



birding
nsw

Newsletter

NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc

Issue 286

April - May 2018

President's Report

Every October, Birding NSW participates in the Twitchathon, a fund-raising event under the auspices of BirdLife Australia. In NSW, the annual choice of recipient of the funds raised in this activity alternates between BirdLife Australia and the association of NSW bird clubs known as BIGnet (Bird Interest Group network), to which Birding NSW has belonged for over 20 years.

This year, the choice for funding lies with BIGnet. Birding NSW has put forward a proposal that Ross Crates receive the money raised to continue his work on the Regent Honeyeater in NSW, which I am sure that you are aware is a critically endangered species. Ross is doing a PhD on this species. He has spoken to the club in the past and will talk to us again this year. A synopsis of Ross's proposal appeared in the last issue of the newsletter. The next BIGnet meeting will be held in Sydney this month at Sydney Olympic Park, at which time the decision regarding funding will be made.

Members will be aware that the newsletter exists in two formats, the traditional paper copy and the online version. About 200 members have opted to have the online newsletter, while a similar number has elected to receive the paper copy which is understandable.

There are significant disadvantages in accepting the paper format. One is that the online, full colour newsletter is a beautiful publication even though the key feature, photographs of birds, are the photographs chosen by the editor that will reproduce well enough in black and white. Another is cost to the Club. As printing and postage costs rise, the Committee find that, in fact, for members choosing paper copies, there is a break-even or even a small loss by the end of the year. This must relate to a serious examination of expenditure and income by our Treasurer when the next round of membership renewal falls due.

To all of you reading this newsletter on paper, I encourage you to take a simple test to check the difference. Next time you are at a computer, find our website (see back page of

the newsletter), find Newsletters and when you are asked for a password type in aWeebillisasmallbird exactly as shown here.

The Australia Day campout organised by Allan Richards to Polblue (Horse Swamp) at Barrington Tops National Park was successful, although there was a bit of rain and I managed to get a flat battery. Flame Robins and Red-browed Treecreepers were highlights of the trip while an unexpected sighting was of a White-headed Pigeon. A report of this outing is in this issue of the newsletter. The Newcastle weekend on the 17-18 February was highly successful, with 23 participants and lots of good birds seen both at Stockton Spit and on Ash Island. Bird of that trip was a juvenile Black-necked Stork at Ash Island, which gave good views both standing and in flight.

Allan Richards has organised another campout for Easter 2018, at Ingelba near Walcha.

I hope to see many of you there.

Tom Karplus
President, Birding NSW



Azure Kingfisher
Garrads Reserve, Narrawalle
charles.dove 06/2018

To see me in colour: aWeebillisasmallbird at www.birdingnsw.org.au
Photo: Charles Dove



CLUB ACTIVITIES

FIELD OUTINGS AND MEETINGS

FIELD OUTINGS

Bring a snack, lunch and a chair. Outings to the Audley area of the Royal National Park will not be held if the Causeway is closed due to flooding.

NATIONAL PARK FEES

Club outings and campouts are sometimes held in National Parks. A valid day pass or annual pass is necessary for many 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.

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!

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.birdingsnw.org.au or download free at the itunes App Store or at Google Play.

APRIL 2018

Tuesday 3 April Club Meeting: Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "Gould's Petrel Research". Speaker: Nicholas Carlile

Saturday 7 April 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

Wednesday 11 April Central Coast Half Day Outing: Bulls Quarry and Mount Penang. Meet at 8.30 am at Bulls Quarry Road entrance, Woy Woy Road, Kariong. Lunch at cars. Leader: Christian Port. 0421 691 317

Saturday 14 April Club Outing: Royal National Park. Meet 9:00 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: Elisabeth Karplus 0421 665 553

Tuesday 24 April Central Coast Meeting: Meet at 7.30 pm at the Tuggerah Progress Hall in Anzac Street, Tuggerah opposite McDonalds. "Birding in the Mekong Delta". Speaker: Richard Cassels

Tuesday 24 – Thursday 26 April Central Coast Campout: Wanganella and Deniliquin. Camping on private property at Wanganella. Leader: Margaret Pointer 4374 1163

MAY 2018

Tuesday 1 May Club Meeting: Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "How the NPWS works now". Speaker: Martin Smith

Saturday 5 May Club Outing: Mill Creek and Old Great North Road in Dharug National Park, Wiseman's Ferry. Meet at 9.00 am in the Mill Creek Picnic Area. Lunch at cars. Leader: Philip Brook 9929 4818

Wednesday 9 May Central Coast Half Day Outing: Strickland State Forest. Meet 8.30 am in Banksia Picnic Area, off Mangrove Road, Narara. Lunch at cars. Leader: Andrew Melville 4328 1005

Saturday 12 May Club Outing: Chain of Ponds Reserve, Stannix Park and the Hawkesbury area. Meet at 9.00 am at the reserve in Stannix Park Road, Wilberforce (it is shown in most Sydney street directories). Lunch at cars. Leader: Dick Dallimore 9953 7562; 0429 919 515

Tuesday 22 May April Central Coast Meeting: Meet at 7.30 pm at the Tuggerah Progress Hall in Anzac Street, Tuggerah opposite McDonalds. "Bitterns in Ricefields". Speaker: Matthew Herring

Saturday 26 May Central Coast Outing: Gavenlock, McPherson and Central Coast Wetlands. Meet at 8:30 am at the corner of Johnson and Gavenlock Roads, Tuggerah. Lunch at cars. Leader: Alan Morris 0418 269 482

Wednesday 30 May Midweek Outing: Chiltern Track, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Ingleside. Meet at 9:00 am at the end of Chiltern Road, off Mona Vale Road, Ingleside. Lunch at cars. Gradient: Easy with bush tracks. Leader: Allan Richards 0432 064 660

JUNE 2018

Tuesday 5 June Club Meeting: Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "Plains-wanderer research". Speaker: David Parker

Saturday 9 – Monday 11 June Long Weekend Campout: Gloucester Holiday Park. Bird watching in national parks and other places in the Gloucester area. Meet at 8:30 am on Saturday and Sunday morning at the entrance to the caravan park. Return to camp for lunch on Saturday, lunch at cars on Sunday. Leader: Allan Richards 0432 064 660.

Saturday 9 June Club Outing: Nurragingy Reserve Doonside. Meet at 8.00 am inside the main entrance gate off Knox Road Doonside (Blacktown). Lunch at

cars. Travel easy and facilities present. eBird lists 144 species and our members recently almost 60. We can look forward to a good day of birdwatching. Ian Bailey 0412 251 337.

Wednesday 13 June Central Coast Half-day Outing: Glenola Reserve and Bunning Creek. Meet at 8.30 am at Yarramalong Church, Yarramalong. Lunch at cars. Leader: Margaret Pointer 4374 1163

Saturday 16 June Club Outing: Warriewood Wetlands and Irrawang Reserve B. Meet at 8.30 am at Katoa Close, Warriewood. Lunch will be from cars. Gradient: Easy with bush tracks. Leader: Russell Beardmore 9400 9782 mobile 0404 023 223

Tuesday 26 June April Central Coast Meeting: Meet at 7.30 pm at the Tuggerah Progress Hall in Anzac Street, Tuggerah opposite McDonalds. "Penguins of the World... so far". Speaker Trevor Waller.

Saturday 30 June Central Coast Outing: Mooney Creek and Brisbane Water National Park. Meet at 8:30 am at Karool Road, Mooney, off the Old Pacific Highway, just west of Mooney Bridge. Leader: Doug Hocking 0427 800 428

BIRD WATCHING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY NEAR BULLIO

An invitation has been extended to Club members to visit and birdwatch on a private property at Bullio on the Wombeyan Caves Road west of Moss Vale. Visitors recently camped for two nights on the property and record over 40 species of birds. There was a family of Red-capped Robins at the campsite. There are lots of casuarinas and Glossy Black-Cockatoos are regularly seen. We first saw a pair feeding in a tree at 9:30 am and they remained in the same tree continuing to feed until late that afternoon. Owls, White-throated Nightjars and Owlet-Nightjars were heard at night. The land is about 100 acres and is mainly forested. It backs onto a national park. It is mostly steep, rocky country but there are some good walking trails that are not too steep..

