



birding nsw

Newsletter

NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc

Issue 277

October 2016

President's Report

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the club will be held on Tuesday, 6 December 2016 at 7.30 pm at the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street Sydney. The formal notice is in this issue of the newsletter. The AGM will be followed by the Arnold McGill Memorial Lecture, to be given by Paul Sullivan, the CEO of BirdLife Australia, and then by the annual Christmas Party. Please bring a plate!

Entries for the club's Annual Photographic Competition will close on 4 October. Entry forms are available on the website. Prize money totalling \$ 2,250 is available. The judges will be the same as last year. Michael Edwards will assist in preparation of the competition by transferring the images to CD for the judges. Entries should be sent to the club's postal address, or be handed to a committee member at the October club meeting.

It is time to renew your subscription to the club, if you have not done so already. The best and easiest way to do this is by electronic funds transfer (EFT). Please remember to put your name or membership number in the sender's box. If you wish to renew by mail, the renewal form can be downloaded from the Birding NSW website (www.birdingsnw.org.au). There is a discount on the membership fee if you decide to receive the newsletter electronically rather than in paper form, and you also have the benefit of colour images.

The 49th NSW Bird Interest Group network (BIGnet) meeting in Leeton on the weekend of 3-4 September was well attended, and various common themes for the NSW bird clubs, particularly involving conservation, were discussed. We listened to three excellent presentations by David Parker (Plains-wanderers), Matt Herring ([Australasian] Bitterns in Rice) and David Egan (Red-lored Whistlers surveys). The next BIGnet meeting will be hosted by Illawarra Birders at Mt Keira on 1 and 2 April 2017.

Ted Blackman, who organised and led the midweek outings for 10 years, is moving to Lake Cathie. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a report of his "Goodbye" lunch held at Deep Creek Reserve following the August midweek outing.

BirdLife Australia's new Birdata portal was launched on Threatened Species Day (September 7). For more information go to <http://birdata.birdlife.org.au/get-started>. I urge members to use this database to record their survey data, as it is securely vetted, available to others and you can easily retrieve your records. The information about Birding NSW's sightings from the Grenfell survey will be sent to the portal.

The Twitchathon has gone national, and the rules have changed. It is now easier to participate and to raise money for worthy projects. The money raised this year will go towards the rehabilitation of Gould's Petrel habitat on Cabbage Tree Island. For information about the Twitchathon this year, to be held on the weekend of 29 – 30 October, please email twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com.

BirdLife Australia's Aussie Backyard Bird Count will be held on the week of October 17-23. If you wish to take part, go to <http://aussiebirdcount.org.au/> to register.

There are free guided bird walks in Newington Armory, Homebush at 10 am on the last Sunday of each month. Bookings are not necessary. Meet at the Visitors Centre inside the gate to the Armory. To find more information, please call 9647 1033 or email southernnsw@birdlife.org.au.

Tom Karplus
President, Birding NSW



A fledgling Powerful Owl in the inner north-shore of Sydney. Photo by Conservation Officer Ted Nixon.



CLUB ACTIVITIES

FIELD OUTINGS AND MEETINGS

FIELD OUTINGS

Bring a snack, lunch and a chair. Please check the websites on the evening preceding 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.birdingnsw.org.au or download free at the itunes App Store or at Google Play.

OCTOBER 2016

Tuesday 4 October Club Meeting: The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm, "Birding in Sri Lanka". Speaker: Carol Abbott

Saturday 8 October Club Outing: Forest Trail, Royal National Park. Meet at 9.00 am at the carpark at the southern (Waterfall) end of Lady Carrington Drive. Carry morning tea; late lunch at cars. NB: park entry fee is applicable. Leader: Allan Richards 96608062; 0432 064 660

Wednesday 12 October Central Coast Half-day Outing: Bulls Quarry and Mount Penang. Meet 8.30 am at Bulls Quarry Entrance, Woy Woy Road, Kariong. Lunch at cars. Leader: Christina Port 0421 691 317

Wednesday 12 October Cumberland Bird Observers Club Mid-week Outing: Richmond Lowlands. Meet at 8:30 am at Pugh's Lagoon, Francis Street, Richmond. Wetlands, parkland and paddocks. Gradient: easy. Greg McLachlan 0405 578 967

Friday 14 October–Sunday 16 October Weekend Central Coast Campout: Harrington Big 4 Holiday Park. Meet at 8.30 am visiting Manning estuary, Crowdy Head, Coopersnook and Harrington. Camp Leader: Graeme Catt 4340 2109

Saturday 15 October Club Outing: Mount Annan Botanic Garden. Meet at 8.30 am, just inside the entrance off Narellan Rd, Mount Annan. From the East: From the M5 Motorway take the Narellan Road exit – route 9. Leaving the Motorway, take the right fork towards Camden/Narellan. Continue along Narellan Road a few hundred metres and turn left at the traffic lights where you will see a new brown tourist sign "The Australian Botanic Garden". If you are coming from Narellan, pass by the old entry (Mount Annan Drive) and look for the sign on the right. If you do happen to use the old entry, which may be open for staff, come to the main car park. Lunch at cars. Gradient: Easy to medium gradient. Leader: Ian Bailey 9821 4284; 0412 251 337

Tuesday 25 October Central Coast Meeting: Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. "Remote Birding Locations – Cocos-Keeling Islands". Speaker: Allan Benson

Wednesday 26 October Midweek Outing: Wednesday 26 October 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 other nearby areas. Leader: Judy Clark 0413 550 899

Saturday and Sunday 29 and 30 October 2016 Twitchathon. For details email twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2016

Tuesday 1 November Club Meeting: The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. "Photographic Competition" presented by Tom Karplus

Saturday 5 November Club Outing: Lake Tallawarra. This is a joint walk with Illawarra Birders. Meet at 9:00 am on Yallah Bay Road which leads to the Energy Australia Tallawarra Power Station. This is only accessible from the Princes Highway southbound from Dapto. Park on the left-hand-side about 300 metres from the turn-off opposite gate 37. Please bring morning tea to carry, lunch will be at the cars, you will also need a chair and a scope if you have one. The walk is approximately 3k and fairly flat, with a couple of rises. Leader: Nerida Hudspith 0424 417 484

Sunday 6 November Nestlings Outing (5 to 12 years): 9.00 am -11.00 am Buffalo Creek Reserve, Pittwater Road, East Ryde. Meeting place: Buffalo Creek Reserve car park. Contact: email nestlings@cboc.org.au or Wendy Cope 0408 460 200

Wednesday 9 November Central Coast Half-day Outing: Saratoga and Davistown. Meet at 8:30 am at Saratoga Wetlands, Willaroo Close, Saratoga. Lunch at cars. Leader: Doug Hocking 4369 2770.

Saturday 12 November 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: Trevor Waller 0467 977 508

Tuesday 22 November Central Coast Meeting: Meet at the Progress Hall in Anzac Street Tuggerah opposite McDonalds at 7.30 pm. Equador and the Galapagos Islands. Speaker: Trevor Waller

Saturday 26 November Central Coast Club Outing: Spencer and Dharug National Park. Meet at 8.30 am at

Spencer Store, Wisemans Ferry, Spencer. Lunch at cars
Leader: Margaret Pointer 4374 1163.

Wednesday 30 November Midweek Outing: Sydney Olympic Park / Mason 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. This will also be our Midweek Outing Christmas celebration, so please bring along a plate of something to share. Gradient: easy. Leader: Elisabeth Karplus 0421 665 553

DECEMBER 2016

Saturday 3 December Christmas Outing: Scheyville and Mitchell Park. Please note this outing is a week earlier than usual. Meet at 8:30 am at the corner of Whitmore and Pitt Town Dural Roads, Maraylya. Flat but sometimes uneven walking tracks. Bring along some food to share for a Christmas picnic lunch in the first picnic area in Mitchell Park at about 12.30 pm. Leaders: Tom and Elisabeth Karplus 9816 2285, 0421 665 553

Tuesday 6 December Club Meeting: The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 7.30 pm. Arnold McGill Memorial Lecture. Speaker: Paul Sullivan.

Wednesday 7 December CBOC Midweek Outing: Mason Park, Sydney Olympic Park and Waterbird Refuge. Meet at 8:00 am at Waterview Convention Centre overlooking Lake Belvedere. Meet in the carpark outside the kiosk. Habitat: Wetlands and Parklands. Gradient: Easy. Leader: To be advised.

