



# Gang-gang

**DECEMBER 2013**

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

## DECEMBER MEETING

**Wednesday 11 December 2013**

**7.30 pm.**

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

## Members Night

Due to the unavailability of the meeting venue in January the COG committee has decided to move the annual Members Night forward to December.

This provides an opportunity for COG members to contribute short presentations (about 10-15 minutes long) on a range of bird related topics. So if you have a favourite birding moment for 2013, some special photos to share with members, a birding story to tell, or anything that you think might be of interest to other members, please contact Jack Holland (6288 7840 A/H), or by email on [jack.holland@environment.gov.au](mailto:jack.holland@environment.gov.au) ) as soon as possible.

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

## What to watch out for this month

In my last month's column after all the activity in October I alerted readers to "expect the unexpected" and in some ways November has delivered. The most unexpected was the report on the COG chatline by Steve Wallace on 8 November of two **Painted Honeyeaters** at Stoney Creek Nature Reserve just upstream of the Uriarra East Reserve. I was very interested to see his photo of them in casuarina, which Steve reported was full of mistletoe that was flowering well and the birds were feeding in it. A day later he reported they were nest building, and reports of breeding have continued up to the Gang-gang cut off some 3 weeks later, with many observers confirming this. Up to six birds have been seen together.

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## COG January BBQ

**Black Mountain Peninsula**

**6.00pm Wednesday  
8 January 2014**

**Bring a salad or desert to share**

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

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

**Theme: Gang-gang** as this is COG's bird  
of 2014—dress as a Gang-gang,  
bring Gang-gang coloured food, etc.

**Everyone welcome**

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**What to watch out for this month—**  
*continued from Page 1*

Steve was aware of Steve Wilson's account in *Birds of the High Country* of how they returned to the Murrumbidgee River to breed every year post war. This story is also included in a bit more detail in Steve's book *Birds of the ACT: Two Centuries of Change*, from where it is reported the last bird seen on the Murrumbidgee River was at Casuarina Sands in 1971. From his work on the COG database Steve was able to confirm that all ACT records since were away from the River and in gums, with the last big influx including breeding being in the 2002-2003 season.

So is it a case of history repeating itself? To me it is very interesting that they would have returned to breed at this spot after an apparent break of 40 years, and I can't help wondering if they have been overlooked here in the years that might have favoured their presence. Certainly I can no longer scoff at the sign at Uriarra Crossing as being completely out of date. Later in the month Michael Lenz reported a pair showing breeding behaviour from the Gundaroo area where they have been recorded (including breeding) more recently, and just before the Gang-gang cut-off he reported another pair near Collector, making it 3 different locations for this species within COG's area of interest (AOI) this spring.

In many ways it should not be a surprise to have these honeyeaters present considering the numbers of **White-browed Woodswallows** (and to a lesser extent **Masked**), **White-winged Trillers** and **Rufous Songlarks** in the ACT and surrounding area this spring, all clear signs of a dry inland. I thought that the 70+ mm of rain that fell towards the middle of November may have caused many of these species to move on, but it seems conditions elsewhere are not yet favourable enough and so many have stayed to breed. The woodswallows in particular will breed almost anywhere; I've heard of one currently nesting on top of a rain gauge. The five species above really only come to the ACT to breed; of the spring/summer migrants they tend to be here for the shortest periods, they breed or attempt to do so, and then it seems to be time to "get out of here". So I expect most will have finished or abandoned breeding and few if any will remain by the time I write my next column towards the end of January.

The above species have really dominated the discussions on the COG chatline, but there have been a couple of other "unusuals" reported, some of which are likely to be drought related such as the pair of **Black Honeyeaters** that were photographed in a Higgins garden. A male was reported later from Pine Island. The sighting of a single **Little Friarbird** and a wild-type **Budgerigar** flushed from its roost at Mulligans Flat may also be drought related, though I would have expected more widespread reports of flocks of the latter if this was the case. Further sightings of two well separated (in space and time) **Channel-billed Cuckoos** and a further single report of the **Scarlet Honeyeater** are unlikely to be so. However, the most intriguing report has been that of an **Emerald Dove** coming in to feed on chook food in a back yard in Aranda; this could represent a significant inland extension of its range as no-one has been able to establish whether it is likely to be kept in captivity in the ACT.

