The Twitcher

October 2026

CENTRAL COAST GROUP, BIRDING NSW

Editorial Team: Allan Benson (0457 458 274) Wendy Mitchell (0423 388 529) & Robyn Price Volume 21, No.10

DATE	ACTIVITIES		LEADER/SPEAKER
27/10/2026	**Next Meeting:** Birding in the USA		**Chris Jamieson**
	Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks		
31/10/2026	**Outing:** Teralba	**REMEMBER TO REGISTER**	**Meryl Newton**
	Meet: 8.30am Tulkaba Park, York St, Teralba		0435 780 380
11/11/2026	**½ day Outing:** The Coastal Lagoons	**REMEMBER TO REGISTER**	**Frik Gautschi**
	Meet: 8.30am Remembrance Drive, Wamberal		0404 467 097
24/11/26	**Next Meeting:** Brisbane Water KBA		**Doug Hocking**
	Meet: 7.30pm Tuggerah Progress Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah, opposite Hungry Jacks		
28/11/26	**Outing:** Pearl Beach, Warrah Trig, Patonga	**REMEMBER TO REGISTER**	**Daniel McKeon**
	Meet: 8.30am Pearl Beach Arboretum, Crystal Ave, Pearl Beach		0407 076 118
12/12/26	**Xmas Outing:** Mardi and Central Coast Wetlands	**REMEMBER TO REGISTER**	**J and C Carpenter**
	Meet: 7.30am Carpenter's Place, 32 Valley Way, Mardi (off Cobb's Rd) Morning tea and lunch will be at Central Coast Wetlands		0490 045 361

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: Tonight's speaker is Chris Jamieson. His daughter lives in Washington DC so this has provided Chris with the opportunity to not only visit his grandchildren but to bird extensively in the USA. Tonight Chris will take us through some of his adventures and show the birds he has seen.

Last Meeting: 32 members enjoyed Liz Noble's fact-filled presentation describing a cruise she and husband Rick undertook in the dry season of September 2024. They took a discovery cruise on the Scenic Eclipse from Darwin to Cairns stopping at the Tiwi Islands, Wessel Island, Yirrkala, Cape York, Thursday Island, then along the Queensland coast to Willis Island, Lizard Island and Port Douglas.

Fabulous photos of Rufous Owls in Darwin were followed by lots of raptors, Great Bowerbird, Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, Forest Kingfisher, Spangled Drongo, to name a few. Crossing the Gulf they saw numerous different seabirds, including migratory flocks. Thursday Island produced Eurasian Tree Sparrows and Chestnut-breasted Mannikin; then there were more seabirds including Lesser Crested Terns and Common Noddys. Other birds shown in Liz's brilliant photographs were Sunbird, Yellow Oriole, Torresian Kingfisher and Mangrove Robin. The 3,200 km trip was accompanied by a very knowledgeable ornithologist and produced 8 lifers for Liz.

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

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 Face-book as well! It has now reached 1900 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.

VALE: KIM LEMKE

On behalf of Central Coas Birders, we send our sincere condolences and prayers to our much-respected member and leader, Leanne Lemke, and her family, on the passing of her beloved husband, Kim.

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.

Central Coast Group, Birding NSW: Photographic Competition 2026

In recognition that many of our members are primarily keen photographers, the club will again be organising a bird photographic competition for 2026.

Sponsored by Central Coast Wetlands - Pioneer Dairy

Rules are as follows:

- Each person will be able to submit two photographs in each of 3 categories:

1. Common residents (Code 1)
2. Uncommon Residents (Code 2), Rare visitors (Code 3), Out of Range / ? ID (Code 4)
3. Central Coast Wetlands – Pioneer Dairy

The list of code birds will be emailed to our members. Alternatively email Allan Benson at *aejsbenson@bigpond.com*.

