



birding  
nsw

# Newsletter

NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc

Issue 281

June - July 2017

## President's Report

At a Special General Meeting of the club on 2 May 2017, the new club Constitution was adopted without dissent. This document will be submitted to the Office of Fair Trading for approval in the near future.

Members will recall that the club has supported Matt Herring in his research project "Bitterns in Rice", centred in the Riverina. We were offered the privilege of naming one of the radio-tracked bitterns this year, and we chose the name Arnold in memory of our late patron, Arnold McGill. Matt has recently tagged a bittern who now bears the name "Arnold". We look forward to hearing more about Arnold the bittern in coming months.

The South-West Slopes Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) survey in March at Grenfell went very well, with a record 36 surveyors and major interaction with the local community. The club had almost a full page spread in the local paper, and landowners in the Grenfell area were generous with their time in supporting the project. Thanks to Elisabeth Karplus for organising the surveys, and to Michael Edwards for preparing the data.

Elisabeth, who is the NSW KBA co-ordinator, will attend KBA events in Melbourne in May and in the Shoalhaven in August.

Our speaker list for 2017 is now complete, with Tim Low talking about bird song in October and Professor Penny Olsen giving the Arnold McGill Memorial Address on her current project, the Night Parrot, at the December club meeting.

The recent BIGnet meeting at Mt Keira was well attended, and BirdLife Australia Head of Conservation Sam Vine chaired a productive Conservation Forum. There was a change in the signatories of the BIGnet account at this meeting. Some of the speakers

at the BIGnet Saturday seminar have agreed to talk at our club meetings early next year, and I am sure that you will enjoy their presentations. The next BIGnet meeting will be held at Urunga (Coffs Harbour area) in September.

Our Activities Officer, Allan Richards has organised a campout in the Tuncurry area for the June Long Weekend. This is modelled on the successful campout that Alan Morris has run in the past. It is based in a caravan park, so if you wish to attend, book a cabin early! For further details, look at this issue of the newsletter or the Birding Bulletin.

Club members Camila de Gregorio and Chris Macaluso were successful in a City of Sydney art competition to decorate the city. Their bird art can be seen at a construction site hoarding in Kent Street, Sydney. It should be there for a while, since the site will host a 20-storey building. An example of their work is shown below.

**Tom Karplus**  
President, Birding NSW



**Street Art with a Difference!** A hoarding decoration in Kent Street between Erskine and King St. By Camila de Gregorio and Chris Macaluso.



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### FIELD OUTINGS AND MEETINGS

#### FIELD OUTINGS

Bring a snack, lunch and a chair. Please check the websites on the evening proceeding the activity to ensure that there are not any changes.

#### NATIONAL PARK USE FEES

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

#### TOTAL FIRE BANS

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

#### SECURITY

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

#### CENTRAL COAST OUTINGS

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

#### FEES AT CAMPOUTS

A camping fee may be applicable at some campsites.

#### PETS

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

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information see the Home Page at [www.birdingsw.org.au](http://www.birdingsw.org.au) or download free at the itunes App Store or at Google Play.

### JUNE 2017

**Tuesday 6 June Club Meeting:** The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos Research Project". Speaker: Jessica Rooke

**Saturday 10 June Club Outing: Wollie Creek and Barton Park.** Meet at the end of Finlays Avenue, Earlwood at 8.30 am. We will walk from Turrella Reserve to Girrahween Park and back to cars for morning tea. If time permits, we will drive across to Barton Park wetlands. Finish about 12.00 pm. Leader: Ian Bailey 0412 251 337 or 9821 4284 prior

**Long Weekend Campout 10-12 June.** Wallamba River Holiday Park, 99 Aquatic Road, North Tuncurry about 14 km north of Tuncurry. Tel: 6554 3123 or 1800 268 176. Meet at 8:30 am at entrance to the caravan park. Lunch at cars. Birding in nearby areas including Cattai Wetlands. Leader: Allan Richards 9660 8062; 0432 064 660

**Wednesday 14 June Central Coast Half Day Outing:** Saratoga and Davistown. Meet at 8:30 am at Saratoga Wetlands, Willaroo Street, Saratoga. Lunch at cars. Leader: Doug Hocking 0427 800 428

**Saturday 17 June Club Outing:** Warriewood Wetlands and Irrawang Reserve. Meet at 8.30 am at Katoa Close, Warriewood. Lunch at cars. Gradient: Easy with bush tracks. Leader: Russell Beardmore 9400 9782 mobile 0404 023 223

**Tuesday 27 June Central Coast Meeting:** Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. "Birding in Norway". Speaker: Greg Miles

**Wednesday 28 June Midweek Outing:** Chiltern Track, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Ingleside. Meet at 8.30 am at the end of Chiltern Road, off Mona Vale Road, Ingleside. Lunch at cars. Gradient: Easy with bush tracks. Leader: Elisabeth Karplus 0421 665 553

## JULY 2017

**Saturday 1 July Central Coast Outing:** Dubbo Gully, Mangrove Mountain. Meet at 8.30 am at the corner of Wisemans Ferry and Waratah Roads, Mangrove Mountain. Lunch at cars. Leader: Margaret Pointer 4374 1163

**Tuesday 4 July Club Meeting:** The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "Water Management in the Murray-Darling Basin". Speaker: Terry Korodaj to explain water management and a colleague to talk birds

**Saturday 8 July Club Outing:** Royal National Park. Meet 8.30 am at Wattle Forest Picnic Area near Audley. Turn into Lady Carrington Drive at Audley, then right over the timber bridge to the western side of the river. Turn left and meet at the last car park. Lunch at cars. Leader: Allan Richards 0432 064 660

**Wednesday 12 July Central Coast Half Day Outing:** Munmorah State Conservation Area. Meet at 8.30 am at Elizabeth Bay boat ramp carpark. Lunch at cars. Leader: Andrew Melville 0416 162 297

**Saturday 15 July Club Outing:** Mistral Point, Maroubra. Meet at 9:00 am in the furthest car park at the northern end of Marine Parade, Maroubra. We will take a short, but rocky walk out to a headland for a sea watch looking for whales as well as seabirds. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Lunch at cars. Leader: Trevor Waller 0467 977 508

**Tuesday 25 July Central Coast Meeting:** Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. "Birding in Central Chile and Northern Argentina". Speaker: Allan Richards

**Wednesday 26 July Midweek Outing:** Mistral Point, Maroubra. Meet at 8.30 am in the furthest car park at the northern end of Marine Parade, Maroubra. We will take a short, but rocky walk out to a headland for a sea watch looking for whales as well as seabirds. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Lunch at cars. Leader: Allan Richards 9660 8062; 0432 064 660

**Saturday 29 July Central Coast Outing:** Quorrobolong. Meet at 8:30 am at the Shell Garage, Freemans Waterhole. Lunch at cars. Leader: Alan Morris 0418 269 482

## AUGUST 2017

**Tuesday 1 August Club Meeting:** The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "The Plains-wanderer". Speaker: David Parker

**Saturday 5 August Club Outing:** Chiltern Track, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Ingleside. Meet at 8.30 am at the end of Chiltern Road, off Mona Vale Road, Ingleside. Lunch at cars. Gradient: Easy with bush tracks. Leader: Coleen Southall 9982 5453; 0410 549 321

**Wednesday 9 August Central Coast Half-day Outing:** Meet at 8.30 am at Central Coast Wetlands Carpark, access off South Tacoma Road Tuggerah. Lunch at cars. Leader: Alan Morris 0418 269 482. A joint outing with Cumberland BOC

**Saturday 12 August Club Outing:** Scheyville National Park and Hawkesbury area. Meet at 8.30 am at the car park for Scheyville National Park Headquarters off Scheyville Road. Lunch at cars. Leader: Trevor Waller 0467 977 508

**Tuesday 22 August Central Coast Meeting:** Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. "Birding in South Africa". Speaker: Mike Kuhl

**Saturday 26 August Central Coast Outing:** Nords Wharf and Galgappa Point, Swansea. Meet at 8.30 am at Cams Wharf Car Park, at the end of Cams Wharf Road. Lunch at cars. Leader: Andrew Melville 0416 162 297

## DEAR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Birding NSW needs your pictures of birds!

Ideally, sharp images of any Australian bird or group of birds showing clearly that the birds were in the wild.

## ARNOLD THE BITTERN



Hi Elisabeth and Tom,

Here's some photos of Arnold, who was caught and released at Coleambally yesterday. He's only about three months old and was presumably born in this rice field. He flew strongly on release, moving about 60 metres into the crop. There's a good chance we'll see a big movement from him in the next few weeks. Many thanks for your support, and please pass on our appreciation to the club from the Bitterns in Rice Project.

Kind regards, Matt.

**Matt Herring**

Wildlife Ecologist

[mherring@murraywildlife.com.au](mailto:mherring@murraywildlife.com.au)

0428 236 563

@Matt\_HerringOz

[www.murraywildlife.com.au](http://www.murraywildlife.com.au)

[www.bitternsinrice.com.au](http://www.bitternsinrice.com.au)

## SYDNEY PELAGIC TRIP REPORT

8 April 2017

Roger McGovern

Weather patterns had been fairly benign in the days leading up to this trip and, with light breezes and a gentle sea of less than a metre all day, we were anticipating an interesting and pleasant autumn trip. It certainly was a very pleasant day to be on the ocean but, unfortunately, the interest level in terms of birds and cetaceans was extremely low. Water temperatures out at the shelf were in the 26°C range which is very high for April and an examination of the sea surface temperature map showed that we were on the edge of a rapid drop off in temperature to the south of Sydney – as much as four degrees cooler within less than 100km.

Astoundingly, we saw no albatross at all on the trip, the first time that this has ever been recorded on a Sydney pelagic in April, and we could only assume that they had headed a little south in search of cooler water.

Although we always had birds around the boat with the shearwaters appreciating our berley throughout the trip,



Pomarine Skua. Photo Steve Hey BNSWJ17

we saw no rarities of any sort and our species count of eleven for the day was disappointing.

### BIRD LIST

(Number in parentheses represents the approximate number of that species seen at any one time)

Wilson's Storm Petrel	5	(3)	Australasian Gannet	12	(6)
Providence Petrel	6	(2)	Silver Gull	100	(60)
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	80	(60)	Greater Crested Tern	3	(1)
Short-tailed Shearwater	3	(1)	Pomarine Skua	1	
Flesh-footed Shearwater	14	(8)	OTHER		
Fluttering Shearwater	2	(1)	Flying fish	1	
Hutton's Shearwater	1				

Three unidentified small whales seen by Steve at the front of the boat which could not be relocated.

