



# Gang-gang

**DECEMBER 2019**

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

## JANUARY MEETING

### COG Members' Night 15 January 2020

Please note the later date

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

Due to the second Wednesday in the month falling on 8 January, very close to the New Year, the COG committee has agreed to hold the traditional January COG Members' Night on Wednesday 15 January.

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 A/H), 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.

Due to the unavailability of our usual meeting room it will again be held at:

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

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

The weather has continued to be very warm with temperatures well above average for the time of the year during the 4 weeks from 30 October covered by this column. It has also remained very dry, with strong winds rapidly cancelling out any benefits from the single moderate rain event. Conditions have become even drier, and while many gum trees are flowering, having delayed this over winter, it appears that in many cases these are producing little if any nectar. These features have continued to affect bird activity in the COG Area of Interest (Aoi), though November seems to have been quieter compared with the high level of activity in September and October.

It seems conditions are not favourable (too dry?) for some inland species, with no **Brown Songlarks** reported during the period. This season, Parkwood Rd, the hot spot for them in January/early February this year, is no longer suitable as there is little grass for them. Up to 2 **Horsfield's Bushlarks** have been reported from there, but the spot for them seems to be the Pipeline Track at Coppins Crossing, where up to 6 have been reported, the only other location for November. The **Rufous Songlark** has been reported from only

*Continued Page 2*

## COG December Christmas BBQ

**Black Mountain Peninsula**

**(John Cardiff Close)**

**6.00 pm Wednesday 11 December 2019**

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

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

**Sausages, beer, wine and soft drink provided**

**Lucky door prize; usual monthly raffle**

**Everyone welcome**

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## JANUARY MEETING *continued from Page 1*

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 eastern 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.

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### COG'S 2019-2020 COMMITTEE

Congratulations to the following members who were elected to the committee at the recent AGM:

President: Neil Hermes

Vice-President: Steve Read

Treasurer: Prue Watters

Secretary: Bill Graham

Members: Jenny Bounds, Chris Davey, Nick Nicholls, Alison Mackerras, Kathy Eyles, Brittany Brockett, Gabrielle Hunt

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

about 15 locations, quite a bit fewer than I would have expected in a dry year, and it is still not present at Narrabundah Hill, one of its strongholds a few seasons ago. The inland cuckoo species, **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** and **Pallid Cuckoo** have been reported from only about 18 and 5 locations, respectively. In particular the latter has not been as numerous as I would have expected in a dry year.

In contrast, the **White-browed** and **Masked Woodswallows** seem to be finding conditions acceptable and were reported from around 25 and 11 locations, respectively. The maximum flock sizes reported were 100 and 20 by Frank Antram at the Collector Reserve on 6 and 8 November, respectively. While Michael Lenz reported about 20 pairs of the former near Gundaroo on 6 November, the only other breeding record I'm aware of is Kym Bradley's post of a White-browed on the nest in a crack in a dead tree trunk on 14 November.

The **White-winged Triller** remains very numerous and has again been reported from well over 70 locations on the eBird Australia map with, on 24 November, Wayne Gregson observing around 20 of them in a single flock west of Mt Stromlo. Other less common inland species have also been reported. In particular, up to 2 **Painted Honeyeaters** have continued to be observed at Namadgi Visitors Centre up to 24 November, with some signs that they are possibly breeding there. Richard Allen reported 4 birds from the Stoney Creek NR on 4 November, and Christine D a single bird nearby on the Uriarra Rd on 14 November. On 15 November Michael Lenz noted that the **Painted Honeyeater** near Gundaroo first reported on 25 September seemed to have decided to stay, but remained single.

There was a report of a **Black-eared Cuckoo** at Casuarina Sands by Sue Beatty on 13 November, but only 2 other observers managed to find it. On 19 November Nicki Taws reported a **Red-backed Kingfisher** along a creek near Tharwa; earlier on 14 November John Layton had seen one at the Pegasus Riding School, noting he had excellent views of its streaked greyish head. However, there have been no further reports of **Cockatiels**, **Crimson Chats** or **Channel-billed Cuckoos**.

The last-named is not really a truly inland species, but it does seem typical of the generally low numbers of cuckoos this spring, with coastal species the **Shining Bronze-cuckoo** reported from only 11 locations, and the **Brush Cuckoo** from just 3 locations. There has also been limited reporting of the **Rufous Fantail** from 6 locations only, 2 of which were from Canberra on its passage to the mountains to breed. The **Satin Flycatcher** has also been reported from 6 locations west of the Murrumbidgee, plus also 2 locations while still on its passage, by Rob Magrath at the ANBG on 8 November, and by Brian Grinter from Haig Park on 9 November. There seems to have been a special emphasis on this species, and perhaps also on the rarely seen **Cicadabird**, which has been reported from 3 locations.

Two species which often are first observed well into summer, the **White-throated Needletail** and the related and usually less numerous **Spine-tailed Swift**, have also already been reported, with Lach Read observing 30 of the former at The Pinnacle NR on 15 November. Earlier on 12 November Mark Clayton relayed a message from two of his banding team that they had seen at least 6 of the latter at Lake Burley Griffin (LBG) that morning. So please keep an eye out for the above two species and other spring/summer migrant species, particularly those whose numbers appear to be fewer than may be expected, or species which only come to the COG Aol in the very dry years such as the **Pied** and **Black Honeyeaters**.

Of the altitudinal migrants that spend winter in the lower areas, the **White-eared Honeyeater** and the **Golden Whistler** were still each reported from around 5 urban and peri-urban locations. The **Scarlet Robin** has been reported only from Bluetts Bock and Bibaringa, and the **Flame Robin** only from the former, an indication that both have moved well away from Canberra in this dry spring. The **Rose Robin** has been reported from only 3 locations in the mountains, consistent with it being a passage migrant through Canberra in spring. There have been no reports of the **Pink Robin** since late July.



Pectoral Sandpiper

Ash Allnutt



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

Good birding, good food

### Top End birding tour

10 to 24 May 2020  
Darwin, Kakadu, Katherine, Kununurra,  
Mitchell Plateau.

