



Gang-gang

SEPTEMBER 2019

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Wednesday 11 September 2019

7.30 pm

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

The short presentation will be by **Shorty Westlin** on "**Bird baths, the benefits to the birds and you the observer**".

Shorty will be discussing why we should have bird baths at our homes. He will give his views from his experience on the size of baths and their placement to give the best results. Shorty will also be presenting photos and video of birds that he has had visit his baths, and discuss the best ways to capture these moments.

The main presentation will be by **Professor David Lindenmayer**, from the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society, on "**Changing landscapes change birds – new insights into how softwood plantations reshape temperate woodland bird communities**".

Large areas of south-eastern Australia have been targeted for softwood plantation establishment. In 1997, the Nanangroe grazing and cropping property near Burrinjuck in southern NSW was purchased and much of the land was converted to pine plantation. Patches of endangered temperate woodland were preserved as

Continued Page 2

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

Over the 4.5 weeks from 29 July covered by this column, the weather has been rather variable, with some cloudy, windy periods, including with some snow falling, but also with calm, foggy days and some moderate frosts. It has remained very dry throughout, with only a moderate amount of rain over a few days towards the end of the first half of August. This is probably the main reason bird activity in the COG Area of Interest (Aoi) has continued to be very quiet. While it warmed up a bit in the last week of this period, the major influx of spring migrants does not yet seem to have commenced, though several species have returned early.

The **Dusky Woodswallow** was not reported after 2 July until there were reports from three separate locations (the Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Cook and to the south of the ACT) on 18 August, over 6 weeks later. It has now been reported from 10 locations, all in small numbers except for the 15 at Bibaringa by Alastair Smith on 23 August. By contrast, the **Olive-backed Oriole** has been reported from 11 locations in the period. This compares with only three in July, suggesting birds were returning. In support, from early August a couple of observers noting it calling; in my experience, it's usually quiet over winter.

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Olive-backed Oriole

David Cook

Everyone welcome

the surrounding landscape was converted to plantations. ANU researchers, with support from members of COG, have documented changes in bird populations within the woodland patches over the past two decades. This talk will describe these changes, including the development of novel assemblages of bird species, as well as the regional impacts of the plantation, that extend well beyond the boundary of areas where pine stands have been established.

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

The **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** and the **Grey Fantail** have also been present over winter, and have been reported from 22 and 25 locations respectively, up to double those in July, an indication that birds have also started to return. **Yellow-faced, Fuscous** and **White-naped Honeyeaters** have been reported from 16, 11 and 4 locations respectively, over double those in July for the first two, but about the same for the last-named, suggesting that this species has yet to return in any numbers. The **Superb Parrot** also seems to have started returning, with reports from 16 locations, about 50% up compared with July, with 7 being south of the lake. They have been seen regularly around the Lyons shops where I have observed up to 11 birds, equal to the highest number reported for the period, the other being at North Weston Ponds by Lachlan Read on 17 August. However, the **Mistletoebird** does not yet seem to have started returning, being reported from only 2 locations, the most recent being at Stoney Creek NR on 4 August.

After having not been reported since 11 June, the **Rufous Whistler** was first reported from the Stoney Creek NR on 4 August by John Hurrell, but surprisingly only from 3 locations since. It appears that conditions have not favoured overwintering for this species, as opposed to the **Tree Martins** which returned to Jerrabomberra Wetlands on 19 July; they have now been reported from a further 10 locations. However, **Fairy Martins**, first reported from there from 24 July, have been slower to return, reported from a further 4 locations only.

Of the other early returning spring/summer migrants which mostly all move away, the **Australian Reed-Warbler** was first reported from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands on 31 July, but there have only been 2 further sightings from there since, again indicating a slow return. Likewise the **Latham's Snipe** (a species I neglected to alert readers to look out for) was first reported from the West Belconnen Pond on 12 August, but only from there and Jerrabomberra Wetlands since, with a maximum of only 2 birds reported.