The next trip will be on Saturday 10 June, 2017 and all details of our trips and contact details can be found on our website at [www.sydneypelagics.info](http://www.sydneypelagics.info) and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sydneypelagics>

## New Members

A warm welcome is extended to:

Sunil Kulkarni of Artarmon  
Georgina McDonald of Hurlstone Park

### SELLING-SELLING-SELLING!!!

Barrie Ayres, long-serving Life Member is selling:

- Tent plus Camping Gear
- Fishing Rods with Nets
- Cutlery, Mugs, Ornaments
- Some Furniture

### DOWN-DOWN-DOWN SIZING!!!

Ring Barrie 0429 121 188 | **E:** [bazzainoz@yahoo.com](mailto:bazzainoz@yahoo.com)  
CHISWICK NSW

# A Book Review by Lindy Jones

Office of Conservation, Birding NSW

May 2017

## The Australian Bird Guide

Peter Menkhorst, Danny Rogers, Rohan Clarke, Jeff Davies, Peter Marsack, Kim Franklin; CSIRO 2017

When I first heard about this book, I wasn't sure I would need another bird guide. But I took a copy home and spread out my Slaters, Pizzey & Knight, and Simpson & Day and started comparing features. The Bird Guide does not follow the usual taxonomic sequence which ignores preferred habitats, but instead is divided into marine/coastal, freshwater and land birds and then follows a taxonomic structure. Text is on the left hand page, divided into two columns with distribution maps at the foot of the page, and illustrations are on the right hand page.



The species accounts cover wing and bill measurements, weight, description, voice and notes that cover habitat and miscellaneous features, but the most salient identifying features are italicised for convenience.

The illustrators take care to show any subspecies, adult, immature and juvenile forms, or breeding plumage; and almost every bird is depicted in flight, as well as its standard pose (on the water, standing, perched). There are fieldmarks when necessary, or other useful identifying features (comparisons of bill shape/length for

example, or relative size comparisons). There is a scale bar at the bottom of each page to help with estimating size, and a symbol indicating likelihood of encountering the bird.

Vagrants are identified as such over their illustrations.

Once I got used to the layout, I found it very easy to use. The distribution maps were a little hard to figure out at first, but read the introductory pages and all the shadings are explained. As with every guide I know, sometimes the colour reproductions are at the mercy of the printing process, but on the whole they are fine, if erring towards the duller edge rather than hypercoloured. The book is properly stitched and the binding sturdy. The major drawback is the weight - nearly 1.5 kg! That aside, it would be a wonderful and worthwhile addition to your collection, and if you do carry it with you when out birding, it will be the best guide for determining those trickier birds. I certainly won't be without it!

Lindyj@abbey.com.au

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM-INTERIM

Given Name .....Surname .....

Address.....

City/Suburb .....State ..... Postcode .....

Phone ..... Mobile.....

Email..... New/Renewal

Single with newsletter .....\$45 ..... Online newsletter ..... \$40 .....

Family with newsletter .....\$50 ..... Online newsletter ..... \$45 .....

Donation to the Club \$ ..... Total Amount to pay \$.....

Payment: post this form with a **cheque** payable "Birding NSW" to: PO Box Q277 QVB  
Post Shop Sydney 1230.

**Online banking to:** Birding NSW BSB: 062169 A/c 10193174 with your name please.

Subscriptions are due on 1 October each year. Payments from 1 July will be accepted as 1 October for new members.

I understand that this membership fee means that I/we agree to be bound by the Club Constitution.

## Editor's Inbox...

Dear Members,

As I draw together the copy for this newsletter, a number of correspondents have added to the information and records we have. Recording the observations at any particular place and bird life-cycles will be a key to preservation of the places where they live.

See especially the report from the Murray-Darling Basin.

**Jenny Johnstone** continues with her Masters of Architecture project and would love to hear your views on her ideas. A key to the project is briefly described by the question: "what do birders want when they are out and about?" She asks you for comment on:

- My experience would be improved if I could stop and sit when I want.
- Do I prefer local birding or travelling to different places.
- Are there enough bird-hides provided.
- What facilities do I need.

Call Jenny on 0406 802 108 or email [jejohnstone@hotmail.com](mailto:jejohnstone@hotmail.com)

**Caroline Wilson** of BirdLife Australia has called us to order with the 2017 surveys of Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot. The note I have was too late to organise the May surveys for you (check out the website) but please check your diary and book for 5 and 6 August. Call Caroline on 0408 668 070 or email [caroline.wilson@birdlife.org.au](mailto:caroline.wilson@birdlife.org.au)

**Alex Wnorowski and Ted** are providing all the latest avenues for birders to obtain their new volume, Australian Good Birding Guide: NSW-ACT. It is available online

from various booksellers and now in print. I will be buying a book to add to my library. At 530 pages it is not a book to carry in your pocket but many places to find and check out will be very close to home. The book and postage will be about \$90. A digital copy less. For details of how best to access the Guide, call Alex on 0432 422 862 or email [awnorowski100@gmail.com](mailto:awnorowski100@gmail.com)

**Mike Newman** kindly answered my question about the rights and wrongs of a waterbird hunting season in eastern states. His opinion is that:

There is no scientific reason for closing the season on sustainability grounds. 2. The conduct of the season is a disgrace which has no place in current society and should be banned for ethical reasons. Mike's conclusion was that "the decisions are political".

**Ted and Sue Ratcliff** spent a memorable two weeks in Sri Lanka during February-March 17. A few things mentioned in the report they sent in, are extraordinary. Each park visited was different. A great diversity of large mammals as well as birds can be seen. The guide who showed them around, drove the hire-car and spoke fluent English. He was a highly experienced birder as well. We may be able to publish the story in full later in the year.

Thinking about it: do we have a bird guide in Australia who can speak Sinhala? Or Mandarin?

Ted and Sue are happy to talk about the experience: [ratclifffamily@aapt.net.au](mailto:ratclifffamily@aapt.net.au)

### Australian Good Birding Guide: NSW-ACT by Ted and Alex Wnorowski.

#### A new birdwatchers site guidebook is now available:

This comprehensive book will help the reader select and navigate through the State's best birdwatching sites, whether well-known or less frequently visited, with some newly discovered by the authors.

For each site, at the minimum, the access details, habitat description, key bird species, and facilities are addressed. This is further augmented with personal birding records and travel experiences of the authors. Our data has been cross-checked and supplemented with the verified sightings reported online.

The ebook (in the ePub format) is available from several retailers. For links to the retailers go to the authors' website: <https://www.australian-good-birding-guide.com/>. There is also a printed version that may be purchased directly from that website. Alex, mobile: 0432 422 862

This is the first publication of a planned series of travel guides describing good birdwatching sites in Australia.

Australian Good Birding Guide:  
NSW-ACT

Ted and Alex Wnorowski



## BIRDING NSW's KEY Biodiversity Area Survey around Grenfell

25 March 2017

Elisabeth Karplus

Birding NSW's 11th bird survey around Grenfell took place on Saturday March 25, 2017. Grenfell is within the South West Slopes Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). This huge KBA extends from Orange to Wagga Wagga and east to Canberra so we only survey in a small area of it. The target species in this KBA are Superb Parrots, Swift Parrots, Painted Honeyeaters and Diamond Firetails. Although the area is now a KBA and therefore other taxa (mammals, reptiles, amphibians etc) are potentially of concern in the KBA, we continue to concentrate just on birds. As well as the target species defined on the basis of their global conservation status, we record bird species listed as vulnerable under current NSW legislation. Our surveys began in 2011. The September 2016 survey was cancelled because of floods.

Thirty six people took part in the surveys including nine new surveyors and six surveyors from Grenfell and Young. This is the largest number of surveyors we have had. Everyone came to dinner on Friday night at the Railway Hotel – not a problem for Carol, the cook, who produced a roast dinner for us. We increased the number of survey groups to eight and we surveyed on 31 sites including two new sites. I would like to thank Allan Richards, Ted Nixon, Jill Molan, Richard Webber, Graham Fry, Russell Beardmore and Paul Johnstone for leading groups; I led the eighth group. Superb Parrots were seen on five survey sites (three on private properties) and incidentally in four other places over the weekend; the maximum number seen at any place was 19 birds. Two Diamond Firetails were seen on one survey site in Bimbi State Forest. Once again we did not see the other two target species. Of other threatened species, two Brown Treecreepers were seen in Warraderry State Forest, five Turquoise Parrots were seen in Weddin State Forest, two Speckled Warblers were seen in Weddin State Forest (not on a survey site) and Grey-crowned Babblers were seen in nine places; the maximum number on any place was 15 birds. We did not see any Hooded Robins on this survey. Other interesting species were an Australian Hobby, a Brown Goshawk, two Swamp Harriers, a White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, a Southern Whiteface, two Painted Button-quails, Australian Ringnecks, Blue Bonnets and Rainbow



Allan Richards presenting the picture painted by Norma Ikin to Mikla Lewis. Photo Camila Di Gregorio

Bee-eaters. For surveyors in the forests, Red-capped Robins were common being seen in seven sites with the maximum number seen on any site being seven. Outside of the survey, people saw Plumed Whistling-Ducks and Pink-eared Ducks at the sewage ponds.

Once again we were blessed with good weather for the barbecue on Saturday night at "Rosemont", the home of Mikla and Wayne. This provided an opportunity for Allan to present Mikla with a picture of her favourite bird, a Spotted Harrier, painted by Norma Ikin. This gift is a present from all of us to thank Mikla for all her hard work in supporting and promoting the bird surveys around Grenfell. Tom provided two chocolate cakes to celebrate three birthdays including Mikla's. On Sunday morning we met at Company Dam for a walk in fine weather around the tracks. I recorded 38 species including six Varied Sittellas, two Crested Shrike-tits and two Speckled Warblers.

During this survey weekend we recorded 64 species with 61 species seen on survey sites. Since commencing the Grenfell surveys in 2011, we have seen 134 bird species on survey sites with several other species seen on non-survey sites during the survey weekends.

