



Gang-gang

MARCH 2015

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday 11 March 2015

7.30 pm.

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

This month there will be two presentations of equal length.

The first will be by **Chris Davey** on "**The 2014 North-West Australian Wader Expedition - some personal experiences**".

During February-March 2014 three COG members participated in the annual North-West Australian Wader Expedition run out of the Broome Bird Observatory and organised by the Australasian Wader Studies Group. The presentation will describe the objectives and logistics of the three week long expedition and methods involved in catching and banding waders. The talk will outline the importance of the East Asian Flyway and discuss highlights for someone new to the wader experience.

The second presentation will be by **Michael Guppy** on "**Identification of nest predators at Moruya over three breeding seasons reveals marked temporal changes.**"

Continued next page

Everyone welcome

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

Compared with December and January, the past month has been much drier (but not particularly hot), though it still has been a time of much breeding activity, and as outlined below, not just of dependent young begging or being fed. I had expected it would be a somewhat static month but especially in the second half there have been many signs of bird movement, not just of those bringing their young into the suburbs after breeding outside them, but also at least local movement of migratory species and in some cases typical migration behaviour.

A summary of the breeding highlights follows:

Perhaps the most noteworthy was the post at the beginning of February by Steve Wallace of a **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** and a **White-naped Honeyeater** both on nests in the Brindabellas. No young were seen or



Gang-gang Cockatoo, male feeding young

Geoffrey Dabb

March Meeting—details of speakers—continued from Page 1

This will be an update of Michael's fascinating presentation given in 2013. He first used remote cameras in 2012-2013 to identify the predators that were taking half of the nests on their site. The strategy was very successful and provided valuable information on a virtually unknown aspect of the breeding ecology on the site. He has continued this strategy for another two seasons and has doubled the list of predators, discovered a hitherto unknown nest predator, accumulated data on the impact of feral predators, and continued to delineate the complex role of the **Fan-tailed Cuckoo** as a nest predator.

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

heard as the adults approached the nest so Steve concluded most likely they both still had eggs. On Monday 23 February just as this column was to be sent to the editors, Steve confirmed this with a post that the **White-naped Honeyeaters** had fledged 3 chicks over the previous weekend. They were observed being fed in the nest at the weekend and out of the nest on that day. Steve noted this fits with the adults having eggs on 2 February as the nestling period is 14-16.5 days.

Based on his initial post it seemed to me very late for these honeyeaters to be at this stage with the migration season about to start in about 7 weeks' time, but a week later Martin Butterfield was very surprised to find a nest full of **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** in a floribunda rose beside his Carwoola house. About the same time I had several of them move into our Chapman garden, including one begging yellow-gaped fledgling. A week later John Layton had small groups of three to eight **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** come through his Holt backyard, he thought possibly on migration. So there have been some very mixed signs, which are commented on further below.

Other reports of birds still at the nesting stage were by Lindell Emerton of a **Weebill's** nest at Campbell Park. Again there were no begging sounds or heads evident so she concluded they must still be on eggs at least up to mid-month. More remarkable was Michael Lenz's observation of four **Rufous Songlarks** in the Gundaroo area, including 1 female with food going down into the grass, and a male still in full song. Also unusual was Tina Bromhead's report to me of an **Australian Magpie** young still being fed in the nest mid-month. Apparently this was the parents' third attempt to breed after the first two failed.

To me the highlight concerning dependent young is Steve Wallace's report of a juvenile **Golden Whistler** being fed by an adult male in the Brindabellas. He noted there are very few breeding records in the ACT and only 7 other records of dependent young in the COG database between 1982 and 2013. Steve noted that one reason for this may be that as far as he could tell the juvenile did not make any noise in the 15 minutes he was watching, during which it was fed 5 times by an adult male. Steve also posted a link to his video of a **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** being fed by **Superb Fairy-wrens** at Jerrabomberra. This showed that even though the barring was not developed, the fledgling displayed the bronze colour in the tail and the dark line through the eye while still being attended by the hosts.

Other notable reports of dependent young were a third breeding record for this summer of **Collared Sparrowhawks**, this time of a pair noisily feeding young in the Botanic Gardens. At the end of January Shorty posted that 4 **Owlet-nightjars** were present at Campbell Park, 2 in separate hollows and 2 in same hollow. He noted several were possibly young birds due to their lack of markings. He also posted that on a trip to Gudgenby (where this species spends its summer) he saw at least 20 **Fuscous Honeyeater** with dependent young. Con Boekel found dependent young **Varied Sittella** near the big dam at Mulligan's Flat mid-month and Martin Butterfield also found them near Bungendore early in February. Over the past 6 weeks or so many readers will have had **Australian King-**



Weebill at nest

Lindell Emerton

Parrots move back into their area with their noisy begging young, and if you were lucky (as I have been), **Gang-gang Cockatoos** doing the same, with Geoffrey Dabb posting some lovely images on the chatline.

Soon after I forwarded last month's column to the editor, there were many reports of fledgling **Eastern Koels**, with a total of over 20 of them now reported, with those confirmed all hosted by **Red Wattlebirds**. Judging from my experience in Rivett, where I have had at least 4 in a roughly linear line of around 500 m, with at one stage 3 of them together within 30 m, and with Barbara Allan recording at least 8 in Page, I expect this number is a severe underestimate. Stuart Rae also reported 2 together in his garden, with one clearly, as shown by the images posted on his blog, younger than the other by its much paler colouring. My observing them in Rivett has raised some interesting questions such as: does the one female lay all the eggs in one locality? And is there interaction between adults and fledglings based on their presence at least up to when the fledglings move out of the area? One remarkable observation is that there seems to be limited impact on local **Red Wattlebird** breeding with still lots of their own dependent young being fed, sometimes in the same tree as the begging Koel.

