



# Gang-gang

**JUNE 2016**

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

## JUNE MEETING

**Wednesday 8 June 2016**

**7.30 pm.**

*Canberra Girls Grammar School,  
Multi-media centre, corner Gawler Cres  
and Melbourne Ave, Deakin*

The short talk will be given by GBS coordinator **Duncan McCaskill** on "**A short overview of the Garden Bird Survey**" which is about to enter its 36th year of operation - **what it is, a reminder of the rules for participants and a few interesting results from it.**"

The main presentation will be by **Tim Burnard**, National Coordinator of the National Malleefowl Recovery Team on "**The national Malleefowl monitoring effort: community, databases and adaptive management**".

Malleefowl are truly amazing birds but are a threatened species, listed nationally as well as in each state within their range (WA, SA, Vic, NSW and NT). There is a National Recovery Team and a Recovery Plan. A major part of the National Recovery Team work is to organise national monitoring and entry of all data to a national database. This process uses some innovative ideas. Aggregate data is regularly analysed and is being used in an exciting Australia-wide Adaptive Management (AM) Project to help identify the main threats to the species.

**Everyone welcome**

## Summary/analysis of the past month and what to watch out for this month

The four weeks from 28 April that constitute the reporting period for this month's column remained very dry and unseasonably warm except for some soaking rain around Mothers' Day. Unfortunately much of the benefit was undone by some strong drying winds that followed. I've attempted an analysis of how this weather pattern may have affected bird life in the COG area of interest (Aoi) below, though at least from the drop in the number of postings on the COG email Discussion List ("COG chatline") activity seems to have been much lower than in the preceding months.

From the notes I keep from the chatline I can find no reports of observations for the **Dusky Woodswallow** and **Olive-backed Oriole** which, as mentioned in my May column are generally considered the last of the

*Ann Eldridge*



**Little Eagle, light morph**

---

## What to watch out for this month—*continued from Page 1*

near-complete migratory species to depart before winter starts. This is surprising as I had expected the warm conditions may have favoured them staying for longer this year. In keeping with this the Eremaea eBird website still contains records of 6 and 1 birds on 23 and 19 May, respectively. Please keep an eye out for these two species; the former typically overwinter in small groups, often near water, whereas the latter are usually solitary.

Likewise, migrating flocks also seemed to largely stop at the end of April, and there seem to have been no postings on the COG chatline of flocks containing migrating **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters**, though some pure smaller flocks of **White-naped Honeyeaters** were still reported moving through up to mid-May. Again as illustrated by the Eremaea eBird website some of both species are still being reported, and small numbers of them may be expected to stay throughout winter. So again please keep an eye out for them too, as well as any overwintering **Fuscous Honeyeaters**, for which small numbers have been reported during May. Other migratory species which also overwinter in small numbers such as the **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**, **Mistletoebird** and **Grey Fantail** were also still being observed over the last weekend of the reporting period.

During May there have been no reports of the **Noisy Friarbird**, **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, **Leaden Flycatcher**, **Rufous Fantail**, **Fairy Martin** and **White-throated**

**Gerygone**, all of which seemed to be staying later than usual in April. However, the **Western Gerygone** was last reported on 7 May, and the **Rufous Whistler** (a few of which often do overwinter) on 15 May. There have also been reports of **Shining** and **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos** (last reported on 3 and 18 May, respectively), the **Australian Reed-Warbler** (last reported on 6 May), and **Tree Martin** (still reported up to 22 May). So my rather qualitative analysis above does not reveal any strong evidence for greater numbers than usual staying on despite the mild weather so far. The exception is the **Superb Parrot**, which was also still reported on 22 May (and 25 May feeding in flowering ironbarks in Cook – ed!), including a total of 20 birds seen flying through Holt (presumably to a roost site) in small groups by Anthony Overs on 17 May. This species seems to be overwintering in increasing numbers.

