



birding  
nsw

# Newsletter

NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc

Issue 287

June - July 2018

## President's Report

I am pleased to inform you that Ross Crates, who is doing important work on the endangered Regent Honeyeater, will receive the money from this year's NSW Twitchathon fund-raising event. This decision was made at the recent Bird Interest Group network (BIGnet) meeting at Sydney Olympic Park. At this meeting, it was also agreed unanimously that in future, all BIGnet clubs would have an equal opportunity to submit proposals annually for funding support from the Twitchathon in NSW, replacing the previous protocol of alternating annual decision-making between NSW clubs and BirdLife Southern NSW.

Allan Richards led a highly successful campout to Ingelba near Walcha on the Easter Long Weekend. One of the highlights was great views of platypuses. An article about this campout is in this issue of the newsletter. Allan will lead another campout to Gloucester on the June Long Weekend. Details are in this issue of the newsletter.

Our website co-ordinator Michael Edwards has made access to the online version of the newsletter easier. Just double-click on the "Newsletter" tab on the website front page, then go to the "Visit our Newsletter list page here" line opposite the "Letters & submissions" tab, click on "here", and remember that the password is "aWeebillisasmallbird". Michael is considering changes to the website. If you have an idea about how to improve the website, please email Michael at [info@birdingnsw.org.au](mailto:info@birdingnsw.org.au).

A report on the latest South-West Slopes Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) survey by the club at Grenfell in March is in this issue of the newsletter.

We had 30 surveyors, some of whom were new. One of the strengths of the survey is that while some surveyors cannot attend every survey, there are enough new people that there is a pool of about 30 surveyors for each event. Most surveyors saw Superb Parrots in March.

At the club meetings in April and May, we were fortunate to have had two superb lectures from the National Parks and Wildlife Service branch of the Office of Environment and Heritage, one by Principal Scientist Nicholas Carlile on Gould's Petrels, and another by Ranger Martin Smith on the Little Tern and other shorebirds. Both speakers were obviously highly committed to their work and to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. At a time of major threat to our native bird habitat, it is important to remember the contribution of the Office of Environment and Heritage to the conservation of our wildlife.

**Tom Karplus**  
President, Birding NSW

**STOP PRESS IMPORTANT NOTICE ON PAGE 3**



Whistling Kites at Lake Brewster. Photo: Mal Carnegie. See Page 9.



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### FIELD OUTINGS AND MEETINGS

#### FIELD OUTINGS

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

#### NATIONAL PARK FEES

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

#### TOTAL FIRE BANS

Members are reminded that no Central Coast outings are held on days when Total Fire Bans are in force.

#### SECURITY

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

#### CENTRAL COAST OUTINGS

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

#### PETS

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

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### JUNE 2018

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

#### Saturday 9 – Monday 11 June Long Weekend

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

**Saturday 9 June Club Outing:** Nurragingy Reserve Doonside. Meet at 8.00am inside the main entrance off Knox Road Doonside. Lunch at cars. Ian Bailey 0412 251 337.

#### Wednesday 13 June Central Coast Half-day Outing:

Glenola Reserve and Bunning Creek. Meet at 8.30 am at Yarramalong Church, Yarramalong. Lunch at cars. Leader: Margaret Pointer 4374 1163

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

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

**Wednesday 27 June Mid-week Outing:** Mistral Point, Maroubra. Meet at 8.30 am in the furthest car park at the

northern end of Marine Parade, Maroubra. We will take a short, but rocky walk out to a headland for a sea watch looking for whales as well as seabirds. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Lunch at cars. Leader: Allan Richards 0432 064 660

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

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## JULY 2018

**Tuesday 3 July Club Meeting:** Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "Coastal Emus". Speaker: Lynn Baker

**Saturday 7 July Club Outing:** Mistral Point, Maroubra. Meet at 9:00 am in the furthest car park at the northern end of Marine Parade, Maroubra. We will take a short, but rocky walk out to a headland for a sea watch looking for whales as well as seabirds. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Lunch at cars. Leader: Greg McLachlan 0405 578 967

**Wednesday 11 July Central Coast Half-day Outing:** Empire Bay, Bensville and South Kincumber: Meet at 8.30 am at the Tennis Courts, Shelley Beach Road, Empire Bay. Lunch at cars. Leader: Christina Port 0421 691 317.

**Saturday 14 July Club Outing:** Warriewood Wetlands and Chiltern Track. Meet at 8.30 am at Katoa Close, Warriewood. Lunch will be at cars. Gradient: Easy with bush tracks. Leader: Paul Johnstone 0434 350 409

**Tuesday 24 July Central Coast Meeting:** Meet at 7.30 pm at the Tuggerah Progress Hall in Anzac Street, Tuggerah opposite McDonalds. "Gluepot Adventure" speaker Daniel McKeon

**Wednesday 25 July Mid-week Outing:** Warriewood Wetlands and Irrawong Reserve. Meet at 8.30 am at Katoa Close, Warriewood. Lunch will be at cars. Gradient: Easy with bush tracks. Leader: Elisabeth Karplus 0421 665 553

**Saturday 28 July Central Coast Outing:** Spencer, Dharug National Park and Old Great North Road. Meet at 8.30 am at the Spencer Store, on Wisemans Ferry Road. Lunch at cars. Leaders: Margaret and Kaye Pointer 4374 1163

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## AUGUST 2018

**Tuesday 7 August Club Meeting:** Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "Wildlife of the Wet Tropics". Speaker: Jayden Walsh

**Wednesday 8 August Central Coast Half-day Outing:** Central Coast Wetlands and Tuggerah Wetlands. A joint outing with the Cumberland Bird Observers Club. Meet: at 8.30 am at McPherson Road Swamp, Gavenlock Road Tuggerah. Lunch at cars. leader: Alan Morris . 0418 269 482.

**Saturday 11 August Club Outing:** Royal National Park. Meet 8.30 am at Wattle Forest Picnic Area near Audley. Turn into Lady Carrington Drive at Audley, then right over the timber bridge to the western side of the river. Turn left and meet at the last car park. Lunch at cars. Leader: Allan Richards 0432 064 660

**Saturday 18 August Club Outing:** Scheyville National Park and Hawkesbury area. Meet at 8.30 am at the car park for Scheyville National Park Headquarters off Scheyville Road. Lunch at cars. Leader: Trevor Waller 0467 977 508

**Tuesday 28 August Central Coast Meeting:** Meet at 7.30 pm at the Tuggerah Progress Hall in Anzac Street, Tuggerah opposite McDonalds. "Wildlife surveys in the Gosford region" speaker Warren Brown

## NOTICE OF A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting

of

Birding NSW (NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc.)

will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 3 July 2018

at the

Mitchell Theatre, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts,  
280 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000

### Agenda

1. Attendance
2. Apologies
3. Notice of Motion: "That the name of the incorporated club be changed from "Birding NSW – New South Wales Field Ornithologists Club" to "Birding NSW"."

**Tom Karplus**

President  
Birding NSW  
21 May 2018

## The Plains-wanderer

Guest Speaker: David Parker

### June 5 Club Meeting

**David Parker will update members on the Plains-wanderer at the 5th June meeting:**

David's synopsis to his talk:

"The Plains-wanderer is an iconic grassland bird. However monitoring across the species strongholds showed that between 2001 and 2014 the species had undergone a decline in numbers of more than 90%. Ten years of drought and then flooding rains had placed a significant pressure on the species and its habitat.

The collective minds of species experts and key stakeholders are working together to reverse the downward trend and secure the species in the wild for future generations.

In NSW, a targeted Iconic Species conservation strategy for the Plains-wanderer has been developed under the Saving our Species program. Key components for the project include the establishment of a captive breeding program and the ongoing management of Oolambeyan NP, however working with and proving support to private land managers is a critical key in recovering the species."

## Speaker for the Club Meeting 3 July.

Lynn Baker Office of Environment and Heritage

**Sniffing out the coastal emu - using a conservation detection dog for surveys, monitoring and management of a declining and difficult to detect bird.**

Detection dogs are increasingly being used in threatened species programs across Australia and internationally. The Coastal Emu Alliance and OEH Saving our Species (SoS) program are utilising the expertise of a detection dog and handler team to assist the endangered coastal emu population conservation program. You would expect a big bird like an emu to be easy to detect, however, the coastal emu is surprising elusive especially at nesting time. Given the rapidly declining numbers of birds in the coastal emu population, it is becoming critical to locate nest sites to understand what is happening with recruitment and to develop appropriate management strategies.

Lynn Baker and Penny, a certified coastal emu detection dog, trialled surveys for coastal emu presence and absence in 2016. Following success of those trials the program in 2017-18 is focussing on monthly surveys of a number of sites in the vicinity of potential nest locations. The surveys use Penny's ability to detect odour combined with ecologists visually detecting signs and use of remote cameras. The objective of this work is ultimately to locate nest sites so that they can be monitored. Whilst this technique is still being refined, information collected to date is indicating movement patterns, habitat usage and dietary information over time.

