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Newsletter

NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc

Issue 274

April 2016

President's Report

This month the club will host the first BIGnet (Bird Interest Group network) meeting of 2016, to be held on the weekend of 9-10 April at the Education Centre in the Centennial Parklands. The BIGnet meeting is held twice a year between all NSW birding clubs. It has been a fixture on the NSW bird club calendar for about 20 years.

The CEO of BirdLife Australia, Paul Sullivan, will attend on both days of the April meeting. The weekend will include the Conservation Forum, chaired by the BirdLife Australia Head of Conservation, Samantha Vine, and a seminar on how to use the data contained in various birding databases. Alan Stuart of Hunter Bird Observers Club and Chris Davey of the Canberra Ornithologists Group will be among the speakers at this seminar. Tony Dymond of the Cumberland Bird Observers Club will give a presentation about the history of BIGnet.

Alan Morris, our Records Officer and Central Coast group co-ordinator of the Club, has also run the NSW Twitchathon on behalf of BirdLife Southern NSW for many years. He has now successfully handed over the management of the Twitchathon to Ashwin Rudder and Joshua Bergmark. Alan will present the Twitchathon report at the BIGnet meeting on Sunday, and Josh will give his thoughts about how the Twitchathon can be enhanced. The proceeds of the NSW Twitchathon fundraising event are given to worthy causes. For the past two years, the recipient of the Twitchathon funding has been the BirdLife Australia Powerful Owl project in Sydney. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the decision about which NSW project should receive funding alternates between BIGnet and BirdLife Southern NSW each year. This year BIGnet will decide, and the decision will be made at the April meeting.

As many of you will know, the BIGnet venue alternates between Sydney and country NSW. Max O'Sullivan, the President of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists, has agreed to host the second meeting of the year in Leeton in the Riverina on the weekend of

3-4 September. Nella Smith, past President of the club, and others will help with the preparation. I hope that Birding NSW will have a major presence at this meeting. Further details will be available closer to the time.

The committee has considered the costs of printing the newsletter, in light of the recent increase of postal charges. The committee has agreed that members who wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter should be asked to pay a small extra sum for this, in addition to their subscription. The details will appear on the next membership renewal form. Of course, the newsletter will always be available on-line and in colour on the website with the regular subscription.

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of two major figures in Australian birding, Neville Schrader, OAM and Glenn Holmes. Obituaries appear in this issue of the newsletter, and expanded versions of these articles are available on the website.

Unfortunately, the Bird Fair will not happen this year. I thank you all for your interest in this event, and I will keep you informed about progress towards a future Bird Fair.

Tom Karplus
President, Birding NSW



Lewin's Honeyeater (Anting? See Page 7). Photo: Charles Dove



CLUB ACTIVITIES

FIELD OUTINGS AND MEETINGS

FIELD OUTINGS

Bring a snack, lunch and a chair.

NATIONAL PARK USE FEES

Club Outings are sometimes held in National Parks. A valid day pass or annual pass is necessary for 46 national parks in NSW and that includes most in the Sydney and Central Coast Regions. The pass must be displayed on your vehicle at all times while you are in the park.

TOTAL FIRE BANS

Members are reminded that no Central Coast outings are held on days when Total Fire Bans are in force. For Sydney outings in times of a Total Fire Ban, check with the outing leader.

SECURITY

Members are reminded not to leave anything of value visible in unattended vehicles while bird watching.

CENTRAL COAST OUTINGS

Sydney Members should advise the leader in advance if they are coming to an outing so that they don't leave without you!

FEES AT CAMPOUTS

A camping fee may be applicable at some campsites.

PETS

Members are reminded that pets including dogs are not allowed on any Club activity including campouts.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

When attending field outings ensure you are wearing appropriate clothing, including wet weather gear in inclement weather, and suitable footwear. It is advisable to bring a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and to carry water.

Please sign the attendance register at field outings and also at the meetings.

If you leave the outing early please let the leader know before you go.

Participants attend at their own risk and should refrain from any behaviour that might put themselves or others at risk. That includes assessing whether they have a level of fitness required for the advertised outing. If in doubt contact the outing leader beforehand.

000 EMERGENCY NUMBER: HANDY APP FOR YOUR PHONE IF YOU ARE GOING BUSH

The Emergency + App offers callers the ability to verbally provide emergency operators with their location. It is free. It works with only one phone tower available.

For more information see the Home Page at www.birdingsw.org.au or download free at the itunes App Store or at Google Play.

APRIL 2016

Tuesday 5 April Club Meeting: The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "Birds and Art in Provence, France". Speaker: Trevor Waller.

Saturday 9 April Club Outing: Colo River, Ebenezer and Wilberforce. Meet 9.00 am at the south side of the Colo River Bridge on the Putty Road north of Wilberforce. Lunch at cars. Leader: Philip Brook 9929 4818

Saturday 16 April Club Outing: Chauvel Park to Lake Moore, Georges River, Chipping Norton. Meet at 8:00 am in the car park at Chauvel Park which is off Epsom Road not far from the Alfred Road roundabout. Carry morning tea. Finish around noon. Leader: Ian Bailey 9821 4284; 0412 251 337

Wednesday 20 April Central Coast Half-day Outing:

Bow Wow Gorge and Kitchener. Meet 8.30 am corner Rodney Road and Sandy Creek Road, Mount Vincent. Lunch at cars. (Please note that this is the 3rd Wednesday and not the 2nd Wednesday of the month). Leader: Paul Wickham 4344 4733

Anzac Weekend Campout 23 – 25 April: Gloucester Holiday Park. Bird watching in national parks and other places in the Gloucester area. Meet at 8:30 am on Saturday and Sunday morning at the entrance to the caravan park. Return to camp for lunch on Saturday, lunch at cars on Sunday. Leader: Allan Richards 9660 8062; 0432 064 660.

Tuesday 26 April Central Coast Meeting: Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. "Birding on the Edge of the Nullarbor Plain". Speaker: Michael Scobie

Wednesday 27 April Midweek Outing: Pennant Hills Park, Pennant Hills. Meet at 8.30 am at the first parking area on the right within the park, which is off Britannia Street, Pennant Hills. Carry morning Tea and Lunch. Gradient: Medium – some rough bush tracks with some hills. Leader: Carol Abbott: 0414 312 538

Friday 29 April – Sunday 1 May Tree Planting in the Capertee Valley: For further details, see notice later in the newsletter.

MAY 2016

Tuesday 3 May Club Meeting: The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "Birding in Madagascar". Speaker: Leigh Hall.

Friday 6 – Sunday 8 May Central Coast Campout: Kangaroo Valley Holiday Haven, 5 Moss Vale Road, Kangaroo Valley. Bookings 1300 559 977. Meet 8.30 am at the entrance to the Holiday Haven. Visits to Bellawongarah, Lake Wollumboola at Culburra, Shoalhaven Heads and Barren Grounds Nature Reserve. Leader: Michael Scobie 0411 243 433

Saturday 7 May Club Outing: Mill Creek and Old Great North Road, Dharug National Park, Wiseman's Ferry. Meet at 9.00 am in the Mill Creek Picnic Area. Lunch at cars. Leader: Paul Johnstone 0434 350 409

Wednesday 11 May Central Coast Half Day Outing: Dharug National Park. Meet at 8:30 am at Spencer Wharf and Store, Wisemans Ferry Road, Spencer. Lunch at cars. Leader: Margaret Pointer 4374 1163.

Saturday 14 May Club Outing: Chiltern Track, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Ingleside. Meet at 9.00 am at the end of Chiltern Road, off Mona Vale Road, Ingleside. Lunch at cars. Gradient: Easy walk along bush tracks. Leader: Coleen Southall: 9982 5453; 0410 549 321

Sunday 15 May Nestlings (5 to 12 years) Outing: Warriewood Wetlands 9 -11am. Meet at 9:00 am in Katoa Close, North Narrabeen. Bring morning snack, drink, hat and sunscreen. Contact Wendy Cope email nestlings@cboc.org.au or 0408 460 200

Tuesday 24 May Central Coast Meeting: Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. "The Big White Bird Survey". Speaker: Dr John Martin

Wednesday 25 May Midweek Outing: Warriewood Wetlands and Irrawong Reserve. Meet at 8.30 am at Katoa Close, Warriewood. Second meeting time at 10:00 am at Katoa Close, Warriewood. Lunch will be from cars. Gradient: Easy with bush tracks. Leader: Elisabeth Karplus: 0421 665 553

Saturday 28 May Central Coast Outing: Bucketty and Mogo. Meet 8.30 am at the corner of George Downs Drive and Walkers Ridge Road, Bucketty. Lunch at cars. Leaders: John and Carole Carpenter 4352 1060

JUNE 2016

Tuesday 7 June Club Meeting: The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. An update on the Bird Surveys in Sydney Olympic Park. Speaker: Judy Harrington.

