



Gang-gang

APRIL 2015

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday 8 April 2015

7.30 pm.

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

For the short talk **Philip Veerman** will give a somewhat experimental and rather different presentation, "**About how to identify feathers.**"

There is an occasional request for this on the chat line or at meetings (and some wrong answers). This will be an illustrated demonstration of the general points of size, shape, texture and colour as to how to know what part of the bird a feather is from and then to narrow down the possibilities and match it to what you can find in a book, to hopefully come up with the most likely identification.

If you have feathers at home that you wonder or know what they are from, then you may bring them along and we can see how well the methods work (after the close of formal proceedings).

The main presentation will be by visiting fellow at the ANU, **Christina Zdenek** on "**Elusive Palmies: Seven Years of Researching the Palm Cockatoo.**"

Continued next page

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

March has been very dry so far and there has been limited rain since that which fell (with some of the heavier falls being quite localised) in the last week of February as I was finalising last month's column slightly early to meet the editors' requirements. Shortly after this and into the first week of March there was a flurry of postings not necessarily linked to this rain event but my impression is that as things dried out and we moved deeper into the month bird activity including the movement I mentioned last month died down significantly, with at the time of writing this column significant autumn honeyeater migration having only just commenced.

The past four weeks or so has continued to be a period of reports of higher breeding activity for the early autumn time of the year. To me the undoubted highlight was Steve Holliday's post at the end of the first week of March of a **Sacred Kingfisher** still feeding young in a nest in a

Geoffrey Dabb



Swift Parrot

Everyone welcome

March Meeting—details of speakers—*continued from Page 1*

Christina will provide an extensive update of her short talk to COG in November 2010. From vocal repertoire studies to genetic variation population studies and drumming behaviour questions, the Palm Cockatoo Project has seen many field seasons on Cape York Peninsula (far north Qld), totalling 22 months of full-time fieldwork in seven years on this iconic and elusive species. Videos and photos will be shown, and new discoveries will be revealed.

For sale at the talk will be 30 X 45 cm canvas prints of stellar palmy photos as well as black and long-sleeved palm cocky project shirts."

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

small hollow in a gum at Mulligan's Flat. Steve Wallace was able to confirm from the COG database that this was the first record of a nest with young in March, with only one record of dependent young previously at this time. This is another example of breeding still occurring very close to the expected date of the species' departure (see below).

Another unusual record was a **Rainbow Lorikeet** nest still with young reported in Fadden by Ryu Callaway around this same time, as well as a possible nest with young in the Pinnacle Nature Reserve. Again Steve Wallace has provided me with the breeding records from the COG database which show only two dependent young records for March (but also for April). What surprises me is that there are only 35 records in total, a very low number for a species which has been increasing significantly in the ACT over the past years.

On the last day of February Lindell Emerton posted that the eggs in the **Weebill** nest at Campbell Park which I noted last month had hatched and there appeared to be 2 chicks. Other reports of species still in the earlier stages of nesting include a **Purple Swamphen** on a nest and a **White-winged Chough** nest with young. There have continued to be reports of dependent young, possibly the most significant being a third brood for this season of the **Buff-banded Rail** reported by Julie Clark at the Forde Creek towards the end of February, as well as the family of **Varied Sittella** seen at Narrabundah Hill by Jean Casburn. The latter species seems to have had a very long breeding season this summer, with those from the empty nest seen during the Nest Workshop in mid November already having fully fledged.

Other dependent young or young birds reported included a recently fledged **Pilotbird** and a **Red-browed Treecreeper**, both species again having few records on the COG database (probably because they breed well away from suburban Canberra), in particular for late February. Other reports have been of **Golden-headed Cisticola**, **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo** and **Olive-backed Oriole** dependent young, as well as two lots of **Eastern Spinebills**, one in the Botanic Gardens and another on Black Mountain. Towards the end of the month I found a pair of **Australian Wood Ducks** with very young ducklings in the dam at the end of Kathner Street Chapman. This is the same place as where my wife and daughter saw the young ducklings parachuting out of the nest tree last October, but it is not possible to say whether or not it is the same pair breeding again five months later.