In respect of waders/waterbirds a **Pectoral** and **Curlew Sandpiper** were seen feeding together (including as the back drop video to the start of the COG meeting) early in the month. In line with still dry conditions inland **Freckled** and **Pink-eared Duck** continue to be reported, as are **Red-kneed Dotterel** and there has been a further report of a single **Black-winged Stilt**. The **Plumed Whistling-Ducks** continue to be reported at their usual spot near Bungendore, and have also been tracked moving between dams as



Painted Honeyeater

*Photo by Geoffrey Dabb*



## What to watch out for this month—continued from Page 2

well as behind them, explaining their variable presence at the Trucking Yard Dam. Well over 50 **Australian Shelduck** have been reported loosely associated with them; this is one of the favourite spots of this species too.

So it certainly seems to have been a very good spring for many of our migrant species, though surprisingly reports of the **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** continue to be relatively low, and amazingly I can find only two November records of the **Pallid Cuckoo**, confirming that it doesn't appear to be a good year for observing these species, both of which may be expected to be relatively common in dry years. Given they are also most likely to be here during dry years, reports of the **Brown Songlark** seem to have been confined to the one spot on Uriarra Road near the Painted Honeyeaters, where up to 3 birds have been regularly recorded. There have also been a couple of sightings of a single **Horsfield's Bushlark** at this same spot, as well as a report of up to 3 birds singing near Gundaroo later in the month. Of the passage migrants there have been very few reports of the **Rufous Fantail**, **Satin Flycatcher** and **Cicadabird**, particularly passing through this spring. Perhaps the focus has been on the other spring migrants, so please keep an eye/ear out for these last-named species, which complete the list of those summer migrants likely to be seen in Canberra in most years.

In keeping with the good spring conditions, there have been many reports of breeding during November, again too many to attempt a summary, and much of it dealing with the rarer spring migrants mentioned above. Unfortunately an

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Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo

Photo: Julian Robinson



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### 2014 tours

1 — 8 February  
Tasmania bird & mammal tour

19 — 26 April  
Alice Springs and  
West MacDonnell Ranges

25 May — 8 June  
Top End including  
Mitchell Plateau/black grasswren  
option

12 — 27 June  
Queensland's Gulf of Carpentaria  
& Atherton Tablelands

Late August  
New Caledonia

6 — 25 September  
Strzelecki Track 35<sup>th</sup> tour  
The four states outback expedition

30 September — 8 October  
NSW Central Coast. Gloucester  
Tops NP, Barren Grounds NR,  
Tapin Tops NP.

10 – 19 December  
SW Western Australia

### Plains-wanderer Weekends 2014

25 & 26 October 2014

Please see itineraries, checklists and  
latest news on our website

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

**Australian White Ibis** was observed eating the eggs of the **Red-kneed Dotterel** at Kelly's Swamp, where Steve Wallace also found a rarely reported **Greenfinch** nest with young. However, my favourite story was Geoffrey Dabb's description of 3 young **Dusky Woodswallows** taking flight prematurely from a nest on the top of a burnt stump near the **Painted Honeyeater's** site. Over time he watched the parents escorting 2 of the chicks up from the ground to a low perch, then up into shrubbery, then onto the stump, then back into the nest where feeding was resumed. Geoffrey noted this was a rare case of dependent young (DY) reverting back to nest with young (NY)!

Though I'm hearing reports of a still very dry inland, I expect that after all the excitement of the last couple of months, particularly in October, bird activity will be comparatively quiet in December and January. However, please still keep an eye out for spring/summer migrants or unusual species in these two months, as well as further breeding activity. As usual always please ensure that all significant observations end up on the COG database.

