



# Gang-gang

**DECEMBER 2018**

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

## JANUARY MEETING

**Wednesday 9 January 2018**

**7.30 pm**

### COG MEMBERS' NIGHT 9 January 2018

Due to the unavailability of our usual meeting venue, the 9 January 2018 COG meeting will be a COG Members' Night, starting at 7:30 pm.

A program will be drawn up allowing COG members to contribute short presentations (about 10-15 minutes long) on a range of bird-related topics.

So if you have a favourite birding moment for 2018, some special photos to share with members, a birding story to tell, or anything that you think might be of interest to other members, please contact Jack Holland (6288 7840 ah) or by email on [jandaholland@bigpond.com](mailto:jandaholland@bigpond.com) as soon as possible.

Members who have not presented to COG before are particularly encouraged.

**VENUE – St James Uniting Church Hall, off Gillies St, Curtin**

There is parking for at least 30 cars in the car park off Gillies Street, and further parking in Gillies St itself, or across the road at the Curtin shops.

Please use the entrance on the east side next to the Good Shepherd Anglican Church and by going under the Chocolate Bear Playgroup sign.

A good-sized kitchen with a fridge is available for our use for tea/coffee after.

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

While compared with previous months it has been wetter, and has remained cool, over the past 4 1/2 weeks from 27 October covered by this column, it appears that the pattern for the spring/summer birds in the COG area of interest (Aoi) had already been set. For example, despite it still being dry inland, numbers of the **White-winged Triller** and in particular the **Rufous Songlark** continue to be not as high as might be expected under these conditions. Over the past month the latter has been reported from only 8 locations around Canberra, though from a further 4 in the south of the ACT. Both species are still not present at Narrabundah Hill, or elsewhere in my local patch including NW Cooleman Ridge, nor is the **Dusky Woodswallow** for the first time in many years.

However, there have continued to be reports of the **White-browed** and **Masked Woodswallows**, from over 35 and 16 locations, respectively. Some of these included large numbers; for example, John Leonard reported a flock

*Continued Page 2*

## COG December BBQ

**Black Mountain Peninsular**

(John Cardiff Close)

**6.00pm Wednesday 12 December 2017**

**Bring a salad or dessert to share, and serving utensils.**

**BYO plates, cutlery, glasses, table and chairs.**

**Sausages, onions, beer, wine and soft drinks provided.**

**Lucky door prize and raffle.**

**Everyone welcome**

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

of over 200, with some juveniles of both species, on the Yass River Road on 3 November. Martin Butterfield reported a mixed flock of over 300 birds from Plains Rd near Hoskintown on 17 November, and around 70 were reported by Michael Lenz on the east side of Lake George on 18 November. Despite careful searching neither could find any signs of breeding other than pair bonding/copulation, and the only report of a White-browed on a nest was one at Campbell Park by Rick Kuhn on 13 November, though Kym Bradley reported one building a nest on 20 November. So please keep an eye out for breeding of these two species, as I expect conditions are now much more suitable for them to do so.

Michael Lenz has informed me that, contrary to the conclusion in my previous column, he had already reported the **Horsfield's Bushlark**; in fact they had been present in fallow fields on the east side of Lake George all winter where they could be flushed regularly, with a maximum of 10 seen on 26 August, as well as 18 on 27 October and 18 November. Michael is updating a previous review of their presence in the COG Aol in winter, noting that post-breeding they are quiet (they even



**Horsfield's Bushlark** (Lake Paika field trip)

*David Cook*



**Rufous Songlark**

*Stuart Harris*

don't call when flushed) and stay in ground vegetation (the **Rufous Songlark** behaves very similarly at this time). Interestingly, I can find no other reports for them on eBird, though John Leonard reported a Bushlark doing its display by the highway just north of Murrumbateman on 3 November, as well as 2 birds in the Gungaharra Grasslands reserve on 10 November. John also reported the related **Brown Songlark** from the latter, as did several others subsequently, but eBird shows there have been reports of this species from only 5 other locations, including two on the east side of Lake George, where a maximum of 3 was seen on 27 October.

Of the other species which I indicated in my November column had not yet been reported (or for which there had been very few reports), Steve Wallace pointed out that I had overlooked his report of a **Rufous Fantail** at the ANBG on 22 October. Together with one from there on 25 November, and one bird at Callum Brae on 27 November, these remain the only locations where this species has been reported this spring on its passage to breed in the mountains, from where it has been reported from 6 locations, plus 2 more in suitable habitat in the Tallaganda NP to the southeast. In contrast to the previous single record, there have now been reports from 16 locations for the **Brush Cuckoo**, another migrant species which prefers the higher areas of the COG Aol. Eight of these were from peri-urban Canberra, including one having collided with a window in Page.

However, there have been no reports to date of the **Cicadabird** which prefers a similar habitat, and there have only been reports of the **Channel-billed Cuckoo** from one location, on 13 and 16 November from Christine D's place in Flynn. There have been none for the **Red-backed Kingfisher** and **Black-eared Cuckoo** that only come to the COG Aol in the driest of times. So please keep an eye/ear out the above species, though the two last-named would now seem unlikely given the changed weather conditions.

Many observers reported their first **Eastern Koel** for the season in the last few days of October/first week of November, but in some areas they didn't seem to arrive until mid-month. In my local patch much of the calling has been a male giving the "ko-el" sound, still trying to attract a female, and I have had few reports so far of the noisy aggregations made by multiple

birds of both sexes. These are limited to Diana White in Narrabundah (a pointer to another cluster of fledglings for her this season?) around 8 November, and the early morning one of at least six birds reported by Ryu Callaway in Fadden on 15 November. However, an early breeding record was Lach Read's at 6:30 pm on 6 November of a pair of Koels mating in Lyons. He had lovely close views of both birds sitting on an exotic bush, before and after the event. The male was calling loudly from a maple, and the female flew in and they copulated. The pair separated, but were later seen eating red berries on the same bush.

After hearing my first female a few days earlier, within a few days of writing this column, Koel activity around my place in Rivett/Chapman increased significantly, with a party of at least three calling/disputing for much of the day. This has consisted of a male still giving continuous *ko-el* calls, and less frequently another male giving the *whoa* call (the two could often be heard at the same time) accompanied by a female's *kek kek kekking*, or particularly early on, a different call sounding much like a **Dollarbird**. This activity coincided with the building of a now completed **Red Wattlebird** nest in a flowering plum just above eye level outside our bedroom window. So I'll be keeping a close eye on this nest, as I will be on one in a hakea bush 750 m away at the corner of Hindmarsh Drive/Darwinia Tce, Duffy. This was where a similar (possibly the same) party was present and the female dived into it vigorously pursued by 2 Red Wattlebirds, before very soon exiting, still being harassed.

Finally in respect of spring/summer migrants (though it is increasingly present during winter), I recorded my first **Superb Parrots** in my local patch, with 2 males observed on Cooleman Ridge on 19 November. Around that time there were also reports from Duffy, Mt Stromlo and Curtin, and together with further ones in Lyons and Swinger Hill these



**Tawny Frogmouth** (Wee Jasper field trip)

*Duncan McCaskill*



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**2019**

### Tasmanian bird and mammal tour Includes Melaleuca and pelagic

2 to 9 February 2019

Only a few places left.