Of the species that come to Canberra for winter, there has been a further report of possible **Swift Parrots** at Mawson but there have been surprisingly few reports of the **Flame Robin** from the open areas of peri-urban Canberra. I've not been able to find any in my local area in May, even in the spot which has been most reliable for them in recent autumns/winters. Several **Rose Robins** have been reported from the Botanic Gardens, and at least one report of the **Pink Robin**, but there have been no reports so far of the **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**. On 12 May Sandra Henderson reported at least eight **Crescent Honeyeaters** at the Kambah Pool Reserve, moving through flowering mistletoe on



Pink Robin

Lindsay Hansch



Rose Robin

David Cook





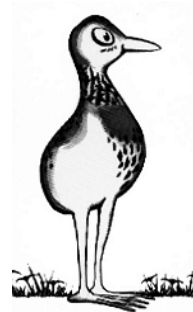
Crested Shrike-tit

Julie Clark

the casuarinas at the water's edge on both sides of river, and calling frequently. This is a relatively large number in close proximity, and I expected them to disperse and move into Canberra gardens, but since then only Harvey Perkins has reported one in his garden in nearby Gleneagles on 19 May.

So watch out for these winter altitudinal migrants as well as for other species that I associate with winter such as the **Restless Flycatcher** for which there have been further sightings reported from Tuggeranong and Gungahlin, including a posting on the chatline that two had been present all through winter in Greenway last year. There has also been a report of the **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** which the information on the COG database (taken from the website under bird info) indicates is more likely to be seen here in autumn/winter. The **Grey Shrike-thrush** also seems to have been an increasingly common visitor in my local patch over the past 4-5 autumns/winters.

Despite the relatively quiet period, there have been some sightings of "unusual" birds during May. Two of these are associated with water: the **Great Crested Grebe** first reported by Michael Lenz on 28 April from the West Belconnen Pond, and the **Azure Kingfisher** first reported from Lake Ginninderra by Duncan McCaskill on 14 May. It seems only a few others managed to find the former, but the latter was still present up to 23 May. Interestingly from the COG database there have been very few reports of the former since about 1998, while most of the reports of the latter are since 1998 (winter too?). A late posting was of a **White-headed Pigeon** in Holder; interestingly the COG database notes this rare vagrant has been most often observed in late



## Australian Ornithological Services

PO Box 385  
South Yarra 3141  
Victoria

Tel: 03 9820 4223  
Mob: 04173 10200

[enquiries@philipmaher.com](mailto:enquiries@philipmaher.com)

*Good birding, good food ...*

## 2016 tours

### Top End tour

22 May – 6 June 2016  
Darwin, Kakadu NP, Katherine & Kununurra. Mitchell Plateau optional

### Queensland's Gulf Country tour

22 June – 9 July 1960  
Two days added for Rusty Grasswren

### Iron Range & Atherton

**Tablelands tour**  
12 – 25 July 2016 (Tablelands optional)

### New Caledonia birding tour

14-21 August 2016

### Strzelecki Track Outback tour

2 – 21 September 2016  
37<sup>th</sup> tour! Covering 4 states & 5 species of grasswren

### Plains-wanderer Weekends 2016

15 & 16 October 2016  
12 & 13 November 2016  
26 & 27 November 2016

Please see itineraries, checklists and latest news on our website

[www.philipmaher.com](http://www.philipmaher.com)

autumn/winter, with all reports since 1997. There has also been a further report of **Turquoise Parrots** in Weston early in May. While reports of this also rare vagrant begin in 1994, most of them have been in spring/summer.

Despite the dry conditions and it being late autumn, there was still some breeding reported:

- A **Purple Swampphen** with dependent young and **Pacific Black Duck** copulating at Crace Pond late in April;
- **Southern Whiteface** photographed appearing to be carrying nesting material in early May;
- **Black-shouldered Kites** starting to breed in mid-May. As noted by Jerry Olsen in his presentation to COG in March this is the only local raptor that breeds in autumn;
- A dependent young still being fed in a large flock of **Red-rumped Parrots**, also in mid-May; and

Two separate reports of dependent young **Gang-gang Cockatoos**, the second on 21 May of possibly the same immature male in an Ainslie garden that had been reported 5 weeks before.

At the beginning of May four of the **Pink-eared Ducklings** at the large dam at Mulligans Flat had survived, as had three of the **Grey Teal** ducklings. As a sign of the continuing dry inland, large numbers of the former were present during May with over 200 counted at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands, with a large flock unusually also reported on Lake Ginninderra, and smaller numbers on other water bodies such the Weston Ponds and the large dam at Mulligans Flat. Large numbers of **Australian Wood Ducks** and **Pacific Black Ducks** have also been reported, as well as over 80 **Australian Shelducks** at Bungendore. In contrast, numbers of the **Plumed Whistling Ducks** there seemed to have been relatively low this summer/autumn.

