     | 131 |
| Allan Benson   | 220 | Krystyna Lonergan | 180 | Diana Hogan       | 129 |
| Christina Port | 210 | John Carpenter    | 176 | Robyn Price       | 123 |
| Doug Hocking   | 192 | Margaret Pointer  | 168 | David Schuemaker  | 120 |
| Julie Peksis   | 188 | Chris Jamieson    | 162 | Lynette Callaghan | 119 |
| Daniel McKeon  | 188 | Gabrielle Rees    | 146 |                   |     |
| Kaye Pointer   | 187 | Judy Clark        | 142 |                   |     |

Congratulation to Nick Carson to achieve a total of 256. Daylight was second. Great effort Nick!

**CENTRAL COAST TWITCHER'S LISTS**

| Australian List |     | 2025 List    |     | NSW List      |     | Central Coast List |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------|-----|---------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Allan Benson    | 810 | Meryl Newton | 429 | Alan Morris   | 503 | Alan Morris        | 347 |
| Robin Benson    | 797 | Alan Stuart  | 389 | Allan Benson  | 492 | Allan Benson       | 343 |
| Alan Stuart     | 764 | Nick Carson  | 373 | Nick Carson   | 445 | Nick Carson        | 339 |
| Alan Morris     | 726 | Alan Morris  | 357 | Alan Stuart   | 439 | Leeanne Lemke      | 301 |
| Christina Port  | 627 | Allan Benson | 314 | Leeanne Lemke | 347 | Alan Stuart        | 249 |
| Nick Carson     | 624 | Leonie Loewe | 216 | Ken Janson    | 218 | Leonie Loewe       | 205 |
| Leeanne Lemke   | 369 | Ken Janson   | 143 | Leonie Loewe  | 131 | Ken Janson         | 176 |
| Leonie Loewe    | 302 |              |     |               |     |                    |     |
| Ken Janson      | 231 |              |     |               |     |                    |     |

**BIRDATA SURVEYS 2025 FINAL**

|               |     |               |    |                  |    |
|---------------|-----|---------------|----|------------------|----|
| Alan Stuart   | 337 | C Clutterbuck | 72 | Meryl Newton     | 29 |
| Graham Nelson | 244 | Guy Dutson    | 51 | Michael Scobie   | 27 |
| Allan Benson  | 196 | Frik Gautschi | 45 | Leeanne Lemke    | 22 |
| Nick Carson   | 176 | Doug Hocking  | 36 | Ann Lindsay      | 19 |
| Robyn Price   | 74  | Daniel McKeon | 33 | David Schuemaker | 5  |

November/ December surveys were 259 compared to 230 in 2024. The 2025 total was 1792 compared with 2271 in 2024.

Alan Stuart has won the Alan Morris Award for the most Birdata entries in 2025. Well done, Alan.

Birdata is one way, as a birder, you can make a contribution to bird conservation.

**SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS****November Survey**

A very eventful survey with 8 participants, one of whom suffered an episode of heat stroke on a very hot and windy day. 450 waterfowl were on the rather full ponds:- Black Duck, Grey teal, Coot, some Hardheads and both grebes. The highlight, however, was the pair of Black-necked Storks feeding on the back pond. 41 species were recorded overall.

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

**2025 TWITCHATHON RESULTS**

At time of publishing \$17,000 had been raised from the 29 competing teams. The winners of the 30<sup>th</sup> hour race for the 3rd (?) consecutive year were *Let's Wing It* - Steve Edwards, Mike Kuhl and Nick Carson. Kaye Pointer's team managed only 92 species as illness to Margaret meant they only birded their local area.

Best bird was judged to be the Malleefowl seen at Round Hill.

| <b>3-Hour</b>               |    | Best Bird          | <b>8-Hour</b>          |     | Best Bird             | <b>30-Hour</b>             |     | Best Bird         |
|-----------------------------|----|--------------------|------------------------|-----|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| <b>Superb Fairy Friends</b> | 95 | Eastern Curlew     | <b>Apostle-nerds</b>   | 152 | Curlew Sandpiper      | <b>Let's Wing It</b>       | 267 | Turquoise Parrot  |
| <b>Gunnedah Galahs</b>      | 89 | Square-tailed Kite | <b>Robin Hoods</b>     | 151 | Red-backed Fairy Wren | <b>Hunter Home Brewers</b> | 254 | Malleefowl        |
| <b>Nagy Maggies</b>         | 71 | Catbird            | <b>The Lousy Jacks</b> | 146 | Great crested Grebe   | <b>Dodgy Buzzards</b>      | 240 | Red-necked Avocet |
| <b>Wooden Spoonbills</b>    | 69 | Scarlet Honeyeater | <b>Not so Swifts</b>   | 138 | Bassian Thrush        | <b>Binoculars</b>          | 224 | Brolga            |
| <b>Birraganbila</b>         | 49 | Catbird            | <b>Origma duotaria</b> | 134 | Pectoral Sandpiper    | <b>Dunbogan Drongos</b>    | 195 | Crimson Rosella   |