### BIO:

Lynn Baker is a senior threatened species officer with the North East Ecosystems and Threatened Species Team of the Office of Environment and Heritage. Lynn is the Saving our Species Coordinator for the endangered Coastal Emu population. She has worked on threatened species recovery programs across Australia with a focus on community collaboration for over 30 years. A recent highlight has been working with conservation detection dogs in threatened species conservation programs including the eastern bristlebird, coastal emu and black-tailed antechinus.

## New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our new members.

Ms Esther Beaton of Bateau Bay  
 Mrs Frances Czwalinna of Tumbi Umbi  
 Nick Carson of Avoca Beach  
 Ian Fraser of Castlecrag  
 Bill Graham of Bonner  
 Mrs Jennifer Smith of Tumbi Umbi  
 Kerstin Thorn-Seshold of Bondi Junction



SOUTH AFRICAN BIRDING TOUR MARCH 2019

[www.kalahari-tours.co.za](http://www.kalahari-tours.co.za) 043-2089069



## Tree Planting in the Capertee Valley

John Rawson - 7 May 2018

The latest treeplanting for the Regent Honeyeater Recovery Project in the Capertee Valley took place on Saturday 5th May. The weather was superb and about 50 volunteers came along. They were supported later in the day by a bus full of Taronga Zoo volunteers. It was good to see some new keen volunteers and many younger people.

Over 3000 trees were planted on a property on Huntingdale Road. The soil conditions were actually the best that I have seen over many years of doing this at Capertee Valley. Thus the work was much easier than usual and the planting was all completed before 1PM, a record short time. Conditions in the Valley are very dry and it is likely that follow up watering will be carried out within the next 3 weeks.



The dinner on Saturday night in the Glen Alice Hall organised by the locals was its usual success with a large attendance. Huw Evans, the area Local Land Services Manager presented a short video about the plantings which his organisation has funded in recent years. Hopefully, we can show this at one of our meetings in the future and maybe provide a link on our website. The next two tree plantings are going to be funded with a

grant obtained through BirdLife Australia. Furthermore, Huw Evans advised that he had applied for a grant that he is hopeful of securing that would enable the work to continue to provide funding for two plantings each year until 2022 or 2023.

**The next tree planting will be on the weekend of 18-19th August 2018.**

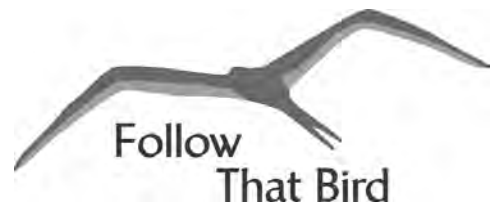
### Survey the Critically Endangered Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater

**4-5 August 2018**

Chris Timewell BirdLife Australia  
chris.timewell@birdlife.org.au

The aim of these long-term surveys – now running for well over 20 years - is to determine the distribution, habitat use and population trends of the Critically Endangered Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater. This information is used to help better manage the habitat for both species and identify important foraging areas.

For survey forms and more information, please email Chris at BirdLife.



September 2018

**Barraba - NSW Birding Hot Spot** \$2575  
2-6th September - Guide: Christina Port  
<http://www.followthatbird.com.au/barraba18.htm>

**Broken Hill & Menindee Lakes** \$4610  
11-19th September - Guide: Christina Port  
November 2018

**Cape York** \$4305  
28 Nov-3rd December Guide: Rob Hynson  
January 2019

**King & Flinders Islands** \$4105  
22-27 January Guide: TBA

**Birds & Camaraderie**  
**Follow That Bird - Sydney's Birding Company**  
Tel +61 2 9973 1865 **Website** [www.followthatbird.com.au](http://www.followthatbird.com.au)

# NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC)

REVIEW LIST  
(Revised January 23, 2018)

The following list comprises birds that are considered rare in NSW based on reported observations over a preceding ten year period to a maximum average of 1.5 records per year. NSW ORAC encourages anyone sighting these species to take comprehensive notes, photographs where possible and to supply substantiation by other observers where appropriate. Details of the sighting should be forwarded to the Secretary of NSW ORAC by way of an Unusual Record Report (URR) Form available electronically from the Secretary, Roger McGovern, at [roglou@bigpond.net.au](mailto:roglou@bigpond.net.au) or by mail via 1/67 Cremorne Road, Cremorne NSW 2090.

This list does not include any of those species on the Birdlife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) Review List. In order to maintain consistency with the BARC Review List, the NSW ORAC Review List taxonomy is based on the IOC Checklist v7.3

Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i> (1)	Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>
Cape Barren Goose	<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i> (9)	Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>
Green Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus pulchellus</i>	Common Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica (affinis)</i>
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Fairy Tern	<i>Sternula nereis</i> (4)
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>
Fiordland Penguin	<i>Eudyptes pachyrhynchus</i>	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougalli</i>
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Flock Bronzewing	<i>Phaps histrionica</i> (5)
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Squatter Pigeon	<i>Geophaps scripta</i>
Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebetria fusca</i>	Torresian Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula spilorrhoea</i>
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta porphyrocephala</i>
Salvin's Albatross	<i>Thalassarche salvini</i>	Bourke's Parrot	<i>Neopsephotus bourkii</i>
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Elegant Parrot	<i>Neophema elegans</i>
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>	Orange-bellied Parrot	<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	Scarlet-chested Parrot	<i>Neophema splendida</i>
Salvin's Prion	<i>Pachyptila salvini</i>	Double-eyed Fig Parrot	<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma</i>
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>	Australian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	Eyrean Grasswren	<i>Amytornis goyderi</i>
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	Thick-billed Grasswren	<i>Amytornis modestus</i> (6)
Mottled Petrel	<i>Pterodroma inexpectata</i>	Purple-gaped Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus cratitius</i>
Black-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma nigripennis</i> (2)	Black-eared Miner	<i>Manorina melanotis</i>
Grey Petrel	<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>	Banded Honeyeater	<i>Cissomela pectoralis</i>
Little Shearwater	<i>Puffinus assimilis</i> (2)	Dusky Honeyeater	<i>Myzomela obscura</i>
Grey-backed Storm Petrel	<i>Garrodia nereis</i> (10)	Banded Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala nigricincta</i>
Pied Heron	<i>Egretta picata</i>	Red-lored Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufogularis</i> (7)
Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>	Shining Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra alecto</i>
Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Black-faced Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscescens</i> (3)	Pink Robin	<i>Petroica rodinogaster</i> (8)
Red Goshawk	<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Red-backed Buttonquail	<i>Turnix maculosus</i>	Canary White-eye	<i>Zosterops luteus</i>
Black-breasted Buttonquail	<i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	Metallic Starling	<i>Aplonis metallica</i>
Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i> (2)
Little Curlew	<i>Numenius minutus</i>	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	Painted Finch	<i>Emblema pictum</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Black-throated Finch	<i>Poephila cincta</i>

**NOTES:**

- 1) except for the known population in the Barham region
- 2) except for Lord Howe Island
- 3) except for the far South Coast
- 4) except south of Sydney
- 5) except for the Upper and Lower far western region of NSW
- 6) except for the known population near Packsaddle
- 7) except for Yathong, Nombinnie and Round Hill
- 8) except for the far South Coast and the Southern Highlands
- 9) except within 100km from the Queensland border
- 10) except for sightings south of Ulladulla

**COMMENTS ON THIS REVISION:**

- Oriental Plover has been removed from the list due to the number of records in the past few years
- Great-winged Petrel has been added to the list since being split from Grey-faced Petrel
- Black-winged Petrel has been added to the list (except for Lord Howe Island) as there have been only five reports of this species since 2000
- Common Gull-billed Tern has been added to the list although still recognised by the IOC as a sub-species. There have been two reports of this taxon in NSW in 2017 which will be reviewed by NSW ORAC

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## NSW ORAC Cases Decided In 2017

657	Little Shearwater	South Ballina Beach	August 6, 2016	Accepted
658	Salvin's Albatross	off Kiama	June 25, 2016	Accepted
659	Little Shearwater	Norah Head	June 7, 2016	Accepted
660	Pied Heron	Lake Cargelligo	November 8, 2016	Accepted
661	Little Curlew	near Ballina	November 12, 2016	Accepted
662	Little Curlew	Eastlakes Golf Course	December 9, 2016	Accepted
664	Red-backed Buttonquail	Ellenborough	December 12, 2016	Accepted
665	Kerguelen Petrel	Callala Bay	June 5, 2016	Accepted
666	Grey-backed Storm Petrel	off Kiama	July 24, 2016	Accepted
667	Red-necked Phalarope	Lord Howe Island	January 19, 2017	Accepted
668	Red-backed Buttonquail	Dilkoon	January 19, 2017	Accepted
669	Pied Heron	Lake Coolah	December 29, 2016	Accepted
670	Red-footed Booby	off Forster	March 12, 2017	Accepted
671	Light-mantled Albatross	North Head, Sydney	March 19, 2017	Accepted
672	Pied Heron	Condobolin	February 21, 2017	Accepted
673	Oriental Pratincole	Hexham Swamp	September 22, 2017	Accepted
674	Little Shearwater	Lennox Head	June 12, 2017	Accepted
675	Scarlet-chested Parrot	south of Broken Hill	October 24, 2010	Accepted
676	Oriental Plover	Hexham Swamp	September 22, 2017	Accepted

**OVERVIEW**

NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (NSW ORAC) reviewed a total of 19 cases in calendar year 2017 all of which were accepted. Probably the highlight of the records reviewed in 2017 was the first breeding record of Pied Heron in NSW to come before the committee with an adult and four juveniles seen in late February and early March at Wallaroi Creek 16km SSE of Condobolin. There have been credible reports of breeding Pied Heron in the Macquarie Marshes in 2001 and 2011 but this is the first record assessed by the committee and is a very significant event. There were two other late 2016/early 2017 Pied Heron records accepted in western NSW in 2017 and this was a reflection of the major rainfall event experienced in the region in late 2016 which made conditions ideal for waterbird dispersion.