- Photographs must be taken in 2026 and within the Central Coast LGA.
  Please include the date and location with your entry,
- Email entries as jpegs (please limit to 5 megabytes) to Allan Benson at *aejsbenson@bigpond.com*
- Entries will close on **Friday 18th December**
- Judge will be Dick Jenkin from the Hunter Bird Observers Club.

Winners will be announced at our members' night on 26th January 2026. They will receive prizes of wooden bowls, skilfully crafted by master wood turner Rob Benson.

Birthday Breakfast November 9, 2026

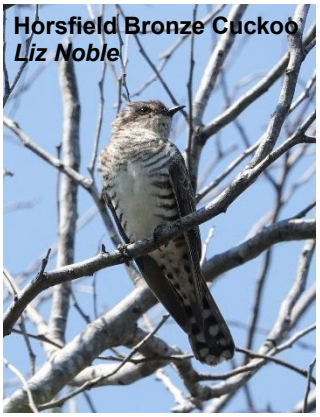
Meryl Newton and Noel Lonergan will be celebrating very significant milestone birthdays later this year.

Let's join them for breakfast at Waterfall Café, Mt Penang Gardens, on Monday 9th November at 9am to celebrate their big days. Presents are BANNED, in case you don't know.
We may have a birding stroll afterwards, weather and mood permitting.

Please text or phone Frik Gautschi on 0404 467 097 to confirm numbers.

WHAT WAS NEW in September and WHAT CAN WE EXPECT in October /November

The standout record for September was an Australian Logrunner found in Olney SF. Only the 4th record for this rare species. Three Australian Terns at Tuggerah Bay was nice record. These birds are only sporadic visitors. The bonus was a Whiskered Tern, the first for 2026. There have been lots of records of Rainbow Bee-eaters in their usual haunts.


Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo
Liz Noble

As well, there are many records for Noisy Pitta, in a variety of locations, showing that they are doing well in our region. A Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo has been reported from Magenta - always a good record for the coast. The Terrigal pelagic produced nothing exciting but still a good variety of the standard birds for September. Leaden Flycatchers have arrived.

Birding should be good in October/ November as the birds are breeding and thus calling.

Noisy Pitta
Meryl Newton

Keep an eye out for Cicadabird and Brush Cuckoo, which haven't been reported at the time of writing.

OUTINGS

Outing: September 26, 2026 MANGROVE MOUNTAIN Leaders: Kaye and Margaret Pointer

We started a day's birding seeking sun patches to stay warm (15°C) and finished looking for shade (30°C). Several species of bird were active early, including Grey Fantail, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Australian King Parrot and Yellow Thornbill. Also, a Bell Miner was seen. White-throated Gerygone and Koel were among the avian species providing a background soundtrack. The 4mm of rain during the week had all evaporated quickly and the bush was looking for more moisture. Driving to the flora reserve, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Satin Bowerbird, and Masked Lapwing were more interested in a quick feed than avoiding weekend traffic. Approaching the reserve several families of Superb and Variegated Fairy-wrens were browsing the verge for insects.

The walk along the track was warm but Noisy Friarbirds, Wonga Pigeon, Rufous Whistler, White-cheeked Honeyeater and a Raven building a nest momentarily distracted our friendly chatter. Although there was not a lot of bird activity there were plenty of plants to admire including bearded orchids, Mountain Devil, and Gymea Lily (which attracted several honeyeaters to sup their nectar). Other interests were a short detour to view local rock art and a basking, Red-bellied Black snake.

As we returned for morning tea in shade near the cars, a juvenile Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo's vocals from a *Banksia ericifolia* thicket gave away his presence but not location. Our departure was stalled to observe Scarlet Myzomela, Olive-backed Oriole and Mistletoebird.

Mountain Birders
Liz Noble

The small convoy of cars then backtracked to our beautiful place where we found some temporary reprieve from the heat looking at Brown Gerygone and flowering Tangle Orchids near Worley's Creek. A White-naped Honeyeater, Male Golden Whistler and Wedge-tailed Eagle were highlights of our short stroll.