Rufous Whistler

Anthony Overs

The **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, for which there had been isolated reports over winter, has been reported from 6 locations, an indication that it has started to return. The **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** has also returned; it was first reported from Stranger Pond by Lia Battisson on 17 August, but from only one further location (Hume) since. A single **Pallid Cuckoo** was first reported from Jerrabomberra Wetlands by Alastair Smith on 20 August, but only there, by several observers, since. There have been no reports to date of the **Shining Bronze-cuckoo**.

However, there have been early reports of **White-throated** and **Western Gerygones**, the former by Rob Geraghty at Jerrabomberra Wetlands on 24 August. For the latter, the first report was by Sarah Fieg from the Woodstock NR on 18 August, with further reports since from Belconnen, the Central Basin of Lake Burley Griffin and Jerrabomberra Wetlands. The **White-winged Triller** also doesn't usually return until September, but there was a very early report of an immature male at the North Curtin District Playing Fields by Alastair Smith after the snow storm on 10 August. John Hurrell then observed a male at Narrabundah Hill on 27 August, with Kym Bradley also reporting her first sighting to the south of Canberra on that day.

So please keep an eye out for the above and any other returning spring/summer migrant species such as the **Leaden Flycatcher**, as well as towards the end of September the **Rufous Songlark**, particularly if it remains dry inland but improves

here. Depending on the weather, the **Sacred Kingfisher** and **Rainbow Bee-eater** may also first return towards the end of the month.

As the spring/summer migrants return, the altitudinal migrants that spend winter in the lower areas will leave. This includes the **White-eared Honeyeater** still reported from around 21 urban locations (from a total of around 40 in the COG Aol). This species has been scarce this winter in my local patch of north-west Chapman/Coolleman Ridge and Narrabundah Hill, with no sightings at all in my GBS site. The **Golden Whistler** has also still been reported from around 25 urban locations (from a total of about 35); this species is usually the last to leave.

The **Scarlet Robin** was still reported from around 22 urban/peri-urban locations (from a total of about 34) during the period. Similarly, the **Flame Robin** has been reported from around 12 such locations (from a total of about 23), including the 6 birds I observed much closer to home on the south-west side of north-west Coolleman Ridge. These seemed to be moving through as I was unable to find them there again. A single **Rose Robin** has been reported from the ANBG by Liam Manderson on 17 August, and the first report of the **Pink Robin** since 11 June was from there by Alastair Smith on 26 July. It was giving a cheery chattering song, the first time he has heard the bird do this in the ACT.

There have also been reports of up to 2 **Crescent Honeyeaters** from the ANBG up to 16 August, as well as from Mawson on 3 August and Woodstock NR on 18 August. The one at my place in Chapman made a brief reappearance from 14-16 August, usually quietly in the banksia outside the TV room, but on one day also calling nearby. The only reports of the **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** have been from the Stoney Creek NR up to 6 August, where on 4 August Steve Read reported 7 birds feeding in the flowering mistletoe on the River Oaks, with 5 of them in the one tree.

The **Bassian Thrush** has continued to be reported from the ANBG, with a maximum of 3 birds including a recently fledged young observed there by Liam Manderson on 17 August. However, there have been no reports of the **Brown Gerygone**, which appears not to have been present there this winter. The only report of the **Restless Flycatcher** was by Marnix Zwankhuisen, who on 24 August reported it had been present again at his work in Tuggeranong over the past week or two. He thought it was probably the same bird as in previous years. It seemed to spend some mornings picking insects from the multi-storey building. The resident **Willie Wagtail** wasn't too happy it was hanging around.

There has been one rather intriguing report of the **Swift Parrot** over the period. I was first alerted to it by Susanne Gardiner's post on the COG chatline on 23 August. This was of a Facebook report of tiny green, shy, super-fast flying, high-up-in-tree-canopy parrots which had been hanging around for about a month or so. The Facebook video taken that same day showed an immature bird on the ground drinking from a water bath. It is interesting that they had hung around so long; there must be a flowering food source nearby, but at the time of writing the location was not known.