### Gulf of Carpentaria

Georgetown, Karumba, Mt Isa, Winton  
16 May to 2 June 2019

### Far North Queensland: Atherton Tablelands & Iron Range

8 to 21 June 2019

The Pilbara 2019 tours are full.

### South West Western Australia

2 to 11 September 2019

### Alice Springs, West MacDonnell Ranges, Marla & Yulara

12 to 22 September 2019

(now includes Marla (SA) for Chestnut-breasted Whiteface and Yulara for Sandhill Grasswren)

### Plains-wanderer Weekends

26/27 October 2019

23/24 November 2019

8/9 December 2019

Please see itineraries, checklists  
and latest news on our website

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



comprise the south of the lake sightings from more than 30 locations from which this species was reported over the past month.

Of the species which visit Canberra during the winter months, despite my previous expectation that all would have made their long migration journey to breed in Tasmania by now, there was a late report of a **Swift Parrot** by Nicki Taws in the flowering ironbarks in Cook on 20 November. There have been no further reports of the **Pink Robin** anywhere in the COG Aol, and only four of the **Rose Robin** in the wetter areas where they breed. The only reports of the **Flame Robin** from peri-urban locations have been the rare breeding record at Campbell Park confirmed during the Nest Workshop on 11 November (see the report elsewhere in this issue), as well as 2 birds from Percival Hill on 28 October. In contrast there have been reports of the **Scarlet Robin**, which doesn't move as far away to breed, from seven such locations.

There have been no reports of the **Crescent Honeyeater** from the Canberra area, and no reports at all of the **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** in the COG Aol during the period, but the **Bassian Thrush** was still reported from the ANBG on 11 November. There have been only been two reports of the **Restless Flycatcher**, from Fadden Pines and the Orroral Valley, both during the COG Blitz. So during summer please keep an eye out for any of the above altitudinal migrant and other species that spend the winter period in Canberra.

Of the "unusual" species, the only new such species reported during the period was the **Blue-faced Honeyeater**, two of which were reported accompanying a party of Noisy Friarbirds by Suzi Bond in Belconnen on 29 October. While there have been no further reports of the female **Turquoise Parrot** at Kelly Swamp, the mooted male at the Googong Dam foreshores was confirmed (with photo) by Mikayla Burke on 29 October. There have been further reports of up to 3 **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** at Jerrabomberra Wetlands and 4 at Foxlow Lagoon, as well as **Red-necked Avocets** from both. There has also been a further report of the **Tawny Grassbird** at the former, as well as 6 **Whiskered Tern** there, both on 10 November.

An **Australian Little Bittern** was reported from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands on 25 November, as well as an earlier one from the Forde wetlands on 13 November. A single **Great-crested Grebe** has also been reported from near the Cotter Dam wall during November. There were further sightings of a **Black Kite** at Callum Brae/Long Gully Rd on 2 and 4 November, of an **Azure Kingfisher** at the Cotter Reserve on 27 October, and of a **Scarlet Honeyeater** at Cook on 24 November. There have also been reports of up to 2 **Scaly-breasted Lorikeets** in Watson.

In addition to those for the **White-browed** and **Masked Woodswallows**, **Eastern Koel** and **Flame Robin** mentioned above (and the other records from the Nest Workshop – see separate report), as might be expected there has been much more breeding activity during the period. The following are worthy of reporting in more detail:

On 28 October Kym Bradley reported that three **Brown Treecreepers** had fledged from the nest she had been watching. Unfortunately one had a deformed beak, though the



Blue-faced Honeyeater

Frank Antram



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Lake Paika trip)

David Cook



Whiskered Tern

David Cook

other two were fine. On 14 November, David McDonald posted a report of **Brown Treecreepers** laying 2 eggs in a nest box in the Wamboin/Bywong area.

David Rosalky observed a pair of **Sacred Kingfishers** at Newline Quarry which came together on a branch and flew a rapid series of sorties into a hole about 30 or 40 metres away. At first he thought they must have been feeding young, but the absence of food in the sortie flights suggested otherwise. Also they spent only about 2 or 3 seconds in the hole at each flight. So he assumed that they were chopping away at wood to open the hole a bit. HANZAB supports this behaviour, noting that the tree hollows used for nesting can be natural, but are more often excavated (or partly so) by members of the breeding pair.

I found very interesting the report of the **Brown Falcon** nest with young from the COG Wednesday Walk to Barooka Rd (see elsewhere in this issue). It may surprise some that the Bird Info for this species on the COG website indicates breeding has been recorded in only 14 of the previous 30 years, possibly due to the fact that this species appears to be one suffering more than most from Canberra's suburban growth.

After a slower start than usual, over the past fortnight I have been hearing/seeing a significant increase in the number of **Red Wattlebird** fledglings in Rivett/Chapman, including 2 separate sets in my GBS site (and the now occupied nest mentioned above). What impact this will have on the **Eastern Koel** breeding season is unclear; it would appear that there are plenty of potential hosts out there (see also comments above). So please keep an eye out for their fledglings this season which, based on last season, could be as early as when the December issue of Gang-gang hits your inbox.

Please also keep an eye out for other potential hosts. In my accepted (for CBN) summary of the 2017-2018 ACT Koel season, I have still not been able to find evidence of the **Magpie-lark** being a confirmed local Koel host, though I do detail a number of interactions between them. There has also been a potentially very interesting interaction between them this year for which the outcome is still unclear.

When my next column is published in two months' time some of the spring/summer migrants, which just come here to breed, may have already departed, or will be close to having done so. So please keep an eye out for the last **Horsfield's Bushlark** and **Brown** or **Rufous Songlark**, which have often left by the end of January. **White-browed** and **Masked Woodswallows** are also seldom seen after the New Year. However, two species to look out for from now, which are more commonly seen in the first 3 months of the year, are the **White-throated Needletail** and the related **Fork-tailed Swift**, especially before, during and after stormy weather. Philip Veerman has already reported 3 of the former over Kambah on 3 November, and Patrick Wyllie 5 birds over Ngunnawal on 17 November.

So please watch out for the above-mentioned species and especially for any further breeding activity. 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 Email Discussion List ("COG chatline") and the eBird Australia database, 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*

## Advance note of COG's 2019 survey of members and friends

Early in 2019, all COG members will receive details of a survey developed by the COG Committee. This survey has been designed to find out how you use COG, which of COG's activities matter to you, and what we could usefully change or improve.

Information in the survey will also be posted to the COG chatline, to allow non-members who keep in touch with COG to respond.

You will be able to complete the survey in a number of ways: through the web, through email, or on the printed copies that will be available at the February COG meeting. We would much prefer that you complete the on-line version of the survey, as that will make analysing the results much easier.

Your responses will be anonymous, and all comments are very welcome, so please feel free to use the survey to express your opinions directly. A summary of the survey results will be made available to members once responses have been analysed.

