



Gang-gang

MAY 2017

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

MAY MEETING

Wednesday 10 May 2017

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 roughly equal length.

First will be **Neil Hermes** on the **Norfolk Island Green Parrot**

The endemic birds of Norfolk Island will be discussed. The changes in populations over the past 500 hundred years will be presented. The circumstances of all the bird species in the past 100 years, in particular the Norfolk Island Green Parrot, will be reviewed. The work done to save the parrot in the past 30 years leading to its reintroduction onto Phillip Island will be described.

This will be followed by **Chris Davey** on **Phillip Island - past, present and future**. Phillip Island is part of the Norfolk Island Group and situated

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

At the start of the four week period from 30 March covered by this column the maximum daily temperature dropped from about 30 to about 20°C. During the much drier month of April it has largely remained there over this time; in fact the last of the four weeks was probably the hottest.

I had expected this sudden drop in day time temperature would result in good numbers of **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** migrating during the COG walk to Narrabundah Hill on 2 April, but very few were seen (see separate outing report). Indeed it was not until 6 April that large scale migration seemed to commence (about the latest I can remember it happening), especially in the Tralee flyway over Lindsay Hansch's place in Jerrabomberra, in recent years one of the best places to witness this phenomenon. Later in the month Lindsay posted that the migration there had been somewhat haphazard, but it appears the Easter weekend and the several days following was the peak migration window, with many reported moving through suburbs such as Duffy, Watson, and Gungahlin, as well as the Gigerline Nature Reserve.

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Great-crested Grebe, Round Hill trip

Ryu Callaway

Everyone welcome

MAY MEETING *continued ...*

approximately 6 km south of Norfolk Island. The presentation will cover the history of the island since European settlement and habitat degradation and subsequent recovery associated with feral animals. COG involvement with bird surveys on the island in 1978 and again in 2015 will be discussed and compared with a survey conducted in 2005. Future plans, in particular those regarding the endemic sub-species of the Red-fronted Parakeet (Norfolk Island Green Parrot), will also be presented.



Crescent Honeyeater

Lindsay Hansch

Summary/analysis of the past two months and what to watch out for this month —continued from Page 1

On 21 April Lindsay reported around 2500 honeyeaters passed over in a 45 minute period late in the morning. He took a series of photos to analyse flock composition and found some flocks were made up almost entirely of **Yellow-faced** while others were almost entirely **White-naped Honeyeaters**; overall about one third were the latter. This is as expected, as they usually become the dominant bird in the flocks towards the end of April. So continue to watch out for this migration which due to the late start may last into May this year. A couple of small but pure flocks of **Yellow-faced** were still moving in Narrabundah Hill on 24 April, but the count was still more than on 2 April.

In spite of the above, migration has not always been under optimum conditions. As noted by Nicki Taws in the report in this issue for the K2C surveys on 9 April (the wettest day of the reporting period), late morning after the rain had stopped, at the four separate properties being surveyed just north of Bredbo, the honeyeaters and other birds suddenly became frenetically active. I was fortunate enough to witness this spectacle at a usually quiet survey site, where close to the most active species was the **Noisy Friarbird**. This surprised me as the few in my local patch of Coleman Ridge/Narrabundah Hill this summer had left a couple of weeks before. However, the following morning 10 moved noisily but rapidly over/through my GBS in a NNE direction, perhaps part of the significant numbers seen the previous day. This species now seems to have all left, with the last report I can find being of 3 birds on 15 April.

Also present north of Bredbo were good numbers of the partial migrant, the **Red Wattlebird**, for which there seem to have been relatively few reports of small groups of birds moving through. Around 10 of these were still moving through Narrabundah Hill on 24 April, so continue to keep an eye out for them too. I wrote last month that the influx of

Grey Fantails, which often occurs from mid-March to mid-April, didn't seem to have started yet. However, as soon as I sent my column to the editors, there were a number of reports of increased numbers, including one by John Brannan that the Pinnacle was "swamped by them" on 31 March. I suspect most will have moved on by now.

Of the early leaving spring/summer migrants that seem to have been slow to leave this year, there have been further reports of **Dollarbirds**, with the last seen in Commonwealth Park on 29 March, as well as of a very late **Sacred Kingfisher** at Jerrabomberra West NR on 15 April. An **Eastern Koel** was last reported in Christine D's garden in Flynn on 30 March. Surprisingly, of the other cuckoos that mostly leave by the end of March/early April (including the Fan-tailed Cuckoo, the least migratory of these species), there has been only one report of a **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** on 1 April. However, 12 late **White-throated Needletail** were still reported over Holt on 12 April, though I can find no verified sightings of the related **Fork-tailed Swift** this year.

There have also been no further reports of the **Leaden** or **Satin Flycatcher**, though the last report of the **Rufous Fantail** was from Cook on 6 April. On 2 April Martyn Moffat reported the first of the last-named species for his Garden Bird Survey (GBS) site in Curtin and the 100th species for his site. Likewise I can find no reports for **Fairy Martins** though a couple of **Tree Martins** were still reported from Yerrabi Pond on 22 April, and an **Australian Reed-Warbler** was still present at Kelly's Swamp on 21 April.

Of the species not mentioned above that usually leave during early April the **Western** and **White-throated Gerygone** were both last reported from Mulligan's Flat on 7 April. The last **Rufous Whistler** was reported from Holt on 18 April. Noting John Brannan's post that the Pinnacle had high numbers in late March, it will be interesting if any overwinter this year. Likewise the **Mistletoebird** was last reported on 8 April

(there have been few of this species observed in 2017). However, **Superb Parrots** are still present northside, with a flock of over 20 seen flying over Amaroo on 21 April, and some may be expected to over winter.

The **Dusky Woodswallow** and **Olive-backed Oriole** are generally considered as the last of the near complete migratory species to depart before winter starts. There have been quite a few reports of the former, including some seen migrating in mid-April, but on 19 April Michael Lenz still reported a flock of 40 feeding and staying in the Gundaroo area. Two of the latter species were present at Kelly's Swamp on 21 April, so please keep an eye out for these two species, most of which have usually departed by the first or second week of May. It will be interesting if any of the former over winter this year; despite the warmer weather few seem to have done so over the past few seasons.

