



birding  
nsw

# Newsletter

NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc

Issue 259

October 2013

## President's Report

Birding NSW has submitted a response to the draft cooperation agreement proposed by BirdLife Australia to define the relationship between BirdLife Australia and independent clubs. Other clubs have also written. This matter was canvassed at the last BIGnet meeting in Newcastle in September, and will be discussed further at the next BIGnet meeting in Canberra in 2014. It is clear that there is some way to go before a final document is produced.

Lesley Hook of BirdLife Southern NSW group, Tony Dymond of Cumberland Bird Observers Club, and Elisabeth Karplus of Birding NSW, are currently attempting to coordinate reporting for the 45 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in New South Wales/ACT. This is a key responsibility of the partnership arrangement between BirdLife Australia and BirdLife International.

The next Birding NSW IBA Survey in Grenfell will take place on the weekend of 12–13 October, and we always welcome new surveyors at this event. If you are interested in attending, please contact either Elisabeth Karplus at [emhodson@exemail.com.au](mailto:emhodson@exemail.com.au) or Allan Richards at [activities@birdingsw.org.au](mailto:activities@birdingsw.org.au)

At the October meeting, David Bain from BirdLife Australia will give us an update on the Powerful Owl project. This study looks at the population of Powerful Owls in and around Sydney, and particularly about their breeding habits. David is a keen supporter of Citizen Science, and has enlisted the help of many local birdwatchers and also non-birdwatchers in his quest to get the best data available.

Another aspect of Citizen Science is the Centennial Park Survey. This year is the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Centennial Park, and Birding NSW is involved with a project to find 125 species for the park in the 2013

calendar year. At the time of writing this report, 78 species had been documented – I expect that several more species will have been found by the time that you receive this newsletter. Many non-birdwatchers have helped in this survey, in which Freckled Duck, Australasian Shoveler, Musk Duck and Eastern Barn Owl have been seen. For further information and advice on how to help, please contact Allan Richards at [activities@birdingsw.org.au](mailto:activities@birdingsw.org.au).

Charlie Andrews will be the Master of Ceremonies again at the Birding NSW Annual Photographic Competition in November, and has assembled his usual competent group of judges. The Club Meeting on 1 October is the last chance for entries! Take the opportunity to compete for the wonderful Outback Track Tours main prizes, or the cash prizes for the individual categories. Put up your images against other photographers, some of them well known, some not. I note that some photographers have shot to fame through images submitted in this competition – one has been shown in the Wildlife Exhibition at the Australian Museum. There is no entry fee–what do you have to lose?

Tom Karplus

## New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Gian Luca Calia

Summer Hill

John Andrew French &  
Fiona Campbell Lumsden

Katoomba

Richard Webber

Rhodes



## 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.**

### OCTOBER

**Tuesday 1 October Club Meeting:** The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. 'The Powerful Owl Project', speaker: David Bain.

**Wednesday 2 October Central Coast Half-day Outing:** Matcham and Holgate. Meet in Matcham Road, corner of Matcham Road and Central Coast Highway, Erina Heights. Lunch at cars. Leaders: Eileen and Warren Davy 4367 2206

**Saturday 5 October Club Outing:** Maraylya and Scheyville. Meet at 9.00 am at the corner of Whitmore and Pitt Town Dural Roads, Maraylya. Flat but sometimes uneven walking tracks. Lunch at cars. Take a chair. Leader: Elisabeth Karplus 9816 2285 or 0421 665 553

**Long Weekend Campout: 5–7 October:** Round Hill north of Lake Cargelligo. Camp on a private property near Round Hill Nature Reserve. There will not be a toilet or any other facilities. For details, contact the Allan Richards 9660 8062 or [activities@birdingsnw.org.au](mailto:activities@birdingsnw.org.au)

**Saturday and Sunday 12–13 October Regent Honeyeater Survey:** Capertee Valley. Timed surveys at several sites from Glen Davis to Bogee on Saturday and Sunday mornings. For further information contact Douglas Bateman: [douglasbateman@yahoo.com](mailto:douglasbateman@yahoo.com)

**Saturday and Sunday 12–13 October IBA Survey:** Grenfell. More information below.

**Saturday 12 October Club Outing:** Great North Walk and Dharug National Park, Wisemans Ferry. Meet at 9.00 am. Cross over the river on the Wisemans Ferry and turn left and park. Lunch at cars. Leader: Trevor Waller 0467 977 508

**Weekend Central Coast Campout 18–20 October:** Bingara Riverside Caravan Park. Tel: (02) 6724 0081. Meet at 8.30 am at the caravan park. Visiting Barraba, Bingara National Park and District. Leader: Alan Morris 4334 2776

**Tuesday 22 October Central Coast Meeting:** Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. ‘South African birding’, speaker: Alan Benson.

**Weekend 26–27 October Twitchathon:** Get your teams and sponsors organised. For more information contact Pixie at southernNSW@birdlife.org.au or Phone 0429 464 403

**Wednesday 30 October Midweek Outing:** Maraylya and Scheyville. Meet at 9.00 am at the corner of Whitmore and Pitt Town Dural Roads, Maraylya. Flat but sometimes uneven walking tracks. Lunch at cars. Take a chair. Leader: Elisabeth Karplus 9816 2285 or 0421 665 553 or contact Carol Abbott 0414 312 538

## NOVEMBER

**Tuesday 5 November Club Meeting:** The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. ‘Photographic Competition’, presented by Charlie Andrews.

**Wednesday 6 November Central Coast Half-day Outing:** Pearl Beach, Warrah Trig and Patonga. Meet at 8.30 am Pearl Beach Arboretum, Opal Close, Pearl Beach. Leader: Christina Port 4340 4767

**Saturday 9 November Club Outing:** Centennial Park and various other locations in the Botany Bay area. Meet at 8.30 am in Dickens Drive near The Learning Centre, Centennial Park. General bird watching within the park and other nearby areas. Leader: Allan Richards 9660 8062 or 0432 064 660

**Saturday 16 November Club Outing:** Wattle Forest, Royal National Park. Meet at 8.30 am at the Wattle Forest Picnic area near Audley. Turn into Lady Carrington Drive at Audley, then right over the timber bridge on the western side of the river. Turn left and meet at the last car park. Lunch at cars. Leader: Allan Ible 9542 1617

**Tuesday 26 November Central Coast Meeting:** Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. ‘Hunter Wader Update’, speaker: Chris Herbert.

**Wednesday 27 November Midweek Outing:** Sydney Olympic Park / Mason Park. Meet at 9.00 am at Belvedere Lake, 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. This will

also be our Midweek Outing Christmas celebration, so please bring along a plate of something to share. Leader: Elisabeth Karplus 9816 2285 m 0421 665 553 or contact Carol Abbott 0414 312 538

**Saturday 30 November Central Coast Outing:** Spencer and Dharug National Park. Meet at 8.30 am at Spencer Wharf and Store, Wisemans Ferry Road, Spencer. Leader: Margaret Pointer 4374 1163

## 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 4352 1060

**Saturday 7 December Christmas Outing:** Mitchell Park. Meet at 8.30 am in the first picnic area at Mitchell Park, Mitchell Park Road, Maraylya for early birding. Bring along some food to share for a Christmas morning tea and after more birding join us for a Christmas picnic lunch in Mitchell Park at about 12.30 pm. Leaders: Tom and Elisabeth Karplus 9816 2285, 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 and at 10.30 am move to Central Coast Wetlands. Return at 12.30 pm to Murrumbung Homestead for a Christmas BBQ Break-up Lunch. (BYO meat and drinks) Leaders: John and Carole Carpenter 4352 1060