**SUBMISSIONS TO:****Birdlife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) & Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC)**

Andrew Robinson

For those interested, a quick update on BARC and ORAC submissions for the Central Coast now that the following records have been accepted by the relevant committees. All were new species records for the Central Coast LGA, though New Zealand Storm Petrel was previously recorded at the Norah Canyons in April 2013. Throw in Broad-billed Sandpiper and Inland Dotterel (which are not BARC / ORAC 'reportable') and it was an excellent period for rarities in the area. As follows:

- Herald Petrel – BARC Submission No. 1327  
Observed on a Terrigal pelagic trip on 2nd February 2024. Only the 9th record accepted by BARC.
- Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross – BARC Submission No. 1338  
Observed on a Terrigal pelagic trip on 21st September 2024. Only the 11th record accepted by BARC.
- New Zealand Storm Petrel – BARC Submission No. 1349 & 1365  
Distinct individuals observed on Terrigal pelagic trips on 22nd November & 20th December 2024. Only the 6th & 7th records accepted by BARC (4th & 5th records for NSW).
- Australian Fairy Tern – NSW ORAC Case 855  
Observed breeding with Little Terns at Karagi Point, The Entrance North from 2022/23 to 2024/25. Only the fifth record of Fairy Tern to be accepted by NSW ORAC. However, since the geographical proviso of 'except for records south of Sydney' was amended to 'except for records south of Sydney Harbour' there have been a number of reports of the species from Botany Bay.
- South Polar Skua – NSW ORAC Case 856  
Observed on a Terrigal pelagic on 23rd March 2024. Only the 8th submission of South Polar Skua to go before NSW ORAC since the species was removed from the BARC Review List and added to the NSW ORAC Review List in 2018. There have been 7 accepted records of South Polar Skua in NSW waters by BARC and about three known records prior to BARC's formation. This sighting therefore becomes the 18th confirmed record for NSW.

- Mottled Petrel - NSW ORAC Case 897  
Observed on a Terrigal pelagic trip on 15th November 2024. Only the 28th confirmed record in NSW.
- White Wagtail (ssp. leucopsis) - NSW ORAC Case 902  
Found and well photographed by Amanda Ward-Collins on 22nd April 2025 at Terrigal Haven / Headland and seen the following day by several others. Only the 3rd confirmed record of the species in NSW.

## Trip Report

## Terrigal Pelagic

December 19, 2025

Stephanie Owen

**Conditions:** Seas – 2metres, Winds – fresh, Water Temp – 22.4 degrees at the shelf  
We left The Haven at 6:18am on a beautiful morning, 'heralded' by a stunning sunrise and near-perfect conditions.

Within 15 minutes of leaving the mooring we had Shearwaters and a Black-browed Albatross, and we continued to be ushered out to The Kink by predominantly Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, with the odd Sooty, Short-tailed and Flesh-footed mixed in. We stopped briefly on the way when the call went out for a white bird high overhead. It flew quite low, directly over the top of the boat - a rather gorgeous White-tailed Tropicbird, a lifer for a few onboard and a very welcome, hopeful sighting.

We arrived at The Kink at 8:45am to a disturbing lack of birds anywhere in sight. The swell was a little larger than expected and the winds were fresh and pleasant, but neither seemed to help. A Shy Albatross settled out from the boat and a couple of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters approached briefly to grab some burley before flying off again.

A very decent school of Slimy Mackerel surrounded the boat for the entire drift and absolutely smashed our food offerings, to the point that any birds coming in had to be lightning-fast to get a look in. The birds didn't seem to enjoy the feeling of fish at their feet and mostly kept their distance. There were a few distant birds - two Crested Terns and a couple of Pomarine Jaegers - but overall activity was sparse. Two Wilson's Storm-Petrels attended the slick, but with nothing new arriving we decided to try elsewhere. We motored further out for a drift in 280m of water, stopping again when another white bird was seen sitting on the water. Another - or possibly the same - White-tailed Tropicbird sat contentedly as Paul eased the boat closer, allowing everyone excellent views and some really lovely photos before it flew a short distance and resettled back on the water.