For an otherwise quiet period there have been a number of "unusual" species reported. A lone **Pied Stilt** was observed only by Shorty at Jerrabomberra Wetlands on 2 August, where a **Spotless Crake** (uncommon outside of summer) was photographed by Steve Chivers on 26 July. On 26 August Brian Grinter reported a **Barn Owl**, being harassed



Australian Ornithological Services P/L

PO Box 385
South Yarra 3141
Victoria

Mob: 04173 10200

enquiries@philipmaher.com

Good birding, good food

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.

Tasmanian bird and mammal tour
Bruny Island, Melaleuca, pelagic.
1 to 8 February 2020

Top End birding tour
Darwin, Kakadu, Katherine, Kununurra,
Mitchell Plateau.
10 to 24 May 2020

Atherton Tablelands & Iron Range NP
1 to 14 June 2020 (2 parts)

Gulf of Carpentaria birding tour
19 June to 6 July 2020
Now includes Winton for Rusty
Grasswren.

New tour
The Pilbara birding tour
13 to 22 July 2020

The Pilbara birding tour
24 July to 2 August 2020 FULL

**Alice Springs, West MacDonnell
Ranges, Marla & Yulara**
7 to 17 August 2020

Please see itineraries, checklists
and latest news on our website

www.philipmaher.com

“by magpies, ravens, miners and even half a dozen cockatoos”, near the Gungahlin Town Centre. A **Black Kite** was reported by Alastair Smith at Jerrabomberra Wetlands on 2 August, and he also reported a **Black Falcon** at Campbell Park on 30 July.

On 11 August Martin Butterfield saw a **Major Mitchell’s Cockatoo** as he drove along John Gorton Drive in Molonglo, probably the same tame one reported close by from Denman Prospect in June. On 14 August Lyndon Howe reported a male **Cockatiel** on Mt. Rogers. On the same day John Harris reported an **Australian Ringneck** at Palmerston flying with **Crimson Rosellas**. From the photo he sent me it clearly was a Western sub-species, but whether it was a Twenty-eight or a Port Lincoln was unclear. Either way it’s very likely to have been an escapee given it was so far out of range.

Musk Lorikeets have continued to be reported from Watson and Wanniasa, and further **Blue-faced Honeyeaters** were reported by Shorty at Jerrabomberra Wetlands on 16 August, and by Ned Johnston at Sullivan’s Creek ANU on 22 August. The former also reported a light morph **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** at Symonston on 9 August, only the second report of this nomadic species this autumn/winter.

On 18 August Sandra Henderson reported two **Apostlebirds** right on the roadside of the Hume Highway, just south of Goulburn. She noted she travelled this road regularly and had never seen one between Canberra and Goulburn. The Bird Info data on the COG website shows reports from the COG AoI for the well-known recent Watson one, but another in COG grid cell F12, just off the north-west border of the ACT. The provenance of the latter is unclear, but it doesn’t appear to be the historical record of 6 seen at Hall in the summer of 1948 recorded in Steve Wilson’s Book *Birds of the ACT: Two Centuries of Change*. The eBird Australia map shows by far the next closest sighting is of 6 birds more than 80 km to the NNW at Boorowa in April 2015, and then at Cootamundra and Tarcutta more than 100 km to the north-west and north respectively.



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COG’S BIRD BLITZ 2019

Yes, it is nearly that time of year again! This year’s blitz, our fifteenth, will be held on the weekend of 26-27 October and we need as many participants as possible to conduct bird surveys across the whole of the ACT, in an effort to obtain as complete a snapshot as possible of the birds using the ACT mid-spring. As always, the details are on the COG website www.canberrabirds.org.au, under the header ‘Observing and Reporting Birds’. The sites chosen for 2019 will be updated shortly.

Please let me know, to blitz@canberrabirds.org.au, where you would like to survey. If you regularly survey particular spots, you would be the ideal person to put your hand up to survey them for the blitz. But also think about trying somewhere new as well, this year.