The late autumn/winter large single flocks are also forming with reports of **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**, **Galah** (350 on the wires in my local patch recently; also up to 25 are regularly roosting in the trees in my

GBS) and many of the **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo**. A maximum of 85 of the latter has been reported, on occasion still with begging dependent young. Judy Middlebrook has been recording them flying over Uriarra Village for a few months. On 22 May there was a large flock of over 60 which arrived at 5.15 pm at the woodland adjacent to the western horse paddock where they often roost overnight. There seemed to be a lot of quarrelling over roosting spots and a group of 10 birds had to make do with an isolated tree in the paddock. It's the first time she had seen them roost in the open. A late chatline posting by Michael Lenz noted he has observed numbers of them roosting on Lyneham Ridge, including with dependent young present.

Once again my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to my two main data sources, postings on the COG email Discussion List ("COG chatline") and the Eremaea eBird website, as well as some direct correspondence to me. As usual I am very grateful to all involved for publishing this information without which it would not be possible to put this column together.

So please keep up the reports for any of the spring/summer migrants overwintering in the ACT; of those rarer species that come down from the mountains into Canberra to spend the autumn/winter here; for large single species flocks and MFFs (only a few of which have been reported during May but should continue until the spring breeding commences); for roost flights and roosting behaviour (limited reporting during May); and any winter breeding. As usual please ensure that all significant observations are properly reported and end up on the COG database.

*Jack Holland*

---

# What's happening with native vegetation policy in NSW?

First, did you know that more of COG's Area of Interest is located in NSW than in the ACT? That means that COG members living and/or birding on either side of the ACT border should take an interest in biodiversity conservation in the areas surrounding the ACT.

Chris Davey and Jenny Bounds recently represented COG at a meeting of BIGNet—the Bird Interest Groups Network, a loose coalition of NSW bird groups that meets regularly to coordinate activities and share information. Many of the NSW members of BIGNet expressed considerable concern about the State government's new approach to native vegetation legislation.

In brief, the NSW Government has a long-standing policy of tearing up its *Native Vegetation Act* and replacing it with legislation that many well-informed commentators argue significantly weakens the protection of native vegetation and biodiversity in NSW. The process used included establishing the Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel which reported to the Government in December 2014. The members of the Review panel included prominent ornithologist and former COG member, Professor Hugh Possingham. Further information on the review is available here: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversitylegislation/review.htm>.

In early May the government released its draft legislation for consultation, a new *Biodiversity Conservation Act*, available here: <https://www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au/home/biodiversity-reforms-overview/#toc>. The consultation period closes on 28 June. You can have your say here: <https://www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say/>.

The **NSW Nature Conservation Council** is taking a leadership role in trying to have the government take a more evidence-informed approach to the topic of native vegetation conservation and enhancement than appears to be its current policies. They state that 'Nationals MPs, developers and big agribusiness are behind a plot to let landholders trash our precious woodlands and urban bushland by tearing up our existing nature laws and replacing them with laws that will unleash a new [era] of habitat destruction'. They advise that:

Some of the changes the government wants to make are:

- Scrapping the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*;
- Lowering the threshold for tree clearing by ditching the requirement to 'maintain or improve biodiversity'; and
- Increasing the use of flawed biodiversity offsets.

Unless Premier Baird changes course, his new law will:

- Add extinction pressures to our state's 1000 threatened animal and plant species;
- Threaten our clean, reliable water supplies;
- Turn fertile farms into wasteland through erosion and salinity;
- Put landmark trees and bushland in our towns and suburbs at risk; and
- Release millions of tonnes of carbon pollution into our atmosphere.

The Nature Conservation Council has initiated an advocacy campaign to protect native vegetation in NSW. This is the *Stand Up For Nature* campaign. COG members and friends are invited to visit the campaign website <http://www.standupfornature.org.au/> to familiarise yourself with the issues and to consider engaging in advocacy to protect biodiversity, including the habitats of wild native birds, in the parts of COG's Area of Interest that surround the ACT. **Remember, submissions close on 28 June.**

David McDonald

## Newsletters of NSW bird groups

Members may be interested in the websites and newsletters of NSW bird groups, particularly when travelling. They usually include recent sightings and also details of field trips which may be of interest to visitors.