### Atherton Tablelands 1 to 5 June & Iron Range NP 5 to 14 June 2020

### Gulf of Carpentaria birding tour

19 June to 6 July 2020  
Cairns to Mt Isa via Karumba. The tour  
now includes Winton for rusty  
grasswren.

### The Pilbara birding tour (NW WA)

13 to 22 July 2020  
Karratha, Karijini NP, Tom Price,  
Newman

### The Pilbara birding tour (NW WA)

24 July to 2 August 2020  
Karratha, Karijini NP, Tom Price,  
Newman

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

7 to 17 August 2020

### Adelaide to Nullarbor Plain

5 to 20 September 2020

### Plains-wanderer Weekends 2020

24 & 25 October 2020  
14 & 15 November 2020  
28 & 29 November 2020

Please see itineraries, checklists  
and latest news on our website

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



The **Crescent Honeyeater** has been reported from only 4 locations west of the Murrumbidgee, but there have been no reports of the **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** since 13 September. There were reports of the **Bassian Thrush** from 5 locations west of the Murrumbidgee, and the last report of the **Restless Flycatcher** anywhere was on 11 October, and for the **Swift Parrot** 18 October.

Over the 4-week period, a large number of “unusual” species have been reported. The one which caused the most excitement was a **Pectoral Sandpiper**. Ash Allnutt first alerted everyone to this possibility on 20 November, and it was soon confirmed in the presence of a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** (the single one of this species that seems to have been reported for the period). The former bird has since been observed, often in the same company, up to the time of writing. After its identification a number of observers checked their photos of the two birds, and it appears the “Pec” was probably there as early as 13 November. COG’s 2017-2018 Annual Bird Report (ABR) lists it as a non-breeding vagrant and indicates there were no records for that year, with approx. 40 records in 2003 and 2014, and 10 in 2015, with 1 or 2 records in some years and none in others.

Thus it is not as “unusual” as the **Common Sandpiper** for which there was a gap in reporting from the Isabella Pond between 8 to 26 November, with Sandra Henderson noting that after not being seen on her previous two visits, it was seen on the wall and foraging on the muddy edge. On 18 November Ryu Callaway posted (with the photos) a report on Facebook he had come across of 2 **Red-necked Stints** at the Googong Dam, but I have not been able to find any follow up of this sighting.

**Great-crested Grebes** have been reported from 4 different-from-usual locations; one was seen regularly throughout the period at Scrivener Dam, another seen several times at West Belconnen Pond, another single sighting at the Cork Oak Plantation alongside LBG, and also one at Callum Brae NR farm dam. Sandra Henderson agrees the last-named is a surprisingly small body of water for this species, though she’s not sure how deep it is. Interestingly there were records from a total of 6 locations in the past month, compared with only 3 previously this year. This is possibly drought-related as they can occur in the currently dry inland.

There have also been reports of up to 2 **White-winged Black Terns** at Jerrabomberra NR by Peter Milburn and Alastair Smith. The 2017-2018 ABR notes 4 records of up to 3 birds in December 2017, but previously only in low numbers in 2014-2016, and only twice previously in 2009 and 1990. No-one else seems to have reported this species. Assuming it was in non-breeding plumage one difficulty may be to separate it from the more common **Whiskered Tern**, which was reported from here and around LBG throughout November, as well as a single report from Googong Dam.

Ten **Banded Lapwings** were reported from the Yankee Hut access from the Old Boboyan Rd by Richard Allen on 31 October. Except for a late report on Canberra Nature Map of 5 still there on 24 November, the only other sighting was 52 birds at a more expected location at Lake Bathurst by Michael Lenz on 30 October. **Pied Stilts** have also been reported from Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR throughout the period, and 2 were still reported from the Isabella Pond on 26 November. **Glossy Ibis** were regularly reported from the former, with a maximum of 12 seen by Shorty on 15 November. On 5 November Duncan McCaskill photographed an **Intermediate Egret** on Ginninderra Pond in Giralang.



Intermediate Egret (L)

Great Egret (R)

*Duncan McCaskill*



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The first **Black Kite** since early August was reported from the Majura Parkway by Patrick Wyllie on 24 November. A white morph **Grey Goshawk** was reported from Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR by Shorty on 1 November, as well as a **White-headed Pigeon**, which he thought was an immature female, clearly a different one from the one he recorded at his place in Symonston in September. He was looking for the **Black-faced Monarch** photographed there by Alastair Smith the day before, but it seems no-one else was able to find this seldom reported bird. According to the 2017-2018 ABR this species rarely occurs as far inland as the ACT, with only a few sightings per year from the wetter areas on the eastern side of the COG Aol.

Likewise, it appears no-one else was able to sight the female **Turquoise Parrot** found on 3 November by Claire Taylor along the road into Campbell Park, or it seems, the one photographed at Namadgi Visitors Centre on 5 November as posted on Facebook. Perhaps more surprisingly no-one else seems to have reported the **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo** photographed on 10 November by Yvette H sitting in the top of a tall dead tree immediately downstream from Uriarra Crossing. This could be the same bird reported from Denman Prospect etc earlier this year; if so it is much more mobile than thought at the time, and possibly a wild bird. A further **Scaly-breasted Lorikeet** was reported from Farrer Ridge NR on 17 November, and 3 **Musk Lorikeets** were reported from Watson on the same day.