Of the altitudinal migrants, as a number of chatline posters have noted, the **Scarlet Robin** seems to be present in good numbers this year. Barbara Allan reported a male in her GBS site in Page, the first in years. While they are often present, at least for a while in mine, an unusual sighting was a male at my water feature, and then a week later 2 males scolding each other. **Golden Whistlers** also seem to be present in good numbers, with again John Brannan noting high numbers at the Pinnacle in late March, but at least in my local patch of Cooleman Ridge/ Narrabundah Hill the **White-eared Honeyeater** has been slow to return, not having been recorded until mid-April. By contrast the **Grey Shrike-thrush** has been a constant feature in my GBS site since early April; this has been a notable species in my local patch over the past few winter seasons. Other observers have noted **Eastern Spinebills** returning to their gardens; I tend to overlook mentioning this species as, apart from a few weeks, it is present year round in mine.

In mid-April Kym Bradley reported that the **Flame Robin** was returning to her area but I am not aware of any other reports of them moving into the open peri-urban areas around Canberra, so please keep an eye



Eastern Spinebill

David Cook



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Good birding, good food ...

2017 tours

Queensland's Gulf Country
Cairns to Mt Isa and Winton
26 June to 13 July
Two days added for Rusty Grasswren.

Atherton Tablelands FNQ
17 to 22 July

Iron Range NP FNQ
22 to 30 July. One place left

New Caledonia
includes Lifou an Ouvéa Islands
5 to 12 August

Plains-wanderer Weekends 2017
2 & 3 December 2017

Some 2018 tours

Tasmanian bird & mammal tour
Bruny Island, Melaleuca, pelagic trip
3 to 10 February

Alice Springs birding tour
21 April

Top End birding tour incl. Kakadu NP,
Kununurra and Mitchell Plateau
29 May to 9 June

New Caledonia birding tour
includes Lifou an Ouvéa Islands
4 to 11 August

Strzelecki Track Outback tour
2 to 21 September

Please see itineraries, checklists and
latest news on our website

www.philipmaher.com

out for them. On 6 April Steve Holliday reported a brown **Pink Robin** in the upper end of the rainforest gully at the ANBG, and also at least 3 different **Rose Robins** were seen, including 2 males. The former was seen again only on 7 April, but Steve still reported 2 of the latter there on 21 April. So watch out for them there as the ANBG is a favoured spot, though John Brannan reported one from the Pinnacle on 31 March, and Steve a brown one from Goorooyaroo on 2 April. Watch out as well as for the **Crescent** and **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**, which may be first seen in Canberra gardens during late April or early May. There seem to have been no reports for them in these areas so far, or for the **Swift Parrot**.

The most notable “unusual” species for the past month has been a much more accommodating than usual **Great-crested Grebe** at Yerrabi Pond. This has stayed around since it was first reported on 16 April, allowing many people to both view and comment on aspects of its size and behaviour. A **Barn Owl** was reported in Deakin by David Rosalky on 31 March, but typically this did not seem to have stayed around for others to enjoy it. On 15 April John Layton reported a **White-headed Pigeon** in Holt. The latest 2015-2016 Annual Bird report records all three species as rare visitors.

I’m only aware of some waterbird breeding reported during the period, with Ryu Callaway noting 2 absolutely tiny **Purple Swamphen** chicks sighted at Fadden Hills Pond on 29 March, about the 5th brood for the season at the pond. On 21 April Julie Clark posted that the **Australasian Grebe** chick that had survived the deluge a few weeks ago at Casey Pond was doing well and was still being fed by a parent. On 20 April Jean Casburn saw one **Little Pied Cormorant** on a nest from the dirt track at the known breeding site on the Molonglo River on the west side of the Tuggeranong Parkway bridge. Also there were three immature **Australasian Darters** perched low to the water’s edge near the cormorant nest.

Finally there have been further reports of Mixed Feeding Flocks (MFF), as well as single species flocks, including a “flock” of about 200 **Little Ravens** seen by Mark Clayton feeding on the ground several hundred metres before the bridge over the Murrumbidgee River at Tharwa. Roost flights and roosts also have been reported with, on 29 March, Michael Lenz counting 222 **Red-rumped Parrots** at their roost site in Watson. The ones I’ve been watching in Rivett/Chapman seemed to change their behaviour during March, with up to 110 counted using a flyway on the SE edge of my GBS site, and with up to 50 going to roost in a still dense small deciduous tree just outside of it, with much squabbling for positions as the last go in.

Watching this roost flight and roosting behaviour allows a rough estimate of the numbers of a species in the local area. On 22 April Ryu Callaway reported that, in his latest roost count at the Fadden site where he has done regular counts for a year and a half, he had a record number of about 610

Corellas, but even more significant was the number of **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos**, at approximately 715, almost double the number of the previous high count. The next day Ryu noted that he had not recorded any **Great Cormorants** on afternoon visits over the past week to Lake Tuggeranong (LkTugg) and Point Hut Pond (PHP), where they roost on the islands. On the other hand, there were good numbers of **Little Black Cormorants** at both ponds, higher than usual numbers of **Little Pied Cormorants** at LkTugg (average at PHP) and higher than usual numbers of **Australasian Darters** at PHP, so it does not appear to be consistent between related species. On 1 April Sandra Henderson reported lots of the two smaller cormorant species at both Isabella and Upper Stranger Ponds, which since have been drained in preparation for upgrading.

So please keep up the reports for the last records of the spring/summer migrants leaving the ACT, of those species that are still to come down from the mountains into Canberra to spend the autumn/winter here, for large single species flocks and MFFs, for roost flights and roosting behaviour, and any late autumn breeding. As usual please ensure that all significant observations are properly reported and end up on the COG database.

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

Jack Holland

David Cook

White-eared Honeyeater



Seeking interest in KBA (Key Biodiversity Areas) Workshop & Annual Reporting

Birdlife Australia is holding a workshop on the weekend of 5/6 August 2017 at St Georges Basin (near Jervis Bay) for KBA guardians. This workshop will have a number of speakers to explain what KBAs are, why are they important, why the name has changed from IBAs (Important Bird Areas), and to give guidance on how to complete the annual Health-Check pro-forma; there will also be a field trip about bird surveys and using Birddata. The workshop is free, but places are limited to those who have taken on a KBA guardian role or who might potentially become guardians and take on a reporting role for an area.

