



Manning Great Lakes Birdwatchers Inc

November 2017 Newsletter

Field Outings - are held on the first Thursday and third Saturday of each month (except January and December) and commence at 8am unless shown otherwise

The Annual General Meeting of the Manning Great Lakes Birdwatchers Inc. held on the 15th July 2017 elected the following Office Bearers:

President	Brian McCauley	0431 878 395
Vice President	Shirley Henry	6556 7109
Secretary	Janis Cossill	0405 054 930
Treasurer	Sheila Perrottet	6554 3032
Activities Officer	Brian McCauley	0431 878 395
Records Officer	Ashley Carlson	6557 5393
Publicity Officer	Tony Bennett	6559 2897
Public Officer	Liz McCauley	0431 878 395
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Newsletter Editor	Ashley Carlson	6557 5393
Committee	Helen Kershaw	0400 130 486
	Simon Lemon	6559 3331

Items for the newsletter can be sent direct to the editor to either

Email: ashley.carlson@midcoast.nsw.gov.au
Post: PO Box 4074 Forster NSW 2428

All other correspondence should be forwarded to the club address: PO Box 281 Forster NSW 2428

From The Editor

Firstly, Christmas party cruise bookings are now due so please see details following. Secondly, the challenge bird count is on again on the first weekend in December. Similar to previous years, bird species and numbers should be recorded during your outing, which could be your normal morning / afternoon walk or a specific trip to a different location. Summaries should be forwarded to yours truly on either of the contacts shown above as soon as possible following the weekend. And thirdly, the activities list for 2018 is attached to the end of this newsletter.

Finally, as this is the final newsletter for 2017, I will take this opportunity to wish everyone a joyous and safe festive season and that you look forward to more rewarding birding during 2018.

Calendar of Outings

02-03/12 Challenge Bird Count

09/12 Christmas Party - MV Cruises will depart from Endeavour Wharf in Stevenson Street, Taree at 10:30am for a 4 hour round trip to Wingham Brush. The trip includes a Devonshire morning tea and lunch with dessert. Cost, dependent on numbers, will vary from \$42 to \$48. Corkage is \$4 per bottle. If you book and fail to attend you will be responsible for full payment. Brian McCauley requires names and numbers prior to the 25th November and family and visitors are welcome

19/01 Dingo Tops - meet at corner of Bulga Road and Wherral Flat Road (turn right into Isabella Street, Wingham, left into Dennes Street then take 3rd exit at roundabout, cross railway overbridge then turn left into Bulga Road)

01/02 Harrington - meet at the Harrington Marine Rescue building

16-18 Lithgow Campout - based at the Lithgow Caravan Park, arrive Thursday and depart Monday. Further details to follow

01/03 Celito Beach / Sandbar / Pacific Palms - meet at the corner of The Lakes Way and Sandbar Road

17/03 Wallis Lake Cruise - 11:00am departure on the Free Spirit. Meet at the Waterline Boathouse, Little Street Forster (opp. Helen Street)

Nabiac Heathland - 19th August 2017

By Liz McCauley

Despite the shocking weather forecast for gale force winds, 16 intrepid birdwatchers turned up for our Saturday outing in the Nabiac area. Whilst waiting at the corner of Glen Ora Road for everyone to arrive, a couple of Straw-necked Ibis were seen over in the paddocks. Hanging around the barbed wire fencing a male Superb Fairy-wren was displaying his magnificent colours to any interested female. A couple of Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and Red Wattlebird were playing tag high up in the wind tossed branches of the trees. Also up in the tree tops Yellow-faced Honeyeater were competing for the nectar laden flowers.

Once we were all assembled we headed off for Aerodrome Road and commenced our birdwatching about two hundred meters down the road. On the way in White-faced Heron, Australasian Grebe and Australian Wood Duck were noted. As we alighted from our vehicles there were birds everywhere. Birdwatchers split up into groups some staying on the road others walking down an adjacent sand track. The dominant species were White-cheeked Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Noisy Friarbird and Red and Little Wattlebirds. Some people were lucky enough to see Yellow Thornbill and Spotted Pardalote.

We continued along Aerodrome Road and followed a couple of access tracks to Minimbah Nature Reserve where we parked. On the way in a Swamp Harrier was gliding in the wind high above the low heath. We walked down a track, partially overgrown and flanked by absolutely stunning wild flowers which brought much comment from our members. We certainly had a close up bush experience. The highlight here was a magnificently coloured male Variegated Fairy-wren. For a second time Spotted Pardalote was heard and seen, along with White-cheeked Honeyeater, and as much as we were enjoying our walk it was time to go back to the gate and have morning tea and do a bird count.

Heading back to the main track we continued on till we came to a small track crossing it. Taking the left branch we walked till we came to some beehives and then turned around. On the way back, Barbara spotted a Yellow Thornbill and a White-cheeked Honeyeater posing on a branch for photos. By this time we weren't seeing or hearing many birds. It really had become too windy. We decided to have lunch at Bullocky Wharf at Nabiac. A Grey Butcherbird entertained us as we ate our sandwiches. The wind and the cold getting the better of us we called it a day and headed home. As we left the wharf we saw in a small dam adjacent to the road a pair of Chestnut Teal, numerous Wood Duck and a solitary Pacific Black Duck. Balancing on the bank trying to keep out of the wind was a Masked Lapwing. We considered ourselves very lucky to get 38 species in such blustery conditions.