The owner welcomes bird watchers to visit his remote piece of paradise as a day-trip or to camp overnight. It takes about 45 minutes to reach it from Moss Vale. The road off Wombeyan Caves Road is very rough so a 4WD or a vehicle with good clearance is required. There are a couple of nice spots accessible by vehicle for bush camping on the land but you will need to take everything that you will need.

For further information, contact the Activities Officer at activities@birdingnsw.org.au

Bird Hides in NSW

An updated list

Hunter Wetlands Centre, Shortland
The Waterbird Refuge, Sydney Olympic Park
Gum Swamp Forbes
Lake Cargelligo Sewage Treatment Works
Narrandera Wetlands
Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton
Campbell's Swamp, Griffith (bone dry on 6 March)
Lake Nadungamba, Mt Annan Botanic Gardens
Reed Beds, Murray Valley NPWS.
Turkey Flat NPWS
Putta Bucca Wetlands, Mudgee
Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Fyshwick ACT
Yanga Lake Red Gum Park, near Balranald
Boyers Lagoon, Jerseyville
Pitt Town Lagoon
Dangars Lagoon Wildlife Refuge, Thunderbolts Way
Wonga Wetlands, Albury
Rankins Springs on several dams
 A note to the editor please if you know of others.

LUCKY DRAW



New member Gina McFarlane was so delighted with her lucky draw she had them framed!
 Thanks again to Fiona Lumsden for the Birds of Sydney poster. www.fionalumsden.com

A MAGICAL WEEK IN THE QUEENSLAND RAINFOREST...
EUNGELLA BIRD AND WILDLIFE WEEK
 17 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2018



SEARCH
 FOR THE
 EUNGELLA
 HONEYEATER!

Guided Birdwatching | Wildlife Walks | Spotlight Tours
 Foodie Experiences | Documentary Screenings | AND MORE!

wildmob.org/eungella 07 3369 9665 info@wildmob.org

WM WILDMOB

photo © Steve Dew

Allan Richards of Birding NSW is the man to consult!

Click or type the address below to read the article in Australian Geographic.

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2017/02/guide-to-bird-watching-in-sydney>

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our new members.

Andy Burton and family of Roseville
 Kathy Church of Wyong

Riaan Cilliers and family of Cremorne

Tony Doukakis of Bateau Bay

Annie Guibert of Point Piper

Daniel McKeon of Killarney Vale

Kay Sturgess of Yarramalong

Stanley Tang of Forest Lodge

Matthew Taylor of Balgowlah Heights

Ted and Alex Wnorowski of New Auckland, Qld

How Many birds are Killed by Cats?

On 17 March at the Australian Bird Study Association (ABSA) Conference, Dr Sarah Legge presented a detailed overview of the predator cat problem in Australia and what it means to the loss of our wildlife.

For at least three years I have been asking for detailed figures relating to bird destruction and the only figures available seemed to be exaggerated. Because of that concern, a serious plea to all birdlovers and catlovers alike was difficult. Now we have figures, mostly derived from studies as recent as 2017, of actual bird losses on the mainland of Australia as well as on our islands with some comparisons of the USA and World. If possible and space permits, I will publish more of the detail made available by Dr Legge; meantime here is a summary:

- Introduced to Australia by the First Fleet, cats populated the whole of the country by 1890. The introduction of rabbits in 1879 boosted cat numbers.
- 25% of modern fauna extinctions are largely due to cats.

- The numbers of cats varies remarkably from dry to wet weather periods. In the dry there are 1.4 million and the wet up to 5.6 million, a breeding pattern not unlike many bird species.
- There are 2.1 million feral cats, 0.7 million ferals in modified habitats and 3.9 million domestic cats, a total of 6.7 million.
- From thousands of stomach samples it has been established that a cat will kill 129 birds per year. Therefore, the total kills, on average, will be over 1 million birds per day or 377 million per year.
- It is also shown in the study and report that there is something like 9 to 13 billion birds in Australia or put another way, about 3.5% of the population is killed by cats each year.

My sincere thanks go to Dr Sarah Legge and colleagues John Woinarski, Brett Murphy, Leigh-Ann Woolley and all.

Ian Bailey 18 March 2018

Back to 'Bungles Bird Week

26 TO 29 APRIL 2018



The Warrumbungle bird count is on again! Come and join other enthusiastic volunteers to count birds at Warrumbungle National Park.

After a very successful Spring 2017 survey (we saw 76 species!), we'll be heading out again to survey bird diversity and abundance as part of an ongoing project to monitor the Park's recovery from the fire in 2013.

We'll go out counting birds each morning from 26 to 29 April 2018 – leaving you plenty of time for other bird-watching and exploring Warrumbungle National Park.

For information about the previous bird counts, see <http://bit.ly/2u6UErp>

Please contact Gillian Dunkerley at gillian.dunkerley@environment.nsw.gov.au for more information and to register your interest.



COWRA WOODLANDS BIRDS PROGRAM

Please note: Malcolm's email address has changed

The survey dates for 2018 are:

10/11 February
21/22 April
21/22 July
13/15 October

If you would like to take part in the Cowra surveys, please contact:

Malcolm Fyfe on
(02) 4471-8757
malcolmfyfe85@gmail.com

Editor's Inbox...

Two questions I asked myself last newsletter were about the cost of water for irrigators in the Murray-Darling Basin and the quantity of water used to produce one portion of each of a variety of products. As I have discovered a great range of opinions and estimates for both, it will be necessary to keep looking and publish statistics as I find them. This is what I have so far:

- 241 litres of water to make 1 glass of milk. (constant irrigation of grasslands).
- 168 litres of water to make 1 cup of coffee.
- 145 litres of water to make 1 glass of wine.
- 3,400 litres of water for 1 kilo of rice.
- 3,482 litres of water to make 1 cotton T-shirt and
- 13,184 litres of water to make a pair of jeans.

I have no further information about water pricing other than it is a complex business. More soon.

Salt was also on our mind last month. Locally a group of bush-restorers were concerned about salinity levels on the banks of the Georges River. We now know that the salt levels in our estuary can be as high as 9000 parts per million (ppm) and that plants are struggling, with the exception of things like mangroves and saltbush, to survive if salt content is higher than 1500 ppm. Levels at points along the Murray River should be kept below 580 to 1000 ppm according to the ACCC. The problem with salt of course is that it builds up in the soil.

“OUR” GREY BUTCHERBIRDS

BY BARRIE AYRES

I now live in Westmead, having previously enjoyed 25 summers in Chiswick. Over 23 of them, it was lovely to note the return of “our” Grey Butcherbird, which then sang regularly to us, especially in the early mornings, usually perched in sight in a nearby bush or tree. Each late winter, the bird had deserted us, no doubt to find a mate and raise a family.

In one year, however, we were gladdened by the pair raising their offspring in our vicinity. I unfortunately saw just one fledgling with the parents.

I missed the morning song during my last year in Chiswick... for “our” bird had returned to the area, but had chosen neighbours’ back gardens for its base, and its song was only heard when I went

outside, to the back, to feed the communal goldfish!

The good news is that we have a local Butcherbird here in Westmead, so I can enjoy its delightful song. I have tried to see it for six months, without success – but just the other morning, it came and perched, for a few minutes, on my balcony. Joy!

Dulwich Hill Pine trees were in our special request file as a very concerned resident fought to have a few very tall, but not mature I suspect, Norfolk Island (and 1 other similar) Pine trees marked for removal or at least put in danger by excavations. A number of common suburban bird species may lose their home. In my experience, trees that are not native to Australia or sometimes to a particular area, may be removed by land owners without consulting Council. That varies from place to place. The problem was simply that the wrong species of tree had been planted in a location it would not, eventually, be suited to. On our common property block here in Liverpool there were seven magnificent Tallowwoods. Too close to buildings so five have now gone. We have planted a few smaller shrubs to compensate but still 10 years ago we made the same mistakes so more will have to go. The point is: assess trees in your area and judge which of them will be cut down sooner or later. Plant new species now to have them better established when the time to remove big trees arrives.

On the 10 March I received an email emanating from the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) headed: “Court rules NSW land clearing laws ‘invalid’”. This is the Land and Environment Court.

