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# Newsletter

NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc

Issue 285

Feb - March 2018

## President's Report

There was a record attendance of 60 members at the 2017 Annual General Meeting held at the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts on 5 December.

At this meeting, Anne van Roekel was confirmed as Membership Secretary, having been co-opted onto the committee earlier in the year on the resignation of Adrian Nieuwenhuizen after ten years in this role. Also retiring from club duties were Graham Walters as Speakers' Co-ordinator, Michael Edwards as email Co-ordinator and Wendy Cope as Nestlings' Leader. Charlie Andrews is stepping down as a Photographic Competition judge and also as MC of this competition. On behalf of the club, I thank all these retiring members for their valuable service to the club over many years. Michael continues as website co-ordinator, and Elisabeth Karplus will take up the email co-ordinator position, as well as continuing in her roles as Birding Bulletin editor and survey organiser for the club. I will take up the Speakers' Co-ordinator position and as MC of the Photographic Competition.

There are many members who contribute to the club in various roles, and without them the club could not function. I thank them all for their efforts, in outings, surveys, meetings and of course those that help the club in a special way by being on the committee.

At the Annual General Meeting, Treasurer Leigh Hall confirmed that the club remains in a sound financial position.

The 2017 Arnold McGill Memorial Lecture was given by Honorary Professor Penny Olsen, who spoke about the history of the recently re-discovered Night Parrot. She stayed after the lecture to mix with club members at the annual Christmas party, which once again was a great success.

The club has four special events in the near future in addition to our regular outings. There is a campout at Macquarie Caravan Park,

Warren on 16-18<sup>th</sup> March led by Alan Morris. There is the thirteenth Grenfell KBA survey, to take place on the weekend of 23-25<sup>th</sup> March, and there are campouts at Stockton on the weekend of 17-18<sup>th</sup> February and at Walcha on the 30<sup>th</sup> March - 2<sup>nd</sup> April, both led by Allan Richards.

As we all know, activities are the lifeblood of our club. It is wonderful that both Allan Richards and Alan Morris continue to organise campouts in addition to the large number of outings that occur during the year. If you have any inclination to help out by leading an outing, I am sure that Allan Richards in Sydney and Alan Morris on the Central Coast would be more than happy to hear from you.

If you plan to attend any of the activities outlined above, please contact Alan Morris on [a.morris42@optusnet.com.au](mailto:a.morris42@optusnet.com.au) for the Warren campout, Allan Richards on [activities@birdingsw.org.au](mailto:activities@birdingsw.org.au) for the Stockton and Walcha campouts, and Elisabeth on [emhodson@exemail.com.au](mailto:emhodson@exemail.com.au) for the Grenfell survey.

**Tom Karplus**  
President, Birding NSW



Tom Karplus and the Editor draw two lucky winners. See page 8.



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### FIELD OUTINGS AND MEETINGS

#### FIELD OUTINGS

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

#### NATIONAL PARK USE FEES

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

#### TOTAL FIRE BANS

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

#### SECURITY

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

#### CENTRAL COAST OUTINGS

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

#### FEES AT CAMPOUTS

A camping fee may be applicable at some campsites.

#### PETS

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

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### FEBRUARY 2018

**Saturday 3 February Central Coast Outing:** Breakfast with the Birds, Central Coast Wetlands. Meet at 7.30 am at Pioneer Dairy, Tuggerah. Breakfast at 8.30 am. \$10 cost. *Bookings are required by phone on 4349 4757 or by email at [waterwatch@cen.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@cen.org.au)* Leader: Alan Morris

**Tuesday 6 February Club Meeting:** The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "A Nature Trip to Costa Rica". Speaker: John Rawson.

**Saturday 10 February Field Outing:** Sydney Olympic Park. Meet at 8.30 am at Belvedere Lake, Bicentennial Park, parking area P10D. Proceed through the main gates, along the road past the Conference Centre until the lake

is on your left hand side. The parking area is on the right, just after crossing the bridge. Lunch at cars. Leader: Elisabeth Karplus 0421 665 553

**Wednesday 14 February Central Coast Half-day Outing:** Wamberal and Coastal Lagoons. Meet at 8.30 am at Remembrance Drive, Wamberal Lagoon. Lunch at cars. Leader: Frick Gautschi 0404 467 097

**Hunter Wetlands Weekend Saturday 17 February – Sunday 18 February:** On Saturday, meet at 9.00 am at Hunter Wetlands Centre, 1 Wetlands Place, Shortland. If travelling from Sydney, take the Wallsend exit off the freeway, follow the Link Road through to the roundabout at Wallsend, continue straight ahead, turn right at the next roundabout onto Newcastle Road (Wallsend), continue

straight ahead through the traffic lights at Jesmond. Turn left at large roundabout onto Link Road, follow the signs to Hunter Wetlands Centre exit, at the roundabout go straight ahead into Wetlands Place. Look for the large sign with the Freckled Duck and the Magpie Goose! Please note that there is an entrance fee of \$5.00 per person. Coffee and light snacks are available at the Centre.

On Sunday, meet at 8.30 am in the Ash Island Bridge carpark immediately after crossing the bridge from the Pacific Highway just before MacDonalds at Hexham.

Bring a telescope if you have one. Lunch at cars. Leader: Allan Richards 0432 064 660

**Tuesday 27 February Central Coast Meeting:** Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. "The Australian Wildlife Conservancy". Speaker: Sarah McKenna

**Wednesday 28 February Midweek Outing:** Deep Creek and Long Reef. Meet at 8.30 a.m. at the end parking area at Deep Creek Reserve, off Wakehurst Parkway, Narrabeen / Elanora Heights. In the afternoon, we will visit Long Reef. Please bring footwear appropriate for walking on the reef. Lunch at Cars. Leader: Coleen Southall 9982 5453; 0410 549 321

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## MARCH 2018

**Saturday 3 March Central Coast Outing:** Stockton, Ash Island and Hexham. Meet at 8.30am at Recreation Ground, Woodford Street, Minmi. Lunch at cars. Leader: Christina Port 0421 691 317

**Tuesday 6 March Club Meeting:** The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "Black-throated Finch – a tiny finch and a mega mine". Speaker: Stanley Tang

**Saturday 10 March Field Outing:** Long Reef and then lunch at Deep Creek. Meet at 8:30 am in the car-park at the base of the hill at the end of Anzac Avenue, Collaroy (just past the golf clubhouse). Please note that parking fees apply. Bring your telescope if you have one and suitable footwear for wading through water. Lunch at cars. Leader: Dick Dallimore 9953 7562; 0429 919 515

**Wednesday 14 March Central Coast Half-day Outing:** Dubbo Gully. Meet at 8.30 am at the corner of Waratah Road and Wisemans Ferry Road, Mangrove Mountain. Leaders: M & K. Pointer 4374 1163

**Friday 16 – Sunday 18 March Central Coast Weekend Campout:** Warren / Macquarie Marshes area. Macquarie Caravan Park, Hospital Road, Warren 02 6847 4706  
Leader: Alan Morris 0418 269 482

**Saturday 17 March Club Outing:** Richmond Lowlands. Meet at 8:30 am at Smith Park at Pugh's Lagoon, Richmond. Lunch at cars. Leader: Greg McLachlan 0405 578 967

**Friday 23 – Sunday 25 March Grenfell KBA Survey:** See notice later in this newsletter.

**Tuesday 27 March Central Coast Meeting:** Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. Birding in Central Australia". Speaker: Alan Rogers.