Despite the dry conditions there has been breeding activity as demonstrated by the report on the Nest Workshop elsewhere in this issue of Gang-gang (see also the woodswallow breeding above). Additional comments follow:

- There were reports of **Pink-eared Duck** ducklings on Kelly Swamp at the beginning of the month, **Australasian Shoveler** ducklings at West Belconnen Pond on 4 November, and a pair of **Chestnut Teal** with 6 ducklings at Kelly Swamp on 23 November. The 2017-2018 ABR indicates there were no reports of breeding for any of the three species that year. However, the Bird Info on the COG website indicates 15 or more breeding records of the last two at a number of different locations, though the **Pink-eared Duck** seems to have previously bred at 2 locations only, neither of which was Jerrabomberra Wetlands.
- On 8 November Robin Hide asked, having been watching the activities of two pairs in neighbouring Ainslie streets since early October - is the nest-building of **Magpie-larks** usually a long-drawn out affair? One nest was half built on 7 October, with both birds ferrying wet mud. However, they had continued working on it since, and were still hard at work that morning, over 4 weeks later, with the nest wall only a few centimetres higher. Over the same period, another pair 200 m away had started and abandoned two nests, and were now working on a third one, all on the same branch. Martin Butterfield responded that his analysis of the GBS data indicated this was not too unusual. It certainly reflects the poor **Magpie-lark** breeding success in my local area over the years with nests built and abandoned either before or during sitting, or with seemingly continuous sitting without any appearance of chicks. For the past 3 years there has also been little, if any, sign of the up to 60 birds that used to roost together.
- As was the case at Campbell Park (see Nest Workshop report), my local **Australian Magpies** seem to have had a poor breeding season with a number of cases of only single chicks raised which did not fledge well into November.
- In contrast the **Grey Butcherbird** seems to be having a more successful season with at the beginning of November 3 young fledging from the nest on NW Cooleman Ridge. Slightly earlier, three had fledged from the Kanooka St Rivett nest, but unfortunately only 1 survived its first week. Despite this there has been no sign of a possible second brood there this season, as there was in 2017. On 11 November Geoffrey Dabb reported that four chicks successfully fledged from the nest in Rocky Knob neighbourhood park in Narrabundah. He had been concerned about them as on the windy day of 8 November they had clambered out of the nest one after the other, seemingly early. On the same day Rod Mackay reported at least 2 chicks being fed in a nest in a pine tree on Narrabundah Hill.
- On 17 November Rod Mackay reported huge numbers of **Silver Gulls** present on Spinnaker Island and the waters thereabouts in LBG, his estimate being a thousand plus. He also counted 50 dead birds over a 60 metre stretch on the island, adult birds as well as chicks and juveniles, plus several more dead lying at the water's edge, so it's unclear how successful the breeding has been there this year.

The **darther/cormorant** breeding in the report of the COG Wednesday Walkers along the Molonglo River elsewhere in this issue of Gang-gang should also be noted.

Finally, a few breeding predictions/speculations:

As noted in my previous column it does not appear there will be a delayed start to the **Eastern Koel** breeding season as they have been reported from more than 70 locations over the past month. In my local patch of Chapman/Rivett, females arrived about a month earlier than last season, and there have been many noisy interactions consisting of both sexes. So I

am expecting the first fledgling to be announced early in December, about the time this issue of Gang-gang becomes available - something for readers to look out for. There appear to be lots of **Red Wattlebird** present, with currently 2 sets of fledglings in my garden.

On 8 November John Leonard posted that there were 40-50 **Superb Parrots** at Hughes Oval. The flocks were mixed males and females, he thought perhaps indicating that they weren't breeding yet, or these birds couldn't breed because there weren't enough nest hollows in the Woden Valley. On 19 November he reported that for the past week all **Superb Parrots** he had seen around Hughes were male, so it seemed that they may have begun to nest. He suspected this may be around the Federal Golf Course at the base of Red Hill; which he proposed to check. So I wonder whether the suspected nesting site south of the lake will be found, despite the habitat being rather different from the sparse woodlands at the known sites at Throsby and Kama NR. The eBird Australia map also shows that only 4 others of the well over 30 locations from which they have been reported over the past month were south of LBG.

When I did my **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** roost counts in the middle of the month numbers were up compared with October. While they were only slightly up at the two Chapman roosts, at over 150 they were double the number at the Holder shops, quite unexpected as I thought roost numbers would be low over late spring/summer, and remarkable as I expect these nearly 500 birds in the western half of Weston Creek are non-breeding birds.

Finally, on 8 November John Layton reported about 200 **Welcome Swallows** flying around and above Holt oval. Perhaps this still large flock points to a poor breeding season for this species as well?

So please watch out for the above-mentioned species, and especially for any breeding as conditions continue to dry out further. As usual please ensure that all significant sightings 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, posting on the COG email Discussion List ("COG chatline") and the eBird Australia database, as well as direct correspondence with 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*

## Volunteer needed!

Are you looking for a way to volunteer with COG? The publications desk is looking for a part time volunteer to look after the publications sales desk at meetings on an ad hoc basis. Kathy and John normally administer the publication sales, but are sometimes away travelling when COG meetings are on.

### What would be required:

We are looking for someone willing to bring the publications to meetings and manage any cash sales on the night. Anyone interested wouldn't need to commit to doing it every meeting, just be available a few times a year when needed.

### Advantages of getting involved:

Often the sales desk is a bit of a focus for members, so it's great way to meet and chat to people at the meeting.

Learn about new birding books and get first dibs on sale items.  
Help COG through volunteering.

Contact Kathy Walter for further information [sales@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:sales@canberrabirds.org.au) or phone 0421 708 603.



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## Field Trip Reports

### Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 November – Eden pelagics

With a rather daunting weather forecast promising rough seas, the first of the pelagic trips provided some great seabird experiences. I have been on many of these trips out of Eden, but have never in the past had such great views of **Wandering Albatross**. One bird in particular, with beautiful markings, spent a great deal of time around the boat. Around 50 **Shy Albatross** were seen, as well as **Black-browed** and **Campbell's Albatross**. The rarity of the day was a **White-headed Petrel**, only the third time we've seen one of these birds on a COG pelagic. Other sightings included **Providence Petrel**, **White-faced Storm Petrel**, **Grey-faced Petrel**, **Arctic Jaeger**, and six shearwater species, including two **Sooty Shearwaters**.



Wandering Albatross

*Tee Tong Teo*

On the Sunday the weather was much calmer, and the sightings much less numerous. Both **Arctic** and **Pomarine Jaeger** were sighted, as well as a **Buller's Albatross** and a **White-chinned Petrel**.