Wedge-tailed Eagle
Liz Noble

Entertainment during lunch near the creek was provided by close views of Grey Fantail, Eastern Shrike-tit, Red-browed Finch, Eastern Yellow Robin and a Sacred Kingfisher dashing to a leafy hide.

As we dawdled up the road for a last short walk for the day, lingering in shaded patches, Bell Miner, Peaceful Dove, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and Wonga Pigeon were moving around securing breeding territories and seeking extra feed for young, while a pair of Eastern Rosella hollow-hunted in large century-old Sydney Peppermint trees.

Many of our regular raptors and bush birds must have been too shy with the presence of an audience or avoiding the heat. The day's bird tally finished on 59. As the convoy of visitors receded up the road and cloud moved in to cool everything off, the shy Bassian Thrush emerged to forage on the drive.

We hope you all enjoyed your visit to some of our area's natural, hidden treasures. A big thank you to the 18 birders who accompanied the leaders to some less-visited Mangrove Mountain locations.

Camp: September, 2026 COOTAMUNDRA Leader: Christina Port

The weather was glorious, clear and sunny for the whole weekend and the Cootamundra area was green and yellow and looking lush and beautiful.

Our first day saw us travelling to Hillview Trail in Jindalee National Park. Birds were calling constantly and we had great views of many: Noisy Friarbirds, Spotted Pardalote, White-throated Treecreepers. Then we walked on part of the Berthong Trail in the same area seeing Buff-rumped Thornbills, White-throated Gerygone, Common Bronzewings and Rufous Whistlers. We heard a Rose Robin and then we eventually had quite good views of the female; Shining-Bronze Cuckoos called, Weebills, Apostlebirds and Striated Thornbills were seen.

A quick trip to Wallendbeen for a welcome morning tea. There were House Sparrows, Blue-faced Honeyeaters as well as White-plumed and down by the creek a Sacred Kingfisher and Australian Reedwarbler called.

We returned to Jindalee NP to follow the Dam walk and spent the rest of the morning wandering up and through, sighting Brown Headed Honeyeaters, Mistletoebird, Yellow-rumped Thornbills. A Wedge-tailed Eagle pair were seen way up high. Speckled Warblers were found off the track and then a highlight with a sighting of a Painted Button Quail. We all eventually had good views before it took off.

Painted Button Quail
Jan Mahondras

We returned to camp for lunch before travelling across town to explore some of Pioneer Park. Our first walk had Rufous Whistlers, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, more Brown-headed Honeyeaters and in the distance Speckled Warblers feeding in the fenced-off field. We also walked on another track and there were Superb Fairywrens hopping around, Eastern Yellow Robin, Yellow-Faced Honeyeaters, Eastern Rosellas and White-throated Tree-creepers.

Painted Button Quail
Christina Port

A walk around Jubilee Park added Red-rumped Parrots to our day list, before we headed to bird call.

Day 2 had us travelling along Olympic Way with our first stop Migurra Bushland Reserve trail. The orchids were spectacular, especially the Donkey orchids which we saw in more spots and so were the birds - Pied Butcherbirds, Striated Thornbills, Spotted Pardalote and Superb Parrots flying in the distance. Varied Sitella, Red-browed Finch, and Double barred Finch were seen as we headed to cars at the railway lines.

We travelled on to Bethungra Dam where we enjoyed morning tea, then a walk along the water's edge. Grey Teal, Hardhead and Great Crested Grebes were on the water along with Little Black and Little Pied Cormorants with a pair of Black-fronted Dotterels and Dusky Moorhen on the edge. Then a wander around the rocky hill and surrounds as people scattered. Great views were had of a Brown Goshawk, Nankeen Kestrel and constantly calling Australia Reedwarblers.