Steve Read (on behalf of the COG committee)

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## 2018 ACT 12hourTwitchathon Report

Inspired by the screening of *Chasing Birds* at the inaugural Birdhaven Festival at Shoalhaven Heads the previous weekend, we signed up for Birdlife Australia's 12hr twitchathon. As a family team of 3, *The Singing Sittellas* (Kumiko and Yumi) and *the Twitcher In Denial* (myself), 2 of us would need to conclusively ID a bird for it to count. Teams must stay within state boundaries, but ACT is lumped with NSW for this event. Despite this, as we only had a week to plan and we'd just come back from the coast, we decided to attempt this entirely within the ACT. I planned out a 150km route with timings, starting at Casuarina Sands and finishing up at Glendale, with just over an hour spare at the end given we were likely to inevitably run late.

We reached Casuarina Sands at 6:47am on Sunday 28 October and started the timer. The morning chorus was going strong and we were pleased to get the first of what would be many **Leaden Flycatchers**, **Mistletoebirds** and **White-throated Gerygones**. We also got the target bird for the site, **Grey Currawong**, with young in a nest. We then quickly stopped by Cotter Bend (where an **Azure Kingfisher** had been reported a few weeks prior), ticking off both **Satin Bowerbird** and **Common Bronzewing**, both the only ones for the day. The **Hooded Robins** were absent from East West Rd, but we got **Pied Butcherbird** going past Uriarra Village. Next stop was Uriarra Dam, where 2 **Latham's Snipe** on the far shore were the highlight. A quick diversion up Mountain Creek Rd got us a **Wedge-Tailed Eagle** being mobbed by a **Brown Goshawk**, before scoring 3 species of woodswallow upon our return to Uriarra Rd. A quick stop at Uriarra Crossing and Uriarra East unfortunately failed to yield **Rainbow Bee-eaters** or the **Collared Sparrowhawks**. Unfortunately, the Fitz Cycling Challenge meant reduced speed limits around all of Uriarra Rd, which I hadn't factored in although I'd made sure we were going around in the opposite direction.



[https://farm2.staticflickr.com/1913/30736768037\\_3c821c41cd\\_z.jpg](https://farm2.staticflickr.com/1913/30736768037_3c821c41cd_z.jpg)

Of course we had no time to be stopping for photos, but who can resist such a well-posed bird?

**Australasian Pipit** along Mountain Creek Rd, ACT

The next stop was at Coombs Pond, where we were surprised to see a snipe flying around (the first record for the Molonglo district according to eBird), and we got the usual suspects including **Pink-eared Duck** at North Weston Ponds. We quickly dropped by the RSPCA to tick off **House Sparrows** in the car park and headed for the Arboretum dam. **Black-fronted Dotterels**, **Nankeen Kestrel** and **White-fronted Chat** were added at this site, and a **Masked Lapwing** chick was observed. The next stop was Lake Ginninderra, where we added **Grey Shrike-thrush**, **White-browed Scrubwren** and a spotless **Spotted Dove** at John Knight Park, and our only **Great Cormorant** from the other side. Next, we headed to Giralang Pond, where 2 **Nankeen Night-Herons** were partly visible, and a **Sacred Kingfisher** made an appearance. Both ibis were present, the only ones for the day. We then made our way to Watson, where we dipped on both **Buff-banded Rail** and **Superb Parrot**, birds that I thought would be a definite at the site. Our next stop was Mt Majura, where activity was surprisingly quiet and we

were unable to relocate the sittella nest that mum had found a week or two earlier. We did, however, add **Speckled Warbler** and **Golden Whistler**, and saw another **Brown Goshawk**. By this point, we were hot and bothered so we decided to take the lunch break option, which pauses our time for exactly 1 hour, at Molonglo Reach. Here, we had lunch, caught up with David McDonald who was dedicatedly surveying for the bird blitz, and frowned at another gosling that has joined the geese at the site.

Our next site was Jerrabomberra Wetlands, where we whizzed around in what must have been record time, adding **Red-kneed Dotterel**, **Australian Pelican**, **Australasian Darter**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Chestnut Teal**, **Freckled Duck**, **New Holland Honeyeater**, **Golden-headed Cisticola** and **Australasian Grebe** to the tally. We quickly diverted to KFC for a frozen drink before continuing onto Hume, where **Dollarbirds** were perched atop a large dead tree. The next stop was Gilmore Horse Paddocks, where we finally saw our first **Common Myna**, and a dark morph **Little Eagle** overhead, reaching the 100 species mark. However, the **Diamond Firetails** and **Rufous Songlarks**, so reliable in past years, were not present. We altered our route to take in Upper and Lower Stranger Ponds for a **Great Egret** which we were yet to record, to no avail. A quick stop at Point Hut Crossing and we were off to Tharwa Bridge hoping for bee-eaters. Once again, luck wasn't on our side, and Mum photographed a **European Goldfinch** which could not be counted as neither myself nor Yumi saw it. We added nothing new at Tharwa Sandwash, and neither the **Western Gerygones**, nor the **Eastern Whipbird** from across the river were considerate enough to let their presence be known. However, we were pleased to finally add **Rainbow Bee-eaters** and **Tree Martins** at the bridge on the way out from the sandwash.

The sun was setting as we reached Namadgi Visitor Centre. We hadn't considered that the hour break would push our finish time to dusk. That said, we probably couldn't have done it without a break anyway. Here, we got **Jacky Winter** with 2 chicks in a nest. This would have been a lovely way to wrap up the day; however, given we still had the time we decided to press down to our finish point anyway. Even in the gloom, we still managed to add 2 more species, **White-naped** and **Fuscous Honeyeaters** at Glendale Crossing. We finished up with 106 species, over the *Singing Sittellas'* goal of 100, but under my perhaps over-ambitious goal of 120, with 2 additional flightless Wombats on the drive out.

While we had seen plenty of nice birds, we did also dip on quite a few species I would have expected to get. These included **Rainbow Lorikeet**, **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo**, **Buff-rumped Thornbill** and, perhaps to a slightly lesser extent, **Superb Parrot**, **White-winged Triller**, **Rufous Songlark**, **Brown Falcon**, **Eastern Koel** and **Tawny Frogmouth**. Perhaps most notable was the complete absence of cuckoos. As for twitching - it's hard work, a bit stressful, stretches your patience and tolerance, especially when moving as a team with a tight time limit. Regardless, it was a unique experience which I might be able to handle once a year - along with the occasional visit to check out an unusual bird reported in the area, of course.

Ryu Callaway



Julatten, 1½hrs. North of Cairns

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### MUDBRICK COTTAGE— MALLACOOTA

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

**Contact:** Barbara de Bruine (02) 6174 2171, or [barbdebruine@hotmail.com](mailto:barbdebruine@hotmail.com)



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## Field Trip Reports

### 30 October to 4 November - COG campout to Lake Paika and Yanga National Park

13 Coggies accompanied Noel and Ethel Luff on a five-day outback odyssey to the Balranald area for some dry country birding. Our first stop for 3 nights was Lake Paika Station, an historic property set on the shores of a vast lake, about 20 minutes north of Balranald. Given the hot and often windy weather, early morning walks on the lake's shoreline proved rewarding, with **Red-necked Avocet**, **Red-capped Plover**, **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, **Caspian Tern**, **White-fronted Chat**, **Rainbow Bee-eater**, **Australian Reed Warbler**, **Horsfield's Bushlark** and **White-breasted Woodswallow** among the birds recorded. A close fly-by of 27 **Glossy Ibis** was a highlight.



