



Gang-gang

FEBRUARY 2013

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

FEBRUARY MEETING

7:30pm Wednesday 13.02.13

*Canberra Girls Grammar School
cnr Gawler Cres and Melbourne Ave,
Deakin. The meetings are held in the
Multi-media Theatre at the School.
Enter off Gawler Crescent using the
school road signposted as Gabriel
Drive. If that car-park is full, enter
using Chapel Drive.*

The first, longer presentation will be by Dr Sarah Pryke of the Research School of Biology at the ANU, entitled "Behaviour, ecology and conservation of the Gouldian Finch".

Gouldian Finches (*Erythrura gouldiae*) are a brilliantly coloured grassfinch, endemic to the northern tropical savannas of Australia. Although previously very common, recently populations have declined dramatically and they are now endangered in the wild. Gouldians are also very rare as they have different genetically-determined head colours (black, red and yellow) that all co-occur together in the same population. To understand the ecological and evolutionary implications for this special species,

(Continued on page 2)

What to watch out for this month

What an unexpected and remarkable summer we are having, particularly in relation to water bird sightings and breeding, despite the "dry" conditions. It appears that despite the lack of rain between Christmas and Australia Day there has still been enough surface water in the local area to allow waterbirds to stay and breed, with the high number of birds present the result of their being displaced from the even drier inland following the two excellent breeding seasons in the previous wet years. Nowhere has this been exemplified better than by the endangered **Australian Painted Snipe**, once considered an elusive species on many people's to-see lists, but having been seen at five well separated wetlands this spring/summer: Birrigai/Tidbinbilla, Hoskintown Plain and Forde, as well as West Belconnen and Kelly's Swamp. Whether or not these are the same birds moving around is unknown, but the number of different sightings is certainly unprecedented, and while no evidence of local breeding seems yet to have been reported, given the numbers present I predict that it is only a matter of time. The unrelated **Latham's Snipe** also seems to have been seen at many more places than usual, with sometimes up to ten or more together.

The above sightings are also an illustration of what seems to me the growing importance of a number of different wetlands on the ACT, and not just the traditional Jerrabomberra Wetlands. In particular, the relatively small wetland behind the Namadgi Visitors Centre with its "crake package", ie the 3 species of crake (**Australian Spotted, Spotless and Baillon's**), and the **Lewin's** and **Buff-banded Rails**, has been extremely rewarding place to visit during January. The last-named included young, a rare breeding record for the ACT, though with an earlier one this season at Kelly's Swamp. The numbers of Buff-banded Rail this summer also seems to have been unprecedented, seen at just about any swamp as well as away from the water.

Also regularly seen have been **Nankeen Night-Heron** (with over 10 together), **Great** and **Intermediate Egrets**, **Royal** and a single **Yellow-billed Spoonbill**, still plenty of **White-necked Herons** (with 20 overhead at one time on the Hoskintown Plain!), lots of **Red-kneed Dotterels** (again up to 10 or more together), still a few **Freckled Ducks**, **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** and **Glossy Ibis**, and single sightings of **Blue-billed** and **Plumed Whistling-Duck** and **Banded Lapwing**. However, the most

Everyone welcome

(Continued from page 1)

Sarah has been studying a range of diverse aspects related to their behaviour, ecology, physiology and genetics. By going through the different stages of their life-cycle (from egg to parent), she will highlight the major problems faced by these birds at each stage of their life, as well as some of the extreme and very clever strategies that Gouldians use to try and overcome these problems. Lastly, she will briefly discuss some of our recent conservation strategies that seem to be increasing both the numbers and range of current populations.

This will be followed by Michael Guppy presenting on “The Moruya Raiders: Nest Predators Revealed by Infra-red Movement Cameras.” Over the past six seasons on the site at Moruya, the Guppys have found and monitored about 700 nests. Half of these nests failed due to predation, but they only seen one act of predation in the 6 years. This season they used infra-red movement cameras to identify the nest predators. The strategy has exceeded all expectations. A lot of the data are unexpected, the scales have fallen from their eyes and almost all of their questions have been answered.

Everyone welcome

not recorded then. In December, Elizabeth and her husband Bill and Julian Robinson reported significant breeding at Callum Brae, including a couple of **Rufous Songlark** nests with young, very tricky to find in my experience. This species seems to have had a very good breeding season, as has the **White-winged Triller**, judging from the reports on the chatline. More **Tawny Frogmouth** nests and young have also been reported.

The first three **Eastern/Pacific Koel** chicks, all hosted by the **Red Wattlebird**, have also been reported, from as early as 2 January when Barbara Allan observed one in her garden. This was at a time when many observers were still reporting significant koel calling activity, including at places where they had not been conspicuous previously, but which now seems to have died down. Like the very noisy birds in my local patch before

unexpected have been separate sightings of **Red-necked Avocets**, firstly 4 at Forde Pond, and then 5 in Lake Burley Griffin nearly 3 weeks later, where they stayed for an afternoon. According to the 2010-2011 Annual Bird Report (ABR), these were last recorded in 2008, so who knows what will turn up next? There was a report of a **Common Greenshank** (the ABR notes as last recorded in 2009) on the Australia Day weekend as this column was being written. The storms and follow up rains over this weekend also put an end to the fears that with all the swamps rapidly drying out the feast of sightings would soon become a famine.

While waterbirds may have grabbed the spotlight for the past couple of months, there have been plenty of good land bird sightings too. There have been three well separated reports of the **Painted Honeyeater**, and two similar reports of the **Black Honeyeater**; in all cases I understand the birds moved on quickly with few other observers seeing them. This is almost always the case with the three reports of the **Channel-billed Cuckoo**, a species which always seems to be on the move and mainly identified by its call as it does so. A **Red-backed Kingfisher** was reported a couple of times from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands, and there have been single reports of **Little Lorikeets** and **Cockatiel**. There have also been a couple of reports of the **White-browed Woodswallow** since the beginning of December, with breeding reported north of Gundaroo just before Christmas. There also seem to have been more than the usual number of reports of the **Spotted Harrier**; at least some of these may be explained by a bird being a regular visitor to the RSPCA shelter at Weston, thought to be attracted by the supply of rabbits there at the moment.