*Jack Holland*

## 2013 Fenner School Bird Surveys

For the 18th successive year COG volunteers participated in ANU Fenner School Bird Surveys, this year at Booderee (Jervis Bay) National Park, Beecroft Peninsula, Mulligans Flat, Gorooyarroo, and the (Riverina based) Restoration Study. The Jervis Bay area turned up some unusual species: **Channel-billed Cuckoo**, **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren**, and **Brush Bronzewing**, plus a juvenile **White-bellied Sea-eagle** and good numbers of **Eastern Bristlebirds**. **White-winged Trillers**, small flocks of **Superb Parrots**, both gerygones and breeding **Brown Goshawks** were features at Mulligans Flat, whilst the Restoration Study turned up **Crimson Chats** and again many **White-winged Trillers**.

COG volunteers' input to the ANU studies have contributed, over the years, to some hundreds of scientific papers and books and to enhanced understanding of species, habitats, forestry practice, landcare and restoration. An interesting example is the 2011 book "What makes a Good Farm for Wildlife".

I expect to have free Fenner School 2014 Calendars to hand out at the December meeting and the January barbeque.

*Bruce Lindenmayer*

## BLANK GREETING CARDS, DIGITAL PRINTS AND ORIGINAL PAINTINGS by Frances McMahon

Featuring exquisite watercolour Australian bird paintings by award-winning Canberra artist Frances McMahon.

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[www.frances-mcmahon.artistwebsites.com](http://www.frances-mcmahon.artistwebsites.com)

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## Committee News

COG has been advised that a number of diseased and damaged trees along Anzac Parade are to be removed and replaced.

Neil Hermes is leading plans for COG's 50th anniversary next year, and planning is well advanced on a number of initiatives. The new website, a gala night, and a "bird of the year" project are among the proposals being discussed by small working groups.

Please remember that the COG members' night is now in December, and the annual BBQ will be in January. This is because the theatre is no longer available for hire in January. See notices elsewhere in this issue for more details on both events.

COG, with other groups and the Conservation Council, has been involved in discussions about the new Bill for the ACT's Nature Conservation Act. Jenny Bounds will do a submission for COG.

At the AGM in November, the following were elected to the 2014 COG Committee:

**President:** Alison Russell-French

**Vice-President:** Neil Hermes

**Treasurer:** Noel Luff

**Secretary:** Sandra Henderson

**Committee Members:** Sue Lashko, Bruce Lindenmayer, Stuart Rae, Lia Battisson, Chris Davey, Jenny Bounds. Julian Robinson has been co-opted to the Committee. He is leading the current website redevelopment project.

*Sandra Henderson*

## News from Canberra Indian Myna Action Group (CIMAG)

Following CIMAG's June win of three awards and Overall ACT Winner of Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) Sustainable Cities Awards, President Bill Handke, his wife Jenny and I attended the recent National KAB Finals at the Coogee Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Coogee, WA.

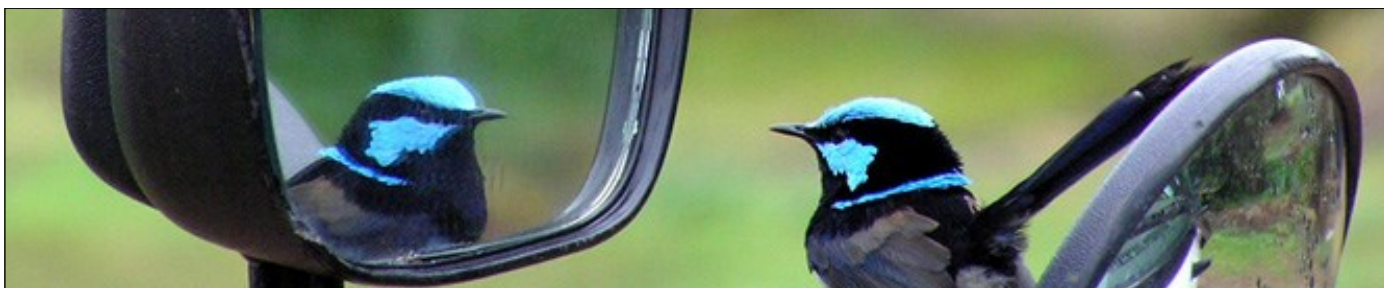
CIMAG won the award for Environmental Innovation and Protection which recognised CIMAG members' efforts in reducing the myna from the 3rd most common garden bird in 2006 to 20th, and bringing back small birds and rosellas to gardens and nest boxes.