While my fledgling **Eastern Koels** in Rivett had departed well before the end of February, other members still reported them until at least mid March, most notably Christine D who has had a number of them plus several adults regularly in her garden, in particular feeding on her ripe figs, and allowing a number of very important observations on adult/fledgling interactions. Again breeding of other "more common" species has also been reported, confirming that this breeding season is continuing well into autumn. So please continue to look out for and report all signs of breeding, and enter your records into the COG database.

At the time of writing this column the **Powerful Owl** was still present in the trees at the Canberra North



Purple Swamphen and chicks

Gail Neumann

Bowling Club in Turner, though during March it had been absent for over 2 weeks possibly due to the increased attention it received following an item on ABC TV news. There is evidence that not only has it taken a **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**, but also a **Galah** and possibly a **Gang-gang Cockatoo**. The latest discussion has been will it still remain when its favourite trees lose their leaves, though I understand there are several pines/conifers which it also uses to roost.

Other “unusuals” for March were the continued observation of a couple of **Musk** and a **Scaly-breasted Lorikeet** in Wanniasa. Also new for the summer period was the report of a single **Zebra Finch** in Forde and two **Great Crested Grebes** in the West basin of Lake Burley Griffin. The **Plumed Whistling Ducks** continued to be found at Bungendore though in lower numbers, with the maximum reported for March being 67, though at one time there also were up to 32 at Kelly’s Swamp. These were well outnumbered by the **Australian Shelducks** there which were estimated as over 150 at one stage, again a record for the Bungendore area. Also present in the area were up to 45 **Australasian Shovellers**. I’m still unclear as to what attracts these species specifically to this area.

Again the above was mainly taken from postings on the COG E-mail Discussion List (“chat line”) or direct correspondence with me, whereas my other main source of information, the Eremaea eBird web site, was also consulted for a number of the sightings and information in the next paragraphs.

Of the species most, if not all, were expected to have left by the end of January, there has been one report of the **Rufous Songlark** in the first 10 days of March, but none of the **White-winged Triller** since close to the end of February. A surprise to me was the report of 17 **White-browed Woodswallows** in the last part of February, with a further 22 after the middle of March an even bigger surprise. Of the species usually leaving during February

David Cook



White-browed Woodswallow



Australian Ornithological Services

PO Box 385
South Yarra 3141
Victoria

Tel: 03 9820 4223
Mob: 04173 10200

enquiries@philipmaher.com

2015 tours

Good birding, good food ...

**Special NSW Parks Week
Plains-wanderer Weekend**
14 — 15 March (catered)

Alice Springs birding tour
18 — 25 April: Fantastic season!

Top End birding tour
25 May — 2 June — 7 June
Pt 1 Darwin Kakadu Katherine.
Pt 2 Katherine Kununurra

Mitchell Plateau day now open to non-Top End participants: few places remaining.

Iron Range parts 1 & 2
Pt 1 Atherton Tablelands 10 - 15
Pt 2 Iron Range 15 - 23 July

New Caledonia birding tour
16 — 23 August

Strzelecki Track outback tour
4 — 23 September 36th tour!

Barren Grounds, Gloucester Tops, Wingham & coastal NSW
26 September — 4 October

2015 Plains-wanderer weekends

7 & 8 November 2015
6 & 7 December 2015

2016 Tasmania February

Please see itineraries, checklists and latest news on our website

www.philipmaher.com

there have been two reports of the **Brush Cuckoo** in March. Likewise the **Dollarbird** was still being reported until mid March, whereas there were reports of the **Rainbow Bee-eater** in the second half of March after not being reported in the first 10 days (or the last 8 days of February!) The **Sacred Kingfisher**, which often has left by the end of the first two weeks of March, was also still being reported as this column went to the editors, consistent with its late breeding as noted above.