Over the Australia Day weekend there was a follow up report of the **Red-chested Button-quail** seen at Mulligan's Flat, a species I was not aware of, including that it possibly occurred in the ACT area of interest, in my over 35 years of bird watching. It doesn't rate a mention in the ABR, but Steve Wilson's book *Birds of the ACT: Two Centuries of Change* reveals some early sightings with the last being in 1969! It is noted to be a “rare irruptive visitor, the only records being between September and February.” So my prediction in my November 2012 column to watch out for the unexpected this summer has certainly proved to be correct.

Judging from the many reports on the COG chatline, it has been an excellent breeding season, despite the dry conditions with only the single significant rain event around Christmas. Despite the very hot days after the New Year, it seems to have been enough rain to sustain them with Elizabeth Compston reporting breeding activity at Campbell Park in the first half of January rivalling that seen during the Nest Workshop there two months earlier. This included 3 **Australian Owlet Nightjar** chicks

Christmas, I suspect they are quiet while their deposited egg is being brooded, but become more vocal near hatching time. So please keep an ear out for both adults calling and begging fostered chicks, as I'm predicting a bumper crop of koel chicks this year. Likewise there have been many reports of **Superb Parrot** fledglings at their parents' favourite feeding spots. Again all of these reported sightings have been north of the Lake/Molonglo River.

You might wonder with all this activity if there are still any other species to look out for. One such species is the **White-throated Needletail**, which usually is most observed in the next couple of months. Indeed, there have been a number of reports of these already over the Australia Day weekend and in the week or so before then, plus several early in December. Given the low numbers in past years, even during the wetter times, it may prove to be a much better season for them. So please watch out for this species in particular, but not exclusively, on approaching storm fronts, and look closely to see if there are any **Fork-tailed Swifts** amongst them.

As I noted in my December column, by the end of January some species will already be departing. These include the **Brown Songlark** and **Horsfield's Bushlark**. The last records from my usual sources for the former were in mid-January, consistent with Steve Wallace's interrogation of the COG database that in most years this species will have left the ACT by the end of January. However, I can find no records for the latter in the past two months including in the Eremaea database, though Michael Lenz informs me that it was present this summer (at least until early January) near Gundaroo, around Lake Bathurst and grasslands to the east of Lake George. At Lake Bathurst, he was driving along a road much earlier in the morning than normally and found 8 singing birds, but later in the day they were all quiet. He has had the same experience from the other sites, and concludes that early morning surveys are certainly important when looking for this species. I think another aspect is the difficulty many observers have with correctly identifying this species as it is extremely hard when it is quiet (about 9 months of the year), and even when it is singing loudly overhead I don't hear it often enough to be able to definitively separate it from the Eurasian Skylark.

Other species to leave during February include the **Rufous Songlark** and **White-winged Triller**, both of which were still being reported, including feeding dependent young, over the Australia Day long weekend. In my experience both species will migrate very soon after breeding is finished. During February watch out also for the departing **Dollarbirds** and the **Brush Cuckoo**, for which Steve Wallace's COG database analysis has confirmed my impressions that the last of them leave by early March. So there will still be plenty to watch out for during the last month of summer. As always please ensure that all significant observations end up on the COG database.

Jack Holland



Australian Ornithological Services P/L

PO Box 385
South Yarra 3141
Victoria
Tel: 03 9820 4223
Mob: 04173 10200

enquiries@philipmaher.com

2013

**Easter Saturday & Sunday
Plains-wanderer Weekend**
30 & 31 March

**April: Alice Springs area &
MacDonnell Ranges**

July: Top End
Darwin, Kakadu NP, Katherine,
Kunururra, Mitchell Plateau flight

July: Gulf Country
Cairns to Mt Isa, returning via
Atherton Tablelands

September: Strzelecki Outback
Vic, NSW, SW Q'd, SA, 34th tour

**Late September: NSW Central Coast,
Barrington Tops, Barren Grounds**

**October: Yorke Peninsula to
Ceduna** (over 60 scarlet-chested
parrots seen on the 2011 tour)

Mid December
SW Western Australia

2013 Plains-wanderer weekends
30 Nov & 1 Dec
7 & 8 December
28 & 29 December

2014 tours
Feb: Tasmania

Please see itineraries, checklists
and latest news on our website

www.philipmaher.com

Woodland Survey November/December 2012 reports - compiled by Jenny Bounds

Mulligans Flat NR

Jenny Bounds and the team did the survey on Sunday 2 December in fine and warmish conditions with a spot or two of rain only. 57 species were recorded, with the highlights a **Brush Cuckoo** on the eastern side of the reserve and the many ducks and other waterbirds, including a **Musk Duck**, **Australasian Shoveler**, **Hoary-headed Grebes** and a **Darter** on the large dam wetland (now filled following the repair of the dam wall). The 3 **Freckled Ducks** on the large dam wetland were not recorded on the survey itself, but other birders in the reserve that morning reported them and a pair of **Whistling Kites** at a nest. Other species recorded were many **Leaden Flycatchers**, both gerygones, **Rufous** and **Golden Whistlers**, **Superb Parrots** (large dam woodland), **Varied Sittellas**, pair of **Scarlet Robins**, **White-winged Trillers** and **Speckled Warbler**.

Goorooyarroo South NR

Steve Holliday and Prue Buckley reported fine conditions on 25 November. There was plenty of bird activity with 59 species recorded, 48 of them during the 10 minute counts. Two species not previously encountered during the surveys turned up: a **Brown Quail** calling near site 3 and a pair of **Hardheads** on one of the dams. No less than 23 species were seen or heard at site 3 (the patch 300 metres in from the Rocks carpark); besides the **Brown Quail**, there were **Dusky Woodswallows**, **Rufous Songlarks**, a **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** and **White-winged Trillers**, all within close range. Other records of interest included **Diamond Firetail** heard at site 1, **Red-browed Finches** nest building at site 8, a rather unseasonal **White-eared Honeyeater** at site 2, and 5 **Varied Sittellas** and a **Brown Falcon** at site 6. Several **Superb Parrots** were seen and **Mistletoebirds** were at 5 sites.

Mt Majura NR

Kathy Walter and John Goldie conducted the surveys over the last week of November with fairly warm conditions. It was pretty quiet at most sites. They reported it was nice to see **Gang-gang Cockatoos** in a couple of the sites at the back of Hackett. There were low numbers of small birds with **Speckled Warbler** at only one site, and **Brown Thornbill**, **Superb Fairy-wrens** and **Yellow-rumped** and **Buff-rumped Thornbills** in small numbers at other sites. Highlights were three **Mistletoebirds** seen at one site and a pair of **Sacred Kingfishers** at another.