**Wednesday 28 March Midweek Outing:** Centennial Park and various other locations in the Eastern Suburbs. Meet at 8.30 am in Dickens Drive near The Learning Centre, Centennial Park. Bird watching within the park and nearby areas. Lunch at cars. Leader: Allan Richards 0432 064 660

**Easter Club Campout 30 March – 2 April:** Ingelba Hall near Walcha. The quickest route from Sydney is via Thunderbolts Way from Gloucester.

**If coming from Gloucester** – when you reach Nowendoc turnoff, stay on the road to Walcha and travel approximately 50 kilometres and then turn left into Baringa Road (gravel). After about 4 – 5 kilometres (you pass over the two cattle grids on this road) turn right into Glen Morrison Road. Another 4 – 5 kilometres turn left into Eaglefield Road. After travelling 12 kilometres and crossing a low level bridge, turn right at the next junction towards Walcha and almost immediately turn left into Geraldine Road. The Ingelba Hall is on the left.

**If coming from Walcha** – go out of town on the Gloucester Road and after about a kilometre, turn right at the Ingelba / Niangla Road turnoff and travel along this bitumen road for 28 kilometres. Then turn right into Geraldine Road and the hall is on the corner on the left-hand side. Use of the hall and limited use of electricity is available. There are toilets but bring everything else that you will need including garbage bags and water. There are plenty of birds around the campsite but expeditions will be arranged to nearby areas. There will be a collection for the use of the hall to cover our expenses. Accommodation is available at the caravan park and motel in Walcha 28 kilometres from the campsite but book early to avoid disappointment. Leader: Allan Richards 9660 8062; 0432 064 660

**Saturday 31 March Central Coast Outing** Colongra Swamp, Budgewoi and Munmorah State Conservation Area. Meet at 8.30 am at Colongra Nature Reserve, Macleay Drive, Halekulani. Lunch at cars. Leader: Andrew Melville 4328 1005

**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

**Arnold McGill Memorial Lecture**

5 Dec. 2017 Night Parrot


Penny Olsen gave the Arnold McGill Memorial Lecture for 2017. She gave an overview of the history of discovery of the Night Parrot in the mid nineteenth century and its rediscovery in 2013, giving a few examples of the many many searches in between, and finishing with a summary of recent research findings. The first museum specimen of the Night Parrot was collected in 1845, but lay unnoticed and unrecognised until well into the 20th century. Since then the parrot has continued to elude seekers, revealing itself only intermittently and often sparking tensions over the reliability of sightings. The recent discoveries of small populations in south-east Queensland and the heart of Western Australia have only heightened interest in the bird and the mysteries of its biology.

Penny is an Honorary Professor in the Australian National University's Research School of Biology. Much of her career was spent studying falcons, but parrots are now regarded their closest relatives, so she feels somewhat qualified to have written a book on the Night Parrot for CSIRO Publishing, due for release in June 2018.

I've attached an image of a wanted poster from the 1990s - part of the search effort funded by the reward that Dick Smith offered for evidence that the parrot was still extant following Walter Boles' discovery of a mummified body beside a road near Boulia, Qld, in 1990.

**WANTED**  
**INFORMATION**  
**NIGHT PARROT**  
**FOUND**

William Thomas Cooper, 1914



**DEAD or ALIVE**  
*Pezoporus occidentalis*  
**AUSTRALIA'S RAREST BIRD**

**THE NIGHT PARROT**  
Last seen alive 80 years ago - there have been many reported sightings throughout this period BUT no hard evidence so far. That is why we need your help...

**"A NIGHT TIME RESIDENT OF THE OUTBACK"**  
The Night Parrot so called because of its nocturnal habits is generally believed to live in spinifex grassland areas and samphire salt lake country. After dusk it leaves its day time refuge of a tunnel at the base of a clump of spinifex, to feed on grass seeds.

**RESEMBLES A LARGE BUDGIE**  
The Night Parrot is about 24cms (9") long and adults are mainly yellowish green with small patches of dark brown, black and yellow with characteristic arrowhead markings on the wings.

**SO...**  
**IF:** your reasonably sure that you have sighted a Night Parrot please call the contact number (listed below) for the state where the sighting occurred.

**IF:** you find a dead bird that you think may be a Night Parrot wrap it in plastic and pop it into the freezer, then call the contact number (listed below) for the state where the specimen was found.

**STATE CONTACT NUMBERS**

<p><b>Western Australia:</b> John Ryan Department of Conservation &amp; Land Management Ph: 08 9432 028 - Fax: 08 935 332 100</p> <p><b>South Australia:</b> Tony Anderson / Peter O'Leary Department of Environment &amp; Natural Resources Ph: 08 224 8747 - Fax: 08 224 8883</p> <p><b>Victoria:</b> Gillian Aplin Department of Natural Resources &amp; Environment Ph: 052 92 3000 - Fax: 052 92 3020</p>	<p><b>New South Wales:</b> Steve Orm Museum of Applied Arts &amp; Sciences - DSE Ph: 02 955 5525 - Fax: 02 955 55440</p> <p><b>Queensland:</b> Nathan Kelly Department of Environment Ph: 07 552 30115 - Fax: 07 552 30118</p> <p><b>Northern Territory:</b> David Gibson Parks &amp; Wildlife Commission Ph: 08 8954 5020 - Fax: 08 8954 5100</p>
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**Bellbird**  
**BIRDING TOURS**

For details and itineraries visit  
[www.bellbirdtours.com](http://www.bellbirdtours.com)

**FREECALL 1800-BIRDING**  
[birds@bellbirdtours.com](mailto:birds@bellbirdtours.com)

## Application for 2018 Twitchathon Funding

Over the past 3 years, the Difficult Bird Research Group at the Australian National University has developed a national monitoring program for the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater. This program is based on a two-scale approach; range-wide surveys and intensive follow up searches and monitoring to locate nesting attempts. We work in collaboration with BirdLife Australia, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Central Tablelands Local Land Services, Yancoal, Emirates One and Only and a number of private landowners and local birdwatching groups. The program has been very successful, locating Regent Honeyeaters at sites throughout their range in the greater Blue Mountains and Northern NSW. We detected 70 individuals in 2015, 95 in 2016 and 140 birds in 2017. To date, we have monitored 124 nesting attempts.