The first morning was spent exploring the property, stopping in a variety of habitats. Some of the birds seen included **Emu**, **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**, a wide array of ducks (including 260 **Australian Shelducks**), **White-winged Triller**, **Striped Honeyeater**, **Pied and Grey Butcherbird**, **Blue Bonnet**, **Australian (Mallee) Ringneck**, and a **Blue-faced Honeyeater** on a nest. We returned home for a relaxing afternoon, capped off by our daily bird call, some quiet drinks (ha!) and another spectacular sunset.

On the second day we met Ranger Simone for an interesting and informative tag-along tour, concentrating on those flooded areas of Yanga National Park not normally accessible to the public. A recent environmental release of water from the Maude Weir to the east has led to considerable flooding of natural wetlands, enhancing downstream river health and creating a veritable 'Kakadu of the South'. Species recorded included numerous waterbirds, including ducks, herons and egrets, **Black-**







**tailed Native Hen**, various raptors including **Little Eagle** and **Swamp Harrier**, and bushbirds such as **Brown Treecreeper**, **Restless Flycatcher** and **Rufous Whistler**. After lunch, with the temperature gauge nudging 40C, we called it a day.

The following morning, we decamped to Mamanga campground, a picturesque and shady spot on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. Unfortunately, we continued to be dogged by hot, dry and often strong, westerly winds. After setting up camp we strolled across to the impressive Yanga Woolshed, once the largest and most modern woolsheds in the district, shearing 3,000 sheep and providing work for up to 40 shearers at a time. A self-guided tour and comprehensive interpretive display provides a wealth of information about the pastoral, indigenous and natural history of Yanga. Birds in the area included **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Variegated** and **White-winged Fairy-wren**, **Crimson (Yellow) Rosella** and **Southern Whiteface**.

On our last day we visited Yanga Homestead, exploring the gardens and Yanga Lake walking track and viewing platform. Birds included **Yellow** and **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, **Singing Honeyeater**, more than **1000 Australian Pelicans**, **Pied Stilt** and more avocets and sharpies. We then headed up the Sturt Highway to the Willows campground and picnic area, located in woodland. Some of the new birds there were **Chestnut-rumped Thornbill**, **Red-capped Robin** and **Brown Goshawk**.

Our final evening was blissfully calm and mild, with the calls of **Tawny Frogmouth**, **Australian Owlet-nightjar** and **Southern Boobook** clearly ringing over the camp. And at about 4.30am, just before the kookaburras sounded their morning alarm, the 'woof-woof' of a **Barking Owl** drifted down the river. A fitting end to a most enjoyable campout, with a total of 126 species being recorded. Many thanks to Noel for organising this tour and our variety of activities.

Kathy Cook



Lake Paika & Yanga NP photos:

Previous page: **Red-capped Robin**, **COG members at Lake Paika**.

This page: **Little Friarbird**, **Red-capped Plover**, **Crimson Rosella Yellow Type**, **Brown Treecreeper**.

David Cook

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## Sunday 4 November - Barren Grounds

On a partly cloudy morning, 12 people assembled in the carpark at Barren Grounds for what was a fairly quiet bird walk for this usually spectacular reserve. Two observers were lucky to see a **Pilotbird** cross the road just after the reserve entrance before they drove into the carpark to meet the others. The COG party proceeded to walk the Griffiths Loop track in an anticlockwise direction, and we were soon diverted off the main track to admire the impressive wildflower display including the Forked Sundews, when we heard our first **Ground Parrot** for the day. We then returned to the main track where we saw the first of many **Fan-tailed Cuckoos** and **Rufous Whistlers** for the walk. We heard **Eastern Bristlebirds** and saw a female **Gang-gang Cockatoo** before stopping for morning tea at the lovely natural stone bridge that crosses Lamonds Creek. After we left here a **Black-faced Monarch** was seen by some in the group, and when we walked back into heath we heard another **Ground Parrot** and some skulking **Southern Emu-wrens**. We stopped for the lunch at Saddleback Trig and a cool breeze and overcast conditions moved in. On the walk back towards the carpark, we walked through forest which yielded **Pilotbird** and **Superb Lyrebird** (both heard only), and we diverted to the Illawarra Lookout which had misty views to the ocean. We finished back at the carpark just before 2pm, where there were **Variegated Fairy-wrens** calling. Other highlights of the walk included **Horsfield's** and **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**, **Scarlet Honeyeater**, **Lewin's Honeyeater** and **Eastern Whipbird**. In total we recorded 32 bird species for the day.

The weather was a bit cool and overcast so there were not many butterflies or reptiles seen. The dominant butterflies were the Cabbage White, Australian Painted Lady and Varied Sword-grass Brown, with a few observations of Caper Whites, very fresh male Common Browns, Macleay's Swallowtail and some unidentified blues. The only reptiles we saw were Water Skinks and an Eastern Water Dragon. We only recorded one frog species, the Common Eastern Froglet, and saw some Pink Fingers and Sun Orchids.

Suzi Bond

## Sunday 11 November – Campbell Park nest workshop

Thirty two members and guests joined Sue Lashko and me on a clear, warm morning for the 16th running of this annual and continually popular event. Again the emailing of the notes beforehand allowed me to largely dispense with the short spiel at the start, and after splitting into two groups we soon headed fairly directly towards the horse gate, where an inspection the day before had revealed most of the (quite muted) bird activity was taking place. Not unusually for recent workshops, I did so with low expectations given I'd only been able to find limited breeding activity beyond there over 75 minutes in my reccie the day before. The current poor state of Campbell Park due to the very dry conditions, with many trees dead or dying, also didn't augur well for a successful morning.

However, less than 100 m in, while watching a pair of **Red-rumped Parrots** examining a nest hole, we saw an adult **Grey Butcherbird** carrying food to where I suspected it had dependent young. It turned out to have 3 chicks still sitting on/above the nest, which was fairly low (only about 3 m high) in a small scrappy but relatively bushy sapling, with the parents intermittently coming in to feed them. I had been alerted to this nest by Rob Parnell, who had found it with some very small nestlings on 25 October, 17 days previously, so they were now only a few days from fledging. While this species has been present adjacent to the car park for a number of years, this is only the second time we have found them breeding, with dependent young observed in 2013.

Shortly after we found a family of **Australian Ravens** calling incessantly, and then watched 3 quite large dependent young being fed, identified by their dark eyes and still discernible yellow gapes. When we arrived at the horse gate we soon found a **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** in a typically very small nest squeezed between a horizontal fork; in fact the nest could be best seen when it was vacated temporarily as the birds switched over brooding duties. Moving along the fence to the east and then south to the dam we found some **Grey Fantails** busily building their very intricate nest, which appeared to be nearly complete except that the pony-tail still needed to be added. Equally busy **Weebills** were just starting building with a sticky circle just visible, **Noisy Friarbirds** were building a typically deep cup-shaped



Dusky Woodswallow

Renee Ferster Levy



nest in a clump of mistletoe, and **Magpie-larks** were feeding young in a much more plate-like mud nest than usual.