Of the birds that usually mostly leave by the end of March there has been a sprinkling of reports of the **Pallid Cuckoo**, **Horsfield's** and **Shining Bronze-Cuckoos**, but a few more of the **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, the least migratory of these species. There have also been reports of the **Leaden Flycatcher**, and more of the **Australian Reed-Warbler**, but surprisingly no reports of the **Latham's Snipe** after mid March. Likewise there has been only a report of a single **Fairy Martin** in March, but the related **Tree Martin** has continued to be reported, including some surprisingly large flocks still present towards the end of the month.

With the rain at the end of February there were some large flocks of the **White-throated Needletail** reported, the maximum being an estimate of at least 350 by Jean Casburn over her GBS site in Duffy. This species has continued to be reported in lower numbers during the drier March, including some seen in clear skies, but during the reporting period there have been no reports of the rarer **Fork-tailed Swift**.

Of the species moving through Canberra during March as "passage migrants" from their breeding sites in the mountains there have only been a few reports the **Satin Flycatcher**, more of the **Rufous Fantail**, but none of the **Cicadabird**. As the above sometimes stay until early April, please continue to keep an eye out for them, as well as for the last **Eastern Koel** (one was still in Christine D's Flynn garden as this went to the editors) including any late fledglings.

Though a number of observers reported small honeyeater flocks migrating or passing through their gardens, at the completion of writing this column significant migration did not appear to have yet started, though with a couple of much colder nights forecast ahead this might happen very soon. In fact just as this was going to the editors Lindsay Hansch posted on the chat line that a steady stream of honeyeaters had passed over his house in Jerrabomberra that day. They were mostly **Yellow-**

faced Honeyeaters and the biggest flock seen was 82 with over 700 in 20 minutes just after midday.

So watch out for the first migrating birds of this species in your local area, with during the month **White-naped Honeyeaters** joining them and then becoming predominant towards the end of April. Watch out also for any **Fuscous Honeyeaters** amongst them, which in my experience tend to dwell longer in the tree stopping points. One species that has been noted migrating or moving through in large numbers is the **Silvereye**. By contrast only small flocks of the **Red Wattlebird** and **Noisy Friarbird** have been reported moving through, though John Leonard saw 20 of the latter at Newline mid month accompanied by 40 **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes** (about half immatures), which I expect would also have been on migration.

Species that are still being reported but usually leave during April include the **Western** and **White-throated Gerygone**, **Noisy Friarbird**, and most of the **Rufous Whistlers**, as well as most of the **Grey Fantails** of which there again seem to have been many moving through this March. A number of these will overwinter, as will the **Mistletoebird** and increasingly the **Superb Parrot**, for which flocks of up to 22 birds were still being reported in the second half of March.

Of the species that move from the mountains but will stay here over winter, there have been some reports of the **Scarlet Robin** and **Golden Whistler** in Canberra's suburbs and peri-urban areas in March, but none as far as I can ascertain yet of the **White-eared Honeyeater**. The **Flame Robin** also seems not to have moved yet into the open areas of peri-urban Canberra, so watch out for these and other winter altitudinal migrants such as the **Rose** (a couple of Canberra reports



White-throated Needletail

David Cook

already) and **Pink Robins**, the **Crescent** and **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**, which may be first seen during April or early May. Watch out also for the **Swift Parrot** migrating from Tasmania, especially if the gums in your area are flowering well.

The discussion above shows that the very good birding in the ACT has continued through March, and I expect it will do so in April which is usually also a month of considerable movement and migration. So please continue to watch out for the last of the departing species and the first of the altitudinal migrants mentioned above, as well as for any further breeding activity and mixed feeding flocks, for which there were a number of reports in March. As usual please ensure that all significant observations end up on the COG database.

Jack Holland

Advanced notice Norfolk Island Bird Excursion

COG will have an excursion to Norfolk Island from Monday 30 November to Monday 7 December 2015.