Our research has found that nest success of Regent Honeyeaters is highly variable in both space and time. Since we now know it is possible to locate breeding aggregations of Regent Honeyeaters early in the nesting season, our aim for the coming years is to develop intensive nest protection measures aimed to increase the nest success of Regent Honeyeaters. We believe that this approach has the greatest potential to aid population recovery of the Regent Honeyeater.

We seek funds from the 2018 Twitchathon to continue and expand our work on Regent Honeyeater conservation. Specifically, funds would be used to:

- 1) Implement nest protection measures to increase juvenile recruitment into the wild population and arrest an ongoing population decline.
- 2) Expand and refine our monitoring strategy to locate additional critical breeding sites and sample a larger proportion of the wild population annually.
- 3) Identify key areas for habitat restoration of greatest potential benefit for Regent Honeyeaters.

Ross Crates  
*PhD candidate*  
*Fenner School of Environment and Society,*  
*Australian National University,*  
*Canberra.*

As Members will know, Birding NSW has supported Ross in his work on Regent Honeyeaters. The committee is considering his brief. Ross will speak to the members again at the end of the year. Ed.

### 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  
**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

A note to the editor please if you know of others.

### South West Slopes Key Biodiversity Area Surveys

Thirteenth bird survey weekend  
around Grenfell on March 23-25, 2018

Please join us for the next survey weekend. New surveyors are always welcome. In small groups, we survey on about 30 sites including many on private properties around Grenfell. The survey takes place on Saturday morning and the rest of the weekend is free for birding. We meet for dinner at the Railway Hotel in Grenfell on Friday evening and have a barbecue on a private property on Saturday evening. Grenfell is five hours' drive west of Sydney. Accommodation is available in hotels, a motel and bed and breakfast places as well as in the caravan park. It is advisable to book accommodation early.

If you would like to join us or would like more information, please contact Elisabeth Karplus on [emhodson@exemail.com.au](mailto:emhodson@exemail.com.au) or Allan Richards on [activities@birdingnsw.org.au](mailto:activities@birdingnsw.org.au)

# New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our new members.

Michael Breheny of Lower Mangrove  
Nicholas Knithakis of Concord

## Have you renewed your Birding NSW subscription for 2018?

It appears some members have overlooked their Membership fee for 2017-2018.

To continue receiving Newsletters and Bulletins with news of the Clubs work in Conservation as well as the events organised by a dedicated volunteer Committee, your continued support will be much appreciated.

Go to the Birding NSW website <http://www.birdingsw.org.au/online-membership-application-or-renewal/> and complete the online form or send a cheque to Birding NSW PO Box Q277 QVB Post Shop, NSW 1230.

Queries about membership can be directed to our new Membership Secretary, Anne van Roekel at [anne@vroekel.com](mailto:anne@vroekel.com)

Many thanks, Anne.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM-INTERIM.

Given Name-----Surname-----  
 Address-----  
 City/Suburb-----State-----Postcode-----  
 Phone-----Mobile-----  
 Email-----New/Renewal

Single with newsletter---\$45-----Online newsletter---\$40-----  
 Family with newsletter---\$50-----Online newsletter---\$45-----  
 Donation to the Club \$-----Total Amount to pay \$-----

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

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

Subscriptions are due on 1 October each year. Payments from 1 July will be accepted as 1 October for new members.  
I understand that this membership fee means that I/we agree to be bound by the Club Constitution.

## Aleutian Tern

### A New Bird for Australia, Almost in Our Backyard!

Allan Benson

In December 2016, Port Macquarie birder, Liam Murphy photographed Terns at Farquhar inlet near Old Bar. When editing his photos, nine months later, he discovered some of the Common Terns were not quite right. He consulted with some experts and it was concluded that they were Aleutian Terns. Aleutian Terns, *Onychoprion aleuticus* as the name suggests, inhabit the Aleutian Islands, Alaska and surrounding areas in the Bering Sea. It is not very clear where they over-winter with sightings reported from the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. This was a very exciting discovery!

Liam returned to Farquhar Inlet on the 11 December 2017 to discover 13 Aleutian Terns roosting. This started a stampede of twitchers all anxious to eye-ball this exciting find. Within a week more than 120 birders had seen the bird, with people travelling from Victoria

and Queensland. The birds are still being seen and lots of Central Coast birders and members of Birding NSW made the journey from Sydney. Once the features are known, the terns are relatively easy to identify. The long wing projection beyond the tail gives the terns a “cocked” tail profile when roosting. Also characteristic are the short legs and the amount of white on the head. The ultimate feature to note is the dark trailing edge of the wing.

It is highly likely that Aleutian Terns have been visiting Australia for years but everybody has assumed they were Common Terns. Tern ID is never easy so congratulations to Liam Murphy. Ian Benson advises that until 10 January 2018, over 300 birders have now made the pilgrimage to Farquhar Inlet to see the Terns!

For references see [www.mdahlem.net/birds/10/aleutern.php](http://www.mdahlem.net/birds/10/aleutern.php)



Aleutian Tern. Photo: Daniel McKeon

## Editor's Inbox...

A **Happy New Birding Year** to all our members and friends!

The **Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder** has announced the sale of 5 GL (billion litres) of water from the Gwydir River (possibly meaning Copeton Dam) by competitive tender process. As at April last year the Copeton was holding 642 GL. Coincidentally, there is an editorial in the Weekend Australian, 13-14 January, entitled "Good times flowing down the river" discussing what is described as "one of the world's most sophisticated water trading systems" and stating that farmers are not selling properties as the water market is bringing some stability to agriculture. But there are good and bad news stories. While dairy farmers with a constant need to irrigate grasslands cannot survive if paying \$3000-\$3700 per ML (million litres), rice growers for example may do well when water is plentiful and cheap. Interestingly another article in the paper states that almonds and cotton are the most water-efficient crops. The CEWH tender for water has just closed so I will try to find out details of the prices paid so that we can get the above prices into context.