We had also seen a couple of **Dusky Woodswallows** where one bird appeared to be taking food to the other on the nest in a somewhat atypical tight spot in an upright fork, but further behaviour, including wing quivering, suggested pair bonding at the late stages of building. We then found a second nest at a much earlier stage in amongst some dead twigs much higher up on a branch with, at one time, 3 adult birds actually in/on the nest. While I had not witnessed this previously, HANZAB notes that this species usually breeds in simple pairs but sometimes co-operatively.

Moving towards the creek that goes under the track (with the small dam down slope – all currently dry) about 100 m north of the horse gate, everyone admired a pair of **Varied Sittellas** building their typical dainty, small nest in a more substantive vertical fork than usual. This was while we were waiting to determine whether the adult male **Flame Robin** was actually feeding the nearby dependent young; being patient confirmed it was. For me this was the highlight of the morning, as it was a first for this Workshop. After seeing reports on eBird of Flame Robins there and putting out a call for information on the COG chatline, Geoffrey Dabb photographed the male feeding a fledgling there on 29 October. This was very near to where the “brown” pair successfully bred in 2014, and where the male had been on my reccie the day before. Geoffrey had not been able to find the female, and neither could we, except for Ned who had seen one earlier near to where we later observed the male.

Near the dry creek we observed **Buff-rumped Thornbills** building a nest in a typical spot against the tree trunk behind some peeled off bark, and also had our only confirmed sighting of a male **White-winged Triller**, which was clearly still moving around calling, trying to attract a female. Earlier there had been some confusion, at least in my mind, with the call of the **White-throated Treecreeper**, which we observed at the same time, and which I can’t recall seeing previously at Campbell Park (except for the close together pair the day before). Also unusual was the **Speckled Warbler** which was present at the same time, together with the male **Rufous Whistler**, also clearly not yet settled with a mate. This also seemed to apply to the **White-throated Gerygones** which were heard a number of times during the morning, but only a few participants were able to find.

Other birds for which we were not able to confirm breeding were the **Dollarbirds** seen flying over, and the **Sacred Kingfisher** and **Olive-backed Oriole**, both of which were heard only. The **Leaden Flycatcher**, which we’ve at least seen and found breeding in most years, was not observed, nor were **Mistletoebirds** or **White-winged Choughs**. However, we did strongly confirm more hollow nesters than usual, in particular the pair of **Galahs** around a spout from which they managed to draw out their lovely chick, with its crest raised, as they fed it. On the way back to the cars a pair of **Eastern Rosellas** seemed to have taken over the hollow where we had seen the **Red-rumped Parrots** early on. Also on the way back, we diverted to allow those who had not yet seen the Grey Butcherbird nest to do so, and nearby Michael spied a **Tawny Frogmouth’s** nest, containing one largish chick plus dad, on a branch over the path, a perfect way to end the morning.



*Feathers'n'Friends*

## Birdwatchers & nature lover's accommodation

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

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

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

Discounts available for Birdlife Australia members.

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

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

Fred & Jeanette Birkbeck

244 Clacherty Road  
Julatten QLD 4871

Tel: 07 4094 1665

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



Mistletoebird (Wee Jasper)

*Sandra Henderson*



A total of 44 species was seen on the day, including **Wedge-tailed Eagles** circling overhead. This is a relatively low number for this outing, but was the same as last year, as were the 20 species recorded breeding at some level, higher than in the previous three years. As described above, as well as several different observations from usual, a feature was the much later stage of breeding with many more nests still being built than usual, in keeping with the late breeding season we've been having. My thanks again to Sue Lashko for agreeing at short notice, when numbers typically increased significantly over the last couple of days, to help lead this very popular outing, which continues to delight participants. As for most years breeding activity was taking place in a small area, this time in about a 90° arc to the northeast and southeast of the horse gate.

Jack Holland

### Sunday 18 November – Warks Road

On a fine November morning, a party of 14 COG members gathered at Stromlo Forest Park, prior to departing for the Brindabellas. Two **Superb Parrots** flew over the group in the car park, a good sign of the birding to follow in the ensuing morning. The first site was at the iconic junction of Warks (pronounced 'works') and Blundell Creek Roads. The 'Warking Group' made their way for several hundred metres in each direction from the junction. Tall Ribbon Gums (*E. viminalis*) and Narrow-leaved Peppermint (*E. radiata*) provided abundant shade, and a high redoubt for the many birds in good voice. With some minor risk of developing 'warbler neck', the group espied **Satin Flycatchers**, including birds building a nest, **Red-Browed Treecreeper**, and **Golden** and **Rufous Whistlers**. **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** were the dominant honeyeaters, with **White-naped** and **White-eared** also evident. The party saw 35 species at this site.

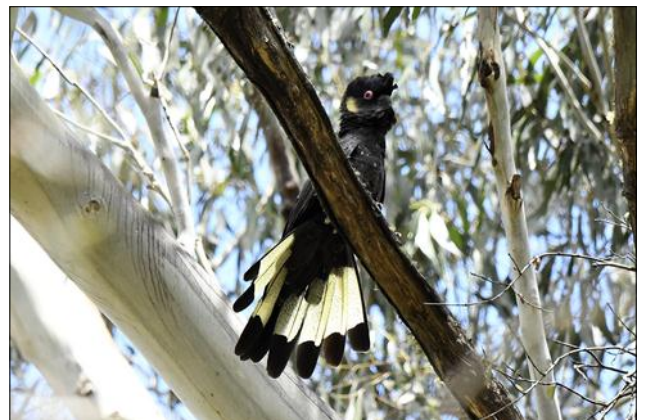
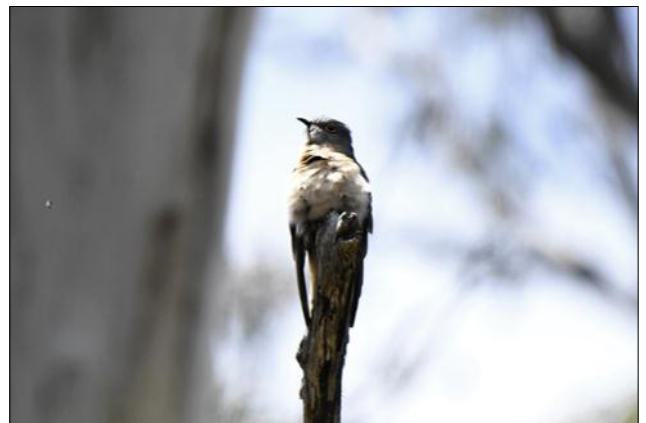
Late in the morning we moved on to the top end of Moonlight Hollow Road with its very different sub-alpine forest. A highlight of this site was a pair of **Fan-tailed Cuckoos** calling loudly in close proximity to one another. The party saw 21 species at this site. Lunch was held, prior to a quick post-lunch survey at the Bulls Head Picnic Ground. The birds were, by lunchtime, harder to locate. Nonetheless, when the birding got tough, the tough got birding. A male **Scarlet Robin** was a highlight. The party saw 14 species at this site.