Birdlife Australia has identified a number of key areas of importance for birds, these were originally known as IBAs (Important Bird Areas), now KBAs. Each KBA has a nominated “guardian” who completes an annual report (or “Health-Check” as it is called) around April, using a pro-forma. This gives an annual snapshot, including the threat and conservation actions for particular species. COG has been asked to assist in finding guardians for two KBAs. Lake Bathurst is one KBA and Michael Lenz has agreed to take on the role for that site. The other KBA is a large area covering the Australian Alps; Flame Robin is one of the key species. COG does not undertake systematic bird surveys in the Alps area or surveys for that species, but COG’s annual Blitz and other bird records could assist reporting on part of the Alps KBA (viz Namadgi NP in COG’s area of interest). The workshop will give an opportunity to discuss how the Alps KBA reporting might be managed/undertaken; a suggestion has been made that more than one individual may be needed to gather relevant information and provide input for this KBA.

Comprehensive information on KBAs is available on the Birdlife website: <http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/KBA>

Please contact the COG office email:

cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au if you are interested in being involved and attending the workshop, or speak with Chris Davey (ph 62546324/0418679847), or Jenny Bounds (ph 62887802). Assistance with travel costs for the workshop may be available.



Black Swans, Horseshoe Lagoon

Julian Robinson

Field Trip Reports

Thursday 9 to Thursday 16 March – private properties near Albury

The party of eight met at midday on 9 March at the Wonga Wetlands situated on the Riverina Highway just west of Albury. Despite just a brief stay visiting the various hides and lagoons, we recorded 51 species including an **Azure Kingfisher** and a **Great-crested Grebe**, **Nankeen Night-herons** and **Brown Treecreepers**.

The first three nights of the trip were spent at 'Savernake', a heritage-listed dryland-farmed large property north of the Murray River town of Mulwala, with the party staying in the overseer's cottage or camping. We spent the next three days exploring the property and surrounding areas including the Wahgunyah State Forest and much enjoyed a guided tour of the wonderfully restored and most interesting old homestead, now a museum. During our stay we recorded 65 species including **Superb Parrots**, **Chestnut-rumped** and **Yellow Thornbill**, **Grey-crowned Babblers**, **Apostlebirds** and four species of robin. One evening we heard the lonely call of a distant **Bush Stone-curlew** and, although we didn't see that bird, we had excellent views of a **Southern Boobook** when we went spotlighting. We also had excellent daytime views of an **Australian Owlet-nightjar**, which flushed when Chris accidentally brush against its roosting tree.

On our way to a second property, we passed again through Albury around midday and paid a visit to Horseshoe Lagoon.

Although not a good time of the day for birds we managed to record 45 species including **Brown-headed Honeyeaters**, nesting **Yellow-billed Spoonbills**, a **Little Eagle** and **White-browed Woodswallows**.

The second property was to the east of Albury at Wymah and our campsite was 5 km into the farm on a plateau at 640m adjoining Woomargama National Park. Over two days we recorded 66 species, including some late migrants like **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, **Rainbow Bee-eater**, **Sacred Kingfisher** and **Olive-backed Oriole**. We enjoyed a very convivial BBQ dinner provided by our hosts one night and two family members joined us for one of our morning walks.

Our final campsite was on the banks of the Murray River near Talmalmo. A **Common Sandpiper** and an **Azure Kingfisher** were the highlights of our section of river, but there were also **White-necked** and **White-faced Herons (14)**, **Royal Spoonbills** and **Straw-necked** and **White Ibis**. We recorded 53 species at this property.

Our thanks to the three property owners for giving us permission to visit their properties and for their hospitality. Savernake Station offers farm stay accommodation and welcomes birders as well as those interested in history; more details can be found at: www.savernakestation.com/

Michael Robbins, Chris Davey, Sue Lashko



Savernake timber woolshed

Julian Robinson



Australian Owlet-nightjar (SH), COG members (JR) and (SH), 1800s stripper harvester (SL), Wymah campsite (SL), What are these COG members doing? (answer page 18) (SH), Chris and friend at Savername (SL), Lia and Jane at Jingellic (JR)
SH: Sandra Henderson, JR: Julian Robinson, SL: Sue Lashko

Sunday 19 March – Eden pelagic

The day looked promising as the *Connemara* left Eden wharf. Several **Little Penguins** were spotted on the water, and a few **Shy Albatross** circled the boat for a time. Two **Pomarine Jaegers** were a highlight.

Other species seen by at least some on board included **Black-faced** and **Little Pied Cormorants**, **Short-tailed** and **Fluttering Shearwaters**, **Australasian Gannets** and an **Eastern Reef Egret**. About two hours out to sea the trip had to be abandoned when one of our group fell ill, and the only option was to return to Eden as soon as possible. After an anxious trip back, we were relieved when the waiting paramedics at the wharf gave the all clear after checking our fellow passenger out thoroughly.

Sandra Henderson



Sunday 2 April – Narrabundah Hill

Twenty-seven members and guests joined me on this outing where we walked for about 2 km along the northern and most of the western boundaries of this reserve, and returned by the same route. The aim was to observe honeyeater migration, as well as to find any early arriving altitudinal migrants and any later departing summer migrants.

We started under cloudy skies with a moderate SE wind, not the hoped for clear still day after cold overnight conditions which would have been optimum for significant honeyeater migration. Though the cloud cleared relatively early it was very quiet for the first 3 hours of the walk, certainly in comparison with the COG outings I have led here for the three previous years. Members of the parrot family were part of the main interest in this time, with around 8 **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos** flying around calling as we gathered for the start, with also a **Gang-gang Cockatoo** overhead, and many **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** flying past us or in the trees as we walked westwards along the northern boundary. Ten **Australian King-Parrots** flew straight through and, last but certainly not least, several pairs of **Red-rumped Parrots** allowed the participants great views of the highly coloured male, and



Scarlet Robin, male and female, Silvereye,
Nankeen Kestrel

Geoff McVeigh

comparatively drab partner. Also of interest was a flock of around 70 **Little Ravens** moving past us in a NNE direction.