Also of significance was the Oriental Pratincole seen at Hexham Swamp in late February 2017 which was the first mainland NSW record for eleven years since a bird was recorded near South West Rocks in February 2006 (NSW ORAC Case 412)

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## UNCONFIRMED REPORTS

With an increasing number of reports of unusual or rare species being posted onto on-line and social media sites, NSW ORAC is concerned that some of these reports do not receive the level of scrutiny required to verify them as confirmed records. It was agreed by the committee members that NSW ORAC would attempt to gather more information from the authors of postings of rare or out-of-range species in the form of photographs and/or a submission. In the event of failure to obtain corroborating information, NSW ORAC would publish the report as an unconfirmed sighting to clarify that it had not undergone a review by the relevant rarities committee. There are eight such reports which have come into this category that have been published on ebird checklists in 2017, and they are listed below.

Mottled Petrel reported c. 100km NNW of Lord Howe Island on October 21, 2017

Red-backed Buttonquail reported from Wonga Wetlands, Albury on November 16, 2017

Bourke's Parrot reported from Wongareena Creek, Bourke on March 30, 2017

Bourke's Parrot reported from Toorale NP, Bourke on August 7, 2017

Bourke's Parrot reported from Wapweelah Station, Bourke on April 24, 2017

Bourke's Parrot reported from Sturt NP on June 11, 2017

Bourke's Parrot reported from Tibooburra on October 3, 2017

Bourke's Parrot reported from Sturt NP on December 30, 2017

The six reports of Bourke's Parrots are of great interest since there has been only one submission of a Bourke's Parrot sighting to NSW ORAC since its inception in 1987, and that submission (NSW ORAC Case 43 in 1991) was not accepted. In Volume 2 of the Atlas of the Birds of NSW and the ACT, it states that the species is "generally uncommon in NSW and most often observed in the Mallee & Acacia Woodland and Arid regions". It would be of great benefit to our knowledge of the status of this species in NSW to receive documentation from the authors of the above ebird reports.

### Roger McGovern

Secretary NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee

January 23, 2018

NB: this report has been shortened due to limited space. The Case Summaries for each of the 19 cases above are available from the editor. Quote my file number BNSWJJ18/13 and the Case number of interest. Ed.

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## BARC Cases Pertaining to NSW Decided in 2017

894	Westland Petrel	Byron Bay	January 13, 2016	Accepted
896	Hudsonian Godwit	Lake Wollumboola	January 19, 2016	Accepted

### CASE SUMMARIES

**Case 894:** This case concerned the recovery of a Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* which was found at Belongil Creek Estuary, 4kms west of Byron Bay Township on January 13, 2016. The bird was alive and taken into care but died overnight. The photographs confirmed the identity of the bird beyond any doubt and the committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance. It becomes the 15<sup>th</sup> confirmed record of the species in Australia. Jan Olley

**Case 896:** This case concerned the sighting of a Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* at Lake Wollumboola on December 19, 2015. The bird remained in the area until at least January 19, 2016 and was seen by many birders. The photographs and description left no doubt as to the identity of the bird and the committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance. It becomes the 7<sup>th</sup> confirmed record for Australia and the first since a sighting at Lake Joondalup WA on February 11, 2012. Demetrios Bertzeletos and Charles Dove

### Roger McGovern

Secretary NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee

January 23, 2018

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## Editor's Inbox...

Long-time member on the north coast Dennis Gosper is looking for old copies of Gould League Bird Notes for his collection. The journal was produced between 1935 to 1967. Please contact Dennis on [dgosper@yahoo.com.au](mailto:dgosper@yahoo.com.au)

Would you like a break on Norfolk Island? 16-23 November is Bird Week on the Island. Local experts will show you around and explain work undertaken to save the NI Green Parrot. For more information, contact Joyce Judd [joyce@travelcentre.nf](mailto:joyce@travelcentre.nf) or 1800 1400 66.

One of my favourite conservation warriors is the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. The AWC reported that a 44 kilometre feral-proof fence enclosing 9,390 ha of the Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary will help secure the future of 11 endangered mammals and obviously many individual birds. I believe this type of sanctuary will be the way of the future in wildlife preservation in Australia.

The Sea-Eagle Cam at Sydney Olympic Park is now worth checking as the eagles have started their breeding cycle. Both birds have been fiddling around with sticks and bringing fresh gum leaves to the nest. Log on to [www.sea-eaglecam.org](http://www.sea-eaglecam.org)

The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (new chief Jody Swirepik) and Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW, have been very busy publicising their work in the Murray-Darling Basin. While maximum environmental flows throughout the system will depend on regular average rainfall (you can guess who will get most of the water if it is scarce: 1. Humans. 2. Irrigators to grow food for humans), it is valuable to have people who can claim a share of water for plants, birds and fish. Much of the information provided in talks and presentations I have seen show the excellent work being done to understand more about breeding cycles and the interaction of native fauna along the rivers. It was quite interesting to learn for example how far fish travel up and down streams to breed and how dependant they are on micro-organisms and insect life. A short summary in this newsletter from a MDB publication will give you some time-lines for improvements and/or stabilising of populations of birds and fish.

Raptors are always welcome to record on our outings. They indicate more than other species the health of an ecosystem in relation to food supply down the chain. Reports of variations in raptor populations have shown increases in places and fewer birds in others. The newly named BirdLife Australia Raptor Group (BARG) is planning to launch a nation-wide count of birds of prey

this year. One good news story was from Mal Carnegie at Lake Cowal where he had photographed 60-70 Whistling Kites circling around at Lake Brewster. They appeared to be taking advantage of continuing breeding of waterbirds in the area throughout 2017.

### A Summary of the talk given by Martin Smith at the Club meeting 1 May

"Ranger Martin Smith of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service talked to us during our May meeting about his 20 years of work managing a program protecting endangered shorebirds at Sawtell in northern NSW. This shorebirds breeding site, located on a broad sand spit at the northern coastal end of Bongil Bongil National Park, was known for sporadic breeding activity of the endangered Little Tern, a migratory species that arrives in eastern Australia from South East Asia in spring of each year, prior to the national park's gazettal in 1997. After developing a strategic plan and implementing it over successive summers the site is now widely regarded as the most important breeding site for Little Terns in northern NSW. What's more, this well protected site is increasingly used by endangered Pied Oystercatchers for breeding and raising young and is of late becoming attractive to the critically endangered Beach Stone Curlew. Martin highlighted the importance of developing a well-thought-through and appropriately funded plan for shorebird conservation, to identify and vigorously tackle the main threats to these birds and their eggs; to address (and keep addressing) these threats like domestic dog harassment, inappropriate human activity and European fox predation and to engage the local community in the process through targeted education, encouragement and making them feel like they have something precious and special in their local area that needs their help and protection".

*Martin, the love of your job and the high regard you have for birds was very evident. Thank you! Ed.*

# The Murray-Darling Basin Environmental Watering Strategy

24 November 2014 - A Summary

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) published a 112 page document that goes a long way to providing an understanding of the plan and objectives for the MDB by the Federal Government.

As a government publication, it has drawn from government documents or sponsored reports.

The maps and tables are very good and informative. Over 70 Figures, Tables, Case studies and Boxes are listed at pages iv to vi which indicates the level of research. Many, including local photographs, are in colour.

The book is edited by Kerryn Molloy Education Manager at MDBA, and MDBA is cited as the Author.

The Contents include:

Environmental objectives of the Basin Plan (BP)

Roles and responsibilities

Long term planning

How MDBA will identify annual watering priorities

Appendices.

Table 1 ‘‘Summary of quantified environmental expected outcomes that can be achieved beyond 2019’’ gives some detail of what the aims of the Plan are:

## **River flows and connectivity:**

Improve connections along rivers and between rivers and their floodplains.

Maintained base flows:

- At least 60% of natural levels.

