



# Gang-gang

**AUGUST 2021**

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

## AUGUST MEETING

**Wednesday 11 August 2021  
7.30pm  
normal face-to-face meeting**

*Following the approval of our COVID Safety Plan, COG will again hold our 11 August meeting as a face-to-face one at the usual venue, Canberra Girls Grammar School (CGGS) Multi-media centre, corner Gawler Cres and Melbourne Ave, Deakin.*

At the time of publication it is expected the 11 August meeting will be conducted under the same arrangements as previously for 2021, as despite the Sydney/NSW situation the ACT Government has not yet made any changes to the current restrictions. However, the situation could change very quickly and before attending everyone should check:

<https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/updates> and

<http://canberrabirds.org.au/category/meetings/> in case there are any changes.

Short presentation Susan Wishart: 'Hooked: where swans and recreational interests intersect'

Main presentation Geoffrey Dabb: 'The distribution, movements and status of the South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo'

Attendees will need to sit so that there is only one person per 2 sq m and with

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

The weather over the 4 weeks from 30 June covered by this column has mostly been cloudy, and often wet, windy and cold, with only a few of the clear frosty days usually typical of July. As may be expected, bird activity within the COG Area of Interest (Aoi) has seen the quietest month so far in 2021, with just a couple of spring/summer migrants surprisingly overwintering in small numbers, but a couple which often stay present only in very small numbers.

The most notable observations were perhaps those related to a possible mice plague in the ACT, with from 16 July **Barn Owls** being reported from 6 different locations, the most recent one being observed on the Kings Highway a few kilometres inside the ACT's eastern border on 24 July. The observations include one on the ground being attacked by **Australian Ravens**, **Pied Currawongs**, **Australian Magpies** and **Noisy Miners** at the Royal Canberra Golf Club. Luckily Lindell Emerton was able to pick it up and take it to wildlife care. As the

*Continued Page 3*

Graham Stephenson



Eastern Barn Owl

**Everyone welcome**

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## AUGUST MEETING *continued from Page 1*

**1.5 m distancing, by maintaining 2 spare seats between people except for members of the same family or group of close contacts.**

**All attendees must practice good hand and respiratory hygiene and stay home if unwell.**

**As required by the ACT Government for application of the 2 sq m per person rule, the 'Check in CBR' app will be used to collect participants' contact details, using the QR code displayed at the entrance to the venue.**

**If attendees do not have or cannot share this app, COG will make a paper record of their names and contact details.**

**Proposed attendees should make themselves familiar with COG's approved COVID Safety Plan for CCGS, the full details of which are available on COG's web site.**

The first presentation will be by **Susan Wishart**, a volunteer with ACT Wildlife, and is titled '**Hooked: where swans and recreational interests intersect**'.

ACT Wildlife is experiencing increasing occurrences of Black Swans and other waterbirds being entangled in abandoned fishing lines and pierced by fishing lures. As part of its Waterbird Entanglement Strategy, ACT Wildlife is looking to raise the awareness of governments, organisations such as COG, and members of the public on the welfare issues for these beautiful animals caused by entanglements. This presentation will focus on swans in the Canberra region.

The main presentation will be by **Geoffrey Dabb** and is titled: '**The distribution, movements and status of the South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo (GBC), an occasional visitor to Canberra**'.

This is an updated and expanded version of a short talk that was given in May without the availability of graphic material. Such material is needed to explore what we know and don't know about this interesting species. The presentation draws on a range of sources, being roughly 70% from the literature and online sources, 20% from informants, and 10% from the presenter's own observations.

The points considered include: what is a GBC? – a couple of points about the unsatisfactory name; 1788 to the mid-1970s – changing perceptions about where the species has occurred, and confusion with the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo; the problem of mapping the core range, and determining the status of the species in different places; food trees, and feeding, with a note on origin of the name 'Pilliga'; the species around Canberra; 2020 – a year of unusual reports and behaviours.

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## Garden Bird Survey

We are quickly approaching the end of the Garden Bird Survey year, the final day being 2 July 2021. New charts will be available at the August COG Members Night. If you take a chart could you please provide your name and contact details so that I know who is contributing to the 2021-22 survey year.

If you cannot attend the August meeting please contact me and I will make arrangements to pick up any old charts and provide replacements.

Chris Davey ([chris\\_davey@aapt.net.au](mailto:chris_davey@aapt.net.au))

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

*continued from Page 1*

nearest recent sighting outside of the ACT is on 28 June at Cowra over 150 km to the north, it is unclear whether this influx is due to a growing mice problem in the ACT, or whether they are roaming wider due to a lesser availability of mice in mid-winter. So please keep an eye out for this species. Given the relatively mild minimum temperature with few severe frosts I expect mice numbers will increase once it warms up.

An indication that there are still mice around is the number of locations for the **Black-shouldered Kite** which rose from 9 in June to 16 in July, with one report of them catching mice and calling just north of Coppins Crossing on 3 July, where they were also reported carrying sticks on 14 July. Another sign of them breeding was Benjamin Serafin seeing 2 together over Yass Gorge on 11 July, chasing and grappling and making a bit of noise, which was agreed as possible courtship display.

More support for the availability of mice is Archer Callaway on 1 July reporting 3 unique pairs of **Nankeen Kestrels** on a 4 km stretch of Uriarra Rd. He noted that if the pair that had been out at the **Black-shouldered Kite** spot was another, that made 4 pairs in 5 km. He also noted it must be a real feast out there, as he hadn't seen so many in months. He had photographed an **Australian Raven** catching mice there, and Deb and Rod Ralph had photographed **Laughing Kookaburras** eating mice in the area too. Amazingly there are reports for the **Nankeen Kestrel** from close to 70 locations on the eBird map over the period.

An indication of how quiet it has been otherwise is that there were only 3 reports of **Swift Parrots**, all from Kambah/the top of Lake Tuggeranong, with a maximum of 5 birds and the last report from

*Julian Robinson*

**Black-shouldered Kite**



**Australian  
Ornithological  
Services P/L**

PO Box 385  
South Yarra 3141  
Victoria

Mob: 04173 10200

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

Good birding, good food

**2022**

**The Gulf Country**

9 — 26 May 2022

Cairns, Karumba, Burketown, Mt Isa,  
Winton

**Atherton Tablelands**

30 May — 4 June 2022

**Top End**

22 June — 5 July 2022

Darwin, Kakadu, Katherine, Kununurra,  
Mitchell Plateau charters 6 July 2022

**Central Australia**

21 — 31 August 2022

Alice Springs, West MacDonnell Ranges,  
Yulara, Erdunda, Marla

**Nullarbor Plain**

3 — 18 September 2022

**2023 tours**

**Atherton Tablelands & Iron Range**

May 2023

**Atherton Tablelands & Iron Range**

June 2023

**Pilbara WA**

July 2023

Contact Patricia Maher for itineraries.

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



Rose Robin

Julian Robinson

there on 16 July. As it seems too early for them to have started on their return journey to Tasmania, it is unclear where they may have gone, with the nearest other observations in the period being up to 5 birds a few kilometres south of Cowra, over 150 km to the north.

Of the species which move into Canberra and its surrounds in autumn/winter from the mountains and other higher areas, the **Scarlet Robin** has been widely reported, with about 25 of the around 45 locations being from urban/peri-urban areas. This is again despite a number of observers noting that there have been few (if any) at some of their usual spots such as Mt Rogers and Narrabundah Hill. I haven't been able to re-locate them on Cooleman Ridge, though a number of other birders have. In contrast the **Flame Robin** again seems to have been rather difficult to find in July, with only 9 of the 20 locations from which it has been reported being urban/peri-urban.

The **Rose Robin** has been reported from 7 locations, 5 of them urban/peri-urban and all east of the Murrumbidgee River. There were again no further reports of the **Pink Robin** during the period. The **Crescent Honeyeater** has been reported from 10 locations in the period, all of them to the west or south of Canberra, but with only 2 of them peri-urban, from Tuggeranong Hill and Cooleman Ridge (but still none in my nearby Chapman garden or local area). A lone **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** was further reported by several observers from Tuggeranong Hill and Tuggeranong Hill NR—south up to 4 July, and then up to 2 birds from Mt Majura NR from 18-21 July.

The overwintering spring/summer migrant **Rufous Songlark** was again photographed at Naas Road at Apollo Road, this time by Tod Spencer on 10 July. Given the popularity of this spot it is surprising that no-one else has reported it, as on each occasion it has been out in the relative open rather than skulking in the bushes. Ben Ward photographed an adult **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** there on 6 July, and it too was in the open perched on a dead tree on the hill. The BIRD INFO data on the COG website indicates this is a rare winter sighting. The **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, the least migratory of the local cuckoos, was still reported from 7 locations, the most recent being from The Pinnacle NR on 17 July.