Breeding of other "more common" species was also reported, but again a shortage of space does not allow coverage. While it will be autumn by the time you read this column, please remember that the breeding season can continue well into this season, and my prediction last month that it will do so even more than usual this year seems to have been correct. So please continue to look out for and report all signs of breeding, and enter most, if not all 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 Bowling Club in Turner,



Geoffrey Dabb

Gang-gang Cockatoo, female feeding young



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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

though it was the subject of much less traffic on the chatline during February. I had started to think it was, to coin a currently popular term, “so yesterday”, but then as I was writing this column there was a report that it had taken a **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**. So its tastes are clearly much more catholic than I had expected, with reports on the chatline of links to one taking a goldfish in Sydney, as well as some young ones trying to eat a tea towel. This flexibility suggests to me that it will take longer before its food supply is exhausted, and may stay around for some time still. I also wouldn't be too surprised if one of the anecdotal reports of them being seen elsewhere is confirmed.

Other new “unusuals” for February seem to have been restricted to a couple of **Musk Lorikeets** reported from Wanniasa. However, the big flock of **Plumed Whistling-Ducks** at Bungendore continued to break new records, with between 72 and 102 counted during the month, depending on where and how visible they were. A surprise to me has been the postings of a sizeable number of **Freckled Ducks** seen together; clearly out west didn't receive all the rain we got in December and January.

The above was mainly taken from postings on the COG chatline or direct correspondence with me, whereas my other main source of information, the Eremaea eBird web site, was consulted for a number of the sightings and information in the next three paragraphs.

Of the species I expected, most, if not all, would have left by the end of January. The **Rufous Songlark** was still reported in February, including the remarkable record by Michael Lenz noted above of the female carrying food to the nest and a male still singing. Jean Casburn also reported them still singing at Narrabundah Hill mid-month. Likewise the **White-winged Triller** was also still reported throughout the month, but no **White-browed** or **Masked Woodswallows**, **Brown Songlark** or **Horsfield's Bushlark**. Surprisingly I can only find three records of the **White-throated Needle-tail** and none the rarer **Fork-tailed Swift**. The biggest was a flock of over 50 which Martin Butterfield told me were very low and followed his friend for about a kilometre as he walked across his lucerne paddocks, probably for the insects he was stirring up. While it had rained less in February there were still plenty of humid, cloudy conditions which should favour these species.

Of the species usually leaving during February I can find only a single report of the **Brush Cuckoo** this

month. The **Dollarbird** was still being reported as this column went to the editors, as was the **Rainbow Bee-eater** which usually leaves by early March and is often noticeable high over (where its call and orange wings are diagnostic,) but sometimes at tree top height or below. Likewise the **Sacred Kingfisher**, which also often has left by the end of the first two weeks of March, was also still being reported.

Other birds that usually mostly leave by the end of March include **Leaden Flycatcher**, **Latham's Snipe**, **Australian Reed-Warbler** (often very quiet this month), and **Tree** and **Fairy Martins**, **Pallid Cuckoo** (for which I can find only a single record for February towards the end of the month) and **Horsfield's** and **Shining Bronze-Cuckoos**. The last **Eastern Koel** also usually departs by the end of March, so look out for these too (and an ear out as they may still call occasionally), as well as any late fledglings and their hosts.

Look out also for the first migrating **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters**, as this movement often starts in the last week of March. As noted above there is some evidence already for an early start to the migration season. While surveying around Gundaroo, Michael Lenz noted that around 120 **Striated Pardalotes** (partial migrants) passed through the trees in small groups (normally he gets only a handful of them there), as well as 29 **Noisy Friarbirds** in groups (maximum of 12) passing through, both heading to the north. The latter have also moved into my area in small numbers during February and on the final full weekend Martin Butterfield noted large numbers (up to 30) of **Noisy Friarbirds** at Carwoola in an area without obvious blossom.



Buff-banded Rail, chick + 10 days

Julie Clark

A number of people have also reported **Red Wattlebirds** moving into their areas during the month and, while I expect most would be local movement rather than migration, I have seen up to half a dozen birds behaving more like the latter, ie moving in a loose flock at or above tree top height. Flocks of **Dusky Woodswallows** have also been reported which is typical after breeding, though at least some of this species don't leave until May and some may overwinter. Finally I have had rare sightings of the **Noisy Miner** move through my local area, initially a flock of 12 and then 15 moving through quickly, but more recently they seem to have stuck around including a couple of times in my GBS site. Hopefully their impact on the birds in my garden, whose numbers have increased significantly during February, will be minimal.

Some species will be seen in Canberra during March as "passage migrants" as they move north from their breeding sites in the mountains. These include the **Satin Flycatcher**, **Rufous Fantail**, and rarely, the **Cicadabird**. Other species move from the mountains but will stay here, so look out for the first altitudinal migrants, the **Scarlet Robin**, **Golden Whistler** and **White-eared Honeyeater** in Canberra's suburbs and peri-urban areas in March.

Finally there have already been a number of reports of that autumn phenomenon, the Mixed Feeding Flock (MFF), including several seen in my garden. These can have unusual or unexpected compositions, so watch out for them; nothing in bird watching gives me a bigger thrill than a MFF and looking out for the unexpected species lurking quietly in amongst all that activity.

The discussion above shows that the very good birding in the ACT has continued through February, and I expect it to be even better in March which is usually 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 all breeding activity and mixed feeding flocks. As usual please ensure that all significant observations end up on the COG database.

Jack Holland

Lindell Emerton

Weebill at nest



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

NEWS FROM CANBERRA INDIAN MYNA ACTION GROUP

In addition to its long established forage trapping programme, this breeding season, a small team from CIMAG has commenced a humane program of locating myna nests and removing nestlings. CIMAG has cleared the program with the RSPCA.