But I was told by two people that overnight the State Government had signed off on the old laws, at least I think that is the case. I am still waiting to hear from NCC about the position we are now in.

It may be better!

WHAT BIRDS ARE THESE?

BY BARRIE AYRES

I moved into my new home in Westmead during last winter. Yuko and I, the first evening, were intrigued to find that there were noisy, fairly large white birds, congregating in nearby tall gum trees. It being nearly dark, we could not see them properly, but they were so noisy, for so long. I thought the calls were somewhat duck-like. Certainly over 50 of them had come in to perch.

The following evening we were able to identify them as White Ibis.

Never having seen or heard them in large numbers before – we were quite amazed. As Parramatta Park is just down the street, some do not have far to fly to their feeding ground.

I am seldom awake about dawn... but on some rare occasions have found that they are again so noisy before setting out in the mornings!

Homing Rosella?

I thought you might be interested in a “happening” I have just experienced a surprising thing regarding a Crimson Rosella...presumably the male of a small family of rosellas where our backyard is their “home” territory. We all know the homing ability of pigeons...but I have never witnessed it before with rosellas. This male is very territorial and aggressive to other birds visiting our balcony, whereas the other two are not. But worse, this bird has become very destructive on all our pot plants on the back balcony, pulling out plants and/or pruning them continually. We have a row of 6 metre high Photinia’s forming a break between our border and our neighbours. This bird continuously bites off significant numbers of ends of the five Photinias, dropping them on the ground, has been often witnessed.

The local shopping centre in Lugarno has a plague of Common Myna’s..they have migrated their way down to the bottom of the cul-de-sac where I live. Presumably most homes have pets and leave pet food out. So I have purchased a Myna bird trap which is quite successful.

Anyway I found this particular Rosella in the trap at sunset last 15 March, Thursday night. As I had to go to Kogarah for an 8.00 am appointment the next morning, I took the Rosella with me with the intention of releasing it near the St. George Hospital...about 17 kilometres away pretty much in a straight line. Before releasing it I had an idea...I had in my car a pressure pack can of fast drying bright yellow pavement marking paint so I sprayed its flight feathers and tips of its wings with this bright yellow paint. I had the bird covered during the trip, to keep it calm and there is no way it could have seen anything outside the trap.

On my return home at 12.45....you guessed it...there it was on my back deck hopping into what is left of my pot plants. There is no mistake about it..there aren’t any other yellow painted tailed Crimson Rosellas in Sydney...or anywhere for that matter except for this one. It was certainly the bird I had just painted and released.

Thought you might be interested.

Mike Jordan PhD
Lugarno NSW

BIRDMANIA by Bernd Brunner

Allen and Unwin 2017

While I love books and collect books about birds, this is a book about people who were, or are, passionate about some aspect of ornithology or aviculture. The index of bird species of the world is the same length as the index of the “Bird Maniacs” of all recorded history. There is another list at the back – a list of 264 illustrations – which is just as well as many of the illustrations are not titled on the page. It is annoying, unless you know all the species of the world by sight.

The people with “A Remarkable Passion for Birds” as the subtitle suggests, are mostly well known through folk-lore. St Francis is mentioned, Thoreau, Bonaparte, Audubon, Gould, Karl Russ, Geo. Archibald are included as well as groups such as the Mongolian eagle hunters. Alfred Hitchcock gets a mention as he should. But there is no mention (and I must make note here that I did not read every word in this book) of Lewin, Cayley, Leach, McGill, North or Cooper, for example.

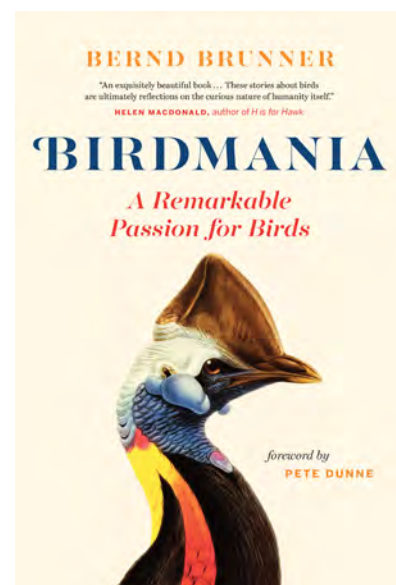
Quite apparent to a conservationist, are the descriptions of the thousands, more like millions, of birds shot for museums, caged for the pleasure of humans, eaten or destroyed as “vermin”. So while there is much delight in reading about the joy and passion of those individuals

listed, the shame felt knowing the killing necessary to achieve all that is numbing.

The book is medium sized, printed on heavy paper and board with some illustrations and photographs being outstanding. I loved the African Grey on page 88 and the Cerulean Warbler on page 82. There are quite a few Goulds, Audubons and Keulemans such as the cover picture of the Sclater’s Cassowary for which, alone, you would buy this book.

I will place this book on the shelf near The Eponym Dictionary of Birds and Latin for Birdwatchers. When you need them, they are excellent references. The book was illustrated on page 4 of the December issue.

Ian Bailey 18 March 2018.



SYDNEY PELAGIC

10 March 2018

Greg McLachlan

OVERVIEW

The morning began with some cloud cover delivering patchy rain which gradually cleared as the day progressed. Sea water temperatures were still high at 24°C. We motored out to Brown's Mountain (approx. 22.5NM ESE off the Heads), arriving there around mid-morning. Good numbers of Shearwater, with the odd Jaeger, trailed the boat while underway with a mix of Petrel and Albatross adding to the excitement. A terrific day on the water.

TRIP SUMMARY

With a full list of passengers on board the boat motored through the Heads into a gentle ocean swell around 7:40 am.

We started the berley trail soon after. A few disinterested Silver Gull and Crested Tern were seen flying some distance from the boat. Soon after we came upon the odd Wedge-tailed Shearwater tracking in a southerly direction. As we passed a fishing boat a trail of hungry Shearwater began forming behind our boat. They were to remain a constant throughout the day.

The first of the Pomarine Jaegers were now starting to show some interest as well, slowly working their way into the wake well behind the boat. We added Hutton's Shearwater along with Short-tailed Shearwater on the journey out. As we journeyed to Brown's Flesh-footed Shearwater were beginning to join the feeding birds along with more Short-tailed Shearwater. A few on board were fortunate to see flying fish skimming above the surface as we motored along. They were to make an appearance periodically during the trip. Oceanic Bottlenose Dolphin came in briefly to ride the bow wave but soon left, given the speed we were travelling. Risso's Dolphin were also seen with one specimen showing a distinctively notched dorsal fin.



Gould's Petrel. Photo: Greg McLachlan

BIRD LIST

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

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-------|----------------------------|----|------|
| Shy Albatross | 3 | (2) | Sooty Shearwater | 1 | (1) |
| Wandering Albatross (Gibson's) | 1 | (1) | Wilson's Storm Petrel | 2 | (1) |
| Grey-faced Petrel | 20 | (15) | Australasian Gannet | 4 | (3) |
| WHITE-NECKED PETREL | 1 | (1) | Pomarine Jaeger | 8 | (4) |
| GOULD'S PETREL | 7 | (2) | Silver Gull | 50 | (40) |
| Black Petrel | 1 | (1) | Greater Crested Tern | 3 | (2) |
| Flesh-footed Shearwater | 40 | (20) | OTHER | | |
| Wedge-tailed Shearwater | 200 | (150) | Oceanic Bottlenose Dolphin | 10 | |
| Hutton's Shearwater | 4 | (2) | False Killer Whale | 1 | |
| Short-tailed Shearwater | 8 | (2) | Risso's Dolphin | 12 | |
| | | | Flying fish | 30 | |

All details of our trips and contact details can be found on our website at www.sydneypelagics.info and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sydneypelagics>

Just on Brown's Steve spotted a distant WHITE-NECKED PETREL which was heading toward the boat. Fortunately, it continued close enough on its fly-by for all on board to get a good view and a chance to photograph the bird before it arced up revealing its underside. It didn't hang around as it circled further behind the boat before disappearing. A Sooty Shearwater was seen by two on board but couldn't be located again.