Wednesday 8 June Central Coast Half-day Outing: Central Coast Wetlands and South Tacoma. Meet 8.30 am at the lake end of South Tacoma Road, Tuggerah. Lunch at cars. Leader: Alan Morris 4334 2776.

Saturday 11 June Club Outing: Royal National Park. Meet 8.30 am at Wattle Forest Picnic Area near Audley. Turn into Lady Carrington Drive at Audley, then right over the timber bridge to the western side of the river. Turn left and meet at the last car park. Lunch at cars. Leader: Greg McLachlan 0405 578 967

Saturday 18 June Club Outing: Warriewood Wetlands. Meet at 8:30 am in the picnic area at the corner of Katoa Close and Garden Street, Warriewood. Easy walking along level trails and boardwalks. Lunch at cars. Leader: Russell Beardmore 9400 9782 mobile 0404 023 223

Tuesday 28 June Central Coast Meeting: Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. Members Night.

Wednesday 29 June Midweek Outing: Gannons Park, Peakhurst. Meet at 8.30 am, in the car park, opposite 17 Pindari Road Peakhurst Heights. Carry morning tea. Lunch at cars. Gradient: Mainly easy, some hills. Leader: Carol Abbott 0414 312 538

Sun 4 September 9am-11am

NESTLINGS OUTING (5 to 12 years)
BICENTENNIAL PARK,
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK

Meeting place: Waterview cafe, Bicentennial Park

Contact: email nestlings@cboc.org.au
Wendy Cope 0408 460 200

Sun 6 November 9am-11am

NESTLINGS OUTING (5 to 12 years)
BUFFALO CREEK RESERVE,
PITWATER ROAD, EAST RYDE

Meeting place: Buffalo Creek Reserve car park

Contact: email nestlings@cboc.org.au
Wendy Cope 0408 460 200

Neville Warren Schrader OAM

2 May 1949 - 24 January 2016

At 7:02 pm on Sunday, 24 January 2016 Neville Schrader OAM passed away in Orange Hospital.

Neville was born and raised in Kyogle, NSW where from an early age he developed a strong interest in nature generally and especially birds. Subsequently, Neville came to be highly regarded as an ornithologist and an advocate for conservation.

For 45 years, Neville was married to Shaydeen, his best friend, whom he met in Ivanhoe, while driving trains for NSW Railways. Neville also met Police Sergeant John Hobbs, a noted birdwatcher and they formed a close lifetime bond.

Despite being isolated from the Sydney conservation support network, Neville continued to promote conservation issues. For example, because 80 – 95% of the central west wheat belt plains and riverine woodlands had been cleared for cropping and pasture, he pushed for the protection of state forests. He knew these forests, providing important habitat for many threatened animals, were often the only native vegetation left and were valuable woodland refuges vital for maintaining the ecology and biodiversity of the central west. Goobang National Park is one example of the success of his advocacy.

Neville was a founding member of the New South Wales Bird Atlassers Inc. and held the position of Co-ordinator from 2009-2012. He was a long standing member of the NSWFOC (now Birding NSW), the RAOU (now BirdLife Australia), BOCA (now part of BLA), ABSA and more recently the HBOC. He was an 'A' Class birdbander, regularly banding at Charcoal Tank NR and Back Yamma SF and participated in ABSA banding activities at Mutawintji (far-western NSW), Iron Range (Cape York) and the NT. In 2001, he was the invited speaker on "Changes in bird populations in the mid-Lachlan over 25 years" at the ABSA AGM (Dubbo). He processed more than 10,000 Atlas Sheets for the NSWBA. Over the years, Neville had many articles published in birding journals including The Emu.

Neville was a man of action rather than a person who sought self-praise and, in his own way, was the equal of the well-known birdwatchers, including John Hobbs, Arnold McGill and Ern Hoskin. His skill and knowledge of birds and his advocacy for conservation were his strong points and lead, in June 2003, to him being awarded an OAM in recognition of his services to conservation.



The world today is poorer as a result of his passing.

On behalf of the NSW Bird Atlassers Inc, and Birding NSW, I express sincere condolences to his wife, Shaydeen, and his children, Robert, Jodie and Natasha.

Dick (RM) Cooper,
Treasurer, NSW Bird Atlassers Inc.
18th February 2016.

(This obituary is an extract of that published in the NSW Bird Atlassers Newsletter and on the Birding NSW website. A full copy may be obtained from the editor at newsletter@birdingsw.org.au. Or 9821 4284. Ed.)

Birding in Madagascar

Guest Speaker: Leigh Hall

May Club Meeting

Madagascar has 285 bird species, of which nearly half are endemic to Madagascar and surrounding islands.

There are five endemic families of birds.

It is the fourth largest island in the world and because it separated from Africa and India some 90 million years ago, some of its wildlife has taken interesting evolutionary trends. Some bird species have demonstrated evolutionary variations beyond that of Darwin's finches on Galapagos.

It is a very poor country with some 80% of the population living on less than \$2 per day. Habitat is being destroyed at an alarming rate, in part due to slash and burn agriculture.

However, the amazing wildlife makes a visit exceptionally worthwhile and while it continues to exist.

Vale Glenn Holmes

1951-2015

Glenn Holmes was a birder before his time. He grew up as a young lad in the Newcastle area, and by the time he was 12 years old, he was an avid birdwatcher. By the time he was 16, he published his first article in the *The Bird Observer* about some unusual observations that he had made about birds in the lower Hunter River Region. This was followed in 1969 (19 years old), with an article in the *Hunter Natural History* magazine about the “Seabirds of Newcastle” and in *The Emu*, with his report on finding the third Australian specimen of the White-chinned Petrel for Australia. “Before his time” in that nowadays with the world wide web, computers and digital cameras, young budding bird watchers can easily meet up with other like minded people and with their cameras, photograph and identify the birds around them. In Glenn’s time, birding in the marshes of the lower Hunter Region, checking out the thousands of migratory waders in the estuary, finding the many seabirds beachcast along the coast, was challenging because there were no “Field Guides” and there were few people to discuss and help identify the rarer birds. In those days when he was establishing his reputation as a competent birder, the shorebird numbers at Stockton were in their 10,000s, and there were many beachcast seabirds after major storms, and identifying the rarer birds was a major challenge. His detailed reports and observations provide current researchers with information about the status of the birds in the Hunter Region in those earlier times. Glenn was a keen and enthusiastic birdwatcher and had an abiding passion for the conservation status of Australian birds and saw the need through research, to intervene positively for those threatened species. His knowledge of certain key species Coxen’s (Double-eyed) Fig-Parrot, Eastern Bristlebird, Marbled Frogmouth and most others in Australia, was phenomenal and he was always willing to give advice and talk over issues with his friends and colleagues.



I am indebted to Ian McAllan who provided me with a list of 42 articles that Glenn has published, either in his own name or jointly with other authors, about birds. All the major ornithological journals are included there, in addition to the ones mentioned above, his articles have appeared in *The Australian Bird Watcher*, *Birds*, *Australian Birds*, *Australian Bird Bander*, *Australian Seabird Group Newsletter*, *Corella*, *Cosmic Flashes* and *Sunbird*. His connection with Birding NSW, then the NSW Field Ornithologists Club, commenced in the late 1960s and he wrote up a trip report in the Newsletter, to the Hunter Estuary in February 1971. He was a member of the Club at that time and contributed seven articles to the journal *Australian Birds* between 1975 and 1981. All of these

articles were basically about seabirds, although the last was about the field identification of the Marbled Frogmouth. In 1981 he was a joint author of the Club’s publication *Handlist of Birds in New South Wales* 1981 Morris, A.K., A.R.McGill & G. Holmes. Glenn was the author of a book *The Heritage of Australian Birds*, Currawong Press 1982, and author of a number of reports for the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service on the birds of the rainforest areas of northern NSW as well as reports of surveys undertaken on Christmas Island for ANPWS, and a report on the status of Coxen’s (Double-eyed) Fig-Parrot for the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union. The last paper that he had published was in 2008 when as joint author with Dennis Gosper, he wrote about the Diurnal Raptors in the wet-dry tropics of Northern Australia (*Corella* 32.71-75). Glenn studied at the University of New England on “The Bird Species Diversity of Some Subtropical Australian Forests” for his honours thesis and “The Ecology of Seabirds in Continental Shelf Waters of Mid-northern NSW” for his PhD.