Majura Field Range

Paul Fennell and Barbara Allan, with 3 Defence environmental officers, conducted the survey on 5 December. It was a pleasant sunny/cloudy morning with a light breeze. All in all there were plenty of birds about, reflecting the pristine conditions of the area, in most places the grasses were waist high, with an abundance of wildflowers. At Site 2 the Grenade Range, there were more species than usual, including a pair of **Crimson Rosellas** moving in and out of a nesting hollow, and a small flock of **Tree Martins** swooping about. The bird of the moment was the **Mistletoebird**, spotted at a number of sites; no surprise given the huge amounts of mistletoe in much of the scrub. **White-throated Gerygones** were also abundant, but there were few **Noisy Friarbirds** about. There were not too many honeyeaters at all, but a **Brown-headed Honeyeater** was heard at one site, a species not observed often. There appeared to be quite a few **Rufous Whistlers**, with some sites yielding 2 or 3 either on the site or not far away. Cuckoos were generally absent, with only one **Pallid Cuckoo** observed near the dam at the northern end of the reserve. There were **Australian Wood Ducks**, **Pacific Black Ducks** and one **Hardhead**, as well as an **Australasian Grebe** on the dam. There were no observations of **Brown Treecreeper** or **Hooded Robin**, which are now apparently absent from the areas in which they once were observed.

Campbell Park/Mt Ainslie NR

Michael Lenz reported on the survey on 5 December, a quite cool and at times windy morning. A total of 33 species was recorded inside sites and a further 12 species outside sites. Highlights included: being swooped by surprise by 2 female **Brown Goshawks** (no warning alarm calls), a number of **Mistletoebirds** although fruit

on mistletoes was not evident, 2 **Dollarbirds**, 5 male **White-winged Trillers**, only 1 **Dusky Woodswallow**, **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo**, **Speckled Warbler**, and a **Pallid Cuckoo** probably passing through. **Laughing Kookaburra**, **Rufous Whistler** and **Weebill** each had dependent young. The pair of **Long-billed Corellas** was still present. The weediness of the entire area is of great concern (notably St John's Wort, several species of thistles, at some spots Serrated Tussock, and many other weed species).

Newline

Sue Lashko did the survey on 24 November, reporting two **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes** dive-bombing a pair of **Laughing Kookaburras** as she got out of her car. That of course aroused suspicions and the Cuckoo-shrike nest was soon located. There was also evidence of breeding from **Galahs**, **Eastern Rosellas**, **Red-rumped Parrots**, **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, **Dusky Woodswallows**, **Willie Wagtails** (adding sheep's wool as a final touch to the nest), **Tree Martins**, **Common Starling**, **Common Myna** and **Mistletoebird**. **Rufous Songlarks** were very vocal as was a solitary **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**. Two pairs of **White-winged Trillers** appeared to be involved in a territorial dispute. Other highlights included **Dollarbirds**, a **White-necked Heron** and a **Black-shouldered Kite**. There was no sign of the **Brown Treecreepers** but they are often very cryptic in the breeding season. 43 species were recorded during the survey.

Symonston (Callum Brae sites)

Sandra Henderson did the survey on 25 November, which started pleasantly then became uncomfortably hot. She noted the weeds were taking over again, with plenty of St John's Wort, and saffron thistle appearing in several places. Grass in some areas was waist high and the once-mown tracks (and some of the survey marks) were starting to disappear. 44 species were recorded in total. The **Brown Goshawk** persuaded Sandra to abort the final survey a couple of minutes early, with a low pass overhead and alarm call. A male **Red-browed Finch** was seen presenting his lady friend with a grass stalk with lots of seeds before mating with her, and both **Galahs** and **Little Corellas** were noted in hollows. **Dusky Woodswallows** were chasing a **Magpie** near "nursery corner". The big farm dam included a **Pacific Black Duck** family with eight small ducklings. Other birds of interest were **Speckled Warbler**, several **Leaden Flycatchers**, a **Dollarbird**, several **Rufous Songlarks** and a **Brown Falcon**. A Shingleback lizard was basking in the sun on top of the large stump near the farm dam fenceline.

Jerrabomberra West NR

Jenny Bounds reported on the survey on a mild, still morning on 6 December. As usual, weeds (particularly St John's Wort, this season's prominent weed) and long thick grass made walking difficult in some parts - following kangaroo trails through the grass to most sites was the go. **White-winged Trillers** were very active, with 3 pairs around (2 pairs in more open woodland adjacent to the grasslands), and **Rufous Songlarks** also on the woodland/grasslands edge. **Sacred Kingfishers** (2 pairs) and several pairs of **Dusky Woodswallows** were recorded at different sites. A **Dollarbird** was at site 5, an area where they are recorded most years. At one point a **Brown Goshawk** appeared, circling over a site being surveyed, but the **Dusky Woodswallows** attacked it and drove it off - amazing! Very few honeyeaters were around, just one **Noisy Friarbird**, and no **Speckled Warblers** or **Southern Whitefaces** in the usual places (probably because the grass was too thick). Only one small flock of thornbills (**Buff-rumped**, **Yellow-rumped** and **Striated**) and **Weebills** was recorded. The total species count was 39, a couple of species short of the usual low 40s count for a December survey.

Tuggeranong Hill NR

Lia Battisson surveyed on 2 December, a pleasantly warm, sunny and still morning. The water that was everywhere a year ago had all but dried up, with just a couple of isolated puddles left. 31 species were observed on the Hill, 21 of these during the ten minute surveys. Site 3 was the busiest this time round, with 10 species observed there. Highlights of the morning were **Satin Bowerbirds** at site 5 and **Mistletoebirds**, although they didn't make it into the 10 minute count. Breeding species included a **Buff-rumped Thornbill's** nest with

(Continued on page 12)

Field Trip Reports

Sunday 9 December 2012 - High Brindabellas

David McDonald led approximately 15 birders to the Brindabellas for a lovely walk on a warm but partly overcast day. On the way up to the mountains, we stopped for a quick scan of the dam at Uriarra Homestead, where uncharacteristically few waterbirds were present. Next stop was a short walk through the trees around the Bull's Head car park area, with an unexpected sighting of a beautiful Copperhead Snake flushed by a few lucky walkers.