David Dedenczuk

### Wednesday 21 November – Michelago area

Seven members didn't believe the BoM weather forecast and gathered at 'Illilanga' for a guided tour of their property and the adjoining wetland by one of the owners. While the wind was a tad gusty there was not a drop of rain during the outing!

We began with a loop around a woodland remnant particularly notable for interesting nest sites. These included **White-faced Heron** (Occupied Nest), **Brown Falcon** (Nest with Young), **Yellow-rumped Thornbill** (Carrying Food), **Easter Rosella** and **Common Starling** (both Inspecting Hollow, with some disputation over ownership), and **Dusky Woodswallow** (Occupied Nest).



Striated Pardalote with nesting material, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Satin Flycatcher (Warks Road)

Graeme Austin

Less common species observed, but not undertaking breeding activity, were **Speckled Warbler**, and female and male **White – winged Triller**. The only cuckoo observation was a brief call by a **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo**. A full list of the 28 species seen at this site is at <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S50088909>

We then proceeded to the large wetland being developed as wildlife habitat on an adjacent property. The big-ticket item was a male **Musk Duck** and he duly appeared (and as is normal for this species disappeared frequently beneath the water). The only breeding activity recorded was **Golden-headed Cisticola** where chicks were heard begging in a bramble when an adult entered the bush.

Less common species seen here also included 2 **Black-fronted Dotterels** seen on mud banks in the larger water body. The full 22 species list is at <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S50090195>.

Overall we recorded 40 species for the day.

Martin Butterfield

### Sunday 25 November – Wee Jasper

Ten people made the journey to Wee Jasper at the invitation of one of our members who has a property in the village and which goes down to the Goodradigbee River. We spent a very productive two hours wandering through the garden which is full of bird-friendly trees and shrubs, many of which were in flower including the eucalypts. Limestone outcrops added to the interest and were very popular with the very healthy population of Cunninghams Skinks, some of which are partial to bananas! A **Satin Bowerbird's** bower was decorated entirely with strands of blue rope. **Yellow-faced** and **New Holland Honeyeaters** were plentiful, along with **Noisy Friarbirds** and **Red Wattlebirds**. **King Parrots** fed on acacia pods, unconcerned by our presence. A pair of **Wedge-tailed Eagles** soared overhead, and at least 3 **Nankeen Kestrels** were feeding over the paddocks with one seen to grab a small Cunninghams Skink off its sunbathing position on a limestone outcrop. A walk through the paddocks down to the river yielded **Fairy** and **Tree Martins**, as well as fabulous and prolonged close-up views of a male **Mistletoebird** perched low on dead branches beside the river. We were well satisfied with a list of 46 species for the property.

Our next destination was the Hume and Hovell Track which begins on the edge of the village and initially goes past the dump and through blackberry-infested land – which was full of small birds – before entering forest with a good shrub layer. We added **Leaden Flycatcher**, **Olive-backed Oriole**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, both pardalotes and **Crested Shrike-tit** to our list, among others, but the middle of the day was not the best time for birding.

We decided Billy Grace Reserve on the banks of the Goodradigbee was a good spot for lunch and the birds were very obliging too. We had wonderful views of **Rainbow Bee-eaters** hawking and then perching on open branches. An **Australian Hobby** did a quick flypast and a flock of 44 **Straw-necked Ibis** obligingly flew in and perched in the top of a dead tree. However, the highlight came just as we were about to leave – a **White-winged Chough** flushed a **Tawny Frogmouth** which flew onto a low open branch, giving us wonderful views and photographic opportunities.

The total species count was 63. Many thanks to Patricia for inviting us to this delightful part of our region.

Sue Lashko



Rufous Whistler, Rainbow Bee-eater (Wee Jasper)  
Duncan McCaskill



Tawny Frogmouth (Wee Jasper) Michael Agnew

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# Future Field Trips

## COG Trips

Each participant must sign a COG Field Trip Registration Form at the start of each trip and before proceeding on the trip which acknowledges the participant's responsibilities (wording follows). An Emergency Contact Name and Number are required.

"I declare that I am capable of undertaking the 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 that 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 COG chatline

<http://bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/archives/html/canberrabirds/2012-03/index.html>

and trips page of COG website.

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.

### Sunday 2 December – Monga National Park

Inspired by trips led to this park by David McDonald, David Dedenczuk will lead a day outing to this area of wet forest just before the escarpment around 20 km east of Braidwood off the Kings Highway. Target species include **Red-browed Treecreeper**, **Superb Lyrebird**, **Black-faced Monarch**, **Pilotbird**, **Olive Whistler**, **Bassian Thrush** and **Pink and Rose Robins**.

Meet at 8.00 am in the Spotlight carpark in Queanbeyan, for carpooling. Suggested contribution to drivers from each passenger: \$10. Bring lunch and drinks. Registration for this trip is essential: please phone David Dedenczuk on 0417 222 154 or email [ddedentz@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ddedentz@bigpond.net.au)

### Saturday 8 December – Tuggeranong Horse Paddocks

**Note change of date to Saturday.** Meet for prompt 7am start at Gilmore Horse Paddocks at the top of Louisa Lawson Cres (near #53). Good site for **Brown Goshawk**, **Diamond Firetail**, a range of honeyeaters, and summer migrants including **Dusky Woodswallows**, **Rufous Songlarks**, and martins. After exploring the Gilmore Paddocks, if time and temperature permit, we will drive over to Macarthur Park Horse Paddocks and do a short walk there too.

Ryu Callaway

### Wednesday 19 December – West Belconnen Ponds

Meet at 0830 (**NOTE SHIFT TO EARLIER TIME**) on Percy Begg Circuit, Dunlop. As with the last time we came to this area, we might extend to the nearby grassland if time, the weather and enthusiasm permits.

Martin Butterfield



Advance notice of 2019 field trips as there is no January Gang-gang

### Sunday 20 January 2019 – Uriarra

The meeting point for COG's annual outing will again be next to Uriarra Homestead big dam, close to the T-intersection of Uriarra and Brindabella Roads at 8.30 am. We will spend some time looking at birds on and around the dam, then come back to Uriarra Crossing and then Uriarra East for lunch. We are likely to see quite a few unusual birds and migrants including **Nankeen Night-Heron**, woodswallows, **Dollarbird** and **Rainbow Bee-eater**. There are good picnic and toilet facilities at both Uriarra Crossing venues. Please bring lunch and water.

Getting there is a bit complicated, following rapid urban development in Molonglo. Starting at the intersection of Cotter Road and Streeton Drive, travelling out of Canberra, Cotter Road becomes John Gorton Drive. Follow John Gorton Drive. YOU NOW HAVE TWO POSSIBLE ROUTES.

ROUTE 1. Travelling along John Gorton Drive you will (again) come to an intersection with Cotter Road. Turn left and follow this for about 15km past Mt Stromlo and the Cotter Reserve to the T-intersection with Uriarra Road. Turn right and the big dam is on your right.