After euthanasia, nestlings are frozen for use in a joint research program being undertaken by the Australian Museum in Sydney and Newcastle University, which is comparing DNA from birds collected from sites throughout the species' range in Australia.

CIMAG would be interested in the location of active nests in the Canberra region, specifically:

1. Nature of nest : hollow, nest box, built structure (detail)
2. Whether on private or public land
3. Height and precise location within tree or structure, and any issues of accessibility to the site or the nest
4. Street address and latitude and longitude.

Contacts: Bill Handke: handke@grapevine.net.au ph 6231 7461.

Bruce Lindenmayer: blaags@bigpond.net.au ph 6288 5957.

Additional copies of COG's 50th Anniversary Issue of Canberra Bird Notes

As there has been a very positive response to COG's 50th Anniversary Issue of Canberra Bird Notes, it has been decided to have additional copies printed.

Arrangements have been made to post a hard copy of the special edition of CBN to those who generally access CBNs electronically, if they want it. These members have already been emailed with details. If you are a member who normally receives CBN electronically, but would like a hard copy of this special edition, and you have not already received an email about this matter, contact cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au

For financial members and non-members who would like additional copies, the cost including postage will be \$15 per copy. Please include your postal address.

Those who are not financial members but who contributed to the publication will receive a free copy.

Note that orders must be received by COB Friday 20 March as the reprint will occur at the end of March.

Field Trip Reports

Monday 2 to Friday 6 February – Shoalhaven

A contingent of COG birders spent the week at Shoalhaven Heads managing to locate around 130 species. Thanks to the excellent organisation from Jean Casburn and Sue Lashko, we stayed in a fabulous spot on the Shoalhaven River with a variety of waders just a few paces away from our doors and **Square-tailed Kites** gliding overhead. The group visited a number of wader spots including Lake Wollumboola, Orient Point and Shoalhaven Heads. Having experienced wader watchers, Sue Lashko and Steve Holliday, made checking out the waders a real pleasure and their patience in educating many of us on what to look for in waders and how to identify them was greatly appreciated.

With Sue and Steve on the spotting scopes we had excellent views of the **White-rumped Sandpiper** (reported at Lake Wollumboola in January and still there) which was new for many of us, as well as **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers**, **Red Knots** and **White-winged Black Terns**. There was also one each of **Great Knot**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Grey Plover**, **Lesser Sand Plover** and **Double-banded Plover**. A flock of **Little Terns** was studied in great detail and there was much debate over a lone possible **Fairy Tern**. Large groups of **Golden Plover**, **Red-necked Stint** and **Bar-tailed Godwit** created entertainment as they wheeled about, round and round, trying to decide whether they were game to land so close to Geoffrey Dabb's humungous camera lens.

We did a number of spectacular walks in Nowra along Bomaderry Creek and Nowra Creek. The habitat ranged from lowland rainforest with sandstone outcrops to casuarina and eucalypt woodland. Birding highlights included **Green Catbird**, **Rockwarbler**, **Black-faced Monarch** and a **Rufous Fantail** on a nest, ably spotted by Duncan.

We ventured into the heath at a number of spots in Booderee National Park and after much searching had excellent views of **Eastern Bristlebird**. Prue got the best bird watchers' technique award by lingering at the back of the group and spotting various target species that popped out after we had all moved off. This included a **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren**. The day in Booderee was topped off with a **White-cheeked Honeyeater** at the botanic gardens.

A sociable time was had with drinks every evening and a communal meal on the Tuesday night where we feasted on home-made goodies and ate way too much! Of course, I can't resist mentioning COG's very own Masterchef, Mr Geoffrey Dabb, who entertained us with a cooking demonstration of elaborate hors d'oeuvres involving a csabai and a cucumber waved around suggestively. Having stimulated our imaginations, the meal moved onto a spectacular array of BBQ, salads and desserts.

Kathy Walter



COG birders at Shoalhaven

Kathy Walter



White-rumped Sandpiper

Geoffrey Dabb

Sunday 15 February - East Basin/Molonglo Reach – electric boat cruise

Under calm but high fog conditions 30 members and guests joined me for what was my sixteenth time since we started in 2003 for this now annual trip to view the darter and cormorant nesting on Molonglo Reach. We again left from Kingston Harbour on the newer and larger electric boat, the EL Gull, as well as the smaller Cygnet, and first explored Jerrabomberra Creek for less than the usual distance as we encountered a silt curtain. We then travelled along the east bank of East Basin and into the Reach and along the south bank to the site of the new bridge before retracing our route.

As I feared from an inspection from the bike path on the north bank earlier in the week, there were very few **Australasian Darter** nests this year. In fact we saw only one bird on a nest which, while it stayed on it tightly, we assumed from its light neck colouring was a fairly advanced juvenile rather than a female. There were also two other empty nests with again 1 or 2 similar birds relatively close to them. Altogether only 16 darters were seen on the day, in very scattered positions throughout the trip. Most of them were identified as immature birds by their dirtier and lighter plumage, and only 2 males were seen, one of which still had significant red on the neck signifying breeding plumage, and a similar number of females. These numbers were less than half those of last year when numbers were already historically low.

It follows this is the also lowest extent of breeding I can recall in 13 years of leading these outings. Last year I put the low breeding effort down to the lack of significant rain in the preceding months, but this year rainfall in December and January had been good and lake levels have been high, which I had expected should have triggered breeding. So the evidence is starting to mount that the clearing of the willows from the north bank has had an impact on **Australasian Darter** presence and breeding. However, the building of the new bridge on Dairy Flat road and the increased canoe and paddle board traffic may also be factors.