We stopped at Bethungra Village for lunch. Our trip to Ulandra Reserve was brought to a halt by the railways so we went back to town and walked the Mattawa Creek where hawking birds put on a magic display. Red Wattlebirds, Noisy Friarbirds, Little Friarbirds and Blue-faced Honeyeaters. We had bird call before heading off to the local RSL for a great group dinner.

On our last day we travelled out along Stockinbingal Road with Cattle Egrets on the way to our first stop which was an area of open scrub. Lots more orchids, Superb Parrots finally landing, Grey-headed Babblers, Pied Butcherbirds and a very obliging Olive-backed Oriole.

On next to Pevensey Travelling Stock Route where we parked and walked the track. We were rewarded with more Superb Parrots searching for nesting hollows, Little Ravens, Tree Martins, Striated Pardalotes and White-winged Choughs. Our morning tea was at the historic Railway Station at Stockinbingal.

We then travelled to the local cemetery where there were Apostlebirds, Grey-crowned Babblers, White-winged Choughs, Grey Butcherbird and Yellow-rumped Thornbills around the Canola Fields. Then our final stop for the morning was the Bland TSR. Great views of a Sacred Kingfisher, a Peaceful Dove, Welcome Swallows and Little Corella.

After lunch we found the Old Cowcumbala Dam where there was no access and the trees made for difficult views. However, keen eyes found Pied Stilts, Great Cormorants and Black Swans feeding in the pastures to add to our list. Our final stop was the Cootamundra Golf Club Dam and the Mountain Bike Park where we walked the bike tracks. As we travelled up the back we discovered nesting White-winged Choughs, Pied Currawong, Crimson Rosella, Weebills and Little Friarbirds.

Cootamundra turned on a show, looking spectacular with plenty of birds. A great group and a total of 97 birds seen.

SPECIES LIST — SEPTEMBER 2026

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

Australian Owlet-nightjar	1	15/09/2026	Bateau Bay	Nick Carson
Australian Owlet-nightjar	1	18/09/2026	Katandra	Nick Carson
Australian Owlet-nightjar	1	26/09/2026	Wyong Creek	Nick Carson
Australian Tern	3	26/09/2026	Tuggerah Bay	Nick Carson
Australian Tern	1	27/09/2026	Tuggerah NR	Andrew Robinson
Australian Logrunner (4th record)	1	11/09/2026	Olney SF	Andrew Robinson
Australian Pipit	1	11/09/2026	CC Wetlands	Andrew Robinson
Bar-tailed Godwit	69	28/09/2026	Picnic Point	Nick Carson
Bar-tailed Godwit	30	28/09/2026	Norah Head	Nick Carson
Bassian Thrush	1	10/09/2026	RTA Reserve, Ourimbah	Alan Stuart
Bassian Thrush	2	18/09/2026	Ourimbah	Darren Earnshaw
Bassian Thrush	MF 2y	29/09/2026	Holgate	Eileen Davy
Bassian Thrush	1	9/09/2026	RTA Reserve, Ourimbah	Gabrielle Rees
Black Kite	1	14/09/2026	Woy Woy tip	Darren Earnshaw
Black-browed Albatross	10	18/09/2026	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Black-faced Monarch*	1	9/09/2026	RTA Rest Area, Ourimbah	John Carpenter
Black-necked Stork	1	6/09/2026	Jilliby	Daniel McKeon
Brahminy Kite	1	23/09/2026	Chittaway Point	Liz Noble
Brown Goshawk	1	6/09/2026	Ourimbah	Andrew Robinson
Brown Goshawk	2	18/09/2026	RTA Rest Area, Ourimbah	David Schuemaker
Brown Goshawk	1	12/09/2026	Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Brown Quail	14	12/09/2026	CC Wetlands	Julie Peksis