Illawarra Bird Observers Club

<http://www.iboc.org.au/html/newsletter.html>

Cumberland Bird Observers Club (Sydney)

<http://www.cboc.org.au/> (newsletter not available online)

Hunter Bird Observers Club (Newcastle)

<http://www.hboc.org.au/publications/newsletters/>

Hastings Birdwatchers

<http://www.hastingsbirdwatchers.org.au/>

Far South Coast Birdwatchers

<http://www.fscb.org.au/> (newsletter not available online)

Blue Mountains Bird Observers

<http://www.bmbo.org.au/> (newsletter not available online)

Birdlife Northern Rivers (formerly Tweed Bird Observers) – blog at

<https://tweedbirdobservers.wordpress.com/2011/02/08/tweed-bird-observers-home/>

Orange Field Naturalist & Conservation Society

<http://www.orangefieldnats.com/default.aspx?nm=8>

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists

<http://mfns.org.au/news>

Eurobodalla Natural History Society

[http://enhs.org.au/?page\\_id=170](http://enhs.org.au/?page_id=170) (latest newsletter is spring 2015)

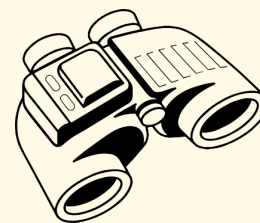
## Nature Lodge Optics

Nature Lodge Optics, a family owned business based in Huskisson, Jervis Bay, has been supplying quality binoculars to customers in the Canberra region since 2007.

Originally established in the UK in 1946, the owners established a branch in Australia several years ago and have become the region's leading independent binocular store.

Open 7 Days, the store always has over 100 pairs of binoculars in stock with a particular emphasis on Birdwatching products.

Major brands such as Steiner, Zeiss,



Bushnell, Nikon & Pentax are represented together with smaller hi-tech brands like Weaver, Vortex, Forest Optics, Visionary and Vanguard.

A selection of Spotting Scopes, Night Vision & Tripods are always available.

As a family business and NOT a franchise the owners Daniel and Joanna Payne will always be happy to source the specialist or unusual products that individual customers require having established a global network of suppliers.

The store also specialises in polarised eyewear with brands such as Maui Jim, RayBan & Oakley to name just a few.

The helpful and informative website [www.binoculars4u.com.au](http://www.binoculars4u.com.au) is regularly updated but is no substitute for personal service and recommendation which is always on hand.

**We welcome customers new  
and old to call us on  
02 4441 7770**



## Birdwatchers & nature lover's accommodation

Feathers'n'Friends cottage is fully self-contained with extensive facilities to ensure guests can enjoy short or extended stays.

The secluded lodging is surrounded by tropical rainforest and beautiful gardens with varying habitats and a large variety of birds and wildlife.

Activities in the area include birdwatching at nearby Mt Lewis and other birdwatching locations, as well as Daintree River nature tours and other attractions.

Discounts available for Birdlife Australia members.

Check our website for comprehensive details, rates, and bookings:

**[www.feathersnfriends.com.au](http://www.feathersnfriends.com.au)**

Fred & Jeanette Birkbeck

244 Clacherty Road  
Julatten QLD 4871

Tel: 07 4094 1665

Email: [freddy@feathersnfriends.com.au](mailto:freddy@feathersnfriends.com.au)

### DEUA TIN HUTS (Via Braidwood)

Comfortable accommodation on the door-step of the Deua National Park at Krawarree via Braidwood NSW.

Three cosy huts accommodating up to 14 people.

A short walk into the Deua National Park, the Big Hole and Marble Arch,

walks in the beautiful Shoalhaven Valley.

Reasonable rates, hampers on request..

Group booking discounts.

Email [enquiry@deuatinhuts.com](mailto:enquiry@deuatinhuts.com)

[www.deuatinhuts.com](http://www.deuatinhuts.com)

Ph 02 4847 1248

## Birding opportunities in rural NSW

Following a letter to the editor of The Land newspaper seeking opportunities for COG field trips to new sites, a number of property owners and other rural residents contacted Terry Bell who came up with the idea. While it would not be appropriate to share private contact details of property owners with members, some properties operate farmstays on a commercial basis and have websites advertising their facilities. Members may be interested in visiting these when exploring inland NSW.