Next, the **Environmental Defenders Office** has summarised a few of the challenges ahead in 2018. One of interest to conservationists is the Nature Conservation Council's challenge to the NSW land-clearing codes and another concerns Civil enforcement proceedings in relation to allegations of unlawful water pumping by a large-scale irrigator in northern NSW. edonsw@edonsw.org.au

**BirdLife Aust.** has reported that the Magpie is Australia's favourite bird just beating the White Ibis?

No-one I know would vote for the White Ibis. What do you think? ibails@bigpond.net.au

**The 2017 Australasian Bird Fair** and Wildlife Expo in November was marred by heavy rain and attendances were low. Our share of a marquee was wet underfoot for most of the Saturday and Sunday meaning it was less than inviting to visitors wanting to chat about Birding NSW. We thank those members who volunteered their help but must comment that offers of assistance were few. Arrangements for the next Bird Fair are under careful review and some who experienced the conditions are suggesting that the entire Fair should be undercover next time to ensure comfort for volunteers and visitors. IF that were the case, would you volunteer to help? The Committee would very much like to hear your views. ibails@bigpond.net.au or 0412 251 337.

**At the December Club Meeting** and AGM, President Tom Karplus drew two names from a brown paper bag. 21 names were in the draw, being those new members who

had joined during October-November and in particular, the people who had joined up at the Bird Fair. Prize one was a copy of the new book BIRDMANIA by Bernd Brunner, generously donated by the publishers Allen and Unwin (contact Abbeyes Bookshop Lindyj@abbeyes.com.au ) and the second a poster by Fiona Lumsden-Wildlife Artist www.fionalumsden.com and a print of Black-Cockatoos. BIRDMANIA was won by Jacky Hunt of Wyong Creek and the posters by Gina McFarlane of Pennant Hills. Both were delighted with their prizes!

**Mal Carnegie** of Lake Cowal reports briefly from his holiday spot, that as the Lake has still about two metres in depth, there are good numbers of water species breeding with around 3000 Straw-necked Ibis, many Royal and Yellow-billed Spoonbills, Nankeen Night-Herons, Magpie Geese and Pelicans seen. Interestingly, the CSIRO are working with Mal to establish a protocol for photographing breeding colonies from above by drones to establish accurate counts and will fit tracking collars to some ibis. More next issue.

## Sydney Pelagics Major Announcement

Roger McGovern

I would like to let everyone know of the changes that we will be making to the organisation of Sydney pelagic trips with effect from January 2018. Hal and I have been organising these trips for more years than we care to remember and we have decided that it is the right time to hand over the operation of the pelagic trips to someone younger who will ensure the future of the Sydney pelagic tradition.

Greg McLachlan, with the assistance of David Mitford, has very kindly agreed to take over the organisation of the trips into the future. Greg has operated the Sydney Pelagic website for some years, something which he will also continue to do. Hal and I will continue to come out on the boat on a regular basis and enjoy the seabird and cetacean watching without the burden of administration.

I would like to thank everybody for their fantastic support of the Sydney pelagics over the years and hope that this support continues for a long time to come – it is too important for our knowledge and understanding of seabirds to let it drop. Hal and I look forward to catching up with all our friends and acquaintances on the boat next year and we sincerely thank Greg and David for stepping in and ensuring the future of the Sydney pelagic operation.

All future bookings should be made through Greg at boombana@gmail.com and all details of the trips including all of next year's dates will be found on the website at <http://www.sydneypelagics.info>

Have a great Christmas and a happy and healthy 2018.



## Colongra Swamp and Budgewoi

2 December 2017

Andrew Melville

Despite the warm weather forecast and the threat of rain, 24 birders turned up to make the walk out to Colongra Swamp. Before we started our walk, we had several flyovers of White-throated Needleetails. On the way out to the swamp birding was almost non-existent, the loud noise of the numerous cicadas almost drowning out any bird song. However, among the birds we did see were Sacred Kingfisher, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Golden Whistler, Red Wattlebird, Grey Butcherbird and Silvereye, while we did manage to hear Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Olive-backed Oriole and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike calling. Before we made it to the swamp we made a slight diversion and found a solitary Pelican along with over 200 Black Swans.

Finally, we made it and several of the worn-out walkers made a rush for the seat. The water had receded a lot in the last couple of weeks and it was nice to see six Black-fronted Dotterels enjoying themselves on the mud until a group of Masked Lapwing sent them packing in a hurry. Out on the water were many water birds including, Pink-eared Ducks, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Hardhead, Red-necked Avocets, both Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes and Great Egret, while among the bush birds were six Varied Sittellas, Variegated Fairy-wren, White-breasted Woodswallow, Dollarbirds and up in the sky Welcome Swallows, Osprey, Whistling Kite, Brown Goshawk, Swamp Harrier and White-bellied Sea-Eagle kept us entertained. As we were leaving a couple of the group enjoyed a very fast flyby by an Azure Kingfisher.

Fed, watered, and pleased with the birds we had seen, we slowly (very slowly for some) made our way back to our cars. When the group was all together we decided to go to Mackenzie Reserve at Budgewoi. Upon arrival some members needed to eat while the others were still keen to continue birding. So, over the bridge and onto the island where we spotted Royal Spoonbill, Yellow Thornbill, Grey Fantail and Spotted Turtle-dove. A Leaden Flycatcher was heard calling but proved invisible to us. While eating our lunch Little Corellas, Silver Gulls and Noisy Miners were everywhere. Another White-bellied Sea-Eagle put in an appearance, much to the disgust of the smaller birds which harassed it so much it soon disappeared. As the last of us were packing up two Scaly-breasted Lorikeets and a Figbird visited which resulted in a final total of 74 species for the day.



L-R Doug Hocking, Rowena Wallace, John Carpenter, John Wallace, Graeme Catt. Photo by Robyn Price

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## Outing and Christmas Break-up: Murrumbung HSD Mardi, McPherson Swamp and Central Coast Wetlands, Tuggerah

Saturday 16 December

Carole and John Carpenter

A heavy shower of rain at 6 am had us wondering about the weather conditions for the day but luckily it did not last long and instead just freshened up the area. Summer had arrived but more recently, so had the cicadas! Their noise level around Murrumbung House was bearable but up the hill, their noise was coming in waves and ear-piercing intensity. After the early birders had admired the birds around the house, namely Brown Cuckoo-Dove, King Parrot, Red-browed Finch, Grey Fantail and Eastern Spinebill, and with the sounds of the Bell Miners and cicadas ringing in our ears, we started our walk up the hill and into the Spotted Gum Forest. Along the track that leads to the town water reservoir, we saw Superb and Variegated Fairy-wren, Noisy Friarbirds, Brown and Striated Thornbills, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Dollarbird, Brush Turkey, a Wood Duck roosting high in a tree, White-throated Treecreeper and Spotted Pardalote. With the help of Daniel's camera, the Cicadabird was finally identified. Back to the house for a welcome morning tea break with 28 birds identified so far. An early presentation to Robyn Price, one of our Newsletter Editors, who could not stay the whole day, was made at this point as well as a welcome given to the Birding NSW President, Tom Karplus, who with his wife Elisabeth, had joined us for the first part of the morning.