Bird List - Pacific Black Duck, Chestnut Teal, Australian Wood Duck, Australasian Grebe, Purple Swamphen, Masked Lapwing, White-faced Heron, Straw-necked Ibis, Swamp Harrier, Whistling Kite, Laughing Kookaburra, Australian King-Parrot, Little Lorikeet, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Variegated Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren, Noisy Friarbird, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Red Wattlebird, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Spotted Pardalote, Yellow Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Golden Whistler, Australian Magpie, Pied Butcherbird, Grey Butcherbird, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Torresian Crow, Magpie-lark, Welcome Swallow

Booti Booti NP - 07th September 2017

By Simon Lemon

A group of 16 members assembled at the carpark near Booti Booti National Park on a cool, clear morning with a strengthening westerly breeze. We filed across The

Lakes Way onto a track heading west towards Wallis Lake, through a magnificent display of flowering vegetation. Many birds were heard amongst the dense scrub but were difficult to see because of the windy conditions. Despite the wind and the dense vegetation Rainbow Bee-eater, Brush Cuckoo, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo and New Holland and White-cheeked Honeyeaters were seen along the track. A Swamp Harrier was spotted flying overhead. A good deal of time was spent admiring, identifying and photographing the native flowering plants and after two hours or so we decided to return to the cars.

Morning tea was taken at the Green Point boat ramp shelter before moving on to our next birding site at the western perimeter of the park. Access to this site from Green Point proved difficult, as the thoroughfare was denied through private property. Fortunately an alternative route was provided by the owner of an adjoining property. We encountered a beautiful patch of remnant littoral rainforest, which had lovely views out over the lake - a wonderful place for a wedding! A walk down the fire trail into the National Park revealed a number of sightings including White-browed Scrubwren, Golden Whistler and Yellow-faced Honeyeater. We had our lunch under the canopy of palms in patches of sunshine where our rainforest birds were spotted, ending our day of birding in this lovely area. A total of 53 species were tallied at the final birdcall.

Bird List - Black Swan, White-headed Pigeon, Crested Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Topknot Pigeon, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Brush Cuckoo, Silver Gull, Crested Tern, Australian Pelican, White-faced Heron, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Osprey, Swamp Harrier, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Rainbow Bee-eater, Laughing Kookaburra, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Regent Bowerbird, Variegated Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren, New Holland Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Brown Gerygone, White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Thornbill, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Eastern Whipbird, Australasian Figbird, Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie, Pied Butcherbird, Grey Butcherbird, Dusky Woodswallow, White-breasted Woodswallow, Spangled Drongo, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Forest Raven, Magpie-lark, Eastern Yellow Robin, Welcome Swallow, Silveryeye

Spring Campout - 11-17th September 2017

By Various

Brian McCauley - The Eurobodalla area that we birded extended from the Bateman's Bay area right down to south of Narooma and took in a very large and varied area of habitats. We based the centre of our activities in Broulee, a small community with a well-equipped beachside Caravan Park situated with direct beach access from the park. The facilities were adequate but the overall stay was let down by sub-standard cabin accommodation. A record of bird sightings in and around the park was kept over the week with 34 species logged.

Liz had prepared a busy schedule with each day having a minimum of two locations which were generally on the same route. The research and planning for this trip was first class and a big vote of thanks to Liz McCauley for a great job well done. We also have Lyn Burden, Secretary of the Eurobodalla Natural History Society, to thank for assisting us in putting together the outings schedule and organising her members to provide guidance on 4 occasions. We thank Julie and Helen at Cullendulla Creek Nature Reserve, Graeme for showing us the Bassian Thrush at The Botanic Gardens, Mandy for taking us down to Brou Lake and Lyn for taking us around Broulee Island and a tour of birding sites around Moruya including a private property.

Each venue had its highlights and some members were very lucky to get several life ticks on this trip. Of special interest were the Ruddy Turnstones seen at Burrewarra Point, Red Knot along with Curlew Sandpiper both with residual colour at Brou Lake, The White-backed Magpies which were fascinating at first but became a common sighting and Gang-gang Cockatoo seen at various locations. For those that attended the Illawarra leg, the sighting of the hard to spot Eastern Ground Parrot, the Red-whiskered Bulbul was very rewarding and the Lyrebirds up close and friendly in a stunning environment at Minnamurra Rainforest Centre will be long remembered.

Thanks to everyone who came along and contributed to making this trip a lot of fun and a great success.

Tony Bennett (11th) - The first day of our club's 2017 spring camp dawned with a bright, clear sky after a cold (2°) night. Our convoy of 16 members headed north from our headquarters at Broulee (pronounced 'brow-leigh'). The first birding site was some 25 km's away on the northern side of Batemans Bay, known as Cullendulla Creek Nature Reserve.

We had the advantage of being guided by Julie Morgan of the Eurobodalla Natural History Society. She escorted us along a small beach which had suffered erosion recently and we passed many uprooted trees before entering the bush. The track eventually brought us out to the banks of the Cullendulla Creek and onto a raised boardwalk, which wended its way through mangroves as the tide came in beneath us. We completed the loop walk and, since the tide was now up, had to skirt around the back of the uprooted trees on our return. Our initial search for local birds rewarded us with 67 species, the highlights were considered to be Crescent, Fuscous and Scarlet Honeyeaters, Eastern Reef Egret, Weebill and Grey Goshawk.

We farewelled Julie at this juncture and, following a hint that a Spotted Crake might be possible, we moved on to the Water Gardens in the town of Batemans Bay. As the name suggests, this is a large lake situated in the middle of a suburban area. A raised 300 metre boardwalk snaked across the lake and provided excellent viewing of the local water birds. We carefully examined the banks and the many reedy islands in the lake, but could not locate a Crake, with or without spots! Surprisingly, among the ducks, swans and grebes

was a small group of unusual and unexpected birds, comprising Mallards, Pacific Black hybrids and a massive Muscovy Duck hybrid.



They must be working hard with their heads down and tails up -
Photo: T Bennett

So the best we could discover was a fairly predictable range of birds, the highlight of which was the Striated Thornbill. We ticked about 56 species here and at the Water Gardens, bringing our total list of birds for the day to 85.



Smoko - Photo: L McCauley

Janis Cossill (12th) - A cold morning greeted us for our drive of 48 kms to Durras Lake. Passing through the tall spotted gums of the Murramarang NP on our way to Durras Lake a Superb Lyrebird ran across the road and disappeared. On stopping, Brian had a chance to photograph a Bassian Thrush, frozen and barely visible among the leaf litter. Along the trail we saw a Topknot Pigeon and heard a Fan-tailed Cuckoo long before finally spotting it.