Improved overall flow:

- 10% more in the Barwon-Darling
- 30% more into the River Murray
- 30-40% more to the Murray mouth (and it open to the sea 90% of the time)

Maintained connectivity in areas where it is relatively unaffected:

- Between rivers and floodplains in the Paroo, Moonie, Nebine, Warrego and Ovens.

Improved connectivity with bank-full and/or low floodplain flows:

- By 30-60% in the Murray, Murrumbidgee, Goulburn and Condamine-Balonne.
- By 10-20% in remaining catchments.

Maintain the Lower Lakes above sea level.

## **Vegetation:**

Maintain the extent and improve the condition.

Maintenance of the current extent of:

- About 360,000 ha of river red gum; 409,000 ha of black box; 310,000 ha of coolibah forest and woodlands; and existing large communities of lignum.

- Non-woody communities in or near wetlands, streams and on low lying floodplains.

Maintain the current condition of lowland floodplain forests and woodlands of:

- River red gum
- Black box
- Coolibah

Improved condition of:

- Southern river red gum.

## **Waterbirds:**

Maintain current species diversity, improve breeding success and numbers.

- All current Basin waterbirds.
- Current migratory shorebirds at the Coorong.

Increased abundance:

- 20-25% increase in waterbirds by 2024.

Improved breeding:

- Up to 50% more breeding events for colonial nesting waterbird species
- A 30-40% increase in nests and broods for other waterbirds.

## **Fish:**

Maintain current species diversity, extend distributions, improve breeding success and numbers.

Improved distribution:

- Of key short and long-lived species across the Basin.
- Improved breeding success for :
- Short-lived species (every 1-2 years)
  - Long-lived species in at least 8/10 years at 80% of key sites.
  - Mulloway in at least 5/10 years.

Improved populations of:

- Short-lived species (numbers at pre-2007 levels)
- Long-lived species (with a spread of age classes represented).
- Murray cod and Golden perch (10-15% more mature fish at key sites).

Improved movement:

- More native fish using fish passages.

Much more information is available online if you start looking at:

<https://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubs/Summary-Basin-wide-e-watering-strategy.pdf>

[www.environment.gov.au/water/cewo/about-commonwealth-environmental-water](http://www.environment.gov.au/water/cewo/about-commonwealth-environmental-water)

## **Ian Bailey**

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## Birding NSW's Key Biodiversity Area Survey Around Grenfell

Elisabeth Karplus

The Club's thirteenth bird survey around Grenfell took place on Saturday March 24, 2018. Thirty people took part in the survey, including five surveyors who had not been on a Grenfell survey before. Ruth came from Queensland to join the survey and to see Superb Parrots – luckily Allan was able to show her about 60 Superb Parrots close to one private property. The surveyors included three people from Grenfell and one from Forbes. We had seven survey groups and surveyed on 30 sites; we have had to drop one site since the property has changed hands and I was unable to contact the new owners. I would like to thank Allan Richards, David Winterbottom, Russell Beardmore, Coleen Southall, Jill Molan and Graham Fry, who led survey groups. Superb Parrots were seen on six survey sites, including four sites on private properties, and were seen incidentally in six other places. About 200 Superb Parrots were seen on Dodds Lane but not during the survey time. Once again no one saw Diamond Firetails during the weekend. Of other threatened species seen on survey sites, six Turquoise Parrots and a single Hooded Robin were seen in Weddin State Forest, a single Dusky Woodswallow was seen on a private property, Speckled Warblers were seen on two sites and Grey-crowned Babbler were seen on eight sites. Raptors were seen on six sites, with a Peregrine Falcon recorded for the first time during our Grenfell surveys. Other raptors seen were Wedge-tailed Eagles (on three sites), an Australian Hobby and a Brown Falcon. Numbers of small birds were lower than usual, reflecting the local drought conditions. Nevertheless we recorded 70 species (1171 birds) on survey sites. Though not recorded on survey sites, several Emus were seen during the weekend.



Pair of Superb Parrots. Photo: by Zik Teo

As usual we met at the Railway Hotel for dinner on Friday night – the new cook, Shelley, provided a lovely roast dinner. Once again Mikla and Wayne welcomed us to “Rosemont” for a barbecue on Saturday night; everyone came early so we could bird first. Tom and I saw a pair of Speckled Warblers in the new plantings on “Rosemont”. On Sunday morning we met at Company Dam for a walk in fine weather around the tracks. We only recorded 18 species on our walk. We missed out on the usual Speckled Warblers and Black-fronted Dotterels.

The next survey will be held on the weekend of September 21-23, 2018. We hope that our existing volunteers and new volunteers will take part in the next survey. Everyone is encouraged to book accommodation as soon as possible as there are always events in Grenfell. Please contact Allan Richards ([activities@birdingnsw.org.au](mailto:activities@birdingnsw.org.au)) or me ([emhodson@exemail.com.au](mailto:emhodson@exemail.com.au)) if you are not already on our contact list and would like details of the next survey.

### White-cheeked and New Holland Honeyeaters

Paul Johnstone and Elisabeth Karplus

Have you ever mistaken a White-cheeked Honeyeater for a New Holland Honeyeater? Here are two photographs taken by Paul Johnstone at Manly Dam showing both species. Both species are found mainly in coastal south east and south west Australia. In NSW, the New Holland Honeyeater tends to be more common south of Sydney while the White-cheeked Honeyeater tends to be more common north of Sydney. The most important differentiating feature is the white eye in the New Holland Honeyeater and the dark eye in the White-cheeked Honeyeater. In addition, the White-cheeked Honeyeater has large white cheek patches while it does not have the white tips to the outer tail feathers seen in the New Holland Honeyeater.



White-cheeked and New Holland Honeyeater. Photo: Paul Johnstone

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## Easter Weekend Campout at Ingelba Hall

30 March – 2 April, 2018

Allan Richards

What a difference! When we camped at Ingelba in 2015, there was heavy rain. This time the mornings were foggy but the days were fine and sunny. There were sixteen campers while four stayed in Walcha. On Friday morning, we walked down the road to the river seeing lots of birds along the way including Golden-headed Cisticola. A pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles was sighted in the far distance. At the bridge, we found Pacific Black Ducks and Dusky Moorhens. We could make out two Platypus swimming across the river in the distance. At the campsite, Forest Ravens were the commonest corvid. Along with Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Galahs there were Eastern and Crimson Rosellas, King Parrots, Rainbow, Musk and Little Lorikeets and an occasional Red-rumped Parrot. A visit to Aberbaldie Nature Reserve was a bit disappointing but we did see Buff-rumped, Brown, Striated, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Thornbills as well as White-eared Honeyeaters and White-throated Treecreepers. A flock of White-throated Needle-tails swirled around overhead but it was difficult to estimate numbers through the trees.



Brown Treecreeper. Photo: Nigel Miller

On Saturday we drove westwards to Weabonga where we walked along the road and had morning tea at the reserve. A feeding party of birds produced more thornbills as well as Dusky Woodswallows, White-naped and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters. From Weabonga, we drove to Limbri along the valley of Swamp Oak Creek. There hasn't been recent rain so the countryside is extremely drought-ridden and dusty. As we had our lunch at the reserve on the banks of the creek at Limbri, Brown Treecreepers tended a nest in the base of a nearby tree while Crested Shrike-tits were in the trees overhead. Some lucky members saw Speckled Warblers in the bushes along the creek as well as Red-browed Firetails and Superb Fairywrens. A Brown Goshawk was spotted overhead. We didn't see much on our return back to camp through Woolbrook and Walcha apart from a few common waterbirds from the bridge at Woolbrook.

Although we saw a couple of Platypus near the bridge over the MacDonalld River, the river at Ingelba proved to be the most reliable site. With patience by sitting quietly on the bank, they could be seen reasonably close. Vincent and Marieke were lucky in seeing four together as well as a Water Rat. Other mammals seen throughout the weekend included Yellow-footed Antechinus, Swamp and Red-necked Wallabies and Eastern Grey Kangaroo. Ring-tailed and Brush-tailed Possums, Greater Gliders, Southern Boobook and Tawny Frogmouths were seen while spotlighting at night.

In all, 114 species of birds were seen over the weekend. Eleven surveys were conducted throughout the weekend and the data submitted to Birddata. Many thanks to Max Harris and Lori Warren for arranging the use of the hall and for guiding us around the countryside. Much appreciated.

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## Royal National Park

14 April 2018

Tom Karplus

Thirteen keen birdwatchers assembled at Wattle Forest at the Royal National Park at 9 am on 14 April for a clamber through the forest undergrowth, followed by a stroll down Lady Carrington Walk. We had two new birdwatchers with us, Rhonda and Sheridan. Considering the unseasonably warm temperature (35 degrees Celsius) and the high wind, we had a good morning out. We were lucky enough to have excellent views of both a Superb Lyrebird and a Green Catbird almost straight away, and the cameras came out for these birds. There seem to be more birders with cameras now, and the images are very good.