Fifteen minutes later we were over Brown's with the first slick working its magic. It seemed every fishing boat present had a number of Shearwater buzzing around it. A banded (right, metal band) Black Petrel joined the throng of hungry Shearwater on the water well behind our boat. The bird eventually came to the boat looking for choice bits of berley. A GOULD'S PETREL soon appeared giving exceptional views with repeated close fly-bys as it circled the boat. This was to be the first of seven seen during the trip. A Shy Albatross found the boat soon after, the first of three for the day. A Wilson's Storm Petrel put in a brief appearance too. By now the expected Grey-faced Petrel were wheeling around, as well as landing close to the back of the boat.

We continued a slow motor further out taking our flock of hungry birds with us. A lone Wilson's Storm Petrel skipped past. We stopped once again where we added to the count rather than diversity. That soon changed when a Wandering Albatross came in low from the side of the boat for a look and decided to stay with us for the entire return journey; a lovely sight.

Australasian Gannet was added to the list, all immature birds. Nearing the Heads, the boat almost ran over a large cetacean which turned out to be a False Killer Whale. The boat entered the Heads after 3:30 pm.

BIRD LIST February Sydney pelagic- for comparison

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-------|----------------------------|----|-----|
| Grey-faced Petrel | 4 | (2) | Silver Gull | 7 | (4) |
| Wedge-tailed Shearwater | 200 | (150) | Sooty Tern | 1 | (1) |
| Fluttering Shearwater | 5 | (2) | Greater Crested Tern | 6 | (3) |
| Hutton's Shearwater | 2 | (1) | OTHER | | |
| Flesh-footed Shearwater | 27 | (15) | Oceanic Bottlenose Dolphin | 4 | |
| Short-tailed Shearwater | 6 | (3) | Melon-headed Whale | 4 | |
| Sooty Shearwater | 1 | (1) | Risso's Dolphin | 12 | |
| Australasian Gannet | 1 | (1) | Marlin | | |
| Pomarine Jaeger | 11 | (6) | | | |

Australia Day Weekend Campout at Barrington Tops

26-28 January 2018

Elisabeth Karplus

Nine people joined Allan Richards at Horse Swamp Campground in the Barrington Tops State Conservation Area for the weekend. For some of us getting there was fraught with difficulties – Robert and Clare had two punctures (luckily, they have two spare wheels) while Tom and Elisabeth drove through a fierce hail storm. Soon we were all settled into the small campground with several very tall trees and we weathered the thunderstorms on the next two afternoons. We managed to spread ourselves around the campsite and successfully discouraged other large groups of campers from joining us! We heard rather than saw birds around the campsite, with a very vocal Superb Lyrebird and Boobooks and Tawny Frogmouths at night. We were visited by Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos, King Parrots and Crimson Rosellas. On one morning we were surprised to see a White-headed Pigeon in one of the eucalypts. We would expect to see these fruit pigeons on the wetter east side of Barrington Tops.

Our first morning walk took us out of the campground and along Tubrabucca Road to Polblue Creek. There we all saw several Rufous Fantails and the first of numerous Grey Fantails. Striated Thornbills were common, though hard to see but we only recorded one Brown Thornbill in that area. There was a single White-eared Honeyeater, several Yellow-faced Honeyeaters but we only heard White-naped Honeyeaters. White-throated Treecreepers were heard everywhere, and we saw two of these but later in the walk we identified two Red-browed Treecreepers. In the afternoon we walked along Boundary Road near to the Dingo fence and the gate out of the park. The walk was very quiet, but we did see a Wedge-tailed Eagle and a Brown Goshawk.



Horse Swamp, Barrington Tops. Photo: Elisabeth Karplus



Polblue Swamp, Barrington Tops. Photo: Elisabeth Karplus



White-headed Pigeon. Photo: Charles Dove

On two mornings we walked around the large Polblue Swamp on the well laid out track. The track goes through woodland as well as crossing the edge of the swamp in several places. In a woodland area we came upon a bird flock apparently led by Grey Fantails – I recorded ten Grey Fantails. Also, there were a female Flame Robin and a rather shabby male Flame Robin. We spent some time trying to identify a female Flycatcher – was it a Leaden or a Satin? We were unable to decide and there was no male bird around to help us. On the following morning we went around the swamp in the opposite direction and met probably the same bird flock again led by Grey Fantails – this time I counted 12 birds but since the flock was moving in the same direction as our group, it is probable that I counted some more than once. Again, there was a single female flycatcher in the flock, which we could not identify, and a female Flame Robin. Also in the flock were Striated and Brown Thornbills, a Fan-tailed Cuckoo, a Golden Whistler and a Grey Shrike-thrush. We saw Musk Lorikeets in the Polblue Campground. Crimson Rosellas were everywhere but we were surprised to see a single Eastern Rosella. Close to the parking area for the track there were both White-throated and Red-browed Treecreepers.

Several people had to leave on Sunday but the rest of us had a final walk on Boundary Road – again it was very quiet, but we did see our first and only Eastern Yellow Robin. On the drive back to the campground, Allan found a Flame Robin family of four birds – again the male was rather shabby. Monday morning saw us all packing up and setting off for Sydney. We would like to thank Allan for a good weekend in which we saw or heard 44 species of birds.

Camp at Coolah Tops National Park

6 to 30 December 2017

Allan Richards

Eight campers meet on Boxing Day at The Barracks campsite in Coolah Tops National Park. As usual for our camps at Coolah Tops, we were welcomed by screeching Sulphur-crested Cockatoos around the campsite. While I was pitching my tent, I could hear Red-browed Treecreepers in the trees nearby. At dusk as we were having our dinners and enjoying sundowners, we heard a Powerful Owl call from the pine trees in the campground. We all dropped everything and rushed over to see it perched above Jill's tent. The following morning, Trevor spotted the Powerful Owl hidden high in the pine-trees above the tents. It called each evening before heading out to hunt. One morning, it was holding the remains of a Greater Glider. Boobook Owls could be heard calling throughout each night.



Painted Honeyeater Photo: Keir Vaughan-Taylor

We all walked around the Grasstrees Track several times and were able to get good looks of the Red-browed Treecreepers. A young Pallid Cuckoo tested our identification skills. Other birds seen were a young Leaden Flycatcher, Crimson Rosella, King Parrot, Buff-rumped and Yellow Thornbills, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo and Noisy Friarbird. On our first morning, we walked as far as Coxes Creek campsite and falls. The falls were only a trickle of water. We flushed a Boobook from an acacia and it flew to a nearby tree for excellent views and photographs. Several members walked and drove to spotlight along the road on a couple of evenings seeing Greater Gliders and Brush-tailed Possums. There were lots of Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Red-necked Wallabies around the camp.

Not many birds on our visits to The Pinnacles lookout but a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles slowly soared upwards from below our level to high in the sky. A Peregrine Falcon was later seen. Through the smoke haze, we could just make out the Warrumbungles in the distance.

As usual, one morning we crossed over Cunninghams Gap to the Liverpool Plains. Our first stop was at a grove of Boree *Acacia pendula* near Bundella. Mistletoe growing on these trees attract Painted Honeyeaters and we were not disappointed as a number were seen. Also Common Bronzewing, Mistletoebird, Pallid Cuckoo, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Rufous Songlark, Pallid Cuckoo and good numbers of Red-winged Parrots.

Further on, the wetlands were nearly dry but there were a lot of Straw-necked Ibis. In the park in Premer, flowering callistemons attracted many honeyeaters including Scarlet, Brown and Blue-faced.

On our final morning, we woke to heavy rain. Although it stopped at about 8:00 am, we had to pack up sodden tents and drive down the muddy road out of the park.

Royal National Park

31 January 2018

Judy Clark

After the recent bush fires I'm sure people were unsure if the outing would go ahead, but the ranger assured me the areas we were visiting were accessible and there should be plenty of birds with their likely relocation to areas further north in the park. A keen knowledgeable group of six met at Wattle Forest for an enjoyable day's bird watching.

We began the morning with three Sacred Kingfishers flying back and forth across the river, a beautiful display. Once in Wattle Forest there were plenty of birds calling but we found them difficult to see as there had been rain overnight and the birds were enjoying the damp foliage on the top of the canopy rather than being in the shade under the canopy with

us. We did get good views of New Holland Honeyeaters, Variegated Fairy Wrens both male and female, Large Billed Scrubwrens and an Olive-backed Oriole. A Superb Lyrebird was spotted and we followed it through the forest.