As we climbed the track we saw White-browed Scrubwren, Golden and Rufous Whistlers, Grey Fantail and Yellow Robin and heard a Rose Robin but, alas, didn't see it. Morning tea beckoned and we were joined by a pair of Pied Currawong, Australian Raven and several Crimson Rosella. A pair of Gang-gang Cockatoo were heard and then seen above us, a first for me, while a pair of Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo flew over.

From there it was a short drive to Depot Beach, a beautiful white-sand beach backed by towering

rainforest. Walking this track turned up a group of Topknot Pigeon feasting on Cabbage Tree Palm fruits. Lunch was had on a cleared area we shared with a mob of kangaroos.



Feeding Topknot Pigeons - Photo: J Cossill

With lunch over we retraced our steps to Tomakin and turned into Bevan Road. With Barlings Swamp on the right, an assortment of ducks, cormorants and a Straw-necked Ibis were among our sightings. All along the road, both there and up around the corner to the left, were Yellow, Brown and Striated Thornbills, Brown Gerygone, Variegated and Superb Fairy-wrens, a Mistletoebird and some Red-browed Finch. A female Satin Bowerbird let us glimpse her as she sped on her way, while a Grey Shrike-thrush came in momentarily, and an Eastern Spinebill, Scarlet, New Holland, White-cheeked, Lewin's and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters went about their business. It was an enjoyable trip for all and we will be looking forward to more of the same.

Elaine Lemon (13th) - 18 members assembled at 7.30 am for the short trip to Mogo State Forest. On arrival we were greeted by two Brown Cuckoo-Dove and a Satin Bowerbird. We proceeded to the Loop Walk, going left up the hill where several birds were found calling in the tree tops. A flock of Topknot Pigeon did a 'fly past' for us then repeated with a 'fly through' amongst the tall trees. What a wonderful sight. A White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike had members guessing until seen in better light, along with the Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. An Olive-backed Oriole was also discovered in the trees. Our trek up the hill came to a dead end, so we retreated down the hill onto the narrow 1.6 km Loop Walk where some of our members had already been, finding a Superb Lyrebird working his way through the leaf litter. The forest was particularly dry with little or no water in the creek. After all members had been around the tracks, we retired for morning tea in the dappled shade by our vehicles.



Brown Cuckoo-Dove - Photo: L Chapman

A little further up the road is the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens, a magnificent display of native trees and shrubs with several walking trails through different parts of the garden. We met our volunteer guide, Graham, at the entrance and we soon discovered the lovely fairy-wrens out at the beginning of the walk, and continued following his lead along the creek side arboretum trail. Some of the birders ahead of the others, spotted a Bassian Thrush along the foot path, but all too quickly it flew up onto the fence and disappeared down into the creek vegetation, not to be seen again, despite returning to look for him after lunch. A lovely walk through the garden was had by all and some of the little birds were spotted along the way, including Brown and Striated Thornbills, Eastern Spinebill, White-throated Treecreeper, Red-browed Finch, Golden Whistler, Spotted Pardalote and many of the bigger birds, including Crimson Rosella and Australian King Parrot, were also seen and heard. A large Red-bellied Black Snake was found sunning itself in the creek bed by those who went that way. The pond produced a Great Egret and Dusky Moorhen, before we all retired back towards the Cafe for lunch. Most of the group had their lunch outside on the lawn while 6 others decided to have the Cafe fare instead. Probably a mistake, we had been warned, lunch was a long time coming!

The wind was increasing rapidly, but some of the group decided to take another look for the Bassian Thrush, while the others went home - probably the most sensible decision. Several branches and twigs were showering down, so we quickly finished the walk, having to step over the large branch that had fallen on the bridge. A lovely place to visit and worth returning to in the future.

Shirley Henry (14th) - Today we headed south for the first time. The weather was fine, the fierce hot winds of yesterday having abated but with the forecast of the temperature dropping dramatically with the cold winds to return with a vengeance. We set off to Tuross Head, 35km south of Broulee. Our first stop for the morning was at the Tuross Sand Spit. We parked adjacent to a caravan park at Blackfellows Point in Eurobodalla National Park and had to climb down 27 steps onto the beach.

The beach was beautiful with a headland one end and rocky outcrops further up the beach and then The Sand Spit. There was a strong cold wind blowing and only a

few isolated birds to be seen. A flock of Topknot Pigeon flew overhead.

A few hopeful souls walked to The Sand Spit but were disappointed by the lack of any birdlife. However a goanna did spark their interest. Eastern Grey Kangaroo and a Red-necked Wallaby carrying a joey were keenly checking out the strangers on the shore. We then retreated up to the headland to investigate the ocean. The sun created a beautiful shimmer on the calm waters. There was a flock of seabirds resting on the water, possibly on a feeding frenzy. Three Pelican glided gracefully overhead.

Down the hill we explored a spot which suggested a walking track through the coastal woodland. However this track did not continue very far. We encountered our first obstacle for the day – a Red-bellied Black Snake lying beside the path. Calm and patience were rewarded with the snake making a slow exit into the undergrowth. In this area we enjoyed a sighting of the male Golden Whistler and thornbills. In the background was the incessant call of a Wonga Pigeon. Upon returning to the road a Spotted Pardalote was sighted with nesting material in its beak. This lovely little bird made many trips back and forth to its nest in the embankment of the dunes. What a lovely act of nature to witness.

We then ventured a little further to Tuross Lake which, ornithologically speaking, was a disappointment with only 3 Chestnut Teal on the water. After morning tea we proceeded to a headland where we were very fortunate to see whales out to sea. Terns and gannets were also spotted flying over the waters.

Moving on to Plantation Point Memorial Gardens, a Reef Egret and White-faced Heron were “fishing” on the rocks below whilst trying to dodge the incoming waves. The scenery here was an absolutely beautiful picture, however at the headland the wind was so strong it could have blown the spots off a dog.