At the end of this time we had not yet seen any migrating honeyeaters even though we stopped for morning tea under one of the two main migration routes we had found them on last year. However, our luck changed when the wind dropped and we started back along the northern boundary. At first we found the second of a pair of **Tawny Frogmouths** close to the partner we had seen on the way in. Very soon after, about a dozen **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** flew over, with some stopping in a dead wattle, allowing participants good views of this species which often rests only briefly as it flies through. In fact there was little evidence that these were migrating, as they seemed to hang around, and only a similar number were later seen moving along the ridge in the distance. It is unclear to me why there was such little migration seen, despite the improved conditions, and my having deliberately started the walk at 8:30 Eastern Standard Time, as my previous experience indicated they came through rather late here this early in the migrating season. The next hour (11:30 to 12:30, which would have been an hour later the previous day) proved to be the best birding of the day, with at last a reasonable but still rather loose example of that other autumn phenomenon, the mixed feeding flock (MFF), about 400 m from where the cars were parked. This contained a number of common MFF species including **Weebills**, **Brown** and **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, with the most interesting being 3 **Yellow Thornbills** known to be present in the wattles there from previous COG trips, a pair of **Rufous Whistlers** and a juvenile **Golden Whistler** with very brown wings. This last hour increased the number of **Scarlet Robins** and **Grey Fantails** seen on the day to ten, for the latter well below the 35 we saw last year at a similar time. Numbers of other species seen moving through in previous years such as the **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**, **Red Wattlebird**, **Silvereye** and **Striated Pardalotes** were also well down, supporting the view that, despite April having started,

migration was not yet in full swing, or at least much less obvious this year.

A total of 42 species was recorded, with 39 of these along the northern boundary, including several **Double-barred Finch** and a couple of other species seen by participants returning to their cars early. Special thanks go to Sue Lashko for agreeing without notice to help lead when a bigger group than I expected had gathered, and for helping to make sure that, as much as possible, all the less experienced participants both had good views and learnt about all the birds seen. My thanks also to Ryu Callaway for entering the eBird list for this walk.

Jack Holland

Sunday 9 April – K2C surveys, Bredbo area

The 2017 autumn K2C surveys were held in the most challenging weather conditions we've had for the 8 years of surveys (which means we've been pretty lucky overall). Although soft rain was falling when we left Canberra the early sites around Michelago and Bredbo were mostly completed in fine weather. Then a fast-moving rain band enforced an extended morning tea for those who were lucky enough to be near shelter. The rain stopped enough for most teams to complete their scheduled sites with some really interesting observations. Not all sites were completed on the morning and the counts at some were affected by the rain and wind.

Given the weather forecast for the day there was little expectation of witnessing the honeyeater migration that we usually see at this time of year and during the first half of the morning we hardly saw a single honeyeater. However, after the rain had stopped, at the four separate properties being surveyed, the honeyeaters, and other birds, suddenly became frenetically active with hundreds of mostly **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** moving through. At one site over 700 were recorded as well as hundreds of **Pardalotes** (**Spotted** and **Striated**) and **Silvereyes**, but all were heading doggedly in the completely opposite direction to which they normally go at this time of year.

Another interesting sighting was of a **Pied Butcherbird**. In the previous survey a pair of these was recorded on one of the northernmost sites near Williamsdale, but this bird was recorded south of Michelago. Other highlights of the morning included a pair of **Jacky Winter** near Williamsdale, **Scarlet Robin** on 7 properties, **Dusky Woodswallow** (6 properties), **Brown Treecreeper** in good numbers on 6 properties, **Diamond Firetail** (3), **Speckled Warbler** (2), **Flame Robin** (1), **Gang-gang Cockatoo** (1), **Restless Flycatcher** (1), **Southern Whiteface** (1) and an **Owlet-nightjar**. No **Hooded Robins** were recorded on this survey.

Once again I'd like to thank Bush Heritage for hosting us for lunch at Scottsdale Reserve. Thank you to the COG



COG Members, Narrabundia Hill

Geoff McVeigh

volunteers for persevering through the adverse conditions and to the landholders for their continuing permission to conduct the surveys. Next surveys are on 8 October.

Nicki Taws

Friday 14 to Monday 17 April – Round Hill Nature Reserve – Easter campout

COG conducted another successful campout over the long weekend at the Round Hill Nature Reserve. The weather was kind to us, perhaps a bit too warm on the Friday and Saturday, but perfect on Sunday. The organisation of the activities was in the capable hands of John Goldie and Kathy Walter.

On the Friday we birded around the camp, Saturday morning was spent in the mallee at the old wheat field in Nombinnie NR and on Sunday we did a loop that took in Booberoi Creek, Chat Alley, Lake Cargelligo Weir, the pub at Euabalong (for an ice cream) and Shepherds Hill. There was spotlighting on two nights and one dusk was spent sitting at the edge of a dam watching the wildlife come into drink.

This year the birding was a bit quieter than in previous years. There was very little flowering and it appeared to be drier. Despite these factors we did achieve a very credible bird list of 99 different species. The list included most of the mallee specials (**Southern Scrub-robin**, **Chestnut Quail-thrush**, **Gilbert's Whistler** and **Shy Heathwren**).



Late afternoon birding at the dam, Round Hill Kathy Goldie

Other birding highlights included a paddock full of **Banded Lapwings**(32) and **Australian Magpies**(112), a tree full of **Great Egrets** (28), a nesting **Little Eagle** and a **Barn Owl** that visited one evening just after dusk, and twice in the early hours of the morning but did not stay around long enough to be seen. There was also a good display of birds drinking at the dam. There were lots of **Mulga Parrots**, a pair of **Spotted Bowerbirds** and a goodly number (124+) of **Common Bronzings** amongst others. Whilst at the dam we also

had a visit from the Devil himself (a rather sleek black male goat) who seemed unconcerned at the intruders.

As well as birds we were able to identify four lizards, four butterflies and a moth.

Spotlighting also revealed lots of house mice. Under one small bush nine were counted. Fortunately they did not invade the campsite, although several were seen there.

Once again I would like to thank Kathy and John for a wonderful camp and I look forward to the next one.

Noel Luff

Wednesday 19 April – Gigerline Nature Reserve

Thirty members and guests gathered at Williamsdale for an outing to Gigerline Nature Reserve on a brilliant autumn day, pleasantly warm, no wind and bright sunshine, just what the migrating honeyeaters required.