We then spotted a group of Satin Bowerbirds, one male and three females or juveniles. The bower was rather poor but while we watched the male brought several blue items in and placed them. He went off and one of the others came in and moved them. It was very interesting to watch. We joked that to witness this was like being with David Attenborough!

Further in one of the group found an antechinus, or maybe two clambering around a low palm. We were quite close and had good views of this too.

After morning tea we went over to Lady Carrington Drive. Once again there were many active small birds. Good views were had of a male Golden Whistler, White-throated Treecreeper, Brown Thornbills and Brown Gerygones.

Thank you to everyone who came along despite the uncertainty of the outing eventuating. Although the number of species was not great we saw some wonderful aspects of nature.

Half-day outing: Lakes and Lagoons

14 February 2018

Frik Gautschi

A turnout of 21 attendees for this midweek outing was most pleasing, boosted by several visitors, including Tony Doukakis, Paul Fitzgerald, Annie Guibert, Brenda Parkinson, Jennifer Watts and Rosie Wood. A sunny day was the good news; a forecast of 30°C a worry. First stop was Wamberal Lagoon where a group of 57 Hardheads were tucked away in a large raft of 130 Eurasian Coots and there were the usual Grey and Chestnut Teals, Pacific Black Ducks, Dusky Moorhens and Black Swans nearer the banks. Also spotted in the shallows were Little and Great Egrets, two Pied Stilt, a White-faced Heron and cormorants roosting in the trees. Up to seven White-headed Pigeons showed up on the telephone wires along Ocean View Drive, as they so often do here. Other tree dwellers included Lewin's Honeyeater, Figbirds and Little and Red Wattlebirds. A Sea-Eagle in the distance drew everyone's attention and a lone White Ibis, spotted flying off to better pastures, was the only one seen here. Still some White-throated Needletails about, as we saw high above us, while White-breasted Woodswallows and Welcome Swallows spent more time resting up. A Crested tern and a few Silver Gulls were the only true shorebird representatives. This was the most rewarding location, with 41 species sighted.

Terrigal Lagoon was the next stop with a somewhat slow start, but we ultimately recorded 26 species here, including an extended view of a Striated Heron. Other highlights included a Great Egret, a juvenile Darter, and a Northern Mallard with four ducklings. Still not much happening in the trees, but we ultimately recorded an Eastern rosella, Lewin's Honeyeater, Grey Butcherbird, a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Brown Thornbills and Superb Fairy-wrens. It was starting to warm up, but the cicada-song had mercifully abated - finally! On to Bulbararing Lagoon at Avoca Beach with time for morning tea at Heazlett Park. No less than four Nankeen Night-herons obligingly roosted directly above our tea party; one even building a nest just under the canopy of the ficus. Yet more apparently late nesters was a pair of Rainbow Lorikeets in a natural hole in a nearby Blackbutt. We also saw a Great Egret and Little Corellas. Only a round dozen recorded here, but always good to have that cuppa in the shade.

Copacobana had little more than a Silver Gull and a distant Crested Tern to show, so off to Captain Cook Lookout but, alas, barely anything in sight in the hazy distance. Noisy Miners, a Kookaburra and a few Welcome Swallows were also recorded: six species in total on the seaside under the blazing sun. Should have known better! Cochrone Lagoon seems to be the place for mallards. Of the 22 species seen here, there were three species of cormorants, a Great Egret, Royal Spoonbill, Black Swans with four juvenile cygnets, and another White-bellied Sea-Eagle brought some life to the cloudless skies. Back to Avoca Beach for lunch, this time on Avoca Lake, where a pair of Ospreys obligingly remained in clear view throughout, albeit at spotting scope-distance. One eventually flew past us and before long calmly returned with an unidentified spot of lunch. A juvenile Grey Butcherbird came to have a closer look at us and a glimpse of a White-faced Heron heading off was the final sighting. That concluded the outing - 55 species for the day. Thanks to all the eagle-eyed participants.

UNUSUAL REPORTS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2018

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)

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|------------|--------------------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| Coastal Emu | 3+2J | 10/2/18 | Palmers Island , Yamba | NC | Greg Clancy |
| Australian Brush-turkey | 1 | 16/1/18 | Wattle Forest, Royal NP | S | Andrew Patrick |
| Australian Brush-turkey | 1 | 31/1/18 | Upper Bullawa Ck, Mt Kaputah NP | NP | Michael Dahlem |
| Brown Quail | 4 | 4/1/18 | Spiral Hill, Sydney Olympic Park | S | Gillian Carter |
| King Quail | 3 | 8/1/18 | Holdsworthy STW Harris Creek | S | David James |
| King Quail | AF | 11/1/18 | Partridge Creek, Fernbank | NC | Liam Murphy |
| King Quail | 2 | 28/2/18 | Bunyip Ck Wetland, Grafton | NC | Darryl Eggins |
| Magpie Goose | 4 | 20/2/18 | Lake Centenary, Temora | SS | Sandra Henderson |
| Cotton Pygmy-Goose | 1 | 15-28/1/18 | Also 27/2, Ballina Heights Wetlands | NC | Peter Higgins |
| Plumed Whistling-Duck | 11 | 13/1/18 | Long Reef Golf Course | S | Kerry Allen |
| Wandering Whistling-Duck | 2 | 4/1/18 | Sydney Olympic Park | S | Tom Wilson |
| Wandering Whistling-Duck | 12 | 19/1/18 | Emerald Downs GC Port Macquarie | NC | Alan Morris |
| Musk Duck | F5Y | 16/1/18 | Campbells Swp Griffith | R | Max O'Sullivan |
| Musk Duck | F | 24/2/18 | Old Quipolly Dam, Quirindi | NS | Michael Dahlem |
| Australian Shelduck | 2 | 6/1/18 | Eastlakes GC | S | Brain Deans |
| Red-tailed Tropicbird | 1 | 13/2/18 | North Head, Sydney Harbour NP | S | Michael Ronan |
| White-headed Pigeon | 1 | 28/1/18 | Horse Swamp, Barrington Tops | H | Allan Richards |
| White-headed Pigeon | 1 | 11/3/18 | Neilsen Park, Vaucluse | S | Marie Lister |
| Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove | 1 | 23/2/18 | Mungo Brush, Myall Lakes NP | H | Simon Gorta |
| Superb Fruit-Dove | 3 | 5/1/18 | Old Big Scrub FR, Nightcap NP | NC | David Charley |
| Wompoo Fruit-Dove | 20 | 28/1/18 | Copeland Tops SCA | H | Demetrios Bertzeletos |
| White-throated Nightjar | 1 | 14/1/18 | Private property Moruya | SC | Demetrios Bertzeletos |
| White-throated Nightjar | 2 | 18/1/19 | Sphinx Memorial Kur-ing-gai C. NP | S | Tom Wilson |
| White-throated Nightjar | hc | 3/2/18 | Private property Bullio, near Joadja | I | Allan Richards |
| White-throated Nightjar | 1 | 20/1/18 | Blue Gum Camp, Yengo NP | H | Vincent Mourik |
| Spotted Nightjar | 1 | 18/1/18 | Taleban Reserve Rankins Springs | R | Max O'Sullivan |