Other birds that were recorded included a male Leaden Flycatcher (seen by several of us, with debate about whether it could have been a Satin Flycatcher), Yellow-throated and Large-billed Scrubwrens, Bassian Thrush, Azure Kingfisher, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos, Satin Bowerbirds and New Holland Honeyeaters feeding on the flowering banksias.

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Many saw a huge goanna on the trunk of a tree near the picnic area, from which a large branch had fallen the previous day. A National Parks Ranger cut this up (the branch) to make it safe while we had morning tea. A Red-bellied Black Snake was thankfully only seen by Len, while it slithered away into the undergrowth. A Brush-tailed Possum was photographed by Gina on a limb of a tree – a surprise sighting in daylight.

In all we had 35 species, which wasn't a bad score in view of the oppressive conditions and the time of year. We called it a day after lunch.

The list of 35 species recorded has been entered on the eBird site. Look for Royal National Park Wattle Forest S45851881.

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## Scheyville NP Head Quarters

Outing – 18 April 2018

Trevor Waller

A small but enthusiastic group of members met in the car park of Scheyville National Park Head Quarters under a clear and sunny sky. While we were in the car park we listened to Bell Miners and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters calling, and watched Welcome Swallow and Eastern Rosella fly over us. On our walk around the park we found Crested Shriketit, Dusky Woodswallow and Fan-tailed Cuckoo. There was also a Spangled Drongo and a Grey Fantail. Back at the cars we enjoyed tea.

After morning tea we drove to Pitt Town Lagoon and viewed the lagoon from the hide. We had distant views of Red-kneed Dotterel, Red-necked Avocet and Australasian Shoveler. An Australian Hobby was perched in a tree on an island in the lagoon, and a Whistling Kite and a Swamp Harrier flew over the water.

We moved on to Mitchell Park and had lunch before going for a walk in the park. During lunch we could hear many species calling including Noisy Friarbird, Grey Butcherbird and Golden Whistler. On our walk through the park we found Olive-backed Oriole and Little Wattlebird. On the way back to the cars we had a brief view of two Pacific Baza and a soaring Wedge-tailed Eagle.

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*The following outing reports, starting on page 13, are from the Central Coast Group of Birding NSW. As space is tight in this issue, a number of reports have been left out but are available to read in the Twitcher newsletter on our website. In the March and April issues of Twitcher you will find: Half day outing to Dubbo Gully 14/3/18; Campout Warren Macquarie 16 to 18 March, Half day outing to Colongra Swamp and Budgewoi 31/3/18 and Hunter Wetlands 3/3/18. There are some very good photographs in Twitcher! Ed.*

## Bull's Quarry and Mt Penang

11 April 2018

Leader Christina Port.

A very hot autumn day saw 26 very keen people gathered at the start of the Bull's Quarry Walk. The outing was a combined outing with the Cumberland Bird Observers Club, and there were 3 CBOC members present as well as 3 more people who have combined membership. As we waited Little Wattlebird, Lewin's Honeyeater and Eastern Spinebill were seen and or heard. Heading down the track you could see that it was very dry, and a lot of the flowering we had been expecting hadn't occurred yet. The *Banksia ericifolia* was flowering well, and White-cheeked Honeyeaters were common and then the sweet call of Scarlet Honeyeaters was heard and eventually striking views of the male. Lewin's Honeyeater and a few New-holland Honeyeaters were also seen. An Olive-backed Oriole was seen by some and the White-breasted Woodswallows were on the overhead wires, Silvereyes and Red-browed Finch were along the way. Up high a Whistling Kite and calling Eastern Whipbirds. We saw a Golden Whistler as we made our way down to the water. Pacific Black Ducks and an Australasian Grebe the only birds on the water. We then had a visit from 3 Wedge-tailed Eagles who were soaring around and were seen on and off the whole time we were in that area. Down to the gate of the National Park, where a White-eared Honeyeater called and a Leaden Flycatcher and Eastern Yellow

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Robin were added to the list. A lone White-bellied Sea-Eagle sat watching the water, and a Satin Bowerbird flew in as we walked back along the track. Spotted Pardalotes were calling too.

We headed off to Mt Penang where we enjoyed our morning tea with the Laughing Kookaburra, Rainbow Lorikeets, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Noisy Miners. White-faced Herons chased through and Little Corella, Long-billed Corellas and Galah were resting in the shade of the trees. At the pond Little Black and Little Pied Cormorants rested. The Eurasian Coot, Purple Swamphens and Dusky Moorhens were feeding. There was a total of 134 Australian Wood Ducks feeding on the mown areas while as well as 12 Masked Lapwings, and a lone Mallard. Straw-necked Ibis flew over and landed nearby, Superb Fairy-wrens, Brown Thornbills, Grey Fantail and White-browed Scrub-wren. Small flocks of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were on the move through the woodland. We called time because of the heat. A successful day with 62 species.

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## Wanganella Camp Out

24-26 April 2018.

Leaders: Margaret Pointer & John Nivinson

To visit the Southern Riverina, is going home to me. I was born in Deniliquin and grew up north of Wanganella. My birding career probably began in the cradle, because my mother was a nature lover who believed in “look, learn, love and leave alone” approach to nature study. Seven Central Coast birders and five Sydney friends, found their way the camp site at “Willow Grove” Homestead Wanganella and settled in at the Shearer’s Quarters. Barry and I stayed in “The Ranch” Homestead with my brother John, who was to be our host and guide.

We were right amongst the birds from the very start. Restless Flycatcher, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Blue Bonnet, Brown Falcon, Spiny-cheeked & Singing Honeyeaters, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, and numerous Nankeen Kestrels, started our list. Emu were easy to spot, but tiny Red-capped Robin, Zebra Finch, White-fronted Chat, Weebill and the Thornbills required skill and persistence. Oh Yes!! There were monumental; ‘dips’ too! We walked and walked over the area where Chestnut-crowned Babblers were recently seen, but we had no luck. Similarly, the mysterious Black & White-fronted Honeyeaters, recently reported in one of our search areas, were absent from their usual haunts on our two visits. John said that Painted Honeyeater should be there too, but no luck for us!

When John collapsed and went to hospital at the end of day 1 (thanks again to Dr Gabrielle), we had no local guide. Next day John suggested we contact his friend Tom, who then stepped into John’s boots and we are grateful for his local knowledge and locating skills. We started Day 2 at the Wanganella ANZAC Day Civic Commemoration, which concluded with the traditional cuppa (and rum if you needed it!) and a feast of Country cooking. Later, at Deniliquin, Barry and I visited John at the hospital, and left our friends to explore the town’s gardens, where a Peregrine and Azure Kingfisher were the standouts! Highlights of our three day, mid-week camp were:

\*Seeing 5 species of Woodswallow – Masked, White-browed, Black-faced, White-breasted and Dusky! The first three species were numerous, vocal and actively feeding among the trees along the former Euroley Creek, now known as the Colleambally Drainage Channel. In lesser numbers were the Dusky and White-breasted.

\* The 3500 odd Plumed Whistling-Ducks waiting out the day on the banks of the 3 large sewerage ponds at Deniliquin, had to be seen to be believed.

\* Three male and two female Blue-billed Ducks on the sewerage ponds, the males were on a different pond to the females. Tom said that they bred there last season.

\* Pink-eared Ducks in their hundreds were on the ponds too!

\* Two young female Plains-wanderers together, delighted us. My nephew Robert, thinks they may have hatched there after pre-Christmas storms.

\* Three Major Mitchell’s Cockatoos on private property feeding in introduced pines planted as a windbreak around a homestead.

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\* Several flocks of Regent Parrots and a single bird, resting in River Gums at the Edward River Sanctuary.

Overall our score of 120 species bettered the recent score of the Canberra Ornithologists Camp by three! John was out of hospital and enjoyed a big family gathering at the weekend. "thank you all for your good wishes" he said to our campers! All members of our group were extremely interested and helpful; took the shortage of water in their stride; and rallied to help when we needed it most. Thank you all. Twitch on!! The photo of the leaders from left to right shows Margaret Pointer, John Nivinson, Barry Pointer and Gabrielle Rees. (Margaret and Barry Pointer)



Plains-wanderer. Photo: Christina Port

## Half-day Outing 9 May 2018

Strickland State Forest & Narara Eco-Village.

Andrew Melville

On a lovely Autumn morning 24 eager birders made their way to the Banksia Carpark in Strickland State Forest. Today we welcomed Jay Nicholson back to Australia, on his annual family visit, James on his first outing with our Club, and Erik's daughter Gabrielle. While waiting for the late arrivals the early birds were doing what they do best, looking for birds and jotting them down in their little brown/black books. So the list started, Eastern Yellow Robin, Lewin's Honeyeater, White-throated Treecreeper, Grey Shrike-thrush. Striated and Brown Thornbills, Superb Fairy-wren, Grey Fantail, and Bell Miners, were quickly spotted and we had not even started. As we made our way away from our meeting spot towards the far end of the carpark, a Mistletoebird was only sighted by a couple of members, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters zipped back and forth, a Spotted Pardalote gave us a nice viewing, King-Parrot, Kookaburra, White-browed Scrub-wren and Golden Whistler completed this section.