## 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.

## IBA SURVEY AT GRENFELL

**Weekend 12–13 October 2013**

Grenfell is part of the South-west Slopes Important Bird Area, the largest in Australia. Grenfell was chosen by the Club to monitor because it is a manageable distance from Sydney and has some threatened species such as the Superb Parrot. The Club is organising its fourth survey on Saturday and Sunday 12–13 October 2013. The survey will be conducted on Saturday morning allowing time to relax and bird watch in the afternoon. Teams of four or five people will survey three or four sites for twenty minutes at each site. It may be necessary to survey some of the sites on Sunday morning, if not we will have time for bird watching at leisure. You are most welcome to join us regardless of your bird-watching skills. Members will have to make their own arrangements regarding accommodation as soon as possible as accommodation is limited in Grenfell. There are three cabins and both powered and unpowered campsites at the local Caravan Park. It will also be possible to camp on private property. There are four hotels, a motel and several B&Bs in town. If you are able to join the group please advise the Club Activities Officer on 9660 8062 or by email at [activities@birdingnsw.org.au](mailto:activities@birdingnsw.org.au)

## DECEMBER TALK

**ARNOLD MCGILL MEMORIAL LECTURE**

**Speaker: Alan Rogers**

**Ring of Fire- Seabirds and Volcanoes in the Kuril Islands**

The Pacific Ring of Fire manifests itself in numerous places on the rim of the Pacific Ocean – but nowhere more dramatically than in Russia's Far East. Stretching from Japan to the southern end of the Kamchatka Peninsula, the Kuril Islands are a chain of over 30 volcanic islands bordering an ocean trench, which reaches depths of over 8000 metres. This is one of the richest areas in the world for seabirds and cetaceans. Highlights for birders include up to 14 species of auks including Tufted and Horned Puffins, Crested and Whiskered Auklets, as well as Spectacled and Pigeon Guillemots.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013 AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Birding NSW (NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc) will be held on Tuesday 3 December 2013 at the monthly Club Meeting, which commences at 7.30 pm in the Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney.

The AGM will take place before the Arnold McGill Memorial Lecture.

All positions on the Club Committee automatically become vacant at the AGM. Nominations for the following positions should be submitted in writing by 25 November 2013, signed by the nominee, nominator and seconder, to the Returning Officer, Birding NSW, PO Box Q277, QVB Post Shop, Sydney, NSW 1230.

### Office Bearers:

President | Secretary | Treasurer | Public Officer

### Other specified positions:

Membership Secretary | Minutes Secretary  
Club Email Manager | Activities Officer  
Assistant Activities Officer | Speakers Coordinator  
Publicity Officer | Newsletter Editor | Website  
Coordinator | Conservation Subcommittee Chair +  
Conservation Officers | Records Office | General  
Committee Positions

## WHITE IBIS SURVEY SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER 2013

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is conducting its annual White Ibis Survey to get a better understanding of the distribution and abundance of this bird. This year we are requesting participation from across Australia. The survey has been running since 2003 and the information collected has assisted with our knowledge of these distinctive birds. Increasingly Ibis are moving into urban environments bringing them into conflict with humans eg aircraft safety, water quality and biodiversity.

To participate simply report the number of Ibis you see via the website below.

Reports within a week of 20 October are accepted. Additional information such as evidence of breeding, number of nests or wing tags is greatly appreciated.

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/surveys/WhiteIbisSightingForm.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/surveys/WhiteIbisSightingForm.htm)



## NSW ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (ORAC) REVIEW LIST

(Revised 23 February 2013)

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 [roglou@bigpond.net.au](mailto:roglou@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 is based on the IOC taxonomy.

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus* (1)  
Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*  
Raja Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*  
Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*  
Green Pygmy Goose *Nettapus pulchellus*  
Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*  
Garganey *Anas querquedula*  
Fiordland Penguin *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*  
Macaroni Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus*  
Southern Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora*  
Northern Royal Albatross *Diomedea sanfordi*  
Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria fusca*  
Light-mantled Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata*  
Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini*  
Grey-headed Albatross *Thalassarche chrystostoma*  
Southern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialisoides*  
Blue Petrel *Halobaena caerulea*  
Salvin's Prion *Pachyptila salvini*  
Kerguelen Petrel *Aphrodroma brevirostris*  
Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*  
Mottled Petrel *Pterodroma inexpectata*  
Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*  
Grey Petrel *Procellaria cinerea*  
Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* (2)  
Grey-backed Storm Petrel *Garrodia nereis*  
White-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregatta grallaria*  
Pied Heron *Egretta picata*  
Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*  
Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*  
Black-faced Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscescens* (3)  
Red Goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*  
Red-backed Buttonquail *Turnix maculosus*  
Black-breasted Buttonquail *Turnix melanogaster*  
Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*


Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*  
Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*  
Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*  
Little Stint *Calidris minuta*  
Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*  
Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*  
Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*  
Fairy Tern *Sternula nereis* (4)  
Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*  
Roseate Tern *Sterna dougalli*  
Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*  
Flock Bronzewing *Phaps histrionica* (5)  
Squatter Pigeon *Geophaps scripta*  
Torresian Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa*  
Purple-crowned Lorikeet *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*  
Bourke's Parrot *Neopsephotus bourkii*  
Elegant Parrot *Neophema elegans*  
Orange-bellied Parrot *Neophema chrysogaster*  
Scarlet-chested Parrot *Neophema splendida*  
Double-eyed Fig Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*  
Australian Swiftlet *Aerodramus terraereginae*  
Thick-billed Grasswren *Amytornis modestus* (6)  
Purple-gaped Honeyeater *Lichenostomus cratitius*  
Black-eared Miner *Manorina melanotis*  
Banded Honeyeater *Cissomela pectoralis*  
Dusky Honeyeater *Myzomela obscura*  
Banded Whiteface *Aphelocephala nigricincta*  
Red-lored Whistler *Pachycephala rufogularis* (7)  
Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*  
House Crow *Corvus splendens*  
Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster* (8)  
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
Canary White-eye *Zosterops luteus*  
Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*  
Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* (2)  
Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*  
Painted Finch *Emblema pictum*  
Black-throated Finch *Poephila cincta*

### 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

*Gloia Roderick*  
PRINTMAKER

BIRD PRINTS & CARDS



[www.fionaroderick.com](http://www.fionaroderick.com)



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That Bird**

<b>Capertee Valley</b>	\$1110
26-27 <sup>th</sup> Guide Carol Proberts	
November 2013	
<b>Gloucester &amp; Barrington Tops</b>	\$2540
8-11 <sup>th</sup> Guide Janene Luff	
<b>Mallacoota &amp; Gipsy Point Victoria</b>	\$3880
27 Nov- 2 Dec	

**Monthly Scheduled Day Trips  
Birds & Camaraderie**

**Follow That Bird - sydney's birding company**

Tel 02 9973 1865  
Website [www.followthatbird.com.au](http://www.followthatbird.com.au)

## BIRD-WATCHING PELAGIC TRIPS

**Sydney Pelagic Trips**—Book online at [www.sydneypelagics.info](http://www.sydneypelagics.info) or [www.halicat.com.au](http://www.halicat.com.au) Any questions call Hal on 0411 311 236 or email [hepstein@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hepstein@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](mailto:sossa@tpg.com.au) or visit the website: [www.sossa-international.org](http://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/November. 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: [mickhbb@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mickhbb@yahoo.com.au)

## OUTBACK TRACK TOURS BIRD-WATCHING TOURS IN 2013

The Club in conjunction with Outback Track Tours has arranged the following fully accommodated tours. The itineraries focus on prime bird watching locations and an experienced birding guide will accompany each tour. For further enquiries or bookings, contact Outback Track Tours by phone or by email at [res@outbacktracktours.com](mailto:res@outbacktracktours.com) or visit their website at [www.outbacktracktours.com](http://www.outbacktracktours.com)

### 12-day Kangaroo Island, The Coorong and Little Desert Lodge 12–23 October

This tour will visit some great areas for bird watching: Kangaroo Island, The Coorong and Bool Lagoon in South Australia and Little Desert in Western Victoria. It covers a variety of different habitats with the opportunity to see a large range of bird species.