Of those still present in June, the **Noisy Friarbird** was still reported from 3 locations, with single birds at The Pinnacle NR, Tuggeranong Hill NR—south, and most recently from the Googong Dam western foreshores on 11 July. Though in small numbers it is rare for this species to be reported in either June or July according to the BIRD INFO data on the COG website. The **Tree Martin** was still reported from 3 locations, most recently from Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR on 18 July. A **White-throated Gerygone** was still reported by Paul Fennell on his Majura Military Training Area COG woodland survey on 28 June; again the BIRD INFO data on the COG website shows this to be a rare winter sighting. The **Western Gerygone**, which has been reported during winter a bit more often, was still reported from 2 locations, most recently from Campbell Park on 14 July, with a number of observers reporting up to 2 birds at Namadgi NP Visitors Centre up to 12 July.

The **Rufous Whistler** was reported from only the single location, with 2 birds seen at Lake Ginninderra on 21 July. In contrast the **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** and **Grey Fantail** were reported from around 25 and over 80 locations respectively, being still present up to the time of writing, with both showing a distinct preference for urban/peri-urban locations. **Yellow-faced** and **White-naped Honeyeaters** were again reported from around 50 locations each, and the **Fuscous Honeyeater** from 14 locations, indicating all 3 species are overwintering in good numbers. This also applies to the **Superb Parrot** which has been reported from around 24 locations (ten of them south of the lake), with over 50 birds seen in Mapleton St Harrison on 17 July, close to where 70 birds were reported a month earlier.

This contrasts with the **Dusky Woodswallow**, reported from just the single location, Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR, most recently 7 birds on 25 July, again showing its preference to be near water when overwintering. Up to two **Olive-backed Orioles** were still reported from 4 locations, most recently on 27 July from the ANBG. Single **Mistletoebirds** were reported from 4 locations, most recently from Ginninderry Conservation Corridor on 15 July. So, during August please keep an eye out for the above late-leaving or overwintering, or perhaps early returning spring/summer migrants.

No new (for 2021) "unusual" species were reported during the period, and their numbers again seem to well down. Up to 18 **Plumed Whistling Ducks** have been reported only from Trucking Yard Lane dam at Bungendore. Deb and Rod Ralph photographed a pair of **Australian Shelducks** flying over Isabella Pond on 18 July, and they were reported from around 6 locations to the north and east of Canberra. Up to 3 **Blue-billed Ducks** were reported from Isabella Pond and the adjacent



Upper Stranger Pond up to 12 July, and (other than from Tidbinbilla NR Sanctuary) up to 2 **Musk Ducks** were reported from just 3 locations.

Up to 7 **Stubble Quail** were reported from 6 locations over the period, and up to 8 **Brown Quail** were reported from 5 locations, including NW Cooleman Ridge where I flushed 8 birds on 5 July. The only **Painted Button-quail** reported over the period were by David Dedenczuk from Black Mountain NR, where on 4 July he photographed at least 4, but possibly more in the covey. The birds were scurrying around, without taking flight. Earlier he was excited to find their platelets. However, no **Little Button-quail** or **Great Crested Grebes** were reported during the period.

A **White-headed Pigeon** was reported from 2 southside locations on 6 and 18 July, respectively, and a **Peaceful Dove** at the Glendale Depot on 24 July, but again no **Diamond Doves** were reported during the period; it still has not been reported in the ACT in 2021. A **Caspian Tern** was observed at the Fyshwick Sewage Treatment Plant on 22 July. **Southern Boobooks** have been reported from 2 local locations; both of these were of birds calling while it was dark.

An **Azure Kingfisher** was reported from a pond in Macgregor on 4-5 and 13 July. Two **Musk Lorikeets** were reported only from Kaleen on 21 July. A female and then a male **Scarlet Honeyeater** were reported from the Curtin horse paddocks on 13 and 21 July, respectively, and a further male at Mt Majura NR on 18 and 20 July. Finally, a **Singing Honeyeater** was reported from Bonner shops on 18 July, the fourth location within the COG Aol from which this species has been reported in 2021.

Of the birds I have been asking readers to keep a special lookout for continuing into 2021, there were confirmed reports of the **Jacky Winter** from just 3 known locations in the southern half of the ACT during the period, with 4 birds seen on Top Naas Rd on 10 July. Up to 4 **Hooded Robins** were also reported from 4 locations, 2 of them new, at least for 2021. Up to 2 **Restless Flycatchers** were reported from 2 locations in the period, one of them being new (Glendale Depot).

Apart from the **Black-shouldered Kites** mentioned above there has been limited breeding come to my attention, the most notable being Danny McCreadie observing **Brown Thornbills** nest building in Namadgi NP early in July. The BIRD INFO data on the COG website contains just 3 reports of their nest building in July, with another report of on/leaving the nest. I have still

observed cases of adult **Sulphur-Crested Cockatoos** feeding a begging young in my local area through July. Though I have been hearing the **Common Blackbird** call before sunrise, the **Australian Magpies** still seem to be keeping to their winter groups.



Silver Gulls, Parliament House

Nick Payne

A number of mixed feeding flocks (MFF) have still been observed throughout the month, an indication that the breeding season for the smaller birds is yet to commence in earnest. So please continue to look out for these in July.

While walking around Parliament House on 25 July, Nick Payne noticed that the grevilleas in the middle of the forecourt water feature, where the **Silver Gulls** were roosting and nesting last year, had been covered over by netting. He

noted, however, that it didn't seem to deter the gulls with his photo showing around 400 (by my rough count) on the nets. It will be interesting to see if they still manage to breed there this season.

So please watch out for any of the overwintering spring/summer migrants mentioned above, as well as any early returning species such as the **Fairy Martin** and local cuckoos, for the altitudinal migrants, for MFFs and single species flocks, for roost sites and flights, and for any late winter breeding activity. Please also continue to keep a special look out for the **Restless Flycatcher**, **Jacky Winter** and **Hooded Robin**. 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

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## COG's cogs - No 3

This is the third piece in our series about the people behind the scenes who keep the gears of COG clicking over. Without this legion of volunteers everything would grind to a halt. This week we're meeting Kathy, the keeper of COG's book store.

Kathy's interest in birds was kindled from a young age. Her parents were keen birders; her father once stalked **Letter-winged Kites** in an old Tiger Moth and even managed to track down their nesting site from the air.

Her association with COG stretches back to 1989 when she first moved to Canberra. There was a certain allure about getting out into the bush and visiting new places with likeminded people. Thirty plus years later and this is still COG's drawcard. There was a brief gap in Kathy's membership, but she found her way back to the flock in 1997, and it was a good thing too, because if it wasn't for COG she never would have met her husband, John. As Kathy likes to tell it they met at the impossibly romantic location of the sewage ponds.

Kathy has filled a few different roles for the group. After having worked in publishing she spent many years doing the design and layout for the Gang-gang newsletter. She was also involved in designing a number of other COG publications such as Birds of Canberra Gardens.

It wasn't until 2014 that Kathy slipped into the role she now has on the publications desk. She's got a keen eye for any book that might touch on the local Canberra environment and wildlife. COG gets a discount on titles which makes it especially cheap for COG members. It can take a bit of leg work to work out if a title will be popular with the members and then settle on a price and placing the order with the publishers, but there are certain benefits to the role. Kathy (with the help of John) has always found the sales desk to be a focus for people at meetings and, for anyone who likes talking books or birds or both, it's a nice way to swap recommendations or give birding advice to beginners.

These days Kathy and John are making the most of retirement, which often takes them away from Canberra during the COG meetings (COVID allowing), so if anyone is interested to try their hand on the sales desk from time to time Kathy would be happy to show them the ropes. For anyone new to the organisation it is a great way to meet the locals.

If anyone is interested you can always reach Kathy at [sales@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:sales@canberrabirds.org.au)

### *Acknowledgements*

Kathy Walter and Nathan Finger

Julian Robinson for title to this series



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## Committee news

The COG committee met on 22 July for its monthly meeting.

The committee thanks everyone who completed the survey about whether COG should consider changing its name. The committee will look at the responses and report back to members as soon as it can.

The committee is making contingency plans for members' meetings in case the ACT is required to go into lock-down because of COVID-19.

The strength of COG's reputation as a source of reliable data and information about local birds has been reinforced by the nine requests for advice received in the last month. Thank you to everyone who contributes their sightings and helps with COG's many different types of survey.

As noted elsewhere in this edition of Gang-gang, the committee has developed a Code of Conduct for members.