After university Glenn set up an environmental consultancy with his wife Jenny. They lived in Wardell, NSW and Beechmont, Queensland with son Dean and daughter Zoe. In 1995 he and Jenny moved to Atherton where Glenn added bird guiding to his business. In December 2006 they moved back south to Stanthorpe on the Granite Belt in Queensland for new areas to explore and be closer to family. Glenn died on the 18th December 2015. His is a sad passing, as 64 years is too young to die, there were still so many places to go, so many birds to see and so many things to do at that age. To his wife and family we offer our deep and understanding condolences.

Alan Morris
March 2016.

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our new members:

Philippa Clark	Hunters Hill
Ann Hofmeyr	Bondi
Gregory Johnson	Cremorne
Madeline Lalor	Saratoga
Patricia McGee	West Ryde
Greg and Georgie Shaw	Woy Woy
Anthony Yates	Morriset Park

BARC Cases Pertaining to NSW Decided in 2015

Taxonomy and Nomenclature are From the IOC Checklist V5.1

818	White Wagtail	Newrybar	December 4, 2013	Accepted
849	Atlantic Y-n Albatross	off Wollongong	July 26, 2014	Accepted
850	Atlantic Y-n Albatross	off Wollongong	August 23, 2014	Accepted
853	South Island Oystercatcher	nr Coffs Harbour	January 5, 2015	Accepted
855	Citrine Wagtail	Mudgee	August 3, 2014	Accepted

CASE SUMMARIES

Case 818: This case concerned the sighting of a White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* which was seen for about 30 minutes in a newly planted macadamia orchard 5km east of Newrybar near Byron Bay on December 4, 2013. The description and photographs depicted typical wagtail characteristics with predominately grey upperparts and white underparts, a black tail with white outer retrices and a prominent white wing patch. The committee voted unanimously to accept the record and it becomes the 15th confirmed record for Australia. James Dorey

Case 849: This case concerned the sighting of an Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* which was well seen and photographed at sea off Wollongong on July 26, 2014. The submission clearly shows the bird to have an obvious grey hood and a subtle white cap. Other features which eliminate the very similar Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. carteri* include the presence of a larger dark eye patch extending in front of the eye and a bill which had a broader yellow culminicorn stripe behind the nares than would normally be the case for Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and this record becomes only the 3rd confirmed sighting in Australia. Brook Whylic

Case 850: This case concerned the sighting of an Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* which was well seen and photographed at sea off Wollongong on August 23, 2014. The submission clearly shows the bird to have an obvious grey hood and a subtle white cap. Other features which eliminate the very similar Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. carteri* include the presence of a larger dark eye patch extending in front of the eye and a bill which had a broader yellow culminicorn stripe behind the nares than would normally be the case for Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross. It may well be that this was the same bird which was seen on July 26, 2014 at the same location (BARC Case 849) although the grey hood on this bird appears more mottled. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and this record becomes only the 4th confirmed sighting in Australia. Nikolas Haass

Case 853: This case concerned the sighting of a South Island (Pied) Oystercatcher *Haematopus finschi* which was observed for about thirty minutes on a beach between Tuckers Rocks and Bundagen Headland, 15km south of Coffs Harbour on January 5, 2015. The description and photographs left no doubt as to the bird's identity and the committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance. This becomes the 8th confirmed record for Australia. Phil Gilmore

Case 855: This case concerned the sighting of a Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* which was found at Putta Bucca Wetlands, Mudgee on August 28, 2014. The bird was subsequently seen and photographed by many observers until September 8, 2014. The

description and photographs left no doubt as to the bird's identity and the committee voted unanimously for acceptance agreeing that the bird was most likely an adult female in worn summer plumage. It becomes only the 4th confirmed record for Australia and the second record for NSW, the first being a bird at Botany Bay on July 1, 1962 (BARC Case 022). Sue Chatfield and Mick Roderick

Roger McGovern,
Secretary NSW Ornithological
Records Appraisal Committee
January 10, 2016

Capertee Valley Tree planting for the Regent Honeyeater Recovery Program

The next replanting is on the weekend of Friday 29th, Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May.

It is a fun weekend with planting being on the Saturday and birding or what you will on the Sunday. On the Friday, the planning and layout of trees takes place and you are welcome to join in. There is a dinner on Saturday night at the local Glen Alice Community Hall to recover and relax after the work.

You can camp in the valley at the Glen Davis camping ground (free hot showers and no fees) or stay in accommodation around the valley. You can come for the day only if you wish, but it is more fun to make a weekend of it. You can of course make this an activity with friends or children and grandchildren. It is good for the kids to get out of Sydney and see some real countryside.

This is an activity that disappointingly gets very little support from Birding NSW members. Are we all too old to bend our backs? Actually, it is not all hard work as you can assist by watering or staking etc which is very light work. Hopefully we will see some Birding NSW folk this year?

Information will be circulated by Birdlife Southern NSW about how to register and make subsidised accommodation bookings. If people would like more information they can contact John Rawson on 0414 995 242 or email at johnrawson1@gmail.com.

These tree planting weekends take place twice a year in April and August and have been going on for more than 10 years with more than 100,000 trees planted in that time.

The co-ordinator at Birdlife Southern NSW is Wendy Fox and her email is southernnsw@birdlife.org.au.

NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC)

REVIEW LIST

(Revised January 10, 2016)

Taxonomy and nomenclature are taken from the IOC Checklist v5.1

The following list comprises birds that are considered rare in NSW based on reported observations over a preceding ten year period to a maximum average of 1.5 records per year. NSW ORAC encourages anyone sighting these species to take comprehensive notes, photographs where possible and to supply substantiation by other observers where appropriate. Details of the sighting should be forwarded to the Secretary of NSW ORAC by way of an Unusual Record Report (URR) Form available electronically from the Secretary, Roger McGovern, at rogrou@bigpond.net.au or by mail via 1/67 Cremorne Road, Cremorne NSW 2090.

This list does not include any of those species on the Birdlife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) Review List. In order to maintain consistency with the BARC Review List, the NSW ORAC Review List taxonomy is based on the IOC Checklist v5.1

Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i> (1)
Cape Barren Goose	<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>
Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i> (9)
Green Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus pulchellus</i>
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Fiordland Penguin	<i>Eudyptes pachyrhynchus</i>
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>
Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebastria fusca</i>
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>
Salvin's Albatross	<i>Thalassarche salvini</i>
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>
Salvin's Prion	<i>Pachyptila salvini</i>
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>
Mottled Petrel	<i>Pterodroma inexpectata</i>
Cook's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma cookii</i>
Grey Petrel	<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>
Little Shearwater	<i>Puffinus assimilis</i> (2)
Grey-backed Storm Petrel	<i>Garrodia nereis</i>
Pied Heron	<i>Egretta picata</i>
Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>
Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>
Black-faced Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscescens</i> (3)
Red Goshawk	<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>
Red-backed Buttonquail	<i>Turnix maculosus</i>
Black-breasted Buttonquail	<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>
Oriental Plover	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>
Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>
Little Curlew	<i>Numenius minutus</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>
Fairy Tern	<i>Sterna nereis</i> (4)
Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougalli</i>
Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>

Flock Bronzewing	<i>Phaps histrionica</i> (5)
Squatter Pigeon	<i>Geophaps scripta</i>
Torresian Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula spilorrhoa</i>
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta porphyrocephala</i>
Bourke's Parrot	<i>Neopsophotus bourkii</i>
Elegant Parrot	<i>Neophema elegans</i>
Orange-bellied Parrot	<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>
Scarlet-chested Parrot	<i>Neophema splendida</i>
Double-eyed Fig Parrot	<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma</i>
Australian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>
Thick-billed Grasswren	<i>Amytornis modestus</i> (6)
Purple-gaped Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus cratitius</i>
Black-eared Miner	<i>Manorina melanotis</i>
Banded Honeyeater	<i>Cissomela pectoralis</i>
Dusky Honeyeater	<i>Myzomela obscura</i>
Banded Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala nigricincta</i>
Red-lored Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufogularis</i> (7)
Shining Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra alecto</i>
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Pink Robin	<i>Petroica rodinogaster</i> (8)
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Canary White-eye	<i>Zosterops luteus</i>
Metallic Starling	<i>Aplonis metallica</i>
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i> (2)
Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
Painted Finch	<i>Emblema pictum</i>
Black-throated Finch	<i>Poephila cincta</i>

NOTES:

- 1) except for the known population in the Barham region
- 2) except for Lord Howe Island
- 3) except for the far South Coast
- 4) except south of Sydney
- 5) except for the Upper and Lower far western region of NSW
- 6) except for the known population near Packsaddle
- 7) except for Yathong, Nombinnie and Round Hill
- 8) except for the far South Coast and the Southern Highlands
- 9) except within 100km from the Queensland border

The Practice of "Anting"

In the photograph of the Lewin's Honeyeater by Charles Dove on the cover, an ant can just be seen in the bird's bill. I had read about Noisy Miners using ants to rub on their feathers so I consulted the books.