### 9-day Tasmania 2–10 November

This special bird-watching tour to Tasmania has an emphasis on seeing all 12 endemic species of birds but also allows time for sightseeing. Spend two nights at Cradle Mountain, one night at Strahan, one night at Lake St Clair, one night at Hobart and two nights on Bruny Island.

## FROM AN UGLY DUCKLING TO A BEAUTIFUL SWAN

Nelson Wallis—Community Relations Advisor, Sydney Water

Sydney Water has started work to naturalise three areas along the Cooks River. Naturalisation involves removing the deteriorated concrete bank lining the river and replacing it with sandstone and creating a more natural environment surrounding the river by planting shrubs and trees that are indigenous to Cooks River. The areas being naturalised are at Belfield, Campsie and Canterbury, with over 1.1 kilometres of the riverbank naturalised, with construction finishing in mid-2014.



*Artist's Impression of the Cooks River Naturalisation Project*

This work is the second stage of the Cooks River Naturalisation Project. In 2010 Cup and Saucer Wetlands were built and they have attracted a broad range of bird life. Over the coming years, Sydney Water plans to naturalise as much as possible along the Cooks River.

We expect that the naturalisation works will have a positive impact on the bird life in the area of the Cooks River as the project involves planting 80 000 native plants. It is hoped that the native groundcover and mid-storey plants will provide suitable habitat for smaller birds and that overall the native bird population will become more diverse and more abundant.

I would like to hear from any members of Birding NSW who would like to become involved in doing occasional surveys of the bird life to assist with gauging the impact of the naturalisation project. There may even be some members who live in the area who would have a particular interest in taking part.

### **To find out more about the project visit:**

[www.sydneywatertalk.com.au/crbnp](http://www.sydneywatertalk.com.au/crbnp) or call Nelson Wallis, Community Relations Advisor, Sydney Water on 02 8849 4198.

## USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR CHARITY

Barrie Ayres

Many Sydney Club members know that the postage stamps have been removed from mail received by the Club and passed to me and members, friends and neighbours have also been saving their used stamps for me.

On 18 July, a big sort out of all the plastic bags and envelopes containing stamps was done and a large box crammed full of used stamps was forwarded to the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC). In the sort out, the receipt for the previous similar consignment came to light, and it was dated November 2003 so the current box of stamps has been building for ten years.

I plan to continue collecting used postage stamps, but cannot promise to be around in ten years' time! Why not start such a collection in your home or office as they take up little room? Tear the stamps from envelopes leaving about a one to one and a half centimetre border. When any member feels that they have a good collection, then please contact me, or the Committee, so that a further consignment may be organised and sent to help raise money for the RIDBC. Or one could phone the Institute on 9871 1233 (currently Erin Adams) and get advice as to where to send them.

## ROYAL NATIONAL PARK OUTING

6 July 2013

Neil Russill

Sixteen members met at Warumbul Road in Royal National Park at 9.00 am. Throughout the morning we walked parts of the Winifred Falls Track, the Meadows Fire Trail and the Gundamaian Fire Trail. The target species in this area were the Honeyeaters. The day's list included White-naped, Yellow-faced, New Holland, Scarlet, Fuscous and Lewin's Honeyeaters plus Eastern Spinebills and Red and Little Wattlebirds. Raptors seen were two Whistling Kites and two White-bellied Sea-Eagles.

Lunch was at Wattamolla followed by a walk out to the cliffs. At the Wattamolla cliffs, Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters were showing and calling well. Out to sea Australasian Gannets and Black-browed Albatross were observed. A good number of whales were spotted travelling north. For many members the Humpback Whales breaching was a highlight.

The last species sighted were three White-necked Herons flying south along the cliffs. Thanks to all who came and shared this day with us.



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## QUORROBOLONG

27 July 2013

Alan Morris

Sixteen people gathered at Freemans Waterhole for our annual visit to Quorrobolong and no one was disappointed with the day. Although it started out cold but sunny, as the temperature rose to 18 C°, it remained sunny and we all had a great time, with 83 species seen. The usual Bell Miners, Yellow-faced and Lewin's Honeyeaters were seen at Freemans Waterhole and then we headed for Mulbring and Sandy Creek Road in Quorrobolong, passing farm dams with their attendant White-necked and White-faced Herons, Australian Wood Ducks, Cattle Egrets and an occasional Nankeen Kestrel and Black-shouldered Kite.

Our first stop was at Peter and Jill Barda's property *Big Pond*. Here we checked out the road reserve first before going onto the property where we had morning tea with our hosts, birding at the same time. There were plenty of birds here with Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Red Wattlebirds and Noisy Friarbirds being the most vocal and abundant but we soon picked up Striated and Brown Thornbills, Golden Whistlers, Grey Fantails and a lovely male Rose Robin. Pied Butcherbirds were calling well; there was a Blue-faced Honeyeater in the Bardas' Liquidambar Tree and five Hardheads on their dam, which was being checked out by a Whistling Kite. We then meandered down Whittings Lane to Heaton Road where we checked out the wetlands, as this is a good place for Red-rumped Parrots, Striated Pardalotes, Grey-crowned Babblers and Tree Martins. All of those birds were found, much to everyone's delight. Other birds of interest here were Royal Spoonbills, White-necked Herons and a Wedge-tailed Eagle. Then we drove down Mill Lane and Swans Lanes to Randall Miller's property *Iomar*, which we had been invited to visit, picking up a Brown Falcon en route. We spent roughly two hours there and although the absence of flowering trees meant that honeyeaters and lorikeets were comparatively

absent compared to some previous visits, there were a good variety of woodland birds to see. Three small groups of Little Lorikeets were located and Yellow-tufted and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were both common, whereas Fuscous and White-naped Honeyeaters proved harder to find. A dark morph White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike was seen and a Brown Goshawk was observed harassing a Wedge-tailed Eagle overhead. Mistletoebirds were also found.

Finally it was time to cross the paddocks once more and head to Trevor Duckworth's property *Oakleigh* where we had lunch. Nothing new was seen on the drive to *Oakleigh*, but no sooner had we arrived and been made very welcome by Trevor and Norma, than a Wedge-tailed Eagle checked us out, followed later by a White-bellied Sea-Eagle. After lunch Norma and Trevor led us on a walk around the property and some highlights here were two more Rose Robins, White-eared and Striped Honeyeaters, Bar-shouldered Doves, Grey Shrike-thrushes and an Olive-backed Oriole. The Satin Bowerbirds were still maintaining a bower in the home garden and we also saw Red-rumped and Australian King-Parrots. The paddocks seemed full of Straw-necked Ibis and Cattle Egrets and there were more Eurasian Coots than usual on the dams. Another Black-shouldered Kite was also seen here.

Our final stop for the day was Ellalong Lagoon, first at the eastern end in Ellalong and then along to the western end at Paxton. Some highlights included a few Black Swans, both Royal and Yellow-billed Spoonbills and Black-winged Stilts at the eastern end, with a few Australian Pelicans and various cormorants at the western end. There were comparatively few waterbirds on the lagoon, contrary to information published recently. We finished here at 3.30 pm having seen 83 species of birds on a winter's day. Thanks to all who participated.