Saturday 10 December Central Coast Christmas Outing and Break-up: Mardi and Tuggerah. Meet at 7.30 am at Murrumbung Homestead, 37 The Valley Way, Mardi for an early morning walk. Morning tea at 10.00 am then a visit to McPherson Road Swamp and Central Coast Wetlands. Return at 12.30 pm to Murrumbung Homestead for BBQ Christmas Lunch and break-up (BYO meat and drinks, BBQ's provided). Leaders: John and Carole Carpenter 4352 1060

Club Campout–Christmas 2016 to New Year 2017: Coolah Tops National Park. A campout has been arranged over the long weekend at Coolah Tops National Park. Temperatures will be pleasant because of the high altitude and nights will be cool for sleeping. Please note that the access road is steep and can be rough if it has not been graded recently. Many of the roads within the park are closed during wet weather. Access to the main camping area at the Barracks is suitable for all vehicles with care. Turn off the Coolah-Merriwa Road about 4 km east of Coolah then travel about 20 km to the park. Bring everything that you need including drinking water. There is a pit-toilet at the campsite. Leader: Allan Richards 9660-8062

Birding NSW - NSW Field Ornithologists Club Incorporated
BIRDING NSW FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 2016

The Report will be submitted to the Club's AGM on Tuesday 6 December 2016.

A part of the Report is included below.

The full Report is available on the Club's website.

While the Club had a deficit of \$4,380 for the year, Members' Funds totalled in excess of \$56,000 at the end of the year

Statement of Income For the year ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Revenue from sale of goods	193	135
Other revenues from operating activities	18,719	20,541
Total Revenue	<u>18,912</u>	<u>20,676</u>
Purchase of inventories	512	870
Decrease (increase) in inventories	30	[14]
Administration expenses	<u>22,750</u>	<u>23,529</u>
Operating surplus/(deficit) before income tax	[4,380]	[3,709]
Accumulated surplus at the beginning of the year	<u>61,199</u>	<u>64,908</u>
Accumulated surplus at the end of the year	<u><u>56,819</u></u>	<u><u>61,199</u></u>

There are no non-owner related changes in equity.

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Current assets		
Cash	59,340	63,775
Inventories	<u>1,051</u>	<u>1,081</u>
Total current assets	<u>60,391</u>	<u>64,856</u>
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total assets	<u>60,391</u>	<u>64,856</u>
Current liabilities		
Payables & Deferred Income	<u>3,572</u>	<u>3,656</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>3,572</u>	<u>3,656</u>
Net assets	<u>56,819</u>	<u>61,200</u>
Members' funds		
Accumulated surplus	<u><u>56,819</u></u>	<u><u>61,200</u></u>

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Interest received	1,909	2,366
Receipts from members subscriptions and sundry receipts	16,462	17,454
General administration expenses and direct expenses	[22,805]	(23,621)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>[4,434]</u>	<u>[3,801]</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	[4,434]	[3,801]
Cash at beginning of financial year	<u>63,774</u>	<u>67,575</u>
Cash at end of financial year	<u>59,340</u>	<u>63,774</u>

Aussie Backyard Bird Count

17-23 October 2016

The Aussie Backyard Bird Count is back for its third year - with over 40,000 participants and over a million birds counted last year, this is becoming one of Australia's largest citizen science projects.

The results from 2015 saw the 10 most common bird species remain unchanged from the previous year, with the Rainbow Lorikeet once again taking out the number one spot. There were minor changes in the order of some of the top 10 birds - Common Myna, Galah and Silver Gull were bumped down a place or two, with House Sparrow, Red Wattlebird and the Welcome Swallow moving up the list.

Other notable changes occurred in some of the various states' top 3 birds, with the Budgerigar failing to make the top 3 in the NT, being replaced by the Rainbow Lorikeet. The Australian White Ibis lost its place in QLD to the Plumed Whistling-Duck. In the ACT, the Galah and Crimson Rosella were replaced by the Magpie-lark and Pied Currawong. And in WA, the Silver Gull had its spot in the top 3 taken by the Galah. The top 3 bird species remained the same in VIC, TAS, NSW and SA.

BirdLife Australia would like to invite you to make every bird count this spring and to join thousands of Australians who will be taking part in this nationwide bird survey.

It's easy to get involved. You can:

- Register your interest as a Counter on the website: www.aussiebirdcount.org.au
- If you already have the Aussie Bird Count app on your phone or tablet, don't delete it, an update will be available on 1 October
- If you don't have the app, head to the Google Play or iTunes app store and download it for free, again an update will be available on 1 October
- You don't have to download the app to take part, you can also submit your counts through the website
- If you're a teacher, check out our lesson plans and get your students (or the whole school) involved!
- Check out the Aussie Backyard Bird Count events being held right across Australia, there may be one in your local area
- Use #AussieBirdCount to join the conversation on social media - Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

There is still plenty of time to get to know your backyard birds before the count begins - why not set yourself a challenge? Get your friends and family together, head into the great outdoors and practise your bird ID skills - how many birds can you ID before the count and how many after?

2016 TWITCHATHON

It's already that time of year again, when the days are lengthening and spring is in sight - and that means it's almost Twitchathon time again too! Josh Bergmark says that this year marks a major change in the way the Twitchathon is being run. After many, many years of successful NSW events thanks to the tireless work of Alan Morris, BIGnet, BASNA (now Birdlife Southern) and Birding NSW, there has been a directive from the Birdlife Australia headquarters to make the event a truly national one.

This year, NSW & ACT teams will be raising money for Gould's Petrel recovery. The endangered population of this species on Cabbage Tree, Boondelbah and North Broughton Islands off Port Stephens, near Newcastle has recent suffered a severe blow, with critical nesting habitat being destroyed by storms, and a fast response will be required to limit the negative impacts and improve the lot of these special seabirds. Your sponsorship and Support can help the plight of this rare seabird.

The Twitchathon will run on the last weekend of October (29th and 30th). There will be three race types instead of the usual two, as detailed in the new rules, which have been amended to cater to all involved States this year. We are excited for the new-look event, and believe the three races cater to a diverse range of birdwatchers - young, old, new, and experienced alike, and furthermore that different race types will attract more teams. Hopefully the Central Coast can put up more teams in 2016!

The organisers do not have the registration forms finalised yet, so if all interested parties can email them, they will keep names and emails aside for when they send out the registration package in a few weeks. This will include team entry forms, details on the essential post-twitch gatherings, species lists, and other essential race information. In the meantime, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the NSW & ACT coordinators, (Joshua Bergmark and Ashwin Rudder) at twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com. In 2012 the Twitchathon had 173 participants & 48 teams, the most ever, although in 2014, there were 123 participants and 37 teams, and in 2015, there were 102 participants in 31 teams. So let us beat the 2012 record in 2016 and see how many teams we can muster.

THE WONDERFUL AND GENEROUS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHER Charles Dove regularly sends a file of images taken on his trips around the South Coast. Often mentioned in outing reports are species of the small birds sometimes difficult to identify. These three pictures of similar Thornbills may help you in the field. For colour images, see the newsletter on the website. Ed.



Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Bathurst - Bathurst Bay
charles.dove.062016



Brown Thornbill
Wardens Head Ulladulla NSW
charles.dove.062016



Yellow Thornbill
Lions Park - Burrill Lake
charles.dove.062016

BIRDING NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**Tuesday 6th December 2016
commencing at 7.30 pm**

**Address: Mitchell Theatre, Level 1,
The Sydney Mechanics School of Arts
280 Pitt Street Sydney.**

**The AGM will take place before the
Arnold McGill Memorial Lecture**

All positions on the Club Committee automatically become vacant at the AGM. Nominations for the following positions should be submitted in writing by **17th November 2016**, signed by the nominee, nominator and seconder.

Nominations will be accepted from members wishing to nominate themselves for a position with a request for a Club Committee member to be their seconder.

Post to:
The Returning Officer, Birding NSW,
PO Box Q277, QVB Post Shop,
Sydney NSW 1230.

Office Bearers:

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Public Officer

Other Specified Positions:

Membership Secretary
Minutes Secretary
Club Email Manager
Activities Officer
Assistant Activities Officer
Speakers Coordinator
Publicity Officer
Newsletter Editor
Website Coordinator
Conservation Subcommittee Chair +
Conservation Officers
Records Officer
General Committee Positions.