As always I’m particularly keen to hear from competent 4WD volunteers to conduct surveys behind locked gates in Namadgi National Park. And yes, more than one person or group is welcome to survey the named sites – or others of your choosing – though it is particularly helpful if we can have takers for the named key sites first.

I shall be at the next COG meetings if you would like to discuss your surveys.

Barbara Allan, Blitz coordinator

Very limited breeding has been brought to my attention, other than the above confirmation of Con Boekel's suspicion in July that the **Bassian Thrush** may be breeding at the ANBG. Marnix Zwankhuisen also confirmed this on 24 August. He noted both the fledgling and the accompanying parent were very confiding, the dependent youngster constantly calling, and staying within 1-2 metres.

Other than the one I saw on Cooleman Ridge early in August, I'm not aware of any reports of mixed feeding flocks (MFFs). However, flocks of **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** continue to be conspicuous on the median strips, and the numbers from my count of them at their local evening roosts have only dropped marginally. This includes the one I have recently located behind the trees in the horse paddocks only about 1 km to the west of my Chapman GBS site. Previously they appeared to fly towards the Murrumbidgee River/Bullen Range, but closer watching revealed they take a left turn soon after they are out of sight.

On 19 August Janet Russell reported you can almost set your watch by the **Common Starlings** going home to roost via Constitution Ave. First they used to come by at about 1645, and then 1700, but it had been 1710 for a while, with always some stragglers. The most spectacular sight I have ever seen of them is at dusk from the top of the FAO building in Rome, with many, many thousands flying around, twisting and swirling in unison.

September is the month when much of the spring bird activity picks up significantly. So please keep up the reports for the arriving spring/summer migrants, or the altitudinal migrants departing as mentioned above, for more signs of breeding, for roosts and roost flights, and for the last of the single species flocks. 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

2019 Gang-gang Breeding Survey

From spring 2018 to March 2019 a team of interested people reported **Gang-gang Cockatoo** breeding observations on Canberra Nature Map (<https://canberra.naturemapr.org/>). Recorders were asked to provide information on the gender of the birds observed and behaviour they were displaying around a possible nesting hollow. Options included just being perched near a hollow, to actually entering the hollow. We received 313 sighting observations. These included six sites where adults were observed feeding young at the hollow entrance and 67 tree hollow locations where birds were observed entering a hollow on several occasions.

In 2019 we are again calling for volunteers to help us learn more about Gang-gang breeding ecology and distribution, with the aim of better conserving this species in the Canberra area. We would like people to adopt one or more of the 67 likely nest trees and record what they observe. If you are aware of a hollow where you have observed Gang-gangs entering on several occasions, you may also like to adopt that tree and record your observation (but first tell us about it). If you adopt a hollow tree you will be asked to:

1. Visit the tree at least twice a month from October to February (i.e 10 visits) - *if you go away for an extended period we will have back-up tree monitors*
2. Spend 20 minutes each visit staking out the tree
3. Visit between 7-9 am or 6-8 pm.

If you want to be involved please contact Michael.Mulvaney@act.gov.au or Chris_Davey@aapt.net.au and, in consultation, you will be allocated a tree, preferably close to where you live. The 67 likely trees occur across Acton, Ainslie, Aranda, Barton, Black Mountain, Botanic Gardens, Bruce, Campbell, Deakin, Fisher, Garran, Gossan Hill, Hackett, Hughes, Lyons, O'Connor, O'Malley, Parkes, Pearce, Red Hill, Reid, The Pinnacle and Yarralumla.

If no Gang-gang activity is observed at a hollow by the end of November the stake-out of that tree no longer needs to continue.