And they didn't disappoint. Throughout the walk flocks of **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** with a few **White-naped Honeyeaters** mixed in were overflying us, heading more or less for the Tinderries. It would be impossible to get a precise count but the group agreed that estimates of 2,000 **Yellow-faced** and 50 **White-naped Honeyeaters** were conservative.

As we descended to the Murrumbidgee a group of 5 **Red Wattlebirds** appeared to be joining in the rush. One **White-eared Honeyeater** seen early in proceedings also appeared to be caught up in the excitement, while a couple more were calling during the walk. When we arrived at the River a single **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** was seen briefly browsing in the canopy. It dived lower and was not relocated.

A mixed flock including **Buff-rumped** and **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, 2 **Scarlet Robins** and a **Grey Shrikethrush** hinted at the shape of things to come as the weather cools down. In much the same area a flock of 12 **Varied Sittellas** was feeding in the canopy.

Overhead, three young **Wedge-tailed Eagles** were seen at one time soaring over the woodland and another much darker bird was seen shortly afterwards soaring towards the river. They were the only raptors seen on the outing.

The total species count for the day was 38. A full species list is in this [eBird checklist](#). This is well down on our summer counts of over 50 species but the decrease was almost entirely due to the absence of migratory species.

Martin Butterfield

Photos next page: **Lunch beside the Lachlan River** (HB), **Gilbert's Whistler** (DC), **Mulga Parrot** (RC), **At the dam, Round Hill** (KG), **Mulga Parrots** (SH), **Southern Scrub-robin** (HB), **Rufous Whistler** (HB), **Shy Heathwren** (HB)

HB: Harry Bluhm, DC: David Cook, RC: Ryu Callaway, KG: Kathy Goldie, SH: Sandra Henderson



Future Field Trips

Saturday 6 May – Australian National Botanic Gardens beginners' outing

This morning walk will be the first for 2017 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 (0419202155, 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.

Anthony Overs

Sunday 14 May – Yass Gorge

Meet at 7.15am in Hall, at the Hall Village Reserve on Hoskins Street near the intersection with Victoria Street (note the different meeting place from recent field trips). We will carpool from there. The event is due to start at 7.30am with a presentation by Damon Oliver, from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, on Woodland Birds which are likely to use Yass Gorge, then we'll move into the Gorge for a bit of birdwatching! Registration is essential with smlashko@gmail.com

Wednesday 17 May – West Belconnen Pond

Meet on Percy Begg Circuit at 9am.

Sunday 21 May – Mt Taylor Nature Reserve

Meet at 8am at the Waldock Street car park in Chifley. This walk will explore the lower slopes of Mt Taylor Nature Reserve, an important component of Canberra Nature Park. Bring water, sunscreen and morning tea. Numbers are not limited so no requirement to register. Contact Matthew Frawley at frawley.matthew@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sunday 4 June – Brooks Reserve, near Bungendore

Brooks Hill Reserve is on the Kings Highway. Often passed, but less frequently visited, the reserve car-park is located on the right hand side at the bottom of the last hill before the flat stretch leading to Bungendore.

We'll plan to walk back up the old highway and then through the bush, which is fairly open, and not especially uneven ground, back to the car park. We'll be out for about 2 to 3 hours, depending on how many birds are around, so those that need a mid-morning snack should bring one, as well as water, sunscreen and appropriate clothing.

Meet Michael Robbins (mrobbins@home.netspeed.com.au) at 8 am at Spotlight, Queanbeyan for carpooling, or 8:30 am at the reserve parking area.

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.

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

canberrabirds.org.au/
then select 'Our Activities' and 'Field Trips'.

and on the COG chat-line at:

bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/archives/html/canberrabirds/2015-08/

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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.

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.

Sunday 18 June – Superb Lyrebird surveys at Tidbinbilla NR

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

If interested and for further details please contact Chris Davey by email chris_davey@aapt.net.au or MOB 0418 679 847

Sunday 25 June – Wanniasa Hills and Fadden Pond

Arrive by 8am at Fadden Hills Pond located on the corner of Bugden Ave and Nicklin Cres. There are no proper parking arrangements in the area - note that the gravel parking near the tennis courts is for tennis club members only. I suggest you park along Stopford Cres or Nicklin Cres out of the way, and carpool if possible. We will spend some time loitering around the pond. A **Spotless Crane** was recorded last year although it is unlikely now due to work completed early this year to remove excess silt. The tree-lined creek occasionally presents some nice birds like **Rose Robin**, and there is a new bird mural to admire on the pump station.

We will then walk through Wanniasa Hills NR, doing a loop of the SW section before checking out a small dam. Mixed feeding flocks abound here over winter, and we can expect to get some very close-up views of **Golden Whistler**, **White-eared Honeyeater**, **Scarlet Robin**, pardalotes and a range of thornbills. Be prepared for some mildly steep and rocky sections; the exact route will depend on the movement of these flocks. We will return via the southernmost peak (the smallest but also with the best views). This may be a good opportunity for a quick snack while taking in the breathtaking views of Tuggeranong and the Brindabellas, with the possibility of a raptor or two. The whole morning should take about 3 hours, give or take an hour.

Ryu Callaway

Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 September - Eden pelagics

COG will run two pelagic trips over the first weekend in September. At this stage I am seeking expressions of interest for these trips. The cost will be \$110 per day, and the trips start from the Eden wharf at 7am each day. Please contact me to put your name on the list if you've not already done so. I will confirm your attendance and request payment closer to the time.

After many years as our resident expert, Anthony Overs will no longer be undertaking the pelagic trips. His expertise, enthusiasm and willingness to educate us about seabirds has been much appreciated. Tobias Hayashi has agreed to take over this role.

Sandra Henderson, shirmax2931@gmail.com

Global Big Day

Saturday 13 May, 2017

You can make your birding really count by contributing towards something bigger, and what better place to start than the Global Big Day! The Global Big Day is an international bird blitz run by the organisation behind ebird, and aims to get as many birders from all over the world out birding and submitting data during that day. Last year, over 17,500 people from all over the world took part, submitting over 47,000 checklists and recording 6,331 species of birds around the world in a single day. Australia contributed 504 species from 1075 checklists to these impressive figures. In the ACT, 28 participants contributed 115 species in 74 checklists. Let's keep up the effort. If every COG member contributed a single list on the day, no matter where in the world they might be, that amounts to a few hundred lists; if some of us were to contribute a few lists each, that would be even more.