Sydney Pelagic Trip Report

24 July 2016

Tom Wilson

This pelagic trip was a reschedule of the 9 July trip, which was lost to a very large swell and poor conditions. We experienced fresh winds (15-20 knots) and a big swell (3m) but the latter was nicely spaced (about 14 seconds between tops according to the skipper Mark) so the boat rode up and down without too much discomfort for any on board (although losing birds behind the wave tops was a regular source of frustration). Unlike the May trip, several days of strong westerlies did not seem to reduce the number of birds this time around and we saw 15 species outside the heads, although several in ones or twos only. Black-browed Albatross were the dominant species by a long margin.

We departed Rose Bay Wharf at approximately 7:15 am with 21 passengers on board – with a few regulars but a large number of visitors and first time trippers as well. (One missing regular was Roger McGovern so I am filling in as pelagic correspondent for this trip). Although the berley trail was started as we left the harbour, we had managed to attract about a dozen Silver Gulls as we crossed from Mosman to Rose Bay. As we left the harbour, a White-bellied Sea-Eagle cruised past us at Watsons Bay (although when it crossed the harbour and flew over Clarke Island, the Raven attacks made its flight somewhat less serene). The berley attracted a good following of Silver Gulls which, in turn started to alert a following of other birds. Several Australasian Gannets came for a look, as well as some Greater Crested Terns and shortly after leaving the harbour we saw the first of many Black-browed Albatross. We also drew the attention of three Brown Skuas, a species which would be an almost permanent companion as we headed east and again on our way back in. A couple of small groups and some single Fluttering-type Shearwaters were seen, but none were close enough to the boat to allow a positive identification.

As we headed out towards Browns Mountain, the crowd of Black-broweds grew, as did Skuas, the latter numbering six at one point. They were joined by several Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross and a single Shy Albatross and sporadic Fairy Prions were also seen. Throughout the day the Black-broweds were checked to see if any were Campbell Albatross, but none of the adult birds showed the distinctive golden eye of the latter species. We encountered a small pod of Short-beaked Common Dolphins that came to the boat, but only for a short period and a single Shy Albatross crossed the wake.

As we got further out, we continued to see sporadic single prions, a Shy Albatross put in a better appearance and the first Providence Petrel of the day was seen.

We reached our destination at about 10:30 am and (perhaps not surprisingly given the conditions) ours was the only vessel there. We started a berley drift for about an hour, motored back up the slick and did a second drift for a slightly shorter period. Just after starting the drift, a single Wilson's Storm-Petrel was seen, but it did not stay and was not seen again. We had similar brief views of a Buller's Albatross and an adult Wandering-type Albatross. (The shortage of experts on the boat meant it was



Immature Campbell Albatross. Photo by Jodi Osgood



Buller's Albatross. Photo by Jodi Osgood

not narrowed down to type.) More Providence Petrels came to the boat, as did up to three Great-winged Petrels. The crowd of Black-broweds had grown to nearly 50 by that time, with a range of plumages including some very nearly adult birds that showed some black smudging at the base of the bill but were otherwise in adult-looking plumage. As we commenced our shorter second drift a second Buller's Albatross flew in – this one was more inclined to stay with the boat so much better views were obtained. Of interest was that six of the Silver Gulls that had joined the berley trail had followed us all the way to Browns Mountain – it is unusual to see them in very deep water.



Common Dolphins. Photo by Nigel Miller

As we motored back in, we were followed by several albatross (from four species) and at one point a single Cape Petrel followed the boat for two minutes, but it did not come close (and we had run out of berley by then). We came close to a pod of Oceanic Bottlenose Dolphin but they were busy hunting and not interested in the boat. We also saw the blows from some Humpback Whales but they were not seen well. Even close to shore the swell made following birds and whales far from straightforward, so looking for penguins outside the heads was a fruitless task. However, to conclude the trip list, a pair of Little Penguin were seen just inside the harbour before we got to Watsons Bay.

BIRD LIST

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

Black-browed Albatross	150	(50)	Australasian Gannet	50	(10)
Shy Albatross	10	(3)	Brown Skua	20	(6)
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	40	(10)	Silver Gull	100	(30)
Wandering Albatross (ssp not known)	1		Greater Crested Tern	8	(4)
Buller's Albatross	2	(1)	OTHER		
Fairy Prion	40	(10)	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	
Providence Petrel	20	(10)	Little Penguin	2	
Great-winged Petrel	5	(3)	Australian Raven	recorded	
Cape Petrel	1		Short-beaked Common Dolphin	10	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	1		Oceanic Bottlenose Dolphin	10	
Fluttering-type Shearwater	20	(6)	Humpback Whale	2	

For details of future Sydney pelagic trips, please visit the website at <http://www.sydneypelagics.info> which has details of all trips and contact details for making bookings.

The following **BIRD LIST** was supplied by Roger McGovern from the Sydney pelagic on 13 August 2016, three weeks later. (Note that the numbers in parentheses represent the approximate maximum number of that species in view at any one time)

Little Penguin	3	(2)	Fluttering Shearwater	25	(15)
Wilson's Storm Petrel	5	(1)	Hutton's Shearwater	20	(12)
White-faced Storm Petrel	1		Fluttering-type Shearwaters	40	
Antipodean Albatross	1	ssp gibsoni	Australasian Gannet	110	(90)
Black-browed Albatross	45	(30)	Silver Gull	120	(70)
Campbell Albatross	4	(2)	Greater Crested Tern	11	(6)
Shy Albatross	5	(1) one juvenile	Brown Skua	6	(4)
steads (White-capped Albatross)			OTHER		
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	38	(25)	Minke Whale	1	
Buller's Albatross	1		Humpback Whale	4	
Fairy Prion	14	(2)	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	60	
Providence Petrel	8	(1)	Striped Marlin	1	
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	2	(1)	Fur Seal (sp)	2	

Thanks very much to Nigel Miller for the photograph of the Common Dolphins and to Jodi Osgood for the photographs of the breaching Minke Whale, the White-faced Storm Petrel, the immature Campbell Albatross and the Buller's Albatross.

Swansea-Norah Head Pelagic Trip

21 July 2016

Allan Benson

21 birders and one crew member set sail on the 45ft boat "Randell", skippered by Brad Minors, departing 7.05 am and returning at 4.05 pm. Central Coast members included Allan Benson, Alan Morris, John and Carol Carpenter, Christina Port, Doug Hocking, Michael Scobie, plus 13 members of HBOC. It was a calm day at sea with a slight offshore breeze on the run out, swinging to be a moderate (at best) sou-easter in the afternoon. Seas and swell were less than a metre. Water temperature, given by the skipper as 25 degrees, was not ideal. Furthermore, even though we drifted for two hours we did not go far.

From the beginning there was a moderate sized flock of ~600 Fluttering Shearwaters within a mile of the Heads, though they showed no interest in the boat. Good numbers of Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross and a few Black-browed types came in not too much further out and followed the boat for some time before losing interest. These were accompanied by up to four Brown Skuas. At the shelf there was a very low turnover of birds. On the return leg we again "hit the patch" of inshore albatross. No storm-petrels were seen at all and the number of petrels sighted was fewer than expected.

13 species were recorded outside the heads. Highlights would be the Northern Giant Petrel at the shelf and the Campbell and Buller's Albatross on the outward leg. Four Brown Skuas is a good count.

Counts are totals for birds seen outside the Heads (with the maximum number visible from the boat at one time in brackets) – many are estimates.

Fluttering Shearwater: 615 (600) Big flock inshore was scanned for any Hutton's, though all photographs showed Fluttering only. ~15 birds identified during the remainder of the day.

Hutton's/Fluttering type Shearwaters: 3 birds too far away for ID.

Solanders Petrel: 7 (1) One bird seen just over half way to shelf break, remainder pelagic

Northern Giant Petrel: 1 juvenile that flew into the boat literally as we made the decision to leave!

Black-browed Albatross: 8 (4) A few adults mixed in with the young birds, mostly inshore.

Black-browed type Albatross: 11 immature birds, again mostly inshore.

Campbell Albatross: 1 immature bird not picked up at the time, but 'discovered' in images later (inshore). Thank you Christina Port.

Shy-type Albatross: 2 (1) both in neritic waters, one with a broken leg.