Brown Quail	4	23/09/2026	Magenta	Nick Carson
Brown Skua	2	18/09/2026	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	2	12/09/2026	Wyee	Andrew Robinson
Brown-headed Honeyeater	3	18/09/2026	Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Brush Bronzewing	3	23/09/2026	Magenta	Nick Carson
Brush Bronzewing	1	26/09/2026	Pelican Beach	Nick Carson
Buff-rumped Thornbill	1+	12/09/2026	Bushells Ridge Rd	Meryl Newton
Buff-rumped Thornbill	2	28/09/2026	Mt Alison	Nick Carson
Buff-rumped Thornbill	2	30/09/2026	Mt Alison	Nick Carson
Buller's Albatross	2	18/09/2026	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Channel-billed Cuckoo*	HC	3/09/2026	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	9/09/2026	RTA Rest Area, Ourimbah	Graham Nelson
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	19/09/2026	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	26/09/2026	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Common Bronzewing	1	25/09/2026	Bucketty Waterhole	Nick Carson
Dollarbird*	1	14/09/2026	Narara	Les Blundell
Eastern Shrike-tit	1	20/09/2026	RTA Reserve, Ourimbah	Allan Benson
Eastern Shrike-tit	1	26/09/2026	Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Eastern Shrike-tit	2	25/09/2026	Walkers Ridge Rd	Nick Carson
Eastern Shrike-tit	2	20/09/2026	Katandra	Nick Carson
Eastern Shrike-tit	1	10/09/2026	Wamberal	Karmel Baker
Emerald Dove	1	14/09/2026	Orchards Lisarow	Allan Benson
European Blackbird	2	6/09/2026	Lisarow	Allan Benson
Far Eastern Curlew	1	3/09/2026	Tuggerah Lake	Andrew Robinson
Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	25/09/2026	Mogo	Nick Carson
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	11/09/2026	Bull's Quarry	Colette Livermore
Glossy Black Cockatoo	2	5/09/2026	Chain Valley Bay	Meryl Newton
Grey Goshawk	1	23/05/2026	Orchards Lisarow	Allan Benson
Grey-faced Petrel	1	18/09/2026	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo	1	26/09/2026	Magenta	Liz Noble
Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo*	1	23/09/2026	Magenta	Nick Carson
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	2	18/09/2026	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Koel*	HC	3/09/2026	Wyoming	Jill Nelson
Latham's Snipe	2	6/09/2026	CC Wetlands	Andrew Robinson
Leaden Flycatcher	2	27/09/2026	Tuggerah NR	Andrew Robinson
Leaden Flycatcher	1	29/06/2026	Tuggerah Bay	Nick Carson
Leaden Flycatcher	1	30/09/2026	Mt Alison	Nick Carson
Leaden Flycatcher*	M	23/09/2026	Magenta	Nick Carson
Lewin's Rail	2	11/09/2026	Cresthaven Wetlands	Nick Carson
Lewin's Rail	1	15/09/2026	Bateau Bay Beach	Nick Carson
Lewin's Rail	1	29/09/2026	Church Rd Tuggerah	Nick Carson
Little Grassbird	1	11/09/2026	CC Wetlands	Andrew Robinson
Little Lorikeet	2	19/09/2026	Kulnura	Andrew Robinson
Little Lorikeet	4	20/09/2026	Bushells Ridge	Andrew Robinson
Little Lorikeet	10	10/09/2026	Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Little Lorikeet	2	18/09/2026	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Little Lorikeet	2	26/09/2026	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Mistletoebird	1	18/09/2026	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Noisy Pitta	2	17/09/2026	Strickland SF	Gary Jackson
Noisy Pitta	1	5/09/2026	Ourimbah SF	Michael Tyris