Everyone refreshed, we car-pooled and left for McPherson Road Swamp and the Central Coast Wetlands. At the former site, the ripe blackberries were picked and enjoyed as we checked out the birds. A Swamphen with young and a brightly coloured pair of Sacred Kingfishers were admired, and overhead a small flock of White-throated Needletails and a Brown Goshawk, soared. A Swamp Harrier flew over the wetlands and Cisticolas and Tawny Grassbirds were in the reeds. Some lucky birders saw a Latham's Snipe and others saw one or two Southern Emu-wrens. Koels were heard and a Channel-billed Cuckoo flew overhead. Next stop was the Dairy Swamp where we had good views of Black-fronted Dotterels, Black-winged Stilts, Swallows and Fairy Martins, a Pipit carrying food for young, Royal Spoonbills, Australasian Grebes and many Coots. The Moreton Bay Figs were heavy with fruit which Figbirds and Channel-billed Cuckoos were enjoying! The day was heating up, so we did the short walk along the creek where we found Olive-backed Orioles, Bar-Shouldered Dove, Yellow Robins and an immature Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

Back home for our BBQ lunch and social gathering, along with members who were unable to join with us earlier. Alan Morris made presentations and thank yous to our club helpers, particularly Wendy Mitchell, our Newsletter co-editor, to Malcolm Hill our Facebook Administrator, and to John and me, for the work that we do in preparing the hall and supper, and cleaning up after the meeting each month. John then thanked Alan for all that he does for our club. Without Alan at the helm, our club would not be as co-ordinated and successful as it has been for the last 22 years. We had 42 birders in attendance on the day and 74 bird species were identified.

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## Colo River and Ebenezer

6 January 2018

Phillip Brook

A second visit to the Colo River in two months showed just how much birdlife can change in a short time. In November we got a list of almost 80 birds on a beautiful spring day. This time six members braved the 40 degree forecast in very different conditions. A walk along the river produced more cicada noise than bird calls and we struggled as the birds seemed to sense the coming heat. A lyrebird was heard but the previous Peregrine Falcon family had emigrated. A large monitor rested high in a eucalypt and it was interesting that a second monitor was found by Richard Murray at Sackville, also up a tree, with a dead duckling in its mouth. Orioles and Satin Bowerbirds were present along the river but unusually quiet. Cuckoos were silent, if present.

We moved to the more reliable Madeline Place Pond at Sackville after morning tea to find the regular Pink-eared Ducks and Latham's Snipe in good numbers. Black-winged Stilts and Black-fronted Dotterels added to the mix. The mixture of foliage round the pond seems to change with time but it remains an attractive oasis.

Lunch was spent at the Ebenezer Church picnic site and a short walk down the Swallow Reach path along the Hawkesbury River added a Darter and a Sacred Kingfisher. The weather finally won the day when it reached the forecast 40 degrees at 1 pm and we called it a day with 50 species seen after an interesting contrast to our November outing.

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## UNUSUAL REPORTS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2017

### ALAN MORRIS

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

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

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

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

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

Australian Brush-turkey	J	1/11/17	Chick near mound Dee Why CBD	S	David Sawyer
Australian Brush-turkey	1	25/11/17	Marion St Leichhardt	S	David Hair
Magpie Goose	2	3/11/17	Yass STW	SS	Guy Chessell
Magpie Goose	6	13/11/17	Sovereign Hills, Port Macquarie	NC	Phil Shelley
Magpie Goose	36	23/11/17	Incl 2x 8J Campbells Swp Griffith	R	Bob Moffat
Magpie Goose	50	30/12/17	Nts+Y Granicorp Swamp Narromine	CP	Warren Chad
Freckled Duck	84	16/11/17	Maffra Lake, Maffra 40 km S Cooma	ST	George Mandini
Wandering Whistling-Duck	1	17/11/17	Lake Cargelligo STW	R	Edwin Vella
Wandering Whistling-Duck	2	29-31/12/17	Wentworth Com Sydney Olympic Pk	S	Michael Barton
Blue-billed Duck	11	20/11/17	Lake Wallace, Wallerawang	CT	Edwin Vella
Blue-billed Duck	6A4Y	29/11/17	Campbells Swamp, Griffith	R	Max O'Sullivan
Australian Shelduck	4	16/11/17	Wilfords Lane Wetlands, Milton	I	Chris Brandis
Australian Shelduck	2	18-23/12/17	Middle Pond, Eastlakes GC	S	Richard Murray
Emerald Dove	1	21/11/17	Bundewallah, Kangaroo Valley	I	Carla Jackett
Diamond Dove	6	13/12/17	Wattle Dam, Binya SF	R	Max O'Sullivan
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	AM	1-27/11/17	Wattle Forest Royal NP	S	Rob Hynson
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	IF	5-8/12/17	Freeman Ave Reserve Oatley	S	Jesse Gibson
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Im	14/12/17	Eastlakes Golf Course	S	Bas Henson
Superb Fruit-Dove	1	7/11/17	Nightcap NP. Rocky Ck Dam	NC	Michael Ronan
Topknot Pigeon	29	9-10/11/17	3 sites Tanja & Chinnock, Bega	SC	FSCB
White-throated Nightjar	1	9/12/17	Timmallallie Dam, Pilliga Forest	NP	Michael Dahlem
White-throated Needletail	280	5/12/17	Tuggerah Bay Saltmarsh	CC	Alan Morris
White-throated Needletail	300	2/12/17	Carrs Ck Bridge Grafton	NC	Darryl Eggins
White-throated Needletail	15	30/12/17	Nyngan Rotary Park	CP	Michael Crosland
Fork-tailed Swift	2	24/11/17	John Penn Ave Merimbula	SC	Sue Romane
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	1	19/11/17	Sydney pelagic	S	Robert Hynson
White-faced Storm-Petrel	3	8/12/17	Swansea pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Wandering Alb. (Gibson's)	10	12/11/17	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Wandering Alb. (Antipodean)	1	8/12/17	Swansea pelagic	CC	Allan Benson
Campbell Is Albatross	1	8/12/17	Swansea pelagic	CC	Allan Benson
Shy Albatross (wht-capped)	30	9/12/17	Kiama pelagic	I	Brook Whyllie
Salvin's Albatross	1	9/10/17	Kiama Special pelagic	I	Alison Huff
Northern Giant-Petrel	1	14/10/17	Green Cape	SC	FSCB
Black Petrel	2	12/11/17	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Black Petrel	1	19/11/17	Sydney pelagic	S	Robert Hynson