We then moved on to Coila Lake where we enthusiastically sighted, along with many swans, a Musk Duck. A Great Egret foraged along the shoreline. The walking track adjacent to Coila Lake, which was sheltered from the winds, produced great sightings of fairy-wrens, Red-browed Finch, thornbills, Grey Fantail and Double-Barred Finch. We lunched at this spot and had to share our space with yet another Red-bellied Black Snake. I am presenting with some very superficial bravado at this point.

After lunch we proceeded to Bingie Point. On this headland we witnessed the most spectacular sight of at least 300+ seabirds (terns, Australasian Gannet, Silver Gull, cormorants and an unidentified dark seabird) engaging in a feeding frenzy. This was an extraordinary display of birds flying and diving for bait fish. There were huge rafts of birds floating on the waters waiting for their chance to get a little action.

Those agile members who braved the climb to the tip of the headland were rewarded even more with a sighting of not 1 but 2 Ruddy Turnstone plus a Sooty

Oystercatcher and a scrubwren perched provocatively on a large rock - maybe trying to imitate a rock warbler?

For me, and I am sure for all present, this amazing sight was the highlight of a wonderful day of birding in a very picturesque and beautiful location. A total of 70 species were sighted today.

Elizabeth Galvin (15th) - On what was to be the longest day of our trip, our convoy of 16 birders in 5 cars set out at 7am to drive south to Brou Lake. About 50 minutes later, we arrived at the campground to meet Mandy Anderson, a committee member of the Eurobodalla Natural History Society (ENHS) and our much appreciated local guide for the morning. On the way many of the usual culprits were spotted, as well as the first Cattle Egret of the trip, Straw-necked Ibis, a Black-shouldered Kite and Spangled Drongo. Alas, however, 14 birders were labelled the ‘failed Emu spotters group’ by Tony Bennett. He and Nicky were the only ones to sight 3 near Bodalla. The local population of Emu is not endemic to the area and was brought over from Western Australia to Horse Island in the Tuross estuary by a businessman who thought they would complement his property. The Emu have done very well and as good swimmers are now populating the coastal fringe nearby.

Led by Mandy, the group walked over to the sandflats which separated the lake from the sea. We had the area to ourselves, except for the great number of Red-capped Plover that patrolled both the sand and the shoreline. There were some Red-necked Stint amongst them too, Pied Oystercatcher, Black Swan, Silver Gull and even Emu tracks on the sand. In the water were 3 Hoary-headed Grebe and overhead a Whistling Kite soared. The highlight of the morning and of the day, however, was the pairing of a Curlew Sandpiper and a Red Knot feeding along the edge of the lake and not at all disturbed by our close proximity, length of time that we watched and large number of photographs taken. Morning tea was set up under the trees back at the campground. Birdcall yielded 47 species of birds at Brou Lake, including the sandflats and the campground.

We then set off for Box Cutting Reserve situated in the Bodalla State Forest. As we approached along Box Cutting Road, the distinctive and loud call of a colony of Bell Miner was heard. The 700m loop walk through Grey Myrtle rainforest yielded a Catbird, Eastern Spinebill and a very photogenic Bassian Thrush posing on a log. Others included the sound of a Wonga Pigeon, Superb Lyrebird, Australian King-parrot, Scarlet Honeyeater, Fan-tailed Cuckoo and Spotted Pardalote and of course the ubiquitous Lewin's Honeyeater - 28 species of birds in total.

We left about midday to head for the Narooma mudflats in the hope of spotting the Grey Plover that had been seen there. Unfortunately, the only solitary wader to be seen was an Eastern Curlew. A large number of Bar-tailed Godwit, Crested Tern, Pelican, Pied Oystercatcher, Royal Spoonbill and cormorants were seen there. We farewelled Mandy and lunch, of

fish and chips, was eaten in the park beside the mudflats. Still no Grey Plover and by now the tide had come in.

About 13:30 we headed south from Narooma to find Ringlands Bay walk. The brochure from the Narooma Visitor Centre directed us to park at the end of Ringlands Road to start this walk. One reconnaissance car found the road to be too rough, so another start position had to be found along Flying Fox Road. A pleasant walk yielded 32 birds including a vibrantly coloured male Variegated Fairy-wren and another changing colour, a shy Wonga Pigeon on the path, Brown, Yellow and Striated Thornbills, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, two female Satin Bowerbird and Crimson Rosella.

Some then left for home as it was now 3pm. However, that Grey Plover still beckoned, so back to Narooma and the wharf where the charter and fishing boats were moored. From the wharf a number of waders could be spotted on the sandbanks and islands in the waterway. Hiding among the flock of Bar-tailed Godwit surprisingly was a Whimbrel. A good find, especially as we had learned earlier in the day that Whimbrel weren't common at Narooma. 29 species recorded for our two foreshore visits. Now the break wall looked inviting, so our depleted convoy drove out to the start. The highlight was the six Fur Seal seen, some frolicking in the waves, others basking on the rocks of the break wall. These seals have become a great tourist attraction for Narooma and we were happy to play tourist not bird watchers. We didn't see the python though that had made his home in the rocks along the break wall.

Now time to return for the final birdcall for the day, a total of 89 Birds for Day 5.

Lyn Davis (16th) - This fine Saturday morning we met our guide Lyn, at the front of the caravan park at 7.30 am. Lyn Burden, from the Eurobodalla Natural History Society, has been a tremendous help in the planning of our outings for this week, for which we all thanked her.

We followed Lyn to a car park to begin our walk on Broulee Island, which is joined to the mainland by a sandbar. The Island is about 4 klm long and features a diverse range of native plants including banksia, casuarina, Coastal Wattle and Lilli Pilli. As is often the case the car park was buzzing with birds. Our count started with New Holland Honeyeater, Silvereye, Red Wattlebird, Rainbow Lorikeet and on the sea side Sooty Oystercatcher and cormorants. As we walked along the track, Lyn pointed out some of the features of the island including a midden. We walked to the end of the track which features a large rock shelf. Unfortunately, the birds were a bit scarce, although several New Zealand Fur Seals were frolicking in the bay

We returned to the car park and headed to a private property off the Highway towards Moruya. Here we saw and heard many Scarlet and Yellow-faced Honeyeater's. A Fantail Cuckoo had us all looking to the tree tops, until it was spotted. Flocks of Little Lorikeet zoomed past as a Golden Whistler called from a nearby branch. As we wandered along the track the

weather suddenly changed with strong winds and driving rain. The drivers all scampered back to the parked cars and collected the passengers who were huddled together on the track. With permission from the owners of the property, we headed for the veranda of their house for shelter and morning tea.