This year, participants are particularly encouraged to scout various birding sites before the day, give ebird mobile a go, and get others involved - whether you introduce someone new to birding, team up with other ebirders, or set up a friendly competition with your birding pals. You are also encouraged to indicate where you intend to bird on the following map: [google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1ju6uHYLY3tVluw6X-7z2nWvvul&ll](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1ju6uHYLY3tVluw6X-7z2nWvvul&ll)

Contributing is simple. For current ebird users, simply submit lists into ebird as usual on the day. Those of you who aren't on ebird will need to create an account. There is nothing to fear - take the plunge and try something new. Not only is it a user friendly and robust system available all year round which ensures your data is available for centuries to come, but ebird also boasts a range of data exploration and analysis tools as well as allowing you almost real-time access to your data and sightings that other ebirders have made. Remember, all data entered into ebird from within the COG area of interest will be downloaded to the COG database - making your contributions even more worthwhile. This link should have all the information you need to get started: help.ebird.org/customer/en/portal/topics/439564

On the day, the world effort can be tracked at ebird.org/globalbigday

Let's put in a team effort to make this Global Big Day big. Go COG!

Ryu Callaway
ebird Australia: ebird.org/content/australia/



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Woodland Surveys- autumn survey round—

compiled by Jenny Bounds

Mulligans Flat NR

Jenny Bounds and the team surveyed on Sunday 26 March. After some early light mist at some sites, the weather gods turned on a fine, mild and sunny morning. Some sites reported few birds in the 10 minute counts, but there were numbers of flocks around, and a very large mixed feeding flock around the Woolshed area which included 20+ **Striated Pardalotes**, 9 **Varied Sittellas**, a pair of **Scarlet Robins**, **Golden Whistler**, **Brown, Buff-rumped** and **Striated Thornbills**, **Weebills**, **Grey Fantails** and **Speckled Warblers**. Highlights included **Superb Parrots** (5 flying around), a **Collared Sparrowhawk** and **Scarlet Robins** recorded at 7 sites (their numbers usually increase in autumn). The large dam had several ducks including **Pink-eared Ducks** (breeding there in recent times), and **Black Fronted Dotterels**. Some spring migrants were still around, **Olive-backed Oriole**, **Rufous Whistler** and both gerygones calling, and a few **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** were moving through. No **Common Starlings** or **Common Mynas** were recorded on this survey. The total of 56 species was a little less than the average for autumn survey.

Goorooyarroo South NR

Steve Holliday and Prue Buckley did the autumn survey in cool, partly cloudy conditions on 2 April. 45 species were recorded, with 37 during the 10 minute counts. Most sites

had relatively few small birds although there were mixed flocks at a couple of sites. These contained the usual species, such as **Spotted** and **Striated Pardalotes**, **Yellow-rumped** and **Buff-rumped Thornbills**, **Scarlet Robins**, **Grey Fantails**, **White-eared** and **Brown-headed Honeyeaters**, and **Weebills**. Other birds of interest included 2 **Red-browed Finches** (the first there for some time), a brown **Rose Robin**, a **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, and 2 **Common Bronzewing**s. Summer migrants were conspicuous by their absence with just a couple of **Rufous Whistlers** noted. A couple of weeks prior to the survey, every flowering mistletoe in the reserve seemed to have **Noisy Friarbirds** in it, but there were none at all on the survey. Several small flocks of **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** were moving through.

Mt Majura NR

Kathy Walter and John Goldie surveyed the 9 sites in three different areas of the reserve over a number of days in the last week of March. Once again there was a lack of small birds at all sites, except one, which is probably the site furthest away from houses. Of interest was a single **Superb Parrot** at two sites (the same individual). **Superb Parrots** have been regular summer residents in the old trees at the TV stations / Carotel sites in North Watson in the past couple of years, but rarely in the survey sites. A number of **Mistletoebirds** were recorded over three sites. Other birds

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of note were **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**, **Western Gerygone**, **Leaden Flycatchers**(on a nest) and **Speckled Warblers**. **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** appeared to be using large nest boxes at a site behind Hackett. A total of 29 species was recorded.

Majura Field Firing Range

Paul Fennell and Barbara Allan had a good morning for surveying on Tuesday 28 March, although the sun was just up at 7:30. A total of 48 species was recorded.

The highlight was 5 **Grey Currawongs**, calling loudly as they flew overhead. There were birds in some numbers at some sites, particularly the dam at the far north of the range, where 25 species were counted, some in feeding flocks: 20 **Buff-rumped Thornbills**, 20 **Spotted** and 20 **Striated Pardalotes**, 25 **Grey Fantails** and 10 **Superb Fairy-wrens**, as well as **Speckled Warbler**, **Yellow-faced** and **White-eared Honeyeaters** and **Scarlet Robins**. There appeared to be more **Grey Butcherbirds** about than in previous years.

A welcome sight was a single **Australian Hobby** at the southern end of the range. Hobbies have been seen there occasionally in the past, inspecting tree hollows in the spring. Other species worth mentioning were the now not so **Common Bronzings**, **Willie Wagtails**, **White-throated Treecreeper**, **Eastern Spinebill**, **Masked Lapwing**, **Laughing Kookaburra** and **Noisy Miner**. The 8 dispersed sites produced more species and more birds than is normally recorded on the survey.

Mt Ainslie NR/Campbell Park

The autumn survey was carried out by Michael Lenz on 19 March. The sky was overcast and wind light for the duration of the survey. Only 21 species were recorded over the 9 sites, and an additional 10 in between sites. Four of the 9 sites held only 3 species. For the others, numbers ranged from 6 to 13. The latter southern site with 13 species benefited from a few species out of a mixed feeding flock entering it. A larger mixed flock was encountered at the northern end of the reserve, near the last survey site. Highlights, mostly outside sites, were **Speckled Warblers** (2), **Varied Sittellas**, **Brown-headed Honeyeaters**, **White-throated Gerygones** and a **Brown Goshawk**. Michael's highlight was a close encounter with a Red-necked Wallaby, not that often seen in this part of the reserve.