We saw a total of 7 **Great Cormorants**, generally resting on bare branches close to the water in the Reach, a couple with white flanks indicative of breeding plumage. There were only 3 **Little Black Cormorants** doing this in Jerrabomberra Creek, and only one **Little Pied Cormorant** was seen on the day. However, we did see two **Pied Cormorants**, the first in the water in Jerrabomberra Creek, and then on return sitting in its usual spot over the water near the mouth of Jerrabomberra Creek, as well as another flying past.

Very limited darter/cormorant breeding has come to my attention this summer. On 29 December 2014, Shorty posted on the COG chatline that he saw a juvenile **Little Pied**



Darter

Harvey Perkins



Darter on nest

Harvey Perkins



Darter nestlings

David Cook



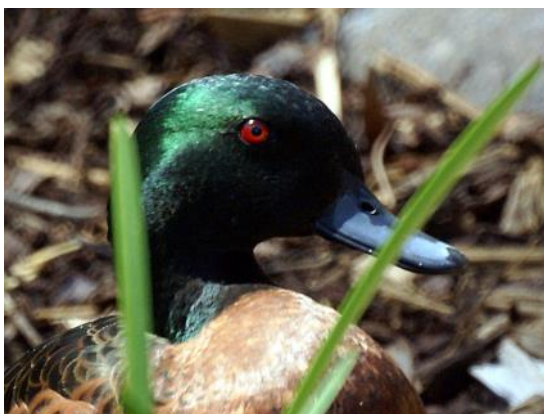
Sacred Kingfisher

Leo Berzins



Dollarbird

Geoffrey Dabb



Chestnut Teal

David Cook

Cormorant (confirmed by his photo) at Jerrabomberra wetlands. It was hanging around 4 normal looking birds and when one landed near it, it appeared to be begging for food but did not get fed. On the same day Jean Casburn posted seeing three **Little Pied Cormorants** and three **Australasian Darters** sitting securely on nests on the northern side of the Molonglo River well downstream (west of the Tuggeranong Parkway) of the Scrivener Dam, attended on and off by what she presumed to be their partners with possibly one grubby young bird in nest. Five of these nests were close together on the same tree.

Chris Davey confirms that this is one of the few sites where they currently breed, though he had heard through contacts that there is a further breeding site on the new Cotter Dam. On 7 February 2015 Susan Robertson posted that she counted 68 **Little Black Cormorants** in West Basin but I understand the former breeding colony near the mouth of Sullivans Creek has not been revived.

Other waterbird activity on the creek, river and East Basin consisted mainly of common species seen on the open water and on the banks, with rare sightings of a rather dull male **Chestnut Teal** and a **Royal Spoonbill** (seen only by the smaller boat), and a party of 3 **Greylag Geese** seen on the bank close to where they were the past 2 years. **Australian Reed-Warblers** were also unusually common, only heard occasionally but often seen flying and with a couple obligingly staying in the open to allow good views. Land birds seen included 3 **Dollarbirds**, the same number of **Sacred Kingfishers**, an **Australian Hobby**, and over 30 **Red Wattlebirds**. These seemed to be undergoing at least some local movement, as were a small number of **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters**.

At 50 (not counting the unidentified martin species flying overhead with the swallows as we were gathering to board), the total number of species was similar to the previous year, but with this time the total number of species (42) from Molonglo Reach easily outnumbering those from Jerrabomberra Creek and the East Bank. Despite the lack of darters/cormorants, participants again enjoyed the trip, particularly when the sun came out to reveal a still, shining lake on our return. The outing remains very popular with a record number of participants ensuring the need for the use of the second smaller boat so that no-one was disappointed. My thanks again go to Jenny Bounds for agreeing to help lead this boat.

Unfortunately it does mean participants on both boats don't get to see all the species with in particular those on the smaller boat which was following missing out on some of those mentioned above. However, overall it is a very enjoyable late summer outing and I propose to run it again at the same time in 2016. Who knows? The darter/cormorant breeding may come back, or at least it will confirm that the 10 years or so of significant breeding on Molonglo Reach is over.

Jack Holland

Wednesday 18 February – North Gungahlin

Twenty-eight members and guests gathered at the Mulligans Flat car park. As we headed off a number of **Superb Parrots** were seen on the grass and in the trees. **Little Corellas** were heard and seen as were **Red-rumped Parrots** as we walked along the bike path which follows the route of the old Gundaroo Rd.

On reaching the creek we were almost immediately greeted by the sight of an **Australian Spotted Crake** skulking at the base of some reeds. A little later a second bird was sighted a bit further away. In terms of aging it was concluded we saw one adult and one juvenile.

At the ponds in Bonner a number of **Hardhead** and some recently fledged **Pacific Black Ducks** were seen together with some stripe-headed **Australasian Grebes** (ie. recent chicks). **Australian Reed-Warblers** were still evident in the reeds and **Golden-headed Cisticolas** were in the fringing vegetation. The **Fairy Martins** appeared to be elsewhere and were not recorded.

Returning to the creek we got to the underpass and almost immediately saw a **Buff-banded Rail**. Eventually two immature birds (determined by the incomplete development of the buff band) paraded or dashed - I am not sure of the taxonomy of gaits - back and forth for our delight.

The total score was 41 species.

Martin Butterfield

Calling all photographers and photographic editors!

It is time to update COG's once-famous Photo Gallery. We are looking for members who have a working knowledge of photo editing and basic IT skills to help with this task.

Background

The Photo Gallery has until recently been a source of images, information and inspiration to many thousands of people, the answer to many homework questions and supplier of quality photos that often ended up in books and magazines. A significant number of people discovered COG through its Photo Gallery. If you googled a bird that happened to be within COG's domain, more often than not the COG gallery was first or second on the page of results.