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross: 40 (10) Good numbers inshore, with a slow turnover of new birds in pelagic waters, as evidenced by an unusual bird with aberrant feathers on the head that arrived not long before we left the deep water. 2 or 3 juveniles also.

Buller's Albatross: 1 bird about 2/3 the way out, that came in to monster the chicken skin we had ready for it.

Fairy Prion: 50 (11) Moderate numbers in neritic and pelagic waters.

Australasian Gannet: 45 (20) Moderate numbers throughout the day. A raft of 20 birds seen sitting on the water

Brown Skua: 4 (4) 3 birds attended the rear of the boat, with a fourth bird being distant. All inshore.

Crested Tern: 50 (40) Big numbers close to the heads on return leg.

Silver Gull: 1000+ emanating from Moon Island on the return leg.

Mammals: Humpback Whale: ~10, mostly distant views, Fur Seal sp.: one animal hauled out on the udder of a coal ship. Unidentified pod of dolphins.

BIRDS OF THE BUSH FESTIVAL AT RANKINS SPRINGS

7 to 9 October 2016

SOME HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Saturday 8 October 6.00 am Bird Watching Day Trip with Tim Low. \$60 pp

Sunday 9 October Guided Bird Watching Trip with local experts. \$22 pp

Plus music, local poets, face-painting and jumping castle, nibbles and soft drink

For more information go to www.birdsofthebush.com or Ring Andrea (02) 6966 1220

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our new members:

Robert Smith
Leanne Wicks

Port Macquarie
Kandos

Strickland State Forest and Narara Ecovillage

30 July 2016

Andrew Melville

On a very cool morning 17 keen birders and one apprehensive leader met at the Banksia Car Park, Strickland State Forest, ready for a trek into the dark forest. Before we car pooled down to the bottom car park we spotted Eastern Yellow Robin, White-throated Treecreeper, Pied Currawong, Silvereye and both Yellow-faced and Lewin's Honeyeaters around the top car park. After successfully crossing the creek we slowly made our way down towards the old Narara Research Station, keeping a watchful eye out for anything that flew, crawled or slid. Along the way we saw Large-billed Scrubwren, Grey Fantail, Laughing Kookaburra, White-headed and Topknot Pigeons. Among the birds we heard but could not find were Spotted Pardalote, Rose Robin, Eastern Whipbird and Wonga Pigeon.

At the entry into the Research Station, now the Narara Ecovillage, we were met by three more birders, including Richard Cassalls who is involved with the village. One should note that permission must be obtained to enter the property, which we had obtained previously. By now we were out of the forest and into the open spaces with much more light and warmth. We enjoyed our morning tea on the banks of the dam while keeping one eye out for any passing bird. Our only raptor for the day, a Brown Goshawk, was seen by some, but there were lots to see including Superb Fairy-wrens, Silvereyes, Red-browed Finches, Australian King-Parrot, Grey Shrike-thrush and Welcome Swallow, while the call of the Bell Miners tinkled away in the background. Soon it was time to move and Richard led us through a couple of paddocks where we added Satin Bowerbird, Green Catbird, Brown Cuckoo-Dove and Red-whiskered Bulbuls to our list. A Superb Lyrebird was heard and a possible Regent Bowerbird was seen by a member. Then it was time to make our way back, where the only new bird was a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, although some people got to see the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos, which we had only heard before.

While having lunch a leech check was done and there were several unfortunate victims, but most escaped untouched. After lunch six of us made our way to the R.T.A. Site where we found Pacific Black Duck, two Bassian Thrushes, a female Regent Bowerbird, Australian Raven, Little Corellas and a Bar-shouldered Dove was heard. A total of 49 species and my sincere thanks to those who helped me on the day.

Wattle Tree Road, Holgate

10 August 2016

Eileen Davy

A small group of 10 birders met at the gate on a sunny late winter morning. Michael Holt and Carol from Sydney were welcome visitors and two more joined us at morning tea time. Earlier that morning I heard a Wonga Pigeon and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. Alan had seen about 30 White-headed Pigeons further up the road. A female Golden Whistler was soon spotted, with several other birds seen before we moved down the driveway. We wandered around the 'paddock' for some time as many small birds were seen and heard. Of note were the Spotted Pardalotes which I had not seen yet this season. A pair were seen mating by some; I will be watching to see where they nest this year.

Other birds seen included Brown Gerygones and Brown Thornbills, Yellow-throated Scrubwrens and Superb Fairy-wrens (the males recently coloured up). Eastern Yellow Robins and Eastern Spinebills were plentiful. Lewin's Honeyeater, Grey Fantails, lots of Little Wattlebirds, Noisy Miners (but not too many here!) were also seen and Grey Butcherbirds sang beautifully. An Eastern Whipbird was seen scurrying around some logs. Also seen were Laughing Kookaburra, Australian Magpie, Rainbow Lorikeet, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Welcome Swallows, a female Satin Bowerbird and Green Catbird. A White-throated Treecreeper was heard, as well as a Superb Lyrebird, which has been bouncing around the back of the house in the past few days, but not today. A White-browed Scrubwren was later seen; more are usually around the house than were seen throughout the day.

We then moved along the muddy path below the deck to see the Australian Brush-turkey's mound below the shed. He was on top and posed for some photos. On our way up the slope on the far side of the shed to the lawn above the house, we saw the great mass of leaves and mulch the turkey was steadily moving down to his mound. More birds were seen and heard in the trees and on the ground at the top of the block, several of the above list including more Grey Fantails and Eastern Yellow Robins.

After morning tea most of us went down the track to the creek on our neighbour's property, and then along a track above their house. In spite of plenty of bush and trees not many birds were seen, and nothing different to what we had already seen. Along the creek it was very shaded with many palms and very quiet bird wise. On the way back up the drive we watched for a while Scrubwrens and an Eastern Whipbird on our lawn. The Whipbird was showing much interest in a dense native shrub, maybe a nest site.

As we continued up the road and down Pollard Close, Red-browed Finches were seen along the side of the road and quite a lot of Eastern Yellow Robins and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were seen in trees and on the lawns of nearby properties. On the way back five Australian Pelicans were flying in formation high above and Satin Bowerbirds were also seen.

Back on the verandah the few that stayed behind reported a Yellow-faced Honeyeater in the tree and birdbath, which visited again while we had lunch. An Eastern Spinebill also had a bath. With only a few remaining at lunch, we watched several wrens and robins pecking around the driveway. As the last people were leaving, Dennis saw a male Satin Bowerbird and as Warren and I went back down the drive, two Kookaburras were laughing on a branch. Altogether 27 species were seen and another four heard.

Raptor Count

14th August 2016

Stephen Debus, Charlie Andrews, Keith Brandwood

Cattai Creek: Whistling Kite x 2 | Wedge-tailed Eagle x 2 | Brown Goshawk x 2 | White-bellied Sea-Eagle x 2
Nankeen Kestrel | Brown Falcon | Black Kite

Pitt Town Lagoon: Wedge-tailed Eagle x 2

Streetons Lookout: Nankeen Kestrel

Terrace Road & Richmond Lowlands: Black-shouldered Kite x 4 | Nankeen Kestrel x 3

Quorrobolong District

27 August 2016

Leader: Alan Morris

On a cool sunny day, 20 members and friends gathered at Freemans Waterhole for some car-pooling and preparation for our annual Quorrobolong District birding trip. This time there was a small change in our plans, because as Pat & Jill Barda of the property "Bigpond" were away, it was decided to take up Mr & Mrs Brad Ryan's offer to visit their property, located only 2 blocks up from "Bigpond". Brad's property is a piece of well timbered eucalypt woodland dominated by Stringybarks, Scribbly & Grey Gums and Ironbarks. Some of the Stringybarks and Ironbarks were in flower attracting Yellow-faced, White-naped & Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Red Wattlebirds, Noisy Friarbirds, Eastern Spinebills, Musk Lorikeets to get the nectar, and some of the smaller passerines like Striated and Buff-rumped Thornbills and Striated Pardalotes.