Many thanks to Tobias for expert identification.

Sandra Henderson

### Sunday 10 November – Campbell Park nest workshop

Twenty-three members and guests joined me on a clear cool morning for the seventeenth running of this annual event. The emailing of the notes beforehand again allowed me to largely dispense with the short spiel at the start, and 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. As for recent workshops I did so with low expectations given I had only been able to find limited breeding activity there over 1 hour in my previous day's reccie. The continuing 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.

On the way we looked out for signs of birds around hollows and for visible nests. For the former we soon found a female **Australian King-Parrot** sitting near a hollow entrance, a rare potential breeding record for this workshop. Shortly after, a male was flying around but did not seem to approach the female. Among a number of large nests we saw an unusual one in a suspended, half-dead mistletoe; our suspicion that it was an **Australian Magpie** nest was confirmed when an adult first approached the nest, and then rather reluctantly came down to feed a visible chick which only briefly begged (we had a very similar late breeding situation later in the morning). We then heard begging young where an adult



Willie Wagtail

*Lindell Emerton*

**Noisy Miner** had flown to, and were able to observe feeding of at least two chicks in a typical cup-shaped nest at the top of a small sapling.

When we arrived at the horse gate we continued east towards the corner fence and soon found a pair of **Buff-rumped Thornbills** bringing food to a nest in a typical spot behind some peeled off bark against a dead tree trunk. Though the parents kept feeding throughout the morning, the actual nest was difficult to see. At the corner we first found the **Willie Wagtail** nest (one of only two nests found the day before) with an adult sitting on it. This was in a somewhat unusual position on a thin dead branch and as a result was rather tapered more resembling a **Grey Fantail** nest. A pair of the latter were nearby but no sign of breeding could be observed, despite some close checking.

This heralded a rather hectic period with a number of species observed but with little, if any, signs of breeding confirmed. These included four **White-throated Gerygones** flying around and calling beautifully on occasion, a pair of **Rufous Whistlers** also moving around (a female/immature **Golden Whistler** had been seen slightly earlier), the same for some **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes**, a couple of **Brown-headed Honeyeaters**, and at least two pairs of **White-browed Woodswallows**, often sitting on dead branches and allowing very good views. We then moved south towards the dry big dam (completely so for the first time I can remember in these workshops) and David saw a female **Leaden Flycatcher** which proved rather elusive, allowing only brief views and calling only occasionally, with no signs of a male nearby. However, I was happy with the identification, mainly due to it being very light under the tail.

With the wind picking up we then went through a rather quiet period as we looped around to the small (dry) dam 100 metres north of the horse gate. Near here we finally had good views of a couple of **Olive-backed Orioles** appearing to be building a cup-shaped nest high in a gum tree. Earlier Lindell had captured one on a photo with a beak full of nesting material (we also saw a **Red Wattlebird** doing the same). We then found **Noisy Friarbirds**, of which there were also a number around, building their very woolly nest in a similarly high position.

We moved back to south of the horse gate and first observed a pair of **Dollarbirds** one of which we thought might have been approaching a hollow, but this could not be confirmed. In this scrubby area we finally found a pair of **White-winged Trillers** building a nest in a rather hard to see and unusual spot on a bend of a nearly bare branch. At least 4 males had been quite conspicuous by their calling and flying around for much of the morning, and we had seen a male leading a female to a rather unsuitable nest site a number of times.

We had also seen and heard a **Sacred Kingfisher** several times until it was on a nearby dead tree above a small spout from which Jeffrey first saw it leave, confirmed by several others despite my initial thinking the hole would be too small. Finally, as we were walking back to the cars we found the **Tawny Frogmouths**, but there was just a pair of adults sitting close together ruffled up by the wind (Stuart Rae has clarified that they did lay in the same nest as the past two years, but it failed before the chicks hatched).



Olive-backed Oriole, Noisy Friarbird, White-winged Triller  
Lindell Emerton



Participants continue to enjoy this very popular outing. A total of 43 species was seen on the day, similar to the two previous dry years. Fifteen species were recorded breeding at some level, around average for the past few years, and included some of the hollow nesters with both **Eastern** and **Crimson Rosellas** actually seen entering and staying in them. The **Dusky Woodswallow**, which we've at least seen and found breeding in most years, was not observed, nor were **Varied Sittellas**, **Mistletoebirds** or **White-winged Choughs**. As for last season, a feature was the much earlier stage of breeding with many nests still being built. As for most years breeding activity was taking place in a small area, this time in about an 180° arc to the north and mainly east and south-east of the horse gate.

Jack Holland

### Saturday 16 November - Wandiyali/Environs Conservation Area

On our wander around this private reserve we were accompanied by Carolyn Larcombe, owner and conservation manager of the property, and it was good to have COG member Rainer along, since he has been involved in the project for some years. The area includes Yellow Box/Red Gum woodland, grasslands, and some riparian areas. We managed 44 species for the morning, with highlights including **Varied Sittellas**, **Diamond Firetails**, many **White-winged Trillers**, **Leaden Flycatchers** and **Dusky Woodswallows**. For eight species we were able to note breeding activity, and were assured the **Nankeen Kestrels** are also nesting.

Sandra Henderson

### Wednesday 20 November – Molonglo River walk from North Weston

Twenty-one members gathered beside the North Weston ponds for a foray along the banks of the Molonglo as far as the low level crossing and back. The catalyst for this outing was a report on cormorants and darters nesting in the willows along the banks of the river.

Indeed breeding was happening. All three locally common species of **Cormorant (Great, Little Black and Little Pied)** were seen on nests, as were **Australasian Darters**. It is to be hoped that these willows are retained.

Two checklists were made, one in each direction. 38 species were recorded on the outward leg on the south bank of the river (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S61591346>) and 34 on the northside return (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S61592593>). Overall we logged 48 species (thus adding 10 additional species on the return).