Sadly this is no longer the case. Updating with new photos ceased some time before the new website was a reality, and has been difficult if not impossible since then due to technical problems. The gallery has fallen behind other similar resources and does not take advantage of thousands of great photos that COG photographers have produced in the last five years. Search engines can't even find our gallery. To address these issues a contractor is in the process of redesigning the working parts of the gallery and as soon as this is completed and tested it will be time to start replacing and upgrading our photos and associated information.

The Plan

Roughly 8,000 photos of 300 species will end up in the gallery, involving a guesstimated 500 hours of effort to get them there. The plan is for a number of volunteers to share the work.

Photo Gallery

Emu

Emu

Quail

Swan and Ducks

Grebes, Darter and Cormorants






Pelican, Egrets, Herons, Ibis, Spoonbills and Storks

Raptors

Brolga and Bustard

Emu

Dromaius novaehollandiae

[Male with young...](#)
[Male with young](#)
[Chicks at Gluep...](#)

Uncommon breeding resident in a very limited area.
[All photos and information >>](#)

The work will be allocated by species, with one person responsible for completing one species before moving on to another. For each species the work will include:

if necessary update the gallery information for the species, or create a new entry to match the revised Annotated Checklist of ACT Birds

call for new photos of that species, sort and evaluate them

delete existing photos that are better replaced by new photos

enter the selected new photos, add captions to new and existing photos, and arrange the order in which they will be displayed.

The objective is to end up with a well-rounded collection of photos of each bird, selected to include some to assist in identification including different ages and plumages, historically interesting photos, behavioural examples and some simply beautiful photos.

If we have five volunteers each spending five hours a week on this, we should be finished within 6 months. Obviously more volunteers or more hours a week will decrease the time.

Volunteer registration

People who are interested in helping with this work are asked to email julian.robinson@internode.on.net by **10 March**. The first activity will be a training session, hopefully within a month but this will depend on how the upgrade proceeds. Please also address any questions to me, and a reminder to also report any difficulties or questions about the operation of the website in general.

Julian Robinson

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 web-site

<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

Sunday 15 March – Mulligan's Flat North

Meet at Mulligan's Flat north carpark at 0800. Turn off Horse Park Dr at Mulligan's Flat Rd, go 2km north to carpark. We will walk the perimeter of nearly 5 km taking about 3 hours. It includes part of the ACT/NSW border. Wear sturdy shoes and hat, bring water and morning tea. A reasonable level of fitness is required. This is dry eucalypt woodland with a good mix of species. (The walk goes towards Oak Hill but stops short. That can be another day from a closer starting point).

Bill Graham

Wednesday 18 March - Gigerline

The March Wednesday walk will be to the eastern section of Gigerline NR. Meet at 9:00am on the Monaro Highway at the former service station at Williamsdale for car-pooling. It will be about 4km walking with a steepish drop to the Murrumbidgee. Hopes are for good bush birds plus migration along the River.

Martin Butterfield

Sunday 22 March – Eden pelagic

In 2015 COG will run its usual September pelagics, and is also running a single March pelagic. Since many people missed out on last September's pelagics, places on the March trip were offered to those who missed out, and at this stage all places are taken. There are inevitably a couple of people who drop out - if you'd like to be on a waiting list for March, please contact Sandra Henderson (shirmax2931@gmail.com) to go on the list. No payment is required right now, and the cost will be as for 2014 (\$100). Bookings for September will be taken in mid-2015.

Good Friday 3 April to Easter Monday 6 April – Holbrook campout

The Easter campout will be on private property, 10 km north of Holbrook and 3 hours from Canberra. Almost all of the property is protected by an in-perpetuity conservation covenant through the Nature Conservation Trust of NSW. Two adjacent properties are also protected with covenants, making a total of ~550ha of protected woodland and forest. They sit directly between two significant nature reserves in the region – Livingstone National Park to the north and Morgans Ridge Nature Reserve to the south (which in turn is just above Woomargama National Park). With decent scattered tree cover still remaining in much of the landscape in between, this makes the properties and national parks part of an important north-south set of linked habitats. The property is a mixture of dry forest and grassy woodland, with the intergrade areas relatively healthy and the true valley-bottom grassy woodland areas in early-mid recovery stages. Further details will be emailed to participants. There will be a maximum of 15 participants.

To [register](#), contact Sandra Henderson on shirmax2931@gmail.com

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, which should 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, as well as most of the western border and either return by the same or a different path, looking for other autumn birds such as 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.

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.

Bruce Lindenmayer

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.

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



COG birders at Shoalhaven

Kathy Walter

Gang-gang Cockatoo Project

Update - February 2015

As the Gang-gang survey draws to a close at the end of this month, at the time of writing (mid-February) observers have logged over 4,500 sightings of birds over the 12 months of the survey. Observations from five quarterly Muster counts have provided over 2,000 additional observations. As mentioned in the February newsletter the ALA data entry portal will remain open until mid-April for those wishing to submit forgotten observations.

During February we have received many reports about Gang-gangs returning to the suburbs in larger groups with juvenile birds present. The final Muster count is now underway and will provide a better picture of these movements and hopefully widespread evidence of breeding success. Gang-gangs have been reported feeding in Chinese pistachio and other exotic (seed) trees and even feasting on magnolia flowers in Chifley.

Gang-gang enthusiasts have been capturing this late summer action on camera with great shots by Geoffrey Dabb of a parent bird feeding a begging juvenile posted on the chatline and Julian Robinson's shot of Gang-gang male antics at the Botanic Gardens that featured in Ian Warden's Gang-gang column. We received good media coverage ahead of the final Muster count thanks to Ian Warden at the Canberra Times and the team at the Canberra Weekly.

