



birding nsw

Newsletter

NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc

Issue 260

December 2013

President's Report

The October IBA survey in Grenfell was a great success. Twenty surveyors (including four locals) covered 24 sites, some on private land. Superb Parrots were seen on six sites during the survey, and were also identified outside the survey times. There was a dinner for the surveyors on the Friday evening and a barbecue on a private property on Saturday night. On the Sunday morning, there was a bird walk for interested members of the Grenfell community, which was very well attended. Please see the article about the weekend by Elisabeth Karplus in this issue of the newsletter for further details and information about the next survey.

David Bain's talk on the Powerful Owl project in October was very well received. This project is partially funded by proceeds from the 2012 and 2013 Twitchathon under the auspices of BirdLife Southern NSW.

The September BIGnet meeting in Newcastle was well attended and the CEO of BirdLife Australia, Paul Sullivan was there on both days. He said that key priorities for BirdLife Australia included improvement of the Atlas database and obtaining government research grants and corporate funding. Bird habitat conservation continues to be a major focus for BirdLife Australia. The next BIGnet meeting will be held in Canberra in April 2014 and will be hosted by the Canberra Ornithologists Group in their 50th year.

At the December meeting, the 2013 Arnold McGill Memorial Lecture will be given by Alan Rogers, a past president of both Birding NSW and of the Cumberland Bird Observers Club. The Birding NSW Annual General Meeting will take place on this day and the evening will conclude with the Club's annual Christmas Party. The successful bring-a-plate format for the party will again be used, so come along for a great night and remember to bring a plate!

Tom Karplus

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Richard Black	Camperdown
Milan & Eva Busina	Bondi Junction
Mark Cowan	NSW
Ted Giblin	Port Macquarie
Michael Hanvey	Mona Vale
Kristine Martin	Blackwall
Stephen Morgan	Sydney
Jillian Nolan	Castle Hill
Lynette Purcell	Newport
M & F Sheridan	Picnic Point
Jacob Sife	Willoughby
Andrew Walker	Blackwall

I wish you a safe and happy
Festive Season and the best
of birding!

Rae Lister, Editor



CLUB ACTIVITIES

FIELD OUTINGS AND MEETINGS

NATIONAL PARK USE FEES AND ON-THE-SPOT FINES

A valid day pass or annual pass is necessary for 47 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. In many parks failure to display a valid pass will incur an on-the-spot \$100 fine. Day passes can be purchased from the Entrance Station when open, or the pay and display machines that take exact money (\$11 or \$7 for most Birding NSW outings), or a credit card.

A safer alternative if you visit national parks regularly is to obtain an Annual Pass. When you pay online for an annual pass ask for a reminder when it is due for renewal.

Members in doubt are encouraged to make their own enquiries and arrangements when visiting a national park.

FEES AT CAMPOUTS

A camping fee may be applicable at some campsites.

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.

SAFETY

It is a condition of attendance at Club outings or Club campouts that those wishing to leave early should ensure that the leader is aware of their intention.

PETS

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

SECURITY

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

NESTLINGS' OUTINGS

These half-day outings are a combined enterprise of Birding NSW and the Cumberland Bird Observers' Club. They are specially designed to introduce children from 5 to 12 years of age to bird watching. An adult must accompany the children.

CENTRAL COAST OUTINGS

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

HEALTH AND SAFETY

As from New Year's Day 2012, The New South Wales State Government has spread the requirement for formal Health and Safety procedures, designed for employers, to social and voluntary societies, which have ANY paid employees. Our Insurers, in this vein, require us to record policy for our officers and members – even though we are currently outside the scope of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (WHS).

Birding NSW resists introducing very formal procedures into its activities, except to continue our practice of asking all participants to sign the attendance register at each meeting and outing, to signify that one attends at one's own risk and will refrain from any behaviour which might put oneself or others at risk.

For new Club members—bring morning tea, lunch and a chair.

DECEMBER

Tuesday 3 December Club Meeting: The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. Annual General Meeting and Arnold McGill Memorial Lecture. 'Ring of Fire—Seabirds and Volcanoes in the Kuril Islands', speaker: Alan Rogers. Followed by the Club Christmas party. Please bring finger food to share.

Wednesday 4 December Central Coast Half-day Outing: Swansea. Meet at 8.30 am Coon Island Picnic Area. Leaders: John and Carole Carpenter 02 4352 1060

Saturday 7 December Christmas Outing: Scheyville and Mitchell Park. **NB:** The meeting site for this outing

has changed. Meet at 8:30 am at the corner of Whitmore and Pitt Town Dural Roads, Maraylya. Flat but sometimes uneven walking tracks. Bring along some food to share for Christmas picnic lunch in the first picnic area in Mitchell Park at about 12.30 pm. Leaders: Tom and Elisabeth Karplus 9816 2285, or 0421 665 553

Saturday 14 December Central Coast Christmas Outing and Break-up: Mardi and Tuggerah. Meet at 7.30 am at Murrumbung Homestead, 37 The Valley Way, Mardi for an early morning walk. Morning tea at 10.00 am. At 10.30 am move to Central Coast Wetlands. Return at 12.30 pm to Murrumbung Homestead for BBQ Christmas Lunch and break-up (BYO meat and drinks). Leaders: John and Carole Carpenter 02 4352 1060

Club Campout – Christmas Day 2013 to New Year 2014: - Barrington Tops National Park.

The campsite is at Horse Swamp in Polblue Crown Reserve. While travel from Gloucester is possible, the route via Aberdeen, Gundy and Moonan Flat is recommended if travelling from Sydney. About two kilometres from the dingo fence on the road from Scone to Gloucester, turn left into Tubrabucca Road immediately before a pine plantation. The campsite is a public area so there could be other campers present. Camp fees apply. Campfires are permitted providing that there is not a total fire ban. Bring everything that you need including garbage bags and water. It can be very cold so bring warm clothing. The closest petrol is at Moonan Flat so ensure that you have plenty of fuel. Leader: Allan Richards 9660 8062

2014**JANUARY**

Saturday 11 January Club Outing: Warriewood Wetlands and Long Reef. Meet at 8.30 am at Katoa Close, Warriewood. Mostly walking along flat paths and tracks towards the end of Irrawong Reserve. Leader: Trevor Waller 0467 977 508

Saturday 18 January Club Outing: Centennial Park. Meet at 8.30 am in Dickens Drive, Centennial Park, near The Learning Centre. An introductory survey of various sites throughout the park followed by general bird watching within the park. Leader: Allan Richards 9660 8062 or 0432 064 660

Club Campout–Australia Day Long Weekend 25–27 January: Coolah Tops National Park. A campout has been arranged over the long weekend at Coolah Tops National Park. Temperatures will be pleasant because of the high altitude and nights will be cool for sleeping. Please note that the access road is steep and could be rough if it has not been graded recently. Many of the roads within the park are closed during wet weather. Access to the main camping area at The Barracks is suitable for all vehicles with care. Turn off the Coolah-Merriwa Road about four km east of Coolah then travel about 20 km to the park. Bring everything that you need including drinking water. There is a pit-toilet at the campsite. Leader: Allan Richards 9660 8062

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

Wednesday 29 January Midweek Outing: Scheyville NP and Longneck Lagoon. Meet at 9.00 am at the corner of Pitt Town Dural Road and Whitmore Road. Lunch at cars. Leader: Carol Abbott 0414 312 538 or 9980 1201.

FEBRUARY

Saturday 1 February Central Coast Outing: 'Breakfast with the Birds' at Pioneer Dairy, Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah at **7.30 am**. Cost \$5 per person. Birding in the Tuggerah/Chittaway area afterwards. Lunch at cars. Contact: Alan Morris 02 4334 2776

Tuesday 4 February Club Meeting: The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm, 'The Vocalisations of the Australian Pied Butcherbird', speaker: Hollis Taylor.

Saturday 8 February Club Outing: Colo River and Swallow Reach, Ebenezer. Meet at 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 15 February Club Outing: Bicentennial Park and Sydney Olympic Park. Meet at 8.00 am at Lake Belvedere, Bicentennial Park, parking area P10D. Proceed through the main gates, along the road past the Conference Centre until the lake is on your left-hand side. The parking area is on the right, just after crossing the bridge. Leader: Judy Harrington 9712 5904 or 0403 026 660.

Tuesday 25 February Central Coast Meeting: Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. 'Birding in the Northern Territory', speakers: John and Carole Carpenter.

Wednesday 26 February Midweek Outing: Narrabeen and Long Reef. Meet at 9.00 am at Jamieson Park at the end of Mactier Street (becomes The Esplanade). The actual time of the visit to Long Reef will be determined by tides and conditions on the day. Lunch at cars.

Leader: Elisabeth Karplus 9816 2285 or 0421 665 553

BIRDING NSW CHRISTMAS PARTY 3 DECEMBER 2013

The Christmas party will follow the address by the guest speaker, Alan Rogers.

The Christmas Party in 2012 was a resounding success where members attending brought food to share. Without any direction the range across savoury and sweet was balanced and the amount seemed just right.

Please bring a small plate of finger food to share.

FEBRUARY TALK

The Vocalisations of the Australian Pied Butcherbird

Speaker: Hollis Taylor

*Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow,
University of Technology, Sydney*

This talk summarises through photos, audio, and video my ongoing eight-year research into the vocalisations of the Pied Butcherbird. I believe this species could revolutionise the way we think about birdsong, human exceptionalism, and the core values of music. As a field musicologist, I spend months each year in the outback recording songs and chronicling their musical activities. The success of this extraordinary species in creating a musical culture with significant overlaps with human music (including some features thought unique to human music) has provoked me to reconsider an old question: Is birdsong music?

A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership renewals were due on 30 September 2013. If you are one of the people who have forgotten and plan to stay a member please renew now.

You can download a renewal form from the website and fill it in if you have any changes of email, address etc. Otherwise renew by sending a cheque to the PO Box address or pay using direct deposit. Just use your surname and membership number as a reference so that the deposit can be traced to you!

Banking details are on the membership form available on the website.

Financial members will receive the February 2014 newsletter.

Financial online members will receive the new password for 2014 with the notification that the newsletter is available on the website.

Adrian Nieuwenhuizen
Membership Secretary – Birding NSW

HOSTING VISITORS

Occasionally birdwatchers (usually from overseas but some from within Australia) visiting Sydney contact the Club via the activities email in the hope of joining a Club outing. Birding NSW welcomes visitors on any Club activity but they usually require transport. The outing leader is sometimes able to pick up a visitor but not always. Visitors mostly stay in the CBD but sometimes with family or friends in the suburbs so you may be able to assist even if you can't collect them from the CBD.

Other times they ask whether a Club member is available to take them out for a day of bird watching around Sydney. The visitors are mostly very generous and offer money for fuel and pay for lunch.

We are sure there are others out there who would be willing to help these visitors so we propose to compile a list of those members. Then when a request comes in the visitors' requirements and contact details can be circulated to those who may wish to drive them to and from an activity or to accompany them bird watching.

As the recipient of most of the inquiries, Allan Richards as the Activities Officer will maintain the list and circulate the requests. All correspondence will remain confidential.

Please contact the Activities Officer by telephone or by email at activities@birdingnsw.org.au if you are able to assist our visitors or have any enquiries about this service.