Newline

Sue Lashko surveyed on Sunday 19 March in cool and still conditions and before the spell of rain, so it was very dry,

with two dams completely dry and others very shallow. **Noisy Miners** continue to move into new sites and they were **not** recorded in just 2 of the 9 sites. There were large numbers of immature **Common Starlings** throughout and **Common Mynas** at 2 sites. **Rainbow Lorikeets** were more plentiful and more widespread, with birds in 4 sites. Apart from **Grey Fantails**, there were very few migrants, one each of **White-throated Gerygone** and **Dusky Woodswallow**. A **Collared Sparrowhawk** was the only raptor for the morning. The dam in one site was home to a stripe-headed juvenile **Australasian Grebe**, while two adults were on a dam in the front paddock some distance away. The morning's species total was just 34 which is the lowest autumn count Sue can recall.

Red Hill NR

Harvey Perkins with Stuart Harris surveyed on 25 March, in mild and calm conditions with both post-fog cloud and hot air balloons rising slowly and drifting away. It was a pleasant survey and the birds seemed to be quite active, though the total number of species recorded was spot on average (23 within the nine sites, and a further 8 recorded between sites), and the total number of individuals (448) just slightly higher than average. No classic mixed feeding flocks were encountered, but the number of small birds was boosted somewhat by a group of **Striated** and **Spotted Pardalotes**. Otherwise, the most notable aspect of the survey was the diversity and prevalence of parrots and cockatoos (9 species), including a couple of **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos**, three **Rainbow Lorikeets**, and 40 very active and vocal **Australian King Parrots**. There was no sign of any smaller honeyeaters, and little of migrating species, other than the 11 **Grey Fantails** and flock of about 35 **Silvereyes**. **Satin Bowerbirds** (9 - highest record to date) were seen in several locations, including at the top car park where, together with **Australian Ravens** and **Pied Currawongs**, they were feasting quietly on kurrajong seeds.

Jerrabomberra West NR

Jenny Bounds and Alison Russell-French did the autumn survey on Easter Saturday, 15 April, a fine and still morning with cloud until mid-morning when the sun started to appear. On driving into the woodland from the grasslands track, a pair of **Wedge-tailed Eagles** flew up low from a perch. While Alison did nearby site 2 in mostly Blakely's Red Gum, with 3 **Dusky Woodswallows** in that count, Jenny's site further on in similar habitat had a predominance of **Common Starlings**. There were quite a few parrots around: **Crimson** and **Eastern Rosellas**, **Red-rumped Parrots** and **Galahs**. Heading deeper into the more diverse woodland habitat, the next site was quiet, then sites 4 and 5 provided the most species diversity of the morning with mixed flocks of both pardalotes, **Weebills**,

Buff-rumped and **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, **Golden Whistlers**, **Speckled Warbler** and a **Scarlet Robin**. An **Eastern Spinebill** was around the flowering mistletoes in those sites. Site 6 is usually uninteresting (**Noisy Miners**, **Common Mynas**), but there was unusually a **Sacred Kingfisher** moving through, and four **Gang-gang Cockatoos**. Site 7, which can be a birdy site, turned out to be quiet, possibly because a **Brown Goshawk** mobbed by **Noisy Miners** flew through just before the count started. On the way out, interesting sightings were 2 **White-faced Herons** which seemed to be feeding in the grasslands, and a few migrating **Yellow-faced** and **White-naped Honeyeaters** had started to move. A **Common Bronzewing** sitting in a dead tree near the grasslands edge was a first record for the survey (which started in 2006). The 39 species total for the morning was a little down on the usual autumn count.

Symonston: Callum Brae NR/Isaacs Ridge NR

Sandra Henderson surveyed at both sites in the last week of March. Callum Brae was quieter than usual, with less than 50 species in total. The highlight was two perched **Wedge-tailed Eagles** in a dead tree, only a couple of hundred metres from the entrance. Three **Scarlet Robins** were noted, and there were **Australasian Grebes** on three of the nine dams. A large flock of **Little Corellas** and **Galaha**s was moving between the Callum Brae farm and the reserve. A single female **Leaden Flycatcher** was seen moving quietly through the foliage at nursery corner. Despite some recent rain, the smallest dam was dry. Work on the pump station and access track is proceeding, and looks to be quite substantial.

The Isaacs Ridge sites were surveyed in cool, still slightly foggy conditions, with every bush and tree festooned with cobwebs. The **Speckled Warblers** were very vocal, with at least five putting in an appearance and scolding loudly. A mixed flock with at least 10 **Grey Fantails** (many of them feeding on the ground, which was unusual), many **Yellow-rumped**, **Buff-rumped** and **Striated Thornbills**, a **Scarlet Robin**, **Spotted Pardalotes** and a couple of **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes** delayed progress between sites. An accurate count of the small birds was impossible - they were all moving constantly!

Tuggeranong Hill NR

Lia Battisson surveyed on Thursday 23 March, on a mild, overcast morning with a light breeze. Two mixed feeding flocks were observed, comprising **Grey Fantail**, **Spotted** and **Striated Pardalotes**, **Yellow-rumped** and **Buff-rumped Thornbills**, **Scarlet Robin**, **Willie Wagtail** and **White-throated Treecreeper**. At site 3, feral species were over-represented with 15 **Common Mynas** and 13 **Common Starlings**, and

there were 2 **Rainbow Lorikeets** as well. The only honeyeaters for the morning were **Red Wattlebirds** and one **Eastern Spinebill**. Two **Wedge-tailed Eagles** soared over the Hill and the **Nankeen Kestrel** is becoming a regular. **Satin Bowerbirds** were present at a couple of sites. In all, 32 species were observed.

Rural leasehold near Tharwa

David McDonald surveyed on 29 March. Canberra was enveloped in deep fog, but the other side of the Murrumbidgee was in bright sunshine by the time the survey commenced. Both species diversity and bird abundance were fairly low, with just 26 species recorded within the sites plus two others outside. Only five species had five or more birds: **Yellow-faced Honeyeater**, **White-winged Chough**, **Rufous Whistler**, **Galah** and **Superb Fairy-wren**. The most widespread species were **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** (at six sites) and **Rufous Whistler** (at four sites). The **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** were migrating through the site, mostly in small flocks. At one point was a noisy chattering of **White-winged Choughs**, about 40 of them, (whereas the median shown in the recently published 2015-16 Annual Bird Report is just seven). Threatened species highlights were two **Brown Treecreepers** and one **Diamond Firetail** at site 2, a locality that they frequented decades ago but not recently, and a **Speckled Warbler** at an unusual location.