After a short car shuffle, we then walked 5km slowly down the Moonlight Hollow Road, where 38 bird species were seen and/or heard, including higher country desirables such as **Rose Robin** and **Red-browed Treecreeper** (a number of sightings of each), **Pilotbird** and **Superb Lyrebird** (both heard only), **Brush Cuckoo** and **Satin Flycatcher**. A number of COG members new to the Brindies had first sightings of a number of these species.

Seven **honeyeater** species, including **Yellow-faced**, **White-eared**, **White-naped**, **Brown-headed** and **Crescent** were also seen or heard; as well as four **robins** – **Scarlet**, **Flame**, **Rose** and **Eastern Yellow**. **Spotted Pardalote**, **White-eared Honeyeater**, **Magpie** and **Eastern Yellow Robin** demonstrated breeding behaviours. For those of a botanical as well as an avian bent, noted plants seen in flower included *Olearia megalophylla* and *Cassinia longifolia* and a couple of lovely Hyacinth Orchids.

Thank you, David, for a very pleasant day.

Julie McGuinness

Wednesday 19 December 2012 – Australian Institute of Sport, Bruce

Thirty members and guests came to the AIS and after a little trial and error all gathered at the intended place. The day was warming up but by the time those with stamina adjourned to the coffee shop we had recorded 40 species of which 7 generated breeding records.

The signature bird of the AIS recently has been the **Superb Parrot** and they were present in large and noisy numbers. At a conservative estimate there were 30 birds present including several dependent young. One bird was observed to have a very short tail, suggesting it might have come from a nest in the near vicinity. While most of the birds seemed to be shifting from tree to tree in the carparks some appeared to fly off into Bruce Ridge. The signature bird of the AIS used to be the **Australian Hobby** seen hawking moths in the evenings during Brumbies matches. They haven't been seen so much since the Grogan-Larkham era, but one turned up today at high altitude joining 2 **Nankeen Kestrels** and a couple of **Australian Ravens** in harassing 2 overflying **Wedge-tailed Eagles**. A **Black-shouldered Kite** remained on its perch oblivious to this display of aerial excitement.



The other less common bird seen was a **Buff-banded Rail** skulking along the wetlands against the bicycle path on the northern end of our route. Other breeding records were **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** (ON), **Noisy Miner** (DY), **Eurasian Coot** (DY), **Striated Pardalote** (ON), **Crested Pigeon** (ON) and **Noisy Friarbird** (NY).

Thanks to Sandra for suggesting and leading this outing.

Martin Butterfield

Wednesday 16 January 2013 - Sandwash and Namadgi Visitors Centre

19 members gathered at the Sandwash at 8:30am and soon noticed that the policy of starting an hour early was endorsed by the sun having some heat in it. However hot it got, logging 65 species of birds by 12 noon was probably worth it! Despite the lack of rain recently and the warm weather there was still a reasonable amount of water in the river.

Early excitement was generated by a pair of **Tawny Frogmouths** in the trees on the inland side of the carpark and a **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** (NY) on the riverside. Two **Dollarbirds** were seen on the far side of the Murrumbidgee, as was a **Spotted Harrier**.

We then headed off for a stroll along the path upstream. Good numbers (at least 20) of **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters**, (including 2 DY) were recorded at this location. Another big flock was at least 20 **Red-browed Finches** which, taken with a few other sightings that were confidently asserted to be different birds, pushed the count for this species to 35 birds.

For this site we totalled 48 species, before moving off to the Namadgi Visitors Centre.

The main business at the Visitors Centre was crakes and rails. The dam did not disappoint: almost as soon as we settled we observed a **Spotted Crake** and a **Baillon's Crake**. A little later we added more of these species and at least 3 **Buff-banded Rails**. Those who had visited the site earlier noted that the amount of mud visible was considerably greater than a few days before. This made the spotting a little easier but the **Baillon's** in particular wandered about on the *Ottelia ovalifolia* leaves with no concerns about the sotto voce oohing and aahing and much clicking of shutters.

Dusky Moorhen families with a least 7 DY pottered around and, while an **Australasian Grebe** was on nest, another grebe was very small and would clearly be a DY breeding record. A **Magpie-lark** was sitting on a nest. The final bird recorded here was a **White-winged Triller**. We recorded 30 species at this second stop. A few of the photos I took - alas not of excellent quality in some cases - are at <http://franmart.blogspot.com.au/2013/01/cog-does-tharwa-sandwash-and-namadgi.html>

For February we are planning to try again for Warks Rd, depending on the weather situation. An email will be posted to the chatline confirming (or amending) this close to the date. The editors of Gang-gang may wish to include the following in the upcoming trips section. Could the trips Coordinator please arrange for it to be listed on the Website. "20 February: It is intended to try again to visit Warks Road in the Brindabellas. Meet at Striomlo Forest Park at 8:30am for car pooling. Note that if the forecast weather is likely to be very hot a different venue will be selected. If there is a fire ban for the ACT no walk will take place. A confirmatory email will be circulated to the chatline closer to the date."

Sunday 27 January 2013 – Uriarra

After Australia Day's torrential thunderstorm and forecast further rain, our annual Uriarra outing attracted only 10 participants, but the lack of numbers was more than matched by the quality of both birders and birds. Fortunately, we had a cool, still and slightly cloudy day, ideal for birdwatching. Uriarra Homestead dam turned up a total of 33 species, which I believe breaks a record which had stood for 22 years. Notable observations were **Black-fronted Dotterel**, **Grey Fantail** and **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** all with dependent young, a large **Superb Fairy-wren** flock, eight leisurely **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** overhead, **Golden-headed Cisticola**, and a dozen **Hoary-headed Grebe** in breeding plumage.

Coming back to three sites close to Uriarra Crossing, we were entertained by (probably) breeding pairs of **Leaden Flycatcher**, two **Wedge-tailed Eagles** displaying overhead and another following later, two **Varied Sitella** flocks, one of which was engaged in aerobatics that were strange to most of us. Four **Dollarbirds** were doing their usual loafing in the tops of tall dead trees along the river, whilst an adult **Dusky Woodswallow** fed a juvenile in a casuarina near our lunch spot. Other notable migrants were **White-winged Triller**, **Mistletoebird**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Rufous Whistler** and **Noisy Friarbird**. 56 species were recorded during the outing.