White-chinned Petrel	1	9/12/17	Kiama pelagic	I	Brook Whyllie
Solander's Petrel	2	12/11/17	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Grey-faced (Great-winged) P.	15	12/11/17	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Grey-faced (Great-winged) P.	5	8/12/17	Swansea pelagic	CC	Allan Benson
Mottled Petrel	12	12/11/17	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Mottled Petrel	7	13/11/17	13 nm. off Tomaree Hd, Pt Stephens	H	Dan Williams
White-necked Petrel	1	28/12/17	35 km at sea east of Myall Lakes NP	H	David Mitford
White-necked Petrel	1	31/12/17	Long Reef Aquatic Reserve	S	Michael Ronan
<b>Cook's Petrel</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12/11/17</b>	<b>Port Stephens pelagic</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Mick Roderick</b>
<b>Cook's Petrel</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13/11/17</b>	<b>13 nm. off Pt Stephens</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Dan Williams</b>
Gould's Petrel	5	12/11/17	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Gould's Petrel	1	19/11/17	Sydney pelagic	S	Robert Hynson
Streaked Shearwater	1	31/12/17	Long Reef Aquatic Reserve	S	Michael Ronan
Sooty Shearwater	1	8/12/17	Swansea pelagic	CC	Allan Benson
Sooty Shearwater	1	28/12/17	35 km at sea, east of Myall Lakes NP	H	David Mitford
<b>Little Shearwater</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12/11/17</b>	<b>Port Stephens pelagic</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Mick Roderick</b>
Buller's Shearwater	1	16/11/17	Mistral Point, Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Buller's Shearwater	1	21/11/17	Lennox Head Headland	NC	Michael Ronan
Buller's Shearwater	1	8/12/17	Swansea pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Buller's Shearwater	1	9/12/17	Kiama pelagic	I	Brook Whyllie
Common Diving-Petrel	1bc	30/10/17	North Tura Beach, Merimbula	SC	L. Allen
Lesser Frigatebird	ImF	2/12/17	Dee Why Headland	S	David Noble
Lesser Frigatebird	1	30/12/17	Hastings Point Headland	NC	Barry Davies
Brown Booby	1	31/12/17	Long Reef Aquatic Reserve	S	Michael Ronan
Australasian Bittern	5	29/11/17	Campbells Swamp, Griffith	R	Max O'Sullivan
Australian Little Bittern	hc	15/11/17	Lake Wallace, Wallerawang	CT	Carol Proberts
Australian Little Bittern	2hc	17/11/17	Lake Cargelligo STW	R	Edwin Vella
Black Bittern	1	13/11/17	Lisarow Wetlands	CC	Andrew Robinson
Cattle Egret	100N	Nov-Dec	Narrabri Lake, Narrabri West	NP	Michael Dahlem
Cattle Egret	20N	19/12/17	Greens Swamp, Dooralong	CC	Alan Morris
Little Egret	8N	5/12/17	Small colony Ansells Pt Chittaway	CC	Alan Morris
Aust. White Ibis	50N	Nov-Dec	Narrabri Lake, Narrabri West	NP	Michael Dahlem
Eastern Osprey	1	15-22/10/17	Millingandi & Mogareeka	SC	FSCB
Eastern Osprey	2A2Y	Oct-Dec	Nested successfully The Entrance	CC	Alan Morris
Pacific Baza	1	24/11/17	Menangle	S	Lorne Jophnson
Pacific Baza	1	11/12/17	Greenwich	I	Ted Nixon
Pacific Baza	2A2Y	13/12/17	Nesting Hornsby Heights	S	Ian Hepworth
Square-tailed Kite	1,1	23/10, 8/11	Millingandi & Lochiel	SC	FSCB
Square-tailed Kite	N2Y	16/11/17	Narrawallee	I	Charles Dove
Black Kite	5	13/12/17	Woodford Island, Clarence River	NC	Greg Clancy
Brown Falcon	1	26/11,14/12	Warriewood Wetlands	S	Jayden Walshe
Black Falcon	1	13/12/17	Woodford Island, Clarence River	NC	Greg Clancy
Brolga	2	5/11/17	Hastings River Dve Fernbank	NC	Phil Shelley
Pale-vented Bush-hen	1	10/11/17	Huonbrook, Mullumbimby	NC	Michael Ronan
Pale-vented Bush-hen	4	16/11/17	Terania Creek Rd Nightcap NP	NC	Michael Ronan
Pale-vented Bush-hen	1	23/12/17	Lower Pappinbarra	NC	I.Kerr/L.Murphy