ROUTE 2. In John Gorton Drive go on until you come to Opperman Avenue. Turn left and follow on straight to the roundabout near Stromlo Forest Park, where you turn right to Uriarra Road. Follow Uriarra Road over the Uriarra Crossing, turn left up the hill until you come to the big dam on your right. It is slightly shorter than ROUTE 1 if coming from Belconnen

Bruce Lindenmayer

### Saturday 26 January – Yerrabi Track

This will be a repeat of Suzi Bond's successful morning outings here in the past few years. Yerrabi Track is a moderate walk of 4 km return (~3 hours). The walk descends from the carpark through peppermint forest to a swamp, and then ascends through mountain gum/snow gum forest to a rocky summit with fantastic views. Be prepared for all weather conditions. Bring morning tea and adequate water.

Target species include **Superb Lyrebird**, a range of honeyeaters and robins, **Satin Flycatcher**, **Fan-tailed** and **Brush Cuckoos**, **Chestnut-rumped Heathwrens** and **Red-browed Treecreepers**.

Meet at Lanyon Marketplace at 7am for car pooling. Suggested petrol contribution to drivers is \$5. We should be back by 1pm at the latest. No need to register.

Ryu Callaway

### Sunday 3 February – Jerrabomberra Wetlands

To celebrate World Wetlands Day (2 February), during this morning outing we will visit Kelly Swamp and Jerrabomberra Creek. Depending on numbers, the group may be divided into two, so a volunteer to lead a possible second group would be appreciated. Bring hat, sunscreen, water and, if you have one, a telescope. Meet at 7.30am in the carpark at the end of Dairy Road, Fyshwick. No booking required.

Chris Davey

### Sunday 10 February 2019 - Molonglo Reach Boat Trip

This outing/cruise will be on the upper parts of Lake Burley Griffin (East Basin) and the adjacent Molonglo River Reach, where late summer/early autumn is historically the peak time for nesting, with darters as well as three species of

## Nature Lodge Optics

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

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

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



Birdwatching products.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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cormorant known to have bred there. The area also has a variety of waterbirds, and a range of land birds can be seen on the banks.

The boat trip will last about 2 hours from 8 am and will cost \$20, payable in cash on boarding. We will again be travelling in the electric boat “MV Gull” which can carry around 22 people. The boat allows both a quiet approach as well as access to areas difficult to get to from the land. **The point of departure will again be from Kingston Harbour using the wharf at the end of Giles Street.** There is plenty of all day free parking close by, particularly in Eastlake Parade. Alternatively participants can park their cars in the SE corner of the Glass Works/Bus Depot Markets car park, which will involve about a 200 m walk. Registration for this field trip is essential. Please book your place on the boat with Jack Holland (on 6288 7840 or by email on [jandaholland@bigpond.com](mailto:jandaholland@bigpond.com)).

**2019 COG FIELD TRIPS** See the last page of this newsletter for a list of the 2019 field trips.

## COG’S BIRD BLITZ 2018

So far 281 datasheets have been returned for the 2018 blitz – 177 from eBird, 2 from Birddata and 102 in hard copy or some variant thereon. There may be more eBird records which were not “shared” with COG blitz but which will come when we retrieve the eBird records for the blitz dates for analysis. Many thanks to all those who put in time and effort to go out, often to the remote corners of the ACT, to count birds over the weekend of 27-28 October.

I have received records from the following persons: Alves, Anderson, Battison, Bear, Beatty, Boekel, Bounds, Brannan, Butterfield, Callaway, Casburn, Chauncy, Clark, Cross, Curnow, Dabb, Darwood, Davey, Dedenczuk, Fennell, Frawley, Fulker, Fulagar, Giacon, Hahne, Hansch, JHarris, SHarris, Henderson, Holland, Hotchin, Korodaj, Kral, Landon, Lashko, Ledger, Lenz, Lindenmayer, Lipscombe, Luff, Mackay, Mackerras, Maconachie, Manderson, McCaskill, McDonald, McMahan, Minihan, Moffat, Murphy, Pullen, Randall, Read, MRobertson, SRobertson, Rosalky, Schmeling, Taws, Veerman, Westin, Willis and Windle. If you blitzed and your name (or that of the person who put in the records) does not appear, please contact me ASAP.

Given the weather since the blitz weekend, we were very fortunate in what we experienced – a little blowy on the Saturday afternoon but eminently birdable. And while a number of you grumbled that you didn’t observe anything “special”, remember that the object of the exercise is to record what is out there and that it is vitally important that we keep a record of our more common species – as who knows what might happen to them in the future. That said, there were good finds. It was a **Woodswallow** year, with many widespread records of **White-browed** and **Masked**, as well as **Dusky**. Some of the harder-to-find high country specials such as **Bassian Thrush**, **Rose Robin**, **Red-browed Treecreeper**, **Rufous Fantail** and **Wonga Pigeon** were recorded. **Cattle Egret** put in an appearance at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands. But for the first time in the blitz, we failed to record something new!

Coverage seems to have been satisfactory, but will be confirmed when the data are combined for analysis.

A brief run-down of the final blitz outcome will be presented at the January COG meeting, along with the blitz prize-giving. If you’d like to offer a prize – books, wine, native plants, anything suitable – please let me know in advance. And a more comprehensive review will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Canberra Bird Notes*.

Barbara Allan

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# New Places – September

Sandra Henderson

(Two places in the second week of the month, since I'd missed out on one the previous week)

## 5 – 11 November

### Eardley Street Ponds, Bruce

There had been some eBird reports from these wetlands, which I recall seeing years ago as I drove past, but had never visited. A 30-minute visit produced 19 species, including four species of ducks, and it is a pleasant walk. It's obviously popular – there was a fisherman, several people sitting on benches and a few other walkers. The ponds are on either side of Eardley St, and there is parking on Thynne St.

<https://ebird.org/australia/view/checklist/S49710399>

### Marrambidya Wetland, WaggaWagga

A large wetland area on Narrung St, well worth a visit. Disused water treatment ponds have been turned into a large wetland, which attracts a wide range of water birds. The highlights were some **Baillon's Crakes** foraging in the open only metres from the path, and a number of **Black-winged Stilts**. Forty species were seen in a one hour visit. There are paths around the ponds, some very good bird identification boards in the bird hides (one of which has a number of **Fairy Martin** nests), a raised platform to give an even better view and, with more time to spend, note that it's right next to the Murrumbidgee River which could also be explored.

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49747716>

## 12 – 18 November

### Gibbergunyah Walk, Bowral

A really nice walk, with a very hard-to find entrance. The entry is along Boronia St in Bowral, with a not-very-obvious sign. The first 500m is a narrow walking track, rough in places, on the edge of the golf course, which leads to the actual reserve entrance (but there are birds to be found along the track). I was surprised to see a group of 20 **Long-Billed Corellas** on the golf course, when Little Corellas are very numerous only a few kilometres away in Mittagong. Once I reached the reserve entrance the track widened. The reserve itself has almost no weeds, and there was quite a lot of flowering. I managed 30 species on a warm afternoon, following a loop track of about 3.5kms. Thornbills, pardalotes, **Grey Fantails** (including one on a nest), and **Sacred Kingfishers** all appeared, although I was unable to track down a flycatcher which called in a very dense area – I suspected Satin Flycatcher but could not verify.