At 280m the boat was once again surrounded by Slimy Mackerel, but the Shy Albatross followed us out and seemed a little emboldened by my enthusiastic attempts to throw burley in its direction, hoping its presence might lure in some feathered friends. There was some success: another two Shy types were seen, with one joining the original bird at the boat. More Jaegers and Shearwaters passed at a distance, and the slick attracted additional Wilson's Storm-Petrels. These were eagerly scrutinised in hopes of replicating last year's New Zealand Storm-Petrel sighting, but without luck. A White-faced Storm-Petrel was a late arrival but did fly in close for a few rounds of the boat.

We moved again, this time heading back to 150m in the hope of reconnecting with the activity we'd seen earlier - but it wasn't to be. Our birdwatching trip briefly turned into a dolphin cruise when a small pod of three False Killer Whales swam toward the boat and stayed with us, playing around and in the wake as we moved along. We were treated to wonderful views of these beautiful animals, with the juvenile occasionally leaping clear of the water. We stopped for a third drift and, apart from another Wilson's responding to the Oilinator's smelly call, nothing came to the boat at all.

A brief stop at the FAD for one last desperate attempt also proved fruitless, with not a single bird even within view, and at that point we called it and headed back in. Not the sparkling end to a somewhat sad pelagic year, but with a boat full of absolute legends and a glorious 28°C day on the water - while people on land suffered through 40°C - it was still a memorable one. A big thank you to you all from Andy and myself for your company throughout the year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. See you on next year's pelagics.

In total bird species were seen beyond The Haven. As follows:

Silver Gull 11 (2), Crested Tern 5 (2), Pomarine Jaeger 3 (2), White-tailed Tropicbird 2 (1), Shy Albatross 4 (3), Black-browed Albatross 6 (3), Flesh-footed Shearwater 13 (2), Wedge-tailed Shearwater 410 (20), Sooty Shearwater 2 (1), Hutton's/Fluttering Shearwater 5 (2), Australasian Gannet 5 (1), Wilson's Storm-Petrel 9 (7), White-faced Storm-Petrel 1 (1), Short-tailed Shearwater 4 (1).

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

**Terrigal Pelagic Trip Summary, 2025**

While 2025 didn't live up to the epic heights of 2024 (when 46 species including several Megas / rarities were seen), it was still a relatively solid year despite 5 cancelled trips and several unproductive days at sea. In the end the boat got out on 10 occasions, being February, March (3), April, June, July, August, October and December.

In total 32 species (excluding Cormorants) were seen outside The Haven with 23 of those Tubenoses. As both November trips were unfortunately cancelled, the highest diversity was seen in October with 15 species (10 of those tubenoses), while 14 species were seen on both the mid-March and December excursions.

2025 highlights included: Black-winged Petrel and 10,000+ Wedge-tailed Shearwater in January; Red-tailed Tropicbird, Black Petrel and Black-bellied Storm Petrel in February; Kermadec Petrel (2), Gould's Petrel and Brown Booby in March; over 30 Wilson's Storm Petrel in April; Northern Giant Petrel in both July and August; a high count of 9 Brown Skua in July; New Zealand Wandering Albatross in August (3) and October; Cook's Petrel and Long-tailed Jaeger in October and White-tailed Tropicbird in December, while Shy Albatross were seen on every trip except April.



White-tailed Tropicbird  
Leeanne Lemke

The 'bird of the year' would have to come down to Black-winged Petrel (4th CC record), Black-bellied Storm Petrel (4th CC record), Brown Booby (4th CC record) or Cook's Petrel (3rd CC record).

The 2025 Terrigal Pelagic seabird list follows:

|                         |                                 |                     |                         |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Silver Gull             | White-faced Storm-Petrel        | Fairy Prion         | Wedge-tailed Shearwater |
| Greater Crested Tern    | Black-bellied Storm-Petrel      | Grey-faced Petrel   | Sooty Shearwater        |
| Brown Skua              | New Zealand Wandering Albatross | Providence Petrel   | Short-tailed Shearwater |
| Pomarine Jaeger         | Black-browed Albatross          | Kermadec Petrel     | Flesh-footed Shearwater |
| Long-tailed Jaeger      | Shy Albatross                   | Black-winged Petrel | Fluttering Shearwater   |
| Red-tailed Tropicbird   | Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross   | Gould's Petrel      | Hutton's Shearwater     |
| White-tailed Tropicbird | Buller's Albatross              | Cook's Petrel       | Brown Booby             |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel   | Northern Giant Petrel           | Black Petrel        | Australasian Gannet     |

**Bush Stone-curlew and Masked Lapwing: Garden mates**

Rosemary Cave                      Empire Bay, NSW

We've watched with interest an avian relationship happening in our garden. This event has occurred twice, between a Masked Lapwing and a Bush Stone-curlew. The male Bush Stone-curlew is a resident we name Curley.