Neil Hermes *President*      Alison Mackerras *Minutes Secretary*

## Canberra Ornithologists Group Code of Conduct

At its most recent meeting the COG Committee has agreed to a COG Code of Conduct as set out below. It was felt necessary that it would be useful to have an agreed Code that could provide a guide to the behaviour expected of all COG members regardless of their position or level of involvement within the group. I don't believe there is anything in the code that is not perfectly reasonable but a formal Code does serve the purpose of setting a standard that is now easy to understand by all.

### Code of Conduct

**Purpose:** to articulate the basic standard of behaviour expected by COG committee members, and by volunteers and members when they are representing COG or participating in COG activities.

**All COG members shall:**

- act respectfully to all birders, whether or not they are members of COG
- not persistently and wilfully act in a manner prejudicial to the interests of COG.

**In addition, COG volunteers shall:**

- practice common courtesy when dealing with COG members and members of the public
- act in the best interests of COG.

**In addition, COG Committee members shall:**

- act impartially in decision-making and their interaction with COG members
- adhere to the Objects and Rules of the Association (the COG 'constitution', [canberrabirds.org.au/about-cog/cog-rules/](http://canberrabirds.org.au/about-cog/cog-rules/)).

Neil Hermes  
President  
COG Committee  
22 July 2021

## Proposed Survey of Bush Stone-curlew at Mulligans Flat Sanctuary

The Canberra Ornithologists Group has been involved in the reintroduction program for the Bush Stone-curlew at the Mulligans Flat Sanctuary since the start of the program in 2013. The Group has donated funds for the construction of the soft-release aviary and for the purchase of radio tracking equipment. In 2018 the Group organised a survey in the Sanctuary to determine the status of the population. After an interval of nearly three years we wish to resurvey the Sanctuary on 7 and again on 14 August 2021. We hope to assess the number of birds in the area to help determine the success of the reintroduction project and in particular to determine the number and location of unmarked individuals.

The survey will involve searching allocated areas over a three-hour period starting around 8:00am. The Sanctuary will be divided into 12 areas and each will be surveyed by volunteers over a period of three hours. The location of any Bush Stone-curlew will be recorded and photographs taken to identify individuals. I am therefore seeking volunteers with cameras that can capture an image of a leg-flag on a Bush Stone-curlew at a distance of 50m. This involves a camera equipped with a 200-400mm zoom lens. It will be great but not essential if you are in a position to volunteer for either morning but for safety reasons you will need a mobile phone. It will not be a requirement to have previous experiences with Stone-curlews but it would be an advantage. As an incentive, refreshments will be provided at the end of each morning's survey

If you wish to participate or to obtain further details please contact Chris Davey ([chris\\_davey@aapt.net.au](mailto:chris_davey@aapt.net.au)).

Chris Davey

## Publications for Sale

COG provides a range of birdwatching related publications for sale to members at discounted prices. You can purchase publications at meetings or contact Kathy on [sales@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:sales@canberrabirds.org.au) if you would like to purchase a publication.

### **Black Mountain: a natural history of a Canberra icon**

*Ian Fraser and Rosemary Purdie with Friends of Black Mountain*

This book takes us to the ecological heart of Black Mountain, in the heart of Canberra, a conservation reserve since 1970. Find out about the area's geological evolution, its native plants and animals and their habitats, how the biodiversity has changed over the last three decades, and how species survive fires and storms and are affected by invaders. Meet the enthusiastic professional and citizen scientists who have been keenly documenting and studying more than 640 plant species and thousands of insects and other animals living on the mountain, and learn about the challenges for maintaining the area's natural values in the coming decades.

This attractive and richly illustrated book is published to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Black Mountain Nature Reserve. It is a good read for the general public as well as ecologists, conservationists, and senior secondary and tertiary students, with clues to explore and protect this special place, now and into the future.

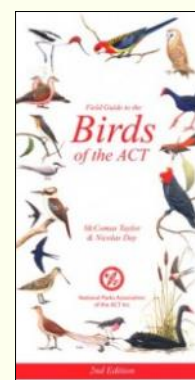
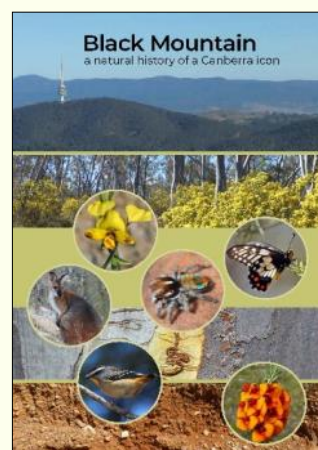
**Members' Price: \$30**

### **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.**





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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.

### Be Covid-safe on COG field trips:

Maintain social distancing of 1.5 metres  
Maintain hand hygiene

**DO NOT ATTEND** if you have any cold or flu symptoms

### Sunday 8 August - Jerrawa Creek Travelling Stock Reserve, Dalton Cemetery and Berrebangalo TSR

**Description:** These sites are near Gunning with good connectivity to woodlands and fields. Dalton Cemetery is in the bosky village of Dalton with **Crested Shrike-tits** and **Australian Owlet Nightjar**. Jerrawa Creek TSR is a new site with **Pied Butcherbird** and more species to be discovered. Berrebangalo TSR is a hotspot for raptors.

**Meeting time and place:** Netball Centre Lyneham at 8.00 am for carpooling. Suggested contribution for petrol - \$8 per passenger.

**Walking distance:** Dalton 0.8 km, Jerrawa Ck 1.6 km and Berrebangalo 2 km

**Degree of difficulty:** easy

**End time:** 4.00 pm at Lyneham

**What to bring:** water, morning tea, lunch, sunscreen, water, sturdy shoes, hat.

Participants must register with the leader at least 36 hours in advance, providing their name and mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact

**Numbers:** limited to 16.

**Name of leader and contact details:** Bill Graham at 0466874723 or [graham.br63@grapevine.com.au](mailto:graham.br63@grapevine.com.au)

### Saturday 14 August – Gungahlin Cemetery

A beautiful setting for a morning walk, with nice cover for small bush birds and mixed feeding flocks. I have previously recorded 45 species in a 3 hour walk.

Meet ready for a 9am start outside the pedestrian entry at the junction of Hoskins St and Lysaght St.

eBird hotspot: <https://ebird.org/australia/hotspot/L2543425>

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Walking distance: 2.5km easy

End time (approx.): 11:30am

Numbers restricted to 16.

**Registration essential at least 36 hours in advance** - name and mobile for yourself and an emergency contact to Archer Callaway ryu\_is\_gr8(at)[yahoo.co.jp](mailto:ryu_is_gr8@yahoo.co.jp)

### Wednesday 18 August – Jerrabomberra Wetlands

Meet in the carpark at the end of Dairy Road at 9am. Easy walking, although it may be wet underfoot in parts. The walk will be 2-3 hours. **Please register, at least 36 hours in advance**, with Sandra Henderson at [shirmax2931@gmail.com](mailto:shirmax2931@gmail.com)

### Sunday 22 August – private property at Forbes Creek via Hoskinstown

**Description:** Mixed-eucalypt forest, including post-burn regeneration; garden around house. Arrange of forest species expected including **Eastern Yellow Robin, White-throated Treecreeper, thornbill species, Australian King Parrot, rosellas, Wonga Pigeon and Laughing Kookaburra.**

**Meeting time and place:** 8.00 am, Spotlight car park, Queanbeyan

**Walking distance:** 4 km

**Degree of difficulty:** medium

**End time (approx.):** 12.00pm

**What to bring:** water, morning tea

**Registration:** participants must register with the leader at least 36 hours in advance, providing their name and mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact

**Numbers limited:** maximum of 16

**Name of leaders and contact details:** Peter Smith 0427 879 774 [smith.peter899@gmail.com](mailto:smith.peter899@gmail.com)

(assisted by John Brannan)

### Sunday 29 August – The Pinnacle Nature Reserve

**Description:** Peri-urban Canberra Nature Park reserve with a mixture of vegetation types, including remnant dry sclerophyll (Red Stringybark) forest, grassy box woodland, planted woodland and areas of open grassland. Possible birds include **Scarlet Robin, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Speckled Warbler**, various thornbills, **Weebill, White-throated Treecreeper, Golden Whistler**, various honeyeaters, etc.

**Meeting time and place:** 9.00 am at the reserve entrance at the end of Dungowan St, Hawker. On-street parking is available on Dungowan St.