BIRD-WATCHING PELAGIC TRIPS

Sydney Pelagic Trips There have been some changes - there will be no trip in December 2013 or January 2014—tours for 2014 are planned to commence in February. For further information please contact Hal Epstein by phone 0411 311 236 or by email hepstein@bigpond.net.au or Roger McGovern on 9953 3484 or by email roglou@bigpond.net.au

Wollongong Pelagic Trips depart on the 4th Saturday of each month. To make a booking on a SOSSA Wollongong pelagic trip, contact Lindsay or Janice of SOSSA by phone: 02 4272 4626 or email: sossa@tpg.com.au or visit the website: www.sossa-international.org <http://www.sossa-international.org>

Port Stephens Pelagic Trips are arranged sporadically throughout the year, with usually about ten trips including two trips held in the peak months of March, April and October. Additionally occasional trips out of Swansea, south of Newcastle, are also being organised. For enquiries or bookings contact Mick Roderick by mobile: 0421 761 237 or email: mickhhb@yahoo.com.au

CONSERVATION NEWS

IMPORTANT BIRD AREA SURVEY AROUND GRENFELL IN OCTOBER 2013

Elisabeth Karplus

Bird surveys by Birding NSW around Grenfell commenced in October 2011. Our fifth survey took place on 12 October 2013. Sixteen surveyors from Birding NSW and Dubbo Field Naturalists joined with four surveyors from Grenfell for the survey. Divided into five groups, we surveyed 24 sites, including eight sites on private land. My thanks go to Ted Nixon, Jill Molan, Coleen Southall and Allan Richards, who led groups. As expected the spring survey provided more species than the autumn survey with 75 species recorded, compared with 51 species in the April 2013 survey and 76 species in the Spring 2012. Superb Parrots, one of the four key species, were seen on six survey sites including two on private land during the 20-minute surveys. The maximum number at any site was seven birds. In addition Superb Parrots were seen on three sites but outside the survey time and at one place, which is not a survey site. Two additional sightings were on private land. Superb Parrots were seen on three of the Bird Routes of Weddin Shire (Dodds Lane, Abbott's Lane, Holy Camp Road). Two Diamond Firetails were seen at one site. There were no sightings of the other key species (Swift Parrot, Painted Honeyeater). Other important woodland birds seen or heard, though not necessarily in survey times or on survey sites, were Turquoise Parrots, a Barking Owl, Brown Treecreepers, Speckled Warblers, Grey-crowned Babblers, Varied Sittellas, Flame Robins and Hooded Robins. The number of birds seen per site varied between four and 18. We added 12 species including Australian Hobby, Cockatiel and Black-faced Woodswallow to our species list for Grenfell (not just survey sites) to reach a total of 120 species.

On Saturday evening the surveyors met for a barbecue at Mikla and Wayne's place on Holy Camp Road. This proved

to be a lovely evening of good food and good conversation. We all cooked our steaks and sausages on Wayne's barbecue, which was placed in a grove of trees and shrubs planted by Mikla. On Sunday morning eight people from Grenfell met seven people from Sydney and Dubbo for a two-hour walk around Company Dam. Once among the trees around the dam, we were not troubled by the wind and saw a good range of bird species. Highlights were Speckled Warblers and three species of Thornbills seen together (Chestnut-rumped, Buff-rumped and Yellow-rumped). We saw or heard 30 species. We took so long with the walk that there was no time for morning tea!

The next IBA survey will take place on 29 March 2014. We hope that our existing volunteers and new volunteers will take part in the next survey. In particular we hope that more people from Grenfell will join us on the surveys. Please contact Allan Richards (activities@birdingnsw.org.au) or me (emhodson@exemail.com.au) if you are not already on our contact list and would like details of the next survey.

PROTECTING THE GARDENS OF STONE

Judith Nancarrow

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has recommended that the Coalpac Consolidation Project near Lithgow should not be approved in its current form. The Planning and Assessment Commission Panel (PAC) earlier rejected the same mining proposal. Now the final stage is another review by PAC with different panel members. Dare we be cautiously optimistic that the western gateway to the Gardens of Stone NP will be protected from open cut mining?

31ST ANNUAL BIRDING NSW PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners:

GRAND PRIZE: Alfred Schulte - Photograph of *Baudin's Black-Cockatoo*. Prize: A trip of the winner's choice donated by Outback Track Tours.

SECOND PRIZE: Michael Hanvey - Photograph of an *Eastern Spinebill*. Prize: An Outback Track Tours Easter Camping Trip.

SINGLE BIRD PRIZE: Colette Livermore - Photograph of a *Greenshank*. Prize: \$250

IN FLIGHT PRIZE: Eric Yan - Photograph of a *Spotted Harrier*. Prize: \$250

GROUP OF BIRDS PRIZE: Jodi Webber - Photograph of a pair of *Laughing Kookaburras*. Prize: \$250

MEMBER'S CHOICE AWARD: Eric Yan - Photograph of a *Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo*. Prize: \$200

We thank Charlie Andrews for coordinating the group of judges and compering the proceedings on the night. He showed all 167 entries in the 2013 Photographic Competition. The audience voted for their favourite before the prize winning photographs, chosen by the three judges, David Stowe, Adrian O'Neill, and Charlie Andrews, were shown and at the same time the names of the winning photographers were announced. The winning photographers in the audience were presented with a certificate as well as a cheque if applicable. Birding NSW is grateful for David, Adrian and Charlie again giving of their time and expertise to judge the competition for a fourth year. Special thanks go to Adrian for gathering the entries and putting them all on disk and after the competition forwarding selected photographs to Peter Deigutis who uploads them onto the website. Thanks to Peter you can now view the winning photographs on the Birding NSW website.

We would also like to thank Mark and Sarah Wardrop of Outback Track Tours for again generously providing the Grand Prize and Easter Prize.

CENTENNIAL PARK IS 125 YEARS OLD

Allan Richards

This year marks the 125th anniversary of Centennial Park in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney. As part of the commemorations, a bird challenge has been organised to see if 125 species can be seen throughout the year. A diligent group of people who visit the park regularly have so far seen 89 species. The year is coming to a close and maybe you are able to add to the list of birds sighted during 2013. If so, please report your sighting to the Club Activities Officer at: activities@birdingsw.org.au

The list so far can be viewed by searching for Bird Challenge on the Centennial Park website.

http://www.centennialparklands.com.au/whatson/centennial_park_125th_anniversary/125_birds_challenge



Barn Owl sighting and photograph by Daphne Gonzalvez 15 June 2013.

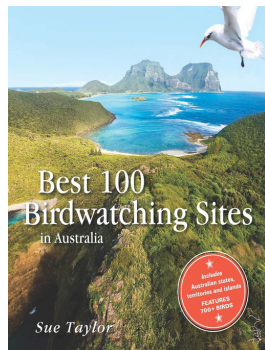
BOOK REVIEWS

Best 100 Birdwatching Sites In Australia

By Sue Taylor
paperback \$39.99)

This beautifully presented mid-size paperback of 220 pages is magnificently illustrated with a wealth of information. Each double page describes the better birds likely to be seen at each location with several accompanying photographs. Coverage includes offshore spots such as Christmas, Macquarie, Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands while the continental sites vary from Broome as number one Birding spot to Alice Springs Sewage Ponds as number 100. There is no overall map to help you find the right place, but there is always a description to get you there. There are 700 birds described and the Index and Bibliography are extensive.

It is an ambitious project with magnificent photographs; some of the best by our own Club members Alfred Schulte and Neville Lazarus. It is a Twitcher's Bucket List and really will encourage us to visit as many of these famous spots as we can before the bucket gets kicked. It will also provide food for thought in producing your own priority list once you've been everywhere!



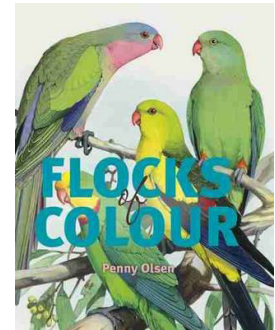
Philip Brook.

Flocks of Colour

Penny Olsen (flexi back
216pp)

Australia's avifauna is distinguished by many beautiful birds, and particularly by our glorious parrots. This splendid book draws on the National

Library's collection and features images of all the Australian parrots (living and extinct), treating the illustrations in a historical context. Often the plates depict the first known illustration of a species, and it is fascinating to see the development of the art of natural history. From early paintings of amateurs which try to catch the colours but are stiffly posed, to the highly detailed and naturalistic depictions from living specimens set in context of their habitats, this book is a joy to look through. Artists include First Fleeter John Hunter, John and Elizabeth Gould, Edward Lear, E E Gostelow, the Caley's, Ferdinand Bauer, Henry Richter, and (my favourite) William Cooper. Accompanied by a foreword from Joseph Forshaw, and with engaging essays and captions from one of our most recognised natural history and science writers, Penny Olsen, this delightful book combines art and birding beautifully!



Lindy Jones

TWITCHATHON 2013

Report from the *Champagne Shrike-tits*

Elisabeth Karplus

The annual BirdLife Southern NSW Twitchathon was run by Alan Morris and Frances Czwalinna in 2013. Each year birders can enter either the Main Race or the Champagne Race – the latter for people who prefer to sleep at night, like to take breaks for meals and to finish the day with champagne. Each team sets out to see as many bird species as possible in 24 hours from 4 pm on Saturday 26th October to 4 pm on Sunday 27th October. More than 50% of the members of each team must see or hear each bird before it can be counted. Winners get great prizes. However the main idea is to raise as much sponsorship money as possible. In 2012, \$31 200 was raised for the Powerful Owl Project. The Twitchathon 2013 aims to raise a similar amount to allow a third year of observations by community members of Powerful Owls to gain more information about these huge owls.

Our core team of Philip Brook, Tom and Elisabeth Karplus has now taken part in 10 Twitchathons starting in 2000. Our score has increased from 100 in 2000 to 131 in 2011; 2012 was a poor year with only 122 species recorded. This year Dorothy Price joined us. Our team spends more time planning the food and drink for the day than the actual birding – our birding route in 2013 was unchanged from that in 2011 and 2012 though we discussed other routes at some length because of the bushfires. At 4 pm on Saturday we were at the Discovery Centre at Sydney Olympic Park, where Judy Harrington had her scope on a Tawny Frogmouth – our first bird for the race. For the previous three years we had been able to count the Tawny Frogmouth nesting near us in Hunters Hill but the nest tree was felled this year! We spent the remaining daylight hours in Sydney Olympic Park finding Little Grassbirds at the Northern Water Feature (alas no Baillon's Crake or Latham's Snipe as I had seen earlier in the week), Red-necked Avocets, Royal Spoonbills and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at the Waterbird Refuge, Buff-banded Rail and Brown Quail at Wentworth Common and all the water birds at Lake Belvedere. By dark our score was 60 species.

On Sunday, we met up at the beginning of Boundary Road on the way to Maraylya. There were lots of

birds to hear and see along this road so we added White-bellied Sea-Eagle seen flying over a dam, White-winged Triller, Sacred Kingfisher and Restless Flycatcher among others – nothing rare but all important for our score. Along Pitt Town-Dural Road and in Scheyville National Park, there were Crested Shrike-tits, nesting Jacky Winter, three species of Woodswallows, Scarlet Honeyeaters, Leaden Flycatchers and White-throated Gerygones and at Long Neck Lagoon we found a pair of Common Bronzewings and a Shining Bronze-Cuckoo. At Mitchell Park we added Dollarbirds, Pallid Cuckoo and Variegated Fairy-wren. By then it was time for the 30 minute obligatory break for morning tea and Dorothy's fruit cake. Our next stop was Pitt Town Lagoon where we added several species including the Ruff and a Pectoral Sandpiper, which were being seen regularly there. We failed to see but did hear the Painted Honeyeater, which a few lucky birders had recorded there. The compulsory one-hour stop for lunch, when we are not allowed to 'actively' look for birds, was spent at Pitt Town. By then our score was 130 species. The final hour of the day was spent driving around Cornwallis and other roads between Windsor and Richmond where we picked up a further five species including 12 Banded Lapwings. Our final bird for the day was a White-necked Heron.