Survey Date	24/09/2011	12/05/2012	3/11/2012	20/04/2013	12/10/2013	29/03/2014	27/09/2014	28/03/2015	26/09/2015	19/03/2016	25/03/2017
Cum. species count	67	79	91	100	106	112	117	125	131	133	134
New species count	67	12	12	9	6	6	5	8	6	2	1
Total # species	67	60	71	54	67	66	73	70	78	64	61
Total # sightings	819	608	1014	477	733	1325	860	1430	1013	1101	971



Below are shown the bird species with bird numbers seen during the survey on Saturday March 25, 2017. This table does not include birds seen outside survey periods or at other places during the weekend. The only new bird species seen on a survey site was a White-bellied Cuckooshrike. My thanks go to Michael Edwards, who has provided the data included in the two tables.

Species	Number of birds seen	Number of sites at which seen	Species	Number of birds seen	Number of sites at which seen
Apostlebird	119	15	Rainbow Bee-eater	14	2
Australian Hobby	1	1	Rainbow Lorikeet	8	2
Australian Magpie	45	19	Red Wattlebird	2	2
Australian Raven	10	9	Red-capped Robin	19	7
Australian Ringneck	4	2	Red-rumped Parrot	22	6
Australian Wood Duck	6	3	Restless Flycatcher	3	3
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	6	5	Rufous Whistler	8	5
Blue Bonnet	2	1	Southern Whiteface	1	1
Brown Goshawk	1	1	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	7	2
Brown Treecreeper	2	1	Striated Pardalote	3	1
Common Bronzewing	10	6	Striped Honeyeater	9	4
Crested Pigeon	28	11	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	1	1
Diamond Firetail	2	1	Superb Fairy-wren	11	3
Eastern Rosella	76	20	Superb Parrot	36	5
Eastern Yellow Robin	6	3	Tree Martin	3	2
Galah	35	12	Turquoise Parrot	5	1
Grey Butcherbird	13	9	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	1
Grey Fantail	15	7	Weebill	1	1
Grey Shrike-thrush	2	2	Welcome Swallow	5	2
Grey-crowned Babbler	42	6	Western Gerygone	2	2
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	1	<i>White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike</i>	1	
Jacky Winter	2	1	White-browed Babbler	9	2
Laughing Kookaburra	8	4	White-eared Honeyeater	12	5
Little Raven	2	2	White-plumed Honeyeater	45	6
Magpie-Lark	16	10	White-throated treecreeper	3	3
Noisy Miner	115	18	White-winged Chough	73	7
Pacific Black Duck	2	1	Willie Wagtail	19	10
Painted Button-quail	2	1	Yellow Thornbill	32	10
Peaceful Dove	4	3	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	6	2
Pied Butcherbird	14	10	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	12	3
Pied Currawong	7	5			
Total # Species seen	61		Total # birds seen	971	
** Species seen for the first time this survey italicised					

The next survey will be held on the weekend of September 15-17, 2017. We hope that our existing volunteers and new volunteers will take part in the next survey. Everyone is encouraged to book accommodation as soon as possible as there are always events in Grenfell in Spring. Please contact Allan Richards ([activities@birdingnsw.org.au](mailto:activities@birdingnsw.org.au)) or me ([emhodson@exemail.com.au](mailto:emhodson@exemail.com.au)) if you are not already on our contact list and would like details of the next survey.

## Arnhem Land

September 2016

Leigh Hall

Arnhem Land Bird Week has been held since 2008. In 2016 there were two consecutive weeks in September and October. In prior years, the location was the Arnhem Land Barramundi Nature Lodge outside Maningrida, which operates as a high end fishing camp throughout the dry season. We only stayed one night there, and the recently opened Murwangi Safari Camp was the location for most of the week. It is a luxury camp having



Chestnut Rail. Photo Leigh Hall

air-conditioned tents with modern en-suites. The food was excellent. The Traditional Owner, Johnny Pascoe, who starred in the movie, *Ten Canoes*, owns the former cattle property. He has leased the site to Outback Spirit, who are the operators of the facility, and who now organise the bird week.

The birding was also pretty good! We had several most experienced and enthusiastic guides [ Richard Noske, John Estbergs, and Chris Brady ] who took small groups of five or six to a variety of distinct habitats. Some 180 species were recorded.

The first day was spent on the river, as weather prevented us from going out to the off-shore islands, where the previous group made many great sightings of shore birds. Flocks of Brolgas and groups of buffalo graced the land. Excellent sightings were made of Chestnut Rails foraging on the muddy shores, Red-headed Honeyeaters, Black-necked Storks, as well as a Great-billed Heron. Closer to Barra Camp there were Long-tailed and Masked Finches, Black-tailed Treecreepers, and White-winged Trillers. Along the road we saw a pair of Red Goshawks feeding their chick.

A highlight at Murwangi was the billabong adjoining the camp. This enabled close-up birding from the comfort of a boat in the shady inlets. Apart from the Plumed Whistling-Ducks, Comb-crested Jacanas, Magpie Geese, Whistling Kites, Blue-winged Kookaburras, Nankeen Night-Herons, Torresian Imperial Pigeons, Australasian Darters and Egrets, we saw White-browed Crake, Crimson Finches, Paperbark Flycatchers, Mangrove Robins, Mangrove Golden Whistlers, Azure Kingfishers, Forest Kingfishers, Arafura Fantails, and the ubiquitous Lemon-bellied Flycatchers. The Lemon-bellied Flycatcher reputedly have the smallest nest in Australia, and they certainly looked tiny. The camp airstrip had its resident Oriental Plovers. The nearby paperbark forests had Bar-breasted, Rufous-banded and Rufous-throated Honeyeaters, as well as Varied Lorikeets.

Our excursion into the nearby settlement of Ramingining provided opportunities to observe indigenous culture as well as to explore additional habitats. Australian Bustards, Helmeted Friarbirds, Large-billed Gerygones, Yellow White-eyes, and large numbers of Little Curlews were recorded.

Arnhem Land Bird Week was a very enjoyable and productive birding experience.

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## Camp-out West Wyalong

24-26 March 2016

Alan Morris

Twenty-seven members and friends of the Central Coast Group of Birding NSW took part in the first of four camps for 2017, having spent from 23-27/3/17 staying at the Ace Caravan Park, West Wyalong. From here we visited State Forests, Nature Reserves, Travelling Stock Reserves, wetlands and farmlands within a 50 km radius of the Town. The purpose of the visit was to survey the birds in the Box Woodlands, Mugga Ironbark & Cypress Pine Forests, wetlands and farmlands of the area, for both the NSW Bird Atlas Data Base and to contribute to Birdlife Australia's Birdata Project and the South West Slopes Key Biodiversity Area surveys, at the same time learning about the birds of the woodlands and plains generally. All up we saw 112 species. Within the camp ground we had a list 38 species including up to five Pink Cockatoos each day, a flock of 21 Superb Parrots, many Little Friarbirds, Blue-faced and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, many Choughs & Apostlebirds and Grey-crowned Babblers. Overall Choughs, Apostlebirds and Red-capped Robins seem to be the commonest bush birds in the District, where we visited over 28 different locations and will submit about 50 Birdata surveys!

On the Thursday before the camp, up to 50mm rain fell across the District, and while it had dried out by Friday, the day remained dull & overcast. In the morning we visited an area of mallee in the Charcoal Tank Nature Reserve and the box woodland habitats of the Buddigower Section of the South West Woodlands Nature Reserve. At the former the highlights were Inland Thornbills, the first of many Red-capped Robins, Common Bronzewing and the inland NSW form of the Varied Sittella, while at the latter were Peaceful Doves, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes, Rufous Whistlers, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Western Gerygone and Ringneck Parrots. On the way we passed the Alleena Silo and former village, where we saw a Wedge-tailed Eagle, a Brown Falcon, three Banded Lapwings, an adult male Superb Parrot, Jacky Winter and 2 Pink Cockatoos. In the afternoon we first visited Wyrra SF, a Cypress Pine/Box Woodland site, where a flock of eight Zebra Finches were seen, more Sittellas, Red-capped Robins and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters. At nearby Back Creek SF being mostly Cypress Pine/ Belah habitats, there were Dusky Woodswallows, Striped Honeyeaters and Yellow Robins, and the final stop for the day was at the Wyalong Wetlands and WWTP. Great views here of a female Musk Duck, and immature Great Crested Grebe, many Pink-ears, Hardheads, White-plumed Honeyeaters, White-breasted Woodswallows, Black-fronted Dotterels, all the usual waterbirds and a Whistling Kite.

Saturday came up sunny and later hot, the temp rising 30C, so we spent the morning firstly in Wyalong SF (a mallee site), just on the northern edge of the town and had great views of Variegated Fairy-wrens, four Pink Cockatoos, Crested Shrike-tit, Collared Sparrowhawk, Weebills, Inland & Yellow Thornbills and White-eared Honeyeaters, and then moved onto the former Hiawatha SF, nowadays a part of South West Woodlands NR, an area of Mugga Ironbark and Box Woodland habitats. The highlights here were Thornbills including Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Western Gerygones and Red-capped Robins, while at the adjoining Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR), there were 2 Wedge-tailed Eagles, Double-barred Finch, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, a Noisy Friarbird and many Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters. In the afternoon we visited the village of Barmedman and then onto Curraburrama SF. On route to and from the SF we passed through open cropping country and saw Brown Falcons, Kestrels, a Hobby, Blue Bonnet Parrots, White-necked Herons, our only flock of Cockatiel for the trip, Grey-crowned Babblers, Yellow-throated Miners and two more Pink Cockatoos. At the Forest was a pair of Brown Goshawks, Singing, Striped & Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Rufous Whistlers, Yellow & Red-capped Robins and yet another Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Our planned visit to the Nerang Cowal Section of Lake Cowal was on the Sunday which was a hot sunny day and good light for bird watching. Our first stop was a TSR on the Clear Ridge Road, an area of Box Woodland where we had our first sightings of Brown Treecreepers, up to this stage only White-throated Treecreepers had been seen! At Clear Ridge SF there were Blue Bonnets, Brown Falcon, Little Friarbirds and Common Bronzewing, plus the usual robins, and in the open country enroute to Lake Cowal there were Grey-crowned Babblers, Black-shouldered Kites, Pipits, Yellow-throated Miners, Whistling Kites, Kestrels and Ringnecks. We lunched in the little village of Burcher, finding the usual collections of Grey Fantails, thornbills and robins.