The cost will be from \$1269 per person twin share

The package includes Air New Zealand flights to and from Sydney, all accommodation, 7 days car hire, bird tours and some meals.

There will be a range of additional excursions available to Philip Island and pelagic trips.

Members and their partners will be welcome to book.

It is expected that a number of COG members with a long history with birding on Norfolk Island will be on the trip.

The Committee has appointed a travel agent to arrange the travel. The agent is producing a brochure with all the details including deposit requirements and cancellation arrangements.

The brochure will be circulated soon.

Neil Hermes

Lindsay Hansch

Yellow-tufted Honey-eater



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



Julatten, 1½hrs. North of Cairns

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

Self-contained Units,
Bunk Rooms & Campground

www.birdwatchers.com.au
sootyowl@bigpond.com
<http://kingfisherparkbirdwatchers.blogspot.com/>

Ph: 07 40941263

Field Trip Reports

Urambi Hills Nature Reserve, 1 March 2015

The first day of autumn was a perfect morning for a walk in the Urambi Hills Nature Reserve. Ten members met in the carpark on the corner of Learmonth and Athllon Drives in Kambah. We walked along Athllon Drive for a short distance, admiring views of Lake Tuggeranong as we went. Those with very keen eyesight were able to make out the **Silver Gulls**, **Purple Swamphen** and **Eurasian Coots** on and round the dam, while a **Great Cormorant** made itself evident to most of us.

We walked alongside Tuggeranong Creek for a while. The highlight along there was a **Wedge-tailed Eagle** perched low for quite some time. It was reluctant to move in the cool air of the morning, but finally succumbed to the pressure exerted by **Australian Ravens**, black and white birds of all sizes and then human beings!

In the last ten minutes of the trip we were privileged to watch two **Collared Sparrowhawks** interacting with each other, tumbling about in the sky, in the valley in front of us almost at head height. A total of forty-nine species was observed.

Lia Battisson

North Mulligans, 15 March 2015

12 members and 1 North Queensland visitor met at the Mulligans Flat car park on the 15th March. The weather was fine with little wind on this autumn morning. While waiting for everyone to arrive, **Sulphur Crested Cockatoos**, **Willie Wagtail** and **Little Corellas** were spotted from the car park. As we started to walk the perimeter of North Mulligan's Flat, **Weebills**, a juvenile **Golden Whistler** and various **Thornbills** (Striated, Brown and Buff-rumped) were found.

We walked along a dirt track towards Oak Hill, dodging mountain-bikers along the way. The causeways at the start of the track were completely dry, not inviting for bird-life, but minutes later a pair of beautiful **Scarlet Robins**, several **Brown-headed Honeyeaters** and **White-throated Gerygones** were spotted amongst the fringing woodland. A **Common Bronzewing** flushed, and some **Red-rumped Parrots** flew over. Walking up and around the ACT/NSW border, we passed some grasslands, home to the threatened Golden Sun Moth. More Gerygones, **Striated** and **Spotted Pardalotes** and **Yellow Thornbill** were recorded amongst the vegetation. We continued our walk up past more box-gums, brittle and scribbly gums and noticed a group of **Australian Magpies** hassling a **Brown Falcon** in a tree on the NSW side of the reserve.

Walking back towards our starting point, we stopped by a water hole where **Grey Teal** and **Masked Lapwing** were observed. Various other highlights that were seen on our return included **Rufous Whistler**, **Dusky Woodswallows** and **Tree Martins**. The total count at for the morning was 43 species (or 45 if you include the **Superb Fairywren** and **Brown Falcon** seen over the NSW border). This was a higher number of species than was last recorded here by leader Bill Graham.

Many thanks to the COG group for letting me join their field trip today. It was great to see new woodland species and to explore Mulligan's Flat, a beautiful nature reserve that resulted from an active COG and community group-led campaign.