In general terms, all the species seen were to be expected in such a location at this time of year. Less common birds recorded were **Eurasian Skylark**, **Grey Butcherbird** and **Yellow Thornbill**. In the not too distant past, the flock of **Little Corellas** seen as we started, and 6 **Superb Parrots** (seen by a member hurrying to catch up), would have been very exciting. In hindsight, it was surprising that no cuckoos were recorded.

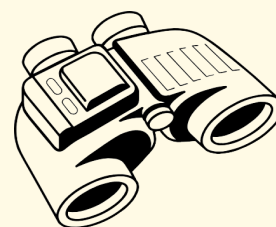
Martin Butterfield

## Nature Lodge Optics

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

The helpful and informative website [www.binoculars4u.com.au](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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# New Places: November 2019

Sandra Henderson

## Throsby Ponds

Where are they: beside Horse Park Drive in Throsby, on either side of Bettong Ave. There are three ponds in total (but only one, near Melomys Cct, appears on Google maps).

On the first pond an **Australasian Grebe** was on a nest tucked well into the reeds, found only by scanning along the edges. A scan of the second pond gave a fleeting view of a **Baillon's Crake**. All three ponds had some nice muddy edges on the day I visited, so they are certainly worth a visit. The third pond had **Australian Wood Ducks**, **Hardheads**, **Pacific Black Ducks** and **Grey Teal**.

## Wallagoot Lake

Where is it: in Bournda National Park near Merimbula.

We visited Wallagoot Lake on the recommendation of a COG member at Merimbula, and didn't have a lot of time because we were on our way back to Canberra after the pelagic trips. We walked along the shoreline from the carpark about 200m past the Boat Club. Almost straight away we heard, then saw, **White-fronted Chats** in the scrub. A **Little Egret** was wading in the shallows, but our target was the **Little Terns** we'd been told to look out for. There were four, including one resting in the shallows which stayed still enough for photos. A flock of tiny birds took a very long time to land, and even then they were quite some distance away. They were **Red-necked Stints**, about 35 in total.



Little Tern

Sandra Hernderson

## Tarangle Creek

Where is it: Deniliquin

On a quick visit to Deniliquin, I checked out the creek which runs into the Edward River near the Island Sanctuary. There were a number of **Superb Parrots** about, as well as several **Yellow Rosellas**. The creek itself was barely flowing, but three species of ducks as well as a **Dusky Moorhen** family were pottering about. I spent a lot of time trying to track down the bird making a very odd call, before I realised it was a Peron's Tree Frog! The most surprising bird seen was a **Cockatiel**, often seen out of town, but my first for the town area of Deniliquin.

## Wandiyali/Environs Conservation Area

There is a trip report for this outing elsewhere in this issue, and I'd encourage COG members to look out for future organised visits to this quite fascinating reserve which is not accessible to the public. It is well worth a visit. (Sat 18 April, 2020 – ed!)

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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://canberrabirds.org.au/publications/discussion-email-list/> and trips page of COG website <http://canberrabirds.org.au/category/trips/>.

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 8 December – Nursery Swamp

This is a half day bushwalk, which starts out with an uphill climb. **Spotted Quail-thrush** have been seen and heard on this uphill section. The track then reaches flatter, though undulating, ground, going through alpine woodland, ultimately reaching the start of the swamp itself. There are always interesting birds to be seen in this higher altitude section, including the possibility of **Olive Whistler**. Meet at Lanyon Marketplace for carpooling at 7:30 in order to climb the hill before it gets too hot. Bring lunch, water, hat, sunblock and sunglasses.

To register, or to obtain further information, please contact the trip leader, David Dedenczuk, at telephone 0417 222 154 or email [David.Dedenczuk@gmail.com](mailto:David.Dedenczuk@gmail.com)

### Wednesday 18 December – AIS and Bruce Ridge

Meet at 8.30am in the AIS arena car park where Superb Parrots are likely, We will then visit the water features near Ginninderra Drive before (if there is no fire ban) the lower slopes of Bruce Ridge.

Martin Butterfield

### 2020 field trips

### Sunday 19 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.

Bruce Lindenmayer

### Sunday 2 February – Jerrabomberra Wetlands

To celebrate World Wetlands Day, 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



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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. NB: this walk is flat and is wheelchair-friendly.

Sue Lashko

### Sunday 9 February – Warks Road

Meet at 7:30am at the Stromlo Forest Park car park. From there we will car pool, with a preference for vehicles with 4WD or AWD. Suggested contribution from each passenger to drivers: \$8. Please bring lunch, water, a raincoat and some warm clothes. We are likely to hear and see a variety of interesting birds, including **Satin Flycatcher**, **Pilotbird** and **Eastern Whipbird**. The walk will be on a flat, unsealed road. Numbers will be limited to the first 16. Contact David Dedenczuk on 0417 222 154 or email [ddedentz@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ddedentz@bigpond.net.au)

### Sunday 16 February – 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 breeding of darters as well as three species of cormorant. 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 weekend 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)).

Jack Holland

**Advanced notice of trips for 2020 where booking is essential. Initially, members will be given priority, so please register now.**

### Monday 10 to Friday 14 February –accommodated trip to Guthega, Snowy Mountains

This trip will probably include a walk from Sawpit Creek down to the Snowy River and the Cascades walk at Sawpit Creek. Apart from beautiful scenery, mountain flowers and cool weather, we should find lyrebird, honeyeaters, robins, thornbills, parrots and flycatchers to name a few. Please note also that this trip requires a reasonable level of fitness.

You will need to take all your food for 4 days as no shops are available in Guthega. We will have a shared dinner each night and happy hour. With three others you will cater for dinner and nibbles on one of the four nights.

Bookings will be accepted as soon as possible in order to confirm a booking made for Kyilla Lodge in Guthega (Brindabella Ski Club). To register, please contact Jean Casburn by email ([casburnj@bigpond.com](mailto:casburnj@bigpond.com)). The cost for an adult over 4 nights is \$86.00.