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## MIDWEEK OUTING TO AGNES BANKS AND PENRITH AREA

31 July 2013

Carol Abbott

A dozen club members met at Agnes Banks Nature Reserve on a warm winter's day for the July midweek outing. Apart from a number of Little Lorikeets flying fast overhead, few birds were calling or visible so the group decided to try its luck birding the roads towards Penrith.

The area between Castlereagh Road and Smith Road proved productive with flowering eucalypts attracting a good array of honeyeaters with Scarlet Honeyeaters being particularly vivid. A small flock of Little Lorikeets actually sat still to enable the group to obtain views and the bird list started to grow.

After a couple more stops, lunch was at Penrith Weir, which was a new spot for most. The riverbank walk showed up more species.

Finally, some of the group went off to Mulgoa Reserve to chase up recent sightings of Swift Parrots. On cue, a small flock flew over giving very fleeting views. A nice way to end a day that had a decent bird total (78 species), few 'special' birds but a pleasant winter's day in the outdoors with good company.

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## HALF-DAY OUTING GOSFORD COASTAL LAGOONS–WAMBERAL, TERRIGAL AND AVOCA

5 August 2013

Alan Morris

Thirteen members gathered at Remembrance Drive, Wamberal on a sunny winter's morning to check out the birds on the Gosford Coastal Lagoons of Wamberal, Terrigal and Avoca. We do this survey annually to update the Community Environment Network's Central Coast Wetland Data Base and to update the Birdlife Australia Bird Atlas Data Base. Wamberal Lagoon had recently filled again so that all the large numbers of waders and Cormorants have gone and in their place were large numbers of Eurasian Coots! We counted about 1000 birds on the lagoon, feeding in a large raft in the centre; among them were a few Hardheads and Little Grebes. A pair of Black Swans was on their nest near the central reed-bed and there were about 32 Chestnut Teal and a few Australian Grey Teal and Pacific Black Ducks present. We checked out the bushland in the corner of the Nature Reserve bordered by Ocean View Drive and Wairakei Road, and saw a White-headed Pigeon, Eastern Yellow Robins, a Golden Whistler, two Pied Butcherbirds, an Olive-backed Oriole, Brown and Yellow Thornbills and a Grey fantail. The total bird count was 37.

We moved off to Terrigal and parked our vehicles in Willoughby Road and walked around to the bushland in Florida Drive. Alas there was no Eastern Osprey today

on its usual perch on a pole near the playground, but we did see Chestnut and Australian Grey Teal, Brown Gerygones, Eastern Spinebills, Spotted Pardalotes, Grey Fantails, Golden Whistlers and Lewin's Honeyeaters as well as a White-faced Heron and a Little Egret. Twenty-eight species was the count here. We had morning tea in the sun before moving off to Avoca Lagoon.

At Avoca Lagoon, we parked in Heazlett Park, and then walked back along the main lagoon to the Lions Unity Park to check out the waterbirds in the upper part of the lagoon. There were at least 172 Chestnut Teal, 70 Australian Grey Teal and 20 Black-winged Stilts feeding in the shallow upper reaches of the lagoon, and we also saw one Caspian Tern and four Australasian Darters. There was a pair of Brown Goshawks doing some courtship flights, a Whistling Kite on a nest in the top of a Norfolk Island Pine Tree and a Brush Turkey was seen to run across Avoca Drive heading into the reserve. Our final find for the day was a Nankeen Night-Heron roosting in the large paperbark adjacent to the lagoon where we had our lunch. This brought the Avoca Lagoon count to 34 species.

Overall 57 different species were recorded on the day.

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## OUTING TO THE AIR SERVICES SITE AT SHANES PARK

10 August 2013

Edwin Vella

A reasonable-sized group of keen birders had an enjoyable sunny day at the Air Services Site, Shanes Park. This area contains quite pristine examples of the rapidly disappearing and endangered Cumberland Forest and Castlereagh Woodlands still remaining in Western Sydney. It is home to a range of threatened bird species including the Speckled Warbler. Unfortunately, unlike my visit a week ago, none of the Speckled Warblers made an appearance for our outing but an excellent variety of other bird species was seen. These included three species of raptor – Swamp Harrier, Whistling Kite and Brown Goshawk, a pair of Painted Button-quail, a few Rose Robins (a stunning adult male even came down to a stream for our close inspection), Fan-tailed Cuckoos and Shining Bronze-Cuckoos, Crested Shrike-tits, Rufous

Whistlers, Varied Sitellas, Brown-headed Honeyeaters, lots of both Buff-rumped Thornbills and Weebills, a small group of Olive-backed Orioles and some Fairy Martins already on the job maintaining their nests from the previous season. In addition both Lewin's Rails and Spotless Crakes were clearly heard but unfortunately remained out of view.

Due to its high conservation values, there is hope that this site will one day become a nature reserve and as a minimum, a National Park. An excellent website on the Shanes Park Air Services Site is also available detailing its unique flora and fauna as follows:

<http://www.shanespark.com/>

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## SYDNEY PELAGIC TRIP

10 August 2013

Roger McGovern

We departed through Sydney Heads with a full complement of passengers which included regular and irregular local birders, interstate visitors (good to see Nikolas back for the day), some international visitors and a number of nature watchers along to see whales, dolphins and, of course, the birds.

With the inshore berley trail failing to draw a crowd, there were not large numbers of birds around in the first couple of miles. However, a pair of Humpback Whales were quickly spotted but were not cooperative and we continued on our way after a few minutes. In addition to the usual Silver Gulls and the odd Greater Crested Tern, there were initially several Black-browed Albatross, an Australasian Gannet and then we began to see some Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross. Perhaps the most notable sighting during this stage of the trip was a couple of good-sized groups of small shearwaters that passed by with the bulk of them being Hutton's Shearwaters and only a few Fluttering Shearwaters accompanying them. A group of small dark cetaceans was seen to break the surface but, despite our best efforts, they could not be relocated causing us to think that they were something unusual. Shortly afterwards, a sea monster was seen making a series of very vigorous splashes at some distance but, again, when we arrived on location it did not show again. The most likely explanation for this one was that it was a feeding marlin.

As we moved further offshore, small numbers of Fairy Prions began to appear, some Shy Albatross were well seen and a lone Wedge-tailed Shearwater came past and kept on going. More Humpback Whales were seen with one group of two showing very well and providing good views and photographic opportunities. A couple of observers on board spotted a prion that had quite a different flight pattern to the Fairy Prions around it but it moved away without giving good views and the consensus was that it was either a Slender-billed Prion or an Antarctic Prion.

As we were approaching Brown's Mountain, a small group of Oceanic Bottlenose Dolphins was briefly seen but they did not approach the boat and quickly disappeared. We set up a berley slick as the wind began to freshen and there was plenty of activity around the boat. The first of two Antipodean Albatross (Gibson's subspecies), adult Campbell Albatross, small numbers of Providence Petrels, and some very smart-looking juvenile Shy (White-capped) Albatross straight from fledging at their New Zealand breeding grounds were all seen along with the good numbers of Black-browed Albatross, Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross and Fairy Prions. It was of interest that none of the adult Shy Albatross was seen with a yellow base to the culmicorn, which may have indicated that these birds were all White-capped Albatross



*Shy Albatross. Photo: Alfred Schulte*



*Providence Petrel. Photo: Alfred Schulte*

(stedi) or possibly that the nominate race (*cauta*) does not show this characteristic at this time of the year. Before leaving Brown's Mountain, some people on board spotted a Buller's Albatross fly by but the call did not get to everyone unfortunately. A Brown Skua showed well, but with no new species appearing for a while and the wind freshening, we set off back to Sydney.