Data from the survey will be compiled and analysed by the project team ahead of publication in Canberra Bird Notes and a presentation at the Friends of Botanic Gardens Lunchtime talk on 6 August 2015 and other community forums.

The Gang-gang project team



Gang-gang Cockatoo, female - feeding in Chinese Pistachio tree

Tegan Liston

Questabird

[QuestaBird](#) is a fun new adventure app for mobile devices that gets kids (and adults too!) outdoors and experiencing the environment. Players join quests to photograph birds, earn gold, buy supplies, gain levels, build their collection and become Australia's highest-rated adventurers. The game uses real bird data, with all the known Australian species, along with GPS location tagging. Verified sightings are submitted to the Atlas of Living Australia to help protect our biodiversity.



As part of the COG's 50th anniversary, [QuestaBird](#) will include a special COG-sponsored "Gang-gang Cockatoo Quest" for the Canberra region, with special prizes, bonus gold, and the sightings coming directly to COG for follow-up.

To find out more log onto <http://www.questabird.com/>

Note: The game is currently available only on Android devices, with an iPhone version expected soon.

Woodland Surveys- late spring/early summer

compiled by Jenny Bounds

Mulligans Flat NR

Jenny Bounds and the team managed to get the survey done in mild to warm conditions on Sunday 30 November, with a brief, early shower band passing through and very dark skies looming on the west horizon as they left the reserve. The species total was 69, similar to last December's survey, but low on numbers of small birds (possibly nesting?).

The large dam had a quite a haul, including a **Latham's Snipe** sitting up in a dead tree, both species of **Royal** and **Yellow-billed Spoonbills**, a **Great Egret**, both **White-faced** and **White-necked Herons** and a large number of **Little Pied** and **Little Black Cormorants**. The small dam upstream had 3 **Latham's Snipe** in the fringing vegetation. Other interesting sightings were: **Superb Parrot** in the woodland near the large dam (and a female found dead there - cause not apparent), a couple of **King-Parrots** near the main entrance carpark, and **Brush Cuckoos** in the woodland north of the large dam (the same area as sightings last year). **Scarlet Robins** were recorded in only one area this time, **Varied Sittellas** were seen carrying food on the western ridge, and there were several groups of **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes** with young birds, one group of 6 birds with 4 young. Honeyeaters were quiet, just a few **Noisy Friarbirds**, **Red Wattlebirds**, a couple of **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** and one small group of **White-naped Honeyeaters**. **Speckled Warblers**, **Tree Martins**, **Dusky Woodswallows** and one **White-winged Triller** were also recorded. A small number of **Australian White** and **Straw-necked Ibis** were around, possibly in anticipation of cicadas' emergence.

Goorooyarroo NR North

Nicki Taws reported on the summer survey at Gooroo North in ideal conditions with a little rain having fallen in previous days. Summer migrants including both **White-throated** and **Western Gerygones**, **Leaden Flycatcher**, **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**, **Pallid Cuckoo** and **Mistletoe-bird** were particularly vocal. Interesting sightings were **Superb Parrots** at two sites, **Varied Sittella** at one, a vocal **White-eared Honeyeater**, several **Speckled Warblers**, and a **Brown Goshawk** in full defense of its nest.

The number of species, 40, was slightly less than might be expected for this time of year with species not recorded including **Sacred Kingfisher**, **White-winged Triller**, woodswallows or robins.

Goorooyarroo South NR

Steve Holliday and Prue Buckley did the survey on Sunday 7 December, in conditions that were far better than we expected after seeing the forecast. Overall bird numbers seemed low compared to the spring survey although the total species count was 50, with 41 recorded during plot counts. Interesting sightings included a very vocal **Brown Goshawk**, a **Brown Falcon**, a **Grey Currawong**, a **Sacred Kingfisher** calling and **Speckled Warblers** at 2 sites. Several species of summer migrants were recorded – **Leaden Flycatcher**, **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**, **Rufous Whistler**, **Western** and **White-throated Gerygones**, **Noisy Friarbird**, and **Tree Martin**, although all were in small numbers. Several species usually around at this time of year were absent - **Rufous Songlark**, **Olive-backed Oriole**, **Dusky Woodswallow** and **White-winged Triller**. **Honeyeaters** were also in small numbers (apart from **Noisy Miners**) with a handful of **Yellow-faced**, **Brown-headed**, **White-plumed**, **Eastern Spinebill** and **Red Wattlebirds** recorded. Breeding records included an active **Pied Currawong** nest, and dependent young **Australian Magpies** and **Buff-rumped Thornbill**.

Mt Majura NR

John Goldie and Kathy Walter, with Megan Mears, surveyed on Saturday 29 November in fine conditions, warming up by mid-morning. 25 species were observed over the 9 sites. Highlights were four **White-faced Herons** sitting in a tree at one site, a **Brown Goshawk**, and a number of **Mistletoebirds** and **Leaden Flycatchers** at a couple of sites. Unfortunately, there seemed to be a distinct lack of smaller birds with no sightings of **Speckled Warbler** and only one **Buff-rumped Thornbill** seen. The Everlasting and *Chrysocephalum* daisies were flowering nicely along with a few Blue Devils.

Majura Field Firing Range

Paul Fennell and Barbara Allan, assisted by Defence's Environmental Officer, did the survey on Tuesday 24 November. The weather was superb, the wildflowers were still brilliant, and it was good birding all round. The highlight of the day occurred just after 7.30 just south of the main rifle range with close-up views of two magnificent mature **Wedge-tailed Eagles** roosting in trees just off the track. They had been seen soaring at a distance in previous visits, but this was the first close-up view.