Noisy Pitta	1	11/09/2026	Strickland SF	Nick Carson
Noisy Pitta	1	20/09/2026	Katandra	Nick Carson
Noisy Pitta	1	30/09/2026	RTA Ourimbah	Nick Carson
Northern Giant Petrel	3	18/09/2026	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
NZ Wandering Albatross	2	18/09/2026	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Pacific Baza	1	30/09/2026	Mt Alison	Nick Carson
Pacific Baza	1	11/09/2026	Mardi	Carole Carpenter
Pacific Baza	HC	29/09/2026	Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Painted Button Quail	1	25/09/2026	Bucketty Waterhole	Nick Carson
Peaceful Dove	2	7/09/2026	Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Peaceful Dove	HC	26/09/2026	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Peregrine Falcon	1	1/09/2026	Mt Elliott	Gary Jackson
Peregrine Falcon	1	27/09/2026	Waratah Rd, Mangrove Mtn	Allan Benson
Pheasant Coucal	1	25/09/2026	Mangrove Mountain	Lynette Callaghan
Pheasant Coucal	1	24/09/2026	Cresthaven Wetlands	Nick Carson
Pheasant Coucal	1	26/09/2026	Tuggerah Bay	Nick Carson
Pheasant Coucal	1	29/09/2026	Mt Alison	Nick Carson
Providence Petrel	6	18/09/2026	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Rainbow Bee-eater	2	26/09/2026	Yarramalong	David Schuemaker
Rainbow Bee-eater	16	14/09/2026	Magenta	Nick Carson
Rainbow Bee-eater	4	25/09/2026	Bunning Creek Rd, Yarramalong	Nick Carson
Red Knot*	1	10/09/2026	The Entrance	Andrew Robinson
Red Knot	5	23/09/2026	The Entrance	Nick Carson
Red Knot	1	27/09/2026	Chittaway Point	Andrew Robinson
Rufous Whistler	1	11/09/2026	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Rufous Fantail*	1	24/09/2026	RTA Ourimbah	Brett Stafford
Rufous Fantail	1	25/09/2026	Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Sacred Kingfisher*	1	16/09/2026	Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Sacred Kingfisher	1	18/09/2026	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper*	2	30/09/2026	Tuggerah Bay	Allan Benson
Shy Albatross	9	18/09/2026	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
Sooty Owl	RC	1/09/2026	Tumbi	Tom Whitehouse
Southern Boobook	HC	12/09/2026	Narara	Julie Peksis
Southern Boobook	HC	14/09/2026	Copacabana	Zee Merven
Spangled Drongo**	1	25/09/2026	Magenta	Meryl Newton
Spotless Crake	1	26/09/2026	Narara	Andrew Robinson
Spotless Crake	1	11-30/09/2026	Cresthaven Wetlands	Nick Carson
Spotted Quail-thrush	1	25/09/2026	Cedar Brush Rd	Nick Carson
Square-tailed Kite	1	26/09/2026	Narara	Andrew Robinson
Square-tailed Kite	1	26/09/2026	Pretty Beach	Paul Thompson
Striated Pardalote	1	12/09/2026	Wyee	Andrew Robinson
Varied Sittella	4	27/09/2026	Tuggerah NR	Andrew Robinson
Varied Triller	1	9/09/2026	RTA Rest Area Ourimbah	Graham Nelson
Wandering Tattler*	1	17/09/2026	Blue Bay	Andrew Robinson
Wedge-tailed Eagle	13 records		Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
Whimbrel	1	19/09/2026	Chittaway Point	Andrew Robinson
Whimbrel	1	23/09/2026	Chittaway Point	Liz Noble
Whimbrel	1	11/09/2026	Chittaway Point	Andrew Robinson
Whiskered Tern*	1	26/09/2026	Tuggerah Bay	Nick Carson
Whiskered Tern	1	27/09/2026	Tuggerah NR	Andrew Robinson

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	5	25/09/2026	Bucketty Waterhole	Nick Carson
White-faced Storm Petrel	1	18/09/2026	Terrigal Pelagic	Andrew Robinson
White-throated Gerygone	1	7/09/2026	Mangrove Mountain	Kaye Pointer
White-throated Gerygone *	1	11/09/2026	Wyee	Leonie Loewe
White-throated Gerygone	1	12/09/2026	Bushells Ridge Rd	Meryl Newton
Wood Sandpiper	1	6/09/2026	CC Wetlands	Andrew Robinson
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	2	26/09/2026	Kulnura	Andrew Robinson