Then a car pool was organised and we drove down to the bottom carpark and got ready to start our walk through the forest. Insect spray was applied heavily in case of leeches. While this was happening an Eastern Whipbird and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo called and some lucky people saw a Fan-tailed Cuckoo. The trip through the forest was very quiet with only Brown Thornbills, Brown Gerygones seen, Yellow-throated Scrub-wrens could be heard in the undergrowth, and three vacant nests hung over the path. We made our way through the Arboretum which featured trees planted from the late 1800's to 1924. The size of some of the old trees was amazing and the comment was made "wouldn't some timber fellers like to get their hands on these guys"?

Upon arriving at the bottom gate we were met by Richard, a member of the Narara Eco Village Executive who had arranged for us to be able to enter the property which used to be the Narara Horticulture Research Station. We made our way up to the dam wall to enjoy our morning tea, but of course one had eyes and ears looking and listening for the bird calls. One Brown Cuckoo-Dove over time became eleven as the word got around about this weird mob being in their territory. Red-whiskered Bulbul, Olive-backed Oriole and Red-browed Finches were all seen, and a Bar-shouldered Dove was heard calling. After morning tea Richard led us on a walk around part of the village property and our list increased as we saw a White-faced Heron, White-headed Pigeon, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Welcome Swallows, Crested Pigeon, Willy Wagtails. A Satin Bowerbird was also heard calling and we were also shown its bower. As we made our way back for lunch and burst of noise from a flock of Noisy Miners alerted some members to see a Brown Goshawk flying by. A highlight for some people was to see a lone Grey-headed Flying Fox hanging from a tree branch. Total species for the day was 45.

## UNUSUAL REPORTS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, MARCH - APRIL 2018

### ALAN MORRIS

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

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

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

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

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

King Quail	1	11/3/18	Crowdy Bay NP	H	Ian Benson
King Quail	2	16 & 20/3	Minimah Sand Plains, Napiac	H	Dan Williams
Magpie Goose	1	5/4/18	Racecourse Dam, Tamworth	NS	Matt Hinze
Cotton Pygmy-Goose	1	24/4/18	Retention Pond Ballina Heights	NC	David Charley
Plumed Whistling-Duck	20	10/3/18	Canowindra STW Orange	CT	Bec Read
Plumed Whistling-Duck	66	2/4/18	Doughboys Hollow	H	Alan Stuart
Plumed Whistling-Duck	3500	26/4/18	Deniliquin STW	R	Margaret Pointer
Wandering Whistling-Duck	F+2Y	24/4/18	Retention Pond Ballina Heights	NC	David Charley
Freckled Duck	10	14/3/18	Spring Creek Res Orange	CT	Bernard Huxtable
Australian Shelduck	50	26/4/18	Deniliquin STW	R	Margaret Pointer
Great Crested Grebe	10	14/3/18	Bendeela Pond, Kangaroo Valley	I	Carla Jackett
Red-tailed Tropicbird	A	13/3/18	North Head, Sydney Harbour NP	S	Michael Ronan
White-tailed Tropicbird	J	22/3/18	Newton (?), subsequently died	S	Per Simon Gorta
White-tailed Tropicbird	Im	23/3/18	Found alive at Kempsey	NC	Rose Cunningham
White-tailed Tropicbird	Im	23/3/18	Thornton, Newcastle, released alive	H	Joy Nichols
Emerald Dove	1	27/4/18	Ourimbah Ck Rd Ourimbah	CC	Carol Jefferson
Brush Bronzewing	1	9/3/18	Glen Alice, Capertee Valley	CT	Thalia Broughton
Brush Bronzewing	1	31/3/18	Colongra Swamp NR Budgewoi	CC	Andrew Melville
Diamond Dove	1	12/2/18	Cowra Shire	CT	Cowra WBS
Diamond Dove	1	17/3/18	Willi-Gibson Way Rd Junction	CP	Gabrielle Rees
Diamond Dove	3	18/3/18	Warren District (3 sites)	CP	Doug Hocking
White-headed Pigeon	1	4/3/18	Centennial park, Sydney	S	Anne Brophy
White-headed Pigeon	1+N	9/3/18	Campbell Drive Wahrenonga	S	Maxwell Fielding
Topknot Pigeon	11,14	6/4/18	Prince Alfred Park, Redfern	S	Eric Finley
White-throated Nightjar	3	25/3/18	Main Creek, Dungog	H	D. Stuart
Spotted Nightjar	1	14/3/18	20km E of Deniliquin	R	Liam Murphy
Owlet Nightjar	1	20/4/18	Castreagh NR Londonderry	S	Peter Johnston
White-throated Needletail **	24	15/4/17	Budgewoi	CC	Steve Merrett
Fork-tailed Swift **	12	17/3/18	Macquarie River, Warren	CP	Alan Morris
Fork-tailed Swift **	30	17/3/18	Ponto Falls Res Geurie	CS	Darryl Smedley
Fork-tailed Swift **	10	18/3/18	Centennial Park, Sydney	S	Biggles Scolander
Wandering Albatross	1	4/3/18	Merimbula pelagic	SC	Geoff Glare
Wandering Albatross (Gib.)	1	10/3/18	Sydney pelagic	S	Greg McLachlan
Southern Royal Albatross	1	7/3/18	20 km east of Port Macquarie	NC	George Madani
Black-browed Albatross	6	17/3/18	Mistral Pt Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Buller's Albatross	1	4/3/18	Merimbula pelagic	SC	Geoff Glare
Buller's Albatross	1	9/3/18	North Head, Sydney Harbor NP	S	Michael Ronan
Fairy Prion	2	27/4/18	North Head, Sydney Harbor NP	S	Michael Ronan
Tahiti Petrel	4	14/4/18	South West Rocks pelagic	NC	Liam Murphy
Black Petrel	1	10/3/18	Sydney pelagic	S	Greg McLachlan
Grey-faced (Great-winged) P.	1 bc	23/3/18	Wamberal Beach	CC	Per Rob Lennon
Grey-faced (Great-winged) P.	1 bc	28/3/18	Lake Cathie Beach	NC	Tony Morton
Grey-faced (Great-winged) P.	3	14/4/18	South West Rocks Pelagic	NC	Liam Murphy
Providence Petrel	3	14/4/18	South West Rocks Pelagic	NC	Liam Murphy
Providence Petrel	1	17/3/18	Mistral Pt Maroubra	S	David Mitford
White-necked Petrel	1	10/3/18	Sydney pelagic	S	Greg McLachlan
Gould's Petrel	1	10/3/18	Sydney pelagic	S	Greg McLachlan