Lewin's Rail	3	19/12/17	Elizabeth Island, Grafton	NC	Darryl Eggins
Baillon's Crake	6	27/11-31/12	Greendale Swamp, Jilliby	CC	Graeme Catt
Spotless Crake	1	31/10/17	Pamboola Res Pambula	SC	Leo Berzins
Spotless Crake	2	19/12/17	Elizabeth Island, Grafton	NC	Darryl Eggins
Bush Stone-curlew	4prs	Nov-Dec	4 prs nesting Brisbane Water	CC	Alan Morris
Beach Stone-curlew	1	27/10/17	Kiah Spit	SC	Leo Berzins
Beach Stone-curlew	1	30/11/17	Spencer Pk Merimbula	SC	Leo Berzins
Beach Stone-curlew	1	15/12/17	Farquar Inlet, Old Bar	H	Simon Gorta
Pied Oystercatcher	23prs	Sep-Nov	Nested 23 sites Gerroa-Narooma	I	Jodie Dunn
Pacific Golden Plover	8	3-17/12/17	Pitt Town Lagoon, Pitt Town	S	Michael Ronan
Grey Plover	2	15/12/17	Farquar Inlet, Old Bar	H	Simon Gorta
Large Sand Plover	1	13/12/17	Farquar Inlet, Old Bar	H	Alan Morris
Lesser Sand Plover	2	13/12/17	Farquar Inlet, Old Bar	H	Allan Benson
Double-banded Plover	1	13/12/17	Farquar Inlet, Old Bar	H	Grant Brosie
Hooded Plover	13prs	Sep-Nov	Nested 13 sites Gerroa-Narooma	I	Jodie Dunn NPWS
Hooded Plover	18A	3/10-23/11	9 sites, 5 nests Merimbula-Womboyn	SC	FSCB
Banded Lapwing	2A3Y	26/11/17	6 km NW Rappville, Casino	NC	Lyle McNamara
Banded Lapwing	5	6/12/17	Mills Rd Hanwood, Griffith	R	Max O'Sullivan
Common Sandpiper	1	9/12/17	Bushells Lagoon, Freemans Reach	S	Stephen Hey
Common Sandpiper	1	9/12/17	Richmond Lowlands	S	Edwin Vella
Wandering Tattler	1	27/12/17	Kingscliffe Beach	NC	Jeff Melvaine
Great Knot	1	18/11/17	Sandringham, Botany Bay	S	Derek Stokes
Great Knot	1	7/12/17	Boat Harbour, Kurnell	S	Michael ellison
Red Knot	4	4/11/17	Lake Wollumboola	I	Demetrios Bertzeletos
Sanderling	4	11-31/12/17	Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar	H	Liam Murphy
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	450	28/12/17	Old Pipeline Track, Hexham Swamp	H	Mick Roderick
Sanderling	6	11/12/17	Farquhar Inlet Old Bar	H	Liam Murphy
Terek Sandpiper	1	7/12/17	Boat Harbour, Kurnell	S	Michael Ellison
Terek Sandpiper	1	16/12/17	Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar	H	Chris Gladwin
Ruff	AM	1/11/17	Wagtail Way, Ash Island	H	Rod Warnock
Ruff	AM	28-29/12/17	Stockton Sandspit	H	Dick Jenkin
Broad-billed Sandpiper	1	9-12/12/17	Lake Wollumboola	I	Duade Paton
Little Button-quail	J	16/11/17	Larkin Oval, Nyngan	CP	Michael Crossland
Painted Button-quail	2	9/11/17	Castlereagh NR Londonderry	S	Michael Rutkowski
Painted Button-quail	1	25/11/17	15 km E of Lake Cargelligo	R	Rebecca Van Dyk
Painted Button-quail	A4Y	20-31/12/17	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	Cc	Daniel McKeon
Red-chested Button-quail	1	28/12/17	Shamrock St Track, Hexham NR	H	Mick Roderick
Pomarine Jaeger	75	18/11/17	North Wall, Ballina	NC	Olaf Lou
Pacific Gull	A,J	7 & 18 /11	Puckeys Estate Wollongong	I	Steven Cooper
Black Noddy	1	1/11/17	Boatharbour, Kurnell	S	Michael Ellison
<b>Common Gull-billed Tern</b>	<b>1M</b>	<b>4/11/17</b>	<b>Shoalhaven Heads</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Demetrios Bertzeletos</b>
<b>Common Gull-billed Tern</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29-30/12/17</b>	<b>Stockton Sandspit</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Michael Kearns</b>
<b>Aleutian Tern</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11-31/12/17</b>	<b>Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Liam Murphy</b>
Little Tern	6pr	Nov-Dec	Nesting Karagi Pt The Entrance	CC	Alan Morris
Little Tern	60	November	Raven predation Lake Conjola	I	Jodie Dunn
Little Tern	3pr	November	Predation at Lake Tabourie	I	Jodie Dunn

Little Tern	40,40	9-23/11/17	Nesting Wallagoot L. & Mogareeka	SC	FSCB
Little Tern	100pr	13-29/12/17	Nesting Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar	H	Liam Murphy
Sooty Tern	1	19/11/17	Sydney pelagic	S	Robert Hynson
Sooty Tern	J	8/12/17	Swansea pelagic	CC	Allan Benson
Sooty Tern	2	29/12/17	At sea, 35 km east of Old Bar	H	David Mitford
Caspian Tern	2+N	23/11/17	Bird Is, Wallagoot Lake	SC	L. Allen
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	11	2/10/17	Manna Park, Merimbula	SC	Sue Romane
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	9/11/17	Mehi River, 80 km W of Moree	NP	Pat Johnston
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	18	3/11/17	Lake Cargelligo Township	R	Marky Mark
Long-billed Corella	1	9/11/17	Bullarah TSR, 70 Km W of Moree	NP	Pat Johnston
Little Lorikeet	100+	7/12/17	O'Dells Crossing Bugaldie	NP	David Johnston
Little Lorikeet	30	22/11/17	Kedumba Valley, Blackheath	CT	K. Morrison-Jones
Superb Parrot	13pr	November	Nesting Mulligans Flat, ACT	ST	Laura
Superb Parrot	3	10/11/17	Cundumbul, 30 kms N of Molong	CS	Darryl Smedley
Superb Parrot	30	22/12/17	Boirenopre near Orange	CT	Michael Miller
Superb Parrot	5	31/12/17	Bakers Swp, 23 km S of Wellington	CS	Darryl Smedley
Red-winged Parrot	AM	12/11/17	Geirie Cemetery	SS	Darryl Smedley
Pale-headed Rosella	1	15/11/17	Bulgeraga Ck Bridge Quambone	CP	Michael Crosland
Turquoise Parrot	AM	5/11/17	Douglas Gap Rd Young	SS	Marnix Zwankhuizen
Turquoise Parrot	2	5/11/17	Bimberamala National Park Mogo	I	Bill Nagle
Turquoise Parrot	4	7/12/17	O'Dells Crossing, Bugaldie	NP	David Johnstone
Turquoise Parrot	AF	29/12/17	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	CC	Alan Morris
Bourke's Parrot	2	3/11/17	30 km West of Bourke	UW	Michael Ronan
Ground Parrot	4	30/12/17	Bundjalung NP Brooms Head	NC	David Chalkey
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	10/11/17	Willungra, Albury	SS	Robert Cook
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	3/12/17	Larkin Pk Nyngan	CP	Michael Crosland
Eastern Koel	1	8/11/17	Griffith township	R	David Parker
Eastern Koel	1	10/11/17	Cootamundra Showground	SS	Donna Nagiello
Black-eared Cuckoo	1	5/11/17	Glenolan Bridge-Glen Alice area	CT	Rob Hynson
Black-eared Cuckoo	1	11/11/17	Burrendong Arboretum, Wellington	CS	Darryl Smedley
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	2	2/11/17	Dee Why Lagoon	S	David Sawyer
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	3/11/17	Bundock Park Clovelly	S	David Mitford
Brush Cuckoo	1	1/11/17	North Wollongong	I	Lorne Johnson
Powerful Owl	A2Y	28/12/17	Marana Rd Springfield	CC	Nick Carson
Barking Owl	1	19/12/17	Scenic Drive McMasters Beach	CC	Alan Morris
Barking Owl	hc	28-30/12/17	Henry Kendal Village, Wyoming	Cc	Bob Montgomery
Greater Sooty Owl	1	12/12/17	Borenore Karst Cave	CT	Simon Hayes
Red-backed Kingfisher	1	10-11/11/17	Cornwalls Lane, Richmond Lowlands	S	Andrew Patrick
Noisy Pitta	2	20/11/17	Hidden Valley, Ourimbah	CC	Nick Giles
Noisy Pitta	1	1/12/17	Bellawongah, Kangaroo Valley	I	Carla Jackett
Noisy Pitta	1	25/11/17	Palmgrove NR Palmgrove	CC	Andrew Robinson
White-browed Treecreeper	2	2/11/17	Cobar Rd South of Bourke	UW	Michael Ronan
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	1	29-31/12/17	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP Bucketty	CC	Alan Morris
Black-chinned Honeyeater	1	15/11/17	Bulgeraga Ck Bridge Quambone	CP	Michael Crosland
Regent Honeyeater	16	11/12-19/12	+ Juvs Capertee NP HSD Glen Alice	CT	Mark Hocking
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	3	23/11/17	Medhurst Bridge, Martindale	H	Alan Morris