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|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Owlet Nightjar | 1 | 14/1/18 | Shanes Park Air Services Site | S | Edwin Vella |
| Marbled Frogmouth | 3 pr | 16/2/18 | Minyon Valley, Nightcap NP | NC | David Charley |
| White-throated Needletail | 400 | 18/1/18 | Berkeley Vale to Chittaway | CC | Daniel McKeon |
| White-throated Needletail | 1005 | 19/1/18 | Tathra Taila HSD Mangrove Mtn | CC | Kaye Pointer |
| Fork-tailed Swift | 25 | 4/1/18 | Nooraweena HSD Kulnura | CC | Steve Gibb |
| Fork-tailed Swift | 5 | 8/2/18 | Kariong | CC | Daniel McKeon |
| White-faced Storm-Petrel | 5 | 11/2/18 | Port Stephens pelagic | H | Mick Roderick |
| White-faced Storm-Petrel | 1bc | 12/2/18 | Kiola Headland | I | Paul Lynch |
| Black-browed Albatross | 7 | 14/1/18 | Mistral Pt Maroubra | S | Cory Callaghan |
| White-capped Albatross (Shy) | 1 | 14/1 & 26/2 | Mistral Pt Maroubra | S | Robert Griffin |
| Fairy Prion | 1 bc | 2/2/18 | South Ballina beach | NC | Steve McBride |
| Fairy Prion | 1 | 4/2/18 | Tacking Pt Light House Pt Macquarie | NC | Liam Murphy |
| Tahiti Petrel | 1 | 14/1/18 | Off Katang NR Dunbogan | NC | Peter West |
| Black Petrel | 1 | 19/1/18 | Crowdy Head pelagic | H | Mick Roderick |
| Black Petrel | 1 | 11/2/18 | Port Stephens pelagic | H | Mick Roderick |
| Grey-faced (Great-winged) P. | 3 | 19/1/18 | Crowdy Head pelagic | H | Mick Roderick |
| Grey-faced (Great-winged) P. | 1 bc | 2/2/18 | South Ballina beach | NC | Steve McBride |
| Grey-faced (Great-winged) P. | 7 | 11/2/18 | Port Stephens pelagic | H | Mick Roderick |
| White-necked Petrel | 1 | 11/1/18 | Long Reef Aquatic Reserve | S | Michael Ronan |
| White-necked Petrel | 1 | 14/1/18 | Mistral point Maroubra | S | Corey Callahan |
| White-necked Petrel | 1 | 28/1/18 | North Head, Sydney Harbor NP | S | Michael Ronan |
| Black-winged petrel | 1 | 19/1/18 | Crowdy Head pelagic | H | Mick Roderick |
| Gould's Petrel | 1bc | 19/1/18 | South Ballina Beach | NC | Steve McBride |
| Streaked Shearwater | 1 | 6/1/18 | Long Reef Aquatic Reserve | S | Michael Ronan |
| Streaked Shearwater | 3 | 26/2/18 | Mistral Pt Maroubra | S | David Mitford |
| Sooty Shearwater | 1 | 3/2/18 | Tacking Pt Light House Pt Macquarie | NC | Liam Murphy |
| Sooty Shearwater | 1 | 3/2/18 | Sydney pelagic | S | Greg McLachlan |
| Sooty Shearwater | 1 | 11/2/18 | Port Stephens pelagic | H | Mick Roderick |
| Little Shearwater | 1 | 3/1 & 14/1 | Mistral Point, Maroubra | S | David Mitford |
| Buller's Shearwater | 1 bc | 2/2/18 | South Ballina Beach | NC | Steve McBride |
| Buller's Shearwater | 1 | 15/2/18 | North Head, Sydney Harbour NP | S | Michael Ronan |
| Little Penguin | 1 | 21/1/18 | Northshore Bch Port Macquarie | NC | Hastings BOC |
| Brown Booby | AM | 3/1/18 | Mistral Point, Maroubra | S | David Mitford |

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|---------------------------|------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----|-------------------|
| Black-necked Stork | 2A+J | Jan-Feb | Hexham Swamp NR | H | HBOC |
| Black-necked Stork | Im | 11/1/18 | Colleambally | R | Mark Robb |
| Black-necked Stork | 3 | 20/1/18 | Seale Rd Swamp Belmore River | NC | Louise Earnshaw |
| Black-necked Stork | 2A+J | 28/1/18 | Mungo Brush, Myall Lakes | H | Lyn Karpriel |
| Australasian Bittern | 1 | 3/2/18 | Kiagarthar Cotton Swp, Condobolin | CP | Warren Chad |
| Australian Little Bittern | 1 | 1/1/18 | Jabiru Wetlands Casino | NC | David Charley |
| Australian Little Bittern | 1 | 14/1/18 | Campbell's Swamp, Griffith | R | Warren Chad |
| Australian Little Bittern | 1hc | 3/2/18 | Kiagarthar Cotton Swp, Condobolin | CP | Warren Chad |
| Black Bittern | 1 | 5/1/18 | Fernbank Ck Rd Port Macquarie | NC | Ian Kerr |
| Black Bittern | 1 | 23/1/18 | Tuggerah Ck Central Coast Wetlands | CC | Alan Morris |
| Cattle Egret | 68N | 4/1/18 | Greendale Lagoon, Dooralong | CC | Alan Morris |
| Cattle Egret | 500N | 18/1/18 | Prince St wetland Grafton | NC | Warren Thompson |
| Intermediate Egret | 10 N | 18/1/18 | Prince St wetland Grafton | NC | Warren Thompson |
| Great Egret | 4N | 18/1/18 | Prince St Wetland Grafton | NC | Warren Thompson |
| Eastern Osprey | 2A+J | 17/2/18 | Yallah Bay Lake Illawarra | I | Biggles Scolander |
| Eastern Osprey | 2 | 3/2/18 | Georges River Oatley | S | Jesse Gibson |
| Eastern Osprey | 3 | 24/2/18 | Shelley Bch/Manly Beach | S | Paul Rossington |
| Pacific Baza | 2A+J | 26/1/18 | Blackbutt Creek Reserve Gordon | S | David Vickers |
| Pacific Baza | 1 | 5-18/2/18 | Ulana Ave Budgewoi | CC | Rebecca Citroni |
| Square-tailed Kite | N+1J | 13/01/18 | Holmsville | H | M.Simpson |
| Square-tailed Kite | 1 | 18/1/18 | Been Ball Rd Gilletts Ridge, Tucabia | NC | Greg Clancy |
| Square-tailed Kite | 1 | 24/1/18 | Narraweena | S | Coleen Southall |
| Black Kite | 1 | 7/1/18 | Tomerong, Jervis Bay | I | Andy Wood |
| Black Kite | 1 | 14/1/18 | Lennox St Glenbrook | CT | Graeme Middleton |
| Brahminy Kite | 1 | 13/1/18 | Stockton Sandspit | I | Jenny Stiles |
| Grey Goshawk (WM) | 1 | 8/2/18 | Balmain | S | Robert Griffith |
| Spotted Harrier | 1 | 12/1/18 | Bullarah, 70 km W of Moree | NP | Pat Johnston |
| Brown Falcon | 1 | 22/1/18 | Yallah Bay Rd Yallah | I | Carla Jackett |
| Black Falcon | 1 | 3/2/18 | Dungarubba, Lismore | NC | June Harris |
| Black Falcon | 1 | 13/2/18 | Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton | R | Max O'Sullivan |
| Little Eagle | 1 | 15/1/18 | Bullarah, 70 km W of Moree | NP | Pat Johnston |
| Little Eagle | 1 | 16/1/18 | Canyonleigh | I | Lorne Johnson |
| Brolga | 2 | 24/2/18 | Wetland north of Coraki | NC | David Charley |