A scrape appeared on the open lawn, into which 2 eggs were laid, and then the roster to sit on the eggs began. For 28 days the two birds shared parenting duties. On each nesting occasion, the scrape was identified on the lawn by a long stick, which occasionally Curley would pick up and reposition slightly before sitting down. For varying lengths of time, they each sat through hot sun, strong wind and rain, never leaving the scrape unattended. She was often reluctant to give up her turn, and it required Curley to quietly, slowly and elegantly step over to her, and very gently touch her on the shoulder. With 'attitude', she stood up picked at the grass briefly then flew off.



For an hour, more or less, he would quietly maintain his self-appointed duty. On two occasions, another Lapwing came squawking onto the scene, and briefly took over her duties, whilst Curley sat on the raised garden bed nearby, and watched. The first hatching resulted in 1 chick, (a cotton wool ball on match stick legs) which grew very quickly. It was amicably watched for the first few days by both birds, until no longer seen.

Curley stayed in our garden until the process began again, about 1 week later. Three eggs have been laid, and I think we are probably up to about day 22. It appears she might be getting more possessive as the days pass, and Curley is left on the garden bed more often, awaiting his turn.

Bush Stone-curlews are endangered in this area, and as far as we know there is no mate here for Curley. I noted that in the Backyard Bird Count a Bush Stone-curlew was recorded a few kilometres away.

## **RELEASE INTO GRASSLANDS OFFERS HOPE FOR CRITICALLY ENDANGERED PLAINS-WANDERERS**

7 captive-bred male Plains-wanderers were released into native grasslands at Terrick Terrick National Park, in a carefully planned effort to protect one of Australia's most endangered native birds from extinction. Parks Victoria completed the release in partnership with Zoos Victoria and Barapa Land and Water, as part of broader conservation efforts to support the recovery of the population.

### **One of the world's most unique birds at risk of extinction**

The Plains-wanderer is the last surviving member of an ancient lineage, with no close living relatives anywhere on Earth. This means that if the species goes extinct, an entire branch of bird evolution – spanning millions of years – would disappear with it. Unfortunately, the risk of extinction is very real. More than 85% of the population has been lost in recent decades, and fewer than 1,000 birds are thought to remain in the wild.

The main driver of this decline has been the loss of native grasslands, much of which has been converted for agriculture or development, invaded by weeds, or impacted by a changing climate. Introduced predators have made matters worse. Plains-wanderers' natural defence is to stay still and blend into the grass – a strategy that offers little protection against foxes and cats, who can easily sniff them out.



Together, these factors saw the Plains-wanderer ranked #1 globally for evolutionary distinctiveness and extinction risk in an international review of more than 8,000 bird species.

### **Birds with very specific habitat needs**

Plains-wanderers are notoriously fussy about where they live. They need open native grasslands that closely resemble their original habitat – grass that isn't too dense, too sparse, too tall or too short. In Victoria, less than 1% of this original grassland habitat remains. Terrick Terrick National Park was chosen because it contains one of the last remaining examples of this habitat type in the state. Parks Victoria plays a key role in maintaining these grasslands, using ecological grazing to keep conditions within the narrow range the species depends on.

The 7 males were bred across multiple facilities through Zoos Victoria's conservation breeding program, which has been running since 2017. Each bird was fitted with a small radio transmitter so teams can monitor how they move and settle in the wild. A bird standing in a field AI-generated content may be incorrect.

### **Why release 7 males?**

A unique trait of this species is that the females are larger, more brightly marked, and take the lead in initiating reproduction. Females may mate with multiple males in a season, after which they leave each male to incubate the eggs and raise the chicks alone.

Home to one of the species' few remaining wild populations, Terrick Terrick National Park was chosen in the hope that these 7 males will attract the interest of resident females and encourage new breeding activity to strengthen the population.

### **What happens next?**

Monitoring will continue over the coming months as the released birds settle into their new environment.

This release is one part of a broader conservation approach that includes habitat management, predator control, ongoing monitoring and long-term collaboration between partners. While the Plains-wanderer remains critically endangered, targeted efforts like this offer cautious optimism for the survival of these unique and fascinating birds.