Tired but triumphant after achieving a personal best score of 135 species, we drank sparkling wine and ate nibbles at Pugh's Lagoon at Richmond to finish the day. Next year we will have French Champagne after seeing even more bird species!

After all the donations from people at the Birding NSW Meeting on 5 November, the total raised for the Twitchathon from sponsors was \$1926.00. This represents the great generosity of Birding NSW members, Cumberland Bird Observers Club members, some friends of Dorothy's and a number of my colleagues at work. I thank everyone who has contributed to the Twitchathon in general and to our team in particular. All being well we will be going around again in 2014 and anyone is welcome to join our team or to form their own team and join the Twitchathon.

BIRDING IN BRAZIL

Elisabeth Karplus

Tom organised a 14-day birding tour for eight (Allan Richards, Chris Gladwin, Trevor Waller and Margaret Piper, and Carol and Peter Abbott, in addition to ourselves) to the Mato Grosso state of Brazil in late August 2013 through Wings Birdwatching Tours. We met our leader, Rich Hoyer, in Cuiabá, the capital of the state. Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world (after Russia, China, Canada and the USA). Its 8.5 million square kilometres occupy almost half of South America. It has borders with all countries in South America except Chile and Ecuador. With a population of 202 million, it is also the fifth most populous country in the world. Most people live along the east coast, particularly in and around Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Mato Grosso is in the west of the country bordering Bolivia. To the north, Mato Grosso borders the Amazonian states of Amazonas and Pará. Much of the vegetation in Mato Grosso has been cleared for intensive farming of cereal crops and for cattle ranches, but important areas of forest remain in the north while the Pantanal lies to the south-west of Cuiabá.

Due to a series of cold fronts, the weather on our trip overall was about 10⁰ Celsius lower than usual, which was a bit chilly early on, but better in the Amazonian forest. Only one morning of rain at Cristalino Jungle Lodge slowed our birding.

We left Cuiabá immediately for the two-hour drive northeast to the Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Guimarães. En route we lunched at a typical self-service buffet restaurant, where the cost was determined by weighing the plate of food. We stayed in the park at the Pousada do Parque. In the garden we saw some common birds including the Rufous Hornero, which builds intricate mud nests, Rufous-bellied Thrush (Brazil's national bird) and Peach-fronted Parakeets. The next day birding was curtailed by cold weather with strong winds and temperatures around 9° Celsius. Nevertheless in nearby Cerrado (open savannah with small trees and shrubs) we saw White-rumped and White-banded Tanagers and a Chapada Flycatcher. Later we drove through extensive cleared land including a huge area of cotton. In the scrub we got our first views of Greater Rheas (similar to Emus) and Red-legged Seriemas. The highlight in a small patch of Cerrado was a Collared Crescentchest, a small bird, which is one of only four members of its family. It sang from the top of a small bush giving us particularly good views, thanks to Rich. The following morning in continuing very cold weather, we visited the Veu-de-Noiva waterfall where White-collared and Great Dusky Swifts roosted behind the waterfall. Several brightly coloured Swallow Tanagers seemed anchored to the branches by the strong wind and Blue-winged Macaws perched on the cliff.

We left the Chapada dos Guimarães to travel to the Pantanal and warmer weather. The Pantanal is a vast alluvial plain

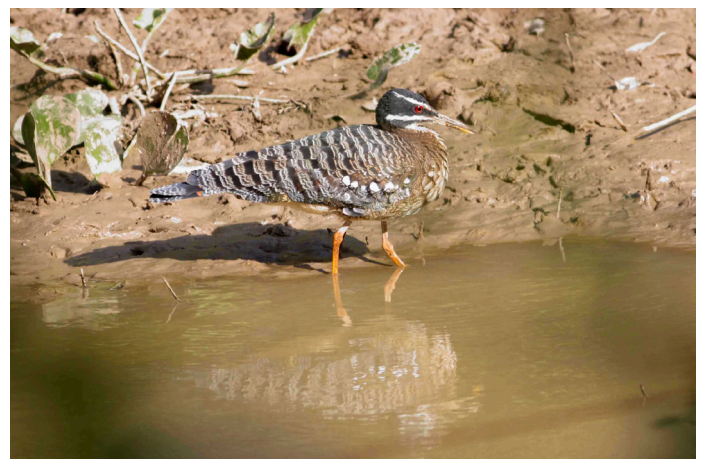


Typical Pantanal habitat with Cayman & Jabiru. Photo: Carol Abbott

covering 210 000 square kilometres; 100 000 of which are in Bolivia and Paraguay with the rest in the Brazilian states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul. The area is largely inaccessible during the rainy season from November to March. This has limited farming to small ranches. During the dry season, the northern part of the Pantanal is accessed via the Transpantaneira, 145 kilometres of dirt road from Poconé to Porto Jofre on the Rio Cuiabá.

There are 125 wooden bridges on the road in varying states of (dis)repair – we bypassed several of them on side tracks. The birdwatching was particularly exciting, with close views of many birds including Southern Screamers, Jabirus, Rufescent Tiger-Herons, Whistling and Capped Herons, Sunbitterns and very tame Grey-necked Wood-Rails. Sunbitterns were common – when they fly, the brilliant red and yellow pattern of their wings becomes obvious. As well as water birds, large numbers of Yacare and Spectacled Caiman were lying on the banks of small water holes.

After an overnight stay at Pouso Alegre, we travelled on to Porto Jofre for one night on the Flotel (a houseboat) moored



Sunbittern. Photo: Trevor Waller



Jaguar. Photo: Carol Abbott

on the river. Further up river, we were lucky to see Jaguars on the river bank and Giant Otters. The boats huddled around the Jaguars reminded me of game drives in Africa.

There were birds to see, including a Great Antshrike and the uncommon Crane Hawk. A pair of Mato Grosso Antbirds was enticed out of dense cover by Rich's play back of the call. We returned to Pouso Alegre for two nights. Pouso Alegre is a 6000-hectare cattle ranch as well as a lodge. We were struck by the tameness of both animals and birds – two Crab-eating Foxes walked between the dining area and our accommodation, while South American Coati and Azara's Agouti wandered around the grounds. A pair of endangered Hyacinth Macaws nested in one tree and early one morning we saw eight Hyacinth Macaws perched.

A pair of Great Rufous Woodcreepers disputed a dead tree with several White Woodpeckers, a Crimson-crested Woodpecker drummed beside his nest hole, while Red-billed Scythebills and Narrow-billed Woodcreepers searched for grubs in the trees and fence posts like treecreepers. Other highlights in day and night walks around the property were Mottled, Black-banded and Great Horned Owls, a Great Potoo (these look like frogmouths but are unrelated) and Yellow-chevroned Parakeets, which were chewing the pink blossoms of a *Tabeouia* tree.

We drove back to Cuiabá for the 90-minute flight to Alta Floresta in the north of Mato Grosso. Near the hotel there is a small patch of forest where Harpy Eagles have nested since 2005 - alas there was no sign of the birds on our visit. Nearby we saw Blue-and-yellow Macaws and a Red-fan Parrot. The next day we journeyed to Cristalino Jungle Lodge on the Rio Cristalino, where we spent six nights. En route we stopped first at a small pond where Rich persuaded a pair



Hyacinth Macaw. Photo: Carol Abbott

of Russet-crowned Crakes into the open, then at a grove of Moriche Palms, where we saw a Point-tailed Palmcreeper and finally in forest, where we saw an Amazonian Pygmy Owl and a Glossy Antshrike among other birds. There were several Burrowing Owls perched on termite mounds along the way.

Cristalino Jungle Lodge is on a 6000 hectare Private Conservation Reserve created to protect an area of great biodiversity; it has a bird list of over 600 species. It is adjacent to protected forests to the north but threatened from the south and east by clearing for farmland. The lodge was reached by a 25-minute boat trip; we crossed the Rio Teles Pires (which flows north to join the Rio Tapajós, a tributary of the Rio Amazonas) to enter the Rio Cristalino.

On each day we birded along the well-kept trails reached directly from the Lodge or by short boat rides. Seeing birds was very difficult with long periods of standing and waiting. Rich identified the calls of the antbirds, antshrikes, antwrens and other birds in the flocks and then used playback to bring one or more species close enough for us to see. These flocks were accompanied by woodcreepers and a variety of flycatchers. We were particularly pleased to see the Bare-eyed Antbird, which is endemic to the region. On several trails were huge Castanheiras (Brazil nut trees). On two mornings we climbed up the 50 metre-high towers to watch canopy birds. From one tower we watched seven brilliantly coloured Spangled Cotinga, two species of Aracari (small toucans) and Black-girdled Barbets feeding on berries. Meanwhile Chris Gladwin was scanning all the trees – a call from him had us all running to the telescope to see the Harpy Eagle he had identified in a far tree. These huge eagles eat monkeys.

Twice we were lucky to see Dark-winged Trumpeters, which are shy, small, forest crane-like birds and follow ant swarms. Some of us got photographs of these elusive birds. On one morning we climbed up to a granite outcrop, where different birds including Striolated and Pied Puffbirds live in deciduous forest. There were lots of birds to be seen around the Lodge including an American Pygmy Kingfisher, an Amazonian Umbrellabird, three species of Aracari and roosting Crested Owl, Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl and Blackish Nightjars. We learnt that having two species of roosting owl at Cristalino Jungle Lodge was quite exceptional and that most people do not see owls there. Everywhere there were brightly coloured butterflies. On one boat ride Chris, Tom and Rich saw a Tapir. The 14-day tour ended back in Cuiabá.

Everywhere the accommodation was comfortable if basic, with good bathroom facilities. Cristalino Jungle Lodge adheres to

sustainable principles as much as possible using solar energy, local timbers and an Australian-designed biodegradable system for waste. There a generator powered the lights and ceiling fans for short periods in the middle of the day and in the evenings. The main meals at all lodges were served buffet-style and comprised several different vegetable dishes including rice, beans and manioc and one or two meat or fish dishes followed by a rich pudding such as caramelised bananas. The food was particularly good at Cristalino Jungle Lodge, which has its own farm close to the Rio Teles Pires. Once the cold front had passed we had hot, humid and generally sunny weather with evening and night thunderstorms at Cristalino Jungle Lodge. We travelled to Cuiabá via Santiago, Chile and Sao Paulo, Brazil. If you would like to know more about the places we visited and the birds we saw, please contact me at emhodson@exemail.com.au

SOUTH TACOMA AND CENTRAL COAST WETLANDS HALF-DAY OUTING

4 September 2013

John and Carole Carpenter

There were 12 keen birders as we started on our walk through the Casuarinas to the end of South Tacoma Point. Three latecomers then joined us, two who had not read the directions correctly—no names mentioned. It was a lovely sunny spring day and the 47 species found on the walk were busy calling and feeding so we had great views of both bush and waterbirds. We observed Scarlet and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebills, Olive-backed Orioles, Figbirds, Golden Whistlers, Australian King-Parrot and Brown and Yellow Thornbills. Both Fan-tailed and Shining Bronze-Cuckoos were calling and we were eventually able to track down the latter as a pair of them flew around us on the track. At the point a tight group of about 30 pelicans were in a feeding frenzy. Circling about them were Crested, Caspian and Whiskered Terns along with Silver Gulls. On the Lake were Great and Little Egrets, Black-winged Stilts and a Whistling Kite patrolled above. There was a raft of Black Swans stretching from Chittaway Bay towards the Entrance and John gave up counting after 300! Both Wyong River and Tuggerah Lakes were picturesquely calm with wonderful reflections.