It is notable that all other finalists were local governments and several mayors and councillors attended. Various councils won awards for community action and partnerships, beach management, litter and waste control, water, energy, heritage, culture and youth involvement. The Overall Winner was the City of Marion, SA.

Since 2006, CIMAG members have trapped and removed more than 46,000 mynas. Through interaction with like-minded groups throughout eastern Australia and the running of two national conferences, CIMAG has assisted in promoting similar groups interstate, which now total 38 and range from Cairns to Bendigo.

Many thanks to COG and its members who, through various programs, especially the Garden Bird Survey, the Annual Bird Report and survey assistance to Kate Grarock's PhD research project, have contributed greatly to CIMAG's success.

*Bruce Lindenmayer*



Superb Fairy-Wren

*Photo by David Cook*



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## Field Trip Reports

### Sunday 3 November – Braidwood Landcare surveys

Seven COG members carried out bird surveys on six properties where revegetation has occurred in the last few years. These properties were first surveyed by COG in 2011. However, our surveys were not restricted to revegetated sites; we also surveyed the homestead gardens and remnants. Unfortunately, it was a rather windy day which made conditions difficult, particularly for hearing birds call.

The most productive area was the riverine site on Durham Hall where there are open patches of water, plenty of dead willows for birds to perch and low shrubs for small birds to hide in. Highlights included **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** and very vocal **Rufous Songlarks**, as well as two new species for the survey, **Great Cormorant** and **Golden-headed Cisticola**. The creekline on Bedervale was also very birdy for what is just a narrow stream. It is unusual to find **Grey** and **Chestnut Teal**, **Hardheads**, **Pacific Black Ducks** and **Wood Ducks** in such a small area, along with all the likely waterhens – **Eurasian Coot**, **Dusky Moorhen** and **Purple Swamphen** – as well as **Australasian Grebes** in striking breeding plumage.

This spring the numbers of **White-winged Trillers** and **Grey Fantails** is particularly high in the Canberra region and it was pleasing to see both species in Braidwood, with fantails in particularly good numbers. However, the bird of the day would have to have been the **White-browed Woodswallow** at Oorong. Normally a bird of drier inland parts, these birds have moved east as the area west of the Divide has dried out.

Gardens are always havens for birds on rural properties with **Satin Bowerbirds** being the most striking inhabitants. The resident male at Kuala Pilah had built in bower in the open right next to the path – perhaps this was his first attempt and no wiser bird had told him to build under a shady bush.

It is always a pleasure for birdwatchers to visit private properties to see the effort that landholders are making to improve the environment for birds and their stock. Thank you to our hosts for their hospitality and the delicious lunch. We look forward to a return visit in 2015.

Sue Lashko

### Sunday 10 November - Currawang

Six COG Members turned out on an unusually cold November morning for a tour of Jude Hopwood's property at Currawang, about 10kms east of Collector. In the dense planting of shrubs near the house we found **Superb Fairy-wrens**, **White-browed Scrubwrens** and a **Brown Thornbill**. The scrubwrens had a nest in an old shopping bag inside a garden shed. Being more tolerant of human presence than most of their kind, we had good views of them fossicking around. A **Grey Shrike-thrush** and a **Rufous Whistler** were also around and **Dusky Woodswallows** were in the air. The horse paddock had plenty of **Striated Pardalotes** and **Crimson** and **Eastern Rosellas**.

After a welcome morning tea around the fire inside, we went to a neighbouring property. As the temperature continued to decline to about 10°C, we found a good number of woodland birds including **Striated**, **Buff-rumped** and **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, **Leaden Flycatchers**, a **White-winged Triller**, and some **White-browed Woodswallows**. On the return journey, one of the cars missed the turn off, taking a longer "scenic" route, but was rewarded with good views of a **Brown Falcon** in a low tree beside the road.

Many thanks to Jude for hosting a very pleasant outing.