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49963582>

## 19 – 25 November

### Suburban pond at the intersection of Acacia Drive and Brudenell Drive in Jerrabomberra.

Found by perusing a map of the Jerrabomberra area, and only about 200m from where my son lived until earlier this year! I parked on Brudenell Dr, but Tea Tree Close is probably a better place to park if you visit. The surprisingly large pond is invisible from the road, behind an earth bank. There is a creek running into the other side of the pond and, in the current dry conditions, it's possible to walk right round the pond by going a little way up that creek to a crossing that is probably impassable in wetter times. I was there on a very cold, windy day, so wasn't expecting much. **Red-browed Finches** were clinging to twigs and the few water birds were keeping to the reeds. **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, **Grey Fantails**, **Brown Thornbills** and **Weebills**, among others, were calling but staying mostly staying hidden in foliage out of the wind.

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S50143780>



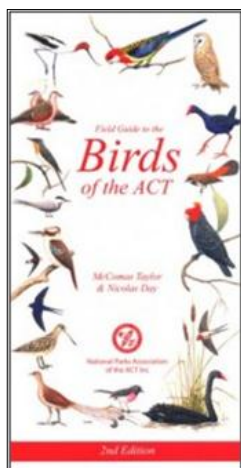
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## Publications for sale

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

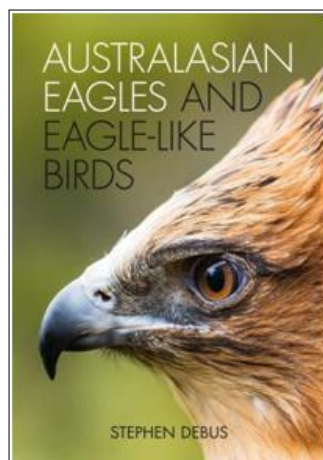


### **Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT**

*McComas Taylor & Nicolas Day*

This revised second edition illustrates in colour the 217 birds likely to be seen in and around the ACT. It has easy-to-follow descriptions in a compact format. Only local birds are shown making this Field Guide much simpler to use than comprehensive national guides. McComas Taylor has been watching birds in Canberra for over 30 years and has written, broadcast and lectured on the subject. Nicholas Day is widely recognised as one of Australia's foremost wildlife artists.

**Members' price: \$20.**

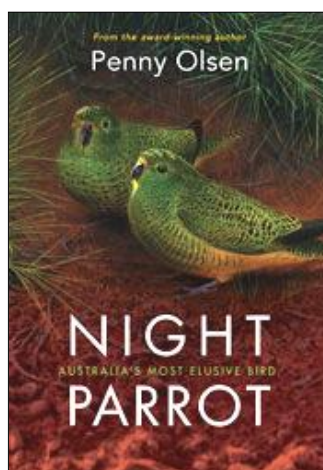


### **Australasian Eagles and Eagle-like Birds**

*Stephen Debus*

Eagles are awe-inspiring birds that have influenced much human endeavour. Australia is home to three eagle species, and in Melanesia there are four additional endemic species. A further three large Australian hawks are eagle-like. All of the six Australian species covered in this book are threatened in at least some states (one also nationally). This book places the Australasian species in their regional and global context, reviews their population status and threats, provides new information on their ecology, and suggests what needs to be done in order to ensure the future of these magnificent birds.

**Members' price: \$35.**



### **Night Parrot: Australia's Most Elusive Bird**

*Penny Olsen*

Night Parrot documents the competitiveness and secrecy, the triumphs and adventures of the history of the bird and its followers, culminating in the recent discovery of live birds at a few widely scattered locations. It describes what we are now unravelling about the mysteries of its biology and ecology and what is still left to learn. Complemented by guest essays, illustrations and photographs from a wide variety of sources, this book sheds light on Australia's most elusive bird.

**Members' Price: \$35**

## 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

2018-2019 memberships:

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

## New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

M Gibson  
S Rapp  
J Lyne  
S Howieson  
E Oxenham

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for February 2019 edition:**

**Wednesday 30 January 2019**

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

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

or

**c/- The Secretary COG,**

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

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

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

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## COG E-mail Discussion List

*COG E-mail Discussion List*

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## 2019 COG FIELD TRIPS

	Date	Venue	Leader
Jan	16	Wednesday Walk	
	20	Uriarra	Bruce Lindenmayer
	26	Yerrabi Track	Ryu Callaway
Feb	3	Jerrabomberra Wetlands (World Wetlands Day )	Chris Davey
	10	Molonglo boat trip	Jack Holland
	17	Lake Burley Griffin by bike 30km	David Dedenczuk
	20	Wednesday Walk	
	24	venue required	leader required
Mar	3	Forde Creek	John Harris
	9 to 11	Tumut	Sandra Henderson
	16-17	Bournda NP	Kathy Walter & John Goldie
	20	Wednesday Walk	
	23	Booroomba Rocks to Mt Tennant	Michael Robbins
Apr	31	Lanyon	Terry Bell
	7	Narrabundah Hill	Jack Holland
	14	K2C	Nicki Taws
	17	Wednesday Walk	
	19-22	Round Hill NR	
May	28	Jerrabomberra Hill	Sandra Henderson
	4	ANBG beginners	Anthony Overs
	15	Wednesday Walk	
	19	Square Rock	Lia
	26	Autumn bus tour	Jack Holland, Jenny Bounds
Jun	2	venue required	leader required
	15	Superb Lyrebird survey	Chris Davey
	19	Wednesday Walk	
July	22	Nelanglo TSR	Ryu Callaway
	6	Bungonia Gorge	Michael Robbins
	17	Wednesday Walk	
Aug	21	venue required	leader required
	3	Lake Ginninderra beginners	Anthony Overs
	17	Burrinjuck	Ryu Callaway
	21	Wednesday Walk	
Sep	1	Bluetts Block	Jean Casburn
	8	Callum Brae	Sandra Henderson
	15	Lake Road	Chris Davey
	16-20	Green Cape	Peter Fullagar
	18	Wednesday Walk	
	22	Blue Range Hut/Sherwood Historic Site	David McDonald
Oct	29	Namadgi Visitors Centre	Sandra Henderson
	5	Percival Hill	John Harris
	13	K2C	Nicki Taws
	16	Wednesday Walk	
	19-20	Eden pelagics	Sandra Henderson
	26-27	BLITZ	Barbara Allan
Nov	3	Glendale	morning
	10	Campbell Park nest workshop	Jack Holland
	16	Yanununbeyan	Ryu Callaway
	20	Wednesday Walk	
	24	Molonglo Gorge	Suzi Bond
Dec	1	venue required	leader required
	8	Nursery Swamp	David Dedenczuk
	18	Wednesday Walk	

There are four dates that require a venue and a leader (marked in red). If you have a venue in mind and would be prepared to lead a trip, please contact Sue Lashko at [smlashko@gmail.com](mailto:smlashko@gmail.com)