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|--------------------------|------|-------------|--------------------------------------|----|------------------|
| Brolga | 5 | 24-25/2/18 | Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton | R | Max O'Sullivan |
| Buff-banded Rail | 2A2Y | 13/1/18 | Sydney Park, St Peters | S | Brian Deans |
| Baillon's Crake | 1 | 5/1/18 | Sydney Park, St Peters | S | Brian Deans |
| Baillon's Crake | 2 | 1/1-23/2/18 | Greendale Swamp, Dooralong | CC | Graeme Catt |
| Spotless Crake | 2+2Y | 3/1/18 | Eastlakes Golf Course | S | Robert Griffin |
| Spotless Crake | 2+2Y | 27/1/18 | Pitt Town Lagoon Reserve | S | Tom Wilson |
| Spotless Crake | 1 | 6/3/18 | Sydney Park, St Peters | S | Brian Deans |
| Bush Stone-curlew | 2,2Y | 12/1/18 | Palmers Lane Bensville | CC | Julie McTaggart |
| Beach Stone-curlew | 2 | 2/1/18 | Mogareeka Inlet, Tathra | SC | Leo Berzins |
| Beach Stone-curlew | 3 | 12/1/18 | Foreshore Walk, Nambucca Heads | NC | Bashir Khan |
| Beach Stone-curlew | 1 | 31/1 & 3/2 | Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar | H | Alan Morris |
| Pied Oystercatcher | 82 | 10/1/18 | Stockton Beach | H | Mick Roderick |
| Sooty Oystercatcher | 15 | 14/1/18 | Long Reef Aquatic Reserve | S | Tom Wilson |
| Red-necked Avocet | 16 | 20/1/18 | Micalo Island Prawn farm, Yamba | NC | Russel Jago |
| Red-necked Avocet | 300 | 20/2/18 | Waterbird Refuge, S. Bicentennial Pk | S | Tom Wilson |
| Red-necked Avocet | 2500 | Jan-Feb | Stockton Sandspit | H | HBOC |
| Large Sand Plover | 1 | 31/1/18 | Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar | H | Rex Schmidt |
| Lesser Sand Plover | 2 | 2 & 31/1 | Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar | H | Doug Hocking |
| Double-banded Plover * | 1 | 27/1/18 | Lake Wollumboola, Culburra | I | Martin Potter |
| Double-banded Plover * | 5 | 28/2/18 | Boat Harbour, Kurnell | S | Michael Ellison |
| Double-banded Plover * | 1 | 28/2/18 | Pelican point, Norah head | CC | Alan Morris |
| Red-kneed Dotterel | 3 | 23-26/2/18 | Ansells Pt Chittaway | CC | Graeme Catt |
| Australian Painted Snipe | 3 | January | Toogali rice crop, Griffith | R | Matthew Heron |
| Australian Painted Snipe | 2 | 20/1/18 | Kiagarthur Cotton Dam, Condobolin | CP | Warren Chad |
| Australian Painted Snipe | 2F | 22/1-10/2 | James Ck Rd Harwood | NC | Greg Clancy |
| Latham's Snipe | 1 | 20/2/18 | Lake Centenary, Temora | SS | Sandra Henderson |
| Black-tailed Godwit | 63 | 20/1/18 | Micalo Island Prawn Farm, Yamba | NC | Greg Clancy |
| Black-tailed Godwit | 1 | 21-31/1/18 | Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton | R | Keith Hutton |
| Common Greenshank | 44 | 25/1/18 | Smith Island, Fullarton Cove | H | Tom Clarke |
| Common Sandpiper | 2 | 12/1/18 | Foreshore Dve Res St Huberts Island | CC | John Carpenter |
| Common Sandpiper | 1 | 16/1/18 | Jerseyville | NC | Liam Murphy |
| Common Sandpiper | 2 | 1/2/18 | Terilba Island, North Entrance | CC | Margaret Pointer |
| Wood Sandpiper | 2 | 27/1/18 | Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton | R | Keith Hutton |

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|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Marsh Sandpiper | 2 | 1-14/1/18 | Pitt Town lagoon | S | Peter Johnston |
| Marsh Sandpiper | 10 | 21-31/1/18 | Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton | R | Keith Hutton |
| Marsh Sandpiper | 1 | 14/2/18 | Micalo Island Yamba | NC | Greg Clancy |
| Wandering Tattler | 1 | 2/1/2018 | Reef below Windmill Hill PtMacq | NC | Liam Murphy |
| Wandering Tattler | 3 | 31/1/18 | Flynns Beach, Port Macquarie | NC | Liam Murphy |
| Wandering Tattler | 1,1 | 14 & 28/2 | Soldiers & Pelican Pts Norah Head | CC | F.Ullrick/A.Morris |
| Red Knot | 1 | 11/1/18 | Long Reef Aquatic Reserve | S | Dean Purcell |
| Sanderling | 7 | 31/1-3/2 | Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar | H | Michael Scobie |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | 2 | 12/2/18 | Copi Hollow, Menindee | LW | Geoff Looney |
| Curlew Sandpiper | 11 | 2/1/18 | Menindee Lake | LW | Geoff Looney |
| Ruff | 1 | 13/1/18 | Stockton Sandspit | H | Edwin Vella |
| Painted Buttonquail | 2A4Y | 1/1-25/2/18 | Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty | CC | John Carpenter |
| Red-chested Buttonquail | AF | 14/1/18 | Tempus Two Winery Pokolbin | H | Alwyn Simple |
| Long-tailed Jaeger | 15 | 1-14/1/18 | 8 on 26/2, Mistral Pt Maroubra | S | David Mitford |
| Long-tailed Jaeger | 13 | 19/1/18 | Crowdy Head pelagic | H | Mick Roderick |
| Common Noddy | 1 | 12/1/18 | Tacking Pt Port Macquarie | NC | Sue Proust |
| Black Noddy | 1 | 11/1/18 | Lake Cathie Estuary | NC | Liam Murphy |
| Grey Ternlet | 1 | 11/1/18 | Nobbys Breakwater, Newcastle | H | Gillian Carter |
| Grey Ternlet | 1 | 12/1/18 | Long Reef Aquatic Reserve | S | Michael Ronan |
| Grey Ternlet | 1 | 3/3/18 | Flat Rock, Ballina | NC | Steve McBride |
| Common Gull-billed Tern | 1 | 12-21/1/18 | Stockton Sandspit | H | Mick Roderick |
| Common Gull-billed Tern | 1 | 14/2/18 | Micalo Island, Yamba | NC | Greg Clancy |
| White-winged Black Tern | 1 | 3/2/18 | Flat Rock, Ballina | NC | Steve McBride |
| Aleutian Tern | 19 | 2/1-28/2/18 | Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar | H | Liam Murphy |
| Little Tern | 2A2Y | 15/1/18 | Deeban Spit, Port Hacking | S | Julie Keeting |
| Little Tern | 200 | 3/2/18 | Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar | H | Alan Stuart |
| Sooty Tern | 1 | 14/1 & 26/2 | 2 on 26/2, Mistral Point, Maroubra | S | Robert Griffin |
| Sooty Tern | 1 | 10/2/18 | Sydney pelagic | S | Greg McLachlan |
| Common Tern | 165 | 3/2/18 | Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar | H | Alan Stuart |
| Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo | 175 | 27/2/18 | Wallumarra Track, Royal NP | S | Ted Nixon |
| Glossy Black-Cockatoo | 14 | 15/1/18 | Grassy Head | NC | Bruce Caldwell |
| Glossy Black-Cockatoo | 7 | 27/1/18 | Myall View, Myall Lakes NP | H | Rob Palazzi |
| Glossy Black-Cockatoo | 2 | 31/1/18 | Eulah Creek, Narrabri | NP | Michael Dahlem |