Our journey back was initially somewhat choppy but, as we got closer to the protection of the shore, conditions once again became very comfortable. No new birds were seen for most of the way back, but a pod of maybe 60 Short-beaked Common Dolphins delighted everyone by coming for a ride on our bow and a couple of flying fish were well seen. As we were approaching the heads, a small group of White-fronted Terns were seen fishing - a species that we rarely record from the Halicat for reasons that I can't explain. In the harbour we detoured over to the Quarantine Station to search for Little Penguins and although we didn't find any, we were rewarded instead by the sight of two Australian Fur Seals lazing on the rocks. Although it was not a day for rarities, all on board enjoyed a great Sydney day on the ocean with 16 species recorded.

**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	2	(1) both gibsoni	Hutton's Shearwater	200	(100)
Black-browed Albatross	20	(6)	Australasian Gannet	6	(3)
Campbell Albatross	3	(2)	Silver Gull	90	(40)
Shy Albatross	16	(4) only juvenile steady identified as to sub-species	Greater Crested Tern	15	(5)
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	34	(20)	White-fronted Tern	5	(5)
Buller's Albatross	1	(1)	Brown Skua	1	(1)
Prion (sp)	1	(1) Antarctic or Slender-billed	<b>OTHER</b>		
Fairy Prion	60	(8)	Oceanic Bottlenose Dolphin	6	
Providence Petrel	5	(2)	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	60	
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	1	(1)	Humpback Whale	10	
Fluttering Shearwater	10	(6)	Flying Fish	2	
			Australian Fur Seal	2	

**CHILTERN ROAD ET AL**

13 August 2013

Philip Brook

Eight members turned up on a beautiful almost spring morning at Chiltern Road at Ingleside with not a cloud in sight. We had a great day birding along the Chiltern Track, before moving to Warriewood Wetlands and afterwards lunch and an inspection of the new facilities at Middle Creek, near the NSW Institute of Sport.

It was interesting to compare the birds seen during a reconnaissance the previous Tuesday to those on the outing. On Tuesday Chiltern Road produced twelve honeyeater species including Yellow-tufted, White-eared and Fuscous, but the first two were absent on Saturday, replaced by a distant Scarlet calling. Little Eagle, probable Grey Goshawk and a Spangled Drongo were also present only on the Tuesday. At Middle Creek, a Buff-banded Rail was evident on the

Tuesday but was replaced by a Striated Heron, three Royal Spoonbills and a Hoary-headed Grebe on the weekend. A family of Laughing Kookaburras entertained us by keeping a very sharp eye on the BBQ area.

Warriewood produced its usual nice birds but the reported nesting Grey Goshawk wasn't seen – instead you can't miss two of the three new Brush Turkey mounds, one entering Warriewood from Katoa Place to the right of the track just after the first boardwalk, and another on the right soon after you begin on the Irrawong Track. The builders have become immune to people walking past their territory and hopefully they'll nest successfully.

A beautiful winter's day, a good sprinkling of birds and a cheerful group made for a very enjoyable outing.

**KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK OUTING**

28 August 2013

Coleen Southall

Seventeen members met at the Elvina Trail Car Park on a sparkling winter's morning and as we set off down the track a flock of Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos were flying in the distance. There were several Little Wattlebirds and New Holland Honeyeaters flitting about and an Eastern Whipbird close to the edge of the track. We walked to the site of some very interesting rock formations and Aboriginal engravings. Here we observed a Grey-shrike Thrush, White-browed Scrubwrens and Silvereyes. We then proceeded to the Salvation Creek Picnic Area. Here we could hear a Fan-tailed Cuckoo calling. We saw an Eastern Yellow Robin, Grey Fantail and a Spotted Pardalote. At West Head we observed a pair of Australian King-Parrots, a Laughing Kookaburra, Welcome Swallows, a Black-faced Cuckoo-

shrike, Noisy Miners, Pied Currawongs, Australian Ravens and an Australian Magpie. At the Resolute Picnic Area we saw an Olive-backed Oriole and a newly constructed nest. Two Australian Brush-turkeys joined us for lunch and entertained with their antics.

Five of us then headed off to the Chiltern Trail where we found more Little Wattlebirds and New Holland Honeyeaters. Later a Golden Whistler, Variegated Fairy-wrens, White-naped Honeyeaters and Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters were added to the count for the day. As we were leaving we could hear a Bar-shouldered Dove calling. Thank you everyone for making it a very enjoyable day even though birds were scarce.



**THE BEST UNUSUAL RECORDS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, JUNE-AUGUST 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

King Quail	3	24/06/13	Windsor (Turf Farms)	S	Ted Wnorowski
Magpie Goose	6	18/06/13	Yanco Feedlot (22 on 22/07)	R	Ben Kschenka
Magpie Goose	3	20/06/13	Osprey Drive Yamba	NC	Gary Whale
Magpie Goose	10	25/06/13	Geneebinga Wetlands Casino	NC	Darryl Eggins
Magpie Goose	3	03/07/13	Berkeley Lake Illawarra	I	David Rower
Plumed Whistling-Duck	2000+	27/06 & 22/07	Yanco Feedlot	R	Ben Kschenka
Wandering Whistling-Duck	2	29/06/13	Woodlands East Maitland	H	Grant Brosie
Wandering Whistling-Duck	8	30/06/13	Broadwater Lagoon Cattai	S	Keith Brandwood
Wandering Whistling-Duck	650	26/07/13	Lismore Lake	NC	Hans Wohlmuth
Freckled Duck	36	15/06/13	Morpeth STW	H	Ann Lindsay
Freckled Duck	34	03/07-07/08/13	McPherson Road Swamp	CC	Nick Carson
Freckled Duck	23	03-23/07/13	Central Coast Wtlds Tuggerah	CC	Alan Morris
Freckled Duck	100+	24/07/13	Flat Rock Dam Nowra	I	Duade Paton
Blue-billed Duck	M,3F	04/07/13	Shangri la Rd Swp Bundanoon	I	Lorne Johnson
Australian Shoveler	2	24/07/13	Centennial Park	S	Marylon Coates
Pink-eared Duck	150	22/06/13	Swan Pond Ash Island	H	Neville McNaughton
Pink-eared Duck	4	04/04-31/07	Centennial Park	S	Marie Lister
Pink-eared Duck	2500	28/07/13	Fivebough Swp Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Emerald Dove	1	March	Pedro Swamp Batemans Bay	SC	Julie Morgan
Diamond Dove	5	23/06/13	Tycannah Ck Terry Hie Hie	NP	Michael Dahlem
Diamond Dove	20	04/07/13	Whittakers Lagoon Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne
Superb Fruit-Dove	AM	20/07/13	Irawong Res Warriewood	S	Rae Lister
Topknot Pigeon	1	20/07/13	Marrickville (perched on car)	S	Melissa Mason
White-faced Storm-Petrel	3	08/07/13	Terrigal pelagic	CC	Tim Faulkner
<b>Black-bellied Storm-Petrel</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23/06/13</b>	<b>Port Stephens pelagic</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Mick Roderick</b>
Wandering Albatross	2	15/06/13	South Head Sydney Harbour NP	S	Ida Rohne
Wandering Albatross	1	21/06/13	Norah Head Lighthouse	CC	Allan Benson
Wandering Albatross	4	08/07/13	Terrigal pelagic	CC	Tim Faulkner
Gibson's Albatross	1	14/07/13	Port Stephens pelagic	I	Mick Roderick
Campbell's Albatross	1	20/06/13	Mistral Point Maroubra	S	Bas Hensen
Campbell's Albatross	2	08/07/13	Terrigal pelagic	CC	John Weigel
Campbell's Albatross	1	14/07/13	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Shy Albatross	12	18/06/13	Norah Head Lighthouse	Cc	Brad Gabriel
Buller's Albatross	1	21/06/13	Mistral Point Maroubra	S	Fiona Brook
Buller's Albatross	3+	08/07/13	Terrigal pelagic	CC	Tim Faulkner
Buller's Albatross	1	04/08/13	North Head Sydney Harbour NP	S	Michael Ronan
Northern Giant-Petrel	1	25/06/13	Boat Harbour Kurnell	S	David James
Northern Giant-Petrel	1	08/07/13	Off Terrigal	CC	Alan Richardson
Northern Giant-Petrel	3	14/07/13	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Northern Giant-Petrel	3	16/07/13	Green Cape Ben Boyd NP	SC	Grant Brosie
Southern Giant-Petrel	1	25/06/13	Boat Harbour Kurnell	S	David James
Southern Giant-Petrel	1	01/07/13	Terrigal pelagic	CC	Tim Faulkner
Cape Petrel *	1	26/06/13	North Head Sydney Harbour NP	S	Michael Ronan
Fairy Prion	800+	18-27/06/13	Norah Head Lighthouse	Cc	Brad Gabriel
Fairy Prion	500	22/06-01/07/13	North Wall Ballina	NC	Hans Wohlmuth
Fairy Prion	400	23-26/06/13	Mistral Point Maroubra	S	Simon Gorta
Fairy Prion	3	24/06/13	Sawtell Headland	NC	Peter Higgins
Fairy Prion	40+	25/06/13	Terrigal	CC	Nick Carson
Fairy Prion	12	26/06/13	Kingscliff	NC	Kathy Wilk
Antarctic Prion	1+	23/06/13	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Slender-billed Prion	1+	23/06/13	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Slender-billed Prion	1bc	01/07/13	Flat Rock Ballina	NC	Steve McBride