Bruce Lindenmayer

Future Field Trips

Before the start of each 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>.

Saturday 9 February - Pine Island Wall to Pine Island North

(NB: This walk was planned for 12 January but was cancelled due to the extreme fire danger.)

Meet at 7:30am, at Pine Island North car park), then car shuffle to Town Centre Sports Club car park. Then we will walk from there through the reserve down to the river, then walk along the track by the river to Pine Island North.

It is a 2.5km to 3km easy walk. It was very easy to see **Dollarbird**, **Rainbow Bee-eater**, **Dusky Woodswallow** on this walk last year, and sometimes **White-winged Triller**.

Nigel Zhou

Sunday 17 February - East Basin/Molonglo Reach –electric boat cruise

This will be the outing/cruise for 2013 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 three species of cormorant and darters known to breed there. The area is also rich in other water birds, 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 be travelling in the newly converted electric boat "Gull" which can carry up to 30 people. The boat will allow both a quiet approach as well as access to areas difficult to get to from the land. The point of departure will be the little landing adjacent to the car park in Bowen Park opposite the Landmark Apartments. This car park may be accessed off Bowen Drive (going either way).

Registration for this field trip is essential. Please book your place on the boat with Jack Holland (on 6288 7840 AH or by E-mail on jack.holland@environment.gov.au).

Wednesday 20 February – Warks Road

It is intended to try again to visit Warks Road in the Brindabellas. Meet at Stromlo Forest Park at 8:30am for car pooling. Note that if the forecast weather is likely to be very hot a different venue will be selected. If there is a fire ban for the ACT no walk will take place. A confirmatory email will be circulated to the chatline closer to the date."

Sunday 3 March – Micalong Swamp Flora Reserve

It is 12 years since COG visited one of the two Wetlands of National Importance in the Canberra region, the Micalong Swamp Flora Reserve. (The other is Yaouk Swamp.) On this visit we will combine birding, botany and bushwalking. See <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/topics/wetlands/database/diwa.html>.

Micalong Swamp is some 80 km west of Canberra, two-thirds of which is a dirt road (the Brindabella Road), so it will be best if we use 4WD/SUV-type vehicles. We will do a 12 km loop walk around the Swamp, observing the birds that use the Swamp and its margins. The track is flat, with no hills.

This will be a full day trip so bring morning tea, lunch and water. There are no toilets at the venue. Rendezvous at 7.30 am for carpooling at the Bushfire Memorial carpark off Uriarra Road, about 200m from the intersection with Cotter Road (almost opposite where we used to meet at Stromlo Forest carpark pre 2003 fires). There is now a roundabout at the entrance to the Bushfire Memorial. We expect to arrive back in Canberra at around 4:30 pm. Suggested contribution from each passenger to drivers: \$10. The trip will be cancelled if it is a total fire ban day.

Registration is essential. For further information and to register please contact the trip leader, David McDonald, at phone 6238 3706 or email cog3mar13@canberrabirds.org.au.

Saturday 9 March to Monday 11 March – Narooma/ Mt-Dromedary (Gulaga NP)

The aim of the Canberra Day long weekend outing will be to visit the local estuaries, lakes, beaches and forest of the Narooma area and to explore Mt Dromedary with its rainforest gullies and topography acting as an outlier for many of the more northern coastal bird species.

The plan will be to drive down on Friday evening (8th Feb, 3.5 hours) from Canberra. After an early rise on Saturday (start 5.30am) we will drive to the track head at Tilba Tilba and walk from there to the top. The walk to the 800m summit will take about 5 hours return. Saturday afternoon-late evening will be spent on a local outing. Sunday morning there will be an exploration of nearby freshwater Lake Nargal and surrounds with the afternoon-evening outing again exploring the local estuaries and beaches. The return to Canberra will be the following day. Bring along some appropriate food for a BBQ on either the Saturday or Sunday evening.

Accommodation is available at the Regatta Point Holiday Park at Wallaga Lake (www.regattapointpark.com.au; phone 02 64934253). Places will be limited to about 12-15. The leader will be Chris Davey but as he will be away for the first 3 weeks in February please contact Sue Lashko 62514485 or smlashko@gmail.com for further information or to register your interest.

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 March – Shore/Heath with Illawarra Birders

The Illawarra Birders (IB) will show us a number of good birding spots in the Illawarra. The format is same as joint trip last year.

Friday night arrival for COG members, due to early start on Saturday and roughly 3 hour drive from Canberra. Proposed schedule:

- 1) 8.30am start on Saturday with an approximately 3 hr visit to the restricted access Tallawarra Ashponds.
- 2) Saturday arvo visit Shellharbour Swamp and Lake Illawarra hotspots (then current).
- 3) Sunday morning visit Barren Grounds after which COG people head to Canberra.

Everyone should have a packed lunch and drinks for Saturday day so that we can adjust timings as appropriate and all stay together. Dinner on Saturday will be a joint COG/IB event at a Warilla Bowls Club south of Windang.

COG members attending need to book their own accommodation. The Oasis Caravan Park is a good starting point: <http://www.oasisresort.com.au/> but there are numerous alternatives nearby.

Registration is essential preferably by 4 March, contact Michael Robbins (mrobbins@home.netspeed.com.au)

Sunday 17 March – Burra

This outing is to Ian Anderson's property, "Kurrajong Gardens", at 156 Hutchinson Place, Burra. People can either travel there direct or if any want to travel in a convoy they can meet at my place in Canberra, 12 Wylly Place, Hughes. It takes about 40 minutes to drive from Hughes to the property. I suggest we aim to arrive at Burra by 8.00 am. I will therefore expect to depart from my place in Hughes by 7.20am.

Those wishing to travel direct to the property from Canberra will need to use a part of the section of the Old Queanbeyan to Cooma Road between Queanbeyan and Williamsdale. One of the options, perhaps the easiest, is to take the Monaro Highway and just before Williamsdale take the turn left towards Burra.