Nadiah Roslan

Gigerline Nature Reserve, 18 March 2015

In sending out some notes about this outing I included "The forecast is for a possible shower (I wish)" As I drove out in the middle of a thunderstorm I mused upon the adage "Be careful what you wish for as you might get

it.". When I joined a fair horde of folk already at Williamsdale everyone was sitting in the cars sheltering from the downpour. We ended with 26 folk. For the first time in my memory there were raised brollies on a COG outing, as well as many varieties of raincoats.

After consulting the BoM on various phones, all of which suggested it was raining, we decided to person-up (the phrase "man-up" would not reflect the gender balance of the group) and migrated about 500m back towards Canberra. Here the weather suddenly improved and we set off across a soggy meadow of African Lovegrass and crossed a small creek.

There were birds everywhere. By the time we moved on from climbing the fence I had written down over 20 species. Notable were four species of finch: **Double-barred Finch**, **Red-browed Finch**, **European Goldfinch** and **Diamond Firetail**. The last species was carrying grass stems, presumably to build a roost, rather than an incubation nest. Two **Scarlet Robins** and two **Jacky Winters** were other good sightings. Several **Dusky Woodswallows** were swooping around and occasionally perching for a preen.

As we moved off a flock of 70 **Common Starlings** was noticed - possibly a tad early for building up into the large flocks of winter. A number of migrant species were observed on our way to the drop into the Murrumbidgee Valley including **White-throated** and **Western Gerygone**, **Rufous Whistler** and **Sacred Kingfisher**. The first of two **Fan-tailed Cuckoos** appeared at this point, showing the chestnut breast and yellow eye ring.

A distant raptor was provisionally identified as a **Brown Falcon** which was confirmed on the way back when the bird obliged by a nice flypast. The other identified raptors of the day were a group of three **Wedge-tailed Eagles**.

On descending to the Murrumbidgee two **Eastern Yellow Robins** were seen and heard as were **Tree Martins**, **Welcome Swallows** and **White-throated Needletails** (estimated as at least six of each). Further excitement was generated by at least two **Brown Treecreepers** close to the river and four **Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters** in trees along the bank. Climbing back up from the River and all did very well on this pretty steep track further low level fly-pasts by **White-throated Needletails** gave most members an excellent view. Our final exciting bird was seen halfway back to the cars: the lack of a clear eye-stripe indicated **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**.

In total I wrote down 56 species (including the seven **Little Ravens** which I saw in NSW, but was assured they flown across the road from the ACT!) An excellent day's birding for the quite large group who braved the very ordinary weather at the start.

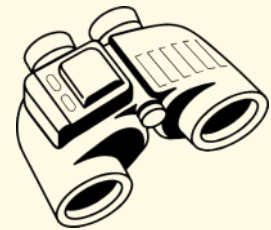
Martin Butterfield

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 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

COG Pelagic, 22 March 2015

A bunch of 12 keen birders descended on Eden wharf early Sunday morning, lured by the promise of a seabird-filled day on the ocean. And we weren't disappointed.

March is migration month as many of our summer seabirds head north and make way for the winter seabirds coming up from the south. This can be a great time to catch a rare bird that just happens to be passing through the area. This March we had a bit of everything, with some summer seabirds still around, some winter seabirds already present plus a rare bird for good measure.

The trip started well, with lovely weather and just enough wind and swell to keep seabirds interested (but not so much to make it uncomfortable for us). We spotted a **Little Penguin** just past the harbour that gave us great views as it stuck its head in the water, presumably looking for something beneath the surface. There were relatively few birds on the way out to the shelf edge. A few jaegers cruised past in the distance but didn't put in another appearance, to the disappointment of many. We had **Shy Albatross** and **Wedge-tailed Shearwaters** to keep us company along with the odd **Black-browed** and **Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross** but not much happened until we reached the edge of the continental shelf.