HANZAB Volume 5, page 634, describing habits of the Noisy Miner states: 'rubbing ants through the feathers of upper wings, breast and flanks'. No mention that I could find of this practice by Lewin's Honeyeater in HANZAB.

National Photographic Index, Birds, Volume 6 page 122 for Lewin's Honeyeater states: PA Bourke once observed a single Lewin's Honeyeater standing on the ground and "anting".

No suggestions as to why the birds indulge in this practice were given. More research needed. Ed.

Friday 11 March 2016

Mick Roderick reported:

Just this morning the Land and Environment Court handed down a very important decision about a development proposal in the Hunter Economic Zone:

Important Court Win for Endangered Hunter Honeyeater

A Hunter Valley conservation group have won a NSW Land & Environment Court decision to protect habitat for the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater.

The judgement referred to the Tasmanian Tiger exhibition in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery as a powerful reminder of how easily and quickly a species can, through human intervention, vanish forever.

The judgement went on to say about the Regent Honeyeater that it is no exaggeration to describe the species as perched on the brink of extinction.

Only 350 - 400 Regent Honeyeaters are estimated to be left in the wild.

The Friends of Tumblebee residents group from Kurri Kurri near Cessnock presented evidence to the Court that the numbers of Regent Honeyeaters had plummeted by 80% in the 18 years to 2010.

Spokesperson for Friends of Tumblebee and Cessnock Councillor James Ryan said "It is a great day for the Regent Honeyeater as well as for the environment in the Hunter Valley."

'The woodlands of the Hunter Valley and eastern Australia have been over-cleared for farming and coalmining.

'The Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ) has never made planning sense.' said Mr Ryan.

'The proposal to clear nearly 900ha of endangered bushland for an industrial estate has proved to be as unpopular with investors because of its high environmental values and difficult to access location.'

'The HEZ is a big white elephant.' Mr Ryan said.

'The decision of the Court today accepts the expert evidence that the clearing of even small amounts of Regent Honeyeater breeding habitat will drive it towards extinction.'

'The proper use of the HEZ is as a National Park.' said Mr Ryan.

'As a result of this court decision we will be seeking meetings with the Minister for the Environment, Mark Speakman, and the Minister for Planning, Robert Stokes. We will be asking them to declare the HEZ as the 'Regent Honeyeater National Park' so this species can be protected forever.'

Friends of Tumblebee would like to thank the Environmental Defenders Office and Barristers Jason Lazzarus and Josie Walker for their invaluable assistance.

James Ryan
President, Friends of Tumblebee

Sydney Pelagic Trip Report

February 13, 2015

Steve Anyon-Smith

OVERVIEW

February can be a fluky month when we might see tropical vagrant birds and sea monsters off Sydney. A full complement of local and Chinese birders left Sydney Harbour just after 0730 on board the Avalon IV. Conditions were very pleasant with light to moderate north to north-easterly winds and sunny conditions. The day's highlights were multiple sightings of Gould's petrels and some exceptional dolphin behaviour.

The sea conditions were benign, with less than one metre of swell and small wind waves which for most of the day barely crested. Light northerly winds in the morning strengthened to maybe 15 knots from the north east close in shore after lunch. We arrived at Brown's Mountain before 1100, berleyed for 45 minutes, cruised a few miles to the north east and into deeper water and did the same, departing at 1245 and arriving in Rose Bay at 1630. Sea water temperatures were between 24 and 25 degrees.

TRIP SUMMARY

As we left the harbour, some Silver Gulls and a few Wedge-tailed Shearwaters showed little interest in our trail of fish offal but three Pomarine Jaegers had a bit of a look. There were very few birds of any description between the three mile mark and Brown's Mountain save for a couple of Fluttering Shearwaters and a few small groups of southbound Short-tailed Shearwaters.

At around the edge of the shelf break we crossed paths with a pod of a couple of dozen Risso's Dolphins. These guys don't much like boats and the views we had were typical, with the animals trying their best to avoid us. We had a reasonable look, especially of a few extensively scarred "warrior class" individuals. Two Oceanic Bottlenosed Dolphins were keeping company and came to the boat briefly but ultimately preferred to be with the Risso's than us. A further pod of Risso's Dolphins was seen a few minutes later. They behaved in exactly the same manner as their slightly inshore cousins.

At Brown's Mountain there were two boats. These outnumbered the birds that could be seen by two. After much smelly fish and other tasty berley was expertly tossed into the sea, a few Wedgies and a number of Great-winged Petrels

graced us with their presence. The miracle of digital photography allowed us to confirm a distant sighting of a Gould's Petrel. A single Flesh-footed Shearwater came in close to boat allowing some on board to get a "new" bird.

At the second, deeper water, berley site there were quite a few more birds. Anyone that goes to sea off Sydney with even rudimentary observational skill will tell you that the further from land the better it is for birds. However the same mix of birds were evident. Significantly five more Gould's Petrels were seen, with two of them offering excellent and definitive views. This is surely a record for a Sydney pelagic?

About seven miles from the heads a large number of shearwaters could be seen to the south of us. We approached and soon noticed large numbers of Short-beaked Common Dolphins porpoising at speed towards us. Unlike Risso's, Commons rarely avoid boats and the sight of these guys travelling at 15 knots + in a tight formation gave the day its "David Attenborough" moment (thanks Nigel). These guys are commonly seen, but all agreed that this pod was something special as they leapt clear of the water, quite something in large seemingly synchronised groups. Quite a few Flesh-footed Shearwaters were in company with the Wedge-taileds.

The only other wildlife spotted were countless small flying fish, and briefly, a marlin.

Overall it was a fairly slow summer's day on the water interspersed with a few exciting and memorable moments.



Gould's Petrel. Photo by Marie Lister

BIRD LIST

(Note that the numbers in parentheses represent the approximate maximum number of that species in view at one time)

Great-winged Petrel	25	(10)
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	180	(50)
Short-tailed Shearwater	30	(12)
Flesh-footed Shearwater	25	(22)
Fluttering Shearwater	2	(1)
Silver Gull	120	(40)
Pomarine Jaeger	4	(3)
Gould's Petrel	6	(2)

SEA MONSTERS

Risso's dolphin	25 + 12
Oceanic Bottlenosed Dolphin	2
Short-beaked Common Dolphin	150-200
OTHER	
Flying fish	>500
Marlin	1

The next Sydney pelagic trip is scheduled for Saturday 9 April, 2016 departing from Mosman at 0645 and Rose Bay at 0700. Please book early so that we have a good idea of numbers by contacting Hal or me at the numbers and e-mail addresses shown in the Sydney Pelagic website <http://www.sydneypelagics.info>

Outing to Royal National Park

Coleen Southall

9 January 2016

After an incredible few days of rain 12 members and 2 visitors from UK met on a beautiful clear morning. As we set off for Wattle Forest we found a very young Little Pied Cormorant, Coot and Dusky Moorhen. In the forest we found a Golden Whistler feeding young, Large-billed, Yellow-throated and White-browed Scrubwrens, Black-faced Monarch and in the distance we could hear a Superb Lyrebird calling. We had great views of a very industrious Brown Gerygone building a nest and across the river was a Sacred Kingfisher. Further along we found an Eastern Yellow Robin, Bassian Thrush, Brown Thornbill and Silveryeye. On our way back to the cars for a very late morning tea we spotted a Rufous Night Heron, Crested Shrike-tit, Green Catbird and Satin Bowerbird. In the picnic area there were Dollarbirds and great views of an Azure Kingfisher.

At morning tea we had a flock of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos join us but they soon took off when Greg played the call of a Sea-Eagle.

We then moved to Lady Carrington Drive and here we found a Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Leaden Flycatcher, Grey Fantail, White-throated Treecreeper, Lewins Honeyeater, Red-browed Finch and we heard a Scarlet Honeyeater calling. Just before we returned to the car park for lunch Greg found a Brown Goshawk feeding young. Whilst having lunch a Wedge-tailed Eagle flew overhead. The total number of bird species for the day was 51.

I would like to thank everyone and especially Greg McLachlan for making it such a great day.