We drove down the Burcher-Forbes road into the Lake, parking just before where the lake waters have flooded across the road. The highlights here were a Freckled Duck, a pair of Australian Shelduck, many Pink-ear and Grey Teal, Royal and Yellow-billed Spoonbills, Great Egret White-necked Herons, Black-fronted Dotterel, three Sacred Kingfishers, Variegated Fairy-wrens in the Lignum, Darters, many Pelicans, four species of Cormorants and Wood Ducks, Black Ducks etc. On

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our way back to Wyalong, we stopped at Lake View and Corringle SFs, the highlights being two Emus at the former and Blue Bonnet Parrots at the latter. After a coffee and rest at the camp, we paid our final visit to the Wyalong Wetlands where more Double-barred Finches were seen, and Tree and Fairy Martins, and Reedwarblers were added to our list.

Overall we saw Major Mitchell's (Pink) Cockatoos at 6 sites including repeat sightings in the camp, Superb Parrots at three sites, saw many Red-capped Robins & Rufous Whistlers, Inland, Chestnut-rumped & Yellow-rumped Thornbills, had great views of Blue Bonnets and Mallee Ringneck Parrots; Peaceful Doves, Weebills and Western Gerygones, and nine species of raptors including Wedge-tailed Eagles at seven sites! Everyone agreed that it was a very successful camp, as it was a great time of socialising, photography, checking out the tourist highlights and enjoying the outdoors, particularly in this part of the Central West Slopes and Plains of NSW.

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## Sydney Olympic Park

29 March, 2017

Judy Clark

After the run of wet weather, Wednesday dawned fine and sunny. Nine keen birders including one visitor from England met near Lake Belvedere for our March midweek outing.

We began by heading to the belvedere lookout where we observed plenty of activity on the island. All four cormorants and darters were nesting, feeding young and some were in the process of building new nests. There were also Great Egrets feeding in the water and we found others nesting on the island. The best sighting and probably the highlight of the day were two juvenile Nankeen Night-Herons perched in one of the paperbarks adjacent to the lookout only a couple of metres from us, and very photogenic!

We walked around the lake and located many duck species, now returning to city waterways. We found New Holland Honeyeaters then four or five pairs of Royal Spoonbill nesting at the top of the casuarinas.

After morning tea we headed to the bird hide where we found Black-fronted Dotterel, Red-necked Avocet, Hardhead, Black Swan and Black-winged Stilt all in good numbers plus two Caspian Tern, one adult and one juvenile.

We lunched in the picnic shelter and chatted about recent sightings in Sydney and around New South Wales. By the end of lunch it had become quite hot so we decided to call it a day. In total 42 species were seen.

Thanks to all those who attended.

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## Bucketty, Mogo Camp and Wollombi/Murrays Run

1 April 2017

John and Carole Carpenter.

25 keen birders met at the Letter "A" cnr of George Downs Drive and Walkers Ridge Rd Bucketty, on a pleasant autumn day. We had several Sydney visitors, our UK visitor Jay Nicholson, while Tony Yates was joining us for the first time. Gang-gang Cockatoos were heard calling but waited to make their appearance when everyone had arrived and they were much admired and photographed! Before we moved off we had recorded 15 species including Pied Butcherbird, Noisy Friarbird, Grey Shrike-thrush and Scarlet Honeyeater, The friarbirds and honeyeaters were feeding on the flowering Red Bloodwoods, which were in heavy flower at Bucketty Wall & Waterhole and Mogo Camp as well.

We made our way to the convict wall at the corner of Settlers Rd/Great North Road where we had good views of the Crested Shrike-tit. Also seen were Variegated Fairy-wrens, White-cheeked and White-eared Honeyeaters. We continued along the Great North Road (Settlers Rd) to the Bucketty waterhole where we found the usually present Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters. A Dusky Woodswallow was sighted briefly overhead and a Fan-tailed Cuckoo called from a roadside tree in clear sight! Our next stop was the Mogo Camp, in Yengo NP where a large flowering Forest Red Gum *Euc. tereticornis* was alive with birds. There were White-naped, Yellow-faced, Scarlet, New Holland, White-naped and Fuscous Honeyeaters feeding on the nectar. The latter species was a new bird for some people. We reluctantly left the honeyeaters to walk around the Camp track where the dominant bird was the Eastern Yellow Robin. Morning tea was taken, again watching the honeyeaters and Little Lorikeets were passing overhead. To our great delight a pair of

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Spotted Quail-thrush walked round the grassed area in view of everyone. After a short look at the Quarry across the road, we returned to the Camp where Mark spotted a bird with red on its head and everyone was quickly motivated to see this Red-browed Tree-creeper. The pair of treecreepers, quite oblivious to the excited birders, continued their foraging while photographers tried to catch this pair of busy birds. This was another lifer for some of the group. Top morning tea stop of the year!

We then drove to Wollombi via the Yango Creek Road, stopping to look in the waterholes where we added Black-fronted Dotterels, Grey Teal, a Swampheaven working at a nest in the reeds, Yellow-rumped Thornbills and Superb Fairy-wrens. Lunch was had at Wollombi making full use of the upgraded Picnic Area. Blue-faced Honeyeaters were seen and a Wedge-tailed Eagle soared high in the clouds. We then drove to the Wollombi Cemetery to check out the nearby waterhole but only found Grey Teal, Black Duck and a row of Cattle Egrets roosting on the old fence in the water. The surprise find was sighting a Jacky Winter roosting on the tallest tombstone. From here some of our group returned to the Letter "A" via George Downs Drive and the rest of us drove back via Murrays Run. Here we saw Galahs and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Australian White Ibis, Australasian Grebe and Striated Thornbills. A really great day, 65 species were seen, many of them specials and new birds for some especially Jay! Thanks for everyone's support.

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## Scheyville NP Outing

8 April 2017

Trevor Waller

A small group of members met at Scheyville National Park Headquarters under clear sunny skies. The first bird for the day was an Australian Hobby. We had good close scope views as it perched in a nearby tree. On our walk here we also found Fuscous and Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Rosella and Noisy Friarbird. Towards the end of the walk we found a large active flock of Silvereye including many Tasmanian birds

After morning tea we moved to Cattai National Park where we stopped along the entry road a few times. Along the way we saw Restless Flycatcher, Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Brown Goshawk, Black-shouldered Kite and Nankeen Kestrel. Other birds seen included White-necked Heron and Red-browed Finch. We had lunch in one of the pavilions on new tables and benches.

After lunch we moved on to Mitchell Park which was very wet after all the recent rain, so we stayed on the bitumen. Here we found Azure Kingfisher, Golden Whistler and Brown Gerygone. After a good day out we all went our separate ways.

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## Katandra Reserve, St John's Lookout (Mount Elliott) and Maidens Brush Fire Trail

12 April 2017

Doug Hocking

After a month of wet and humid weather 18 Birders visited the Katandra Reserve, Maidens Brush Fire Trail and St John's Lookout (near Mount Elliott). It was a chance to have a look at bird populations in the temperate rain forest surrounding the man-made Seymour Pond and the ridge lines of Mount Elliott with St John's Lookout rising 208 metres above sea level. The Sydney CBD can clearly be seen from the lookout. The habitat was in prime condition after the rain. In short, the birds were scarce in the rain forest and even fewer on the Maidens Brush Fire Trail. However, we managed to see 36 species. The highlights for me were four female Regent Bowerbirds, a Rufous Fantail and two Topknot Pigeons at Katandra Reserve while at Maidens Brush Road and St John's Lookout, the Striated and Buff-rumped Thornbills, and a Mistletoebird were the highlights.

Most of the activity at Katandra was around Seymour Pond, a relic of farming days when the pond was the farm dam, there were large areas of cleared rough grazing for cattle and beans were grown on the flatter areas using some irrigation from the dam. There has been much revegetation of the rainforest since then! The birds seen and heard at Katandra Reserve/Seymour Pond were: Bell Miner, Laughing Kookaburra, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow

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Lorikeet, Noisy Miner, Grey Butcherbird, Eastern Whipbird, Lewin's Honeyeater, Superb Fairy-wren, Eastern Yellow Robin, White-throated Treecreeper, Golden Whistler, Grey Fantail, Brown Gerygone, Red-browed Finch, White-browed Scrubwren, four female/brown Regent Bowerbirds, Rufous Fantail, one Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Satin Bowerbird, two Topknot Pigeon, Eastern Rosella, Green Catbird, Superb Lyrebird and Masked Lapwing.

Birds seen and heard at Maidens Brush Fire Trail and St John's Lookout were: Grey Shrike-thrush, Australian Magpie, Magpie-lark, Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Eastern Spinebill, one Mistletoebird, Variegated Fairy-wren, Bell Miner, Grey Fantail, White-throated Treecreeper, Australian Pelican, Golden Whistler, Rainbow Lorikeet, Eastern Yellow Robin, Eastern Whipbird, Grey Butcherbird, Noisy Miner, Brown, Yellow and Striated Thornbills, and another Brown Cuckoo-Dove

## 2017 Easter camp at Nangar National Park

14 – 17 April 2017

Elisabeth Karplus

The 2016 Easter camp at Nangar National Park was so successful that Allan Richards decided to take club members there again in 2017. Nangar National Park is about five hours drive from Sydney and is 70 km west of Orange and 10 km east of Eugowra. This national park is within the South West Slopes Key Biodiversity Area and is 90 km north east of Grenfell, where the Club does twice yearly surveys. Once again we camped at the Terrara Creek Camping Ground. This time Easter occurred in the middle of the school holidays so there were many families camping in the area. Luckily the kids go to sleep quite early! The single toilet coped very well with the large number of visits – periodically an



Turquoise Parrot. Photo Greg McLachlan

adult would lead a group of 4 or 5 children up to the toilet. It was generally not very smart to be queuing behind them if you were in a hurry! Our group of 16 campers split into two groups and settled in good sites on opposite sides of the road and the creek. This year there was water in the creek and plenty of water in other sites so we saw few Macropods close to the road. Each day Coleen and Gabrielle, who were staying in Forbes, joined us for walks in the park.