Golden-headed Cisticola Photo by Gail Neumann



Leaden Flycatcher

Photo by Tobias Hayashi

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## Sunday 17 November — Campbell Park Nest Workshop

Well over 30 members and guests joined me in the 11th running of this ever popular annual event. While the reports on the chatline up to a week before had suggested a bumper breeding season, I was concerned that the 70+ mm of rain earlier in the week would soak a lot of nests as well as cause a number of species to move on. Indeed reports I received shortly before suggested much of the breeding activity had been curtailed, with a number of species starting anew. However, my concerns about relatively low breeding activity were misfounded with activity found at all stages of the breeding cycle, as illustrated below. While there wasn't the buzz of frenzied activity we experienced with some of the early workshops, it certainly was the best year for a few, confirming Campbell Park's reputation as being an important breeding area in the drought years.

The emailing of the notes beforehand again allowed me to largely dispense with the usual short discussion and we broke up into three groups with the aim of keeping our distance apart but coming together over morning tea, exchanging experiences and then viewing the nests/breeding sightings that participants had missed out on. It started off well with an **Australian Raven** coming in to feed young in a nest in a big tree in the car park as we gathered together. While not an unusual observation, it was a first for this workshop. Next, while my group was watching the **Grey Butcherbirds** that have been seen around the car park for the last few years, Sue Lashko found them feeding 2 dependent young. As we returned to the cars to go home, others were also able to view them, and we found a third fledgling sitting close by. Again this was a first for this workshop (though I had suspected them of breeding for a few years), and a further indication of how this species is encroaching and becoming more comfortable with living in urban/peri urban Canberra.

Luckily the **White-browed Woodswallows** hadn't all left with at least a couple of pairs seen, the first nest building at a very unlikely spot, and then a female coming to and continuing to sit on a nest with only a few spindly twigs on an otherwise pretty bare branch. This was only the second time for this species, the previous record in 2006. There were others in the area, as the "check check" call could be heard on occasions, and at one stage up to 10 were seen circling low overhead. **White-winged Triller** numbers seemed down from those reported on the chatline, with mostly males seen, but we watched a couple nest building with a pretty much complete nest chest height on a small branch of a small sapling - everyone was amazed at how small and shallow it was, basically just a high enough rim to hold the eggs in! The related **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** was found feeding young and then brooding them in a more traditional spot high on a horizontal fork.

The **Varied Sittella** nest found, typically in a vertical dead fork but with very short uprights, was certainly the daintiest, and we could see one bird sitting on it while its mate fed it. At the nearby **White-throated Gerygone** nest we could watch the



Grey Butcherbird - juvenile

Photo by Noel Luff



Varied Sittella

Photo by Julian Robinson



Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike

Photo by Julian Robinson

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parents coming in and clinging to it while they delivered food through the side entrance. Nearby was a cone-shaped **Grey Fantail** nest, typically (for Campbell Park) rather white with a distinct pony-tail, which could barely contain the two chicks as their parents flew in to feed them. There were several pairs of **Leaden Flycatcher** near the horse gate calling frequently but finding the nest proved elusive until we found one, a very neat one somewhat atypically at the end of a short dead branch, without a live one directly overhead. Participants enjoyed watching the male and female switch over nest duties, and could see and hear the male calling from the nest. This is not unusual for this species, but I've yet to hear a plausible explanation as to why they would advertise their nest site in this manner.

Nearby two pairs of **Noisy Friarbirds** were busy nest building/repairing a very tatty nest which appeared to have fallen apart from the rain. On close inspection this also seemed to be the case for an **Olive-backed Oriole** nest seen earlier. A **Weebill** nest with young was also found. A female **Rufous Whistler** was found building a nest in some very scraggly epicormic growth at the top of an otherwise nearly dead tree. Again a first for this workshop was a **Red-browed Finch** seen taking nesting material to a very large nest in the middle of a hawthorn bush; whether this was for breeding or roosting was unclear. Closer to the car park a family group of four **Tawny Frogmouths** was seen surprisingly in the open on a large horizontal limb, two of them being decidedly smaller young. Finally **Striated Thornbills**, **Spotted Pardalotes**, **Red Wattlebirds** and **Brown-headed Honeyeaters** were all seen feeding dependent young, as was a pair of **Willie Wagtails** for which a nest was also found.