Four Corners Farmstay at Nymagee in NW NSW -  
[fourcorners4@bigpond.com](mailto:fourcorners4@bigpond.com),  
[www.fourcornersfarmstay.com.au](http://www.fourcornersfarmstay.com.au)

Savernake Station 20 minutes north of Lake Mulwala, on the Murray River at Yarrawonga -  
[www.savernakestation.com](http://www.savernakestation.com)

The small village of Burcher which is between West Wyalong and Condobolin. There are two state forests nearby. Burcher has a camping ground in the village with an ablution block with hot and cold showers, and a kitchen area. There are also 10 powered sites. The fee system is on an honour basis at a cost of \$5 per night.

The organisers of Rankin Springs Bird of the Bush also responded, inviting COG members to join them in October. Details are at [www.birdsofthebush.com](http://www.birdsofthebush.com)

It is hoped that, in the 2017 field trip programme, we can organise camp outs at most of the private properties and explore some new country.

Thanks must go to Terry Bell for coming up with such a "bright idea" at the Willandra camp at Easter.

Sue Lashko



# Field Trip Reports

## Sunday 1 May – Micalong Swamp

Postponed due to a forecast of “dangerous winds” and heavy rain. The outing has been rescheduled to a date in September, yet to be advised.

## Saturday 7 May - Australian National Botanic Gardens – beginners’ outing

Nine members and guests met at the bus shelter for the annual ANBG beginners' outing. While it was a beautiful morning, the birds were not especially cooperative, although most of the usual suspects were seen or heard during the walk. Highlights were some good views of **Spotted Pardalotes**, numerous **White-browed Scrub-Wrens**, **Crimson Rosellas** and **Red Wattlebirds**. We noted 22 species in total. Many thanks to Anthony for leading the outing and providing such good advice to the newcomers. The second beginners' outing for the year will be at Lake Ginninderra on 6 August.

Sandra Henderson

## Sunday 15 May - Farrer Ridge Reserve

COG members and guests spent a pleasant morning at Farrer Ridge, seeing 27 species and enjoying the views from the top of the ridge. Bird highlights were an **Australian Hobby**, two **Speckled Warblers** and two **Scarlet Robins** which posed nicely. **Thornbills** were well represented, with **Brown**, **Buff-rumped**, **Striated** and **Yellow-rumped** sighted. **Red Wattlebirds** and **Noisy Miners** were the most common species.

Sandra Henderson

## Sunday 22 May - Queanbeyan urban reserves

Sixteen COG members and guests joined me for a walk at White Rocks Reserve and Barracks Flat Park, areas most had never visited before. We started at White Rocks, where the usual flock of **Common Bronzewings** was absent, although a few individuals were sighted. Close to the pumping station a mixed flock appeared just off the track, and a total of six **Varied Sittellas** stayed around long enough for everyone to get a good look. **Buff-rumped Thornbills**, **Scarlet Robins**, **White-throated Treecreepers**, **Brown Thornbills**, a **Yellow Robin**, two **Speckled Warblers**, a **Grey Shrike-Thrush** and some **Yellow-rumped Thornbills** were among other species seen at this point. **Weebills** and **Crimson Rosellas** were plentiful through the reserve, and **Superb Fairy-wrens** and **White-eared Honeyeaters** were heard at several locations.

In the neighbouring Barracks Flat Park a total of 11 species were seen, with **Kookaburra** and **Common Blackbird** the only new species.

Sandra Henderson



Bush Stone-curlew, Mulligan's Flat Julie Clark



Julatten, 1½hrs. North of Cairns

**FOR THE BEST BIRDWATCHING  
IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND**

Self-contained Units,  
Bunk Rooms & Campground

[www.birdwatchers.com.au](http://www.birdwatchers.com.au)

[sootyowl@bigpond.com](mailto:sootyowl@bigpond.com)

<http://kingfisherparkbirdwatchers.blogspot.com/>

Ph: 07 40941263

## MUDBRICK COTTAGE— MALLACOOTA

Our mudbrick cottage (Blue Wren Cottage) is available for rental. It is set amongst the trees in Mallacoota, Victoria (approximately 4 hours drive from Canberra).