Once again the best birding was close to the entrance to the National Park and particularly along the creek among White Cypress Pine with various eucalypt species. Allan looked for the Owlet-nightjar we had seen last year – no luck and we watched a Monitor Lizard emerging from the tree hollow! There were good numbers of Turquoise Parrots. Frequently we were alerted to their presence by their high pitched call as they flew over us but we also had good views of perched birds. Greg got close enough to watch some Turquoise Parrots bathing in the creek. One evening Nigel, Greg and I came upon a group of 14 Turquoise Parrots feeding with two Red-rumped Parrots on the edge of the road. Of other threatened woodland birds, during the weekend we saw a pair of Hooded Robins, many Speckled Warblers, a few Dusky Woodswallows, two Diamond Firetails and several groups of Grey-crowned Babblers. On a visit to the lookout from which we could see Mount Canobolas near Orange and on a nearby track, there were Red-capped, Scarlet and Eastern Yellow Robins as well as several honeyeaters – Yellow-tufted, White-eared, Brown-headed and White-plumed. Generally there was little blossom except for a few flowering Ironbarks so honeyeaters were uncommon. We were surprised to find large numbers of Grey Fantails – at least 5 feeding near the lookout. We presumed that they were migrating north. Other birds seen in the park included Inland Thornbills, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, a Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, White-browed Babblers and many Southern Whiteface and Yellow-rumped Thornbills. Alas we failed to see any Glossy Black-Cockatoos this year.

As well as birding in the National Park, we made trips to Gum Swamp in Forbes and to the Parkes Sewage Treatment Works. At Gum Swamp there were few ducks but we saw large numbers of Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes. The Hoary-headed Grebes were swimming in lines up and down the swamp. As well as both species of Spoonbill, there were three Nankeen Night-Herons perched on the dead trees. A White-bellied Sea-eagle was sitting beside its nest and a Whistling Kite flew around the wetland. A flyby by a Peregrine Falcon had all the Rock Doves scattering. Overhead were many White-breasted Woodswallows while we saw a Pallid Cuckoo on a drive round the end of the swamp. I regretted not joining the group that went to Parkes Sewage Treatment Works, where nine species of duck were seen including Freckled, Pink-eared, Musk, Australasian Shoveler and Australian Shelduck. Alas they did not see any Blue-billed Ducks there.

Overall 118 species were seen over the weekend with Greg adding the 118<sup>th</sup> – a Brown Goshawk - as he left the park. Our thanks go to Allan Richards for organising the camp and for leading the bird walks and also for showing us so many species of birds.

## Surveying Site 2! The Perils of Bird Surveys

14 - 17 April 2017.

Rae Lister

We had no mobile reception and were unable to contact Heather on the Saturday morning of the Grenfell bird survey to give an estimate of our arrival time. We later heard the Optus Network was down for some hours in the Grenfell area. As we drove into the private property we found Heather outside anticipating our arrival and hurriedly finishing her breakfast. She had arrived back late the night before after twelve months in Brisbane. We drove around the back and Heather opened the passenger door to her vehicle for the two dogs to jump in and then got in herself and we followed her as she drove to the site. Paul wondered aloud how many birds we might see with two boisterous dogs in tow.



Rae Lister with Heather Lamb's sheepdog, Jessie, after they were chased by cows.  
Photo Stephen Hey

On arrival at the site a mob of beautiful Belted Galloways

were right beside the entry gate and they began to moo. I saw that each had an ear tag with their name written on it. Personally I thought how sweet that they were greeting us and particularly noted Amber. She was a big girl. As Heather opened the gate for us we walked through and the dogs Jessie and Ziggy romped in too. Heather said she would lead us around the site so we set off with me noting the time at 9:10. We had not gone very far when the mooing became bellowing and we turned to see Amber leading a charge for us. I turned to look at the others and particularly Heather seeking guidance in this situation. It was then that I saw the excited dogs were safely ensconced behind us for protection and that the mooing and bellowing had nothing to do with us. Heather made a swift decision to remove the dogs from the site and closed the gate.

We returned to the task at hand which was to scan and listen out for birds. The cows walked alongside us. Were they hoping for protection? There was a sense of relative calm, which I judged by Daisy allowing her calf to suckle. Still it was impossible to hear any birds, should there be any remaining on our side of the mountain, as some cows would not let the matter drop. They continued to moo their outrage albeit a few decibels below the bellowing! Nigel spoke harshly to them to no avail.

Heather led us down an incline and I noted aloud that the cows were no longer accompanying us as perhaps they preferred walking only on the flat. Soon after that we heard bellowing again and spun around to see Amber leading the charge down the hill. At the same time we saw that Ziggy was behind us and Jessie was on the other side of the charging herd. Heather shouted doggy commands like stay, sit, etc to Jessie which she only partially obeyed as it was obvious she wanted to cross the void to relative safety behind us. Dogs being dogs they had run around the fence until they found a weakness they could exploit and get back in to the action.

Being the timekeeper I called time up and we moved purposefully towards Jessie and the gate. Amber and co ceased their descent and we made our way safely out the gate. As we left the enclosure Heather told us that they recently had a wild dog attack which had killed some sheep and also some goats and the remainder of the goat herd had bolted and none have returned. On the other hand the Belted Galloway herd remained intact. They had protected their calves and themselves from the attack.

I am afraid to say my contribution to the bird count was nil. Other team members (Paul, Nigel and Stephen) said they had seen three species and heard three more, which was impressive. Stephen continuing to take photographs under the circumstances was no less impressive.

## The Murray-Darling Basin

Ian Bailey, the Office of Conservation, Birding NSW

What is *Environmental Water*?

All the water available in the Murray-Darling Basin is shared by a number of "stakeholders". Humans need it for personal consumption, irrigation, recreation, fishing and tourism. The environment obviously needs the ancient, but variable, levels and patterns of water flows to survive. Rivers were dammed to secure water for human use and it was realised that too much was being extracted and the patterns of water delivery didn't suit the aquatic freshwater ecosystems. Governments are now addressing that situation and studies continue. Water "justice" is the objective.

More efficient use of water has resulted, such as a move away from overhead boom sprays used by winegrowers to a drip irrigation system keeping soils just moist enough. Pumping water by pipeline over distances avoids evaporation. Water losses or wastage has been high with huge irrigation properties such as Cubbie Station having the largest allocation of water in Australia at 460,000 mega-litres per annum to grow cotton. That is changing, meaning it is believed that the government have bought back some water rights.

The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage work together to decide where *Environmental Water* is needed, how it is managed and the results are measured. We will have the benefit of hearing up-to-date news of the environmental water usage and bird populations from **Terry Korodaj** the Community Engagement & Communications Manager, NSW OEH, and one of his colleagues, on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 pm** at the **Club Meeting**.

### SOME MURRAY-DARLING BASIN FACTS:

Note: The figures quoted are largely from one source. Data such as the average annual rainfall at 530,618 Giga-litres is debatable and probably should be quoted as "approximate". Even so, the statistics show evidence of the fragile nature of the area.

**Land area:** 1,058,800 square kilometres.

**Population:** around 2 million people with another million reliant on the MDB water supply.

**Rainfall:** average annual 530,618 Giga-litres (one GL = 1 billion litres; Syd. Harbour = 500 GL)

**Annual Water Flow:** 32,500 GL. (94% of rainfall evaporates, 2% seeps down, 4% flows).

**Public Dams:** 31 with a capacity of around 22,500 GL. Current holding: 14,700 GL. (66%). (private dams-unknown).

**River valleys:** 23; Wetlands: 30,000; 350 species of birds; 100 sp. of lizards; 53 sp. frogs; 46 sp. snakes; 60 sp. fish; world's largest stands of River Red Gum. Over 55 species of flora and fauna are endangered.

**Other threats:** salinity, blue-green algae, carp and cane toads. And – overpopulation!

The Murray-Darling Basin is mostly arid or semi-arid country and drought recurs every 10 years or so, making it one of the driest large river systems on earth.



*Two updates on the bird colonies of the Murray-Darling have come in this week. One is from Malcolm Carnegie of the Lake Cowal Foundation ([www.lakecowalfoundation.org.au](http://www.lakecowalfoundation.org.au)) and another from Dr Jennifer Spencer of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.*

*The first is from Mal:*

### **Lake Cowal: (SW of Forbes)**

Commencing in late June 2016, flooding rains over much of inland NSW through to the end of October 2016 saw the Lachlan River and Bland Creek fill Lake Cowal to a flood peak equivalent to that of 1990. Once full, water flows from the north of Lake Cowal near Bogies Island into Nerang Cowal. From here, the Manna and Bogandillon Creeks flow into the Bogandillon Swamp and ultimately back into the Lachlan River.

When full, Lake Cowal covers an area of approximately 13,000 hectares with a length of 21 kilometres by 9.5 kilometres at its widest point, having a maximum depth of 3.5 metres, and taking a period of up to three years to dry mostly through evaporation, provided no significant inflows occur.

During the Spring/Summer/Autumn of 2016/17 a variety of waterbirds took the opportunity to breed in both the lignum areas and fringing river red gums of the lake. Species feeding and/or breeding in the various habitats of the lake included:

- Royal Spoonbill and Yellow-billed Spoonbill;
- White-necked Heron and White-faced Heron;
- Nankeen Night Heron;
- Great Egret;
- Little Black Cormorant, Little Pied Cormorant and Pied Cormorant;
- Australasian Darter;



Bland Creek in flood looking north to Lake Cowal. Photo Malcolm Carnegie

- Eurasian Coot;
- Australasian Grebe and Great Crested Grebe;
- Red-necked Avocet;
- Black Swan;
- White-headed Stilt;
- Whiskered Tern;
- Sacred Kingfisher;
- Plumed Whistling Duck, Pink-eared Duck, Blue-billed Duck, Chestnut Teal and Pacific Black Duck;
- Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis and Glossy Ibis;
- Magpie Goose observed and breeding for the first time since 1990.

Presently approximately 2,000 Australian Pelicans are fishing the shallower northern sections of Lake Cowal with the water level presently relatively stable through the winter months. With no further inflows, the lake is expected to have water in it through to the 2018/19 Summer.