Next venue was a walk along a track beside the Moruya River west of the town. A Swamp Harrier and Nankeen Kestrel were seen hovering above paddocks along the way and Cattle Egret following the cows in anticipation of a feed. Although there was an abundance of cows, we did not see many Cattle Egret. Along the track we saw Rufous Whistler, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and a group of Yellow Thornbill giving an energetic display. On the river a Darter was drying his wings.

We returned to town and had lunch beside the river with a very cold wind blowing. We then followed Lyn to a walk on the eastern side of town called Ryan's Creek Wetland. A South Coast Floodplain Swamp Oak Forest which can be briefly inundated during periods of flooding. We saw a good list of birds in the forest, including Superb and Variegated Fairy-wren's in the same bush, Eastern Spinebill, Mistletoebird, lots of Scarlet Honeyeater, Yellow and Brown Thornbill's and a Scarlet Robin. Back at the car park, we all gathered around to thank Lyn with a hearty clap and a small gift.

Bird List – Emu, Black Swan, Hardhead, Pacific Black Duck, Mallard / Pacific Black Hybrid, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Musk Duck, Australian Wood Duck, Australasian Grebe, Hoary-headed Grebe, Rock Dove, White-headed Pigeon, Spotted Dove, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Wonga Pigeon, Common Bronzewing, Crested Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Topknot Pigeon, Eastern Koel, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Brush Cuckoo, White-throated Needle-tail, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Red-capped Plover, Masked Lapwing, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Latham's Snipe, Silver Gull, Australian Gull-billed Tern, Crested Tern, Australian Pelican, Cattle Egret, White-necked Heron, Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, White-faced Heron, Eastern Reef Egret, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Australasian Gannet, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Pied Cormorant, Australasian Darter, Osprey, Black-shouldered Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Swamp Harrier, Grey Goshawk, Brown Goshawk, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Rainbow Bee-eater, Laughing Kookaburra, Nankeen Kestrel, Australian Hobby, Brown Falcon, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Galah, Little Corella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Australian King-Parrot, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, Little Lorikeet, Rainbow Lorikeet, Superb Lyrebird, Green Catbird, Satin Bowerbird, White-throated Treecreeper, Variegated Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren, Scarlet Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Crescent Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Red Wattlebird, Fuscous Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Bell Miner, Spotted Pardalote, Brown Gerygone, Weebill, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, White-browed Scrubwren, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Australian Logrunner, Varied Sittella, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Eastern Whipbird, Australasian Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie, Grey

Butcherbird, White-breasted Woodswallow, Spangled Drongo, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Little Raven, Australian Raven, Restless Flycatcher, Magpie-lark, White-winged Chough, Rose Robin, Scarlet Robin, Jacky Winter, Eastern Yellow Robin, Mistletoebird, Red-browed Finch, Double-barred Finch, Australasian Pipit, Fairy Martin, Tree Martin, Welcome Swallow, Silvereye, Common Starling, Bassian Thrush, Common Blackbird

Brian McCauley (18-20th) - After a very successful 10 days in the Eurobodalla Area, 11 members ventured on to the Illawarra region arriving at Shellharbour Caravan Park on a very sunny Monday with a cold, blustery and at times very strong NW wind whipping up the swell on the normally quite placid harbour. There were a few gulls, terns and cormorants huddling the rocky foreshore in the distance and among these were two Kelp Gull and in the campground, European Goldfinch and New Holland Honeyeater flitted about.

We set out early on Tuesday to arrive at Barren Grounds Nature Reserve at 7:45 am and unfortunately the wind had not abated, in fact way up there on the escarpment it seemed even colder and stronger. At least it wasn't raining but the conditions proved to be too bad for sensible birding and the best we could do was to hear the Pilotbird at the reserve entrance and the Eastern Bristlebird along the Stone Bridge Trail. We walked as far as the start of the Cook's Nose Trail with only common species ticked but a Wedge tailed Eagle was spotted as well as a Fan-tailed Cuckoo and a Rufous Fantail. Arriving back at the picnic ground we were greeted by a busload of teenage schoolchildren who spread out like ants from a kicked mound and within no time about half a dozen set off noisily down the Griffith Trail which was going to be our next destination. About 10 minutes later two service trucks arrived and also set off down the same track and just as we were winding up morning tea 15 or so bushwalkers from the Friends Of The National Parks Group arrived to also set off down the track. We decided to cut our losses and move on to the Budderoo National Park intending to return later for lunch and another try for the Griffiths Trail.

Budderoo National Park is only several klm's further up Jamberoo Road and has the same short heath habitat as Barren Grounds. We got a Brown Thornbill, a Brown Gerygone and a Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, heard a Whipbird and at the bottom of a slight grade, while Tony, Sheila and I were standing gazing over a small field of waist high grass a Ground Parrot bust out of cover, flew past an unsuspecting trio of other members and was gone in seconds. This was the highlight of the day. We returned to the Barren Grounds to find that the gates were closed due to extreme fire hazard which just about summed up our total Barren Grounds experience. Disappointed we went down to The Cascades Walking Track, a small park at the foot of Macquarie Pass for lunch where a Bassian Thrush and several Satin Bowerbird were sighted. The afternoon was free for shopping and catching up. Species: 22