From here we made a detour via Whittings Lane and Heaton Gap Rd, where we saw Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Wood Ducks with 10 ducklings, Tree Martins, White-necked Heron, Mistletoebirds and an unexpected Spangled Drongo; then down across the extensive paddocks along Swans Lane, where we saw Pipits, Spotted & Striated Pardalotes and a pair of Brown Goshawks doing courtship flights. Finally we arrived at Caroline Miller's Land For Wildlife property "Tomar", to have our morning tea. During this time Yellow-tufted and Fuscous Honeyeaters were our companions, the former having a nest with small young, close to the cars. No sooner than our walk started and we saw and then heard Swift Parrots, in small groups, feeding on lerps. Later we also found them feeding in Stringybark and Ironbark blossom. We know we saw 31 Swifties, but probably 51 all up, as we were getting closer to the cars at the end of the 90 minute walk there were more birds, which possibly might have been previously counted, but based on my experience I reckon the total was 51+. With them were small numbers of Little Lorikeets (16), Musk and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, six Dusky Woodswallows, Tree Martins, a Crested Shrike-tit, Mistletoebird, and many Noisy Friarbirds. Reluctantly we left this great property and headed for our lunch spot.

At “Oakleigh” Trevor and Norma Duckworth were waiting for us and we ate lunch on their back verandah while they regaled us with stories about the birds that visit their property and while eating lunch we watched a Wedge-tailed Eagle overhead, no doubt looking for some road kill that Trevor collects and brings home for these birds, which share that and rabbits which Trevor shoots, with the White-bellied Sea-Eagles that nest close by. In the garden and around the house we found occupied nests of Grey-crowned Babblers, White-winged Choughs, checked out the Satin Bowerbird’s bower, and sorted through the Bar-shouldered Doves and Crested Pigeons for Wonga Pigeons. A walk through the woodland found nesting Noisy Friarbirds, and White-eared, Yellow-faced and Lewin’s Honeyeaters, Variegated & Superb Fairy-wrens, Grey Shrike-thrush, Golden Whistler, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Red-rumped Parrots & Little Corellas. Our final stop was at Ellalong Lagoon, both from the Ellalong and Paxton ends. There were few waterbirds to see because of all the recent rains, but Masked Lapwings, one pair with nest and the other pair with tiny chicks, a party of Yellow-rumped Thornbills, White-cheeked Honeyeaters, Great and Cattle Egrets and Chestnut Teal were added to our list. We finished the day with 91 species, and had a pleasant social time visiting the three private properties. Many thanks to our hosts, Mr and Mrs Brad Ryan, Caroline Miller and Norman and Trevor Duckworth for their generosity, enthusiasm and company.

Midweek Outing to Chiltern Track and “Goodbye” lunch for Ted Blackman at Deep Creek Reserve

Wednesday August 31, 2016

Elisabeth Karplus

Ted Blackman organised and led the Wednesday midweek outings for 10 years until 2010. Following the death of his wife, Jenny, Ted has sold his house in Turramurra and is moving to Lake Cathie near Port Macquarie to be with his son and his family. Jan Hext, who regularly went on the midweek outings with Ted, decided that we should have a “Goodbye” lunch for Ted following the August midweek outing. Twelve birders met at the entrance to Chiltern Track off Chiltern Road for the morning walk – nine at 8.30 am and then three at the 10 am start. Alas the track had been recently aggressively cleared with no thought for the many wildflowers that flourish alongside the track. However



Ted Blackman at his “Goodbye” lunch at Deep Creek. Photograph by Elisabeth Karplus

we did see nine species of honeyeaters including many Eastern Spinebills and Little Wattlebirds as well as White-eared and Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters. Allan and Don watched a Spotted Pardalote collecting nesting material while Nola, Bill and I were surprised to see a partially white New Holland Honeyeater. By the time we had finished our walk and a leisurely morning tea, it was time to go to Deep Creek where Jan and Margaret had brought Ted along for the lunch. We were joined by several people, who had regularly gone out with Ted. Also the Deep Creek Laughing Kookaburras arrived looking for handouts. Ted reminded us of the outings which he led and then cut the cake made by Margaret. Judith Nancarrow reminisced about an outing, when she first started bird watching, where Ted after many efforts eventually managed to show her a Freckled Duck among a mass of other ducks. We all enjoyed Margaret’s cake. We were almost finished when the forecast rain arrived and had us clearing up and going home. We all hope that Ted will enjoy his new home and find many more opportunities to bird watch.

UNUSUAL REPORTS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, JULY-AUGUST 2016

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	1	20/7/16	Mogo Rd Goulburn River NP	H	Rob Smith
Australian Brush-turkey	1	25/7/16	Belmore Park, Sydney CBD	S	Eric Finley
Brown Quail	13	5/7/16	Belrose Landfill Site	S	Dorothy Price
Magpie Goose	12	22/7/16	Calabria Winery, Griffith	R	Neil Palfreman
Blue-billed Duck	13	10-14/6/16	Tallawarra Ash Pond Yallah	I	Michelle Rower
Blue-billed Duck	12	22/7/16	South Lake Wyangan, Griffith	R	Neil Palfreman
Freckled Duck	15	21/5/16	Tallawarra Ash Pond Yallah	I	Illawarra Birders
Black Swan	370	18/7-31/8	+71 nests Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Australian Shelduck	5	11/7/16	5 km N Tarcutta	SS	Lorne Johnson
Great Crested Grebe	1	14/8/16	Narrabeen Lake	S	Jayden Walsh
White-headed Pigeon	60	17/7/16	On powerlines Galston Village	S	Tom Wilson
White-headed Pigeon	70	10/8/16	On ground Della Close, Narara	CC	Andrew Robinson
Brush Bronzewing	2	1-11/7/16	Bulls Quarry, Brisbane Water NP	CC	Graeme Catt
Superb Fruit-Dove	1	17/8/16	Glenrock SRA	H	Per Ian Benson
Superb Fruit-Dove	1	18/8/16	Vimiera Close Norah Head	CC	Michael Price
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	A	18-20/8/16	Vimiera Close Norah Head	CC	Michael Price
Topknot Pigeon	150	1/7/16	Pacific Hwy, Brunswick River	NC	Grant Brosie
Topknot Pigeon	100+	11/8/16	Soldiers Rd Pelican ,Lake Macquarie	H	Bill Boyd
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	1	24/7/16	Kiama pelagic	I	Brook Whyllie
White-faced Storm-Petrel	4	24/7/16	Kiama pelagic, 3 on 27/8	1	Brook Whyllie
Wandering Albatross	1	7/8/16	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Alan Richardson
Black-browed Albatross *	40	4/8/16	Mistral Point, Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Antipodean Albatross	2	2/7/16	Long Reef Acquatic Reserve	S	Tom Wilson
Antipodean Albatross	4	24/7/16	Kiama pelagic	1	Brook Whyllie
Campbell Albatross	Im	21/7/16	Swansea-Norah Head pelagic	CC	Christina Port
Campbell Albatross	2	24/7/16	Kiama pelagic	1	Brook Whyllie
Campbell Albatross	5	13/8/16	Sydney pelagic	S	Roger McGovern
Yellow-nosed Albatross	5	31/7/16	Forster pelagic	H	Ashley Carlson
Shy Albatross	5	4/8/16	Mistral Point, Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Shy Albatross	5	13/8/16	Sydney pelagic	S	Roger McGovern
Buller's Albatross *	2	14/7/16	Hill 60, Port Kembla	I	Terrill Nordstrom