Continue on this section of the Old Queanbeyan to Cooma Road for about seven or eight kilometres, most of which is dirt, until you come to a right hand turn with a bitumen road. This road is called Badgery Road. Continue on this road for about a kilometre. Turn right into a cul-de-sac, Hutchinson Place, which is a dirt road. The property, near the top of the cul-de-sac, has the number 156 stamped on a metal plaque on the fence, and has a Conservation Agreement sign on the front gate with the name "Kurrajong Gardens".

Those coming from the Queanbeyan direction need to take the Queanbeyan to Guises Creek Road. (There is no settlement at Guises Creek which is a fire control centre on the Monaro Highway.) Turn left at the Burra sign just before the historic Anglican Church on the right hand side. Continue on past the turnoff to London Bridge and Tin Hut Dam on the left until you come to Badgery Road on the left hand side, after turning right off the Burra to Michelago Road and crossing Burra Creek heading towards Williamsdale. Turn onto Badgery Road and follow the instructions from there given above.

A third option which may suit some people is to travel along the Monaro Highway to the Guises Creek Fire Station, turn left and continue on towards Queanbeyan until they reach the Burra sign. They can then following the instructions given above.

Contact Ian on 62810609 (home) or 0413754453, or by email: [Iananderson\(at\)grapevine.com.au](mailto:Iananderson(at)grapevine.com.au). I suggest those coming bring something for a morning tea snack. There are facilities available at the property, including hot water and protection from inclement weather.

Ian Anderson.

Advance notice of Easter campout – Friday 29 March-Monday 1 April - Chiltern

We will camp on private property at Chiltern in northern Victoria, about 4 hours drive from Canberra. The site is suitable for tents, caravans or campervans. Some tank water is available. We will bird in a variety of habitats in the local area but may go further afield to the Murray (or to local wineries) if it is very hot and/or if fire bans are in place and forests closed. Numbers will be limited to 16. Please contact Sue Lashko at SMLashko@gmail.com to register your interest. More detailed information will be emailed to participants.

Help the Conservation Council save important woodland habitat in Throsby & Kinlyside

It is nearing crunch time for Throsby, the land east of Horse Park Drive abutting Mulligans Flat and Gorooyarroo reserves in Gungahlin. The Commonwealth Government has agreed that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be required by the ACT Government (under the Commonwealth's EPBC Act), on the remaining developable lands in Gungahlin, which include Throsby and Kinlyside (near Hall), both areas of significant bird habitat and interest to COG. COG and the Conservation Council ACT Region have been calling for a whole of landscape assessment, rather than dealing with environmental issues on a development site by site basis.

COG, with the Conservation Council, is actively engaging in the SEA process. While we believe that Kinlyside and the northern Throsby neck area are most likely to be conserved (as offsets for other development), we will also be focussing efforts on ensuring that the Superb Parrot breeding colony on Throsby Ridge has adequate buffers from

housing or urban related infrastructure. COG's view is that there should be no development at all in Throsby (all the land east of Horse Park Drive), as this is the best way to ensure the long term survival of the parrots' breeding colony. However, if some development is approved by the Commonwealth in Throsby, COG will argue this should be limited to a small strip along the eastern edge of Horse Park Drive for lower impact, broadacre use only (eg playing fields, school site), not housing, with substantial buffer areas from the parrots' breeding colony.

The Conservation Council, with community environment groups, has campaigned on many issues over the years, including saving Mulligans Flat from development, and the Central Molonglo woodlands (includes Kama reserve). Members of COG are encouraged to make a donation to the Council now to help in their work. COG has already made a donation to the Council from profits from our Superb Parrot surveys in Gungahlin.

Donations can be made by:

cheque or money order to: Bogong Fund (Mail address PO Box 544 Canberra, ACT 2601) or
direct deposit to: CCSERAC INC Bogong Fund BSB 062 919/Acct: 10072428

Photo Ops #12 - Feb 2013— Photographing Birds in Flight

Regular ABC viewers will know that Midsomer is by far the most dangerous county in Britain, with not just one but usually two or three murders a week, all of which occur in the most complex of circumstances. An episode captured my attention a few years ago because it illustrated that the less-than-realistic viewpoint of the show's writers was not confined to the premature death of far too many villagers, but also included the world's most implausible bird photography.

In the story, a bird-nerd with camera was at the back of a comfortable Midsomer rural residence, walking towards one of the out-buildings – a barn. It was almost dusk so the light was low and just as he neared the barn a **Barn Owl** (what else?) flew out the open door, straight past the startled photographer, turned left and disappeared. The bird would have been visible for all of two seconds. But this man had the coolth and reflexes of a cat, managing to whip his camera into position and rattle off three photos of the owl, all of them in perfect focus, properly exposed, bird nicely in the frame and with no trace of blurring due to movement. Given the lack of light and lack of preparation this achievement makes three murders a week look positively realistic. Naturally these photos became pivotal elements in the drama, more of which later.

Birds-in-flight is a subset of bird photography that appeals to many for the chance to show birds caught in action. For enthusiasts the extra challenge – greater degree of difficulty – only adds to the attraction. In-flight pics don't come quite as easily in real life as they do in Midsomer but they're actually not too hard at all given a bit of preparation, practice and some luck.

The issues we need to consider include exposure, focus, panning and equipment choice.

As the camera follows your target across the landscape, the exposure seen by the camera will vary depending on whether the bird at a given moment is set against cloud or clear sky or perhaps hillside. Exposure also varies as the camera aim shifts relative to the bird. To avoid both of these perturbations I always set exposure manually, usually by taking a reading from the surrounding countryside and fixing the exposure at that reading. In this way, no matter what part of the sky, bird or background the camera is seeing, the exposure will remain at a good approximation of what is required.

Obviously with more light it is easier to capture moving targets because fast shutter speeds minimise movement and jitter of all kinds. Conversely, low light just about rules out successful in-flight shots, unless massive blur happens to work artistically, or you live in Midsomer.



(Continued from page 5)

young at site 7 and dependent young **Australian Magpie**, **Pied Currawong** and **Red Wattlebird**. **Common Starlings** have again occupied the hollows at site 3, unfortunately.