*And from Jennifer with information about pelican breeding colonies:*

### **Lower Murrumbidgee Valley**

An estimated 5,000-6,000 pairs of Australian pelicans nested in the lower Murrumbidgee valley over January-May 2017 for the first time in recorded history. The pelicans nested on an exposed bank in the middle of Kieeta Swamp, near Balranald in south-western NSW. This event followed a large flood in the Murrumbidgee over spring-summer 2016. The breeding site is located within the Nimmie Caira – a floodplain wetland system with numerous flow paths which can deliver



Pelican Rookery at Nimmie Caira, Feb 17. Photo Vince Bucello OEH

water to key wetlands throughout the lower Murrumbidgee floodplain. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has been working with the local water and land managers to co-ordinate the delivery of 10,000 megalitres of Commonwealth and NSW environmental water to the site to provide protection and food for the pelicans. The Murrumbidgee valley pelicans are a separate colony to another large pelican colony (estimated at more than 5,000 nests) at Lake Brewster, in the Lachlan Valley some 350km

away. Water levels are being managed at the lake to ensure nests are not inundated.

More details can be found here:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/pelicans-aplenty-in-the-lachlan-valley-this-world-wildlife-day>

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/six-thousand-pairs-of-pelicans-nesting-near-balranald>

## UNUSUAL REPORTS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, MARCH - APRIL 2017

### ALAN MORRIS

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

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

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

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

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

Emu	A,4J	January	Bingie Beach	SC	Mandy Anderson
Magpie Goose	100	12/2-18/3	205 on 20/3 Fivebough Swp, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Magpie Goose	2	12-18/3/17	Bushells Lagoon, Wilberforce	S	Greg McLachlan
Magpie Goose	90	23-27/3/17	Jacana HSD Clarenza	NC	Eric Wheeler
Cape Barren Goose	4	11/3/17	Gol Gol Lake, Wentworth	LW	Pauline Follett
Plumed Whistling-Duck	30	18/2-12/3	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Plumed Whistling-Duck	33	23/3/17	Brotherson Swamp, Coutts Crossing	NC	Greg Clancy
Plumed Whistling-Duck	12	9/4/17	Bomaderry WWTP	I	Carla Jackett
Wandering Whistling-Duck	26	27/3-16/4	Jacana HSD Clarenza	NC	Eric Wheeler
Wandering Whistling-Duck	2	24/3/17	Bushells Lagoon Wilberforce	S	M. Rutkowski
Wandering Whistling-Duck	12	10-12/4/17	Emerald Downs GC Pt Macquarie	NC	Sue Proust
Musk Duck	F	2/3/17	Centennial Park, Sydney	S	Alan Coates
Musk Duck	F	12/3/17	Smaller pond, Eastlakes Golf Course	S	Carla Jackett
Musk Duck	1	19/4/17	Metromix Wetland, Kurnell	S	Brian Deans
Freckled Duck	100	12/2-12/3	Fivebough Swp, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Freckled Duck	10	28/3-30/4	Dairy Swamp, CCW, Tuggerah	CC	Alan Morris
Freckled Duck	5	12-16/4/17	Moss Vale Saleyard Ponds	I	Carla Jackett
Blue-billed Duck	F	11/3/17	Pitt Town Lagoon, Windsor	S	Edwin Vella
Pink-eared Duck	86	25/2/17	Morpeth WWTW	H	Terry Kendall
Pink-eared Duck	26	15/4/17	Pitt Town lagoon	S	Tom Wilson
Great Crested Grebe	3 Im	24-26/3/17	West Wyalong STW Wetlands	SS	Andrew Melville
Great Crested Grebe	1	30/4/17	Triangle Lane Pond, Richmond	S	Greg McLachlan
Emerald Dove	1	7/3/17	Irrawong Res Warriewood	S	Jayden Walsh
Brush Bronzewing	1	30/4/17	Riverside Park, Chipping Norton	S	Brenda Parkinson
Peaceful Dove	18	18/2/17	Tathra taila HSD Mangrove Mtnb	CC	Margaret Pointer
Diamond Dove	1	17/2/17	Rankins Springs	R	Nella Smith
Superb Fruit-Dove	1DY	22/4/17	Mackeral Bch Ku-ring-gai Chase NP	S	Andrew Mowat

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	1DY	4/4/17	Avalon Beach	S	per Jayden Walsh
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	hc	22/4/17	Oaks Rd Matcham	CC	James Panetta
Topknot Pigeon	50	5/4/17	Scenic Hwy Terrigal	CC	Doug Hocking
Topknot Pigeon	106	25/4/17	Garden World Ourimbah	CC	Alan Morris
White-throated Nightjar	hc	25/3/17	The Sculptures, Pilliga NP	NP	Michael Dahlem
White-throated Nightjar	hc	12/3/17	Shoplands Rd Annangrove	S	Darryl Smedley
White-throated Nightjar	3	23/4/17	Old Bagotville Rd Wardell	NC	David Charley
White-throated Needletail	1000	15/3/17	Brothersons Swamp, Coutts Crossing	NC	Greg Clancy
Pacific Swift ** (Fork-tailed)	3	5/3/17	Cape Byron Lighthouse	NC	A MORRIS
Pacific Swift ** (Fork-tailed)	30+	12/3/17	Bullaburra-Hazelbrook	CT	Carol Proberts
White-bellied Storm-Petrel	1	13/3/17	Sydney pelagic	S	Roger McGovern
Wandering Albatross (Gibson)	1	25/3/17	Kiama pelagic	I	Brook Wylie
Shy Albatross	1	25/3/17	Kiama pelagic	I	Brook Wylie
Black-browed Albatross	3	17/3/17	Mistral Pt Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Yellow-nosed Albatross *	1	11/3/17	Sydney pelagic	S	Roger McGovern
Southern Giant Petrel	1	16/3/17	Red Point, Port Kembla	I	Paul Lynch
Streaked Shearwater	2-3	5-19/3/17	2 on 15/3, Mistral Point, Maroubra	S	Simon Gorta
Grey-faced Petrel	bc	5/3/17	Patches Beach Ballina	NC	Steve McBride
Grey-faced Petrel	1	17/3/17	Mistral Point, Maroubra	S	Greg McLachlan
<b>Kermadec Petrel</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12/3/17</b>	<b>Forster pelagic</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Mick Roderick</b>
<b>Kermadec Petrel</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25/3/17</b>	<b>Kiama pelagic</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Brook Wylie</b>
Providence Petrel	5	8/4/17	Sydney pelagic	S	Roger McGovern
Gould's Petrel	1	11/3/17	Sydney pelagic	S	Roger McGovern
Gould's Petrel	2	25/3/17	Kiama pelagic	I	Brook Wylie
<b>White-necked Petrel</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4/3/17</b>	<b>Mistral point, Maroubra</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>David Mitford</b>
<b>White-necked Petrel</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11/3/17</b>	<b>Sydney pelagic</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>Roger McGovern</b>
<b>Black-winged Petrel</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5/3/17</b>	<b>Mistral point, Maroubra</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>David Mitford</b>
<b>Leaden Petrel</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1/4/17</b>	<b>Kiama pelagic</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Brook Wylie</b>
Little Penguin	3	8/4/17	Nobbys Beach, Newcastle	H	Newcastle
Lesser Frigatebird	1	26/3/17	Flat Rock Ballina	NC	Steve McBride
Lesser Frigatebird	3	31/3/17	Richmond River Ballina	NC	Hans Wohlmuth
Brown Booby	1	5/3/17	Flat Rock Ballina	NC	Steve McBride
<b>Red-footed Booby</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12/3/17</b>	<b>Forster pelagic</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Mick Roderick</b>
Black-necked Stork	2	1/3/17	Lenahan Drive Hexham Swamp West	H	Daniel McKenzie
Black-necked Stork	2,3Y	6/3/17	Seales Rd Swamp, Belmore River	NC	Lindy Frost
Black-necked Stork	2,3Y	8/4/17	Hexham Swamp	H	Tom Wilson
Australasian Bittern	1	22/2/17	Hexham Swamp	H	HBOC
Australian Little Bittern	1	15/2/17	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
Black Bittern	1	7/4/17	Ourimbah Ck RTA Res Ourimbah	CC	Brian Paterson
Black Bittern	1	19/4/17	Deep Creek Res Narrabeen	S	Julie Morgan
White-necked Heron	N+Y	February	Moruya River Flats	SC	J. Collett
Eastern Reef-Egret	1	5/4/17	McKenzies Bay, Tamarama	S	Katie Oxenham
Nankeen Night-Heron	Im	19/3/17	Pond near Glenmore Park	S	Martin Snowball
Glossy Ibis	16	14/4/17	Serales Rd Swamp, Belmore River	NC	Clive Meadows
Royal Spoonbill	1	24/4/17	Neds Beach, Lord Howe Island	LH	Martin Schulz
Eastern Osprey	1	14/2 & 6/3	Burrill Lake	I	Charles Dove