When we reached the shelf edge, we cut the motors and set about burleying to attract the birds. Many of the albatross weren't very hungry and it took a while before we had birds around the boat, but eventually we had **Great-winged Petrels**, **Short-tailed** and **Wedge-tailed Shearwaters**, **Wilson's Storm-Petrel**, **Shy**, **Indian Yellow-nosed**, **Buller's**, **Black-browed**, **Campbell** and **Gibson's (Wandering) Albatross** around the boat. The Gibson's was a particular highlight, as it was a 1st or 2nd -year bird, still a wonderful chocolate brown all over. A **Streaked Shearwater** put in a lengthy appearance, giving everyone great views of a 'summer' bird which will soon start its journey to Japan.

After a while, with not much new happening, I suggested to the skipper we move a bit wider and soon the move paid off. We spotted a scruffy **Kermadec Petrel** whizz past, a bird mostly seen during autumn migration time off eastern Australia. Soon after, a mystery petrel flew in and did several close passes of the boat before disappearing. Confusion over its ID ensued, as I was convinced it didn't look quite right for Kermadec Petrel, however couldn't be sure. Later, back at port, Dan Mantle confirmed my growing suspicion that it was indeed a **Herald Petrel**, an exceptionally rare bird in Australian waters.

On the way back to shore we added **Flesh-footed Shearwater** and **Northern Giant-Petrel** to add to a very unique day on the water. We had a bit of summer, a bit of autumn migration, a bit of winter and a rare petrel to top it all off. The ocean never ceases to surprise.

Tobias Hayashi



Herald Petrel

Tobias Hayashi



Buller's Albatross

Graham Stephenson

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.

Changes to trips are notified on the trips page of the COG website

<http://canberrabirds.org.au/>

and on the COG chat-line at:

[http://
bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/
archives/html/
canberrabirds/2012-03/
index.html](http://bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/archives/html/canberrabirds/2012-03/index.html)

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

Easter Saturday 4 April – Narrabundah Hill morning outing

Those members who will be staying at home this Easter and/or will have visiting birder friends are welcome to join this outing to the Narrabundah Hill reserve. This is a repeat of the March 2014 walk but about 2 weeks later, and should now be in the peak of the honeyeater migration season, with the Northern fence line one of the few currently known local migration routes. We will walk along this boundary line, and well as along most of the western border and either return by the same or a different path, looking for other autumn birds such as the Scarlet Robin and mixed feeding flocks, or late departing summer migrants such as gerygones.

Meet Jack Holland (62887840 or jandaholland@bigpond.com) at 8 am at the parking area and stile at the NE end of the reserve, at the corner of Warragamba Avenue and Eucumbene Drive, Duffy. **Please note that the entry to this parking area is a little tricky, and is in fact about 25 metres past (on the Mount Stromlo side) the T-junction with Warragamba Avenue, and for those driving along Eucumbene Drive from Duffy involves a quite tricky 180 degrees turn, so please take care.**

There is no need to book but an indication of your intentions would be appreciated to get a rough idea of numbers.

Sunday 12 April – K2C Surveys Bredbo region

COG will continue with the K2C surveys that have been running since April 2010. The surveyed properties have healthy populations of many of the rarer woodland birds such as **Diamond Firetail**, **Hooded Robin** and **Speckled Warbler**. We will be visiting the same sites to continue the monitoring and see if we can add to the property lists with spring-summer migrants. The surveys will be undertaken in 'blitz' fashion; that is, observers in small groups will visit a number of sites on one or more properties before regrouping for lunch and a sharing of the survey's findings. Less experienced observers are welcome to join in the survey as each team will have at least one experienced observer. Anyone interested in participating is asked to contact Nicki Taws. Email: ntaws@bigpond.com or ph 6251 0303, m 0408 210736.

Wednesday 15 April – Wednesday Walk

The Wednesday Walk for April will be on 15 April. Meet at 9:00am in the car park to the soccer ground off Owen Dixon Drive near the intersection with William Slim Drive. We'll go to McKellar ponds and Ginninderra Creek and pond.