Everyone was amazed at so much breeding activity in such a small space centred on the horse gate (to the northeast and especially south), and how by carefully observing birds' behaviour can identify their breeding activity. Having over 30 pairs of eyes also helps. Interestingly there was very little bird activity in the depression closer to the car park where it was all happening in the early drought years. Everyone voted it an excellent morning in almost perfect conditions that saw a total of 50 species recorded, with 27 of these showing some kind of breeding behaviour including parrots and their allies inspecting or entering or leaving nest holes, except for the **Australian King Parrots** which had an accompanying dependent young.

My thanks again go to Stuart Rae for his help in leading the workshop, and for putting in time beforehand to locate nests etc. My thanks also go to Jenny Bounds for agreeing to lead a third group, despite the fact that it was her first attendance, when numbers suddenly swelled in the last couple of days. My thanks also to those who provided breeding activity information on the COG chatline, and especially Elizabeth Compston who provided it personally and hopefully will be heartened by this report.

### Wednesday 21 November – Hall TSR and Cemetery

Thirty members and guests arrived beside the Barton Highway and were soon at work recording a number of species before the 8:30 kick-off time. An early highlight was a **White-necked Heron** beside the dam just inside the gate.

There were a number of dominant sounds of the day including the calls of **Rufous Songlarks** (we estimated at least 4 birds were present) and the chirps of the many **Woodswallows** (mainly **White-browed** but quite a few **Dusky** and eventually two **Masked**). The calls of **Sacred Kingfisher** were more or less constant.

The most interesting feature of the visit was finding many breeding species. Of these the most exciting were two very young **Brown Treecreepers** emerging from a hollow spout and one at least flying off. We were quite sure this was their fledging flight. At least two **White-browed Woodswallows** and one **Dusky** were nesting. Nests of **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**, **White-plumed Honeyeater** and **Noisy Friarbird** were all in the process of construction.

At this site we recorded 43 species with 10 of them undertaking one or more forms of breeding activity (the over-achiever in the latter regard being **Willie Wagtail** with DY as well as copulation (CO) in a nest (ON).

We then went briefly to Hall Cemetery where a female **Mistletoebird** greeted us at the gate (and only just above head height) adding to the trip list. 11 species were recorded in this visit. Three additional breeding records were obtained including a **Dollarbird** which disappeared into a hole in a eucalypt.

Martin Butterfield



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## Future Field Trips

**At the start of each trip, and before proceeding on the trip, each participant must sign a COG Field Trip Registration Form , which acknowledges the participant's responsibilities. The form reads as follows:**

**I declare I am capable of undertaking this trip having: discussed with the Trip Leader any limitations I have (e.g. medications, physical), assessed the risks to myself and my property, and ensured I am adequately equipped.**

**I will follow the instructions of the Field Trip Leader, and advise them before moving away from the group.**

**Changes to trips are notified on the trips page of the COG website <http://canberrabirds.org.au/> and on the COG chat-line at :<http://bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/archives/html/canberrabirds/2012-03/index.html>**

**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.**

### Wednesday December 18 - Tuggeranong Pines

The Wednesday Walk will be to the Tuggeranong Pines area near (but not too near) the Paintball area beside the Monaro Highway. We'll meet at 8:30am. Details of parking etc will be circulated via email closer to the time. **If there is a Total Fire Ban the walk will be cancelled.**

**Advance notice of January and February outings as there is no January Gang-gang.**

### Sunday 22 January 2014 - Uriarra

This is COG's regular outing to Uriarra, which always finds some interesting species.

Meet Bruce Lindenmayer at the big dam near Uriarra Homestead, corner of Cotter and Uriarra Roads at 8.30am. PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE TWO SUCH INTERSECTIONS, the other near the suburb of Duffy. Just continue on either road until you reach Uriarra. After some time at and around the dam, we will go to Uriarra Crossing and Stony Creek and then come back to Uriarra Crossing East for lunch, where there are picnic tables and toilets.