**Walking distance:** 4-5 km

**Degree of difficulty:** Easy to medium

**End time (approx.):** 11.30

**What to bring:** Water, morning tea

**Participants must register with the leader at least 36 hours in advance**, providing their name and mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact

**Numbers limited:** Yes (15)

Name of leader and contact details:

John Brannan

Email: [johnbrannan@tpg.com.au](mailto:johnbrannan@tpg.com.au)

Mob.: 0405 331 405

### Tuesday 31 August to Friday 3 September - Tathra

**Description:** This is a mid-week trip to Tathra staying for 3 nights in the Kianinny Bush Cottages located in bushland just outside Tathra. There will be bird walks around our accommodation as well as excursions to sites within Mimosa Rocks National Park and nearby wetlands. We can expect to see around 100 species including **Glossy Black Cockatoos, Superb Lyrebirds, Crescent Honeyeaters, Hooded Plovers**, other shorebirds and seabirds.

**Meeting time and place:** Drive to Kianinny Cottages on the morning of 31 August. Expect a bird walk that afternoon from about 1.30pm.

**Walking distance:** 2-5 km each day

**What to bring:** Self-catering or dinner at Tathra Hotel or other eateries in town. Packed lunches some days. More detailed information will be provided to those who register.

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**Participants must register** with the leader, providing their name and mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact

**Numbers limited:** Yes. Five cottages have been booked. Each cottage has 2 bedrooms, one with a queen sized bed and another with twin beds, plus bathroom, kitchen and living area. When you register, if you wish to share a cabin with particular people, please notify the leader. The cost will depend on the number in each cabin. The cost for one cabin for 3 nights with 3 people sharing is approximately \$505 (ie about \$170 per person for a 3 night stay).

**Name of leader and contact details:** Prue Watters [prue.watters@gmail.com](mailto:prue.watters@gmail.com) 0414 357 456

### Sunday 5 September – Reedy Creek TSR, Mt Fairy/Boro area

**Description:** We will visit this fine Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR) in the Mount Fairy/Boro area. It is located along the Goulburn Road north of the Kings Highway. It is a beautiful woodland area that is part of a five-year TSR conservation and restoration project being conducted by the Molonglo Conservation Group. The iconic **Scarlet Robin** is a possibility, along with other box/gum woodland birds, probably including some returning migrant species.

**eBird hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/australia/hotspot/L3895125>

**Meeting time and place:** 08:00 am at the Spotlight carpark, Bungendore Road, Queanbeyan, for optional carpooling

**Walking distance:** 5 km approx.

**Degree of difficulty:** Easy

**End time (approx.):** 12:00 noon

**What to bring:** Water & morning tea

**Need to register:** Yes, at least 36 hours in advance, by email or text to the trip leader, giving name, mobile number, and emergency contact name and number.

**Name of leader and contact details:** David McDonald, email david [at] [dnmcdonald.id.au](mailto:dnmcdonald.id.au), phone 0416 231 890.

**Numbers limited:** maximum 15.

### Sunday 12 September – Pejar and Crookwell

**Location:** Pejar Dam, Jean Todkill Park Dam (Crookwell)

**Description:** Both dams are hotspots for raptors; Pejar has had 11 species and Jean Todkill 10 including **Little Eagle**, **Black Kite** and **Spotted Harrier**. Many waterbirds are present with highlights being **Great-crested Grebes**, **Musk Duck**, **Blue-billed Duck** and **Whiskered Tern**. **Fairy Martins** occur on St Stephens Road.

**Meeting time and place:** Netball Centre Lyneham at 7.30 am for carpooling.

**Walking distance:** Pejar Dam (St Stephens Road 0.5 km, main picnic area 1 km, North Arm 1 km) and Jean Todkill Park Dam 1 km.

**Degree of difficulty:** easy

**End time** 4.30 pm at Lyneham

**What to bring:** water, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, sunscreen, water, sturdy shoes, hat. A scope would be useful.

**Participants must register with the leader at least 36 hours in advance**, providing their name and mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact

**Numbers limited** to 16.

Name of leader and contact details: Bill Graham at 0466874723 or [graham.br63@grapevine.com.au](mailto:graham.br63@grapevine.com.au)

### Monday 13 to Friday 17 September – Yathong Nature Reserve

A midweek excursion to a prime patch of NSW mallee and associated woodlands.

Accommodation is in basic shearers quarters with shared facilities. Because of this numbers are limited to 14. The quarters have showers and a reasonable kitchen.

Yathong is about 600 kms from Canberra and should take about 6 ½ hours to get there, so an early start or a halfway stop is essential.

Birding in the mallee can be frustrating but extremely rewarding, especially if one comes upon such birds as **Malleefowl**, **Striated Grasswren**, **Southern Scrub-robin**, **Red-lored Whistler**, **Gilbert's Whistler** and heaps more. Now I cannot guarantee seeing any of these but they have been seen in the Reserve in the past. The Reserve also has extensive woodlands and dams which brings on different suites of birds.

You will need to take bedding, food, clothing suitable for both kinds of weather. The weather in spring can be quite unsettled (rain is not uncommon) so be prepared.

**Register** with Noel Luff ([noelluff@gmail.com](mailto:noelluff@gmail.com)); please provide your name(s) and mobile number, and the name and number of an emergency contact.

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### Sunday 19 September – venue required, leader required

If you could offer an outing on this date, please contact Sue Lashko at [smlashko@gmail.com](mailto:smlashko@gmail.com)

### Sunday 26 September – Bluetts Block

Bluetts Block is one of the few remaining areas of natural bushland containing heath in the south of Canberra and a vital connection for wildlife between the Molonglo River Corridor and the Murrumbidgee River. The Friends of Bluetts are hoping that the ACT Government will soon protect it as a conservation reserve.

I find this to be one of the best birding areas in all of the south of Canberra, for seasonal diversity and for regular species such as **Eastern Yellow Robin**, **White-throated Treecreeper**, **Scarlet Robin**, thornbills, whistlers, pardalotes, parrots, **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren** and birds of prey. Especially in springtime the well-groomed fire trail walks are ringing with birdcalls. Red-necked Wallaby and a few Grey Kangaroo are also seen when they thump away through Red Stringybark trees. There are very fine views from the survey point and during the last summer season following good rain many species of orchids were seen and photographed.

**Meet at 9.00am.** To get to the start of the walk drive from Stromlo Forest Park roundabout for 2.5 km on Uriarra Road, at which point you will see the end of a bicycle track on the left hand side which runs parallel to Uriarra road. Park near the gate on the left hand side of the road, or across the road alongside the white gate. Please take care, as cars often travel very fast along Uriarra Road. Be aware that it will be necessary to step through a loose wire strand fence to start the walk, unless you are good at climbing the gate (unless a key is made available).

This is mostly an uphill and down again walk but we will take it in gentle stages as we stop to listen for bird calls. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water to drink. All are welcome and there is no need to book. In case of questions: **Register at least 36 hours in advance** with Jean Casburn at [casburnj@bigpond.com](mailto:casburnj@bigpond.com), providing your name, mobile number and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact.

### Sunday 3 October – venue required

If you could offer an outing on this date, please contact Sue Lashko at [smlashko@gmail.com](mailto:smlashko@gmail.com)

### Sunday 10 October - K2C surveys Williamsdale - Bredbo

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 6 October**. Email: [ntaws@bigpond.com](mailto:ntaws@bigpond.com) or 0408 210736. Please provide your name and phone number, and the name and phone number of an emergency contact.



Long-billed Corella

*Archer Callaway*



Scarlet Robin

*Archer Callaway*



# Field Trip Reports

## Sunday 4 July – Tharwa Sandwash and Namadgi Visitors Centre

Arrangements had been made to meet at Lanyon Marketplace for carpooling, but given the current situation with Covid 19 requirements, this was revised to give participants the option to go directly to Tharwa Sandwash. Ultimately eleven members met at 9:15 am at Tharwa Sandwash. It was cool, but still as we walked downstream for a short distance. There were no waterbirds to be seen, but we heard **White-winged Choughs** and a small mixed feeding flock up by the road, so we went there for a look. Various thornbills were in the company of **Grey Fantails**. We then followed the vehicular track upstream, as the walking track closer to the river is overgrown with weeds and taken over by wombats. We did see a wombat, but he was very close to home and quickly disappeared. Highlights were a brief look at a **Speckled Warbler** and a small flock of **Red-browed Finches**. The leader had promised a chocolate frog to the person who found the resident pair of **Tawny Frogmouths** at the beginning of the outing. They didn't materialise until we had almost finished, within 30 metres of the carpark, where she spotted them herself. A total of 30 species was observed by the group.