Eastern Osprey	J	January 17	Candalan Ck Pedro Point	SC	Malcolm Fyfe
Eastern Osprey	2+N	27-30/4/17	Budd Island, Batemans Bay	SC	Christina Port
Pacific Baza	1	15/3/17	Mount Hay Rd Leura	CT	Chris McDonald
Pacific Baza	1	23/3/17	Sydney Park, St Peters	S	Gokay Gul
Square-tailed Kite	1	2/3 & 9/4	St Clair, Western Sydney	S	Johan Olsson
Square-tailed Kite	1	16/3/17	St Ives Chase	S	Mart Coss
Square-tailed Kite	1	24/3/17	Evans Head Rd Broadwater NP	NC	David Charley
Black Kite	1	29/3/17	3 km W of Pottsville	NC	David Charley
Black Kite	2	25/4/17	Bensons Lane Richmond	S	Andrew Patrick
Grey Goshawk	1	14/3/17	Eastlakes Golf Course	S	Steven Edwards
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	2	24/4/17	Centennial Park	S	Anne Brophy
Spotted Harrier	A	24/4/17	McKees Hill, 17 km W of Lismore	NC	June Harris
Spotted Harrier	1	30/4/17	Rollands Plains, Telegraph Pt	NC	Phil Shelley
Wedge-tailed Eagle	6	6/4/17	Lake George-Collector	ST	Martin Snowball
Little Eagle	1	19/3/17	Bobbin Head Rd Nth Turrumurra	S	Tom Wilson
Little Eagle	J	16/4/17	Bakers Lagoon, Cornwallis	S	Biggles Csolander
Little Eagle	J	29/4/17	Birdlife Office, Sydney Olympic Pk	S	Stanley Tang
Black Falcon	1	15/2/17	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
Black Falcon	2	13/4/17	Coraki	NC	David Charley
Black Falcon	1	17/4/17	Lawrence Rd Grafton	NC	Darryl Eggins
Brown Falcon	1	15/4/17	Cornwallis Rd Cornwallis	S	Tom Wilson
Brolga	1	11/2/17	Berambool, Merimbula	SC	Max Sutcliffe
Brolga	7	7/3/17	Farm 108 Colleambally	R	Per Doug Hocking
Australian Spotted Crake	1	February 17	Batemans Bay Water Gardens	SC	N.Clark
Australian Spotted Crake	1	15/4/17	Pitt Town lagoon	S	Tom Wilson
Spotless Crake	1	4/4/17	Sydney Park, St Peters	S	Rob Hynson
Spotless Crake	1	8/4/17	Warriewood Wetlands	S	Jayden Walsh
Spotless Crake	1	25/2/17	Panboola Res Pambula	SC	D. Weller
Bush Stone-curlew	1	22/3/17	Six Mile Lane, Grafton Airport	NC	Peter Knock
Bush Stone-curlew	4	27/3-18/4	all banded, Henderson Rd Saratoga	CC	Helen Gould
Beach Stone-curlew	1	5/3/17	Belongil Ck Estuary, Byron Bay	NC	Alan Morris
Sooty Oystercatcher	21	14/3/17	Blue Bay Reefs, Toowoomb Bay	CC	Alan Morris
Red-necked Avocet	35	18/4/17	Sydney Olympic Pk waterbird refuge	S	Brian Downer
Double-banded Plover **	1	26/1 & 28/4	Brou Lake	SC	N. Clarke
<b>Semi-palmated Plover</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24-25/3/17</b>	<b>Mosely Pk Swp Lord Howe Island</b>	<b>LH</b>	<b>Nicole Spillane</b>
Hooded Plover	19+6J	12/2-21/3	at 9 sites Bermagui-Eden	SC	FSCB
Hooded Plover	6A3J	14/4/17	Rennies Beach, Ulladulla	I	Nigel Coghland
Hooded Plover	Im	27/4/17	Lake Wollumboola, Culburra	I	Alan Morris
Inland Dotterel	1	2-19/3/17	Shoalhaven Heads	I	Michael Ellison
Red-kneed Dotterel	2	21/2/17	waterbird refuge, Sydney Olympic Pk	S	Dion Hobcroft
Banded Lapwing	3	24/3/17	Aleena, 20 km S West Wyalong	SS	Alan Morris
Latham's Snipe	1	11/2/17	Old Quipolly Dam, Boggabri	NS	Geoff Mitchell
Black-tailed Godwit	1	28/12/16	Brou Lake	SC	M. Griffith
Terek Sandpiper **	1	8/4/17	Stockton Sandspit	H	Tom Wilson
Great Knot **	1	8/4/17	Stockton Sandspit	H	Tom Wilson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *	15	19-30/3/17	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *	1	21/4/17	waterbird refuge, Sydney Olympic Pk	S	Dion Hobcroft
Sanderling	6	1/1/17	Brou Lake	SC	M.Griffith
<b>Red-backed Button-quail</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2-4/4/17</b>	<b>Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn</b>	<b>CC</b>	<b>Kaye Pointer</b>
Painted Button-quail	AM	4/3/17	Chiltern Trail, Ingleside	S	Jayden Walsh
Pomerine Jaeger	1	6/3/17	Tacking Pt Light House Pt Macquarie	NC	Liam Murphy
<b>South Polar Skua</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25/3/17</b>	<b>Kiama pelagic</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Brook Wylie</b>
Pacific Gull	1	13/3/17	Tura Beach, Merimbula	SC	L. Allen
Kelp Gull	1	19/4/17	Sandringham Bay	S	Brian Deans
Common Noddy	J	1/3/17	Toowoan Bay Reefs	CC	Luke Ullrich
Common Noddy	J	5/3/17	Point Plommer, Limeburners Ck NR	NC	Tim Morris
Common Noddy	1	19/4/17	Warden head, Ulladulla	I	Charles Dove
Black Noddy	1	19/3/17	Mistral Point Maroubra	S	Robert Griffin
White Tern	1	14, 16, 17/3	6 on 19/3 Mistral Point Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Roseate Tern	1	24/3/17	Flat Rock Ballina	NC	Steve McBride
Little Tern	30pr	January 17	Many juvs. Brou Lake colony	SC	Mandy Anderson
Little Tern	30pr	Jan-Feb 17	60J fledged Lake Conjola	I	Charles Dove
Fairy Tern	2 pr	January 17	2J fledged, Brou Lake colony	SC	Mandy Anderson
Gull-billed Tern	7,8J	7/2-7/3/17	A+3 downy juvs Fivebough Swp	R	Keith Hutton
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	100+	10-12/2/17	Rankins Springs District	R	Rex Schmidt
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	21/3/17	Spring Hill, Cocoparra NP Yenda	R	Max O'Sullivan
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	25/3/17	The Sculptures Pilliga NP	NP	David Johnston
Gang-gang Cockatoo	30	11/3/17	Littleton, Lithgow	CT	Grant Brosie
Gang-gang Cockatoo	18	10/3/17	West Kameruka Rd Candelo	SC	I. Elsey
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	20	21/2/17	Bilbul via Griffith	R	Meredith Billington
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	Max5	23-26/3/17	15 at 5 sites, West Wyalong,	SS	Alan Morris
Musk Lorikeet	2	2/4/17	Ulladulla Shops Car Park	I	Charles Dove
Little Lorikeet	6	25/3-1/4	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	CC	Allan Benson
Little Lorikeet	50	25/3/17	The Sculptures, Pilliga NR	NP	David Johnston
Superb Parrot	58	25-26/3/17	8 sites Grenfell District	SS	Grenfell KBA Surveys
Superb Parrot	24	24-25/3/17	3 sites, max 21 West Wyalong	SS	CCGBNSW
Superb Parrot	12	2/4/17	Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
Swift Parrot	8	27/4/17	Narrowneck Plateau, Katoomba	CT	John French
Swift Parrot	2	30/4/17	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn	CC	Kaye Pointer
Turquoise Parrot	1	17/2/17	Cruikshanks Dam, Rankin Springs	R	Virginnia Tarr
Turquoise Parrot	11	18/2/17	14 on 15/4, Wattle Dam, Binya SF	R	Virginnia Tarr
Channel-billed Cuckoo **	2J	2/3/17	Forest Siding Rd Middle Arm	ST	Clyde Lee
Channel-billed Cuckoo **	1	18/4/17	Centennial Park, Sydney	S	Graeme Robinson
Eastern Koel **	hc	31/3/17	Warriewood	S	Jayden Walsh
Pallid Cuckoo	Im	9-10/2/17	Commerang	SC	J. Collett
Pallid Cuckoo	1	17/2/17	Koonadan Rd Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
Oriental Cuckoo (hepatic m.)	1	8-14/3/17	Eastlakes GC,	S	Corey Callaghan
Oriental Cuckoo	1	14-16/3/17	Barrington Tops NP	H	HBOC
Oriental Cuckoo (hepatic)	F	4-6/4/17	Scotts Point, Kooragang Island	H	Peter Weinstock
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (NZ)	1	24/4/17	Neds Beach, Lord Howe Island	LH	Martin Schulz
Powerful Owl	2A,J	Jan-Feb 17	Pedro Swamp	SC	J. Sagar
Powerful Owl	1	12/3/17	Sydney Park, St. Peters	S	Gokay Gul

Powerful Owl	2	25/4/17	Sea Acres NR Port Macquarie	NC	Kylie Randall
Barking Owl	1hc	13/02/17	Tarrawanna Escarpment	I	Alan Cousins
Barking Owl	1hc	28/3/17	Acacia Gardens	S	Edwin vella
Collared Kingfisher	2	14/3/17	Riverside mangroves, Fingal Head	NC	David Charley
Dollarbird	25	29/1/17	Mystery Bay, Narooma	SC	Mandy Anderson
Dollarbird **	1	29/3/17	Round Mountain Rd Hastings Point	NC	David Charley
Dollarbird **	1	3/4/17	Loftus Rd Crescent Head	NC	Clive Meadows
Noisy Pitta	1	18/4/17	Castle Hill, hit window	S	Mark Eagles
Noisy Pitta	Im	20/4/17	Maroubra	S	Gillian Dar
Noisy Pitta	1	18/4/17	Oaks Rd Matcham	CC	Anna Schutz
Superb Lyrebird	1	18/3/17	Warners Park, Northbridge	S	Murray Lord
Superb Lyrebird	1	18/3/17	Harold Reid Reserve, Middle Cove	S	Lorna Bloom
Superb Lyrebird	1hc	4/4/17	Press Park, Castle Cove	S	Arwen B. Ximenes
Spotted Bowerbird	2	18/3/17	Rankins Springs Caravan Park	R	Max O'Sullivan
Southern Emu-wren	4	22/12-28/2	Candalan Ck Broulee	SC	Geoff McVeigh
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	2	11/3 & 8/4	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	CC	Greg Miles
Singing Honeyeater	1	21/3/17	Duirridgerie Rd Turrill	H	HBOC
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	8	18/2/17	Whiltshire Rd Rankin Springs	R	Virginnia Tarr
Fuscous Honeyeater	10	26/3-1/4	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	CC	Daniel McKeon
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	6/4/17	Scots Point, Kooragang Island	H	Mick Roderick
Regent Honeyeater	1	23/3/17	Goulburn River NP	H	HBOC
Regent Honeyeater	1	8/4/17	Martindale	H	Liam Murphy
White-fronted Chat	3	18/4/17	Long Swamp Rd Towrang	ST	Terry Dunlea
White-fronted Chat	7	28/4/17	Brou Lake, Bodalla	SC	Alan Morris
Black Honeyeater	40+	26/2/17	Eight Mile Tank Rd Rankins Springs	R	Nella Smith
White-naped Honeyeater	1	20/4/17	On summit cairn at Mt Kosciusko	ST	Paul Schofield
White-cheeked Honeyeater	6	2/4/17	Conjurong Point, St Georges Basin	I	Clare Wolinski
White-fronted Honeyeater	12	24/4/17	Manna SF, SW of Forbes	CS	Rosemary Stapleton
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	22/3/17	Parkes Drive, Centennial Park	S	Anne Brophy
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	15/4/17	Dolphin St Coogee Beach	S	Mick Edwards
Noisy Friarbird	1	10/4/17	Marrickville	S	Alastair Poore
Spotted Quail-thrush	2	24/3-30/4	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	CC	Allan Benson
Crested Shrike-tit	1	18/3/17	Darling River Block Dam, Menindee	LW	Deb Prentice
Crested Bellbird	2	21/3/17	Spring Hill, Cocoparra NP Yenda	R	Max O'Sullivan
Olive Whistler	1	29/4/17	Porters Ck Dam Rd, Lake Conjola	I	Charles Dove
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	2	23/3/17	Koonadan Rd Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
White-breasted Woodswallow	32	5/3/17	Narrawallee Creek,	I	Charles Dove
White-browed W'swallow	100	6/3/17	Evan Smiles Rd Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
White-browed W'swallow	40	26/3-13/4	Seales Rd Swamp, Belmore River	NC	Liam Murphy
Masked Woodswallow	6	26/3-2/4/17	Seales Rd Swamp, Belmore River	NC	Liam Murphy
Dusky Woodswallow **	17	17/4/17	Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn	CC	Margaret Pointer
Spangled Drongo *	1	12/3/17	Randwick Environment Park	S	Graeme Robinson
Spangled Drongo *	1,1	29/3/17	Singles Wattanobbi & Budgewoi	CC	D.Hogan/S.Merrett
Rufous Fantail **	1	17/4/17	Newington NR Sydney Olympic Pk	S	Dion Hobcroft
Rufous Fantail **	1	19/4/17	Greenwich	S	Ted Nixon
Pied Butcherbird	Im	20/4/17	Kangaroo Swamp, Cattai	S	Dion Hobcroft