Wednesday morning was a sleep in day as the Minnamurra Rainforest Centre didn't open till 9 am. This is a beautiful place and although very popular with tourists of all ages hurrying noisily along the raised and

well constructed walkways, it is still a great birding venue. The tracks wind up the steep gully at very relaxed gradients with elevated platforms, swing bridges and a high section affording closer views of the canopy. Our target species, the Superb Lyrebird, was readily seen close up along the trail and several of us had the thrill of seeing one fly up quite high into a tree to examine a Bird's Nest Fern. Highlights included King Parrot, Topknot Pigeon, Large-billed Scrubwren, Wonga Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove and Fan-tailed Cuckoo. The walk took over 2 hours, so we were too late for morning tea and we drove down to have lunch on the shores of Lake Illawarra at Windang. Species: 35



King Parrot - Photo: C Tanner

Windang Shellharbour Precinct - This was a hurriedly put together itinerary, which really started at lunch and then continued on to Primbee point. Here we walked lakeside and saw a dozen wading Black-winged Stilt, Yellow Thornbill, lots of Black Swan, lots of Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants roosting on a Jetty, Great and Little Egrets and the first Osprey of the trip. Moving on to Korrongulla Wetlands only about 500 meters up the road we were really surprised at the number of birds here as this spot is not included on the local bird venue lists. Amongst the many birds here we saw the Reed Warbler, Grey and Chestnut Teal, Variegated and Superb Fairy-wrens, Fairy Martin, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Spotted Pardalote, Olive-backed Oriole and Brown and Yellow Thornbill's. The last stop was the northeast side of the lake entrance at Windang where we had a close encounter with a Striated Heron, several Superb Fairy-wrens and Grey Butcherbird, but it was getting late so we called it quits and headed back for afternoon nibbles and the birdcall.

Bird List - Black Swan, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Rock Dove, Spotted Dove, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Wonga Pigeon, Topknot Pigeon, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull, Kelp Gull, Crested Tern, Australian Pelican, Striated Heron, Cattle Egret, White-necked Heron, Great Egret, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Pied Cormorant, Australasian Darter, Osprey, Black-shouldered Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Laughing Kookaburra, Nankeen Kestrel, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Galah, Little Corella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Australian King-Parrot, Crimson Rosella, Ground Parrot, Rainbow Lorikeet, Superb Lyrebird, Satin Bowerbird, Variegated Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren, Eastern Bristlebird,

Noisy Friarbird, New Holland Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Red Wattlebird, Noisy Miner, Spotted Pardalote, Brown Gerygone, Pilotbird, White-browed Scrubwren, Large-billed Scrubwren, Yellow Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Golden Whistler, Eastern Whipbird, Australasian Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie, Grey Butcherbird, Spangled Drongo, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Australian Raven, Magpie-lark, Rose Robin, Eastern Yellow Robin, Red-browed Finch, House Sparrow, Common Greenfinch, Australian Reed-Warbler, Fairy Martin, Welcome Swallow, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Silveryeye, Common Starling, Common Myna, Bassian Thrush

Oldbar - 23rd September 2017

By Shirley Henry

After weeks of intensive winds and bitter cold days twelve birdwatchers gathered at the coastal village of Old Bar on a very pleasant Spring morning. We started our day's outing by walking the track from the local airstrip to Muddishops Reserve. This proved to be a great decision. There were many White-cheeked and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters noisily flying to and fro amongst the banksias when a Pheasant Coucal was spotted perched atop a small casuarina tree.

Carrying on down the track we entered bushland which was abundant with birdlife. There was great excitement when some of the spectacular birds of spring showed themselves for the first time this season. The Rufous Fantail, Black-faced Monarch and Dollarbird were visibly noticeable amongst the trees. A White-throated Gerygone and also the Shining Bronze-Cuckoo could be heard amid the forest. The familiar high-pitched call of the stunning Scarlet Honeyeater was identified before this vivid little bird was finally spotted. Both Rufous and Golden Whistlers and Spotted and Striated Pardalotes strutted their stuff as well as Superb and Variegated Fairy-wrens.

After morning tea we ventured to the creek at the back of the sporting fields in Old Bar. Just as we thought there were no birds to be seen, 2 Latham Snipe were flushed out of the reeds surrounding the creek bed and a very friendly Reed-warbler showed itself to members. A Sacred Kingfisher busied itself by making many dives from the undergrowth of the trees into the water then to retreat to the safety of the trees.

By the time we left Old Bar our tally was 70 species. We ventured on to Saltwater for lunch and added another 4 species to our list - Australian Brush Turkey, Wonga Pigeon, Fan-tailed Cuckoo and Pied Butcherbird. It was a great morning of birding and the weather was very favourable.

Bird List - Australian Brush-turkey, Rock Dove, White-headed Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Wonga Pigeon, Crested Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Pheasant Coucal, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Masked Lapwing, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Latham's Snipe, Silver Gull, Crested Tern, Australian Pelican, White-faced Heron, Australian White Ibis, Great Cormorant, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Rainbow Bee-eater, Dollarbird, Sacred Kingfisher, Laughing Kookaburra, Galah, Little Corella, Australian King-

Parrot, Eastern Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Satin Bowerbird, White-throated Treecreeper, Variegated Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren, Scarlet Honeyeater, Striped Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Brown Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Brown Gerygone, White-throated Gerygone, Yellow Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Eastern Whipbird, Australasian Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Australian Magpie, Pied Butcherbird, Grey Butcherbird, Spangled Drongo, Willie Wagtail, Rufous Fantail, Grey Fantail, Australian Raven, Magpie-lark, Black-faced Monarch, Eastern Yellow Robin, Red-browed Finch, Australian Reed-Warbler, Welcome Swallow, Silveryeye

Firefly / Mobbs Lane / Wallambah - 05th October 2017 - By Dave Cottrel

It was a 13° morning that welcomed 11 keen birdo's to Mobb's Lane. We were delighted to welcome a potential new member, Mike McEneney, and Jeff's brother in law, Roy Strover, a visitor from South Africa. We stopped at the road junction for a while and then made our way down the main road to the dam. There appeared to be quite an amount of activity, White-faced Heron, Cattle Egret and Brown Thornbill were all spotted. It was also to be a day of the Fairy-wren, beautiful examples of the Variegated, Superb and Red backed being greatly admired. The dam was a little short of birds, although we did see Grey Teal and on the way back to the cars an Eastern Spinebill and Leaden Flycatcher.