Buller's Albatross	1	21/7/16	Swansea-Norah Head pelagic	CC	Allan Benson
Buller's Albatross *	3	7/8/16	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Alan Richardson
Northern Giant Petrel	1	21/7/16	Swansea-Norah Head pelagic	CC	Allan Benson
Northern Giant Petrel	1	24/7/16	Kiama pelagic, 1 on 27/8	1	Brook Whyllie
Northern Giant Petrel	1	4/8/16	Mistral Point, Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Southern Giant Petrel	1	24/7/16	Kiama pelagic, 1 on 27/8	1	Brook Whyllie
Southern Giant Petrel	2	7/8/16	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Alan Richardson
Cape Petrel	1	24/7/16	Offshore Sydney	S	Tom Wilson
Cape Petrel	1	27/8/16	Kiama pelagic	I	Brook Whyllie
Fairy Prion	6	6/7/16	Tacking Pt Port Macquarie	NC	Clive Meadows
Fairy Prion	40	21/7/16	Swansea-Norah Head pelagic	1	Allan Benson
Fairy Prion	2+	31/7/16	Forster pelagic	H	Ashley Carlson
Fairy Prion	2bc	8/8/16	South Ballina Beach	NC	Steve McBride
Slender-billed Prion	3	7/8/16	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Mick Roderick
Antarctic Prion	3+	7/8/16	Port Stephens pelagic	H	Alan Richardson
Sooty Shearwater	1	4/8/16	Mistral Point, Maroubra	S	David Mitford
Wedge-tailed Shearwater *	10+	13/8/16	Sydney pelagic	S	Roger McGovern
Little Shearwater	1bc	16/4/16	Soldiers Beach Norah Head	CC	Alison Sigley
Little Shearwater	3bc	6,7 & 8/8	South Ballina Beach	NC	Steve McBride
Grey-faced Petrel (see ed)	1	24/7/16	Kiama pelagic, 4 on 27/8	1	Brook Whyllie
Great-winged Petrel (see ed)	1	24/7/16	Kiama pelagic	1	Brook Whyllie
Common Diving Petrel	1	29/8/16	9 n.m. off Sydney	S	Mick Roderick
Black-necked Stork	1	1/7/16	Cooranbong Exit M1 Motorway	H	Christina Port
Black-necked Stork	1	17/8/16	Hexham Swamp NR	H	Daniel McKeon
Australasian Bittern	1	7/6/16	Tallawarra Ash Pond, Yallah	I	Brian Deans
Australasian Bittern	1	8/8/16	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Eastern Reef-Egret	1	13/8/16	Little Marley Beach, Royal NP	S	Matthew Mo
Striated Heron	1	6/8/16	Hawthorn Canal Reserve, Leichhardt	1	Steve Edwards
Glossy Ibis	17	18/7/16	Kalangadoo, Tullymorgan	NC	Greg Clancy
Glossy Ibis	15	21/7/16	Calligans Ck Ulmarra	NC	Warren Thompson
Nankeen Night-Heron	2	5/7/16	Lake Belvedere, Bicentennial Park	S	Tom Wilson
Nankeen Night-Heron	27	17/7/16	Finley Waterhole Rest Area	R	Alan Morris
Eastern Osprey	3	3-7/6/16	Tallawarra Ash Pond, Yallah	I	Brian Deans
Eastern Osprey	1	9/7/16	Waterbird Refuge, Sydney Olympic P	S	Dion Hobcroft
Eastern Osprey	1	18/7/16	Mogareetha Inlet, Tathra	SC	Oakley Germech
Pacific Baza	1	28/5/16	Primbee Dunes	I	David Winterbottom
Pacific Baza	1	16/8/16	Mt Annan Botanic Garden	I	Brian Deans
Square-tailed Kite	1	30/7/16	Windsor	S	David Vickers
Square-tailed Kite	1	6/8/16	Pipers Bay, Forster	H	Ashley Carlson

Square-tailed Kite	1	31/8/16	Emigrant Ck Ballina	NC	June Harris
Black Kite	1	26/6/16	Tallawarra Ash Ponds, Yallah	I	Paul Lynch
Black Kite	1	24/7/16	Picnic Area, Broadwater NP	NC	Roger Giller
Brahminy Kite	1	9/8/16	Spencer Wharf Hawkesbury River	CC	W.Chronopoulos
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1+N	10/8/16	On nest Barrenbox Swp Griffith	R	Neil Palfreman
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	14/8/16	30 km N of Jerilderie	R	Peter Warner
Spotted Harrier	1	11/7/16	Hyams Beach Rd Jervis Bay	I	Jesse Gibson
Little Eagle	1	24/6/16	Tallawarra Ash Ponds, Yallah	I	Illawarra Birders
Little Eagle	1	25/7/16	North Creek Rd Ballina	NC	June Harris
Little Eagle	1	31/7/16	Shanes Park, Air Service site	S	Edwin Vella
Black Falcon	1	28/7/16	Medway, Berrima	I	Lorne Johnson
Black Falcon	1	30/7/16	King George Park, Rozelle	S	Simon Gorta
Brolga	2A2J	19/6/16	Maria River Rd Crescent Head	NC	per Tony Bischoff
Brolga	4	29/7/16	Tuckerbill Swamp, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Lewin's Rail	4hc	9/7/16	Morisset Hospital Grounds	H	HBOC
Lewin's Rail	3	26/5/16	Quarry Swp, Limeburners Ck NR	NC	Tony Bischoff
Lewin's Rail	1	31/7/16	Shanes Park, Air Service site	S	Edwin Vella
Spotless Crake	1	14/7 & 6/8	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton,	R	Max O'Sullivan
Spotless Crake	1	31/7/16	Limkiln Bay, Oatley	S	Jesse Gibson
Spotted Crake	10	6/8/16	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
Bush Stone-curlew	8	16/8/16	Pottsville	NC	David Charlie
Bush Stone-curlew	7 prs	20-30/8/16	Brisbane Water, Woy Woy	CC	Alan Morris
Bush Stone-curlew	4,4	20-31/8/16	Fingal Pt & Ballina	NC	David Charley
Beach Stone-curlew	1	14/6 & 19/6	Pelican Is Port Macquarie	NC	Tony Morton
Beach Stone-curlew	1	13/6/16	Mud Bishop Pt Old Bar	H	Julia Hudd
Beach Stone-curlew	2	16/6/16	Harrington Breakwall	H	T. Bennett
Sooty Oystercatcher	16	15/7/16	Long Reef Acquatic Reserve	S	Jesse Gibson
Pied Oystercatcher	15	13/8/16	Georges R off Freemans Ave Oatley	S	Jesse Gibson
Red-necked Avocet	8	28/7/16	Yarrie Lake, Narrabri	NP	Michael Dahlem
Red-necked Avocet	1	10/8/16	Waterbird Refuge Sydney O.Park	S	Tom Wilson
Red-necked Avocet	16	4/9/16	Overflow wetlands, Lake Cargelligo	R	Allan Benson
Grey Plover	3	20/3/16	Lake Wollumboola	I	Demetrios Bertzeletos
Double-banded Plover **	6	17/8/16	Soldiers Pt Norah Head	CC	Alan Morris
Hooded Plover	Im	22/7-9/8/16	Worimi NR Stockton Beach	H	Ann Lindsey
Comb-crested Jacana	1	3/7/16	Coutts Crossing	NC	Greg Clancy
Latham's Snipe	1	6/8/16	Cotton Farm, North Moree	NP	Curtis Hayne
Black-tailed Godwit *	1	20/8/16	Lake Wollumboola	I	Demetrios Bertzeletos
Eastern Curlew	1	24/7/16	Copeton Dam, Bingara	NT	Ian Colley
Whimbrel *	1	11/8/16	Oysterlease sandflat, Oatley	S	Jesse Gibson