We drove back along the South Tacoma Road to the eastern end of Tuggerah Nature Reserve where we added Noisy Friarbird, White-throated Treecreeper, Eastern Yellow Robin, Lewin's Honeyeater, Brown Gerygone, Spotted Pardalote, beautifully coloured Variegated Fairy-wrens and Bar-shouldered Doves with their persistent calling. Along the river as elsewhere on the Central Coast at

that time were many Eurasian Coots. We had morning tea on the verandah of the restored Dairy Cottage, at the Central Coast Wetlands.

Our first walk there was to the Dairy Swamp, always a draw card, where we saw the usual waterbirds including Hardhead, five Australasian Shovelers, Royal Spoonbill, and Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterels feeding on the mudflats with Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. Amongst the Sharpies was an unusual bird, so after much discussion, checking field guides and taking photos, we decided that we had a Pectoral Sandpiper. The main distinguishing features being its upright stance, its yellow legs and yellow base to the bill, and a clear curved demarcation line between the breast markings and the white belly. Overhead we had a Brown Goshawk and White-breasted Woodswallows.

Diana Hogan showed us a Masked Lapwing's nest with four eggs in the stones on the new parking area, as we took the walk around the Pioneer Creek constructed wetlands. As we passed the Hannan's shed we had good views of a pair of Nankeen Kestrels. We had our lunch at the new picnic tables, which gave us great views to wetlands on both sides. Our half-day outing was to have finished there but we decided to have a quick look into the McPherson Road Swamp, and we were rewarded with Freckled Ducks, White Ibis and Red-whiskered Bulbuls as our last birds for the day. Our final tally for the outing was 81 species.

OUTING WARRIEWOOD WETLANDS, IRRAWONG RESERVE AND JAMIESON PARK

14 September 2013

Coleen Southall

On an overcast morning five members set off into the wetlands as Rainbow Lorikeets flew overhead. From the bridge we saw an Australasian Darter then on the path walking towards the boardwalk we had a flock of Red-browed Finches. From the boardwalk we observed a Great Egret, Eurasian Coot, Northern Mallard, Dusky Moorhen, Purple Swamphen and a Pacific Black Duck with four ducklings plus Chestnut Teal. Further along we found Varied Sitellas, Superb Fairy-wrens and very active Eastern Whipbirds.

At the water control ponds we saw an Australasian Grebe, Hardheads, a Reed Warbler and Welcome Swallows.

In Irrawong Reserve we found Brown Gerygone, Variegated Fairy-wren Spotted Pardalote, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-

faced Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin, Silvereye and a Superb Lyrebird at the side of the track. There were Galahs, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Red-whiskered Bulbuls.

We had lunch at Jamieson Park and then had a leisurely stroll finding Little Pied, Pied, and Great Cormorants all together as well as Australian Pelican. We could hear Scarlet Honeyeaters and had an excellent view of two Fan-tailed Cuckoos courting. The Barking Owl was on a branch hanging over the track and certainly was the bird of the day. Across the lagoon we could see Several Black Swans and walking back we observed a pair of Australian King-Parrots. Fifty species were observed for the day.

CAMPOUT AT TOTTENHAM

20–22 September 2013

John and Carole Carpenter

Where is Tottenham you may ask? Many times this question was put to us. Tottenham is the town closest to the Geographical Centre of NSW. A local returned to Tuggerah after living at Tottenham for 20 years and told us that Tottenham was keen to have more visitors and we were therefore asked if we were interested in taking our bird group there so that is how it happened. It was suggested that we contact Gail, who runs the State Centre Caravan Park and she was most helpful with accommodation and generously offered our group a free BBQ meal as part of our stay. At our happy hour on Thursday night our small group of 13 birders had seen so many birds as they approached town and in the bushland across the road from the caravan park, that they were keen to have a bird call. Seventy-three species were recorded and the official start was not until the next day! Friday was to be an easy day after the hours of travelling to the Camp. We started the morning with 1.5 hours across the road in the bushland in the Railway Reserve and there were many birds to see like Splendid Fairy-wren, Jacky Winter, Rufous Whistler, Rufous Songlark, Peaceful and Bar-shouldered Doves, Grey-crowned Babblers, Striped, Spiny-cheeked and Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Yellow-throated Miners, Mallee Ringnecks and Blue Bonnets, Horsfield's Bronze and Black-eared Cuckoos, but the best find was four Black Honeyeaters. Gail provided morning tea back at the Caravan Park, which was a lovely surprise.



Black Honeyeater. Photo: Alfred Schulte

We then drove to the old town water supply dam, the Sewage Treatment Works and to another dam just out of town. Here we saw a Black-tailed Native-hen quickly running for cover, Hoary-headed and Little Grebes and Hardheads. In the bush were Common Bronzings, plenty of Western Gerygones, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills and a brightly coloured male Crimson Chat.

Lunch was back at the camp before driving out towards Landsdale and a visit to the cairn to mark the *Centre of NSW* and returning via one of the Nyngan roads. Here we added



Female and male Crimson Chat. Photo: Alfred Schulte

Red-capped Robin, had great views of numerous White-browed and a few Masked Woodswallows feeding low down on flowering Emu Bushes, *Eremophila longifolia*. Back at camp after our Birdcall of 70 species, Gail provided a most welcome meal of sausages, steak, potato bake and four salads.

On Saturday we had been invited, courtesy of Gail, onto *Avoca*, a property owned by Julie and Alan MacCrae near Albert. Along the way in a patch of mallee we found Golden Whistlers and White-eared Honeyeaters. Julie is particularly interested in birds and checks out their large dam every day. A few days earlier she had seen a Brolga and last summer, a Latham's Snipe, and was keen to see what we might find. Julie took us for a two-hour walk, which included paddocks and some bush as well as the dam. Here we saw both Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterels, Black Swans, Yellow-billed Spoonbills, Australasian Darter, Little Black Cormorant, 12 Hardheads and 44 Coots. A White-necked Heron, three Banded Lapwings and a pair of Major Mitchell Cockatoos flew over during the walk and there were plenty of White-winged Trillers, White-winged Choughs and Apostlebirds to see. 'Country Hospitality' came to the fore again and we were invited to morning tea served with luscious slices and cakes, leftovers from yesterday's Kitchen Tea! The MacCrae's garden was alive with birds, many busy building or sitting on nests. The Striped Honeyeater's nest was still under construction with wool from the woolshed but the Willie Wagtail, Magpie-lark and Crested Pigeons were already sitting. The Spotted Bowerbird visited the garden gathering pieces for his bower near the shed and White-breasted Woodswallows were flying overhead.

We managed to drag ourselves away after midday and head for Albert for fuel. We were pleased to see that there were not any giant rabbits to go with the giant rabbit trap on the roof of the hotel of that name! On the way to our lunch spot by

the Bogan River near Dandaloo we saw a Wedge-tailed Eagle and Inland Thornbills. Lunchtime birds included Grey Shrike-thrush, Brown Treecreeper and Wood Duck with ducklings. From here we travelled to Tabratong along the eastern side of the Bogan River and had great views of a Spotted Harrier flying low over the paddocks. Back to camp with 80 species for the day. Tea was at the golf club, friendly locals, meals and drinks good and reasonably priced.

Sunday was our Forest Day, visiting several State Forests (SF) within easy reach of Tottenham. We headed out towards Meryula SF; stopping first to check out some extensive stands of *Belah Allocasuarina cristata*, growing alongside the road. Here were Little Friarbirds, Mistletoebirds, a Wedge-tailed Eagle, an Australian Pelican flying and a flock of White-winged Trillers and Zebra

Finches. A special find was calling Painted Honeyeaters. We spent time in Meryula SF where White-browed and Masked Woodswallows were building nests, and a Little Eagle circled overhead. Morning tea was by the Bulbodney Creek with Cockatiel, Rufous Songlarks and Jacky Winters for company. Along the way to Talbratong SF near the Carbon Credit Plantations, there was much excitement when a Button-quail ran across the road but did not pause long enough to be identified! We lunched in Talbratong SF where Rufous Whistlers and Western Gerygones serenaded us.

The final forest for the day was Albert SF but no new birds were added to our list. We ventured into the grid south of Albert SF and found a group of birds feeding together which included Southern Whiteface, Double-barred Finches, and Chestnut-rumped and Yellow Thornbills, while a Sacred Kingfisher was seen here a few days before during a recce! Our birders were getting weary, as this was a hot day, as we headed back to camp we added a lone Little Pied Cormorant on the way, making 74 species for the day. Back at camp, Gail greeted us with lots of nibbles and a warm Tottenham special Pizza Dip. Most of us had trouble eating much for tea. The large area of bush across the road continued to produce new species for our list on a daily basis. It was so handy to check the birds out early each morning and afternoon, if you were not worn out! Special additions were Hooded Robin, Speckled Warbler, White-browed Babbler, Brown Goshawk and Collared Sparrowhawk, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Buff-rumped Thornbills and Zebra Finches. About 72 species were found in this area alone! Overall we had a very successful camp with a great group of people, some very weary towards the end but still smiling next morning. We visited 12 Atlas grids and recorded 110 species. Many thanks to you all and it was a pleasure to have you on Camp with us. We would recommend to everyone to visit Tottenham and enjoy the birding and the wonderful, generous Country Hospitality.

OUTING - KURNELL AND BOAT HARBOUR

25 September 2013

Ann Pritchard

On a sunny morning, promising to get very warm, 14 members and an English visitor met at Bonna Point. As the council had dug up the car park and the loo we had quite a long walk round to the beach where the tide was up too high for many birds. There was only an Australian Pelican on a far-off post and a few Red Wattlebirds and a Willy Wagtail in the bush on the way round.

Next stop was Cape Solander—no whales but some Shearwaters (too far to identify) an Australasian Gannet and some Silver Gulls were seen. In the bush there were lots of calls but only New Holland Honeyeaters showed themselves.

We had lunch at a picnic area near the Visitors Centre and two Australian King-Parrots flew over. There was a Grey Butcherbird calling and some resident Crimson Rosellas and Australian Ravens looked for handouts. Walking down to check the rock platform Ted spied a Grey-tailed Tattler perched on a rock, which soon flew off but we followed and most people got good views of the bird.

High tide was midday so we made our way to Boat Harbour next. A few Superb Fairy-wrens and a Golden-headed Cisticola called, a Black-fronted Dotterel and an Australasian Pipit made a brief appearance on our walk round to the rock platform but it was too calm for many seabirds.

Once on the rocks at Boat Harbour we were rewarded with good views of approximately 50 Red-necked Stints, 10 Pacific Golden Plovers, eight Ruddy Turnstones, many Crested Terns, Silver Gulls, Little Pied and Black Cormorants and I was extremely pleased when an Eastern Osprey flew over. I had seen one on my recce the previous week but as I was on my own I was not too sure so this sighting was very welcome.

Having a couple of people with scopes was really helpful as was having so many experts to help with spotting and identifying. It was a great day with a total of 43 species. Thank you everyone for your help and company.