Field Trip Reports

Wednesday 21 August – Hall

Twenty-three members and guests gathered on Gladstone St in very windy weather for a stroll round the village. Good numbers of birds were feeding on the oval: 28 **Red-rumped Parrots**, 9 **Eastern Rosellas** and 5 **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** (the number of which was swamped by a flock of approximately 30 which overflowed noisily). Two **Rainbow Lorikeets** were seen in the flowering eucalypt outside the pub, but there was not a trace of anything resembling a Scaly-breasted Lorikeet!

We headed off on Gladstone St for a look into some woodland, which was almost bird-free apart from a flock of 12 **Superb Fairy-wrens**. Continuing around the village we added **Pied Currawong**, **Noisy Miner** and **Common Myna**. We extended the route up through some bush on the northern side of the village. A distant **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, hanging stationary into the gale, was the sole raptor for the day. More notable birds seen in this area included **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** poking out of a hollow, **Yellow Thornbill**, **Buff-rumped Thornbill** (carrying nest material) and 2 **Scarlet Robins** (both sexes, possibly a pair, but not seen interacting).

In total 35 species were recorded, which is not a bad haul in view of the weather. A full list is at <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S59140122>. Some photos and supplementary comments are in [my blogpost](#).

Martin Butterfield



Yellow Thornbill

Robin Eckermann



Scarlet Robin

David Cook

Saturday 24 August – Burrinjuck

Nine members travelled to Lake Burrinjuck on a beautiful winter's day. We spent the morning at Burrinjuck Waters State Park where highlights included a **Wonga Pigeon**, good numbers of vocal **Satin Bowerbirds**, an early-arriving **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** calling, and a pair of **Flame Robins**. On our walk to Carrols Creek, we disturbed an immature **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** which gave great views of its white rump as it flew across the creek to a new perch.



Wonga Pigeon

Paul Taylor



Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

Geoffrey Dabb

After lunch, which we enjoyed overlooking Lake Burrinjuck (which is at 30% capacity), we drove out of the state park, keeping a watchful eye out at the roadside edges. We were soon rewarded as a pair of **Spotted Quail-thrush** scrambled off the road and then continued to calmly feed on the bank, giving us prolonged views. As we drove off, a third bird came off the road about 20 metres ahead of the cars.



Spotted Quail-thrush

Ryu Callaway



Nodding greenhood at Burrinjuck

Ryu Callaway

We continued on to Waterview Road where we walked a section of the Hume and Hovell Track. The wind had picked up and the birds were quiet, although we did add **Striated Pardalote**, **White-eared Honeyeater** and a small flock of **Dusky Woodswallows**. Our final stop was at Captains Camp, also on the Hume and Hovell Track, where the only new addition was **Weebill**.

The species count for the day was 41.

Many thanks to Ryu for organising such an interesting day at venues that many had never visited.

Sue Lashko

PIANO ENSEMBLE

These magpies on the windowsill
are our familiar birds
and listen when my husband plays
a song with lilting chords.

One of them, old Bing by name,
who loves a smoochy tune,
fluffs his feathers into a ruff
as if about to croon.

Instead he drops a glistening plop
from coyly lowered bum
then warbles off a bar or two,
a sort of magpie hum.

Suzanne Edgar 12 Stephens Pl Garran ACT 2605



Australian Magpie

David Cook

New Places: August 2019

Sandra Henderson

This month's new places include a couple near the end of my Queensland trip, a COG outing, and one of the many new suburban wetlands.

Peninsula Developmental Road at Koolburra Station

This was a roadside stop, with some great birds seen in the ten metres either side of the property fence. In a very small area we spotted six species of honeyeater, including **Rufous-throated** and **Banded Honeyeaters**, and **Silver-crowned Friarbirds**. Only metres away, a small group of **Masked** and **Black-throated Finches** (photo below) were working through saplings at eye height, giving us great views.

Mareeba Transfer Station and Landfill

We did not even stop here, but simply took in the view as we drove past. An estimated 1000 **Black Kites** were circling over the landfill site. I've seen large groups of these birds on previous trips in both Queensland and the Northern Territory, but nothing like the number we saw here. Simply amazing!