10 minutes walk to the beach, 5 minutes walk to the golf course and about 15 minutes walk to town.

It sleeps 4-6 upstairs and there is a sofa bed downstairs. It is fully self-contained with a kitchen and laundry.

**Contact:** Barbara de Bruine (02) 6258 3531, or  
[barbdebruine@hotmail.com](mailto:barbdebruine@hotmail.com)



## COG Trips

At the start of each trip, and before proceeding on the trip, each participant must sign a COG Field Trip Registration Form, which acknowledges the participant's responsibilities as follows:

- I declare I am capable of undertaking this trip having: discussed with the Trip Leader any limitations I have (e.g. medications, physical), assessed the risks to myself and my property, and ensured I am adequately equipped.
- I will follow the instructions of the Field Trip Leader, and advise them before moving away from the group.

--

LATEST UPDATES AND CHANGES TO TRIPS are notified on the trips page of the COG website:

[canberrabirds.org.au/](http://canberrabirds.org.au/)  
then select 'Our Activities' and 'Field Trips'.

and on the COG chat-line at:

[bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/archives/html/canberrabirds/2015-08/](http://bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/archives/html/canberrabirds/2015-08/)

--

A reminder that COG has a long-standing policy to give preference to members for field trips that can accommodate only a limited number of people.

## Future Field Trips

**Tuesday 7 to Friday 10 June – Ben Ricketts (near Barren Grounds NR) - mid-week accommodated**

Ben Ricketts Environmental Mountain Cabins are near Jamberoo and just 1km from Barren Grounds Nature Reserve. We will be accommodated in 3 cabins which each consist of one room plus bathroom. We will bird on the property as well as at Barren Grounds. Expect early starts for pre-breakfast searches for **Eastern Ground Parrot** and **Eastern Bristlebird**, as well as spotlighting at night for mammals and owls.

This trip is full.

**Sunday 19 June – Wanniasa Hills and Fadden Pond**

**Note the change of date for this outing.**

Arrive by 8am on this cold chilly winter morning (hint: remember your gloves!) to Fadden Hills Pond located on the corner of Bugden Ave and Nicklin Cres. There are no proper parking arrangements in the area- note that the gravel parking near the tennis courts is for tennis club members only. I suggest you park along Stopford Cres or Nicklin Cres out of the way, and carpool where possible. We will spend some time loitering around the pond. A **Spotless Crane** was present throughout the cooler months last year, and the tree-lined creek occasionally presents some nice birds like **Rose Robin**.

We will then (slowly) walk up to Wanniasa Hills NR, doing a loop of the SW section of the reserve. Mixed feeding flocks abound over winter in the comparatively healthy eucalypts of the reserve. With some patience, we can expect to get some very decent views of **Golden Whistlers**, **White-eared Honeyeaters**, **Scarlet Robin**, pardalotes, and a range of thornbills. Be prepared for some mildly steep and rocky sections, as I will modify the route as we go depending on where the mixed feeding flocks are. We will then check out the dam just in case there is a grebe swimming in its murky depths (assuming it rains between now and then) or a duck or two to add to the list. Hopefully, the fog will have cleared up by this point and we will return via the southernmost peak (the smallest but also with the best views). This may be a good opportunity for a quick snack while taking in the breathtaking views of Tuggeranong and the Brindabellas, with the possibility of a raptor or two. The whole morning should take about 3-4 hours.

Ryu Callaway

### Saturday 25 June - Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve- Superb Lyrebird survey

#### Note the change of date for this outing.

Since the January 2003 bushfires Peter Fullagar and Chris Davey have been monitoring the return of the **Superb Lyrebird** to an area of the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. They wish to get an idea of the present distribution within the Reserve and are asking COG members to join them for a morning's survey. They are calling for expressions of interest to join them at 8.00am to walk the trails and to record the location of calling birds. Depending on the trails walked the survey should take about three hours. This outing will be a repeat of the very successful surveys conducted at this time of the year since 2004.