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|---------------------------|-----|------------|-----------------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| Gang-gang Cockatoo | 99 | January | At 15 sites in the Blue Mountains | CT | BMBOC |
| Long-billed Corella | 4 | 16/1/18 | Lake Curalo, Eden | SC | Michael Fuhrer |
| Little Lorikeet | 4 | 12-24/1/18 | Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty | CC | Christina Port |
| Regent Parrot | 12 | 8-9/10/17 | 3 small flocks at Euston- | LW | Dorothy Price |
| Turquoise Parrot | 17 | 11-29/1 | Mungo Brush, Myall Lakes NP | H | Tom Clarke |
| Turquoise Parrot | 2 | 15/1-9/2 | Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty | CC | Michael Rutowski |
| Turquoise Parrot | 1 | 15/2/18 | Werstleigh garden | S | John Reidy |
| Ground Parrot | 2hc | 11/1/18 | Partridge Ck Fernbank | NC | Liam Murphy |
| Pheasant Coucal | 1 | 7/2/18 | Maddens Plains | I | Brian Deans |
| Black-eared Cuckoo | 1 | 1/2/18 | Wattle Dam, Binya SF | R | Nella Smith |
| Black-eared Cuckoo | 1 | 27/2/18 | Cumberland Range Kosciuszko NP | I | Les Main |
| Oriental Cuckoo | 1 | 21/12/18 | Cattai Wetlands, Cooperook | H | Paul Lynch |
| Oriental Cuckoo | 1 | 18/2/18 | Koala Bch Hastings Point | NC | Anneliese Simke |
| Powerful Owl | 1 | 8/1/18 | Coolah Tops NP, Coolah | H | R.Druce |
| Powerful Owl | 1 | 15/1/18 | Wollongong Bot. Gardens | I | Terrill Nordstrom |
| Powerful Owl | 1 | 20/2/18 | Kalindra Rd Invergowrie, Armidale | NT | Rosemarie Glover |
| Barking Owl | hc | 20-22/2/18 | Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty | CC | Graham Nelson |
| Barking Owl | hc | 8/2/18 | Henry Kendall Village, Wyoming | CC | Robert Montgomery |
| Masked Owl | 1 | 14/1/18 | Private property Moruya | SC | Julie Morgan |
| Masked Owl | 1 | 20/1/18 | Westhaven, Port Macquarie | NC | Peter West |
| Greater Sooty Owl | 8hc | 27/1/18 | Copeland Tops SCA | H | Demetrios Bertzeletos |
| Greater Sooty Owl | 1 | 22-26/1/18 | Hazelbrook | CT | Jill Dark |
| Greater Sooty Owl | 1hc | 16/2/18 | Minyon Valley, Nightcap NP | NC | David Charley |
| Eastern Grass Owl | 1 | 11/1/18 | Partridge Ck Fernbank | NC | Tony Bischoff |
| Rainbow Bee-eater | 10 | 9/2/18 | Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty | CC | Christina Port |
| Rainbow Bee-eater | 12 | February | Cedar Brush Ck & Ravensdale | CC | Louise Salter |
| Rock Warbler | 1 | 4/2/18 | Wombeyan Caves | I | Allan Richards |
| Chestnut-rumped Heathwren | 2 | 6/1/18 | North Lawson Swamp | CT | Mark Ley |
| Shy Heathwren | 2 | 18/1/18 | Taleban Res Rankins Springs | R | Max O'Sullivan |
| Yellow-tufted Honeyeater | 1 | 11/3/18 | Shoplands Rd Annangrove | S | Darryl Smedley |
| Regent Honeyeater | 2 | 23/01/18 | Tanilba Bay, Lemon Tree Passage | H | Per M. Roderick |
| Crimson Chat | AM | 18/1/18 | Taleban Res Rankins Springs | R | Max O'Sullivan |
| Black Honeyeater | AM | 18/1/18 | Taleban Res Rankins Springs | R | Max O'Sullivan |

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|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|------------------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| Painted Honeyeater | 1 | 25/1/18 | Pucca Bucca Wetlands, Mudgee | CT | Thomas Watts |
| Painted Honeyeater | 1 | 11/2/18 | Windsor Downs NR Richmond | S | Tony Hunt |
| Painted Honeyeater | 1 | 23/2/18 | Nurragingy Reserve, Doonside | S | Mark Fuller |
| Pied Honeyeater | AM | 25/1/18 | Bullarah, 70 Km W of Moree | NP | Pat Johnston |
| Pied Honeyeater | 1 | 9/2/18 | Wattle Dam, Binya SF | R | Max O'Sullivan |
| Crescent Honeyeater | 1 | 26/2/18 | Bellawongarah, Kangaroo Valley | I | Carla Jackett |
| Spotted Quail-thrush | 4 | Jan-Feb | Mogo Camp & Bucketty Waterhole | CC | CCGBNSW |
| Crested Bellbird | 1 | 18/1/18 | Taleban Reserve Rankins Springs | R | Max O'Sullivan |
| Barred Cuckoo-shrike | 7 | 4/3/18 | Rocky Ck Dam, Nightcap NP | NC | Tom Petty |
| White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike | 2 | 25/1/18 | Hawkesbury Lookout Winmalee | S | Neil Kirby |
| White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike | 1 | 25/1/18 | Glenbrook Lagoon | S | Debbie Harris |
| Pied Butcherbird | 1 | 19/1/18 | Warriewood Wetlands | S | Alex Moffat |
| Satin Flycatcher | AM | 13/1/18 | Eurobodalla Botanical Gardens | SC | Demetrios Bertzeletos |
| Satin Flycatcher | AM | 25/2/18 | Crosslands Reserve, Berowra Valley | S | Michael Ronan |
| Spectacled Monarch | 1 | 22/1-25/2 | Ourimbah Ck RTA Res Ourimbah | CC | Luke Ullrich |
| Spangled Drongo * | 1 | 22/1/18 | Kariong | CC | Christina Port |
| Spangled Drongo * | 1 | 22/2/18 | Sydney Park, St Peters | S | Brian Deans |
| Red-capped Robin | M,F,J | 2-3/2/18 | Private property Bullio, Joadja | I | Allan Richards |
| Pale-yellow Robin | 1 | 11/1/18 | Wingam Brush NR, Taree | H | Frank Antram |
| Golden-headed Cisticola | 1 | 3/2/18 | Kiagarthar Cotton Swp, Condobolin | CP | Warren Chad |
| Diamond Firetail | 1 | 31/1/18 | Ulladulla Sportsground | I | Charles Dove |

COMMENT

Good rains have fallen in eastern NSW, alleviating the dry conditions over summer, but generally across inland NSW things are still pretty dry. Rarities reported this month included two carried over from last month, as the **Aleutian Terns** are still at Farquar Inlet, Old Bar while two further reports have been received for the **Common Gull-billed Terns**, at the Hunter Estuary & Clarence Estuary. A **Little Shearwater** was seen off Mistral Pt Maroubra, and a **Black-winged Petrel** off Crowdy Head. **Brush Turkeys** are now expanding their range into the Blue Mountains including returning to Mount Wilson 30 years after the last one was seen there! In the past 3 years they have been found breeding at Katoomba and seen at Blackheath; **Buller's Shearwater**: 1 Long Reef Aquatic Res 23/2; **Little Bittern**: 1 Fivebough Wetlands 19/1 & 13/2, **Square-tailed Kite**: 1 Bobbin Hd Rd Turrumurra 3/12, 1 Berowra 6/1, 1 Allambie Hgts 10/1, 1 Wilberforce 1/2, 1 Lake Talbot Narranderra 4/2, 20 reports from the Central Coast Jan-Feb (AM); **Pacific Baza**: 4 Bundeena 12/2; **Grey Goshawk**: 1 WM Hyams Bch Jervis Bay 8/3; **Spotted Crane**: 1 Pitt Town Lgn 27/1, **Baillon's Crane**: 1 Pitt Town Lgn 27/1; **Bush Stone-curlew**: 35 nesting attempts this summer in the Tweed Shire & 20 in Ballina Shire, 8 pairs produce 5 fledged young in Brisbane Water Oct-Feb; **Pied Oystercatcher**: Dec-Jan, 2 nests 1 chick fledged but at Farquar Inlet, 4 Nests, 8 chicks fledged; **Hooded Plover**: Very few chicks & eggs survived this summer due to the large storms on the South Coast in January; **Painted Snipe**: There was a movement to eastern NSW during Jan-Feb, other reports include 1 Pitt Town Lgn 27/1 & 1 Emigrant Ck Grafton 31/1; **Little Tern**: Dec-Jan, Windawoppa, Hawkes Nest, 56 prs fledged 31 young, at Farquar Inlet 50 prs, only 1 chick fledged, only 15 chicks fledged from the 7 South Coast colonies which is a bad situation; **Glossy Black-Cockatoo**: 3 Bullio nr Joadja 3/2, 2A+J Wentworth Falls 27/1, annual counts at Rankins Springs found 96 and 38 in the Leeton-Brobenah Hills area; **Turquoise Parrot**: 1 Katang NR Camden Head 14/1, 1 Wattle Dam Binya SF 9/2; **Powerful Owl**: Reported from 10 sites Jan-Feb on Central Coast; **Painted Honeyeater**: 2 Yanco Res 19/1; **Spangled Drongo**: Other first returns 1 Lakes Bch Budgewoi 28/1, 2 Pipers Bay, Wallis Lake 14/2, Good Birding!

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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 fees:

Single Adult - Mailed Newsletter \$45.00

Single Adult - Online Newsletter \$40.00

Family - Mailed Newsletter \$50.00

Family - Online Newsletter \$45.00

Junior (under 18 years) \$15.00

Fees are due on 1 October.

Membership includes six newsletters per year.

Email for Club Activities:

activities@birdingnsw.org.au

Newsletter contributions:

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

JUNE Newsletter Deadline:

Friday 11 May 2018

Newsletter advertising rates, and bookings
contact Ian Bailey:

Email: newsletter@birdingnsw.org.au

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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