TWITCH LIST September, 2026

Nick Carson	237	Julie Peksis	166	Daniel McKeon	125
Graham Nelson	224	Krystyna Lonergan	163	Robyn Price	109
Leeanne Lemke	221	Kaye Pointer	152	Margaret Pointer	104
Allan Benson	206	John Carpenter	150	Diana Hogan	98
Leonie Loewe	180	Gabrielle Rees	142	David Dowling	93
Christina Port	175	Frik Gautschi	137	Judy Clark	86
Doug Hocking	172	Chris Jamieson	135	Rowena Wallace	70
Carole Carpenter	167	Lynette Callaghan	133		

Nick Carson has increased his lead, however Graham Nelson and Leeanne Lemke are still in the running. Looks like Nick might crack the 250 the mark for the year.

BIRDATA SURVEYS YTD 2026

Leonie Loewe	270	Carl Morris	62	Doug Hocking	30	Ann Lindsay	9
Alan Stuart	263	Frik Gautschi	53	Nerida Carter	29	David Schuemaker	9
Graham Nelson	262	Guy Dutson	50	C Clutterbuck	25	Daniel McKeon	3
Nick Carson	225	Frances Westwick	43	Meryl Newton	22		
Allan Benson	181	Leeanne Lemke	42	Robyn Price	21		

September surveys were 226 compared with 278 in 2025. YTD surveys for 2026 are 2222 compared to 1988 in 2025. There has been a significant increase in surveys completed in the first nine months of 2026 compared to 2025.

We have a new leader this month, with Leonie Loewe taking a slight lead from Alan Stuart with Graham Nelson only one survey behind.

Birdata is one-way birders can contribute to bird conservation.

SOUTH WYONG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS September Survey

4 participants turned up on a gloomy, overcast day which threatened rain. The water levels in the main pond were low with nearly half the main pond being exposed mud. The waterfowl numbers on the ponds were still low with only 95 counted, mostly Chestnut Teal, Hardhead and Black Duck. The pond past the Ibis Road entrance is a sea of reeds which looks ideal for crakes and rails, but we only saw Tawny Grassbird and Reed-warbler. A good count of 45 species was recorded overall.

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

Terrigal Pelagic: September 18, 2026

Andrew Robinson

NZ Wandering Albatross
Andrew Robinson

The Terrigal trip went ahead in pleasant conditions with sixteen of us enjoying reasonable species diversity throughout the day. Highlights included a showy adult Snowy Albatross that paid us multiple visits and an Antipodean Albatross (ssp. gibsoni), along with Black-browed, Shy, Buller's and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross. Other notables included a pair of Brown Skua on the way out, three Northern Giant Petrel (including a pair at the shelf), several Providence Petrel, singles of White-faced Storm Petrel and Grey-faced Petrel, reasonable numbers of Wedge-tailed Shearwater, a few recently returned Flesh-footed Shearwater and low numbers of Fluttering type Shearwater including at least a few Hutton's.

Cetacean activity was a constant with multiple close Humpback Whale encounters including a breaching calf and some close porpoising Common Dolphins. In total 16 pelagic species were seen beyond The Haven with 13 of those tubenoses. Thanks everyone for another fun day out.

VIDEO OF NIGHT PARROT CHICK HIDING IN SPINIFEX TUNNEL IN WA DESERT

By environment reporter Peter de Kruijff

A young night parrot was found hidden in a spinifex burrow.
(Supplied: National Environmental Science Program/Ngururrpa Rangers)

In short:
A young Night Parrot, one of Australia's most cryptic birds, has been filmed in a spinifex tunnel in remote WA. The daytime footage captures the elation of a ranger team as they make the rare discovery of the bird in the grassy nest.