Outing to Centennial Park

Allan Richards

February 6, 2016

Twenty people including members of the Sydney East Birdwatchers met at 8:30 am for the outing to Centennial Park. Although I drove through rain on the way to Centennial Park, the rest of the day remained fine with a slight wind to keep the temperature down.

We started the day by walking past Willow Pond and the Duck Pond. Figbirds were calling from the trees with one eventually showing well. Pied Cormorants were busy gathering nesting material and taking it to nests on the islands in the ponds. All four cormorant species were sighted as well as Australasian Darter. The number of ducks was low with only Hardhead, Pacific Black and Wood Duck being seen. A Rufous (Nankeen) Night-Heron on an island in the Duck Pond was difficult to see hidden amongst the tree roots.

We returned to our cars via Lachlan Swamp and had a good look at a Buff-banded Rail bathing in the stream flowing from the swamp. We found the Tawny Frogmouths within the swamp. One was sitting on the nest with the baby barely visible poking out from underneath the parent. The other was perched on a nearby tree. The resident Grey Butcherbird was very vocal within the Swamp.

After morning tea, we walked across to see the pair of Powerful Owls roosting in a fig tree next to the Bird Sanctuary. We searched for the Barn Owl but it had been missing for several weeks. However we were rewarded by a Royal Spoonbill on the sandy island in Randwick Pond. 46 species were recorded in Centennial Park including Channel-billed Cuckoos and Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos.

Some members left at lunchtime but the rest of us decided to go to Randwick Environment Park. Despite being a lot of water in the pond, there were few waterbirds. Chestnut and Grey Teal were new for the day. An Australian Reed-Warbler was a new bird for some of the group. Red-whiskered Bulbuls are common in the park. We failed to find the Double-barred Finches which are often seen in the area but did see Red-browed Firetails.

It is nice to see so many birds so close to the centre of our city.

Warriewood Wetlands

13th February 2016

Wendy Cope

The weather was perfect and Russell Beardman welcomed 2 UK visitors and a beginner to the group of 14 birders. The walk began with many distant calls and while still on the first boardwalk around 20 White-throated Needletails were noticed overhead. A Royal Spoonbill flew in and began feeding nearby. Several Yellow Thornbills were found in the profuse buds of the Swamp Mahoganies.

A White-Bellied Sea-Eagle near the waterfall in Irrawong reserve brought the raptor count to two. During lunch a Spangled Drongo was heard and although it couldn't be found the subsequent search for it brought the species count for the day to 50.



Royal Spoonbill. Photo: Greg McLachlan

Breakfast with the Birds, Central Coast Wetlands

Saturday 30th January 2016.

Leader: Alan Morris.

This event is a combined activity between CCGBNSW, Central Coast Environment Network (CEN) and the Tuggerah Reserve Trust and it is an annual event to celebrate World Wetlands Day. There were 85 paid participants for the day, and with volunteers, Green Army participants and stall-holders etc, there were 105 people present on the morning, of which at least 46 people were from BNSW. Our Club usually gets new recruits from the event because people have been attracted to visit the site and learn about the birds. Bird watching started at 7.30 am, and at 8.00 am we all divided into two groups and having surveyed all the birds that could be seen on the Dairy Swamp from the Pavillion, we then did some short walks around the Tuggerah Creek and Pioneer Creek wetlands, one group led by Allan Benson and the other by myself. Ten CCGBNSW members brought along their telescopes to help show other people the birds on the Dairy Swamp and other wetlands. At 9.00 am we returned to the Pavillion for a hot breakfast and tea, coffee and drinks, and some talks. On the Dairy Swamp that morning we saw Swamp Harriers and Whistling Kites, Nankeen Kestrel, two Wedge-tailed Eagles, five Channel-billed Cuckoos, Sacred Kingfisher, White-breasted Woodswallow, a lone Freckled Duck, Straw-necked Ibis and Cattle Egrets, Intermediate and Great Egret, Hardhead and Eurasian Coot and many more waterbirds. Highlights of Tuggerah Creek were a Grey Goshawk, 2 Latham's Snipe, Bar-shouldered Dove, Tawny Grassbird, Yellow & Brown Thornbills. Highlights of the Pioneer Ck wetlands were another Snipe, Black-shouldered Kite, Whistling Kite, Red-rumped Parrots & Pied Butcherbird.



Photo: Bron Mauer

Having enjoyed a hearty breakfast, listened to the presentations, perused the stalls about Water Conservation, CEN Projects, Waterwatch, Central Coast Water Authority, Land for Wildlife and other matters, the main group of people who wanted to go bird watching, headed off to the Greenfleet Section of the CCW, where we birded along the northern end of Tuggerah Creek and the Greenfleet Plantation. In the bushland we were fortunate in finding a small group of Southern Emu-wrens, a Grey Goshawk flew over, a Nankeen Night-Heron was found, Satin Bowerbirds were in the plantation, and Lewin's & Striped Honeyeaters, Eastern Yellow Robins, Black-faced Monarchs and Topknot Pigeons were also seen. We returned back to the Pavillion for lunch where we could watch the goings and comings of birds at the Dairy Swamp. 82 species were seen by lunch time!

After lunch we visited Tuggerah STW where we had hoped to see Pink-eared Ducks but they eluded us but we did get some Hoary-headed Grebe, an immature Musk Duck, Reed Warblers, eight Shovellers, two Wedge-tailed Eagles and White-throated Needletails and our final stop for the day was at Ansells Pt and Sunshine Park, Chittaway, where two immature Buff-banded Rails, an adult Dollarbird feeding a dependant young, Chestnut Teal with ducklings, Caspian Terns and a, Striated Heron were found. Near Ansells Pt on Ourimbah Creek we checked out the Little Egret nesting colony, where we saw seven nests, four still containing large chicks, two fledged young were in a tree across the creek, and adults came in to feed nestlings in three nests. All up we saw 92 species for the day which was a good count. Thank you to the people with the telescopes that helped the non-birders see the birds earlier in the day viz Allan Benson, Noel Lonergan, Kaye Pointer, Robyn Price, Michael Scobie, Jay Nicholson, Steve Merrett & Doug Hocking.



Dusky Moorhen. Photo: Bron Mauer

UNUSUAL REPORTS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015

ALAN MORRIS

Region Abbreviations: **NC**–North Coast; **H**–Hunter, **CC**–Central Coast; **S**–Sydney Region; **I**–Illawarra; **SC**–South Coast; **NT**–Northern Tablelands; **CT**–Central Tablelands; **ST**–Southern Tablelands; **NS**–North-west Slopes; **CS**–Central-west Slopes; **SS**–South-west Slopes; **NP**–North-west Plains; **CP**–Central-west Plains; **R**–Riverina; **UW**–Upper Western; **LW**–Lower Western. Other abbreviations used include **A** – adult, **F** – female, **M** – male, **J** – juvenile, **DY** – dependent young, **N** – nest, **E** – Eggs, **RA** - rest area, **rk** – road kill, **hw** – hit window, **ba** – blown ashore, **hc** – heard calling **bc** – beachcast and **pr** – pair., **Im** – immature