At the Grenade Range carpark close to the northern end of the airport, generally a "quiet" site, there were a number of parrots competing for the abundant nesting hollows there - **Red-rumped Parrots** were getting quite physical, but the **Crimson Rosellas** in the same tree simply waited quietly outside their hollow. **Little Ravens** were heard in the grassland off-site; also heard was a **Rufous Songlark**, a species not recorded here previously. There were the usual **Starlings** there, as well as a couple of **Welcome Swallows** and some **Tree Martins**.

At Site 10, open woodland adjacent to a small dam normally bereft of wildlife, it was a pleasant surprise to find a couple of **Pacific Black Ducks** and a **Little Pied Cormorant**. Even better was a scintillating vocal and visual display by a **Leaden Flycatcher**, and a response from a **Noisy Friarbird**, while 4 **Little Corellas** flew over.

At other sites, **Rufous Whistlers** were all over the place, as were **Leaden Flycatchers**, **Noisy Friarbirds** and **White-throated Gerygones**, with an occasional **Olive-backed Oriole**, and some **White-winged Choughs** thrown in at the northern sites. Generally the usual residents, **Yellow-rumped**, **Buff-rumped** and **Brown Thornbills**, and **Superb Fairy-wrens** were at some sites, with a slightly larger than usual range of waterfowl on the dam at the northern end: **Hardheads**, **Grey Teal**, **Wood Duck**, and **Australasian Grebe** with dependent young. Honeyeaters included **Yellow-faced** and **White-eared Honeyeaters** and **Noisy Miners** (very few). Other highlights were **Dollarbird** and a **Western Gerygone**.

Mt Ainslie NR/Campbell Park

Michael Lenz reported on the survey on 1 December, a fine clear morning. 30 species were recorded at sites and a further 8 in other areas during the walk. **Grey Fantail** was the most widespread species (at 6 out of 9 sites), followed by **Noisy Miner**, **Noisy Friarbird** and

Mistletoebird (each at 4 sites). Some sites were almost bird-free, and smaller bush birds were generally rare to absent at sites and also along the route. Of note were **Little Eagle**, **Brown Goshawk**, a pair of **Grey Butcherbirds** and **White-browed Woodswallows**. Active nests were noted for **Noisy Friarbird**, **White-winged Triller**, **Noisy Friarbird**, **Noisy Miner**, **Pied Currawong**, **Crested Pigeon** (before a **Pied Currawong** got to it), and **White-browed Woodswallow**. Weeds in the area are increasing in prominence, noting the paddocks towards Majura Road are in large parts covered with Saffron Thistles, and this plant has also spread into a number of once open grassland areas within the reserve. First signs are there that this development will affect the dynamics of animal/bird movement and presence during and outside the breeding season.

Newline

Sue Lashko surveyed on 6 December, a pleasantly cool morning. However, the roar of traffic and the deafening noise from cicadas made surveying by call almost impossible in the front paddocks. The most notable bird of the morning was the **Rainbow Lorikeet** with usually just a pair found in one of the southern sites. That morning, there were at least 12 birds, spread from the front paddock to the quarry. There were 3 **Dollarbirds**, two of which were mobbing a **Pied Currawong** while a **Grey Currawong** in the same tree was ignored. The other **Grey Currawong** parent was observed feeding cicadas to a fledged chick. Other breeding activity included a **Sacred Kingfisher** taking a skink into a tree hole, a pair of **Pacific Black Ducks** with 6 ducklings, **Welcome Swallow** on a nest in an empty bunker, **Weebill** and **House Sparrow** feeding fledged young (the latter an uncommon species for Newline), **Striated Pardalotes** displaying, and many **Common Starlings** carrying food back to tree hollows. Single **Dusky Woodswallows** were seen in four sites, and **White-throated Gerygones** in two. The only raptors were **Brown Goshawk** and **Wedge-tailed Eagle**. A total of 40 species was recorded.

Jerrabomberra West NR

Jenny Bounds and Alison Russell-French did the survey in the woodland patch on Wednesday 10 December, a mild, partly overcast and humid morning. Two notable species this survey were **Diamond Firetails** in two groups of 3 birds, and a small group of the migratory **White-browed Woodswallows**, and probably nesting

although they did not have time to search for this. An **Owlet-nightjar** and an **Australian Hobby** were recorded at site 1 at the northern end of the woodland/grasslands edge, and there was quite a large group of birds near site 7 on the southern edge abutting a leasehold, including **White-winged Trillers**, **Speckled Warblers**, **Dusky Woodswallows**, **Rufous Songlark**, one of the groups of **Diamond Firetails**, and **White-winged Choughs** on a nest. Three **Wedge-tailed Eagles** soared nearby and a **Brown Falcon** was harassed by other birds. The total species count was 44, but a few of the usuals were absent (no **Buff-rumped Thornbills** or **Leaden Flycatcher** – they may have been quietly on nests - and very few honeyeaters, just a couple of **Noisy Friarbirds** and 1 **Red Wattlebird**). No Dollarbirds were recorded for the second year. Cicadas were calling and Christmas Beetles were flying, and there were around 20 ravens at one spot, probably brought in by the insects.

Callum Brae NR

Sandra Henderson surveyed on Friday 28 November. The most extraordinary observation was the huge number of ravens, although not big numbers within actual survey sites. At two sites, the noise from the cicadas was so loud it was almost impossible to hear any birds. The cicadas had also attracted **Straw-necked** and **White Ibis**, which were feeding on cicadas on the ground. There were significant numbers of juvenile ravens, **Pied Currawongs**, **Australian Magpies** and **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes** around, but none appeared to be dependent young. The only nest-building observed was by a **White-plumed Honeyeater**. Most disappointing was the sighting of a **Common Myna**, the first observed on the survey for quite some time.