On arrival at Gaye Sergent's property we were amazed by the density of the population of Scarlet Honeyeater. Many citrus trees are to be found there, in bud, and these trees contained so many birds, as they flew out one thought there couldn't be more in there, then another six or eight would appear! We were delighted to see Red-browed Finch, Golden and Rufous Whistlers, a Brown Goshawk and White-naped Honeyeater. Travelling further up Mobb's Lane there is a large dam which has yielded good birding in the past. Today, however, with the temperature now up to around 29° the pickings were small. We found a Pelican, Purple Swamphen, Australasian Grebe, Little Black Cormorant and a Great Egret.



Golden Whistler - Photo: B McCauley

After we pulled stumps, we drove back to the main road, stopping to see if anymore honeyeaters or wrens were around. A man came down the road on his deadly quad bike to check his mail, he stopped off at the car to ask if we were from the birdo's (that were visiting Gaye's property). He then gave us the time honoured pronouncement 'you should have been here early this morning, the dam was covered in birds!!' As Pogo would have said 'Yetch!!'

This aside, we had a most pleasant day, good birding and good company with a total of 72 species. There is one further species yet to be determined after extensive computerisation. At present it is assumed to be a family of Black-shouldered Kites seen at our last port of call but at some distance. Stay tuned. (Yes - B-s Kites. Ed)

Bird List - Hardhead, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Australian Wood Duck, Australasian Grebe, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Crested Pigeon, Pheasant Coucal, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Black-fronted Dotterel, Masked Lapwing, Australian Pelican, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, White-faced Heron, Little Black Cormorant, Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Goshawk, Dollarbird, Sacred Kingfisher, Laughing Kookaburra, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Galah, Australian King-Parrot, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Satin Bowerbird, White-throated Treecreeper, Variegated Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Southern Emu-wren, Scarlet Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Brown Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, White-throated Gerygone, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Yellow Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Varied Sittella, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Eastern Whipbird, Australasian Figbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Butcherbird, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Australian Raven, Leaden Flycatcher, Magpie-lark, Eastern Yellow Robin, Mistletoebird, Red-browed Finch, House Sparrow, Welcome Swallow, Silvereye, Common Myna

Blackhead - 21st October 2017

By Ashley Carlson

Optimistic the eight of us were that we would get through the morning without getting wet. Rain the previous few days had made the area wet under foot and the heavy clouds were in no hurry to disperse. Tony made a guest appearance and decided home was a more comfortable option. The resident Brush-turkey's were putting on a show at the entrance to the rainforest walk strutting back and forward and with the occasional chase to re-establish the pecking order. There was also commotion in a fruiting fig tree between a male Eastern Koel and a feeding figbird. Our emblem bird was resplendent on the upper bare branch of a nearby tree, silhouetted by the foreboding sky.

The rainforest walk itself was mostly quiet, with the occasional Brown Thornbill, Lewin's Honeyeater and Yellow-throated Scrubwren sighted or heard. At the bottom of the hill and out on the beach, Little Tern dipped up and down above the swell while to the

south there was a spectacular display by several whales with much tail slapping. Making our way back up the hill, the Brush-turkey were still at it, with one bird doing a time trail from the bottom to the top.

Following morning tea at the creek picnic area, we ventured up to the lookout walk. Again the walk was mostly quiet with observations of Eastern Yellow Robin, which was building a nest, White-throated Scrubwren and Grey Fantail. The relatively new viewing platform provides panoramic views along the coastline and out to sea. In the vegetation, at the edge of the carpark there was much commotion by the smaller birds which warranted further investigation. Nick located the reason that being a seven foot long Diamond Python stretched out in the mid-canopy, to catch any half-light trying to break through the cloud cover.



Diamond Python - Photo: A Carlson

We were fortunate that the rain did hold off during the morning to record a respectable 40 species in the less than favourable conditions.

Bird List - Pacific Black Duck, Australian Wood Duck, Australian Brush-turkey, Eastern Koel, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Dusky Moorhen, Little Tern, Crested Tern, Royal Spoonbill, Australasian Gannet, Great Cormorant, Pied Cormorant, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Laughing Kookaburra, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Regent Bowerbird, Noisy Friarbird, Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Noisy Miner, Brown Gerygone, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Thornbill, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Eastern Whipbird, Australasian Figbird, Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie, Pied Butcherbird, Grey Butcherbird, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Magpie-lark, Eastern Yellow Robin, Welcome Swallow, Silvereye, Common Starling

Pacific Palms / Smiths Lake / Seal Rocks - 02nd November 2017 - By Simon Lemon

A group of 13 members in a convoy of 8 cars assembled at the Pacific Palms Recreation Club carpark on the shores of Lake Wallis on a cool, clear and calm morning. A bank of about 10 Black Swan were feeding just clear of the jetty and mirrored picture-perfect on the still water against a backdrop of several moored yachts. At the edge of the lake, about 250 metres distant, were several Pied Cormorant, wings outstretched in the sun and stark contrast to the white branches of a paperbark tree. We made our way into a

small patch of scrub adjacent to the carpark and soon spotted our first nesting bird of the day; a White-breasted Woodswallow in a redundant Magpie Lark mud nest. Also a Willie Wagtail nest was identified nearby, precariously placed in the crook of a slender tree branch. What a great start to the day's birdwatching!

About 9 o'clock we moved off to a spot near the Bowls Club at Smiths Lake. Here there was a large open expanse of grass and cleared vegetation adjacent to taller trees and shrubs; good prospects for investigation. More than 30 species were sighted in an hour including the Sacred Kingfisher, Laughing Kookaburra, various honeyeaters, Black-faced Monarch and Pied Currawong. Ashley called morning tea and conducted a progress bird count at the shelter near the skate park. We were joined by a Torresian Crow, no doubt disappointed not to be offered a biscuit or even a cuppa. After a short break, plans were made to move on towards Seal Rocks.