Slender-billed Prion	3bc	28/06/13	Bherwerre Bch Booderee NP	I	Martin Schulz
<b>Blue Petrel</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22/06/13</b>	<b>Wollongong pelagic</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>Brook Wylie</b>
Gould's Petrel	3	18/06/13	Trial Bay Gaol Arakoon NP (300m off)	NC	Laurie McInellie
Little Shearwater	1bc	28/06/13	Bherwerre Bch Booderee NP	I	Martin Schulz
Fluttering Shearwater	500+	27/07/13	Warden Head Ulladulla	I	Bob Rusk
Common Diving-Petrel	5	19-26/06/13	North Head Sydney Harbour NP	S	Michael Ronan
Common Diving-Petrel	103+	20-27/06/13	Nobbys Breakwall Newcastle	H	Grant Brosie
Common Diving-Petrel	100	21-27/06/13	Norah Head/Soldiers Point	CC	Brad Gabriel
Common Diving-Petrel	11	29/06-01/07/13	North Wall Ballina	S	Hans Wohlmuth
Common Diving-Petrel	15	23-26/06/13	Mistral Point Maroubra	S	Simon Gorta
Common Diving-Petrel	1	01/07/13	Tacking Pt LH (taken by peregrine)	NC	Tim Morris
Little Penguin	2	18/07/13	North Sydney (Ferry Wharf)	S	Nigel Jackett
Black-faced Cormorant	1	16/07/13	Green Cape Eden	SC	Grant Brosie
Australasian Bittern	1	24/06/13	McGraths Hill STW	S	Ted Wnorowski
Australasian Bittern	1	16/06/13	The Basin Dam Koonadan	R	Nella Smith
Black Bittern	1	21/07/13	Chain of Ponds Lgn Stannix Park	S	Chris Gladwin
Black Bittern	1	07/08/13	Deep Creek Narrabeen	S	Alex James
Glossy Ibis	127	02/08/13	Casino Wetlands (5 nests)	NC	David Charley
Eastern Osprey	1	22/06/13	Moree Common (2 on 05/07)	NP	Curtis Hayne
Eastern Osprey	2	04/07/13	Burns Bay Lane Cove	S	Fatih Sam
Eastern Osprey	2+NE	30/07/13	Illawong Georges River	S	Per Debbie Andrew
Eastern Osprey	2+N	30/07/13	Narrabeen Lakes	S	Birdline
Pacific Baza	3	30/05/13	Coolbaggie NR	CS	Andrew Bishop
Pacific Baza	2	30/06/13	Mitchells Pass Glenbrook	S	Chris Chafer
Pacific Baza	2	01-02/07/13	Dalrymple-Hay SF St Ives	S	Arnie Hollyman
Square-tailed Kite	3	04/07/13	Woodville Maitland	H	Mike Newman
Square-tailed Kite	1	17/07/13	North Brother Mtn Laurieton	NC	Stephen Gallivan
Whistling Kite	2	27/06/13	Bicentennial Pk Glebe	S	Simon Gorta
Black Kite	1	19/06/13	North St Kempsey	BC	Tim Morris
Black Kite	70	19/06/13	Clergate Orange	CT	Neville Schrader
Black Kite	150	05/07/13	South Grafton Tip (80 on 06/08)	NC	Greg Clancy
Grey Goshawk	2	05/07/13	Ashley Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne
Grey Goshawk (white)	1	04/08/13	Warriewood Wetlands	S	Tom Wilson
Grey Goshawk	1	04/08/13	Orara Way Glenreagh	NC	Greg Clancy
Spotted Harrier	1	18/06/13	Rocks Ferry Bridge Wauchope	NC	Ian Kerr
Spotted Harrier	1	04/07/13	Sydney Olympic Park	S	Jenny Stiles
Spotted Harrier	1	04/08/13	Orara Way Glenreagh	NC	Greg Clancy
Little Eagle	1	03/08/13	Castlereagh	S	Akos Lumnitzer
Black Falcon	1	18/06/13	Four Mile Lane Swan Creek	NC	Darryl Eggins
Black Falcon	2	19/07/13	Scone Township	H	Greg Newling
Black Falcon	1	27/07/13	Whittingham Singleton	H	Alwyn Simple
Grey Falcon	2	01/08/13	Gundabooka NP Bourke	UW	Ted Wnorowski
Brolga	4	21/06/13	Koonadan/Tuckerbil	R	Max O'Sullivan
Brolga	2+N	01/08/13	Crowsnest Swamp Glenugie	NC	Greg Clancy
Brolga	5	01/08/13	Tuckerbil Swamp Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Buff-banded Rail	1	07/04/13	Whites Ck Wetland Annandale	S	Andrew Taylor
Lewin's Rail	1	24/06/13	Bushells Lagoon Nth Richmond	S	Ted Wnorowski
Lewin's Rail	1	04/08/13	Shanes Park (Air Services Site)	S	Edwin Vella
Black-tailed Native-hen	1	24/06/13	McGraths Hill STW	S	Ted Wnorowski
Spotless Crake	37	13/07/13	Seales Rd Swamp (seen & heard)	NC	Ken Shingleton
Spotless Crake	2	04/08/13	Shanes Park (Air Services Site)	S	Edwin Vella
Beach Stone-curlew	2	21/06/13	Salamander Bay Bch (3 on 24/06)	H	Lois Wooding
Beach Stone-curlew	1	26/06/13	Mudbishops Point Old Bar	H	Alan Stuart
Bush Stone-curlew	1 rk	22/07/13	Avalon (George Street)	S	Gwen McDonald
Bush Stone-curlew	3	03/08/13	Davistown Wetlands	CC	Alan Morris
Red-necked Avocet	12	20/06/13	Bicentennial Park Homebush Bay	S	Duncan Fowler
Red-necked Avocet	350	22/06/13	Swan Pond Ash Island	H	Alan Stuart
Red-necked Avocet	3	22-30/06/13	Hooka Point Lake Illawarra	I	Martin Cocker