**NB: there are only 2 spots remaining for this trip.**

### Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March, and Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 October 2020

COG will be running two weekends of pelagics in mid-March and in mid-October. There will be a Saturday and a Sunday trip each weekend. The idea behind both trips is to hit migration time for the seabirds. March trips tend to have a more summer flavour with fewer winter albatrosses but with one memorable trip in 2015 getting both Herald Petrel (very rare) and Kermadec Petrel. The October trips are timed to try and see the passage of Cook’s and Mottled Petrel (both rare) but also offer a great selection of winter albatrosses and petrels.

Cost is not finalised but is likely to be around \$130 per person per day. You need to be in Eden ready to board the boat by 7am (we are usually back in Eden around 3pm). If you are interested, please email me at [tobiashayashi@hotmail.com](mailto:tobiashayashi@hotmail.com), stating the date you wish to go; you may choose any or all days. Please note that these trips are advertised to COG members first, and financial members are given priority. I will advertise these trips to non-members in early January (for the March trips) and in late June (for the October trips), so if you are keen to come, please make sure you contact me soon.

Tobias Hiyashi

## Tuesday 20 to Saturday 24 October 2020 – Green Cape

For some time now, COG has visited Green Cape every second year to stay in the former lighthouse keepers' cottages and enjoy the wonderful wildlife watching (birds and whales, in particular) in Ben Boyd National Park and in the surrounding seas. With the likely privatisation of the cottages from 2021, we have booked the cottages in October 2020 for a final visit. There are only 14 places available for this trip. The commitment is for a 4-night stay – no concession for shorter stays. Accommodation costs are \$326. There is also an \$8 fee per car per day to enter Ben Boyd National Park. This can be paid at a self-registration booth on arrival. An alternative is a single park pass which costs \$22 and is available online.

To register, email [smlashko@gmail.com](mailto:smlashko@gmail.com). **Until 31 December, preference will be given to COG members who have NOT been on a COG trip to Green Cape in the past.** More detailed information will be sent to participants closer to the date.

Peter Fullagar and Sue Lashko



## Draft field trips programme for 2020

Below (Page 14) is the draft programme for next year. Many thanks to the 2019 leaders who once again have volunteered to offer trips in 2020. You will note that there are a number of gaps in the programme for which a venue and a leader are required.

Remember, you do not need to be an expert to lead a trip as there are always experienced participants to help on the day. If you would be prepared to lead a trip to any of the following venues, or if you have a favourite spot, please contact me asap.

### Places NOT visited by COG in the last 4 years

#### IN CANBERRA

- Cooleman Ridge
- Mt Mugga Mugga NR– Isaacs Ridge NR
- Rob Roy NR (from Theodore) – possibly a day outing to mid-afternoon
- 

#### WITHIN 1 ½ Hours OF CANBERRA (approx.) – day trips

- Namadgi NP – Grassy Creek/Yaouk Valley
- Namadgi NP – Hospital Creek/Hill
- Bango NR near Yass
- Mulloon Creek near Bungendore
- Bungonia Gorge
- Tinderries
- Mittagong area (possibly a weekend trip)

Sue Lashko

## Draft field trips programme for 2020

	Date	Venue	Duration	Leader
Jan	15	Wednesday Walk		Martin Butterfield
	19	Uriarra	day	Bruce Lindenmayer
Feb	2	Jerrabomberra Wetlands (World Wetlands Day)	morning	Sue Lashko
	9	Warks Road		David Dedenczuk
	10 to 14	Guthega	mid-week accommodated	Jean Casburn
	16	Molonglo boat trip	morning	Jack Holland
	19	Wednesday Walk		Martin Butterfield
	23	venue required		leader required
Mar	Sat 29	London Bridge/Tin Hut Dam	day	Ryu Callaway
	8th	venue required		leader required
	10 to 13	Ulladulla/Burrill Lake	accommodated/camp	Bill Graham
	15	Molonglo River Walk from Weston	morning	Sandra Henderson
	18	Wednesday Walk		Martin Butterfield
	21 and 22	Eden pelagics	weekend	Tobias Hiyashi
	29	venue required		leader required
Apr	5	K2C	day	Nicki Taws
	Sat 11	Narrabundah Hill	morning	Jack Holland
	15	Wednesday Walk		Martin Butterfield
	Sat 18	Wandiyali - private property near Googong	morning	Ryu Callaway
	26	Settlers Track	day	David McDonald
May	Sat 2	ANBG beginners	morning	Anthony Overs
	8 to 10	Numeralla camp on private property	weekend/camping	Sandra Henderson
	20	Wednesday Walk		Martin Butterfield
	24	venue required		leader required
	29 to 1 June	Mallacoota	Accommodated/camp	Sandra Henderson
Jun	7	venue required		leader required
	14	Superb Lyrebird survey	morning	Chris Davey
	17	Wednesday Walk		Martin Butterfield
	22-26	Lake Burrendong near Wellington	Accommodated/camp	Ryu Callaway
July	5	venue required		leader required
	15	Wednesday Walk		Martin Butterfield
	19	Cuumbeun NR	morning	Lia Battisson
Aug	2	Lake Ginninderra beginners	morning	Anthony Overs
	16	Pejar Dam, Crookwell, Gunning		Bill Graham
	19	Wednesday Walk		Martin Butterfield
	30	venue required		leader required
Sep	13	Oakey Hill	morning	Alison MacKerras
	16	Wednesday Walk		Martin Butterfield
	20	Molonglo Gorge	morning	Suzi Bond
	27	venue required		leader required
Oct	4	Less-visited TSRs of Bungendore	day	David Mc Donald
	11	K2C	day	Nicki Taws
	17 and 18	Eden pelagics	weekend	Tobias Hiyashi
	21	Wednesday Walk		Martin Butterfield
	Tu20-Sat24	Green Cape	mid-week accommodated	Peter Fullagar
	24 to 25	BLITZ	weekend	Barbara Allan
	31/1 Nov	venue required		leader required
Nov	8	venue required		leader required
	15	Campbell Park nest workshop	morning	Jack Holland
	18	Wednesday Walk		Martin Butterfield
	22	Mt Majura	morning	David Dedenczuk
	29	venue required		leader required
Dec	13	venue required		leader required
	16	Wednesday Walk		Martin Butterfield