Gould's Petrel	1	22/3/18	Fort Drive, Nobbys Beach	H	Mick Roderick
Buller's Shearwater	1	13/3/18	Tacking Pt Lighthouse, Pt Macquarie	NC	Liam Murphy
Brown Booby	A	21/3/18	Mistral Pt Maroubra	S	Simon Gorta
Black-necked Stork	1	3/3/18	774 Leggatts Drive Mulbring	H	John Whyte
Black-necked Stork	A	2 & 28/3/18	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Alan Benson
Black-necked Stork	2	13/4/18	Bulahdelah Showground	NT	Doug Hocking
Black Bittern	1	3/3/18	Limkiln Bay Reserve Oatley	S	Jesse Gibson
Black Bittern	1	23/4/18	Blue Gum Firetrail, Kenthurst	S	Darryl Smedley
Black Bittern	1	26/4/18	Midjungbul NR Tweed Heads	NC	Beth Hall
Eastern Osprey	1	21/4/18	Yallah Bay, Lake Illawarra	I	Biggles Scolander
Eastern Osprey	3 pr	Mar-Apr	Nesting Gosford, Kincumber, Erina	CC	Alan Morris
Pacific Baza	1	1/3/18	Centennial Park Sydney	S	Biggles Scolander
Pacific Baza	J	19/3/18	Beenecks Bridge Greenwich	S	Lindy Jones
Pacific Baza	1	29/4/18	Ray Park, Beecroft	S	Judith McFarlane
Square-tailed Kite	1	6/3/18	Springhill Rd Port Kembla	I	Terrill Nordstrom
Square-tailed Kite	2A,J	30/3/18	Murray St Bateau Bay	CC	Alan Morris
Square-tailed Kite	1,1	5/4/18	Coutts Crossing & Grafton	NC	Greg Clancy
Black Kite	1	1/3/18	Gunna Hill, 12 km E of Molong	CS	Bruce Tinsey
Black Kite	1,2	15/3/18	Belmore Swp & Cairncross SF	NC	Liam Murphy
Black Kite	6	1/4/18	West Wallsend	H	M. Simpson
Brahminy Kite	Im	15/3/18	Centennial Park, Sydney	S	Biggles Scolander
Brahminy Kite	A	14/3-29/4	5 sites Brisbane Water, Woy Woy	CC	Chris Port
Grey Goshawk (White morph)	1	4/3/18	Nelson Bay Rd Fullarton Cove	H	Ben Abernethy
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	22/4/18	Timor Rock, Coonabarabran	CS	Robert McNaught
Black-breasted Buzzard	1	14/3/18	Arid Zone Research Stn Fowlers Gap	UW	Simon Gorta
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	27/3/18	Shoplands Rd Annangrove	S	Darryl Smedley
Little Eagle	1,1	31/3/18	Quakers Hill & Wilmot	S	Edwin Vella
Little Eagle	2	13/4/18	Waratah Rd Nth Mangrove Mtn	CC	Alan Morris
Australian Hobby	2	17/3/18	St Benedicts Church, Broadway	S	Jesse Gibson
Brown Falcon	1	23/4/18	Ironbark Rd Mangrove Mtn	CC	Biggles Scolander
Black Falcon	1	10/2/18	Cowra Shire	CT	Cowra WBS
Black Falcon	1	1/3/18	Maffra Rd, 10 km South of Cooma	ST	George Mandani
Black Falcon	1	2/3/18	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Alan Morris
Peregrine Falcon	2	6/3/18	Waverly Bush Depot	S	Eric Finlay
Brolga	20	21/3/18	Old Post Office Rd Ulmarra	NC	Bob Moffat
Brolga	2	8/4/18	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Brolga	5	29/4/18	Caldwell Rd Bundaroo	R	Surong Gunn
Australian Bustard	1	14/3/18	Arid Zone Research Stn Fowlers Gap	UW	Simon Gorta
Black-tailed Native-Hen	5	23/2/18	Kiandool Lane, Yarric Lake	NP	Mary Wheeler
Lewin's Rail	1	4/3/18	Limekiln Bay Res Oatley	S	Jesse Gibson
Lewin's Rail	1	30/3/18	Western Sydney Pkld Quakers Hill	S	Edwin Vella
Spotless Crane	1	19/3/18	Limkiln Bay Reserve Oatley	S	Jesse Gibson
Spotless Crane	1	30/3/18	Western Sydney Pkld Quakers Hill	S	Edwin Vella
Spotless Crane	5	8/4/18	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Bush Stone-curlew	1	1/3/18	Garden, west Orange	CT	Bernard Huxtable
Bush Stone-curlew	4prs	14/3/18	Nested successfully at East Ballina	NC	Mark Westwood
Bush Stone-curlew	2	1/3/18	Bald Knob Tick Gate, Glenugie	NC	Sergio Jacomy
Beach Stone-curlew	2+J	21/2/18	Dowdee Is, Soldiers Pt Salamanda B	H	T. Murray
Beach Stone-curlew	1	3/4/18	Lake Cathie inlet	NC	Darin Rounsevell
Sooty Oystercatcher	54	20/3/18	Newcastle Ocean Baths	H	R. Nichola
Sooty Oystercatcher	18	21/4/18	Long Reef Acquatric Reserve	S	Tom Wilson
Inland Dotterel	2	15/3/18	Arid Zone Research Stn Fowlers Gap	UW	Simon Gorta
Latham's Snipe **	1	27/3/18	Thruppster Pond, Port Macquarie	NC	Tim Morris
Bar-tailed Godwit	56	28/.3/18	Waterbird Refuge S.Olympic Park	S	Dion Hobcroft
Common Sandpiper	1	14/3/18	Bendeela Pond, Kangaroo Valley	I	Carla Jackett
Marsh Sandpiper	1	31/3/18	Burren Junction Bore Baths	NP	Michael Dahlem
Wandering Tattler	1	1/4/18	Soldiers Pt Norah Head	CC	Christina Port
Painted Buttonquail	1	11/2/18	Warrapindi nr Conimbla NP Cowra	CT	Cowra WBS
Painted Buttonquail	rk	17/3/18	West Head Rd Kur-ing-gai Chase NP	S	Jayden Walsh
Painted Buttonquail	1	6/4/18	KatandraBushland Res, Mona Vale	S	Miranda Minter

Plains-wanderer	2F	24/4/18	Wanganella	R	Margaret Pointer
Kelp Gull	Im	3/4/18	Toowoan Bay Reefs	CC	Darren Earnshaw
Kelp Gull	Im	21/4/18	Long Reef Acquatic Reserve	S	Tom Wilson
Common Noddy	1	19/3/18	Burwood Bch, Newcastle	H	D. Allen
Common Noddy	1, 1	22/3 & 19/4	Tacking Pt Lighthouse, Pt Macquarie	NC	Liam Murphy
Common Noddy	1	11/4/18	Croom, near Albion Park	I	Illawarra Birders
Black Noddy	1	3/3/18	Flat Rock, Ballina	NC	Steve McBride
Common Gull-billed Tern	Im	28/3/18	Stockton Sandpit	H	Neil Fifer
Aleutian Tern	14	1/3-18/4/18	14 on 23/3 , Farquar Inlet, Old Bar	H	Liam Murphy
Little Tern **	1	15/4/18	Terilbah Is North Entrance	CC	Alan Morris
Sooty Tern	A	22/3/18	Tacking Pt Lighthouse, Pt Macquarie	NC	Liam Murphy
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	4	6/4/18	Summers Ave Reserve Hornsby	S	Thomas Hickman
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2+N	8/4/18	East Borambil HSD, Condobolin	CP	Warren Chad
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	8	17/3/18	Kariong	CC	Peter Forman
Gang-gang Cockatoo	16	12-17/4/18	Kulnura Fruit Stall	CC	Kaye Pointer
Little Corella	300	21/3/18	Woodward Park, Liverpool	S	Ian Bailey
Little Corella	500	26/4/18	Saratoga Wetlands	CC	Alan Skinner
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	16	26/4/18	Koonadan, Leeton	R	Peter Draper
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	3	24/4/18	Garden, Wanganella	R	Margaret Pointer
Little Lorikeet	20+	13/4/18	Tepko Rd Terry Hills	S	Kurtis Lindsay
Swift Parrot *	18	17/3/18	Glory Caves , Kosciusko NP	ST	Martin Schulz
Swift Parrot *	4	25/3/18	Monga NP Batemans Bay	SC	Julie Morgan
Swift Parrot *	9	9/4/18	Moruya Heads	SC	Julie Morgan
Superb Parrot	5	10-11/2/18	2 sites Cowra Shire	CT	Cowra WBS
Superb Parrot	50	20/3/18	Grenfell District	SS	Allan Richardson
Superb Parrot	9	24-26/4/18	Deniliquin District	R	John Nivinsen
Turquoise Parrot	10	11/2/18	4 sites Spring Forest, Koorawatha	CT	Cowra WBS
Turquoise Parrot	1	31/3/18	Kurrajong Hills	S	Eric Finley
Elegant Parrot	1	14/3/18	Arid Zone Res. Stn Fowlers Gap	UW	Simon Gorta
Blue-winged Parrot	1	15/3/18	Arid Zone Research Stn Fowlers Gap	UW	Simon Gorta
Ground Parrot	1	4/3/18	Kylies Bch Rd Crowdy Bay NP	H	Liam Murphy
Ground Parrot	1	24/3/18	Nabiac Water Reserve	H	Per M. Roderick
Black-eared Cuckoo	1	12/2/18	Cowra Shire	CT	Cowra WBS
Oriental Cuckoo	1	2/4/18	Gap Rd Alstonville	NC	Rose Wisemantel
Powerful Owl	1	9/4/18	Millards Creek, Ulladulla	I	David Stephens
Barking Owl	1	18/4/18	Cattle Yards, Nyngan	CP	Michael Crosland
Barking Owl	2	22-26/4/18	Nautical Village, Kincumber	C	M. Anderson
Southern Boobook	1	4/4/18	Surry Hills	S	Derek Stokes
Masked Owl	hc	10/4/18	Forest of Tranquility, Ourimbah	CC	John Weigel
Eastern Barn Owl	1	11/3/18	Eastgardens Shop Centre Mascot	S	David Mitford
Eastern Barn Owl	1	11/4/18	Darling St Balmain	S	Robert Griffin
Dollarbird **	1	30/3-13/4	Bogan River Nyngan	CP	Michael Crosland
Noisy Pitta	1	11/4/18	Mt Pleasant Ring Tk Mt. Keira	I	Terrill Nordstrom
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	1	29/4/18	Chiltern Trail Ingleside	S	Tom Wilson
Speckled Warbler	3	31/3/18	Air Services Site Shanes Park	S	Edwin Vella
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	1	25/4/18	Burrumbuttock, Albury	SS	David Watson
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	1	28/4/18	Scenic Hill, Griffith	R	Marina Fascianelli
Fuscous Honeyeater	1	22/4/18	Eastlakes Golf Course	S	David Mitford
Fuscous Honeyeater	3	29/4/18	Chiltern Trail Ingleside	S	Tom Wilson
Fuscous Honeyeater	1	30/4/18	Ironbark Rd Popran NP	CC	Allan Benson
Orange Chat	2	16/3/18	Monkeygar Ck west, Macquarie Msh	CP	Alan Morris
Crimson Chat	AM	16/3/18	Gibson Way, Willi	CP	Gabrielle Rees
Black-chinned Honeyeater	4	11/2/18	Spring Forest, Koorawatha	CT	Cowra WBS
Painted Honeyeater	1	28/2/18	Round Hill NR Mount Hope	LW	David Vickers
Painted Honeyeater	1	18/3/18	Rifle Range Rd Warren	CP	Christina Port
Eastern Spinebill	1	20/4/18	Pinecliff, 20 km SW Molong	CT	Bruce Tinsey
Pied Honeyeater	2-300	11/4/18	Monimail TSR Pretty Pine	R	Phil Maher
Brown Honeyeater	1	25/4/18	Citrus Rd Griffith	R	David Parker
Crescent Honeyeater	1	25/3/18	The Palms, Munmorah SCA	CC	Noel Lonergan
Spotted Quail-thrush	2	28/3/18	Stafford Farm Kembla Heights	I	Steven Cooper