Emu	1	2/1/16	Goulburn River NP	H	HBOC
Emu	2	13/1/16	Wainamatta R.Pk, Ropes Crsng	S	Adrian O'Hara
Magpie Goose	8	31/12-29/1	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	R	Kathy Tenison
Magpie Goose	5	1-23/1/16	Campbells Swp, Griffith	E	Max O'Sullivan
Magpie Goose	500+	22/1/16	Gwydir Wetlands SCA Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne
Plumed Whistling-Duck	8	9/1/16	Dairy Swp, Central Coast Wetlds	CC	Christina Port
Plumed Whistling-Duck	12	25/1/16	Botanical Gardens, Mt Annan	S	Brooke Whyllie
Plumed Whistling-Duck	30	20-26/2/16	Bomaderry STW Nowra	I	Carla Jackett
Wandering Whistling-Duck	2	3/1/16	Belmore River Rd Crescent Head	NC	Louise Earnshaw
Wandering Whistling-Duck	2,8Y	16/1/16	Buladelah	H	HBOC
Wandering Whistling-Duck	3	22/1/16	Gwydir Wetlands SCA Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne
Musk Duck	ImM	30/1/16	Tuggerah STW	CC	Alan Morris
Freckled Duck	126	25/1/16	Mandeni, Tura	SC	K. Buckland
Freckled Duck	8	10-29/1/16	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
Freckled Duck	40	8/2/16	Nimmitabel Swamp	ST	Tom Ennis
Blue-billed Duck	2	10/2/16	Walka Waterworks, Maitland	H	Lorna Mee
Blue-billed Duck	2	12/1/16	Farm dam Hebden Rd L.Liddell	H	HBOC
Paradise Shelduck	1	30/12-6/1	Lake Wollumboola, Culburra	I	Dion Hobcroft
Australian Shoveler	2	16/2/16	Centennial Park, Sydney	S	Marie Lister
Red-tailed Tropicbird	2	7/2/16	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Emerald Dove	1	25/1/16	Thunderbolts Way, Bretti	H	HBOC
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	2	13-21/1/16	Sea Acres NR Port Macquarie	NC	Hastings BOC
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	1	30/1/16	Boys Walk, Cooranbong	H	Maurice Ashton
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	1	26/1/16	Big Hill, Limeburners Ck NR	NC	Tim Morris
White-throated Nightjar	2	9/1/16	Scouters Mtn Heathcote NP	S	Ted Nixon
White-throat Needletail	500	22/1/16	ANU Campus, Kiola	I	Chris Shinton
Fork-tailed Swift	8+	13/1/16	Wattle Hill, Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan.
Fork-tailed Swift	5	22/1/16	Point Wollstoncroft, L. Macquarie	CC	Nick Carson
Fork-tailed Swift	14	22/1/16	Lyndale St Port Macquarie	NC	Alan Morris
Antipodean Albatross	1	23/1/16	Mistral Point Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Shy Albatross *	1	23/1/16	Kiama pelagic	I	Brook Whyllie
Shy Albatross *	4	16/2/16	Mistral Point Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Westland Petrel	1bc	13/1/16	Belongil Bch Coffs Harbour	NC	Aust. Seabird Rescue
Fleshy-footed Shearwater *	10	20/2/16	Mistral Pt Maroubra	S	Nick Giles
Sooty Shearwater	1	3/1/16	Mistral Pt, Maroubra, 14 on 5/1	S	David Mitford
Streaked Shearwater	1	23/1/16	Kiama pelagic	I	Brook Whyllie
Streaked Shearwater	1	6/2/16	Ballina Lighthouse	NC	Gus Daly
Streaked Shearwater	2,2	20 & 27/2	Mistral Pt Maroubra	S	Nick Giles
Buller's Shearwater	1,2	3/1 & 27/2	Mistral Pt Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Great-winged Petrel	1	7/1/16	Fort Drive Breakwater, Newcastle	H	Mick Roderick
White-necked Petrel	1	5-6/2/16	Mistral Point Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Kermadec Petrel	1	10/1/16	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Gould's Petrel	1,4	10/1 & 7/2	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Gould's Petrel	6	13/2/16	Sydney pelagic	S	Steve Anyon-Smith
Masked Booby	1bc	7/6/16	South Ballina	NC	Steve McBride
Black-necked Stork	2A2Y	4/12-10/2	Hexham Swamp NR	HG	HBOC
Black-necked Stork	2	11/2/16	Boyers Lane, Jerseyville	NC	Liam Murphy
Intermediate Egret	A+N	24/1/16	Egret Rookery Cundletown	H	Alan Stuart
Australasian Bittern	N+3E	12/1/16	Nesting in rice Colleambally	R	Per Matthew Herring
Australasian Bittern	2	1/1/16	Campbells Swp, Griffith	E	Max O'Sullivan
Australasian Bittern	1	5/1/16	Gulpha Ck Murray Valley NP	R	Peter Sawyer
Aust. Little Bittern	1	14-21/12/15	Fivebough Wetlands,	R	Keith Hutton
Aust. Little Bittern	1	22/1/16	Haywards Bay, L. Illawarra	I	Brian Deans
Aust. Little Bittern	1	27/1/16	Campbells Swp, Griffith	R	Matt Herring
Black Bittern	1	7/1/16	Arranbee Rd King Ck, Wauchope	NC	Clive Meadows
Black Bittern	1	10/1/16	Lake Cathie	NC	Darin Rounsevell
Cattle Egret	80	29/1/16	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Glossy Ibis	300	23/1/16	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan

Eastern Osprey	1,1	27/1/16	Bommies Bch & Burrill Lake	I	Zwankhuizen/Dove
Pacific Baza	N+3Y	1/1-10/2/16	Wattleree Rd Holgate	CC	Eileen Davy
Square-tailed Kite	1	1/1/16	Bomaderry	I	Harry Roberts
Square-tailed Kite	1	1/1/16	Nangiloc, Murray River in NSW	LW	Dan Eyles
Square-tailed Kite	1	9/1/16	Nethercote	SC	Barbara Jones
Black Kite	1	24/2/16	Warrakei Rd Wamberal	CC	Rowena Wallace
Black Kite	1	25/2/16	Tumbi Umbi	CC	Andrew Whittaker
Black Kite	1	29/2/16	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Alan Morris
Brahminy Kite	1	13/2/16	Wybung Head, Munmorah SCA	CC	Michael Price
Grey Goshawk	2,N,Y	29/12/15	Merimbula	SC	Sue Romane
Grey Goshawk	WhtM	1/1/16	Tathra	SC	J. Plumb
Grey Goshawk	WhtM	2/2/16	took scrub-turkey Coolgardie Plt.	NC	David Charley
Spotted Harrier	1	26/12/15	Brobenah Hall Rd Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Spotted Harrier	1	29/1/16	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Little Eagle	2	3/1/16	Hume Highway Towrang	ST	Lorne Johnson
Black Falcon	1	24/12/15	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
Black Falcon	4	24/1/16	Tharbogan Rd Griffith	R	Max O'Sullivan
Australian Hobby	A+J	29/1/16	Riverside Pk Ash Island	H	Graeme Catt
Brolga	1	8/1/16	Flew over Thornton & Tarro	H	Dan Williams
Brolga	2A2Y	10/1/16	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
Brolga	2	18-22/1/16	Willow Lane, Fernbank	NC	Julia Hudd
Brolga	2	11/2/16	Boyers Lane, Jerseyville	NC	Liam Murphy
Buff-banded Rail	2A2Y	25/1-6/2	Manns Pt Greenwich	S	Ted Nixon
Lewin's Rail	1	1/1/16	Trumper Park, Paddington	S	Judy Clark
Lewin's Rail	1	16/1/16	Lorne Rd Kew	H	John Harding
Lewin's Rail	1	13/1/16	Lake Conjola	I	Charles Dove
Baillon's Crake	2	18/1/16	Hexham Swamp NR	H	HBOC
Bush Stone-curlew	5pr2J	Jan-Feb	Brisbane Water, Gosford	CC	Alan Morris
Bush Stone-curlew	2	9/2/16	Tralee Conf. Centre Pt Stephens	H	Stuart Fleming
Bush Stone-curlew	2A+J	17/2/16	Greenvale Stn Pooncarie	LW	Dan Eyles
Pied Oystercatcher	2	24/1/16	Berry Is, Balls Head	S	Ted Nixon
Pied Oystercatcher	51	31/1/16	Soldiers Pt Salamander Bay	H	Alan Morris
Pied Oystercatcher	150	19/2/16	Port Stephens Wader survey	H	Alan Stuart
Pied Oystercatcher Nth form	1	27/2/16	Surfside, Batemans Bay	SC	Demetrios Bertzeletos
Sooty Oystercatcher	22	31/1/16	Wombarra Bch Rock Platform	I	Jesse Gibson
Sooty Oystercatcher	19	7/2/16	Blue Bay Reefs, Toowoan Bay	CC	John Carpenter
Red-necked Avocet	3	4/1/16	Tuggerah STW	CC	Darcy Carnahan
Red-necked Avocet	40	6/1/16	Lake Wollumboola, Culburra	I	Lorne Johnson
Red-necked Avocet	600	20-27/2/16	Swan Pond, Ash Island	H	Alan Morris
Grey Plover	1	6/1/16	Lake Wollumboola, Culburra	I	Lorne Johnson
Pacific Golden Plover	49	27/2/16	Stockton Wreck	H	Judi Thomas
Large Sand Plover	2	6-10/2/16	Stockton Sandspit	H	Tony Bischoff
Lesser Sand Plover	1	22/1/16	Mogareeka, Tathra	SC	L. Berzins
Lesser Sand Plover	1	7/2/16	Boatharbour, Kurnell	S	Nigel Coglean
Double-banded Plover *	1	13 & 24/1	Harrington Break Wall	H	Tony Bischoff
Double-banded Plover *	1	9/2/16	Pelican Pt Norah Head	CC	Maurice Ashton
Inland Dotterel	4	6/1/16	Wanganella	R	Bernie O'Keefe
Hooded Plover	2	13/12, 24/1	Tura Beach	SC	L. Allen
Hooded Plover	2	1/1/16	Lake Wollumboola Beach	I	Demetrios Bertzeletos
Hooded Plover	1	28-29/2/16	Lake Conjola Sandbar	I	Max O'Sullivan
Banded Lapwing	14	6/1/16	Wanganella	R	Bernie O'Keefe
Latham's Snipe	2	16/1/16	Charlotte Pass, Spencers Creek	ST	Graham Fry
Latham's Snipe	2	21/1/16	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
Latham's Snipe	57	28/1/16	Teven Rd Swamp, West Ballina	NC	David Charley
Black-tailed Godwit	10	1-16/1/16	Lake Wollumboola	I	Allan Benson
Black-tailed Godwit	3	10/1/16	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Black-tailed Godwit	54	20-27/2/16	Wagtail Way, Ash Island	H	Alan Morris
Hudsonian Godwit	1	23/12-18/1	Lake Wollumboola, Culburra	I	Demetrios Bertzeletos
Whimbrel	250	19/2/16	Port Stephens Wader Survey	H	Alan Stuart
Eastern Curlew	270	19/2/16	Port Stephens Wader Survey	H	Alan Stuart
Little Curlew	1	16/1/16	Lord Howe Island Airport	LH	Stewart Monckton
Common Sandpiper	1	5/11/15	Lake Cathie	NC	Adrian Dick
Common Sandpiper	3	20-31/12	Kooragang Dykes	H	Alan Stuart
Common Sandpiper	1	25-28/1/16	Bi-Centennial Pk Waterbird Ref.	S	Robert Griffin
Common Sandpiper	1	10/2/16	Stockton Sandspit	H	Judi Thomas
Wood Sandpiper	6	17 & 31/12	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	R	P. Tenison
Wood Sandpiper	1	23/1/16	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan

Wood Sandpiper	1	26-31/1/16	Harrington Rd Wetlands	I	Clive Meadows
Wandering Tattler	1	31/1-28/2	Soldiers Point, Norah Head	I	Tim Faulkner
Wandering Tattler	6	8/2/16	Flat Rock Ballina	NC	Steven McBride
Great Knot	3	22-29/2/16	Stockton Sandspit	H	Liz Crawford
Red Knot	2	22-29/2/16	Stockton Sandspit	H	Chris Herbert
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	3000	29/2/16	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Alan Morris
Curlew Sandpiper	106	29/2/16	Stockton Sandspit	H	Liz Crawford
Sanderling	1	23/1/16	Mogareeka, Tathra	SC	L. Berzins
Sanderling	7	20-24/1/16	Harrington Breakwall	H	Peter West
Australian Pratincole	5	6/1/16	Wanganella	R	Bernie O'Keefe
Painted Button-quail	2A2Y	30/12-6/2	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	CC	Alan Morris
Painted Button-quail	2	30/12/15	Nethercote, Pambula	SC	Barbara Jones
Painted Button-quail	4	11/1/16	Tomalpin Rd HEZ lands Kurri	H	HBOC
Arctic Jaeger	2	30/1/16	Port Stephens off Corrie Island	H	Alan Morris
Arctic Jaeger	1	17/2/16	Shoal Bay, Port Stephens	H	Paul Burcher
Long-tailed Jaeger	1	3/1/16	Mistral Point, Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Kelp Gull	2	3/1/16	Taren Point Shorebird Reserve	S	Brian Deans
Common Noddy	J	30/1/16	Shelley Bch Ballina	NC	Steve McBride
Grey Ternlet	1	31/1/16	Patches Beach Ballina	NC	Steve McBride
Little Tern	2N	15/1/16	Winda Woppa, Hawkesnest	H	Drew Morris
Little Tern	20prY	Dec-Jan	Mogareeka, Tathra	SC	L. Allen
Little Tern	20prY	Dec-Jan	Lake Conjola	I	Charles Dove
Fairy Tern	1	4/1/16	Lake Wollumboola, Culburra	I	Kevin Bartram
Sooty Tern	7	5/1/16	Elizabeth Bch Forster	H	Robert Griffith
Sooty Tern	4	6-7/1/16	Mistral Point, Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	25	23/12/15	Dam at Middle Rd Brobenah	R	Keith Hutton
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2A+J	7/2/16	Lilli Pilli Reserve, Batemans Bay	SC	Jennifer Mather
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	85	19-20/2/16	Rankin Springs District count	R	Warren Chad
Gang-gang Cockatoo	35	22/1/16	Pamboola Res Pambula	SC	Sue Romane
Gang-gang Cockatoo	30,10	26/2/16	Kurrajong Hgts, Mountain Lgn	S	Amy Davis
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	15	22/1/16	Jones Rd Lake Wyangan	R	Neil Palfreman
Superb Parrot	6	10/2/16	Ingalba NR 6 km W of Temora	SS	Donna Nagiello
Budgerigar	50	24/1/16	Barren Box Swamp, Griffith	R	Max O'Sullivan
Budgerigar	10	31/1/16	Kidman Way, Tabitha	R	Neil Palfreman
Budgerigar	50	21/2/16	15 km SW Rankin Springs	R	Warren Chad
Blue-winged Parrot	10	13/2/16	Dry Plains Rd Wambook, Cooma	ST	Julia Baverstock
Turquoise Parrot	A+Js	1/1/16	Wattle Dam, Binya SF	R	Max O'Sullivan
Ground Parrot	1	15/1/16	500m picnic area, Barren Grounds	I	Martin Filipczyk
Ground Parrot	6	22/2/16	Bunjalung NP Brooms Head	NC	Paul Newman
Pheasant Coucal	1	10/2/16	Dunville Loop Glen Alice	CT	Pat Coleman
Channel-billed Cuckoo	J	29/12/15	Candelo Cemetery (A.Raven host)	SC	R.Heffernan
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	3/1/16	Yurammie, Bega	SC	R. Heffernan
Channel-billed Cuckoo	2Y	13/1/16	Currawong host, South Hd NP	S	Chris Gregory
Channel-billed Cuckoo	2Y	21/1/16	Currawong host Belrose	S	Dorothy Price
Eastern Koel	AM	28/12-9/1	Karri Rd Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Eastern Koel	AM	30/12/15	Narrandera	R	Nella Smith
Oriental Cuckoo	1	19/1/16	north coast Norfolk Island	NI	Craig Doolan
Oriental Cuckoo	AM	22/1/16	Fernbank Ck Port Macquarie	NC	Peter Hudd
Oriental Cuckoo	AM	10-11/2/16	Walka Waterworks, Maitland	H	Lorna Mee
Black-eared Cuckoo	1	1/2/16	Giants Creek Rd Sandy Hollow	H	Alan Stuart
Powerful Owl	1	15/1/16	Bidjigal Reserve, North Rocks	S	Tony Hunt
Powerful Owl	1	20/1/16	Springs Rd Warnervale	CC	Michael Price
Powerful Owl	1	20/1/16	Rainforest Walk, Mitchell park	S	Coleen Southall
Powerful Owl +	1rk	10/2/16	Rankin Park, Newcastle	H	Per Alan Stuart
Barking Owl	2	1-3/2/16	McMasters Beach	S	Dick Rogers
Barking Owl	1	20/1/16	Kalaru, Bega	SC	G.Greenwood
Southern Boobook	J	20/1/16	Duck Pond Centennial Pk, Sydney	S	Allan Richards
Sooty Owl	1	10/12/15	South Pambula	SC	J. Reed
Barn Owl	1	8/2/16	Wandella Ave Bateau Bay	BB	Mark Shanks
Aust. Masked Owl	HC	10/2/16	Coorongooba C.A. Capertee NP	CT	Andrew Walker
Red-backed Kingfisher	4	6/1/16	5 km S Baradine	NP	Per David Johnstone
Sacred Kingfisher	2A2Y	2/1/16	Mouth of Gore Ck Greenwich	S	Ted Nixon
Rainbow Bee-eater **	4	10/2/16	Tahlee, Port Stephens	H	Stuart Fleming
Noisy Pitta	1	12/1/16	Stafford Farm Tk Kembla Heights	I	Terrill Nordstrom
Rawnsley's Bowerbird	1	2/1/16	20km S of Bellingen	NC	Catherine Jones
Rawnsley's Bowerbird	1	24/1/16	12 kms SWW Bellingen	NC	Bobbi Marchini
Rockwarbler	1	3/2/2016	Monkeyface Mtn Watagans NP	H	Maurice Ashton