As well as Boat Harbour these three birds can also regularly be seen on or near the rock platform at Long Reef where these photographs were taken. Editor



Red-necked Stint. Photo: Alfred Schulte



Pacific Golden Plover. Photo: Alfred Schulte



Ruddy Turnstone. Photo: Alfred Schulte

HALF-DAY OUTING MATCHAM-HOLGATE

2 October 2013

Antoinette Walter

On a sparkling spring day 16 optimistic keen birders (barring a couple who just like to socialize!) gathered with leader Eileen Davy at the meeting site at Erina Heights. Several species seen at or around this area included soaring Australian Pelicans, Wood Ducks, Masked Lapwings, Rainbow Lorikeets hovering around a nesting hole in a gum tree, Cattle Egrets, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Grey Fantail, Grey Butcherbird, Spotted Pardalote, Eastern Whipbird and Grey Shrike-thrush.

We continued on to the Davy's lovely property in Wattle Tree Road Holgate, with its many colourful grevilleas, including the *Peaches and Cream* and many other native species as well as Salvias with an Eastern Spinebill dipping into the blossom along the driveway. The property is a rainforest retreat with its many rainforest trees and Cabbage Tree and Bangalow Palms. We immediately saw Australian King-Parrots, Golden Whistlers and Lewin's Honeyeaters. Overlooking the rainforest from the deck out the back, we had excellent views of male and female Spotted Pardalotes, which were seen carrying building material for their nest, which was located by John Carpenter, under the deck. At least four Bassian Thrushes were seen much to everyone's delight. We heard a Green Catbird as Eileen slowly led us down to the creek. Yellow-throated and White-browed Scrubwrens were seen, as well as Brown Gerygones and an Eastern Yellow Robin and a Channel-billed Cuckoo was heard. We then adjourned for morning tea, and really enjoyed Eileen's delicious Pumpkin Fruit Cake. Eileen then led us to an adjoining neighbour's property where we had an exciting scramble under palm trees, complete with all the debris and leeches underfoot, down to the creek. Here we observed the unusual nest of the



Spotted Pardalote. Photo: Michael Hanvey

Yellow-throated Scrubwren hanging over the creek and saw the Black-faced Monarch, Large-billed Scrubwren and White-throated Treecreeper, while Wonga Pigeons called continuously. As we made our return to the Davy's house, Alan spied a Brown Thornbill flying away from its cleverly hidden nest in the bracken and grass and we watched its return as we retreated. Back at the homestead Silvereyes were heard along with Red-browed Finches, Bell Miner, Olive-backed Orioles and Noisy Friarbirds, and a Brown Cuckoo-Dove and a Brush Turkey were seen. A pair of Sacred Kingfishers was seen up high on a dead tree. While having lunch Yellow-throated Scrubwrens were seen on the lawn and later two of the Bassian Thrushes were easily seen sunbathing with their wings outstretched. Many of the birders expressed how much they enjoyed the visit along with Warren and Eileen's hospitality. It was a successful morning with 43 species seen and heard.

SYDNEY PELAGIC TRIP SUMMARY

14 September 2013

Roger McGovern

We departed through the heads with 16 passengers on board, mostly locals but with a couple of overseas visitors. David started the berleying before we left the harbour and we immediately had throngs of Silver Gulls and a few Greater Crested Terns following the boat. As soon as we reached open water, Wedge-tailed Shearwaters joined the fray and, within 30 minutes or so, we had an immense following of perhaps 1000 hungry wedgies behind the boat. A few Australasian Gannets began to appear along with flocks of small shearwaters passing by, mostly

Fluttering but with a few Hutton's here and there. Numbers of albatross following the boat slowly increased, mostly Black-browed and some Shy (predominately juvenile White-capped form) and one or two Campbell Albatross. Only a few miles from the heads, we encountered our first two Humpback Whales of the day and, although the sea conditions were not conducive to whale watching, most people on board had very good views of them. A Southern Giant Petrel appeared and stayed with the boat for almost the entire journey out and back again. A group

of three Brown Skuas joined the mass of birds following the Halicat and the first of several Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross made an appearance. A small pod of Short-beaked Common Dolphins rode on our bow for a while giving some good photo opportunities and then David picked out a SALVIN'S ALBATROSS among the large numbers of birds following the boat. It seemed to disappear shortly after but was relocated just before we headed back to port.

As we approached the shelf break, Steve's sharp eyes picked up the first of several Antipodean Albatross—all of these wandering-type albatross were of the sub-species gibsoni. Pterodromas started to show in small numbers, initially only Providence Petrels and then a few Great-winged Petrels of the New Zealand race gouldi. The first of two Buller's Albatross arrived and was a life bird for several on board. Just before our early departure from the

shelf after the first berley drift, the only Fairy Prion of the day was seen—fortunately it approached quite closely giving everyone a good look at its ID features.

The journey back to Sydney did not bring any more new bird species for the day, but we saw more Humpback Whales and Short-beaked Common Dolphins along with an Australian Fur Seal that was pretending to be a dolphin by swimming with the boat for several minutes. A massive flock of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters was seen some distance to the north as we approached the heads and a brief view of a 'sea monster', which promptly disappeared, was thought to be an Oceanic Bottlenose Dolphin. Although the day was curtailed and several people experienced an uncomfortable journey, it was a day memorable for the constant throngs of birds around the boat for the entire trip.

BIRD LIST SYDNEY PELAGIC TRIP

Note that the numbers in parentheses represent the maximum number of that species in view at one time.

Antipodean Albatross	7	(3) all gibsoni	Fluttering Shearwater	200	(40)
Black-browed Albatross	80	(55)	Hutton's Shearwater	12	(2)
Campbell Albatross	4	(2)	Australasian Gannet	55	(25)
Shy Albatross	20	(7) mostly juvenile White-capped	Silver Gull	400	(300)
SALVIN'S ALBATROSS	1	(1) Immature, maybe second cycle	Greater Crested Tern	28	(10)
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	9	(3)	Brown Skua	6	(3)
Buller's Albatross	2	(1)	OTHER		
Southern Giant Petrel	1	(1)	Oceanic Bottlenose Dolphin	1	
Fairy Prion	1	(1)	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	25	
Great-winged Petrel	5	(2) all gouldi	Humpback Whale	6	
Providence Petrel	12	(3)	Australian Fur Seal	1	
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	1500	(1000)			

OUTING DHARUG NATIONAL PARK

12 October 2013

Trevor Waller

Margaret and I met Viv and Jan on the northern side of Wisemans Ferry and spent a good day birding together. We started with a short walk up the Old Great Northern Road where we had good views of a Rock Warbler as it crossed the road. Other birds found here included Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Pied Currawong and Spotted Pardalote. We were treated to a cuckoo chorus as we listened to Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Shining-Bronze-Cuckoo and Eastern Koel. When we arrived at the Mill Creek picnic area of Dharug National Park for morning tea we were greeted by two Bassian Thrushes as they foraged on the ground. Another cuckoo

added its voice to our cuckoo choir when we heard Brush Cuckoo calling. After morning tea we walked back along the road to the camping grounds. Along the way we had great views of a male Gang-gang Cockatoo. In the campgrounds we watched a male Leaden Flycatcher laying the foundations for a nest and saw a Wonga Pigeon. We had good views of a Superb Lyrebird as it scratched around in the leaf litter. After having lunch back at the picnic area we drove the short distance to Hazel Dell where we had a short walk before heading for the ferry.

SYDNEY PELAGIC TRIP OVERVIEW

12 October 2013

Roger McGovern

This was the first regular Sydney pelagic trip to operate without the Halicat and, after a very mixed bag of high winds from every different quarter of the compass over the past few days, we had some doubts whether the MV Lormar would deal with the possible high sea conditions that were forecasted. In the event, the pelagic gods allowed an unexpected abatement in the wind overnight on Friday and sea conditions were actually very acceptable for most of the day. A full boat of 21 passengers experienced a fairly typical October day off Sydney with large numbers of birds accompanying the boat for the entire trip and plenty of cetaceans to add to the spectacle.

There were very few surprises in the bird species list for the trip but a tern called as an Arctic Tern, which photographs subsequently showed as a Common Tern caused a lot of interest.

The birds that didn't appear were worth noting as we have gone the entire winter and first half of spring without a single record of Cape Petrel off Sydney and, from anecdotal evidence, they appear to have been absent or extremely scarce everywhere along the eastern seaboard this year. Other absent species normally seen in October included both giant petrels, Fairy Prions and Pomarine and Arctic Jaegers. Even numbers of Providence Petrels and Great-winged Petrels seem to be a lot lower this year than would be considered 'normal'.



Common Tern. Photo: David Mitford

We left the heads in reasonable seas of a metre or so at 7.40 am and arrived at the shelf break at about 11.15 am. Winds were light and northerly for most of the day but freshened later in the afternoon to make the last hour of the trip somewhat uncomfortable. Sea water temperatures ranged from 19.7 °C at the heads up to about 21.5 °C at the shelf break. We left the shelf at 12.15 pm to head back to Sydney and, with a stop to watch some spectacular humpback display, we arrived back at Rose Bay at 4.30 pm where Hal very kindly put on an al fresco wine and cheese party to give the Halicat era a fitting send off.

BIRD LIST SYDNEY PELAGIC TRIP

Note that the numbers in parentheses represent the maximum number of that species in view at one time.

Antipodean Albatross	1	(1)	Australasian Gannet	22	(4)
Black-browed Albatross	18	(6)	Silver Gull	90	(60)
Shy Albatross	36	(8) many juvenile NZ White-capped Albatross	Greater Crested Tern	6	(2)
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	1	(1)	Common Tern	1	(1)
Great-winged Petrel	8	(2)	Long-tailed Jaeger	2	(2)
Providence Petrel 6	(1)		OTHER		
Wedge-tailed Shearwater 250	(150)		Inshore Bottlenose Dolphin	40	
Sooty Shearwater	2	(1)	Oceanic bottlenose Dolphin	20	
Short-tailed Shearwater	400	(250)	Pantropical Spotted Dolphin	20	
Fluttering Shearwater	350	(250)	Humpback Whale	17	
Hutton's Shearwater	150	(70)	Southern Ocean Sunfish	1	
Wilson's Storm Petrel	30	(20)			

Birding NSW - NSW Field Ornithologists Club Incorporated
Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2013

The attached document contains extracts from Birding NSW's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013. A full copy of the financial statements was approved by the Committee and will be presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting on 3 December 2013. It is available on request from the Treasurer. The following Statements and notes have been omitted in this extract:

Statement of Cash Flows
 Note 1–Statement of Significant Accounting Policies
 Note 3–Details for cash assets on interest rates and institutions
 Note 4–Inventories
 Note 5–Property, Plant and Equipment
 Note 7–Notes to Statement of Cash Flows
 Statement by Members of the Committee

Birding NSW - NSW Field Ornithologists Club Incorporated
Income Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Revenue from sale of goods	417	771
Other revenues from operating activities	<u>21,408</u>	<u>21,862</u>
Total Revenue	2 (a) <u>21,825</u>	<u>22,633</u>
Purchase of inventories	1,342	210
Decrease (increase) in inventories	(1,008)	126
Administration expenses	2 (b) <u>19,551</u>	<u>22,184</u>
Operating surplus/(deficit) before income tax	1,940	113
Accumulated surplus at the beginning of the year	<u>61,913</u>	<u>61,800</u>
Accumulated surplus at the end of the year	<u><u>63,853</u></u>	<u><u>61,913</u></u>

There are no non-owner related changes in equity.

Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2013

	Note	2013	2012
		\$	\$
Current assets			
Cash	3	66,124	60,413
Sundry debtors		0	4,599
Inventories	4	<u>1,083</u>	<u>75</u>
Total current assets		<u>67,208</u>	<u>65,087</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	<u>191</u>	<u>1,107</u>
Total assets		<u>67,399</u>	<u>66,194</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables & Deferred Income	6	<u>3,546</u>	<u>4,281</u>
Total current liabilities		<u>3,546</u>	<u>4,281</u>
Net assets		<u>63,853</u>	<u>61,913</u>
Members' funds			
Accumulated surplus		<u><u>63,853</u></u>	<u><u>61,913</u></u>

Birding NSW - NSW Field Ornithologists Club Incorporated
Income and expenditure statement for the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Sale of goods	417	771
Less: Cost of goods sold		
Opening stock	75	201
Purchases	1,341	210
	<u>1,416</u>	<u>411</u>
Closing stock	(1,083)	(75)
	<u>333</u>	<u>336</u>
Gross profit/(loss) from trading	<u>83</u>	<u>435</u>
Other income		
Donations received	3,429	2,979
Other income and reimbursements	640	670
Members subscriptions	14,135	14,171
Interest	3,204	4,042
	<u>21,408</u>	<u>21,862</u>
Total income	<u>21,491</u>	<u>22,297</u>
Expenditure		
Newsletter	8,353	8,873
Insurance	3,605	3,453
Hire of plant, equipment and theatre	2,738	2,770
X-mas party & other meeting costs	1,064	949
Photo competition prizes	1,000	1000
Depreciation	916	1,008
Postage, Printing and stationery	779	802
Donations	395	-
Name Tags	376	-
Advertising (incl member brochures)	145	363
Website costs	109	1,554
Government and bank charges	51	49
Sundry expenses	20	225
Audit	-	800
Subscriptions	-	75
Telephone	-	15
	<u>19,551</u>	<u>22,184</u>
Operating surplus/(deficit) before income tax	<u>1,940</u>	<u>113</u>

THE BEST UNUSUAL RECORDS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, AUGUST-OCTOBER 2013
ALAN MORRIS, NIKOLAS HAASS & SIMON BLANCHFLOWER

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

Malleefowl	1	23/09/13	Lake Mungo (45 km N-W)	LW	Chris Hunter
King Quail	HC	02-04/09/13	Bellfrog Track Ash Island	H	Steven Edwards
Freckled Duck	460	12-25/08/13	Flat Rock Dam W Nowra (500 17/08)	I	Bob Rusk
Freckled Duck	26	27/08-11/09	Emerald Dwns GC Pt Macquarie	NC	Alan Morris
Freckled Duck	41	22/07-30/09	McPherson Rd Swamp Tuggerah	CC	Nick Carson
Freckled Duck	40	30/09/13	Pitt Town Ferry Rd Wilberforce	S	Keith Brandwood
Magpie Goose	10	07/09/13	South Moruya River Flats	SC	Megan Griffith
Cotton Pygmy-goose	AM	26/08-26/09	Lake Harrison Geneva–Kyogle	NC	Richard Alcorn
Australian Shelduck	2	07/09/13	Weraï	I	Lorne Johnson
Australasian Shoveler	46	01-20/08/13	Dairy Swp CCWetlands Tuggerah	CC	Alan Morris
Australasian Shoveler	40	13/08/13	Wilfords Swp Ulladulla	I	Bob Rusk
Pink-eared Duck	1000	03/09/13	Lawrence Egret Colony Wetland	NC	Greg Clancy
Pink-eared Duck	410	02/10/13	Muswellbrook STW	H	Mick Roderick
Brush Bronzewing	1	05/08/13	Irvines Rd Bellawongarah	I	Carla Jackett
Peaceful Dove	3	16/08/13	Coates Pk Cobbitty	S	Brendon Levot
Diamond Dove	13	21/07/13	Koorawatha (2 sites Spring Forest)	CT	Per Maret Vesk
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	11/09/13	Wallagoot	SC	D. Lambert
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	1	11-20/09/13	Pelican Point Pt Macquarie (rainforest)	NC	Tim Morris
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	1	26/09/13	South West Rocks	NC	Ken Shingleton
White-throated Nightjar	1	25/08/13	Gibraltar Reserve Grafton	NC	Simon Clayton
Spotted Nightjar	1	22/09/13	Nombinee NR (wheat paddock)	LW	Marc Anderson
Spotted Nightjar	1	27/09/13	Mt Ulamambri HSD Ulamambri	CS	Max Breckenridge
Owlet-Nightjar	1	11/10/13	Bundanoon	I	Lorne Johnson
Marbled Frogmouth	2HC	26/09/13	Wanganui Rd Wilsons Creek	NC	Steve Brooking
White-throated Needletail*	20	03/10/13	Sawtell	NC	Michael Cheers
Wandering Albatross	12	24/08/13	Wollongong pelagic	I	Brook Wylie
Wandering Albatross	2	14/09/13	Nambucca Heads (100 NM off)	NC	David Mitford
Northern Royal Albatross	1	24/08/13	Wollongong pelagic	I	Brook Wylie
White-bellied Storm-Petrel	2	14/09/13	South West Rocks (100 NM off)	NC	David Mitford
Buller's Albatross	1	10/08 & 14/09	Sydney pelagic	S	Roger McGovern
Buller's Abatross	2	24/08/13	Wollongong pelagic	I	Brook Wylie
Salvin's Albatross	1	14/09/13	Sydney pelagic	S	Roger McGovern
Northern Giant Petrel	1	04/09/13	Warden Head Ulladulla	I	Bob Rusk
Fairy Prion **	40	21/08/13	Off South West Rocks	NC	Laurie McInelly
White-headed Petrel	1	11/10/13	North Head Sydney Harbour NP	S	Michael Ronan
Wedge-tailed Shearwater *	1	10/08/13	Sydney pelagic	S	Roger McGovern
Little Shearwater	11	30/08/13	Balls Pyramid Lord Howe Is	LHI	Robert Hynson
Common Diving Petrel	1	24/08/13	Wollongong pelagic	I	Brook Wylie
Little Penguin	6	24/09/13	Broughton Island (coming ashore)	H	Alan Stuart
Black-necked Stork	2,2	30/09-01/10	Whittakers Lgn & Gwydir Wtlds	NP	Curtis Hayne
Australian Pelican	60J	10/10/13	Snake Is Wallis Lake (nesting)	H	Alan Stuart
White-necked Heron	2	16/08/13	Chatswood CBD	S	Chris Charles
Australasian Bittern	1	04/09-02/10	Ash Island Ponds	H	Michael Kearns
Striated Heron	1	23/09/13	Kirribilli Sydney Harbour	S	Robert Griffin
Eastern Osprey	2	02/08-15/09	Merimbula	SC	D Adams
Eastern Osprey	2N	September	Erina & Bensville (2 prs nesting)	CC	Warren Brown
Letter-winged Kite	1	02/09/13	Warwillah Rd Boorooban	R	Robert Nevison
Pacific Baza	2	11/08/13	Sun Valley Valley Heights	S	Matt Stephens
Pacific Baza	4	12/08/13	Nandi Ave Frenchs Forest	S	Nathan Ruser
Pacific Baza	2	14/08/13	St Ives	S	Arnie Hollyman
Pacific Baza	1	24/09/13	Mansfield Reserve East Bowral	I	Mark Filipczyk
Square-tailed Kite	1	13/08/13	Bargo	I	Lorne Johnson
Square-tailed Kite	1	21/08/13	Shortland Newcastle	H	Mick Roderick

Square-tailed Kite	1	27/09/13	Mt Ulamambri HSD Ulamambri	CS	Max Breckenridge
Spotted Harrier	4	15/08/13	Edderton Rd Jerrys Plains	H	Alan Morris
Spotted Harrier	2	08/09/13	Spains Lane Willow Tree	H	Penny Drake-Brockman
Spotted Harrier	1	06/10/13	South Grafton	NC	Eric Wheeler
Black Kite	50	07/08/13	Stotts Ck Tweed Hds (15 on 21/08)	NC	Phil Murray
Black Kite	147	31/08-04/09	Levenstrath Rd Grafton	NC	Warren Thompson
Black Kite	3	10/09/13	Sydney Olympic Pk (Nature Res)	S	Geoff Hutchinson
Brahminy Kite	1	29/09/13	Flat Island Munmorah SCA	CC	Tim Faulkner
Brahminy Kite	1	30/09/13	Hawkesbury R Mooney Mooney	CC	Simon Gorta
Grey Goshawk	1	17/08/13	Sydney Olympic Park	S	Max Breckenbridge
Little Eagle	1	10/09/13	Sydney Olympic Pk (Nature Res)	S	Geoff Hutchinson
Black Falcon	1	19/08/13	Alroy Park Plumbton	S	Mark Fuller
Black Falcon	1	25/08/13	Riverstone	S	Edwin Vella
Black Falcon	1	15/09/13	Coolgardie Rd Wardell	NC	Hans Wohlmuth
Grey Falcon	1	04/10/13	Yass (5 km NW)	SS	Lorne Johnson
Brolga	145	30/08/13	Gwydir Wetlands (60+ on 01/10)	NP	Curtis Hayne
Brolga	2	02/09/13	Coraki	NC	David Charley
Pale-vented Bush-hen	1	17/08/13	General Stubbs Dve Rosebank	NC	Phil Murray
Lewin's Rail	1	02/09/13	Boyers Lane Jerseyville	NC	Ken Shingleton
Lewin's Rail	8	24/09/13	Broughton Island	H	Alan Stuart
Baillon's Crake	1	02/09/13	Tallawarra Ash Ponds	I	Chris Brandis
Baillon's Crake	3	25/08 & 13/10	Pitt Town Lagoon	S	Edwin Vella
Spotted Crake	2	02/09/13	Bellfrog Track Ash Island	H	Michael Kearns
Spotless Crake	2	01/09 & 13/10	Pitt Town Lagoon	S	Steven Edwards
Spotless Crake	1	01/09/13	Warriewood Wetlands	S	David Potter
Black-tailed Native-hen	1	28/09-10/10	McPherson Rd Swp Tuggerah	CC	Margaret Pointer
Black-tailed Native-hen	1	29/09-12/10	Long Reef Golf Course	S	Tom Wilson
Beach Stone-curlew	2	13/08/13	Hastings Point	NC	Rob Morrow
Beach Stone-curlew	1	05/09/13	Arakoon Beach Sth West Rocks	NC	Ken Shingleton
Beach Stone-curlew	1	13/10/13	Picnic Pt Res The Entrance	CC	Tim Faulkner
Bush Stone-curlew	3prs	September	Brisbane Water Woy Woy (nesting)	CC	Alan Morris
Bush Stone-curlew	2A+J	11/10/13	East Ballina	NC	Bob Moffat
Red-necked Avocet	13	25/08/13	Dee Why Lagoon	S	Lorand Szucs
Grey Plover	1	04/10/13	Windang	I	Charles Dove
Grey Plover	1	07/10/13	Long Reef Golf Course	S	Joshua Bergmark
Double-banded Plover **	A	26-28/08/13	Dairy Swp CCWetlands Tuggerah	CC	Alan Morris
Hooded Plover	4	07/09/13	Burill Lake Estuary	I	Bob Rusk
Oriental Plover	1	27-30/09/13	Dairy Swp CCWetlands Tuggerah	CC	Alan Morris
Oriental Plover	2	27/09/13	Bushells Lagoon Wilberforce	S	Michael Rutkowski
Oriental Plover	2	06-12/10/13	Long Reef Golf Course	S	Mark Young
Inland Dotterel	1	04/10/13	Wanganella	R	Bernie O'Keefe
Red-kneed Dotterel	10	29/09/13	McGraths Hill STW	S	Ted Nixon
Banded Lapwing	7A3Y	29-30/08/13	Windsor Turf farms	S	Keith Brandwood
Latham's Snipe *	1	15/08/13	Eastlakes Golf course	S	Ashwin Rudder
Latham's Snipe *	1	19/08/13	Long Reef	S	Mark Young
Latham's Snipe *	1	23/08/13	Narrabri Lake	NP	Michael Dahlem
Latham's Snipe	3	14/10/13	Morecambe Place Pt Macquarie	NC	Per Peter West
Marsh Sandpiper *	1	11-17/08/13	Dairy Swp CCWetlands Tuggerah	CC	Tim Faulkner
Common Sandpiper *	1	02/09/13	Jerseyville	NC	Laurie McInelly
Common Sandpiper	1	29-30/09/13	Flat Island Munmorah SCA	CC	Tim Faulkner
Ruddy Turnstone	1	29/09/13	Waterbird Refuge Bicentennial Pk	S	Rob Child
Little Curlew	1	August	Tuross Heads	SC	ENHS Newsletter
Little Curlew	1	12/10/13	Fivebough Swamp Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
Bar-tailed Godwit	155	12/10/13	Canada Bay Parramatta R	S	Max Breckenbridge
Curlew Sandpiper *	4	26/09/13	Wilfords Swp Lake Burrill	I	Bob Rusk
Curlew Sandpiper *	12	09/10/13	Earthcare Pk Tenambit	H	Grant Brosie
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *	1	19/08/13	Dairy Swp CCWetlands Tuggerah	CC	Alan Morris
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *	1	23/08/13	Eastlakes Golf course	S	Mark Young
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *	12	26/08/13	Wilfords Lane Swp Lake Burrill	I	Bob Rusk