Red-necked Avocet	11	28/07/13	Dee Why Lagoon	S	Steph Turnbull
Double-banded Plover	3	20/06/13	Lake Goran Spring Ridge	NS	Alan Morris
Double-banded Plover	86	27/06/13	Farquhar Inlet Old Bar	H	Alan Stuart
Double-banded Plover	42	18/07/13	Windang	I	Grant Brosie
Inland Dotterel	2A2Y	06/07/13	Tibooburra (53 km W)	UW	Beverley Morgan
Hooded Plover	6	22/06/13	Bendalong (nr Cudmirrah)	I	Dejan Stojanovic
Hooded Plover	5,1J	17/07/13	Racecourse Bch Ulladulla	I	Grant Brosie
Hooded Plover	10	25/07/13	Burrill Lake Entrance	I	Bob Rusk
Red-kneed Dotterel	2	30/06/13	Macksville STW	NC	Richard Jordan
Banded Lapwing	4	24/06/13	Windsor (Turf Farms)	S	Ted Wnorowski
Banded Lapwing	4	28/07/13	Terry Hie Hie (20 km S)	NP	Curtis Hayne
Painted Button-quail	2	14/07/13	North Head Sydney Harbour NP	S	Ted Wnorowski
Painted Button-quail	F	04/08/13	Shanes Park (Air Services Site)	S	Edwin Vella
Wood Sandpiper *	1	28/07/13	Fivebough Swamp Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Red-necked Stint	1	12/07/13	Fivebough Swamp Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Brown Skua	2	01 & 08/07/13	Terrigal pelagic	CC	Tim Faulkner
Brown Skua	1	18/07/13	Broulee Island Broulee	I	Rob Hamilton
Pacific Gull	3A,J	25/06/13	Boat Harbour Kurnell	S	David James
Gull-billed Tern	121	23/07/13	Ash Island Ponds	H	Mick Roderick
White-fronted Tern	5	23/06/13	Mistral Point Maroubra	S	David Mitford
White-fronted Tern	5	24/06/13	Norah Head/Soldiers Point	CC	Allan Benson
White-fronted Tern	10	27/06/13	Mudbishops Point Old Bar	H	Alan Stuart
White-fronted Tern	3	08/07/13	Terrigal pelagic	CC	Christina Port
Cockatiel	6	21/06/13	Warrah Creek Res Bunnan	H	Alan Stuart
Little Lorikeet	470	22/05/13	Mogo SF (Buckenboursa Road)	SC	Julie Morgan
Superb Parrot	12	05/06/13	Griffith (DPI)	R	Bill Moller
Superb Parrot	60	21/06/13	Moree (Big Leather Watercourse)	NP	Curtis Hayne
Superb Parrot	12	22/06/13	Eulah Creek Narrabri	NP	Michael Dahlem
Superb Parrot	40	23/06/13	Terrie Hie Hie (10 km N)	NP	Curtis Hayne
Swift Parrot	50	22/05/13	Moruya SF Moruya	SC	Don McGregor
Swift Parrot	300	22/05/13	Mogo SF Moruya	SC	Dimitris Bertzeletos
Swift Parrot	20	24/07-03/08	Mulgoa NR Glenmore Park	S	Bob Sinclair
Swift Parrot	10	04/08/13	Laurieton (Dunbogan Caravan Pk)	NC	Peter West
Blue-winged Parrot	100+	08-21/06/13	Koonadan Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Turquoise Parrot	5,3	10/06/13	Kwiambal NP Inverell	NS	Greg Roberts
Turquoise Parrot	2	01/07/13	Trapyard Dam Merriwindi SCA	NP	Steven Edwards
Budgerigar	12	13-21/06/13	Kurri Kurri Woodlands	H	John Goswell
Budgerigar	40+	16/06/13	West Molong	CS	John Austin
Budgerigar	24	03/08/13	Moree Common	NP	Curtis Hayne
Eastern Koel	1	15/06/13	Shortland (overwintering)	H	Dan Williams
Black-eared Cuckoo	1	20/07/13	Trapyard Dam Merriwindi SCA	NP	Shirley Grey
Powerful Owl	2	24/04/13	Sea Acres Port Macquarie	NC	Peter West
Powerful Owl	1	18-25/06/13	Queenscliffe Rd Queenscliffe	S	Isabel Tydeman
Powerful Owl	2	30/07/13	Irawong Res Warriewood	S	Kerry Allen
Barking Owl	2	02/07/13	Little Bch Bouddi NP (car park)	CC	Mark Shanks
Barking Owl	2	02-05/08/13	Jamieson Park Narrabeen Lakes	S	Carol Abbott
Southern Boobook	1	17/07-03/08	E.S. Marks Athletic Field Centennial Pk	S	Daphne Gonzalvez
Eastern Barn Owl	1	24/06/13	Windsor Turf Farms	S	Ted Wnorowski
Eastern Barn Owl	Im	03/07/13	Castlereagh	S	Akos Lumnitzer
Eastern Barn Owl	1	13/06-05/08/13	Centennial Park Sydney	S	Dominic Gonzalvez
Masked Owl	HC	30/07/13	Gibraltar Res (W of Grafton)	NC	Simon Clayton
Sooty Owl	2	29/06/13	Wanganui Mullumbimby	NC	Steve Brooking
Noisy Pitta	1	30/06/13	Kooloobung Res Pt Macquarie	NC	Dave Whitfield
Noisy Pitta	1	03/08/13	Lower Pappinbarra	NC	Ian Kerr
Noisy Pitta	1	30/07/13	Irawong Res Warriewood	S	Kerry Allen
Eastern Bristlebird	1	11/06/13	Border Loop (car park)	NC	Margaret Jordan
Spotted Bowerbird	1	04/06/13	Daruka Road Tamworth	NS	John Holland
Chestnut-rump Heathwren	4	29/06/13	Timmallallee NP Baradine	NP	Greg Roberts



Shy Heathwren	1	28/07/13	Taleeban Res Rankin Springs	R	Phillip Williams
Western Gerygone	1	03/08/13	Cut Hill Road Cobbitty	S	Edwin Vella
Mangrove Gerygone	4	19/07/13	Shipwreck Lkt Centennial Pk	S	Jenny Stiles
Inland Thornbill	4	18/06/13	The Rock NR	SS	Tim Dolby
Singing Honeyeater	1	31/07/13	Glenbrook	S	Mark Ley
Blue-faced Honeyeater	10	25/07/13	Australis Retreat Wisemans Ferry	S	Tom Wilson
Scarlet Honeyeater	AM	23/06/13	Tycannah Creek Terry Hie Hie	NP	Curtis Hayne
White-fronted Honeyeater	2	24/07-03/08/13	Gilgai NR Pilliga	NP	Michael Murphy
Striped Honeyeater	1	18/06/13	The Rock NR	SS	Tim Dolby
Spotted Quail-thrush	F	03/07/13	Shaws Ridge Winmalee	CT	Robert Sinclair
Varied Sitella	4	15/06/13	Sculptures Park Pilliga NR	NP	Shirley Grey
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2	21/06/13	Gil Gil Creek Weemalah	NP	Curtis Hayne
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2	22/06/13	Moree Common	NP	Deryk Engel
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	2	29/07/13	Pilliga (village)	NP	Steven Edwards
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	4	30/07/13	Tuckerbil Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
White-winged Triller	F	03/08/13	Cut Hill Road Cobbitty	S	Edwin Vella
Figbird	2	21/07 & 03/08	Moree Township	NP	Curtis Hayne
White-eared Monarch	1	07/07/13	Wanganui Mullumbimby	NC	Stephen Brooking
Spangled Drongo	1	22/03/13	Tinmalallee Dam Pilliga Scrub	NP	Steve Eke
Spangled Drongo	1	03/08/13	Wolli Creek Earlwood	S	Melissa Mason
Paradise Riflebird	F	08/07/13	Killabakh NR (SW of Comboyne)	NC	Kim Lahmour
Jacky Winter	1	25/06/13	Mulgoa NR Glenmore Park	S	Mark Fuller
Rose Robin	2	20/06/13	Mullion Ck Res Orange	CT	Neville Schrader
Scarlet Robin	AM	25/06/13	Mulgoa NR Glenmore Park	S	Mark Fuller
Scarlet Robin	M,F	26/06/13	Waratah Road Mangrove Mtn	CC	Alan Morris
Scarlet Robin	2,2	30/06-06/07	Galore Hill & Rocky Waterholes	R	Nella Smith