Holder Wetlands (John Gorton Drive)

This is a series of ponds (still netted to prevent waterbirds pulling up newly planted vegetation), surrounded by quite a lot of grassland, and when I was there several **Australasian Pipits** were visible close to the ponds. A few **Pacific Black Ducks** had managed to find the un-netted open water in the middle of some of the ponds. **Silvereyes** were calling around the ponds, and from the nearby creekline. I've seen reports from other birders of Brown Quail around these ponds, so worth a visit in the future.

Burrinjuck (COG outing)

I've not been to Burrinjuck for decades, so Ryu's outing was very welcome.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the **Spotted Quail-Thrush** seen beside Burrinjuck Rd on the drive out. The dam itself is quite low, and although we did see just a few ducks and cormorants, the bush birds were active and quite plentiful. A **Whistling Kite** and immature **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** were seen briefly, and two **Wedge-tailed Eagles** were circling over the hills. On the trip back to Hall we stopped at Waterview Road, and at Captains Camp (named for Captain William Hovell). The latter is a popular camping spot on the Hume and Hovell Track, and someone had camped there the previous evening, judging by the still-smoking logs in the fireplace. **Buff-rumped Thornbills** were plentiful there, and quite agitated, so were almost certainly nesting in some of the dense shrubbery near the dam.



Black-throated Finch

Sandra Henderson



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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 September – Callum Brae NR

Meet at the Narrabundah Lane entrance to the reserve at 9am. The walk is mainly on vehicle tracks and is around 6km total. Bring water and wear sturdy walking shoes. There have been over 150 species seen at Callum Brae, so we should end up with a good bird list. No need to book.

Sandra Henderson

Saturday 14 September - Bluett's Block

Bluett's Block is one of the few remaining areas of natural bushland containing heath in the south of Canberra. We need to appreciate this wonderful heathland and varied habitat, where orchids can be found in the springtime and before the encroaching suburb of Denman Prospect makes an impact. I find that this is one of the best birding areas in all of the south of Canberra, for its seasonal diversity and for regular species such as **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Eastern Yellow Robin, White-throated Treecreeper, Scarlet Robin**, thornbills, whistlers, pardalotes, parrots and birds of prey. Especially in springtime, the well-groomed fire trail walks are ringing with birdcalls. Red-necked Wallabies and a few kangaroos are also seen when they thump away through Red Stringybark trees. There are also very fine views from the top of the hills all around Canberra.

The walk will commence at 8.30am. To get to the start of the walk, drive from Stromlo Forest Park for 2 km on Uriarra Road, at which point you will see on your left the end of a bicycle track which runs parallel to Uriarra Road. Park near the gate on the left hand side of the road. Please take care, as cars often travel along here very fast.

This will mostly be an uphill walk but we will take it in gentle stages to listen. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water to drink. All are welcome and there is no need to book.

Jean Casburn

Nature Lodge Optics

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

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

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

Major brands such as Steiner, Zeiss,



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

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

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

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

The helpful and informative website www.binoculars4u.com.au is regularly updated but is no substitute for personal service and recommendation which is always on hand.

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

Wednesday 18 September - Hume

Meet at 0900 on Couranga Cres. A map is on the [COG website](#).

Martin Butterfield

Sunday 22 September - Sherwood Homestead Complex

The Sherwood Homestead Complex is a European settler homestead site located on Uriarra Creek in the Blue Range Hut/Uriarra State Forest area. The homestead was occupied from 1863 to 1922. In September, the descendants of the daffodils planted there at that time should be in flower, a magnificent sight. More information on the Sherwood Homestead Complex is available online at <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2015-661/default.asp> and <http://tinyurl.com/jtwlhev>.

Please rendezvous for carpooling in the carpark of the Stromlo Forest Park at 8.00 am. We will drive to the Blue Range Hut and do a circular walk from there, about 10 km total distance, a bit hilly. Suggested contribution from each passenger to drivers: \$5. We expect to arrive back in Canberra early to mid-afternoon. Please bring your lunch and water. There are toilets at the starting of the walk (Blue Range Hut) but not at the 'Sherwood' site.