Pectoral Sandpiper *	1	04-10/09/13	Dairy Swp CCWetlands Tuggerah	CC	Jill Nolan
Australian Painted Snipe	AM	25/08/13	Wilfords Lane Swp Lake Burrill	I	Bob Rusk
Plains Wanderer	AF	04/10/13	Wanganella	R	Bernie O'Keefe
Painted Button-quail	1	22/08/13	Lilyfield Sydney	S	Andrew Taylor
Painted Button-quail	1	27/09/13	North Richmond	S	David Potter
Little Button-quail	1	04/10/13	Wanganella	R	Bernie O'Keefe
Australian Pratincole *	1	18/08/13	Hexham Swamp (private property)	H	Mick Roderick
Australian Pratincole *	2	27/09/13	Bellata (S-E)	NP	Michael Dahlem
Australian Pratincole *	2	26/09/13	Bourke (10 km N)	UW	Neville Schrader
Pacific Gull	Im	11/08/13	Boat Harbour Kurnell	S	Lorand Szucs
Kelp Gull	7	07/08/13	Austinmer Boat Ramp	I	Michael Crosland
Sooty Tern	7	14/09/13	Nambucca Heads (100 km E)	NC	David Mitford
White-fronted Tern **	2	05-07/10/13	Soldiers Pt Norah Head	CC	Brad Gabriel
Common Tern *	1	14/08/13	Newcastle Ocean Baths	H	Allan Richardson
Whiskered Tern *	9	26/08-30/09	Chittaway Bay	CC	Alan Morris
Whiskered Tern *	6	19/09/13	Lake Wollumboola	I	Joy Pegler
Whiskered Tern *	120	20/09-05/10	Ash Island Ponds	H	Mick Roderick
White-winged Black Tern *	1	05/10/13	Lake Cargelligo STW	R	Edwin Vella
White-winged Black Tern *	1	13/10/13	Pitt Town Lagoon	S	Michael Ronan
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	8	14/09/13	Yambulla SF Bega	SC	Edward Kettle
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	4	07-14/09/13	Tascott	CC	Andrew Whittaker
Gang-gang Cockatoo	4	11/08/13	Koorinal Ave Thornleigh	S	Cameron Ward
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	7	19-23/09/13	Tottenham	CP	John Wallace
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	20	20/09/13	Bogan Gate	CP	Marc Anderson
Rainbow Lorikeet	4	24/09/13	Bourke Township	UW	Neville Schrader
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	1	August	Pedro Swamp	SC	ENHS Newsletter
Australian King-Parrot	AM	23/08/13	Ashley Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne
Superb Parrot	53	20-21/07/13	Cowra District (16 sites)	CT	Per Maret Vesk
Superb Parrot	20	01/09/13	Murrumbidgee NP Euroly Bridge	R	Marc Anderson
Superb Parrot	12	01/09/13	Orange Botanical Gardens	CT	Anon
Superb Parrot	20+	23/09/13	Bribbaree Quandialla	R	Marc Anderson
Swift Parrot **	1	22/08/13	Black Hill Newcastle	H	Mick Roderick
Swift Parrot **	8	01/09/13	Cattai NP Windsor	S	Steven Edwards
Pale-headed Rosella	3	06/10/13	Warialda	NS	Greg Clancy
Blue Bonnet	2	25/08/13	Obley (2 km W)	CT	Neville Schrader
Blue Bonnet	2	31/08/13	Jindalee NP Cootamundra	SS	Marnix Zwankhuisen
Budgerigar	15	01/09/13	Orange Rd Manildra	CT	Bruce Tinsey
Budgerigar	14	02/10/13	Parkville	H	Mick Roderick
Budgerigar	12	06/10/13	Bingara (5 km N)	NS	Richard Jordan
Turquoise Parrot	5	04/08/13	Warragamba Dam	I	Graham Fry
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	29/08/13	Castlecrag	S	Matthew Keighery
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	01/09/13	Lewisham	S	Ashwin Rudder
Eastern Koel *	1	25/08/13	Pecan Close Cherrybrook	S	Gabrielle Rees
Eastern Koel *	1	07/09/13	Rumbalara Res Springfield	CC	Warren Brown
Eastern Koel *	AM	08/09/13	Manly Lagoon Sydney	S	Joshua Bergmark
Pallid Cuckoo *	1	23/09/13	Yurammie Bega Valley	SC	R Heffernan
Brush Cuckoo *	1	13/10/13	Rockdale Bicentennial Park	S	Oliver Williams
Black-eared Cuckoo	1	19/09/13	Tottenham CP	CP	Rowena Wallace
Black-eared Cuckoo	2	29/09/13	Trapyard Dam Merriwindi SCA	NP	Max Breckenridge
Black-eared Cuckoo	1	05/10/13	Cobar Waste Tip	UW	Edwin Vella
Powerful Owl	2	22/08/13	Wattle Flat RNP	S	Deryk Engel
Powerful Owl	2A,1J	29/08/13	Glenbrook BMNP	S	Jake Webb
Barking Owl	1	06/08/13	Jamieson Pk Narrabeen	S	Coleen Southall
Eastern Barn Owl	2	14/08/13	Tamworth West	NS	Stephen Debus
Eastern Barn Owl	1	07/09/13	Ash Island Ponds	H	Edwin Vella
Masked Owl	1	14/08/13	Majors Ck Ebor	NS	Russell Jago
Masked Owl	1 +J	July	Moruya (roadkill & juv)	SC	ENHS Newsletter
Sooty Owl	3HC	26/08/13	Berry Mountain	I	Carla Jackett
Australian Grass Owl	1	26/08-02/09	Bellfrog Track Ash Island	H	Michael Kearns

Sacred Kingfisher *	1	11/08/13	Mehi River Moree East	NP	Curtis Hayne
Sacred Kingfisher *	1	11/08/13	Penrith & Sydney Olympic Park	S	Lumnitzer/Gorta
Dollarbird *	2	31/08/13	West Kempsey	NC	Trevor Bullock
Dollarbird *	1	05/09/13	Arakoon	NC	Ken Shingleton
Dollarbird *	1	07/09/13	Tumbi Umbi	CC	Stephen Clark
Rainbow Bee-eater *	1	11/08/13	Sawtell	NC	Peter Higgins
Rainbow Bee-eater *	4	12/08/13	Boggy Ck Bellingen	NC	Brian Hawkins
Rainbow Bee-eater *	40	28/08/13	Eulah Ck Narrabri (flying sth)	NP	Michael Dahlem
Noisy Pitta	1	29/08-03/09	Blackbutt Forest Wollongong	I	Michelle Rower
Noisy Pitta	2	30/08-14/09	Irrawong Res Warriewood	S	Rae Lister
Noisy Pitta	1	10/09/13	Stafford FarmTk Kembla Heights	I	Terrill Nordstrom
Eastern Bristlebird	4	11/08/13	Booderie NP Jervis Bay	I	Julie Neumann
Brown Treecreeper	2	22/08/13	Black Hill Newcastle	H	Mick Roderick
Regent Bowerbird	3M,F	08/09/13	Wallabi Point Old Bar	H	Penny Drake-Brockman
Southern Emu-wren	4	24/09/13	Locksley Pylon Blue Mtns NP	CT	Harry Donovan
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	2	08/09/13	Voyager Pt Wetlands Liverpool	S	David James
White-throated Gerygone *	1	15/08/13	King Ck Wauchope	NC	Clive Meadows
White-throated Gerygone *	1	25/08/13	Riverstone	S	Edwin Vella
Pilotbird	1	14/09/13	Yambulla SF Bega	SC	Dean Purcell
Singing Honeyeater	1	02/10/13	Hebden Rd Lake Liddell	H	Mick Roderick
Noisy Friarbird	2	28/09/13	Byrock (well west of usual range)	UW	Neville Schrader
Pied Honeyeater	6+	06/10/13	Louth Rd Cobar	UW	Edwin Vella
Crimson Chat	AM	20/09/13	Tottenham (water supply dam)	CP	Alan Morris
Crimson Chat	3	05/10/13	Lake Cargelligo STW	R	Edwin Vella
Crimson Chat	4	06/10/13	Cobar Airport	UW	Edwin Vella
Gibber Chat	4	26/08/13	Tibooburra (20 km W)	UW	Tim McKellar
Black Honeyeater	4	19-23/09/13	Tottenham CP	CP	John Carpenter
Black Honeyeater	4+	31/08-22/09	Nombinee NP (wheat paddock)	LW	Jon Spicer-Bell
White-fronted Honeyeater	3	17/08 & 29/09	Pilliga NP (Gilgai Section)	NP	Michael Murphy
White-fronted Honeyeater	4+	22/09/13	Nombinee NP (wheat paddock)	LW	Marc Anderson
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	4	24/09/13	Locksley Pylon Blue Mtns NP	CT	Harry Donovan
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2+	28/09/13	Cambridge Gardens	S	Akos Lumnitzer
Black-chinned Honeyeater	3	21/07/13	Koorawatha and Bumbaldry	CT	Per Maret Vesk
Black-chinned Honeyeater	4	13/08/13	Fairlead HSD Dungowan	NS	Annabel Ashworth
Black-chinned Honeyeater	1	25/08/13	Riverstone	S	Edwin Vella
Regent Honeyeater	6+N	27/09/13	Widden Brook Widden Valley (nests)	H	Mick Roderick
Regent Honeyeater	25+N	27/09-12/10	Capertee Valley-Glen Alice	CT	Mick Roderick
Painted Honeyeater	1	18/08/13	Medhurst Bridge Martindale	H	Michael Kearns
Painted Honeyeater *	2	22/09/13	Munghorn Gap NR Mudgee	CT	Simon Gorta
Painted Honeyeater *	2	22/09/13	Meryula HSD Tottenham	CP	Alan Morris
Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush	2	05/10/13	Cobar Waste Tip	UW	Edwin Vella
Spotted Quail-thrush	1	26/08/13	Uloola Tk Royal NP	S	Gary Gibbs
Spotted Quail-thrush	6	02/10/13	Bargo River Conservation Res	I	Terry Dunlea
Gilbert's Whistler	2+	31/08-02/09	Nombinnie NR (wheat paddock)	LW	Marc Anderson
Varied Sittella	6	02/08/13	Old Man Valley Hornsby	S	Dick Mason
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1	17/09/13	Eastlakes Golf course	S	Eric Finley
Cicadabird *	1	07/10/13	Murrumbung HSD Mardi		Carole Carpenter
Cicadabird *	1	09/10/13	Lower Pappinbarra	NC	Ian Kerr
White-winged Triller *	1	02/09/13	Jerseyville	NC	Ken Shingleton
White-winged Triller *	1	15/09/13	Nurragingy Res Doonside	S	Ted Wnorwoski
Varied Triller	1	01/09/13	Racecourse Hldd Goolawah NP	NC	Tim Morris
White-breasted Woodswallow	6	19/09/13	Mandeni Tura Beach	SC	Max Sutcliffe
White-browed Woodswallow*	20+	17/08/13	Pilliga NP (Gilgai Section)	NP	Michael Murphy
White-browed Woodswallow*	100+	14/09/13	Ashley (nr Moree)	NP	Curtis Hayne
White-browed Woodswallow	100s	27/09/13	Capertee Valley-Glen Alice	CT	Mick Roderick
Apostlebird	2+N	23/09/13	Alroy Pk Plumbton	S	Mark Fuller
Spectacled Monarch *	1	01/09/13	Boggy Ck Bellingen	NC	Brian Hawkins
Spectacled Monarch *	3	06/09/13	Swans Crossing Kendall	NC	Clive Meadows
Leaden Flycatcher *	1	31/08/13	Boambee Beach	NC	Michael Cheers