We then decided to go to Namadgi Visitors Centre. There was nothing on the dam so we proceeded up towards the back fence to see if we could find the **Jacky Winter** that has been seen recently. We didn't find it but heard a **Grey Currawong** and were surprised to see a **Western Gerygone**. Some of our party heard a **Speckled Warbler** and saw a **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, which was being pursued by a **Grey Butcherbird**. The wind increased and it was getting cold, so we didn't spend much time there. In all 14 species were observed.

Lia Battison

## Saturday 17 July – Gungahlin Cemetery

This outing was postponed due to the inclement weather. We hope to reschedule it to a date in August.

## Wednesday 21 July – Gossan Hill

Sixteen COG members walked around Gossan Hill on a day which struggled to a maximum 12 degrees, but started off below zero. Surprisingly, around 30 species were seen, although robins eluded us on the day. Several of the group had not visited this site before. **Crimson Rosellas** and **Galaks** appeared to be selecting nest hollows, and several pairs of **Gang-gang Cockatoos** were moving around between the reserve and nearby gardens. **Eastern Spinebills** were feeding in the gardens on one side of the track.

Sandra Henderson



Eastern Spinebill

David Cook



### Birdwatchers & nature lover's accommodation

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

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

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

Fred & Jeanette Birkbeck

244 Clacherty Road  
Julatten QLD 4871

Tel: 07 4094 1665

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

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## 2021 Bird-A-Day Challenge – Part 1 – Archer Callaway

At the end of last year, I decided I'd revive the global [Bird-A-Day](#) challenge which had faded out in recent years since the demise of the last coordinator, with a Facebook group and shared spreadsheet to replace the defunct website. The challenge involves recording a unique species of bird each day for as many consecutive days as possible - only one bird each day, no days off, and no repeat birds. I'd given it perfunctory attempts before during high school, but this year I set myself the challenge of 90 days. The strategy is of course to use difficult birds when you can, and save the common species for rainy days or when you're too busy with work and study, and also to be on top of seasonal movements of when birds arrive and leave. You can't change your choices afterwards, so you need to anticipate what you're least likely to see or be able to find again. In the early days, it's all about making the right choices based on your local knowledge and statistics, while towards the end you need to make targeted efforts to find the birds you are yet to use. We amassed about 70 challengers and another 170 onlookers within a week, and most of us kicked off on 1 January.

It was definitely tough at times but it got me out each day, making it really worthwhile and rewarding, and I smashed my goal reaching 183 days - 1 January to 2 July inclusive, just over the half year mark. Over this period, I saw 271 species, including 170 in the ACT and 12 'lifers' - my strongest start to the year ever. Friendships were forged in adversity as we battled on, and the challenge saw me travel as far inland as Balranald and Wanganella, and to the east coast from Mallacoota to Newcastle. I was under stay-at-home restrictions for the final week which finally ended my run, but I did manage to exhaust almost everything I could have used, and overall I am very happy apart from missing a dozen summer migrants before they left (strategy change for next time, maybe).

Pictured are some of the highlights from my adventures - enjoy. 😊 Thanks to all those who joined me at times, gave me the encouragement to keep going, or gave me tips for finding things I needed. A special shout out to the COG members who attempted the challenge, especially to those who achieved a consecutive streak over 100 – Luke Downey (124), Liam Manderson (170), Martin Butterfield (182) and Sandra Henderson (see her BAD story below). Now that I am out, I will be continuing on with non-consecutive days to now see how many unique days I can manage within the year, while Martin has started a second attempt from 1 July.

Photos at <https://www.facebook.com/archie.xyzz/posts/569180887799813>

See the list on pages 17-20.

## 2021 Bird-A-Day Challenge – Part 2 – Sandra Henderson

When Archer set up Bird-a-Day at the start of the year I was interested but not brave enough to set up on the public spreadsheet. So, like some other people, I have been doing it on my own spreadsheet, although I have ignored the difficulty rating.

The first goal was to see the migrants - simple enough until two are seen on the same day out on Blundells Creek/Warks Rd. I didn't get out there again to add the **Satin Flycatcher**, which I'd passed over in favour of a **Red-browed Treecreeper**. A few other migrants were missed in similar fashion. When I was still going by the end of May, a trip to Iron Range meant some spectacular species - no passing up birds like **Golden-Shouldered Parrot**, **Trumpet Manucode** or **Golden Bowerbird**! Once back in Canberra I started looking forward to a planned Pilbara trip, but closed borders put paid to that. At July 26 my list is struggling on, with few likely candidates left, so I will finish by the end of this month. Next year I will use Archer's public spreadsheet, and will have something to aim at. Still, I expect towards the end I'll again be scouring eBird lists to see where I might possibly find a usually common bird. On July 25 I visited Callum Brae to find a **Striated Pardalote** - only to first come across a pair of **Chestnut Teal**, which I had recently failed to see at the Jerra Wetlands (and a group of ten Striated Pardalotes on the track, which yet again had to be overlooked). Of course, I've seen lots of Striated Pardalotes this year, but they always fell into the "won't use it today for the list, as I'll find one easily on another day". The whole exercise requires good record-keeping, to avoid listing duplicates. If, like me, you also keep an ACT year list, it's quite easy to end up with some confusion between the two.

(Update from June 28: Sandra has successfully reached Day 209 and therefore Bird 209 (**Little Raven**) and hopes to last until the end of the month – ed!).





Swamp Harrier, Plains-wanderer, Varied Sitella, Tawny  
Frogmouth, Mangrove Gerygone, Regent Bowerbird, Chanell-  
billed Cuckoo  
*Archer Callaway*





Cockatiel, Rose Robin, Spotted Quail-thrush, Buff-banded Rail, Red-capped Plover, Pied Butcherbird, Southern Boobook Archer Callaway



## 2021 Bird-A-Day Challenge – Part 1 – Archer Callaway

Fri, Jan 1	Blue-billed Duck	Upper Stranger Pond, ACT
Sat, Jan 2	Australian Painted-Snipe	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT
Sun, Jan 3	Great Cormorant	Tuggeranong Town Park, ACT
Mon, Jan 4	Fairy Martin	Hume Horse Paddocks, ACT
Tue, Jan 5	Yellow Thornbill	Isabella Pond, ACT
Wed, Jan 6	Pallid Cuckoo	Naas Rd x Apollo Rd, ACT
Thu, Jan 7	Peregrine Falcon	Tharwa Dr / Lanyon Homestead, ACT
Fri, Jan 8	Brown Songlark	Bloomfield Flats, Yass Valley, NSW
Sat, Jan 9	Latham's Snipe	Isabella Pond, ACT
Sun, Jan 10	Australasian Pipit	National Arboretum, ACT
Mon, Jan 11	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Gayini Nimmie-Caira, Hay, NSW
Tue, Jan 12	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Gayini Nimmie-Caira, Hay, NSW
Wed, Jan 13	Purple-backed Fairywren	Gayini Nimmie-Caira, Hay, NSW
Thu, Jan 14	Australasian Bittern	Gayini Nimmie-Caira, Hay, NSW
Fri, Jan 15	Glossy Ibis	Gayini Nimmie-Caira, Hay, NSW
Sat, Jan 16	White-breasted Woodswallow	Gayini Nimmie-Caira, Hay, NSW
Sun, Jan 17	Red-necked Avocet	Gayini Nimmie-Caira, Hay, NSW
Mon, Jan 18	Inland Dotterel	Gayini Nimmie-Caira, Hay, NSW
Tue, Jan 19	White-backed Swallow	Yanga Homestead, Wakool, NSW
Wed, Jan 20	Singing Honeyeater	Gayini Nimmie-Caira, Hay, NSW
Thu, Jan 21	Cockatiel	Gayini Nimmie-Caira, Hay, NSW
Fri, Jan 22	Freckled Duck	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT
Sat, Jan 23	Brown Falcon	Rowes Lagoon, Upper Lachlan Shire, NSW
Sun, Jan 24	Rufous Songlark	Namadgi Visitor Centre, ACT
Mon, Jan 25	Emu	Pierces Creek--Vanitys Crossing, ACT
Tue, Jan 26	Common Cicadabird	Namadgi NP--Warks Rd, ACT
Wed, Jan 27	Pilotbird	Tidbinbilla--Lyrebird Trail, ACT
Thu, Jan 28	Stubble Quail	Arawang Horse Paddocks, ACT
Fri, Jan 29	Australian Spotted Crake	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT
Sat, Jan 30	Spotless Crake	Bonner, ACT
Sun, Jan 31	European Goldfinch	Lake Jerrabomberra, Queanbeyan, NSW
Mon, Feb 1	Scarlet Honeyeater	Namadgi Visitor Centre, ACT
Tue, Feb 2	Buff-banded Rail	North Watson Wetlands, ACT
Wed, Feb 3	Superb Parrot	Molonglo River West, ACT
Thu, Feb 4	Welcome Swallow	East O'Malley Pond, ACT
Fri, Feb 5	Common Sandpiper	Isabella Pond, ACT
Sat, Feb 6	Red-browed Finch	Pine Island, ACT
Sun, Feb 7	Red-browed Treecreeper	Namadgi NP--Warks Rd, ACT
Mon, Feb 8	Little Grassbird	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT
Tue, Feb 9	Square-tailed Kite	Shoalhaven Heads, Shoalhaven, NSW
Wed, Feb 10	Pacific Golden-Plover	Crookhaven Heads, Shoalhaven, NSW
Thu, Feb 11	Green Catbird	Bangalee Reserve, Shoalhaven, NSW
Fri, Feb 12	Parasitic Jaeger	Abrahams Bosom Reserve, Shoalhaven, NSW
Sat, Feb 13	Rainbow Bee-eater	Mundoonen NR, Yass Valley, NSW
Sun, Feb 14	Azure Kingfisher	Cotter Bend, ACT
Mon, Feb 15	Long-billed Corella	Eddison Park, ACT
Tue, Feb 16	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Tuggeranong Pines, ACT
Wed, Feb 17	Red-capped Plover	Lake Bathurst, Goulburn Mulwaree, NSW
Thu, Feb 18	Australasian Grebe	West Hume, ACT
Fri, Feb 19	Australasian Darter	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT
Sat, Feb 20	Great Crested Grebe	Cotter River, ACT
Sun, Feb 21	White-throated Gerygone	Uriarra East, ACT
Mon, Feb 22	New Holland Honeyeater	Gilmore Horse Paddocks, ACT
Tue, Feb 23	Australian Reed Warbler	Fadden Hills Pond, ACT