Whimbrel **	6	26/8/16	Camden Haven River Laurieton	NC	Alan Morris
Marsh Sandpiper *	1	16/8/16	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	R	Nella Smith
Painted Button-quail	5	14/5/16	Minimbah, Forster	H	Ashley Carlson
Painted Button-quail	2M2F	20/8/16	Windsor Downs NR Richmond	S	Tom Wilson
Painted Button-quail	4	28/8/16	Wallaby Scrub Rd Warkworth	H	Edwin Vella
Brown Skua	4	21/7/16	Swansea-Norah head pelagic	CC	Allan Benson
Kelp Gull	1	5/7/16	Mistral Point, Maroubra	S	Allan Richards
Pacific Gull	A	5/7/16	Mistral Point, Maroubra, 2 on 4/8	S	Allan Richards
Pacific Gull	IM	5/7/16	Long Reef Acquatic Reserve	S	Jesse Gibson
Little Tern *	1	28/8/16	Soldiers Pt Norah Head	CC	Alan Morris
Whiskered Tern *	9	24-27/7/16	Fivebough Wetlands Leeton	R	Keith Hutton
White-fronted Tern	33	27/7/16	Karagi Pt The Entrance	CC	Alan Morris
White-fronted Tern	11	8-9/8/16	Belongil Creek, Byron Bay	NC	Steve McBride
Arctic Tern	2	27/7/16	Flat Rock Ballina	NC	Steve McBride
Arctic Tern	2	8-9/8/16	Belongil Creek, Byron Bay	NC	Steve McBride
(Eastern) Common Tern	1	23/7 & 31/8	Newcastle Ocean Baths	H	Allan Richardson
(Eastern) Common Tern	1	8-9/8/16	Belongil Creek, Byron Bay	NC	Steve McBride
Gull-billed Tern	10	20/7/16	Clarence River sandspit	NC	Warren Thompson
Gull-billed Tern	1	20/8/16	Lake Wollumboola	I	Demetrios Bertzeletos
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	6	24/7/16	Bairne Track, Ku-ring-gai Chase NP	S	Trudy Robinson
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	4	8-9/8/16	Belongil Creek, Byron Bay	NC	Steve McBride
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	15	28/8/16	Lower Pappinbarra	NC	Ian Kerr
Yellow-tailed Blk-Cockatoo	9	20/8/16	East Tamworth	NS	Amber Riley
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	20	16/8/16	Smith Rd Nerocon, Griffith	R	Neil Palfreman
Gang-gang Cockatoo	15	29-30/6/16	Mountain View Ave Hazelbrook	S	Wendy Pepper
Gang-gang Cockatoo	20	12/6-2/7	Upper Palmdale, Ourimbah	CC	Noel Lonergan
Little Lorikeet	8	2/7/16	Cobbitty Public School	S	Ian Bailey
Little Lorikeet	10	26/7/16	Josephine St Park, Merrylands West	S	David Potter
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	1	15/7/16	Perricoota Forest5 Rd Moama	R	Paul Schiller
Superb Parrot	22	18/7/16	14 km N Grong Grong, Newell Hwy	SS	Alan Morris
Swift Parrot	37	16/8 & 27/8	Private property Quorrobolong	H	Mick Roderick
Swift Parrot	32	31/8/16	Singleton Defence Training Area	H	Mick Roderick
Turquoise Parrot	30	31/7/16	Old Visitors Cen. Warrumbungles NP	CS	Milton Smith
Turquoise Parrot	2	14/8/16	Spring Hill, Cocoparra NP, Yenda	R	Max O'Sullivan
Eastern Ground Parrot	3hc	26/7/16	Quarry Swp Limeburners Ck NR	NC	Liam Murphy
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	19/8/16	Salamander Bay	H	Lois Wooding
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	19/8/16	Bushells Ridge Rd Wyee	CC	Per Mick Roderick
Channel-billed Cuckoo *	1	31/8/16	Mona Vale Rd Terry Hills	S	Roger McGovern
Eastern Koel *	hc	28/8/16	Marrickville	S	Eric Finley

Eastern Koel *	1	29/8/16	Alexandria	S	Brian Deans
Eastern Koel *	AM	30/8/16	Moorland Ave Killarney Vale	CC	Daniel McKeon
Pallid Cuckoo	1	15/8/16	Goulburn River NP	H	Liam Murphy
Pallid Cuckoo	1	29/8/16	Gilgandra Flora Reserve	CS	Margaret Windeyer
Pallid Cuckoo **	1	18/8/16	Upper Hunter	H	Liam Murphy
Powerful Owl	F	2/7/16	Marana Rd Springfield		
Powerful Owl	1	22/7/16	Sea-acres NR with RT Possum	NC	Bruce Roubin
Powerful Owl	1	31/7/16	Nurran Rd Vacluse	S	Marie Lister
Masked Owl	1	13/7/16	Douglas Farm Rd Kurrajong Hills	S	Eric Finley
Masked Owl	2	24/7-11/8	Long Point, Macquarie Fields	S	Tim Paasila
Masked Owl	1	17/8/16	Campbelltown bushland	S	Dion Hobcroft
Sooty Owl	1	30/7/16	10km NW of Kulnura	CC	Simon Gorta
Sooty Owl	1	11/8/16	Murphys Glen, Blue Mtns NP	S	Mark Ley
Barn Owl	1	3/8/16	Forster	H	E. Burley
Barn Owl	1	18-20/8/16	Centennial park, Sydney	S	Jenny Stiles
Barn Owl	1	27/8/16	Wollombi Brook, Broke	H	Edwin Vella
Forest Kingfisher	1	2/7/16	Lake Innes Trail, Pt Macquarie	NC	Sharon Winter
Sacred Kingfisher	1	1/8/16	Jerusalem Bay Ku-ring-gai Chase NP	S	Paul Burcher
Rainbow Bee-eater *	7	6/8/16	Urunga Boardwalk – over-wintering?	NC	Mandy Wright
Rainbow Bee-eater *	7	6/8/16	Susan Island, Clarence River	NC	Greg Clancy
Dollarbird *	1	19/8/16	Salamander Bay	H	Lois Wooding
Noisy Pitta	1	12/7/16	Blackhead, Hallidays Pt	H	E.Galvin
Noisy Pitta	1	15/7/16	Harold Reid Res Middle Cove	S	Robert Griffin
Noisy Pitta	1d	16/7/16	Found dead garden at Valla	NC	Peter Armytage
Noisy Pitta	1	6/8/16	Susan island, Clarence River	NC	Greg Clancy
Noisy Pitta	1	17/8/16	Irrawong ResWarriewood	S	Jayden Walsh
Noisy Pitta	1	31/8/16	Berkeley NR Lake Illawarra	I	Martin Schultz
Eastern Bristlebird	1	11/7/16	St George Light House, Booderie NP	I	Jesse Gibson
Southern Emu-Wren	3	8/8/16	Lake Conjola	I	Charles Dove
'Yellow-tipped' Pardalote	1	31/7/16	Varroville, Campbelltown	S	Michael Paul
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	2	8/8/16	Flat Rock Trail, Brisbane Water NP	CC	David Catt
White-throated Gerygone	1	31/7/16	Over-wintering? Ingleside	S	Roger McGovern
Southern Whiteface	10	7/7/16	Glen Alice	CT	Darcy Carnahan
Fuscous Honeyeater	3	17/7/16	Croom Sporting Complex Albion Prk	I	Illawarra Birders
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	13/7/16	Rushforth Rd Elland, SW Grafton	NC	Greg Clancy
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	31/7-1/8	Pambalong NR Stockrington	H	HBOC
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	21/8/16	Jamiesontown, Penrith	S	Sam Charmand
Regent Honeyeater	1	3-26/7/16	Lake Cathie village firetrail	NC	Allan Richardson
Regent Honeyeater	2	19/7/16	Kearsley	H	HBOC

Regent Honeyeater	16	26/7-30/8	5 sites in Capertee Valley	CT	Ross Crates
Brown Honeyeater	1	23/7/16	Wave Hill, Leeton	R	Max O'Sullivan
Black-chinned Honeyeater	6	1/8/16	Main Camp SF, 30 km S Casino	NC	June Harris
White-throated Honeyeater	1	31/7/16	Tea Tree Bridge South Grafton	NC	Michael Cheers
White-naped Honeyeater	4	20/7/16	Six Mile Ck Glenugie	NC	Greg Clancy
Crescent Honeyeater	4	26/6/16	Murphys Glen Glenbrook, 20 on 19/7	S	Mark Ley
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	9/8/16	Avondale 20 km SW Wollongong	I	Christine Storrie
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	9/8/16	Berkeley Creek, Berkeley Vale	CC	Alan Morris
Spotted Quail-thrush	3	17/5/16	`Awaba SF	H	C.Goodenough
Spotted Quail-thrush	2	12/6/16	Megalong Ck Blackheath	CT	Barry McQuinn
Australian Logrunner	4	11/8/16	Lady Carrington Dve Royal NP	S	Bob Hynson
Rufous Whistler *	AM	6/8/16	Calling male Warnervale first return	CC	Alan Morris
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	79	12/7/16	Dalwood Rd Alstonville	NC	David Charley
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1 DY	8/6/16	Marramarra NP Wisemans Ferry	S	Mark Fuller
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2	12/7/16	Booto Booti NP	H	David Turner
Varied Triller	AM	29/6/16	Coutts Crossing Golf Club	NC	Greg Clancy
Varied Triller	1	12/7/16	Black Head, Hallidays Point	H	E.Galvin
White-breasted W'Swallow *	2	26/7/16	Cattai Wetlands, Cooloongoolook	H	G. Castles
White-breasted W'Swallow *	2	31/7/16	Blackwall Bay Woy Woy	CC	Grace Bryant
White-browed W'dswallow **	AM	1/7/16	Botany Bay NP North	S	Jesse Gibson
Black-faced W'dswallow	6	10/8/16	BarrenBox Swamp,m Griffith	R	Neil Palfreman
Dusky Woodswallow	100+	28/7/16	Yarrie Lake, Narrabri	NP	Michael Dahlem
Dusky Woodswallow	1	30/7/16	Riverside Park, Chipping Norton	S	Brenda Parkinson
Pied Butcherbird	1	9/7/16	Comleroy Rd Kurrajong	S	Edwin Vella
Pied Butcherbird	1	12/7/16	Terry Hills Golf Course	S	Roger McGovern
Grey Currawong	2	20/3/16	Private property, Marulan	I	Deryk Engel
Little Raven	40	14/7/16	Childrens Hospital Westmead	S	Elisabeth Karplus
White-winged Chough	5	18/8/16	Avondale GC Pymble	S	Andrew Robinson
White-winged Chough	22,5	28/8/16	Tallong & Penrose	I	Lorne Johnson
White-winged Chough	6	30/8/16	Moorebank Ave Moorebank	S	Bashir Khan
Jacky Winter	1	1/7/16	Peel Park, North Richmond	S	David Potter
Jacky Winter	4	9/7/16	Comleroy Rd Kurrajong	S	Edwin Vella
Red-capped Robin	4	27/8/16	Wambo Road, Warkworth	H	Edwin Vella
Scarlet Robin	1	12/6/16	Medhurst Bridge Martindale	H	HBOC
Scarlet Robin	AM	9/7/16	Pitt Town-Dural road on fence	S	Elisabeth Karplus
Scarlet Robin	AM	31/7/16	Main Camp, 30 km S Casino	NC	Steve McBride
Flame Robin	Im	13/7/16	Pitt Town Lagoon	S	Greg McLachlan
Flame Robin	1	16/7/16	Hexham Swamp old railway Line	H	Michael Kearns
Flame Robin	AF	30/7/16	Galore Hill NR Lockhardt	R	Phil Tenison