Pied Currawong - Photo: L Chapman

Our next stop was at the dead end of Dogwood Road on the southern shore of Smith's Lake. Not much action here but Whistling Kite and Pelican, at a great height, were seen soaring overhead. We proceeded to Horse Point Road, again near the shoreline of Smith's Lake. On arrival we watched a Kookaburra fly into its nest which was cleverly fashioned in a termite nest high in a tree. In the grounds of an old house there were Superb Fairy-wren and Red-browed Finch and nearby an Eastern Yellow Robin, Eastern Spinebill and a nesting Olive-backed Oriole.

Lunch was called at about noon and we gathered at Neranie Road Picnic spot just a short drive away. Pacific Black Duck and an Azure Kingfisher were spotted near the boatramp. We ate our lunch by the water's edge with the hum of a Honda water pump filling a nearby tanker. The pump stopped just as Ashley concluded the last bird call of the day; I think I heard him say the count was 66. After lunch several members stayed on to walk the short track up the hill to an historic cemetery and lookout. A further 7 species were added to the tally during this walk, including White-headed Pigeon, Satin Bowerbird, Variegated Fairy-wren, Mistletoebird, Silvereye, Tawny Grassbird and a large and handsome 'goanna-bird'. We concluded the day about 2 o'clock grateful for an outstanding day of birding in our part of paradise.

Bird List - Black Swan, Pacific Black Duck, Chestnut Teal, Australian Wood Duck, White-headed Pigeon, Wonga Pigeon, Crested Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Eastern Koel, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Brush Cuckoo, Pallid Cuckoo, Masked Lapwing, Australian Pelican, Great Egret, White-faced Heron, Great Cormorant, Pied Cormorant, Australasian Darter, Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Dollarbird, Azure Kingfisher, Sacred Kingfisher, Laughing Kookaburra, Galah, Eastern Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Satin Bowerbird, White-throated Treecreeper, Variegated Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren, Scarlet Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, Red Wattlebird, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Spotted Pardalote, Brown Gerygone, White-throated Gerygone, White-browed Scrubwren, Yellow Thornbill, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Eastern Whipbird, Australasian Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie, Pied Butcherbird, Grey Butcherbird, White-browed Woodswallow, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Torresian Crow, Forest Raven, Magpie-lark, Black-faced Monarch, Eastern Yellow Robin, Mistletoebird, Red-browed Finch, Tawny Grassbird, Welcome Swallow, Silvereye, Common Starling

Other Snippets

Library News

The latest Birdlife Magazine has arrived. This issue contains articles about the Mallee Emu-wren and the Eastern Bristle-bird teetering on the brink of extinction. On a brighter note, there are articles on the recovery of other species, such as the Gould's Petrel, Cape Barren Goose and the Noisy Scrub-bird. Another article on the arduous task of the Grass-wren expedition, which aims to see 11 Grass-wrens in 2 week, seems like an impossible dream.

Other Clubs Newsletters have also arrived. Hunter Bird Observers, Hastings, Cumberland Bird Observers and NSW Bird Atlassers all make interesting reading. The NSW Atlassers are a Group that monitors birds in NSW and include record sheets for those interested in recording sightings on their trips. I have record sheets to give out for your next trip.

All the above and previous magazines and newsletters are available to borrow from the Library.

Disclaimer: Opinions and views expressed by authors in this newsletter are their own and do not necessarily represent the policies or views of the Manning Great Lakes Birdwatchers Inc.

Unusual and Interesting Sightings - Compiled by Ashley Carlson

Date	Observer	Species	Location
15/08/17	B McCauley	Topknot Pigeon 12x	Lakes Estate, Forster
17/08/17	M Lamb	Rainbow Bee-eater 3x (1 st return)	Green Point
19/08/17	A Carlson	Grey Goshawk	The Lakes Way, Darawank
	MGLBW	Little Lorikeet 2x	Minibah
28/08/17	S Henry	Latham's Snipe (1 st return)	Cooperook
	D Cottrell	Rainbow Bee-eater	Crowdy Head
	A Carlson	Barn Owl	Forster
02/09/17	B McCauley	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Spotted Crake	Lakes Estate, Forster
	A Carlson	Brown Falcon	Booti Booti NP, Green Point
03/09/17	E Burley	Latham's Snipe, Eurasian Coot 300+	Tuncurry Racecourse
04/09/17	T Bennett	Green Catbird 2x	Black Head
05/09/17	S Henry	Red-backed Fairy-wren	Crowdy Head
10/09/17	A Carlson	Topknot Pigeon 9x	Pipers Bay, Forster
12/09/17	D Turner	Channel-billed Cuckoo (1 st return)	Forster Keys
18/09/17	D Turner	Eastern Koel (1 st return)	Fortser Keys
23/09/17	Krishna	Spectacled Monarch 3x	Harrington Rainforest
		Grey Plover 4x, Little Eagle	Manning Point spit
	MGLBW	Dollarbird, White-throated Gerygone, Rufous Fantail, Black-faced Monarch	Mudbishops Point
24/09/17	E Burley	Painted Button-quail	Cattai Wetlands
	S Gould	Masked & White-browed Woodswallows lots	Coomba Park
	D Turner	Leaden Flycatcher	Forster
08/10/17	A Carlson	Comb-crested Jacana 4x, Black Swan 2+3 cygnets	Cattai Wetlands
09/10/17	A Carlson	Dollarbird 4x	Forster
12/10/17	S&E Lemon	Black-necked Stork	Glenthorne Taree
31/10/17	A Stuart	Ruff	Cattai Creek wetland
22/10/17	M Kearns	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Harrington Rainforest
03/11/17	B Watts	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Whiskered Tern, Grey Goshawk	Cattai Wetlands
		Horsfield's bronze-Cuckoo, Southern Emu-wren	Cattai Wetlands



Latham's Snipe - Photo: S Henry



A Horsfield's Cuckoo with something to say - Photo: B McCauley



A motley bunch of bird's - Photo: T Bennett