If interested and for further details please contact Sue Lashko on 62514485 (h), or email [smlashko@gmail.com](mailto:smlashko@gmail.com)

Chris Davey

### Sunday 17 July – Gungahlin Hill

#### Note the change of date for this outing.

This Reserve is often missed by birders as they head along the Barton Highway either into or out of town. Once a quarry, the area is now well revegetated and consists of various habitats ranging from a stony rise with Brittle Gum to grassy woodlands of Blakely's Red Gum and Yellow Box. The Reserve is little known and well worth a visit.

Meet at 9:00 am at the pull-over on the left-hand side of the Barton Highway heading into town situated between Crace and the Print Handicap Radio Station. No booking required and weather permitting it will be worth bringing along morning tea.

Chris Davey



#### LOIRE VALLEY TIME TRAVEL

The Loire Valley is riddled with caves. They are not natural but the result of over 2000 years of limestone quarrying. In the winter they provide a perfect habitat for hibernating bats, but their constant humidity and temperature also provide perfect habitat for winemakers.

A visit to a small family run winemaker here can be a fascinating experience. The area excels in light tannic reds, crisp fruity whites and vintage sparkling wine. If you have ever wondered if the French concept of terroir really exists, a visit to any of our carefully chosen winery partners will convince you. Equally impressive is how open and honest the winemakers are. Ask a question about winemaking and vineyard management and you will get a direct and detailed answer.

Winemakers are very aware of their heritage, but are also open to improving their wine by adopting new practices. We highly recommend including a tasting on your itinerary with us.

*Susan & Simon*

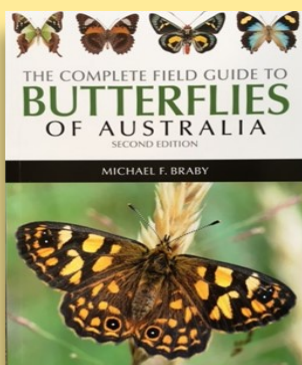
[www.tourtheloire.com](http://www.tourtheloire.com)

[loirevalleytours nature walks](http://loirevalleytoursnaturewalks)

**Tel: 0261 00 7744  
(Canberra)**

[contact@tourtheloire.com](mailto:contact@tourtheloire.com)

## BOOK OF THE MONTH



### The Complete Guide to Butterflies of Australia

(Second Edition)

Michael Braby

The second edition of the award-winning book *The Complete Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia* is a fully updated guide to all butterfly species on Australia's mainland and remote islands. There are new species added and the text and regional maps have been updated.

Written by one of Australia's leading lepidopterists, the book is stunningly illustrated with colour photographs, many of which are new, of each of the 435 currently recognised species. There is also a distribution map and flight chart for each species on the Australian mainland, together with information on similar species, variation, behaviour, habitat, status and larval food plants.

The second edition of the award-winning book *The Complete Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia* is a fully updated guide to all butterfly species on Australia's mainland and remote islands.

**Members' Price \$35. (RRP \$50)**

## Publications for sale

COG provides a range of birdwatching related publications for sale to members at discounted prices (around 10-30% off RRP).

Below are highlighted a sample of popular publications available from the sales desk at COG meetings. We get new books in all the time and sometimes popular books sell out, but they can easily be re-ordered. If you are looking for a particular book, talk to the sales desk team at the meeting, as they can look at ordering it for you or contact Kathy on

[sales@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:sales@canberrabirds.org.au)

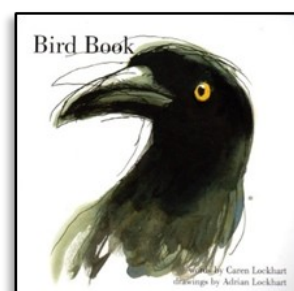
### NEW BOOKS IN STOCK

#### Bird Book

*Caren Lockhart and Adrian Lockhart*

Bird Book is a 70 page softcover book of poems and drawings.

The book has an unassuming name and poetically tells wonderful stories of our interactions with the bird world. Delightful illustrations not only capture the form of each story's birds, but also provide a magical glimpse of their behaviour. The book covers many of our favourite birds such as bowerbirds, cockatoos, oystercatchers, Crested Pigeons and Sacred Kingfishers.