Hooded Robin	2	12/6/16	Medhurst Bridge Martindale	H	HBOC
Hooded Robin	2	27/8/16	Wambo Road, Warkworth	H	Edwin Vella
Eurasian Skylark	1	1/8/16	Mill Stream Lookout, Botany	S	Richard Murray
White-backed Swallow	1	27/8/16	Wollombi Creek Bridge Broke	H	Edwin Vella
White-backed Swallow	1	28/8/16	Port Macquarie Marina	NC	Liam Murphy
Fairy Martin *	2, 6	23,26/7	Eastlakes & Dairy Swamp CCW	S,C	Mitford & Morris
Fairy Martin *	12	7/8/16	Bushells Lagoon	S	Tom Wilson
European Goldfinch	1	1/7/16	Muddy Ck Kyeemagh	S	Oliver Williams
European Greenfinch	2	1/8/16	Mill Stream Lookout, Botany	S	Richard Murray
Beautiful Firetail	2	9/7/16	Mt Banks picnic Area BMNP	CT	Darryl Smedley
Diamond Firetail	10	12/6/16	Medhurst Bridge Martindale	H	HBOC
Plum-headed Finch	30	12/6/16	Denman	H	HBOC
Nutmeg Mannikin	17	16/6/16	Kyeemagh Soccer Stadium	S	Oliver Williams
Nutmeg Mannikin	50+	19/7 & 27/8	Barton Pk South, Kyeemagh	S	Greg McLachlan
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	1	19/7/16	Barton Pk South, Kyeemagh	S	Greg McLachlan

COMMENT

After some very dry weather in May the rain has returned with a vengeance with heavy rain on the Coast in June and then more heavy rain for inland NSW during July and August and the beginning of September. Flooding has occurred across the inland particularly along the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, Macquarie, Namoi, the Darling and the Paroo Rivers. Water has returned to the Menindee Lakes and the Macquarie Marshes and there are many new temporary lakes across inland NSW. This has led to a sudden exodus from the coast of the all the waterbirds and waterfowl so that many of the coastal lakes and wetlands are almost bereft of waterbirds. The inland looks a picture and bird numbers can be expected to increase. Many of the Australian migrants appear to be returning late this year but that could be because of the good seasonal conditions across northern Australia. Those that come from the inland areas may not turn up at all due to good seasonal conditions in western Queensland and Central Australia. Small numbers of **Maggie Geese** have been reported at 5 Copes Ck Tingha 11/7 (NT), 4 The Basin, Koonadan 16/7, 3 Campbells Swp Griffith 20/7 (R) & 2 Forest Grove Kanahooka 1/7-5/8 (I); **Freckled Ducks** have now deserted eastern NSW for their favorite breeding areas, like the NSW wetlands of the Paroo, Bulloo & Warrego Rivers, the Lower Bidgee and the Lake Eyre Basin Rivers where good rains and flooding has occurred. **Topknot Pigeons:** 15 & 12 at Forster & Tuncurry 4 & 8/8 (H), 14 Scenic Dve Terrigal 24/8 (CC); **Buller's Albatross:** 1 Kiama pelagic 15/7, 2 on 24/7 (I); **Fairy Prion:** 1 Crookhaven Hds, Culburra 22/7 (I), 2 bc South Ballina Beach 8/8 (NC); **Eastern Osprey:** Im Long Reef Aquatic Res 6/7 (S), N+1 Y Erina Council Works Depot Gosford 1-31/7 (CC), 2+N Georges River Oatley 13/8 (S); **Pacific Baza:** 5 Cattai Wetlands Coolongoolook 5/5 (H), 1 Darval Pk Denistone 3/7, 1 Smalls Ck Kellyville 10/7, 2 Roseville 18/8 (S); **Square-tailed Kite:** 1 Pt Macquarie 1-15/7 (NC), 1 Tionee, Taree 1-12/7, 1 Cattai Wetlands Coopernook 1-12/7 (H), 1 Half Way Ck Arrawarra & 1 Clarenza 1/7, 1 Coramba 7/7 (NC), 1 Wattamolla RNP 16/7 (S); **Grey Goshawk:** 1 Charlotte Bay, Forster 17/8 (H); **Spotted Harrier:** 1 Pipers Bay, Forster 22/5 (H); **Brolga:** 3 Kalangadoo, Tullymorgan 16/6 (R), 1 Boyters Lane Jerseyville 31/7 (NC); **Pied Oystercatcher:** Pr nesting Port Hacking 24/7 (S); **Brown Skua:** 1 Long Reef Aquatic Res 2/7 (S), 1 Kiama pelagic 15/7 (I); **Pacific Gull:** Im Ulladulla Harbour 10/7, Im Nelson Bch, Jervis Bay 17/7 (I); **Glossy Black-Cockatoo:** 1 Forster 18/5, 5 Milbrodale 12/6 (H), 4 Monash GC Ingleside 28/6 (S), 2 Murrumbidgee NP South Durras 23/7 (I), 3 Mt Solitary, BMNP 6/8 (CT); Other **Swift Parrots** include 8 HEZ woodland Kurri Kurri 2/8 (H), 2 Stanley Pk East Kurrajong 10/8 (S); **Eastern Koel:** 1 over-wintering? St Albans Rd Kingsford 26/7 (S); Other **Powerful Owl** records include hc Mt Riverview 25/6, Glenbrook 22/6 (S), Woonona 10/7 (I), hc Quarry Swp, Limeburners Ck NR 26/7 (NC); **Masked Owl:** 1 rk Pacific Hwy Tyndale 1/8 (NC); **Sooty Owl:** hc May Mt Warning Rainforest Retreat May (NC); **Noisy Pitta:** 1 Blackhead, Hallidays Pt 12/7 (E), 1 found dead in garden Valla 16/7, 1 Susan Is Clarence R 6/8 (NC); **Red-lored Whistler:** a NPWS survey 2014-2016 incl. estimated 500 birds in Round Hill, Nombinnie and the far south-east corner of Yathong NRs (R); **White-breasted Woodswallow:** Arrivals 2 Pipers Bay Forster 12/8 (H); **Rufous Fantail:** 1 Integrel Pk West Dapto 1/6 very late (I); More winter reports in usual locations of **Scarlet Robins** viz AM Yerranderie 10-14/6 (I), AM Megalong Ck Blackheath 12/6 (CT), AM Tingara Hgts Valentine 15/6 (H), 2 Shanes Pk Air Service site 14/8 (S); Some **Flame Robins** also were reported from usual sites viz F at Megalong, Blackheath 12/6 (CT) & AM at Fivebough Wetlands Leeton 16/7 (R); Good Birding!

(Editor's note: Grey-faced and Great winged Petrel are two names for the same species in the Photographic Index).

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