Even in the heart of night parrot country it can be rare to actually see one of the world's most cryptic birds. That is why the discovery of a young Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) this year set off an outpouring of emotion in the middle of the Great Sandy Desert in Western Australia.

A new video captures the moment members of the Ngururrpa Rangers and researchers shout-whisper through joyful tears on finding a nestling. The sighting was even more unique because it happened during daytime, when critically endangered night parrots, as their name suggests, were hidden away.

While the Ngururrpa Indigenous Protected Area is home to one of the largest populations of the species, this is the first time some rangers have seen a live bird in the area. Kathryn Njamme, a member of the Ngururrpa Rangers, had previously heard the chime-like call of the bird. She had even seen camera trap footage, an egg and their loose green and yellow feathers. But she had not laid eyes directly on a living night parrot. "We was really happy and excited to find a Night Parrot," Ms Njamme said. "We all was crying there and holding each other. We wanted to show people around the world that there's a night parrot out there in the country."

How the parrot was found
Ms Njamme said during a July trip to the Ngururrpa Indigenous Protected Area she sought help at a spirit tree. "That's where we asked the Old People to help us find these birds," she said. "We asked the Old People if they can reveal it for us so we can find them out in the bush when we drew the rain." A few nights into the trip, there was heavy rain over the desert. The next morning the rangers went searching among the old-growth mounds of bull spinifex (*Triodia longiceps*), called "lanu lanu" in Kukatja language, which night parrots are known to use as nests and shelter. Ms Njamme said that was when ranger Lucinda Gibson found a wet feather in the spinifex. "She went round to look at that [feather] and she found that burrow [in the grass]," she said. "That spinifex is a bit grey but she saw little bit of colours on it like yellow and green. "That's when she noticed that night parrot was in the burrow." Ms Gibson whistled and gave a hand signal of a flapping bird to Ms Njamme and the rest of the searchers. Adult night parrots typically sport a coat of green and yellow feathers with black highlights. But the rangers could see the juvenile bird still had a lot of grey and soft wispy feathers, which helped it blend into the grey interior of the spinifex lump. Ms Njamme said the parrot may have been perched high in the spinifex because of the damp ground from the rain. "It was a bit wet on the bottom, that's why he had to move up."

Ngururrpa Indigenous Protected Area coordinator Christy Davies said the parrot was quiet and looked like it was close to the fledgling stage, when a bird learns to fly. "A lot of young birds and baby birds … unless they're being fed by the parents, they just sit still and don't make a sound," she said. "So that's what it was doing, just sitting there, not making a sound and relying on its camouflage to protect it."

Turbocharging the search for Night Parrots
While the moment of finding a juvenile night parrot may seem fortuitous, there is also deep knowledge behind knowing where to look. By combining what is known about night parrot preferences with cultural knowledge, Ngururrpa Rangers have built a model for finding likely habitat in their region. The habitat model was developed in a research partnership with the National Environmental Science Program and the Indigenous Desert Alliance. "A lot of [rangers] have identified areas of likely habitat because they know where that lanu lanu is," Ms Davies said. "They know where the water sources are and the seasonality of those water sources and where different plants are that form a component of the [parrot] feeding habitats. "So it's understanding where those different components are that the night parrots need that helps us hone in on particular areas."

Knowing more about where the parrot lives and how many there are will help with conservation efforts to make sure it does not go extinct from threats like feral cats and unmanaged fire.

Rangers are also hoping to use and develop new tools to find the hidden parrots. An AI tool is being developed to analyse thousands of hours of desert recordings to find likely night parrot calls. And an environmental DNA (eDNA)analysis technique is in the fine-tuning stage for helping detect if a night parrot has recently used a water source. Ms Njamme said the eDNA tool could potentially be used by other groups around the country to find and help night parrots. "We don't see much Night Parrot, [but] we're trying to look after them."