Spotted Quail-thrush	2	30/3/18	Wallaby Rd Currowan	I	Charles Dove
Crested Bellbird	6	2/4/18	Halls Creek Rd Manilla	NS	Annabel Ashworth
Crested Shrike-tit	4	8/4/18	East Borambil HSD, Condobolin	CP	Warren Chad
Olive Whistler	1	3/4/18	Tallagandra NP Captains Flat	ST	Brandon Hewitt
Gilbert's Whistler	1	11/2/18	Bumbaldry	CT	Cowra WBS
Gilbert's Whistler	1	17/3/18	Warren Wetlands	CP	Alan Morris
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	1	16/3/18	2 km S of Quambone	CP	Doug Hocking
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	2	19/3/18	Rand near Culcairn	SS	Philip Maher
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	4	26/3/18	Kwiambal NP Ashford	NS	John Formosa
Barred Cuckoo-shrike	12	16/3/18	Bat Island Bellingen	NC	John Gale
Barred Cuckoo-shrike	6	16/3/18	Alma Doepel Res Mylestrom	NC	Janine Luff
Barred Cuckoo-shrike	7	15/3/18	Koolumbung Ck Res Pt Macquarie	NC	Liam Murphy
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2	11-25/3/18	Western Sydney Pklds Quakers Hill	S	Edwin Vella
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1	2/4/18	Appleby Lane Tamworth	NS	Eric Fair
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1	4/4/18	Saltwater NP Wallabi Point	H	Glenn Wilson
White-browed Woodswallow	12	15-16/3/18	Macquarie R. Monkeygar wetlands	CP	Michael Scobie
White-browed Woodswallow	40	18/3/18	Buttabone HSD Warren	CP	Alan Morris
Pied Butcherbird	2	26/3/18	Turner Rd Firebreak Berowra Hgts	S	Lachlan Mansell
Grey Currawong	1	22/4/18	Braidwood Rd Sassafras	ST	Ann Millard
Spectacled Monarch **	1	4/4/18	Mangerton Park, Wollongong	I	Paul Lynch
Rufous Fantail **	1	11/4/18	Mater Dei Bio-bank Res. Cobbitty	S	Sean Grogan
Spangled Drongo *	1	16-18/3/18	Pilliga Pottery, Dandry Rd Baradine	NP	Julie Squire
Spangled Drongo *	1	2/4/18	Kalaru, Bega	SC	Karen Buckland
Spangled Drongo *	1	9/4/18	One Track for All, Ulladulla	I	Charles Dove
Red-capped Robin	2	10/3/18	Doyles Ck Rd Sandy Hollow	H	M&R Stuart
Red-capped Robin	1	17/3/18	Onus Lane Richmond	S	Greg McLachlan
Red-capped Robin	2	31/3/18	Air Services Site Shanes Park	S	Edwin vella
Sacred Robin	2	28/4/18	Castlereagh NR Londonderry	S	Peter Lockart
Rose Robin	2	8/4/18	Windsor Downs NR Windsor	S	Vince Mourik
Pink Robin	1	3/4/18	Tallagandra NP Captains Flat	ST	Brandon Hewitt
Flame Robin	AF	18/4/18	Purrah Bay, Lake Illawarra	I	Terrill Nordstrom
Hooded Robin	3	10/3/18	Glen Alice, private property	CT	Darren Broughton
White-backed Swallow	2	19/4/18	Eulah Creek, Narrabri	NP	Michael Dahlem
Plum-headed Finch	6	14/3/18	Mendooraq Camp Ground	CS	Michael Scobie
Diamond Firetail	12	10-12/2/18	6 sites Koorawatha-Baldry	CT	Cowra WBS
Diamond Firetail	6	10/3/18	Medhurst Bridge Martindale	H	M&R Stuart
Mistletoebird	AM	18/3/18	The Gap, Watsons Bay	S	Kerry Allen
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	2	17/3/18	Fishery Creek, Hexham NR	H	Michael Kearns
Common Myna	2	16/3/18	Quambone Village	CP	Alan Morris

## COMMENT

NSW has returned once again into a dry period and so there has been somewhat of a movement of birds away from inland NSW towards the Coast or further north. Rarities reported this period included two carried over from the previous report, the **Aleutian Terns** which remained at Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar until 18/4/18, while another report was received for the **Common Gull-billed Terns**, at the Hunter Estuary. **Swift Parrots** have returned to NSW from Tas on 17/3, see below, for more reports, however no one has reported any **Regent Honeyeaters** returning to coastal districts as yet. There was a late returning group of **Fork-tailed Swifts** 14-17/3 spread over a large area, an unusual set of dates, an influx of **Tropicbirds** in late March, and an influx of **Barred Cuckoo-shrikes** to the North Coast Region. Other interesting reports include: **Plumed Whistling-Duck**: 41 Poley Bridge, Orara River, Nymboida 4/3 (NC); **White-tailed Tropicbird**: 2 bc Ballina 23/3 (NC); **White-headed Pigeon**: A+N (x2) Lane Cove NP 29/3 (S); **Fork-tailed Swift**: 8 Cootamundra Showground 14/3 (SS), 30 Dobroyd Pt Balgowlah 14/3, 25 Douglas Farm Rd Kurrajong Hills 14/3 (S), 25 Maitland Town Centre 15/3 (H), 50 Windmill Hill Pt Macquarie 15/3 (NC), 2 Eastlakes GC 15/3, 9 Freeman Avenue Res Oatley 18/3 (S); **Grey-faced Petrel**: 4 Merimbula pelagic 4/3 (SC), 1 Mistral; Pt Maroubra 17/3 (S); **Gould's Petrel**: 1 bc Lake Cathie Beach 31/3 (NC); **Great & Little Pied Cormorant**: Nesting Mona Vale (S) 14/3 (S); The dry inland may have sent **Black Kites** to the Coast again, other reports included: 12, at 3 sites Cowra Shire 11-12/2 (CT), 1 Riverside Pk Ash Is 1/3 (H), 2 Belmore Swamp 26/4 (NC); **Square-tailed Kite**: 2 Freeman Ave Res Oatley 19/3, 1 Holmsville 1/4 (S), and during Mar- Apr there were 12 reports for the Central Coast (CC); **Black Falcon**: 1 20km N of Warren 18/3 (CP); **Painted Button-quail**: 1 Castlereagh NR 23/4 (S); **Common Noddy**: 1 Ocean Baths, Newcastle 27/3 (H); **Glossy Black-Cockatoo**: 3 Berowra Valley NP, Crosslands 1/3, 2 Lady Carrington Dve Royal NP 1/3, 2 St Ives Chase 3/3 (S), 6 Wallaby Scrub Rd Warkworth 21/3 (H), and 12 reports for the Central Coast; **Swift Parrot**: 5 Chiltern Trail, Ingleside 11/4, 1 Terrey Hills 18/4 (S), 8 Blackalls Park 21/4 (H), 8 Lyndale St Port Macquarie 29/4 (NC), 1 Glen Davis Rd Capertee Valley 29/4 (CT), 18 Werakata NP & Kitchener 30/4 (H); **Barn Owl**: 1 Ulladulla Headland CP 15/4 (I); **Spotted Quail-thrush**: 2 Simos Bch, Georges R. Macquarie Fields 28/4 (S); **Barred Cuckoo-shrike**: 3 Grassy Heads Res Stuarts Pt 5/3, 1 Pt Macquarie CBD 13/4 (NC); **Spangled Drongo**: 1 Greenhouse Pk Wollongong 1/3 (I), 1 Field of Mars Reserve Ryde 4/3 (S), 1 Tillabudgery Court, Bermagui 11/4 (SC), 1 Eastlakes GC 15/3, 2 Chiltern Trail Ingleside 15/3 (S); Good Birding!

**Correction: David Charley advised that in the April-May newsletter the Bush Stone-curlew in Ballina had 2 nesting attempts, not 20.**

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