For further information, please contact the trip leader, David McDonald, at phone 6238 3706 or 0416 231 890, or email sherwood2019@canberrabirds.org.au.

Sunday 29 September – Namadgi Visitors Centre

Meet in the carpark at the Visitor Centre at 9am. We'll explore the woodland next to the Visitor Centre, stroll down to the river, and may cross the road to look at the lowest slope of Mt Tennent. There is no need to book.

Sandra Henderson

Saturday 5 October – Percival Hill

Meet at 8.00am on the dam wall of Gungahlin Pond. About a kilometre from the junction of Gundaroo Drive and the Barton Highway, turn into Candlebark Close. Drive to the end of Candlebark and park there, or in one of the little side streets like Platypus or Lyrebird. The dam wall will be obvious from anywhere there and we will meet in the middle.

Percival Hill never disappoints. There are several different habitats which are usually very active in spring. Percival Hill rises from reedy Ginninderra Creek. While much of the eastern slope of Percival Hill is new growth, planted about 20 years ago by Landcare but getting quite mature now, there is a significant old growth stand on its west. Expect well over 30 species on the list.

John Harris

Sunday 13 October – K2C surveys, Bredbo area

COG will continue with the K2C surveys that have been running since April 2010. The surveyed properties have healthy populations of many of the rarer woodland birds such as **Diamond Firetail**, **Hooded Robin** and **Speckled Warbler**. We will be visiting the same sites to continue the monitoring and see if we can add to the property lists with spring-summer migrants. The surveys will be undertaken in 'blitz' fashion; that is, observers in small groups will visit a number of sites on one or more properties before regrouping for lunch and a sharing of the survey's findings. Less experienced observers are welcome to join in the survey as each team will have at least one experienced observer. Anyone interested in participating is asked to contact Nicki Taws **before Wednesday 9 October**. Email: ntaws@bigpond.com or 0408 210 736.

Nicki Taws

Sunday 20 October – Glendale, Namadgi NP

Meet at 8am at Namadgi Visitor Centre for carpooling. We will drive out to Glendale Depot, and walk around the depot area for a couple of hours. Some of the walking will be off-track, but not difficult. We may also stop at the Glendale picnic area and at the Naas Rd/Apollo Rd intersection, the latter being one of the places **Hooded Robins** are sometimes reported. There is no need to book.

Sandra Henderson

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 October – COG Bird Blitz

See notice elsewhere in this newsletter (page 4).

Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 November – Eden pelagics

COG will be running two pelagic trips on the first weekend in November. Cost is not finalised but is likely to be about \$130 per day. You need to be in Eden ready to board the boat at 7am (and we are usually back in Eden by 3pm) on the day of your trip. If you are interested, please let me know at shirmax2931@gmail.com. Note that financial members are given priority, although places may be available to non-members closer to the dates of the outings. Please specify whether you want to do the Saturday or Sunday trip (or both). The boat we use takes 12 passengers each day.

There are still a couple of vacancies on Saturday and plenty of places left for Sunday.

Sandra Henderson

DIARY DATE:
'Wings on King' Spring Surveys,
7-10 November, 2019

Have you been birding in beautiful King Island yet? Come and join in gathering spring bird data while enjoying the spring wildflowers adorning the island. Join Mark Holdsworth on a field trip to learn about and hopefully see our critically endangered subspecies. Most importantly - come to King Island and have fun, working with like minds in the conservation of birds.

Registrations will open in mid-September. Booking flights and accommodation as soon as possible is highly recommended. Find out more <https://www.birdsofkingisland.com/launch-2017>

Painted Honeyeaters

Never seen a **Painted Honeyeater** and would like to? Are you a keen photographer and want a photograph of one? The bird is a mistletoe specialist and is listed on the NSW Threatened Species List.