Friday 17 to Sunday 19 April – Tumut campout

The Tumut area is one that is largely unexplored by COG but one of our members has invited us onto his property to camp for the weekend on a “take everything in – take everything out basis”. We will survey the property, assist Tumut birders with the Tumut Wetlands bird survey at 6.30 on Saturday morning and visit local birding spots.

Campers will need to arrive mid to late Friday afternoon as we have an early start on Saturday. Registration is essential with Sandra Henderson at shirmax2931@gmail.com and more detail will be provided to participants.

Sunday 3 May - Campbell Park Woodland

Last year's outing to this delightful piece of woodland and forest turned up 35 species, including a few summer migrants and unusual locals such as **Jacky Winter**, **Common Bronzewing**, **Varied Sittella** and **Flame** and **Scarlet Robins**.

Meet in the car park near the northern end of **Campbell Park Offices** at **8.30am**. Travel north along Northcott Drive until you come to the office block, turn right, skirt the car park on your left and park next to the woodland at the very northern end.

Bring sturdy walking boots, sun hat, sun cream and water to drink. We will walk on easy established paths for about 3 hours. No bookings required.

Bruce Lindenmayer

Saturday 9 May – Australian National Botanic Gardens – beginners' outing

This morning walk will be the first for 2015 aimed specifically to help beginners and new members identify birds and to learn about their behaviour and calls. The Botanic Gardens are especially suitable for such an outing, as they allow the opportunity to observe a range of local bush birds in a variety of habitats. Due to the available food supply they are also a relative haven for birds during late autumn/winter. Anthony Overs will lead this outing, which will consist of a stroll through this lovely part of Canberra for a

couple of hours. Meet at 9.15am at the ANBG bus shelter. Registration is essential.

Please book your place with Anthony (6254 0168, or anthony.overs@gmail.com), who will be happy to discuss whether this outing is suitable for you. Please make sure to bring your binoculars and field guide.

Monday 18 to Friday 22 May – Narooma

COG's second mid-week trip for 2015 will be to Narooma, staying at the Big4 Narooma Easts Caravan Park, Princes Highway Narooma <http://www.eastsnarooma.com.au/> ph 02 44762046. If booking there, call JAYNE and mention COG and Dianne's name, and she will give you a 20% discount.

The accommodation along the waterfront is a great position and clean.

The cabins all have a full kitchen and a large fridge, how sensible, those little fridges you get in most parks hardly hold anything.

Contact Dianne Deans to register on 02 61546719 or 0428380778 or diannedeans@icloud.com

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.

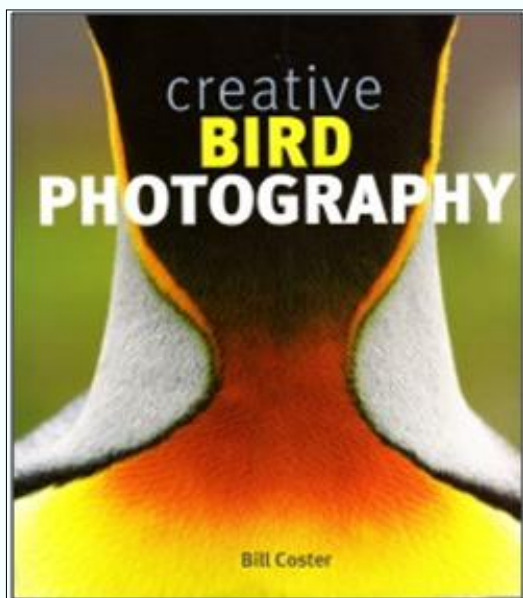
Email enquiry@deuatinhuts.com

www.deuatinhuts.com

Ph 02 4847 1248

FEATURE PUBLICATION OF THE MONTH

GET YOUR COPY NOW AT A GREAT PRICE !