\*=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

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**, **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 winter storms have also played a part in bringing seabirds into coastal areas, of particular interest was firstly a **Blue Petrel**, a very rare bird in NSW, and the large movement of many thousands of **Great-winged Petrels**, up the coast in early June, and **Fairy Prions** and **Common Diving-Petrels** in mid-June and early July, other prion records include 40 Nobbys Breakwall, Newcastle 15-29/06 (H), 10 300 m off Arakoon NP Goal 18/06, 6 Hastings Point, 2 Pass & Wategos Bches Byron Bay & 3 Sawtell Headland 24/06, 3 Macauleys Hd Coffs Hbr & 3 Tacking Pt Lighthouse 27/06, 2 others seen at Crowdy Head 26/06 (NC), 40 Terrigal pelagic 08/07 (CC), 80 Port Stephens pelagic 14/07 (H), 50+ Green Cape 16/07 (SC), 40+ 5 km NE Port Macquarie 02/08 (NC); and other **Common Diving-Petrels**: 12 Terrigal 25/06 (CC), 10 bc Bellambi Pt 26/06 & 46 bc Bherwerre Ch, Booderie NP 28/06 (I), 1 bc Potato Pt Bodalla 07/07, 1 Green Cape, Ben Boyd NP 16/07 (SC), 1 bc Newcastle Harbour entrance 21/07 (H); **White-faced Storm-Petrel**: 2 Terrigal pelagic 01/07 (CC), 1 Pt Stephens pelagic 14/07 (H); The numbers of **Freckled Ducks** continue to rise in NSW, other records include; 6 Berrima Rd Wetlands Mossvale 21/06 (I), 3 Geneebinga Wetlands Casino 25/06 (NC), 1 Centennial Pk Sydney 08/07 (S), 50 Gum Swamp Forbes 21/07 (CS), 7 Lismore Lake 26/07 (NC), 35 Fivebough Swamp 28/07 (R); **Plumed Whistling-Ducks**: 12 Moree Common 03/08 (NP); 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 Pedro Swp Batemans Bay Apr (SC), 1 Woodfield Ave Bundeena 26/07, 2 Burns Bay Rd Lane Cove 04/07 (S); Pacific Bazas: 2 Boyds Bay Walk Tweed Hds 28/06 (NC), 1 North Richmond 03/08 (S), 4 Junction Hill, Grafton 06/08 (NC); Despite it being winter there have been more **Square-tailed Kites** reported: 1 Bingie Pt Apr, 1 Mystery Bay May (SC), 1 Rutherford 22/06 (H). The movement of **Black Kites** to coastal NSW continues, other records include 1 Castlereagh 21/07 (S), 50 Lawrence Rd Southgate 05/08 & 50 Stotts Ck Tweed Heads 07/08 (NC); Other **Grey Goshawks** were at Ramsgate 17/07 (S), 1 Wongambia, Nowra 12/07 (I); **Coastal Spotted Harriers** remain in many locations including 1 Comerang, Narooma Mar (SC), 1 Oakhurst (S), Lower Pappinbarra (NC) North Orange (CT) 19/06, 2 Bunnan 21/06 (H), Coffee Camp, Nimbin 26/06 and Fairy Hill, Casino 25/06 (NC), 1 Wingen 29/06 (H), 1 Cornwallis 06/07 and 1 Picton Rd Wilton (S), 1 Halcombe Hill, Aberdeen 06/07 and Hinton 23/07 (H); A surge in **Black Falcon** numbers continues, other records include 1 Bingara 20/06 (NS), 1 5 km S of Scone 20/06 (H), Big Leather Watercourse, Moree 21/06 (NP), Maitland Vale 30/06, 1 Medhurst Bridge 15/07 and 2 Scone 16/07 (H); **Lewin's Rails**: HC Harrington rainforest 26/06 (H), Pallamallawa 02/07 (NP); **Baillon's Crakes**: 1 Bushells Lgn 24/06 (S); **Spotless Crakes**: 1 Boyters Lne Jerseyville 13/07 (NC); Other **Brolgas** were at McCracken Rd Wetland, Leeton 3 on 14/07 and 5 Fivebough Swp 30/07 (R); 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; **Double-banded Plovers**: 3 still present on Fivebough Swp 30/07 (R); **White-fronted Terns**: 4 North Head rocks, Manly 14/07 (S); Other interesting **Glossy Black-Cockatoos** records include: 3 Lower Pappinbarra 03/08 (NC), 2 Warriewood Wetlands 04/08 (S); **Superb Parrots**: 4 Moree 06/07 (NP), 10 Yanko Feedlot 25/07 (R); The movement of **Budgerigars** in eastern NSW continues viz small numbers Burges Lane and Appleby Lane Tamworth, Moore Ck and Callala 27-30/06 (NS); Generally small numbers of **Swift Parrots** are being reported, but there have been some larger concentrations on the South Coast in Spotted Gum woodlands, other records include 30 Moruya SF, 7 Pedro Swamp, 5 Moruya Heads and 2 Batemans Bay all May (SC), 2 Hanna Res Plumpton 27/07, 13 Scheyville NP 02-03/08 and 8 Cut Hill Road Cobbitty 04/08 (S); There are more **Powerful Owl** records: 1 cnr Fiona Road and Burns Road Sth Beecroft 01/07 and 1 Warriewood Wetlands 04/08 (S); ; There is an upsurge in records of **Eastern Barn Owls**, particularly in the Greater Sydney-Hunter region with other records of single birds at Koonadan Res, Leeton 19/06 (R); Both the **White-fronted Honeyeater** and the **Spangled Drongo** reported in this summary for the Pilliga area, are new birds for the Pilliga (NP); **Bellminer**: A single bird at Eulah Creek, Narrabri was out of range 04/07 (NP); **Ground Cuckoo-shrikes**: 2 Koonadan Road Leeton 14/07 (R); Good Birding!

## BIRDING NSW DIRECTORY

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### Sydney Club Meetings:

The Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month, February to December at 7.30 pm on Level 1, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. There is an illustrated talk followed by Club business and unusual sighting reports. Visitors are welcome.

### Central Coast Club Meetings

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Anzac Street, Tuggerah at 7.30 pm. Convenor: Alan Morris 4334 2776

### Annual membership fee:

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Fees are due on 1 October. Membership includes subscription to the Newsletter and the Club's Annual Bird Report.

### Email for Club Activities:

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### Newsletter contributions:

Email articles, trip reports etc to  
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