Wed, Feb 24	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Wanniassa Hills NR, ACT
Thu, Feb 25	Straw-necked Ibis	Eddison Park, ACT
Fri, Feb 26	Spotted Dove	Stranger Pond, ACT
Sat, Feb 27	Pacific Koel	Fadden Pines, ACT
Sun, Feb 28	Silver Gull	Lake Burley Griffin, ACT
Mon, Mar 1	Little Black Cormorant	Isabella Pond, ACT
Tue, Mar 2	European Starling	Mugga Lane Tip, ACT
Wed, Mar 3	Crimson Rosella	Pearce, ACT
Thu, Mar 4	Noisy Friarbird	Red Hill, ACT
Fri, Mar 5	Striated Pardalote	Red Hill, ACT
Sat, Mar 6	Tree Martin	Googong Foreshores, Palerang, NSW
Sun, Mar 7	Restless Flycatcher	Wee Jasper, Yass Valley, NSW
Mon, Mar 8	Little Corella	Home, Fadden, ACT
Tue, Mar 9	Hardhead	Isabella Pond, ACT
Wed, Mar 10	Grey Butcherbird	Home, Fadden, ACT
Thu, Mar 11	Pacific Black Duck	Fadden Hills Pond, ACT
Fri, Mar 12	Willie-wagtail	Isabella Pond, ACT
Sat, Mar 13	Cattle Egret	Fyshwick Sewage Works, ACT
Sun, Mar 14	Intermediate Egret	Isabella Pond, ACT
Mon, Mar 15	Great Egret	Isabella Pond, ACT
Tue, Mar 16	Eastern Rosella	Pearce, ACT
Wed, Mar 17	Eurasian Coot	Fadden Hills Pond, ACT
Thu, Mar 18	Double-barred Finch	Illoura Horse Paddocks, ACT
Fri, Mar 19	Pink-eared Duck	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT
Sat, Mar 20	Spotted Quail-thrush	Pierces Creek Forest, ACT
Sun, Mar 21	Masked Lapwing	Greenway, ACT
Mon, Mar 22	Superb Fairywren	Home, Fadden, ACT
Tue, Mar 23	Australian Shoveler	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT
Wed, Mar 24	Black-faced Cuckooshrike	Isabella Pond, ACT
Thu, Mar 25	Whistling Kite	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT
Fri, Mar 26	Hoary-headed Grebe	Isabella Pond, ACT
Sat, Mar 27	Satin Bowerbird	Fadden, ACT
Sun, Mar 28	Black Swan	Isabella Pond, ACT
Mon, Mar 29	White-winged Chough	Red Hill, ACT
Tue, Mar 30	Plumed Whistling-Duck	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT
Wed, Mar 31	Silvereye	Home, Fadden, ACT
Thu, Apr 1	Apostlebird	Urana-Lockhart Rd, Lockhart, NSW
Fri, Apr 2	Black Falcon	Wanganella District, Conargo, NSW
Sat, Apr 3	Plains-wanderer	Wanganella District, Conargo, NSW
Sun, Apr 4	Yellow-throated Miner	Wanganella District, Conargo, NSW
Mon, Apr 5	Banded Lapwing	Wanganella District, Conargo, NSW
Tue, Apr 6	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Isabella Pond, ACT
Wed, Apr 7	Speckled Warbler	Gilmore Horse Paddocks, ACT
Thu, Apr 8	Brown Thornbill	Home, Fadden, ACT

Fri, Apr 9	Spotted Pardalote	Home, Fadden, ACT
Sat, Apr 10	Varied Sittella	Gigerline NR, ACT
Sun, Apr 11	Hooded Robin	Scottsdale Reserve, Cooma-Monaro, NSW
Mon, Apr 12	Southern Boobook	Gungahlin Cemetery, ACT
Tue, Apr 13	Dusky Moorhen	Isabella Pond, ACT
Wed, Apr 14	Rainbow Lorikeet	Home, Fadden, ACT
Thu, Apr 15	Flame Robin	Namadgi NP--Piccadilly Circus, ACT
Fri, Apr 16	Swamp Harrier	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT
Sat, Apr 17	Grey Teal	Isabella Pond, ACT
Sun, Apr 18	White-plumed Honeyeater	Gilmore Horse Paddocks, ACT
Mon, Apr 19	Brown Quail	Gilmore Horse Paddocks, ACT
Tue, Apr 20	Australian Pelican	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT
Wed, Apr 21	Weebill	North Curtin Horse Paddocks, ACT
Thu, Apr 22	Dusky Woodswallow	Gilmore Horse Paddocks, ACT
Fri, Apr 23	Pied Stilt	Black Lake, Bombala, NSW
Sat, Apr 24	Double-banded Plover	Bastion Point (Mallacoota), East Gippsland, VIC
Sun, Apr 25	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Shady Gully Caravan Park, Mallacoota, Vic
Mon, Apr 26	Bell Miner	Gipsy Point, East Gippsland, VIC
Tue, Apr 27	Olive-backed Oriole	Chisholm, ACT
Wed, Apr 28	Swift Parrot	Callum Brae NR, ACT
Thu, Apr 29	Fuscous Honeyeater	Home, Fadden, ACT
Fri, Apr 30	Mistletoebird	Old Tuggeranong Rd, ACT
Sat, May 1	Grey Fantail	Home, Fadden, ACT
Sun, May 2	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Woody End (Private Property), near Tharwa, NSW
Mon, May 3	Australian King-Parrot	Home, Fadden, ACT
Tue, May 4	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Home, Fadden, ACT
Wed, May 5	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Gungahlin Cemetery, ACT
Thu, May 6	Black-fronted Dotterel	Fyshwick Sewage Works, ACT
Fri, May 7	Red-rumped Parrot	Eddison Park, ACT
Sat, May 8	Eastern Spinebill	Home, Fadden, ACT
Sun, May 9	Little Raven	Goulburn, Goulburn Mulwaree, NSW
Mon, May 10	Tawny Frogmouth	MacArthur, ACT
Tue, May 11	Golden Whistler	Wanniassa Hills NR, ACT
Wed, May 12	Eurasian Blackbird	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT
Thu, May 13	Gang-gang Cockatoo	Red Hill, ACT
Fri, May 14	Collared Sparrowhawk	Old Tuggeranong Rd, ACT
Sat, May 15	Laughing Kookaburra	Hackett, ACT
Sun, May 16	Little Lorikeet	Hackett, ACT
Mon, May 17	Common Myna	Mugga Lane Tip, ACT
Tue, May 18	Crested Pigeon	Home, Fadden, ACT
Wed, May 19	Striated Thornbill	Oaks Estate, ACT
Thu, May 20	Galah	Home, Fadden, ACT
Fri, May 21	Little Pied Cormorant	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT

Sat, May 22	Australasian Swamphen	Fadden Hills Pond, ACT
Sun, May 23	Australian Wood Duck	Home, Fadden, ACT
Mon, May 24	Australian Magpie	Home, Fadden, ACT
Tue, May 25	House Sparrow	Chisholm Shops, ACT
Wed, May 26	Rose Robin	Cotter Bend, ACT
Thu, May 27	Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	Red Hill, ACT
Fri, May 28	White-faced Heron	Point Hut Pond, ACT
Sat, May 29	Powerful Owl	Namadgi NP--Warks Rd, ACT
Sun, May 30	Nankeen Kestrel	Tharwa Dr, ACT
Mon, May 31	White-browed Scrubwren	Tuggeranong Pines, ACT
Tue, Jun 1	Common Bronzewing	Wanniassa Hills NR, ACT
Wed, Jun 2	White-fronted Chat	Coombs Pond, ACT
Thu, Jun 3	Magpie-lark	Red Hill, ACT
Fri, Jun 4	Australian Raven	Mugga Lane Tip, ACT
Sat, Jun 5	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Tharwa Dr, ACT
Sun, Jun 6	Wonga Pigeon	Pierces Creek Forest, ACT
Mon, Jun 7	Superb Lyrebird	Kambah Pool, ACT
Tue, Jun 8	White-eared Honeyeater	Molonglo Gorge, ACT
Wed, Jun 9	Pied Currawong	Home, Fadden, ACT
Thu, Jun 10	Australian White Ibis	Lake Jerrabomberra, Queanbeyan, NSW
Fri, Jun 11	Noisy Miner	Home, Fadden, ACT
Sat, Jun 12	Brown Goshawk	Pialligo, ACT
Sun, Jun 13	Grey Currawong	Tidbinbilla--Devils Gap, ACT
Mon, Jun 14	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Kambah Pool, ACT
Tue, Jun 15	Scarlet Robin	Namatjira Dr Bushland, Fisher, ACT
Wed, Jun 16	Diamond Firetail	McQuoids Hill, ACT
Thu, Jun 17	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Lawn Cemetery, Queanbeyan, NSW
Fri, Jun 18	White-naped Honeyeater	Lawn Cemetery, Queanbeyan, NSW
Sat, Jun 19	Grey Shrikethrush	Mundoonen NR, Yass Valley, NSW
Sun, Jun 20	White-throated Treecreeper	Kowen Forest, ACT
Mon, Jun 21	Australian Shelduck	Bungendore, Palerang, NSW
Tue, Jun 22	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Pioneer Dairy Wetlands, Wyong, NSW
Wed, Jun 23	Regent Bowerbird	Niagara Park, Gosford, NSW
Thu, Jun 24	Mangrove Gerygone	Ash Island, Newcastle, NSW
Fri, Jun 25	Black-shouldered Kite	Coree, ACT
Sat, Jun 26	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Hume, ACT
Sun, Jun 27	Bassian Thrush	Acton, ACT
Mon, Jun 28	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Tuggeranong Hill, ACT
Tue, Jun 29	Eastern Yellow Robin	Honeysuckle Creek Campground, ACT
Wed, Jun 30	Pied Butcherbird	Stony Creek NR, ACT
Thu, Jul 1	Red Wattlebird	Home, Fadden, ACT
Fri, Jul 2	Golden-headed Cisticola	Jerrabomberra Wetlands, ACT



# New Places: August 2021

Sandra Henderson

This month, to overcome the disappointment of the cancellation of our trip to the Pilbara, Sue L., Lia B. and I travelled to the south coast to do some birding. Archer joined us, fresh out of isolation after returning from the central coast.

## Potato Point

We stayed in a house at Potato Point, situated next to a lake and reserve area. Potato Point is near Tuross – in fact visible from Tuross, but a very quiet area, with no shops. Each day we checked out the lake (not a lot of birds) and walked along the edge of the settlement. Species seen of particular interest were **Emus** (plenty of evidence of them on the lawn around the house, and we saw young Emus being chased from the property into the trees by a dog), a small group of **White-headed Pigeons**, and a **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**.

## Water Garden Town Park, Batemans Bay

This park covers six hectares, close to the main shopping area. At times it hosts a flying fox colony, although these were not around when we visited. We did see 32 bird species, including **Chestnut Teal**, **Musk** and **Rainbow Lorikeets**, and **Satin Bowerbirds**. There is a 1km walking path/boardwalk, so well worth a visit if you've not visited before.

## Bodalla Forest Park

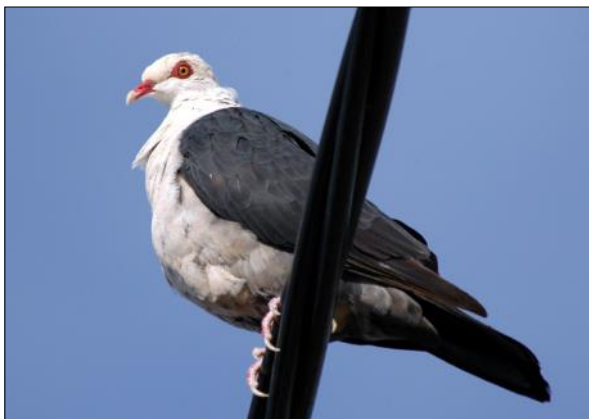
This is in the Bodalla State Forest; the rest area where we parked is just off the Pacific Highway. On our first visit (on a dull grey day) we walked a 4km loop, which yielded 44 species. Of particular note were a male **Rose Robin**, a **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**, a group of 26 **Little Pied Cormorants** on branches in the lake, two **Little Egrets**, a group of **Varied Sittellas** and a **Wonga Pigeon**. A night-time visit (which I missed) resulted in Sue, Lia and Archer hearing (and recording) a **Sooty Owl**, which failed to call the following evening.

## Chatham Park Flora and Fauna Nature Reserve, Tuross Head

This reserve is quite thick bush, with some apparent paths which seem to need a bit of clearing, so we walked the perimeter. When we arrived there was a **White-headed Pigeon** carrying nesting material into an acacia on the roadside next to the reserve. We located the nest, but the bird did not re-appear. There were a number of **Variegated Fairywrens** on one side of the reserve, including a full-colour male. The Reserve is worth further exploration.

Stuart Harris

White-headed Pigeon



## MELIPHAGA MAGIC ACCOMMODATED HONEYEATER TOUR 18-22 OCTOBER 2021



Spring honeyeater hunt across some of the best destinations in inland NSW with Neil Hermes and Mark Clayton

With the drought and bush fires as an added challenge, this October Neil and Mark are guiding a trip to try to track down a target of 25 species of honeyeaters in 5 days. Highlights we are seeking are Painted and White-fronted Honeyeaters and at least three species of chats.

The trip will be accommodated and travelling in an airconditioned mini coach.

Of course we will also be trying to get a good list of species other than just honeyeaters!

**Tour booklet with bird lists and full itinerary provided to all participants.**

**Cost for 5 days \$1150pp**  
single supplement \$400

Includes four nights motel accommodation, minicoach travel, two guides, snacks and water, picnic lunch on some days. All other meals, drinks and personal items are at participants cost.

### Brief Itinerary

Day 1 Ingaba NR, Charcoal Tank NR.

Day 2 West Wyalong Wetlands, Ungarie, Lake Cargelligo, Chat Alley.

Day 3 Round Hill NR, Nombinnie NR.

Day 4 SW Woodland NR, Pulletop NR, Lake Wyangan

Day 5 Fivebough Wetland, Murrumbidgee National Park, Bethunga

To book or get further details email

bookings@canberraguidedtours.com.au  
or go to  
neilhermes.com.au

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# Woodland Surveys – winter 2021 survey round

compiled by Jenny Bounds

## Mulligans Flat NR

Jenny Bounds and the team surveyed on Sunday 27 June, a pleasant, sunny, winter morning. A total of 48 species was recorded (on the high end of winter totals), in contrast to the March survey when only 39 species were recorded. The large dam area was underwater in places including one of the sites. Interesting sightings were 2 **Brown Quail** on the eastern side, and 4 sightings of **Brown Thornbill**, one group of 6 birds, and an **Eastern Yellow Robin** at a site in the middle of the reserve (this species is very uncommon at Mulligans). **White-eared Honeyeaters**, **Golden Whistlers**, **Grey Fantails** (4 sites), **Varied Sittella** (1 site), and **Mistletoebird** (1 site) were good records. The Large Dam had a number of water-based species, including **Pink-eared Duck** and **Australasian Shoveler**, and a **Black-winged Stilt**. One overwintering **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** was recorded at the northern end of the western ridge. One raptor species, a **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, perched near a site. **Scarlet Robins** seemed to be down on the usual winter numbers with records at only 2 sites (a pair; 1 female). **Grey Currawongs**, a species in long-term decline, were recorded on both the eastern and western sides of the reserve, and a single **Superb Parrot** was seen flying near the Sanctuary main entrance gate.