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	2	2/2/16	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	CC	Greg Miles
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	5-12/1/16	Lambton, Newcastle	H	Daniel McKenzie
Regent Honeyeater	7A,2J	1-10/2/16	Capertee NP, Glen Alice	Ct	Liam Murphy
White-fronted Chat	40	26/1/16	Round Hill Rd via Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
Black Honeyeater	2M	19/1/16	Murda SF, 10km NE Condobolin	CP	Warren Chad
Black Honeyeater	4	29/1/16	Galore Hill, Lockhardt	SS	Nella Smith
Black Honeyeater	6+	21/2/16	15 km SW Rankins Springs	R	Warren Chad
Painted Honeyeater	2	24/1/16	Kidman WayKubank Rd Griffith	R	Neil Palfreman
Painted Honeyeater	2	25/1/16	The Winery nr Binya SF, Yenda	R	Max O'Sullivan
Painted Honeyeater	2 Im	21/2/16	15 km SW Rankins Springs	R	Warren Chad
Spotted Quail-thrush	2,2,	17/2/16	Bucketty Waterhole & Fire Stn	CC	Alan Morris
Varied Sittella	6	26/1/16	Irrawang Res Warriewood	S	Tom Wilson
Crested Shrike-tit	6	13/2/16	Lady Carrington Dve Sth RNP	S	Jesse Gibson
Olive Whistler	5	15/1/16	Falls Creek	ST	MFN Group
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	2	28/12/15	Pinehills Rd Narrandera	R	Nella Smith
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	4A,J	6/1/16	Deniliquin	R	Bernie O'Keefe
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	2	25/1/16	Mtn Springs Rd Spring Mountain	NT	Craig Anderson
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	2	2/2/16	2km E of Wollar	CT	Alan Stuart
White-bell'd Cuckoo-shrike	1	24/1/16	Harrington STW	H	Alan Stuart
White-winged Triller	2	13/1/16	Panboola Res Pambula	SC	FSCB
Varied Triller	1+	24/1/16	Harrington Rainforest Res	H	Alan Stuart
Varied Triller	1+	26/1/16	Big Hill, Limeburners Ck NR	NC	Tim Morris
White-breasted W'swallow	8	28/1/16	Narrawarrie Inlet	I	Marnix Zwankhuizen
White-browed W'swallow	N2Y	12/1/16	Ridgeland Rd Kurri	H	HBOC
Pied Butcherbird	3J	2/1/16	Nurragingy Reserve Acacia Park	S	Ted Wnorowski
Spectacled Monarch	A,DY	24/1/16	Harrington Rainforest Res	H	Alan Stuart
Red-capped Robin	1	17/1/16	Jones Res Rd Jerrys Plains	H	HBOC
Red-capped Robin	2	29/12/15	Kedumba Valley Rd Crossing	CT	Kalang Morrison-Jones
Scarlet Robin	8	30/1/16	Minnie Ha Ha-Katoomba area	Ct	Milo Morrison-Jones
Brown Songlark	1	11/12/16	Hexham Swamp NR	H	HBOC
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	1	27/1/16	Teven Rd Swamp, West Ballina	NC	Gus Daly
Diamond Firetail	1	2/1/16	Towamba farm dam	SC	D. Brydon
Diamond Firetail	8	1/1/16	Wattle Dam, Binya SF	R	Max O'Sullivan
Plum-headed Finch	47	10/2/16	Glen Alice Rd Glen Davis	CT	Simon Gorta
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	50	22/1/16	Gwydir Wetlands SCA Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne

*=First Return; ** Last Date; CWBS= Cowra Woodland Bird Survey.

Bold – On the Review list of the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee – submission required.

(Bird names used and the order in which they occur are in accord with

Christidis L and W Boles 'Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds'2008)

COMMENT

Good to heavy rains started midway through December with some heavy falls at the end of December and into January so that improved water flows should have entered the inland river systems.* Across NSW January was relatively wet in many places whereas February was on average generally dry and very hot and the drying conditions appear to be developing back towards an El Nino drought. The Mega Rarities that turned up the last weekend in December, being the **Hudsonian Godwit** at Lake Wollumboola (4th NSW record) on 23/12, followed by a **Paradise Shelduck** (1st Australian mainland record) were present at the same site on 30/12/15, and both managed to stay into January 2016! The Hudsonian Godwit stayed until 18/1, whereas the Shelduck was gone by 6/1/16, however both stayed enough time so that 2-300 people did manage to get down to see them! Two seabirds were of interest in the past two months, the beach cast **Westland Petrel**, is a very rare bird in NSW, the Belongil Beach record being only the 12th record for NSW, while the **Kermadec Petrel** seen on the Port Stephens pelagic on 12/1/16 was a lucky find for those onboard. **Rawnsley's Bowerbird**: This species is a hybrid between **Satin** and **Regent Bowerbirds**, so would not normally rate in my summary except that it is rare to see photographs of this remarkable bird as illustrated on Birdline! Other **Plumed Whistling-Duck**: 21 Gladstone 2/1 (NC), 3 Campbells Swp Griffith 23/1 (R), 2 farm Dam 3 km S of Glen Alice 1/2 (CT); **Freckled Ducks** continue to occupy a number of sites in eastern NSW, sometimes in big numbers, but their numbers are way down on the past twelve months, other reports include 6 Dairy Swp CCW 28-30/1 (CC), 1 Toronto Wetlands 10/2 (HBOC); Other **Fork-tailed Swift** reports include: 4 Thirroul 26/2 (M.Crossland), 20 St Marys School Noraville 27/2; **White-throated Nightjar**: 2 at Sphinx Memorial, KCNP 17/1 (S); More **Australasian Bitterns** have been reported than usual, other records include 1 Fivebough Wetlands 24/12, 1 Millewa SF Deniliquin 13/1 (R); **Black Bittern**: AMs Deepwater Pk Milperra and Hammondville 19/1 (S), 1 Kelly Bay Pk Warrarong 6/2 (I); **Glossy Ibis**: 1 Dairy Swp, Central Coast Wetlands 9/1 (CC), 2 Hexham Swp NR 29/1 (H); There are plenty of **Pacific Bazas** being seen in Sydney and there were 4 nesting pairs on the Central Coast Region at Spencer, Lake Munmorah, Mardi and Holgate; **Square-tailed Kite**: At least 12 Central Coast reports Jan-Feb also 1 Lake Cathie 2/1 (hc), 1 Sapphire Coast Dve Merimbul;a 6/1 (SC), 1 Bobbin Hd Rd North Turramurra 17/1, 1 Terrys Ck Parklands, Epping 24/1 (S); **Grey Goshawk**: 1 took an Eastern Water Dragon, Buffalo Ck Lane Cove NP 2/2 (S); **Lewin's Rail**: 1 hc Warriewood Wetlands 3/2 (S); **Spotless Crane**: 1 hc Warriewood Wetlands 3/2 (S); **Glossy Black-Cockatoo**: 3 Heaton Gap, Watagans NP 23/12 (H), 11 Yarrabimbi, Leeton 5/12, 2 Wattle Dam Binya SF 1/1 (R), 3 Sugarloaf SCA 21/1 (H), A+J Crosslands Res 21/1 (S), 2 Faulconbridge Pt 16/2 (CT), Elsewhere in the Blue Mountains Glossies were reported from Kings Tableland, Springwood, Glenbrook & Darks Common, Lapstone in January (CT); **Gang-gang Cockatoo**: in the February issue of the *Blue Mountains Bird Observers Club Newsletter*, Mark Ley documents a dramatic decline in the numbers of Gang Gangs in the Blue Mountain since their records first began in 1992. The worst area is the Lower Blue Mountains where there is an 84% decline, at the same time the numbers of **Rainbow Lorikeets** and **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** have increased in the same area. This matter needs major investigations as how this decline can be stopped! **Channel-billed Cuckoo**: 2Y being fed by Currawongs at Belrose 21/1 (S); **Powerful Owl**: There have been 18 reports of Powerful Owls on the Central Coast Jan-Feb, not listed here, which may reflect an increasing population as well as more people out looking and listening, hc from 2 locations at Glenbrook in January (S), 1 RK Rankin Pk Newcastle 12/2 (H), 1 Blue Gum Swp Crk Winmallee 16/2 (S); **Sooty Owl**: hc Berry Mtn, Bellawongarah 19/1 (I); **Barn Owl**: hc Warriewood Wetlands 7/1 (S); Other **Ground Cuckoo-shrikes** were 2 Pinehills Rd Narranderra 28/12 (R); **Diamond Firetail**: 8 Galore Hill, Lockhardt 29/1 (SS), Good Birding!

*According to the Weekend Australian March 5-6, the lower Darling, south of Wilcannia and the Menindee Lakes, are dry. Ed.

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