Creative Bird Photography

Bill Coster

Bill Coster carved out a niche taking photographs of birds in flight and has become one of the U.K.'s top wildlife photographers. In this inspirational guide, Coster shares the secrets of creating memorable images of the birds one meets, going about their often complex and fascinating lives. This book shows how to photograph specific aspects of birds' lives, such as eating and drinking, courtship and flight. The author gives examples, demonstrating approaches for taking great shots of these daily bird activities as well as taking "mood" photographs at dawn and dusk. Each shot comes with detailed technical data, information about locations, and advice about overcoming challenges to achieve the perfect shot.

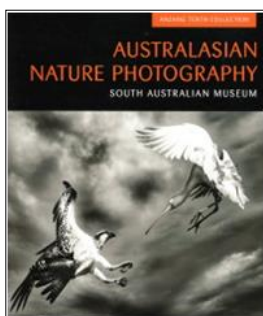
Members price: \$27

Publications for sale

COG provides a range of birdwatching related publications for sale to members at discounted prices (at least 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

PHOTOGRAPHY and LITERATURE

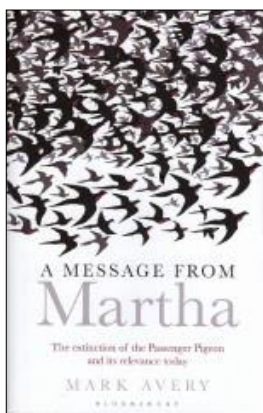


Australian Nature Photography

South Australian Museum

ANZANG Tenth Collection presents the finest photographs submitted to the 2013 Australian Geographic ANZANG Nature Photographer of the Year competition. Each photograph is accompanied by technical information as well as anecdotes about how the picture was taken, which will stimulate yet further interest in the flora and fauna and their conservation in the region.

Member's price \$28

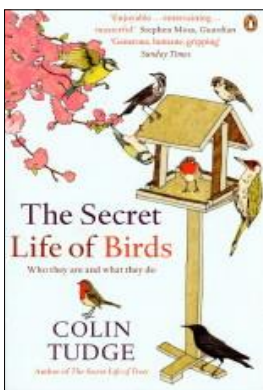


A message from Martha: the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon and its relevance today

Mark Avery

September 1st, 2014 sees the centenary of one of the best-documented extinctions in history—the demise of the Passenger Pigeon. From being the commonest bird on the planet 50 years earlier, the species became extinct when Martha, the last of her kind, died at the Cincinnati Zoo. Mark Avery explores the largely untold story of the ecological annihilation of this part of America in the years between the end of the US Civil War and 1900.

Member's price \$28



The Secret Life of Birds: who they are and what they do

Colin Tudge

Revealing everything from why birds sing to how they fly, think, bond and survive, from how they evolved (and whether it really is from dinosaurs) to why, in so many ways, they are very much like us, this rich, evocative book will make you love and admire the birds that are all around you.

Member's price \$22

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

2014-2015 memberships:

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

New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

F Barzi, Ainslie

G Smith, Watson

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for May 2015 edition

Wednesday 29 April 2015

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

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

Vice-President: Neil Hermes
0413 828 045
hermes.neil@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lia Battisson
liabattisson@grapevine.com.au

Secretary: Alan Thomas
(02) 6278 5783 (h)
cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au

Address for correspondence

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

COG website

www.canberrabirds.org.au

COG library

For all enquiries or access to COG's library phone Barbara Allan on 6254 6520

Membership: Sandra Henderson
(02) 6231 0303 (h)
membership@canberrabirds.org.au
for change of address or other details.

Gang-gang Newsletter

Editor: Sue Lashko
gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au

Lay-out Editor: Gail Neumann

Newsletter distribution:

Dianne Davey

COG E-mail Discussion List

COG has an email discussion list for members and friends: 'Canberra Birds'.

Join the list by following the links on the COG website or by sending an empty email message to;

canberrabirds-subscribe@canberrabirds.org.au

The subject is 'subscribe' (without the quotation marks).

Canberra Bird Notes

Editor: Michael Lenz
lenzmj@hotmail.com.au

Publication Sales

Kathy Walter
sales@canberrabirds.org.au