## Gooroo South NR

Steve Holliday and Prue Buckley did the survey on Sunday 20 June, in reasonable conditions. It was cool but sunny to start, but cloud over later, and a cold southerly made its presence felt. There was a lot of water around, with some creeks flowing. Forty species were recorded, a good total for winter, although just 28 of these were during 10 minute counts. On two occasions a mixed flock moved into the site when they had just completed the count.

There was quite a lot of Yellow Box in flower and several groups of **Yellow-faced** and **White-naped Honeyeaters** were feeding in these. Other honeyeaters included **White-eared**, **White-plumed**, **Brown-headed** and a single **Fuscous Honeyeater**, the latter not often recorded during our surveys. One of the mixed flocks between sites included the only **Scarlet Robins**, **Varied Sittellas** and **Speckled Warblers** for the morning. A single **Superb Parrot** was heard and a pair of **Wedge-tailed Eagles** were displaying over the woodland north of Mt Majura.

## Mt Majura NR

Kathy Walter and John Goldie conducted the surveys on 22 and 26 June, and recorded 35 species. Quite a bit of Yellow Box was flowering. The first 5 sites at the northern end of Watson proved the most interesting as usual. Highlights were 3 **Brown Quail** flushed from site 4 and a couple of mixed flocks of small birds at sites 4 and 5 (those furthest away from the built up areas.). Of note were large numbers of **White-naped Honeyeaters** passing through (including an estimated 50 during the 10 minutes of one survey), with smaller numbers of **Red Wattlebirds**. Other small birds of interest were 1 **Scarlet Robin**, **Buff-rumped**, **Yellow-rumped** and **Brown Thornbills**, **Superb Fairywren**, 2 **Speckled Warbler**, **Golden Whistler**, and **Grey Fantail**. Most of these were observed only at one site. One **Superb Parrot** was seen briefly at one site. Unusually, a **Wedge-tailed Eagle** fly over at one of the sites near Hackett.

## Majura Training Area (formerly Majura Field Firing Range)

Paul Fennell and Barbara Allan surveyed on Monday 28 June, a fine but overcast morning, with a little sun later on, and little wind, so conditions for observing weren't too bad. Undergrowth was lush, and it was quite damp underfoot in some areas, following rain. Mick's Dam near the northern boundary was overflowing through the relief pipe, something that they cannot recall seeing before. A total of 35 species was observed within the sites, which is fairly standard for this location in winter, and 5 species were observed between sites (and not observed on sites): **Common Bronzewing** 2, **Diamond Firetail** 8, **Southern Whiteface** 1, **Masked Lapwing** 2, and **White-throated Gerygone** 1. It was unusual not to record **Crested Pigeon**, **White-winged Chough**, **Willie Wagtail**, **Superb Fairy-wren** or **Grey Fantail**.

There were pleasant surprises at the first three sites: a pair of **Black-shouldered Kites** (typically perched high in a dead tree), a **Brown Quail**, and a lone male **Hooded Robin** (a species not observed there for some years). There were **Australian Wood Ducks** at several sites, often perched in trees, but none observed to be actively inspecting hollows. The only other water birds were an **Australasian Grebe**, and a pair of **Pacific Black Ducks** on Mick's Dam.

**Red-rumped Parrots**, and **Crimson** and **Eastern Rosellas** were present, with fewer **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** than usual, and a couple of **Galahs**. Honeyeaters were represented by an occasional **Red Wattlebird**, a few **White-naped** and one or two

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**Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** and **Eastern Spinebill**. **White-eared Honeyeaters** were more prevalent, as were **Noisy Miners**. **Weebills**, **Striated**, **Yellow-rumped** and **Buff-rumped Thornbills** were at a few sites, with **Speckled Warbler**, **Silvereyes** and **Brown Thornbill** making an appearance. **Golden Whistler** and **Grey Shrike-thrush** were at a couple of sites.

### Mt Ainslie NR/Campbell Park

Michael Lenz and Robin Hide did the survey on Monday 21 June. It was a pleasant morning with a blue sky and light wind. In the course of the morning clouds closed in. Of the 37 species recorded, 22 were found at sites. The most widespread species were: **Spotted Pardalote** (9 sites), **Striated Pardalote**, **Weebill** and **Noisy Miner** (at 7 sites each), **Crimson Rosella** (at 6 sites). Species of Interest were small numbers of **White-naped** and **Brown-headed Honeyeaters** at a few clusters of eucalypt flowers, **Speckled Warbler** (group of 3), and **Wedge-tailed Eagle**. Overall, small birds were more common than during the autumn survey. Three pairs of **Australian Wood Ducks** and a **Galah** were inspecting nest hollows.

### Newline

Sue Lashko carried out the survey on Tuesday 29 June, a still and initially cloudy morning but later the sun broke through and warmed up the birds and the surveyor. As usual, parrots dominated with plenty of vocal and flighty **Rainbow Lorikeets** and one pair of **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** house-hunting with one bird only just visible in the mouth of a hollow. **Superb Fairy-wrens** and **White-browed Scrubwrens** had clearly had a good breeding season and the post-fire explosion of woody weeds like boxthorn is giving them plenty of cover. A party of over-wintering **White-naped Honeyeaters** was making its way through the front paddock, an unusual winter record for Newline. It was a great morning for raptors with a very vocal and mobile **Brown Goshawk** in the front paddock, a pair of **Brown Falcons** (one light and one dark morph) circling overhead, and one each of **Nankeen Kestrel**, **Collared Sparrowhawk** and **Black-shouldered Kite** in the back paddocks. A total of 36 species was recorded for the morning.

### Symonston sites

Sandra Henderson conducted the survey at Callum Brae NR on 21 June in sunny still conditions, although it was very chilly early. The first three sites had few little birds, but once up to the quarry fence to move over to the other side of the reserve, there were many small birds in the grasslands each side of the quarry fence. Unusually, **Common Starlings** were in most sites; they are always in the reserve, but not so widespread. In the fifth site a commotion revealed a **Brown Goshawk** moving low through the trees with **Noisy Miners** in pursuit. A lone **Wedge-tailed Eagle** (not in a survey site) had about a dozen **Little Ravens** making life uncomfortable. The big surprise, again not in a site, was a **Painted Buttonquail** wandering along the quarry fence, and then quickly moving into the grassland further up the slope in the quarry. In about 15 years of doing the quarterly surveys this is the first time this species has been recorded. The morning produced 41 species, a good result for winter.

Although it was very easy to move around the reserve on the recently mown tracks, going off-track was difficult because of the impenetrable Saffron Thistle across most of the area, and the second site, as has been common over the past year, was under water.

### Jerrabomberra West NR

Jenny Bounds did the survey over 2 mornings, 28 and 29 June, mainly because of the difficulty getting through the tall and prickly Saffron Thistle which boomed over last spring/summer. The Thistle was pretty dried out with seeds shedding, and this seems to have created a smorgasbord for some birds. **Diamond Firetails** (6), **Southern Whiteface** (3+) and **European Goldfinches** (which love thistle seeds), were recorded amongst others feeding there (lots of **Common Starlings** and both **Crimson** and **Eastern Rosellas**). There was some Red Box coming into flower in the more diverse woodland patch at the back, and some honeyeaters feeding at one site there, including 4 **Fuscous Honeyeaters**, a nice surprise, and a few **White-naped Honeyeaters** overwintering. There were lots of **Pardalotes** around, mainly **Striated**, with 12 in one site, and a few overwintering **Grey Fantails**. A large flock of **Little Ravens** was also around the nearby hill area, and a **Brown Falcon** and **Wedge-tailed Eagle** perched in or near sites. One male **Flame Robin** was recorded on the grasslands edge where a few are usually seen in winter. All up 35 species, not a bad total for winter.

### Tuggeranong Hill NR

Lia Battisson surveyed on Wednesday 23 June. It was an overcast, cool and still morning. It was very quiet, with just 14 species within survey sites, and that included a small mixed feeding flock which was heard in the outer circle. The only highlight of the morning was a **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**, seen between sites. There was a bit of excitement when the surveyor was threatened by a dog, just inside the gate by the Theodore Substation. Fortunately, it desisted and left the area when she bent down to pick up a weapon! The tally of species for the survey was 29.

## 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

2020-2021 memberships:

- Individual: \$50
- Family: \$55
- Institution: \$50
- School student (under 18) \$20

## New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

A Laracy  
T Hamilton

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for September 2021 edition:**

**Wednesday 25 August 2021**

**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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