Rural leasehold near Tharwa

David McDonald surveyed in early December and noted the property had seen an explosion of vegetation growth, with long native grasses, eucalyptus sapling growth and understorey shrubs creating changes in the landscape. Sadly though, along with this have come the weeds, with St John's Wort infesting some of the native grass areas and intruding into the woodland itself, a distressing sight. The birds did not seem to mind, though, with 35 species recorded including some iconic woodland migrants such as the **White-winged Triller**, **Dusky Woodswallow**, **Pallid Cuckoo** (there seem to be fewer of this species this season than usual?), **Leaden Flycatcher** and **Rufous Songlark**. Indeed, on arrival at the site the air was full of the songlarks, **Rufous Whistlers** and both gerygones calling. The **Australian Wood Ducks** had ducklings and, great news, **Brown Treecreepers** were carrying food, presumably to dependent young though David did not find the nest site. A pair of **Mistletoebirds** flew close at one point, calling/singing loudly.

Naas Valley site

Julie McGuinness reported quite warm conditions for the summer survey on 25 November at the Naas property near Mt Tennent. There were eucalypts with much new growth and an exotic grassy understorey thick and still green with the best range of native flowers seen at the property. 41 species were recorded, mostly in very small numbers, though more **White-winged Trillers**, **Dusky Woodswallows** and **White-throated Gerygones** were around. Highlights were 1 **Brown Treecreeper** on site (this bird only seen very intermittently over the last couple of years), 1 **Speckled Warbler**, 1 **Red-browed Finch**, 1 **Diamond Firetail**, 1 **Varied Sitella**, 1 **Leaden Flycatcher**, 2 **Rainbow Bee-eaters**, and 2 **Wedge-tailed Eagles** drifting low over one site. Breeding activity consisted of a **Striated Pardalote** repeatedly entering a hollow, a **White-throated Gerygone** taking spider web to a very advanced nest, and a begging juvenile **Magpie**.

Getting sharp focus is a matter of good equipment, correct camera settings, good panning technique and luck. Modern SLRs all have the capacity to track focus. In this mode they will track a target as it moves towards or away from the camera and only allow the shutter to operate when the correct focus is calculated to occur. The efficacy of this depends very much on the camera, but often it works very well.

I include a few examples of images in which the camera surprised me with its ability to track accurately. The **White-plumed Honeyeater** (below) was grazing on thistle heads (I think for insects) about 7 or 8 metres from me. I happened to have the camera already on the bird just as it decided to fly directly towards me to another thistle, so ... press button, cross fingers and be amazed to discover three sharp, well-focused images at different stages of this tiny flight. Not quite up there with Mr Barn Owl perhaps, but still technologically impressive. Incidentally, that camera (Canon 20D) was the cheapest and oldest I've used on birds, yet for some reason was by far the best at capturing moving targets, and noticeably better than my current (much more sophisticated) camera.



Given this technology, the main difficulty for the operator is keeping the focus point accurately on the bird or, sometimes, the *part* of the bird you want to focus on. This is where panning comes in, a skill that in my experience is only acquired by practice. If you are using a single focus point, you need to keep that point on the correct part of the bird as you chase it across the sky. This is not easy but once again modern cameras can make things more possible by allowing you to activate a whole group of focus points and then



allowing the camera to automatically select which it thinks is on your subject. This works well when the bird is flying across blank sky but can get confused when it's flying in front of a more complex background (such as the grass in the **Hooded Robin** shot—left), in which case sometimes it's better to set a single focus point.

Equipment choice means a camera with good focus tracking and a lens and camera that focus quickly and are not too heavy to handhold. Generally more money means better performance in both, but there are exceptions and quite a variation in focus speed between lenses so it is worth checking. As I

mentioned my oldest camera was better in this regard than the newest. For Canon owners, the venerable 400mm f5.6 is the lightest and fastest focus for dollar.

My suggestion to the interested novice is to start by practising in bright daylight on larger, slower and more distant birds – **Pelicans** and **Brolgas** are good candidates. Sometimes flocks can also make satisfying patterns and shapes in a way that is more interesting than single birds. With experience, other useful techniques will become obvious, the *most* obvious being that you can take otherwise impossible shots of small fast birds by waiting until they fly upwind in a stiff breeze. I'd never have captured those **Welcome Swallows** (Page 6) if they hadn't been playing on the wind that was blowing over the top of a Murrumbidgee cliff.

Raptors are also good to practise on because they are large, sometimes slow moving, sometimes hovering and sometimes predictable in their actions.

As an aside, and nothing really to do with the main topic, consider again the impossible **Barn Owl** shots. The pivotal evidence that Barnaby required to wrap up yet another baffling case was those photographs. In the photo background behind the owl was the house and by blowing up a tiny section about a million times (as you can do easily in fictional cinema by saying “zoom in there, enhance that”, in an authoritative voice) one was able to see the required evidence. But we should ask how it was that the background was in focus? As we know, even moderate telephoto lenses have a narrow depth of field so that backgrounds tend to be soft blurs. The answer is that it's just another make-believe – in those Midsomer circumstances it would not have been possible for both the owl and the background to be sharply focused. Of course, no need to spoil a good story.

This soft-background effect (or lost-background as it is sometimes called) can be overcome for special occasions with a bit of effort, even with flying birds. The **Pied Butcherbird** (below) shot is unusual because you can see the clouds in the background in reasonable detail. To manage this I chose a non-telephoto lens, almost wide angle in bird photography terms, with a correspondingly large depth of field. This meant I had to be very close to the flying bird which is a big ask... unless you happen to know that the bird is fed regularly at this spot by its human friend, and takes the same flight path to the feeding ground every time. Despite the minor trickery I appreciate these shots because, Midsomer aside, the resulting background detail and perspective is quite uncommon in bird-in-flight photography.

Julian Robinson



COMMITTEE NEWS

Clare Henderson from the Conservation Council thanked COG for the \$5000 donation we made late last year. The money (together with matching donation from the National Parks Association) has enabled them to employ Julie Melrose to work on the North Gungahlin issue.

A small subcommittee is to be formed to organise some activities for COG's 50th anniversary year in 2014.

COG'S BIRD BLITZ 2012

At the January COG meeting, prizes for the October 2012 bird blitz were intended to be awarded. However that meeting was cancelled. It was decided that the prizes would be allocated as follows, with the winners to be notified in the February issue of *Gang-gang* and the prizes available for collection at the February COG meeting or by arrangement with the organiser.