Leaden Flycatcher *	1	05/09/13	Arakoon	NC	Ken Shingleton
Satin Flycatcher *	2	12/10/13	Sun Valley	S	Gerry Flanagan
Rufous Fantail *	1	09/09/13	Border Lp Lkt Border Ranges NP	NC	Greg Clancy
Spangled Drongo	1	13/08/13	Chipping Norton	S	David James
Spangled Drongo	1	17/09/13	Beaconsfield St Revesby	S	Brendon Levot
Jacky Winter	2	11/09/13	Bargo River Reserve	I	Peter Dewey
Flame Robin	5	20-21/07/13	Cowra District (2 sites)	CT	Per Maret Vesk
Flame Robin	3	10/08/13	Snowy River Way Jindabyne	ST	Gavin Scott
Flame Robin	12	11/08/13	Wolgan Valley Newnes	CT	Michael Ronan
Red-capped Robin	1	August	Belowla Merimbula	SC	ENHS Newsletter
Rufous Songlark *	1	21/08/13	Willbriggie (S of Griffith)	R	David Parker
Rufous Songlark *	1	07/09/13	Ash Island Ponds	H	Tony Dawe
Brown Songlark *	2	01/10/13	Cumnock	CS	Neville Schrader
Common Greenfinch	1	01/09/13	Eastlakes GC	S	Ashwin Rudder
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	AM	June	Orient Pt Culburra	I	Jan Wilson
Beautiful Firetail	2+N	11/09/13	Lady Carrington Dve Royal NP	S	Rob Child
Diamond Firetail	6	04/08/13	Warragamba Dam	I	Elizabeth Cameron
Zebra Finch	5	29/09/13	The Ponds Parklea	S	Edwin Vella
Plum-headed Finch	60	01/10/13	Gwydir Wetlands Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	7	30/09-14/10	McPherson Rd Swp Tuggerah	CC	Alan Morris
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	20	01/10/13	Gwydir Wetlands Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne

*=First Return ** Last Date hw= hit window rk = road kill bc= beach cast, 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 'Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds' 2008)

COMMENT

Both migratory shorebirds and other migrants have all been heading south into NSW in the past two months, bringing with them some unusual species like **Oriental Plovers**, which appeared at three sites almost simultaneously, while two visits of **Little Curlews** have also been recorded! The drought in South-west Queensland with the accompanying drying up of wetlands in the Paroo, Bulloo and Lake Eyre Basin continues to drive large numbers of **Freckled Ducks**, **Australian Grey Teal**, **Pink-ears**, **Yellow-billed Spoonbills**, **White-necked Herons**, **Black Kites**, **Spotted Harriers** and **Budgerigars** into north-eastern and eastern NSW with extraordinary numbers of each species being seen in places not previously reported; The numbers of **Freckled Ducks** continue to rise in NSW, other records include: 1 Lithgow STW 12/08 (CT), 1 Bungendore STW 16/08 (ST), 1 Spring Ck Reservoir, Orange 17/08 (CT), 17 Monaltrie Wetlands Lismore 30/08 (NC), 1 Cut Hill Res Cobbitty 31/08 (S), 56 Lawrence Egret Colony Swp 56 03/09 (NC), 2 Killalea State Park 06/10 (I); other **Magpie Geese** records include 40 Narrabri lake 07-23/08 (NP), 8 Braunstone 11/09 (NC); **Plumed Whistling-Duck**: 100 Braunstone 11/08 (NC), 400 Berrigan Rd Swp Jerilderie 08/09 (R); **Owlet-Nightjar**: Bundanon 11/10 (I), observers first record for site; **Wandering Albatross**: 1 North Head 15/08 (S); There is a rash of records around Central Coast and Sydney of **Eastern Ospreys**, the current breeding pair on the Georges River at Illawong, would appear to be the most southern nesting pair at present in NSW, other records include: 1 Boat Harbour, Kurnell 25/09 (S); **Pacific Baza**: 2 Nandi Ave Frenchs Forest 12/08, 2 St. Ives 14/08 (S), 1 Wilton 31/08 (I); **Square-tailed Kites** reported include: Nth Brother Mountain 14/08, 2 Stuarts Pt 29/08, Pedro Swamp and Mystery Bay, Narooma August (SC), Coraki 02/09 (NC), Muogomarra NR 07/09, Acacia Gardens 08/09 (S), 1 Shoalhaven Hds 29/09 (I). The movement of **Black Kites** to coastal NSW, particularly the far North Coast continues, other records include 40 Jarrett Park Bellingen 14/08, 45 Cudgen 03/09 (NC), 25 Hexham Swamp 07/09 (H), 1 Vale of Ah Res Milperra 10/09 (S); Other **Brahminy Kites** were 1 Hexham Swp 07/09 (H); Coastal **Spotted Harriers** remain in many locations including: 1 Wollongong CBD 01/08, Humewood Pk Mt Gileard 15/08 (I), 1 Spring Ck Reservoir, Orange 17/08 (CT), 1 Pitt Town Lagoon 25/08, 1 Trunketabella Swamp and Moruya August (SC), 1 Richmond Lowlands 01/09 (S), 1 Hexham Swamp 07/09 (H), 3 km N Kyogle 09/09 (NC), 1 Bogan Gate and Dandaloo (CP) 20/09, 1 Riverbend Res Berrima 01/10 (I); The surge in **Black Falcon** numbers continues, other records include Richmond Lowlands 17/08 (S), Monaltrie Wetlands Lismore 30/08 (NC), 1 Hexham Swamp 07/09 (H), 5 km NE Wagga Wagga 14/09 (SS); **Lewin's Rail**: Eastlakes GC 15/8 (S), Bellfrog Tk, Ash Island Ponds 04/09 (H); **Baillon's Crake**: Eastlakes GC 17/09 (S), 1 McPhersons Rd Swamp, Tuggerah 04/10 (CC); **Spotted Crake**: 3 Lake Cargelligo STW 03/09 (R); **Spotless Crake**: 1 Eastlakes GC 15/08 (S), Bellfrog Tk Ash Is Ponds 04/09 (H); Other **Brolgas** were at Boyters Lane Jerseyville 15/10 (NC); During Jul-Aug **Bush Stone-curlews** were reported from Veterans Hall, Umina High School, Davistown and Correa Bay on the Central Coast where the local population is estimated at 19 birds; **Hooded Plover**: 1 Nelliga Bch Twofold Bay 13/08 (SC); **Latham's Snipe**: Other arrivals Kings Rd Swp Wauchope 28/08 (NC), Lake Cargelligo STW 03/09 (R); **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**: Other first arrivals Native Dog Swp Berrigan 08/09 (R); **White-fronted Tern**: last dates 6 Bellambi Rock platform 31/08 (I); **Whiskered Tern**: 5 Cooks River mouth, Botany Bay 01/10, 26 Maroubra Bch 13/10 (S); Other interesting **Glossy Black-Cockatoo** records include: 3 Warriewood Wetlands 30/08 (S), 2 Bomabee Bch 31/08 (NC), 2 Muogomarra NR 07/09 (S), 7 Mandini, Tura 14/09 (SC); **Superb Parrot**: 8 Beckom-Mirrool Rd Beckom 27/08 (R), 12 Orange Botanic Garden 01/09 (CT), 2 5 km NE Wagga Wagga 14/09 (SS), 2 Nyngan CP 23/09 (CP), 4 Cumnock 01/10 (CS), 1 Canowindra, 6 15 km N Boorowa 04/10 (CT), 3 Bimbi-Grenfell Rd 06/10 (SS), 2 Yarrarie Lake 12/10 (NP); **Turquoise Parrot**: 2 Conimbla NP and 1 Wallipendi, Koorawatha 20/07 (CT); The movement of **Budgerigars** in eastern NSW continues viz 20+ Tamworth Airport 31/08, 20+ Leard SF Boggabri 15/09 (NS); **Swift Parrot** remained in NSW until 01/09 other records include 2 Elizabeth Dve Cecil Hills 12/08 and 1 Cut Hill Rd Cobbitty 31/08 (S); There are more **Powerful Owl** records: 1 Moore Res Oatley 24/09 (S); Other **Channel-billed Cuckoo** arrivals include Galaringi Res Carlingford 11/09 (S), Bimbaya, Bega 14/09 (SC); **Eastern Koel** arrivals: Manly Lagoon 08/09 (S), Westfield Tuggerah 18/09 (CC), Latham Pk Coogee 22/09 (S). **Sacred kingfisher** arrivals: 1 Royal NP 03/09 (S), 2 Tathra tailla HSD Mangrove Mtn 06/09 (CC); **Rainbow Bee-eater** arrivals: 6 Dungowan 31/08 (NS), 2 Cedar Brush Rd Yarramalong 20/09 (CC), 2 Cassola Place Penrith 13/10 (S); **White-fronted Honeyeater**: 6+ Round Hill NR 04/09 (LW); **Black Honeyeater**: 4 Round Hill NR Nth 04/09 (LW), 3 Lake Cargelligo STW 05/10 (R), 6+ Louth Rd Cobar 06/10, 10 7 km NW Cobar 12/10 (UW); **Painted Honeyeater**: Other reports include 2 Widden Brook, Widden Valley 27/09 (H), 10 Yarrarie Lake, Narrabri 29/09-12/10, 5 Trapyard Dam Merriwindi SCA 29/09 (NP), 4 Back Creek SF Wyalong and 6 Caragabal 04/10 (CP); Other **White-winged Triller** records: 2 AM Picnic Pt Res The Entrance 11-14/10 (CC), 2 Toogong Rd Cudal 11/10 (CT), 2 Nepean River, Penrith 15/10 (S); **Flame Robin**: AF Bundanoon 11/08 (I); Good Birding!

BIRDING NSW DIRECTORY

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Annual membership fee:

Single adult \$35.00

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