# 2019 ACT 12hour Twitchathon Report

This year's aim for our family team of 3, *The Sweet Sittellas* (Kumiko and Yumi) and *the Twitcher In Denial* (myself), was to repeat and improve on our effort last year of 106 species in 12 hours entirely within the ACT. Two of us would need to conclusively ID a bird for it to count. Teams must stay within state boundaries, and although ACT is lumped with NSW, we restricted ourselves to the ACT for compatibility and for the benefit of the COG Blitz. Unlike last year, we did not head out with a jam-packed plan with predetermined stops for the entire day and meticulous timings for arrival and departure from each site. We also chose not to take the 1 hour lunch break option, as last year that pushed back our finish to after sunset. Instead, I had the first few stops in Namadgi determined and, while I had a few places in mind for afterwards, this would be worked out on the fly depending on what we still needed to see. A greater range of birds is possible for the Namadgi sites, but more variable and harder to predict, unlike the more urban sites that we started with last year. In comparison to last year, our final route saw more southerly parts of Namadgi added while North Canberra and Uriarra were removed.

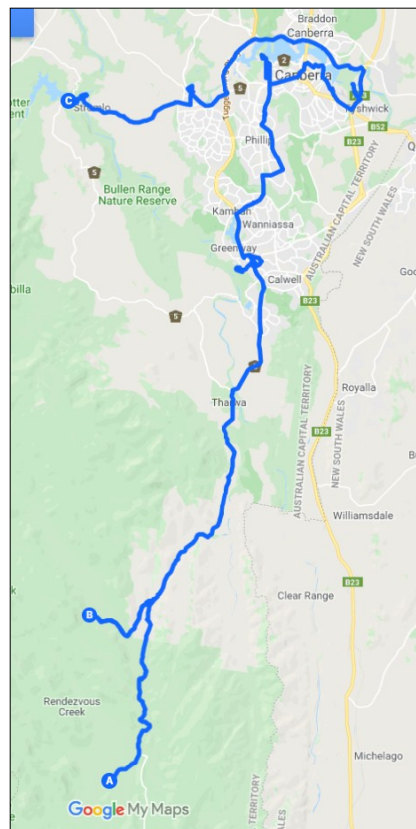
We started the timer on Old Boboyan Road at 6:54am on Sunday 28 October. Here our first birds included **Masked** and **White-browed Woodswallows**, **Nankeen Kestrel**, **White-winged Triller**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Tree Martins**, **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, **Scarlet Robin** (heard), and **Australasian Pipit**. The drive out to Boboyan Rd added **Flame Robin**, **Gang-gangs**, **Grey Butcherbird**, and a **Brush Cuckoo** calling in the distance, but no **Brown Treecreeper**. A planned brief stop at Rendezvous Creek was cut even shorter when I was kindly informed that they were about to set up the Fitz Cycling Challenge refreshment tent behind my car and that we would be blocked in, but giving us enough time to add **Leaden Flycatcher**, and **Brown** and **Striated Thornbills**. The next stop was Glendale Depot where we had **Pallid** and, **Fan-tailed Cuckoo** and **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** calling, a **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, **Fairy Martins**, a male **Flame Robin**, **Fuscous Honeyeater** and **European Goldfinch**. A diversion down Orroral Road added **White-winged Chough** and **White-naped Honeyeaters**. A few stops between Gudgenby River and Apollo Rd added **Red-rumped Parrots**, **Brown Falcon**, **Hooded Robin**, **Common Blackbird** and **Satin Bowerbird**. At Namadgi Visitor Centre, I was pursuing what I thought was **Brown-headed Honeyeater** calls to confirm ID when we found 2 **Painted Honeyeaters**. A lifer for me, I quickly fired off an email to the chatline. As it turns out, this is the first ACT record (on ebird) since 2014, and with many people coming out to observe these birds that afternoon and in the following days, this is

something we will be quite chuffed about for some time to come. Shame this got us so distracted that the probable **Brown-headed Honeyeaters** got away, which for the purposes of the twitchathon would have been equally valuable. Other birds here were **Rufous Whistler**, and **Western** and **White-throated Gerygones**. We then dropped into Tharwa Sandwash and added **Dollarbird**, **Rainbow Bee-eater** and **Little Corella**. By this point, we were on about 70-80 species (I forget the exact number), and we were feeling quite pleased with ourselves as we headed back into town, as we had about 7 hours remaining.

**Common Mynas** and **Noisy Miners** were recorded on the drive into Gordon, where we made our first urban stop at Point Hut Pond. Here, we added our first waterhens, **House Sparrows** and other wetland birds. Quick stops at Stranger and Upper Stranger Ponds added a few common species, and we made our way to Isabella Pond. Fortunately, I located the **Black-winged Stilt** sitting on the concrete ledge, and a brief flicker of movement gave away the position of the **Common Sandpiper**, sitting in a little dip on the next slab over, just a metre away from the stilt with only the top of the head visible. Luckily, they both stood up in the following minutes allowing us to confirm ID. We were also pleased to get **Yellow Thornbills** here, not a bird you can easily target anywhere in the ACT.

The next 2 hours were a disappointment. Traversing the suburbs en route to Jerrabomberra Wetlands, we failed to get **Long-billed Corella** in Phillip, **Superb Parrot** in Hughes, and even the **King-Parrots** in Yarralumla. We did hear the latter as we went past Bowen Park and added a female **Chestnut Teal** in Norgrove Park. Given it was unproductive anyway at this time of day, we made our obligatory stop in Kingston for a frozen drink and petrol top up in Fyshwick, before arriving at Jerrabomberra Wetlands.