For **participation in every COG blitz to date**, the stalwarts - Ian Anderson, Darryl Beaumont, Muriel Brookfield, Matt Frawley, Stuart Harris, Jack Holland, Shirley Kral, Bruce Lindenmayer, Gail Neumann, Sue Lashko, Susan Robertson, Philip Veerman, Tony Willis and myself – will each receive a donated book or video, from amongst the National Photographic Index series, Attenborough's Life of Birds, Forshaw's Parrots and the New Atlas.

The prize for the **best bird** recorded, a delightful photo of a Sooty Oystercatcher, donated by Steve Stephinson, was awarded to Roger Curnow for his Australian Painted Snipe from West Belconnen Ponds. Runner-up was David McDonald for his Wonga Pigeon from Pipeline Road, a rare record of a once-usual high country species. David will receive another Stephinson masterpiece, a photo of three Pelicans.

MUDBRICK COTTAGE

Mallacoota

Our mudbrick cottage (Blue Wren Cottage) is available for rental for all those nature lovers out there!!

It is set amongst the trees in Mallacoota, Victoria (approximately 4 hours drive from Canberra). It is only 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
or see
<http://www.stayz.com.au/25595>

The **vulnerable species** prize, a bottle of Mt Majura vineyard wine, kindly donated by Stuart Harris, was potentially hotly contested this time, as over 20 participants recorded White-winged Trillers and good numbers also recorded Varied Sittellas. But the prize went to Philip Veerman, Joanne Kinsella and Judith Hopwood (or to whoever actually observed the bird first) for the sole record of a Hooded Robin, at Castle Hill.

Breeding records, apart from the ubiquitous maggies and the commonly breeding species, were relatively few and far between. After eliminating records of the preliminary stages of breeding, such as inspecting hollows, and after further eliminating, subjectively, the "easy to see" species and those species often recorded as breeding either in previous blitzes or in recent annual bird reports, I selected the following to receive packets of Steve Stephinson cards:

Jenny Bounds – nest-building Brown Falcon, Mulligans Flat;
Susan Robertson – dependent young Grey Butcherbirds, Aranda;
Paul Fennell – dependent young Black-fronted

COG BOOK SALES

Please note

COG Book sales have been suspended until a we have a volunteer to take over the operation of the book sales desk. The task is not particularly onerous and is greatly valued by COG members. Assistance is available from previous desk managers to get on top of the task and to fill in for occasional absences of the desk operator from monthly meetings. Please give Chris Davey a call on 6254 6324 or email chris_davey@aapt.net.au

Dotterel, Fairlight HS dam; Mark Clayton – Mistletoebird carrying food, Crace; Jane Green, Sue Mathews and myself – dependent young White-naped Honeyeaters, Lick Hole Rd; Sandra Henderson – White-throated Gerygone on nest, Callum Brae; Stuart Harris and Lindsay Hansch – nest-building Fuscous Honeyeaters, Brandy Flat Hut; Ian Anderson and Tony Willis – Flame Robin nest-building, Yaouk Trail.

The “**participation**” prizes will be awarded to every third person in the alphabetical list of named blitz participants. The following COG members were the lucky winners, and will receive a book to be personally selected from those donated by Susan Robertson, Duncan McCaskill, Sandra Henderson and Phyl Goddard:

Richard Allen; Sue Beatty; Rosemary Blemings; Tina Bromhead; Erin Brown; Brian Chauncy; Chris Davey; Malcolm Fyfe; Jeannie Gray; Kay Hahne; Sandra Henderson; Judith Hopwood; David Landon; Bruce Lindenmayer; Alison Mackerras; Duncan McCaskill; Julie McGinniss; Matt Mullaney; Nick Nicholls; Michael Robbins; David Rosalky; Tim Smith; Julian Teh; Ben Walcott; Louise Wangerek.

Many thanks once again to all who participated in the blitz and to the persons who donated prizes. Special commendations go to Philip Veerman and to Stuart Harris for taking beginners under their wing; and to Mark Clayton, Nick Nicholls, Matt Frawley, Sue Beatty and Julian Robinson for mopping up unloved sites. And please everyone record in your diaries the date of the 2013 blitz: **26-27 October**.

A detailed report on the outcomes of the 2012 blitz will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Canberra Bird Notes*.

Barbara Allan

DEUA TIN HUTS

Via Braidwood

Comfortable accommodation on the doorstep 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 Shoalhaven Valley.

Reasonable rates, hampers on request, Group booking discounts.

Email enquiry@deuatinhuts.com
www.deuatinhuts.com
Ph 02 4847 1248



WONGA

Bawley Point

South Coast of N.S.W.

Two well equipped timber cottages in 50 acres. Damp and dry warm temperate forest, kunzea and rock provide for a diversity of birds and other animals. A short walk down the driveway leads to sand dunes and beaches, sea birds and Hooded Plovers. Close to National Parks, lakes and historic sites.

patricia.walker@bigpond.com
phone 02 6251 3136

www.visitnsw.com.au (follow the links to accommodation and Wonga)

New members

COG welcomes the these new members:

C Kavunenko,
Kawarree NSW

A Turner, Yarralumla

J Kinsella, Wanniasa

S Knight, Watson

M Mears, Watson

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the March 2013 edition

Wednesday 27 February 2013

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

gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au

or

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

Articles should be less than 500 words (300 for reports of 1-day field trips) except by prior arrangement with the editor. Photographs (prints or electronic) with or without articles are encouraged and welcomed.

COG info

President—Alison Russell-French
Email: alisonrf@iinet.net.au

Vice President—Chris Davey
6254 6324
Email: chris_davey@aapt.net.au

Treasurer—Noel Luff
Email: noelluff@hotmail.com.au

Secretary—Sandra Henderson
6231 0303
cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au

Address for correspondence
The Secretary
COG, PO Box 301
Civic Square, ACT 2608

Newsletter distribution
Brian Fair and helpers

COG library

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

COG membership
2012—2013 memberships:

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

Membership inquiries

Sandra Henderson
6231 0303

membership@canberrabirds.org.au
for changed address or other details

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 website
www.canberrabirds.org.au

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

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

Canberra Bird Notes—Editor

Michael Lenz
lenzmi@hotmail.com.au

Gang-gang - Editors

Sue Lashko and Janette Lenz
gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au



Gang-gang

If undeliverable, please return to

Canberra Ornithologists Group, Inc.
PO Box 301
Civic Square ACT 2608

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

Print Post Approved

100001 305