Painted honeyeater *Both photos by Geoffrey Dabb*

Tony Hunt from Sydney, and Mark Clayton and Richard Allen are running a banding project targeting **Painted Honeyeaters** just out of the small village of Ungarie, roughly half an hour's drive northwest of West Wyalong. If traveling to Lake Cargelligo and/or Round Hill Nature Reserve you go through Ungarie on the way.

The banding site is a small patch of roadside *Acacia pendula* (Weeping Myall or Weeping Boree) just on 1 km past the village on the left hand side of the road and just before the road swings left over the railway line. We have been colour banding the birds with a master colour and metal band on one leg and two colours on the other. The male birds in particular are very vocal and obvious doing their spectacular territorial display flights from about mid-September until about April when they depart for who knows where!

If you do see or photograph any colour banded birds, please let me or Richard know the date, time and, if away from our banding site, the location, preferably with a GPS recording, and if in *A. pendula* or some other species. I can let you know when the bird was banded. Even photos with partially obscured bands could be useful. Likewise, if you find any "concentrations" of Painted Honeyeaters we would be most interested.

Thank you.

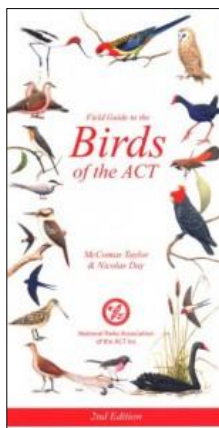
Mark Clayton

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

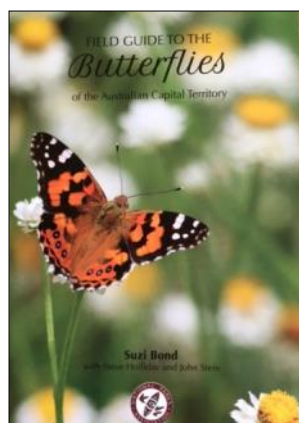


Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT

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.



Field Guide to the Butterflies of the ACT

Suzi Bond, with Steve Holliday and John Stein

A beautiful book with detailed notes and photographs of the wide range of butterflies found across the Australian Capital Territory.

Dr Suzi Bond is a member of COG and a Visiting Fellow at the ANU where she researches the butterflies found in the ACT. Her research is driven by a fascination for our local butterfly fauna and a desire to better understand their populations and ecology.

With contributions from Steve Holliday and John Stein this book is a must for anyone interested in the butterflies of the ACT.

Members' Price: \$27.



Finding Australian Birds: A Field Guide to Birding Locations

Tim Dolby, Rohan Clarke

This book covers over 400 Australian bird watching sites conveniently grouped into the best birding areas, from one end of the country to the other.

Member's price \$37.

Canberra Birds Conservation Fund

Donations to this fund are tax deductible. Funds are used to support projects that protect and enhance native birds and the environments that sustain them.

COG membership

2019-2020 memberships:

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

New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

L Wallace
M Rebentrost
L Mernagh
J Layton (rejoining)
S Kimball

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for October 2019 edition:

Wednesday 25 September 2019

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

gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au

or

c/- The Secretary COG,

PO Box 301 Civic Square, ACT 2608

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

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

COG information

President: Neil Hermes
0413 828 045

president@canberrabirds.org.au

Treasurer: Prue Watters

cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au

Secretary: Bill Graham

cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au

Address for correspondence

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

Canberra Bird Notes

Editor: Michael Lenz

lenzmj@hotmail.com.au

COG website

canberrabirds.org.au

COG Webmaster

Julian Robinson

cogwebmaster@canberrabirds.org.au

COG library

Membership Enquiries & Updates:

membership@canberrabirds.org.au

for change of address or other details.

Gang-gang Newsletter

Editor: Sue Lashko

gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au

Lay-out Editor: Wendy Whitham

Publication Sales

Kathy Walter

sales@canberrabirds.org.au

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. 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.

If you wish to re-subscribe after being unsubscribed temporarily, simply follow the 'subscribe' instructions above.

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