Little Raven	65	19/3/17	Exeter	I	Lorne Johnson
Black-faced Monarch **	J	19/3/17	Cleveland Rd Riverstone	S	Edwin Vella
Spectacled Monarch	Injure	10/4/17	Carrington	H	HBOC
Spectacled Monarch **	2	17/4/17	Busbys Flat, Rappville	NC	David Charley
Leaden Flycatcher **	1	8/4/17	Randwick Environment Park	S	Anne Brophy
Leaden Flycatcher **	1	13/4/17	Budgewoi	CC	Steve Merrett
Restless Flycatcher	A,DY	February 17	Commerang	SC	N. Montgomery
Restless Flycatcher	1	4/4/17	Popondetta Pk Emerton	S	Robert Coveny
White-winged Chough	A+Js	11/4/17	Adults with DY Kemps Creek	S	Michael Miller
White-winged Chough	4A,J	13/4/17	Avondale GC West Pymble	S	Andrew Robinson
Jacky Winter	1	30/4/17	Edwards Rd Richmond	S	Greg McLachlan
Rose Robin *	1	17/4/17	Newington NR Sydney Olympic Park	S	Dion Hobcroft
Rose Robin *	5	19/4/17	Deep Creek Reserve Narrabeen	S	Jayden Walsh
White-backed Swallow	4	8/4/17	Martindale	H	Liam Murphy
White-backed Swallow	24	14/4/17	Bobadeen Rd Turrill	H	Mick Roderick
Mistletoebird	F,Im	6/4/17	Centennial Park, Sydney	S	Graeme Robinson
Diamond Firetail	2	25/3/17	Bimbi SF Grenfell	SS	Grenfell KBA Surveys
Diamond Firetail	2	17/4/17	Yarrowich, Upper Macleay Valley	NC	Liam Murphy
Diamond Firetail	4	18/4/17	Long Swamp, Towrang	ST	Fred Young
Beautiful Firetail	5,4	29/4/17	Barren Grounds & Budderoo NP	I	Martin Snowball
Double-barred Finch	3	1/4/17	Grose River Junct Yarramundi	S	Martin Snowball
Double-barred Finch	1	25/4/17	Barton Park Sth wetlands	S	Brian Deans
Chestnut Mannikin	3A3J	15/4/17	Pitt Town Lagoon	S	Tom Wilson

#### COMMENT

After heavy rains in March, finally the rains stopped in April along the Coast and it is obvious that many of the inland wetlands dried back during February & March because there has been a movement towards the coast of inland breeding birds like **Freckled Ducks, Pink-eared Ducks, White-necked Herons** and **Straw-necked Ibis**. These birds have been returning to the Coastal wetland in good numbers and the flocks include many juvenile birds. **Oriental Cuckoos** perhaps were the most unusual birds seen in the last two months, although the 2 **Red-footed Boobies** seen on the Forster pelagic, and the **Leaden Petrel**, first record for Australia (if accepted by BARC), along with **South Polar Skua** seen from the Kiama pelagic, and the clutch of **White-necked, Black-winged** and **Kermadec Petrels** seen from the Coast were also of great interest. The **Red-backed Button-quails** at Mangrove Mountain are the sixth occasion that the birds have been seen at this site since 1995. Lord Howe Island has had some great records of late, particularly the **Semi-palmated Plover** and the **Royal Spoonbill!** The **Inland Dotterel** at Shoalhaven Heads appears to have now moved away! **Australian Brush-turkeys** continue to extend their range into Sydney's Eastern and Western Suburbs with many records. A **Magpie Goose** seen at Pitt Town Lagoon is the first for the County of Cumberland, other records are 20 Tamworth STW Westdale 13/2, 3 Barraba 19/2 (NS), 40 Campbells Swp Griffith 7/3 (R) & 1 Pitt Town Lagoon 25/4 (S); Other **Freckled Duck** records include 1 Hobart Bch, Bournda 3/2 (SC), 1 roadside Pond, Kidman Way, Cobar 11/4 (UW), 2 Moss Vale Saleyard Ponds 12/4 (I), 2 Warriewood Wtds 20/3-10/4 (S), 1 Nerang Cowl, Burcher 26/3 (CS), 2 Emerald Downs GC Pt Macquarie 10-14/4 (NC); Coastal records for **Pink-eared Duck** include 6 Teven Rd Swp, West Ballina (NC), 2 Waterbird Refuge Sydney Olympic Park 27/4 (S); Other **Black Bittern**: 1 Warriewood Wetlands 8/4 (S); **Eastern Osprey**: 1 Yarramundi, Hawklesbury River 8/4 (S) while both pairs around Brisbane Water are refurbishing their nests (CC); **Square-tailed Kite**: 1 Chiltern Trail, Ingleside 23/4 (STW) & 3 Central Coast reports Mar-Apr (CC); **Black Kite**: 1 Hexham Swamp 8/4 (H); 1 Clarence STW Sth Grafton 11/4 (NC); **Grey Goshawk**: 1 Eastlakes GC 14/3 and regular Centennial Pk Sydney Mar-Apr (S); **Brolga**: 2 Teven Swp Ballina 5/3 (NCI), 5 Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton 1/4 (R), 2 Plummers Lane Clybucca 13/4 (NC); **Hooded Plover**: 2 Termeil Bch Bawley Pt 12/3, 2 Racecourse Bch Kiola 20-30/4 (I); Other **Common Noddy** records include 1 Bar Beach Newcastle 28/2 (H), Js at Tacking Pt Light House Pt Macquarie 7/3 (NC), Red Point, Pt Kembla 8/3 (I), Shelley Bch Pt Macquarie 10-11/3, 1 Southies Bch Sawtell 14/4 (NC); Other **Powerful Owl**; HC Woodfield Ave Bundeena 12/3, 1 Miner St Wollstonecraft 14 & 17/3, 2 Linley Pt Lane Cove 1/4 (S), 1 Katandra Res Holgate 18/4 (CC), 2 Sea Acres NR Pt Macquarie 25/4 (NC), HC Bellevue Hill 27/4 (S), hc Hazelbrook & Winmallee 29-30/3 (CT); **Noisy Pitta**: 1 Bellowongarah 24/4 (I); **Rock Warbler**: 9 birds seen at 7 sites in the Blue Mtns Lapstone-Blackheath Mar (CT); Another late **Rufous Fantail**: 1 Uni of Sydney 1/4 (S); Good Birding!

**Postal address:**

Birding NSW, PO Box Q277,  
QVB Post Shop, NSW 1230

**Email:** info@birdingsw.org.au

**Website:** www.birdingsw.org.au

**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 fees:**

Single Adult - Mailed Newsletter \$45.00

Single Adult - Online Newsletter \$40.00

Family - Mailed Newsletter \$50.00

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Junior (under 18 years) \$15.00

Fees are due on 1 October.

Membership includes six newsletters per year.

**Email for Club Activities:**

activities@birdingsw.org.au

**Newsletter contributions:**

Email articles, trip reports etc to  
newsletter@birdingsw.org.au

**AUGUST Newsletter Deadline:**

Friday 7 July 2017

**Newsletter advertising** rates, and bookings  
contact Ian Bailey:

Email: newsletter@birdingsw.org.au

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*The opinions expressed by authors are their own and not necessarily the views or goals of Birding NSW or its Committee.*

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**PRESIDENT:** Dr Tom Karplus  
Thomas.Karplus@health.nsw.gov.au | 9816 2285

**SECRETARY:** Barbara Dundas  
barbaradundas@bigpond.com | 9645 1826

**TREASURER:** Leigh Hall | 9449 8370

**PUBLIC OFFICER:** Dick Dallimore | 9953 7562

**MEMBERS SECRETARY:** Adrian Nieuwenhuizen  
ban.an@bigpond.com | 8920 2935

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Ian Bailey  
ibails@bigpond.net.au | M: 0412 251 337

**ACTIVITIES OFFICER:** Allan Richards  
activities@birdingsw.org.au

**RECORDS OFFICER:** Alan Morris | 4334 2776

**OFFICE of CONSERVATION:** Ian Bailey | Chris King  
Lindy Jones | ibails@bigpond.net.au | M: 0412 251 337

**PUBLICITY OFFICER:** Nominations welcome

**WEBSITE AND EMAIL COORDINATOR:**  
Michael Edwards | info@birdingsw.org.au  
M: 0418 416 247

**REGENT HONEYEATER SURVEYS,  
CAPERTEE and GRENFELL:** Elisabeth Karplus  
emhodson@exemail.com.au

**CLUB OFFICERS**

**SPEAKERS COORDINATOR:** Graham Walters  
9584 8412

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