As always, the wetlands didn't disappoint. A **Baillon's Crake** was seen from Bittern hide, and both the **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** and **Whiskered Tern** were visible from Cygnus,



Approximate 2019 12hr Twitchathon Route (130km)

saving us from walking up to Shoveler Pool. A **Black-shouldered Kite**, dark morph **Little Eagle**, **New Holland Honeyeater**, **Little Grassbird** and **Latham's Snipe** were amongst the birds that we added at this site. Unfortunately, the **Royal Spoonbill** (reported the day before and the day after) did not make an appearance, and for the first time that I can recall for the site we failed to get a **Golden-headed Cisticola**.

Our final two hours included a stop at Aspen Island hoping for **Pied Cormorant** (not to be), ticking off **White-fronted Chat** and **Black-fronted Dotterel** at the Arboretum Dam, failing to find the **Musk Duck** reported in Coombs but adding **Eurasian Skylark** (heard), a stop at Casuarina Sands adding **Olive-backed Oriole**, **Mistletoebird** and the resident **Grey Currawong**, and a final climb up Cotter Dam where we spent a painstaking 20 minutes squinting out at the dam before eventually spotting 3 **Great-crested Grebes** with less than 10 minutes to spare.

The day was far more relaxed and hence more enjoyable than the previous attempt, and we improved on our previous total by 11% with 118 species. The below table highlights some species we missed, with the most notable omissions in bold. We significantly improved on cuckoos this year but completely missed any herons, egrets, and spoonbills.

Successful last year that we missed this year	Successful this year that we missed last year	A selection of birds missed both years
<b>Straw-necked Ibis</b> <b>White-faced Heron</b> Nankeen Night-Heron Brown Goshawk Common Bronzewing <b>Eastern Spinebill</b> Speckled Warbler Pied Butcherbird Jacky Winter <b>Eastern Yellow Robin</b> <b>Golden-headed Cisticola</b>	Great Crested Grebe Brown Falcon Baillon's Crake Pied Stilt Common Sandpiper Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Whiskered Tern Pallid Cuckoo Brush Cuckoo Fan-tailed Cuckoo Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo White-eared Honeyeater Painted Honeyeater Western Gerygone Yellow Thornbill White-winged Triller Flame Robin Hooded Robin Eurasian Skylark Fairy Martin Little Grassbird European Goldfinch	Royal Spoonbill Yellow-billed Spoonbill Great Egret Whistling Kite White-bellied Sea-Eagle Collared Sparrowhawk Australian Hobby Peregrine Falcon Buff-banded Rail Australian Spotted Crake Spotless Crake Wonga Pigeon Shining Bronze-Cuckoo <b>Common Koel</b> Southern Boobook <b>Tawny Frogmouth</b> Australian Owlet-nightjar Long-billed Corella <b>Rainbow Lorikeet</b> Superb Parrot Red-browed Treecreeper Brown Treecreeper Brown-headed Honeyeater Crescent Honeyeater <b>Buff-rumped Thornbill</b> Southern Whiteface Varied Sittella Rufous Fantail Satin Flycatcher Restless Flycatcher Red-capped Robin Rose Robin Rufous Songlark Bassian Thrush Diamond Firetail European Greenfinch

Our second twitchathon was once again a rewarding experience, and thanks to the generous support of many COG members we were able to raise \$723, this year going towards the Bush Stone-Curlew reintroductions at Mulligans Flat. Stay tuned for next year - I'm considering forming a 30 hour team next year expanding the scope beyond the ACT.

Ryu Callaway

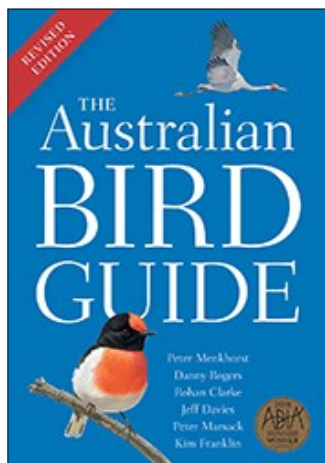
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## Publications for sale

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)



### The Australian Bird Guide\_ Revised Edition

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

This Revised Edition includes updated maps, artwork and species accounts, reflecting current knowledge of the biology and distribution of Australia's birds. It features around 4700 specially commissioned colour illustrations of over 900 species, 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. A new easier-to-use index is also included.

**Members' price: \$38.** RRP 49.99

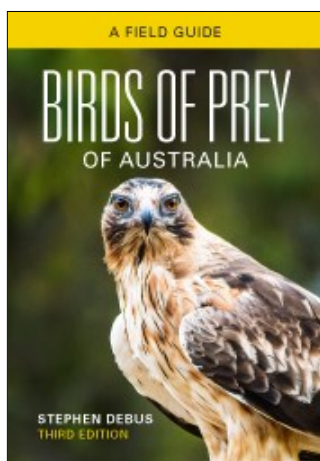


### Australian Bird Names

*Ian Fraser and Jeannie Gray*

An entertaining account of the stories behind the names of Australian birds. This second edition is a completely updated checklist of Australian birds and the meanings behind their common and scientific names, which may be useful, useless or downright misleading!

**Members' Price: \$42.** RRP \$54.99



### Birds of Prey of Australia

*Stephen Debus*

Raptors are popular and iconic birds, and are important ecologically, with some species listed as threatened. Yet they are among the most difficult birds to identify. This fully updated third edition contains two sections: a field guide with distribution maps, detailed illustrations and information on identification; and a handbook which includes an overview of the current knowledge about raptors, including their biology, ecology and behaviour.

**Member's price \$32.** RRP \$44.99



## 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

2019-2020 memberships:

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

## New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

M Gascoigne  
J Lambert  
J Gilbert

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for February 2020 edition:**

**Wednesday 29 January 2020**

**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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[cogwebmaster@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:cogwebmaster@canberrabirds.org.au)

## COG library

**Membership Enquiries & Updates:**  
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for change of address or other details.

**Gang-gang Newsletter**  
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**Lay-out Editor:** Gail Neumann

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## COG E-mail Discussion List

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

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

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

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