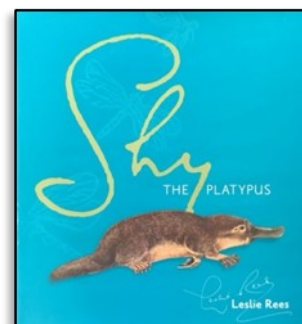
**Members' Price \$20.**

### CHILDRENS BOOKS

#### Shy The Platypus

*Leslie Rees*

National Library Publishing presents a stylish, highly illustrated re-publication of Leslie Rees' classic tale, *Shy the Platypus*. This exciting story of the life of a young platypus describes her growing up and experiencing encounters with humans, other platypuses and different animals.



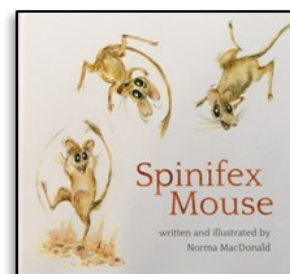
Leslie Rees published over 40 children's books and won major awards (Order of Australia & NSW Premier's Award) for his 'contribution to Australian literature'. Leslie Rees' animal stories were an important part of the Australian children's books from the 1940s onwards.

**Members' price \$15.**

#### Spinifex Mouse

*Norma Macdonald*

Spinifex Mouse is the heartwarming tale of Cheeky, a spinifex hopping mouse, who lives in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Cheeky is an adventurous little mouse who loves to leap high into the air and practise acrobatic tricks. Every morning, when his family have returned to their burrow to sleep after a night's foraging, Cheeky sneaks out to look for more food and practise his flips. Each day, he ventures a little further from the burrow. One morning, when Cheeky is far from home, he shows off his clever tricks in front of a hungry snake and becomes swept up in a heart-stopping and very risky adventure.



**Members' price \$18.**

## Canberra Birds Conservation Fund

Donations to this fund are tax deductible. Funds are used to support projects that protect and enhance native birds and the environments that sustain them.

## COG membership

2015-2016 memberships:

- Singles: \$40
- Family: \$45
- Institution: \$40
- School student (under 18) \$20

## New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for July 2016 edition

**Friday 24 June 2016**

**Please send articles, advertisements, updates etc. to the Editors at:**

[gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au)

Or

**c/- The Secretary COG,**

**PO Box 301 Civic Square, ACT 2608**

Articles should be less than 500 words (300 for reports of 1-day field trips) except by prior arrangement with the editor.

Photographs (prints or electronic) with or without articles are encouraged.

## COG information

**President:** Alison Russell-French  
0419 264 702  
[president@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:president@canberrabirds.org.au)

**Vice-President:** Neil Hermes  
0413 828 045  
[hermes.neil@gmail.com](mailto:hermes.neil@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Lia Battisson  
[liabattisson@grapevine.com.au](mailto:liabattisson@grapevine.com.au)

**Secretary:**  
Bill Graham  
[cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au)

### Address for correspondence

The Secretary  
COG, PO Box 301  
Civic Square, ACT 2608

## COG website

[canberrabirds.org.au](http://canberrabirds.org.au)

**COG Webmaster**  
Julian Robinson  
[cogwebmaster@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:cogwebmaster@canberrabirds.org.au)

### COG library

**Membership:** Sandra Henderson  
(02) 6231 0303 (h)  
[membership@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:membership@canberrabirds.org.au)

[.au](http://canberrabirds.org.au)  
for change of address or other details.

**Gang-gang Newsletter**  
**Editor:** Sue Lashko  
[gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au)

**Lay-out Editor:** Gail Neumann  
**Newsletter distribution:**  
Dianne Davey

**Canberra Bird Notes**  
Editor: Michael Lenz  
[lenzmj@hotmail.com.au](mailto:lenzmj@hotmail.com.au)

**Publication Sales**  
Kathy Walter  
[sales@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:sales@canberrabirds.org.au)

## COG E-mail Discussion List

*COG E-mail Discussion List*  
COG has an email discussion list for members and friends: 'CanberraBirds'.

Join (subscribe to) the list by following the links on the COG website or by sending an email message to [canberrabirds-subscribe@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:canberrabirds-subscribe@canberrabirds.org.au). The subject line and body of the email can be empty.

To unsubscribe, either permanently or temporarily, send an email message to [canberrabirds-unsubscribe@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:canberrabirds-unsubscribe@canberrabirds.org.au).

If you wish to re-subscribe after being unsubscribed temporarily, simply follow the 'subscribe' instructions above.