Naas Valley rural leasehold

Julie McGuinness did the survey on Sunday 26 March, a lovely clear and mild day, following almost a week of intermittent showers. Like the summer survey, it was very quiet in terms of small birds, with a few **Striated Pardalotes**, **Weebills**, **Grey Fantails** and a **Scarlet Robin** inside the sites, and **Buff-rumped Thornbills** and **Superb Fairy-wrens** outside. One **White-throated Gerygone**, two **Rufous Whistlers**, three **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** and half a dozen **Noisy Friarbirds** were the only migrating species seen. Species in the highest numbers were **Crimson** and **Eastern Rosellas**, **Wood Ducks** and **Common Starlings**. Birds numbers were very low overall.

Where to go birding in Canberra when you have a spare hour or two

Introducing a new feature in Gang-gang: each month a different birding location within the Canberra urban area that warrants a brief visit but which is unlikely to be included in the field trips programme because of its small size.

If you have a favourite location, send your ideas to gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au using the headings in the featured location below.

Location: Diddams Close, Lake Ginninderra. Entry is off Ginninderra Drive.

Directions and key species: At the T-junction, turn left (east) and park at the end of the road. Walk towards the lake and then follow the shore north past Casuarina trees (search these for roosting **Nankeen Night Herons**) and reeds that shelter a variety of waterbirds. Scan the opposite side of the water for herons and egrets.

Walk under the bridge along the path, watching for **Brown Quail** where the long grass and mown grass meet. After about 200m, retrace your steps back under the bridge. Walk south around the edge of the bay and back along the path, checking the reeds and the trees.

Return to your car. Drive to the western end of Diddams Close and where the road forks, take the left fork and park. Check the fence line and paddock behind for finches. Then walk through the parkland (looking out for **Crested Shrike-tits**) and along the lake edge travelling north until you reach the boat ramp. Check the rock wall at the end of the lake for perching cormorants, darters and herons. Return to the carpark.



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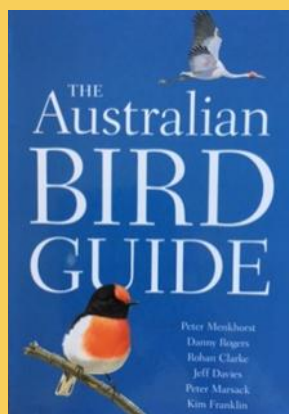
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Answer to the question on page 7: *Skipping rocks on the Murray River.*

BOOK OF THE MONTH



The Australian Bird Guide

Peter Menkhorst, Danny Rogers, Rohan Clarke, Jeff Davies, Peter Marsack, Kim Franklin

The most comprehensive and beautifully illustrated field guide to Australia's unique birdlife.

The Australian Bird Guide is the most comprehensive field guide to Australian

birds ever seen. The guide features around 4700 colour illustrations, with particular emphasis on providing the fine detail required to identify difficult groups and distinctive plumages. Comprehensive species accounts have been written by a dedicated team of ornithologists to ensure identification details, distribution and status are current and accurate.

The Australian Bird Guide sets a new standard in field guides, providing an indispensable reference for all birders and naturalists looking to explore Australia's magnificent and unique birdlife

Members who have ordered a copy can pick it up at the May meeting or make alternative arrangements with Kathy before 10 May.

If you would like to order a copy, email: sales@canberrabirds.org.au.

Orders taken now will not be available until July/August, because the sales team will be away through May and June.

Members' Price \$35.

Publications for sale

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

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

sales@canberrabirds.org.au

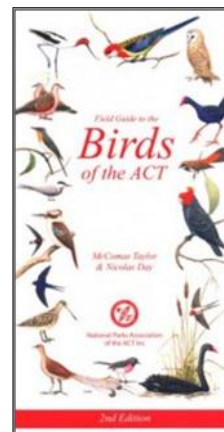
NEW BOOKS IN STOCK

Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT

McComas Taylor & Nicolas Day

Sized to fit in your pocket, this compact field guide describes 207 birds seen in the ACT. An ideal bird guide for the local area.

Members' price: \$20

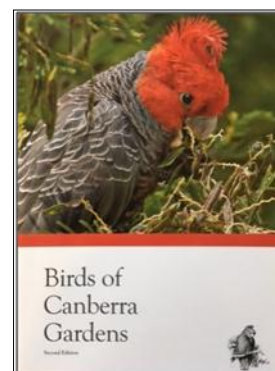


Birds of Canberra Gardens

Canberra Ornithologists Group

This book is based on the observation of more than 200 bird species in and around Canberra suburban gardens and in adjacent Canberra parks and open spaces. It describes the abundance and distribution of birds, and discusses how the birds are likely to be found at different times throughout the year, and in different places. The book also provides some ideas on how your garden may be made more attractive to native birds.

Members' price: \$20

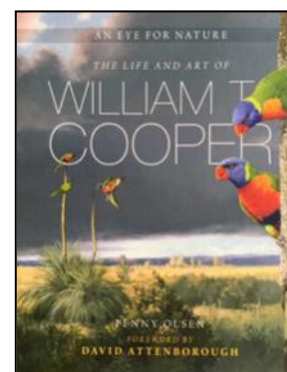


An Eye for Nature – The Life and Art of William Cooper

Penny Olsen

William T. Cooper's paintings of birds which set him apart—his raucous cockatoos, colourful parrots, animated turacos and flamboyantly displaying birds of paradise. Often placed in meticulously studied landscapes, these intricate bird portraits reveal Cooper's close observation not only of his subjects' appearance, but their habits, poses and behaviour.

Members' price \$37



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

2016-2017 memberships:

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

New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

D Bennett
D Bowman
T Teo
P Lord

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for June 2017 edition

Wednesday 31 May 2017

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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for change of address or other details.

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COG E-mail Discussion List

COG E-mail Discussion List

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