### Sunday 16 February - East Basin/Molonglo Reach Electric boat cruise

This will be the outing/cruise for 2014 on the upper parts of Lake Burley Griffin (East Basin) and the adjacent Molonglo River Reach, where late summer or early autumn is the peak time for nesting, with darters as well as three species of cormorant known to breed there. The area is also rich in other waterbirds, and a variety of land birds can be seen on the banks.

The boat trip will last about 2 hours from 8 am and will cost \$20, payable in cash on boarding. This year we will again be travelling in the electric boat "MV Gull" which can carry well over 20 people. The boat will allow both a quiet approach as well as access to areas difficult to get to from the land. As Kingston Harbour is now open and operational, the point of departure will be from there. Participants will need to leave their cars in the Glass Works car park and walk across.

Registration for this field trip is essential. Please book your place on the boat with Jack Holland (on 6288 7840 AH or by email on [jack.holland@environment.gov.au](mailto:jack.holland@environment.gov.au)).

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### Friday 21 to Sunday 23 February 2014 – Guthega birds & flowers

Accommodation for 16 people will be in comfortable Kyilla Lodge, Mount Tate Road in Guthega. The lodge has a fully equipped kitchen and each bed has a doona and pillows. You will need to bring your own sheets, pillowslips, towels and food for the weekend. Final details will be sent to participants, but in the meantime further information about Kyilla Lodge can be found at [www.brindabellaskiclub.org.au](http://www.brindabellaskiclub.org.au). The cost will be approximately \$60 if there are 16 participants. Payments are due no later than 15 January 2014 and participants will be contacted before then with the final cost. You will need to also pay a daily fee of \$16.00 per car to enter and use Kosciuszko National Park unless you hold an ALL PARKS PASS (NSW). Bookings are essential, either by email to [casburnj@bigpond.com.au](mailto:casburnj@bigpond.com.au) or ph: 02 62883929.

Leaders are Sue Lashko and Jean Casburn.

## Other Surveys/Activities of Interest to COG Members

The **2014 the Australian Bird Study Association (ABSA) AGM and conference** will be held in the theatre at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra on Saturday 15 March 2014. This venue has been confirmed and booked.

The Australasian Raptor Association is arranging some speakers, as is BirdLife Southern NSW. COG members are warmly invited to attend the conference. Further details are expected to be posted on the ABSA web site [www.absa.asn.au](http://www.absa.asn.au) soon.



**White-winged Triller** Photo by Roger Curnow

### DEUA TIN HUTS (Via Braidwood)

Comfortable accommodation on the door-step of the Deua National Park at Krawarree via Braidwood NSW. Three cosy huts accommodating up to 14 people. A short walk into the Deua National Park, the Big Hole and Marble Arch, walks in the beautiful Shoal haven Valley. Reasonable rates, hampers on request. Group booking discounts. Email [enquiry@deuatinhuts.com](mailto:enquiry@deuatinhuts.com) [www.deuatinhuts.com](http://www.deuatinhuts.com) Ph 02 4847 1248



**Grey Fantail** Photo by Geoffrey Dabb

### MUDBRICK COTTAGE—MALLACOOTA

Our mudbrick cottage (Blue Wren Cottage) is available for rental. It is set amongst the trees in Mallacoota, Victoria (approximately 4 hours drive from Canberra). 10 minutes walk to the beach, 5 minutes walk to the golf course and about 15 minutes walk to town. It sleeps 4-6 upstairs and there is a sofa bed downstairs. It is fully self-contained with a kitchen and laundry. **Contact:** Barbara de Bruine (02) 6258 3531, or [barbdebruine@hotmail.com](mailto:barbdebruine@hotmail.com)