Crimson Chat	AM	12/11/17	Saltwater Ck Bch Ben Boyd NP	SC	Jenny Sedgewick
Black Honeyeater	2	5/11/17	Rocky Ponds Ck, Galong Rd Galong	SS	Marnix Zwankuizen
Black Honeyeater	2	29/11/17	Campbells Swamp, Griffith	R	Max O'Sullivan
Painted Honeyeater	3	1/11/17	Murrin Bridge area, Lake Cargelligo	R	Tom Petty
Painted Honeyeater	2	23/11/17	Medhurst Bridge, Martindale	H	Alan Morris
Painted Honeyeater	6	29/11-6/12	McCann Rd Lake Wyangan	R	Max O'Sullivan
Painted Honeyeater	20+N	30/12/17	10 prs nesting 15 km S Condobolin	CP	Warren Chad
Spotted Quail-thrush	2	Nov-Dec	Mogo Camp, Yengo NP, Bucketty	CC	Carole Carpenter
Chestnut-breast Quail-thrush	2	3/11/17	30km West of Bourke	UW	Michael Ronan
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	2	18/11/17	13 kms N of Ashford	NS	June Harris
Barred Cuckoo-shrike	2	12/11/17	Night Cap NP Rocky Ck Dam	NC	Michael Ronan
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2	7/12/17	O'Dells Crossing Bugaldie	NP	David Johnstone
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2A2Y	7/12/17	Laughtondale Gully, Maroota	S	Max Breckenridge
White-winged Triller	5	22/11/17	Kedumba Valley, Blackheath	CT	M. Morrison-Jones
White-breasted Woodswallow	8	31/12/17	Rowland Reserve, Bayview	S	Jayden Walsh
Little Woodswallow	2	2/11/17	Bourke on Cobar Road	UW	Michael Ronan
Spectacled Monarch	2	5/11/17	Bimberamala National Park Mogo	I	Bill Nagle
Spangled Drongo	1	16/11/17	Mangrove Mountain	CC	Barry Pointer
White-eared Monarch	2+N	16/11/17	Terania Creek Rd Nightcap NP	NC	Michael Ronan
Red-capped Robin	F	11/11/17	Cooropngooba Camp, Wollemi NP	CT	Mark Hocking
Red-capped Robin	7	12/11/17	Air Services Site, Shanes Park	S	Edwin Vella
Red-capped Robin	20	22/11/17	Incl. 4 prs+DY Kedumba Valley	CT	K. Morrison-Jones
Flame Robin	AM	8/11/17	Moogen SF nr Guy Fawkes River NP	NC	Darryl Eggins
Brown Songlark	1	4/11/17	Seals Rd Swamp, Belmore River	NC	Liam Murphy
Brown Songlark	10	28/12/17	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Mick Roderick
White-backed Swallow	3	5/11/17	Glenolan Bridge-Glen Alice area	CT	Rob Hynson
Yellow Wagtail	1	24-27/12/17	Pipeline Track, Hexham Swamp NR	H	Ian Benson
Diamond Firetail	10	20/11/17	Back Yamma SF Forbes	CS	Edwin Vella
European Blackbird	Im	29/9/17	Long Reef Golf Course	S	David Sawyer

## COMMENT

Substantial falls of rain across the State, particularly in the southern border areas and in the north-east, changed the season conditions for inland and coastal NSW for the best and all those western rarities reported along the Coast in September-October have mostly now returned inland, with only **Brown Songlarks** and a few **White-winged Trillers** remaining. However **Red-capped Robins** were found breeding in western Sydney and the Blue Mountains in areas where there are no known previous nesting reports. There were no further reports of **Bustards** in NSW. Following on from the reports of good numbers of **Regent Honeyeaters** from the Capertee Valley, Upper Hunter and Northern Tablelands in Sep-Oct, I can confirm that successful nesting took place at various sites in the Capertee Valley and Goulburn River NP in November, and additional birds were located at Munghorn Gap NR and the Burratorang Valley. Rarities reported this month included the first report for Australia of **Aleutian Terns** at Farquar Inlet, Old Bar and two reports of **Common Gull-billed Terns**, although previously known as the Asiatic sub-species of the **Gull-billed Tern**, there have been only one or two confirmed reports of this then sub-species in NSW previously. **Little Shearwaters** and **Salvin's Albatross**, have recently been added to the Review List of the NSWORAC and hence their reports are subject to review by the committee. **Brush-turkeys** are still expanding their range across Sydney's eastern, inner and western suburbs and are now the subject of a research project headed up by Dr. John Martin of the Royal Botanic Gardens. Members can go on line to the RBG webpage and become part of the survey. **Magpie Goose:** 20 Campbells Swp Griffith 29/11 (R); **Freckled Duck:** 4 Campbells Swp Griffith 29/11 (R), 1 Pitt Town Lagoon 2/12 (S); **Plumed Whistling-Duck:** 2 Back Yamma SF Forbes 20/11/17 (CS); **Wandering Whistling-Duck:** 1 Eastlakes GC 27/11 (S); Some interesting large numbers of **White-throated Needletail** include: 100+ Back Yamma SF 20/11 (CS), 230 St Lukes Pk Concord 5/12 (S); **Square-tailed Kite:** 1 Bilgola Hgts 21/11 (S), 1 Figtree 22/11 (I), 1 Thornleigh 23/11/17 (S) and 7 Central Coast records in this period!; **Turquoise Parrot:** 12 Wattle Dam, Binya SF 13/12 (R); **Painted Honeyeater:** 2+ Gum Ck Rd Hanwood 6/12 (R); 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](mailto:activities@birdingnsw.org.au)

**Newsletter contributions:**

Email articles, trip reports etc to  
[newsletter@birdingnsw.org.au](mailto:newsletter@birdingnsw.org.au)

**APRIL Newsletter Deadline:**

Friday 9 March 2018

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

Email: [newsletter@birdingnsw.org.au](mailto:newsletter@birdingnsw.org.au)

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

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