The sites on Mugga Lane were surveyed on Saturday 29 November. Several **Common Bronzewing**s were heard, as were **Leaden Flycatchers**. A couple of **Speckled Warblers** were sighted, but the most abundant birds in the sites were **Noisy Miners**.

Tuggeranong Hill NR

Lia Battison surveyed on 5 December, on a warm, sunny and still morning. Site 3 was the busiest site again, with 10 species observed there, including **Common Starling** and **Common Myna** entering hollows, unfortunately. The only other breeding record was **Australian**

Magpie with dependent young. **Leaden Flycatchers** were observed at a couple of sites, as were **Mistletoe-birds**. Unusual records for that part of the world were **Jacky Winter** and **Australian King-Parrot**. In all, thirty species were observed on the Hill. Twenty-one of these were during the ten minute counts at survey points.

Rural leasehold property near Tharwa

David McDonald surveyed on 30 November, an overcast morning that changed to light, then heavier rain for the last four of the nine sites. Quite a few mistletoes were in flower and fruit, probably accounting for the many sightings of **Mistletoebirds**, both female and male. The strongly-contrasting colours of the males brightened up a dull day. Some other summer migrants were present, including the **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Leaden Flycatcher**, **White-throated Gerygone**, **Rufous Whistler** and, most prominently of all, **Rufous Songlark**. The songlark's call dominated throughout the survey and by its behaviour was probably nesting there. **Common Starling** was also breeding. As with the previous survey, the number of small bush birds was low. No woodswallows and just one cuckoo were observed, with 23 species in total.

Naas Valley rural leasehold (near Mt Tennant)

Julie McGuinness surveyed on Sunday 30 November in muggy overcast weather, with steady light to moderate rain for the latter half of the sites. A total of 32 species within plots and a further 10 between them were recorded. No birds were in significant numbers except **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** and **Yellow-rumped Thornbill**. Notables included a few **Jacky Winters**, one **Diamond Firetail**, three **Cuckoo** species (**Pallid**, **Fan-tailed** and **Horsfield's Bronze**-), **Brown Goshawk** and **Nankeen Kestrel**, and a calling **Owlet-nightjar**. Breeding evidence included **White-winged Chough** carrying nest building material and juvenile **Striated Pardalote** and **Pallid Cuckoo**. Julie added it was a very insectivorous morning as well with many Common Brown butterflies, day flying **moths** in the grass, and a reasonable number of Christmas beetles – but no cicadas though.

The Conservation Quilt

As a member organisation of the ACT Conservation Council ACT Region, COG has been invited to contribute to a quilt which will hang in the offices of the Council. The quilt is to be launched in mid-2015. Lia Battisson has agreed to coordinate the group of talented members of COG who are interested in quilting. Please contact her on 02 6231 0147 or by email at liabattisson@grapevine.com.au to obtain more details.



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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.

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barbdebruine@hotmail.com



White-rumped Sandpiper

Geoffrey Dabb

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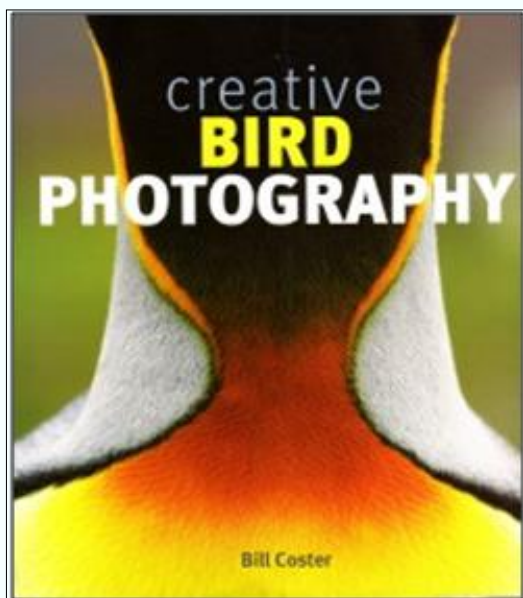
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FEATURE PUBLICATION OF THE MONTH

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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.

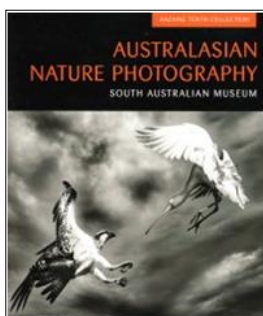
Members price: \$27

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

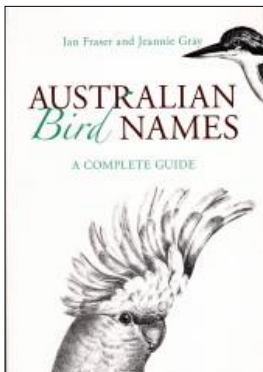


Australian Nature Photography

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



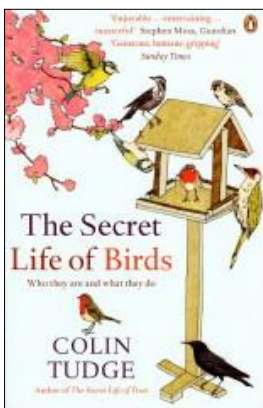
Australian Bird Names

Ian Fraser and Jeannie Gray

2013 Whitley Award Commendation for Zoological Resource.

This book is aimed at anyone with an interest in birds, words, or the history of Australian biology and bird-watching. It discusses common and scientific names of every Australian bird, to tease out the meanings, which may be useful, useless or downright misleading!

Member's price \$35



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:

R George, Queanbeyan
G Collin, Richardson
J Mulvaney, Lyneham
A E Gimpel, Wanniasa
D White, Narrabundah

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for April 2015 edition

Wednesday 25 March 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.

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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).

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