## 2014 COG FIELD TRIPS

Location	Destination	Leader
Wed 15 January	Wednesday Walk TBA	
Sun 19 January	Uriarra	Bruce Lindenmayer
Sun 2 February	Jerrabomberra Wetlands	Sue Lashko
Sun 16 February	Molonglo Reach Boat Trip	Jack Holland
Wed 19 February	Wednesday Walk TBA	
Fri 21 to Sun 23 February	Guthega -weekend accommodated	Jean Casburn
Sat 8 to Mon 10 March	Ben Boyd long weekend campout	
Sun 16 March	Parliament Gardens	Alison Russell-French
Wed 19 March	Wednesday Walk TBA	
Sun 23 March	Narrabundah Hill	Jean Casburn
Sun 6 April	Nursery Swamp	<b>Leader required</b>
Sun 13 April	K2C surveys	Nicki Taws
Wed 16 April	Wednesday Walk TBA	
Fri 18 to Mon 21 April	Round Hill Easter campout	To be confirmed
Sun 4 May	Campbell Park	Bruce Lindenmayer
Sat 10 May	ANBG - Beginners	Anthony Overs
Sat 17 May	Tallaganda - late afternoon/evening	Kathy Walter & John Goldie
Wed 21 May	Wednesday Walk TBA	
Sun 25 May	Bungonia - day trip	<b>Leader required</b>
Fri 6 to Mon 9 June	Deua Cabins long weekend accommo- dated	Sue Lashko
Sat 14 June	Superb Lyrebird Survey - Tidbinbilla NR	Chris Davey
Wed 18 June	Wednesday Walk TBA	
Sat 21- Sun 22 June	Moruya (WE accommodated)	
Sun 6 July	<b>Suggestions welcome</b>	<b>Leader required</b>
Wed 16 July	Wednesday Walk TBA	
Sun 20 July	Mount Majura Vineyard	Stuart Harris
Sat 26 to Sun 27 July	Eden pelagic WE accommodated	Anthony Overs
Sat 9 August	Lake Ginninderra - Beginners	Anthony Overs
Wed 20 August	Wednesday Walk TBA	
Sun 24 August	Lake Tuggeranong	Sandra Henderson
Sun 31 August	Late autumn bus trip (day)	
Sun 7 September	Kelly Road	Ian Anderson & Tony Willis
Sat 13 to Sun 14 September	Mates Gully camping	Sue Lashko
Wed 17 September	Wednesday Walk TBA	
Sun 21 September	<b>Suggestions welcome</b>	<b>Leader required</b>
Sat 27 to Sun 28 September	Yerranderie long weekend camping	Julian Robinson
Sat 4 to Mon 6 October	Charcoal Tank or Buddigower long weekend camping	Mark Clayton
Sun 12 October	K2C surveys (day)	Nicki Taws
Wed 15 Oct	Wednesday Walk TBA	
Sun 19 October	Bango Nature Reserve (nr Yass) (day)	Sue Lashko
Sat 25 to Sun 26 October	Bird Blitz (day)	Barbara Allen
Sun 2 November	Bibaringa (morning)	Stuart Harris
Sat 8 November	Aranda Bushland	Kay & Horst Hahne
Sun 16 November	Campbell Park, nest workshop	Jack Holland
Wed 19 November	Wednesday Walk TBA	
Sun 23 November	Brindabellas 4WD (day)	David McDonald
Sunday 7 December	<b>Suggestions welcome</b>	<b>Leader required</b>



## 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

2013-2014 memberships:

- Individuals, families and institutions: \$35
- school students (under 18): \$17.50.

## New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

M. Taylor, Bruce

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for February 2014 edition**

**Wednesday 29 January 2014**

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

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

**c/- The Secretary COG, PO Box 301 Civic Square, ACT 2608**

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

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

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## COG website

[www.canberrabirds.org.au](http://www.canberrabirds.org.au)

*COG library*

For all enquiries or access to COG's library phone Barbara Allan on 6254 6520

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Dianne Davey

## COG E-mail Discussion List

COG has an email discussion list for members and friends: 'Canberra Birds'.

Join the list by following the links on the COG website or by sending an empty email message to;

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

The subject is 'subscribe' (without the quotation marks).

*Canberra Bird Notes*

Editor: Michael Lenz

[lenzmj@homemail.com.au](mailto:lenzmj@homemail.com.au)

