

# Gang-gang

November 2011

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

## NOVEMBER MEETING

7:30pm Wednesday 09.11.11

**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 short presentation entitled '**How prolific are Noisy Miners? The 2010/11 season on the ANU campus**', will be given by **Michael Lenz**, who attempted to establish the number of Noisy Miner broods which produced fledglings over one breeding season. The project was triggered by notably late broods in the 2009/10 breeding season.

The main speaker will be **Professor David Lindenmayer** from the Fenner School of Environment and Society. David, who is well known to COG audiences and is the 2011 recipient of Birds Australia's Serventy medal, will give a presentation on '**Habitat management and restoration in the Western Murray region and their effects on vegetation and birds**'.

## What to watch out for this month

We're now two months into spring but it's only in the last few days that the pattern for the kind of season we're having has just about been established. Some of the expected species have either been slow to arrive or are here only in low or moderate numbers, at least from reports on the chat line, the woodlands surveys and from my own observations. Some species which I wasn't expecting, notably the **Rufous Songlark** and **White-winged Triller**, seem to be reasonably abundant, though not at the levels seen during the peak of the drought. Some of the more common migrants (or part migrants) such as the **Red Wattlebird**, **Silvereye** and the **Grey Fantail** were moving through in good numbers for the first half of the month. More **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters**, sometimes with **White-naped**, were reported moving through during this time than in September, though the maximum flock size reported was about 70. Good numbers of the **Superb Parrot** have continued to be reported from the usual spots to the north or northwest of the ACT.

Of the later arriving migrants, there have been some (but not many as I would expect) reports of the **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Rainbow Bee-eater**, **Dollarbird**, and surprisingly only a single report to date of **Leaden Flycatcher**. My impression is that these species, particularly the latter, seem so far to be here in lower numbers than in previous years. However, in the ten days before the publication deadline there were a number of reports of the **Satin Flycatcher**, both male and female, moving through on the way to the mountains. On the weekend of 22-23 October Milburn visited the wet gullies of the Brindabellas where he reported **Brush Cuckoos** (the first for the month) and **Satin Flycatchers**. Additionally a few **Cicadabirds** had arrived and were busily advertising themselves, and in some places **Rufous Fantails** outnumbered **Grey Fantails**!

The burst of warm weather and rapidly drying conditions of that weekend also brought the first reports for October of flocks of **White-browed** and **Masked Woodswallows**, and Ian Fraser reported the season's first **Brown Songlark** in Gungahlin. The first **Eastern/Pacific Koel** was also calling in Rivett, and two mornings later Geoffrey Dabb photographed a male on its usual summer perch in Narrabundah, supporting his belief that it's the same

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Everyone welcome



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## Planting for Threatened Birds Friday 21 October

On a warm sunny spring morning COG joined with Bush Heritage Australia and Greening Australia to plant several hundred trees and shrubs on the BHA reserve 'Scottsdale' just north of Bredbo. The planting was initiated by COG using surplus funds from the BA campout held at Scottsdale in April this year. Additional funds to increase the number of plants and organise the planting were obtained through the Community Small Grants Scheme run by the *Caring for Our Country*-funded project Communities in Landscapes (CiL).

The focus was on planting *Allocasuarina verticillata*, the Drooping Sheoke, the seeds of which are the major food source in the region for the threatened Glossy Black-Cockatoo. Also planted was a small wattle *Acacia aureocrinita*, which occurs on Scottsdale and only a few other rocky locations in the coastal ranges. The Drooping Sheoke occurs naturally on the rocky escarpment of Scottsdale but only as a few old trees and some small stands of middle-aged trees, with no recruitment of seedlings due to high grazing pressure from rabbits and native herbivores. The tubestock we planted were protected with 60cm guards.

Although the aim of the morning wasn't birdwatching, in between the 'thump' of the mattock in the ground, or the 'clink' when we hit rock, we were serenaded by Rufous Whistlers, and occasionally a Speckled Warbler. Pausing to admire the magnificent views along the Murrumbidgee we could watch the Wedge-tailed Eagles soaring above the valley, and at one stage Rainbow Bee-eaters flew high overhead.

A similar event is planned for autumn next year, tentatively for a weekend in mid-March. The planting provides good exercise, good company, great views and all for a good cause.

## Survey expertise required

### ANU Bird Survey Program-2012

The Australian National University is preparing for its seasonal 5-year cyclic bird surveys, and it is hoped that COG members can provide the expertise required.

4 seasonal surveys will be carried out during 2012–13 (January, April, July, October), with the first planned for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2012. This data will build on the Lower Sullivans Creek Catchment Ecological Survey and Life in the Suburbs project. Our proposed survey area will include sites in the ANU, ANBG, CSIRO, Black Mountain Peninsula, Civic West and parts of Turner. There are a total of 31 UMUs across the study area, with 3 sites in each of them.

As with past surveys, we will focus on community learning. Most of the volunteers will be students with little experience in bird monitoring, so we will be pairing up COG experienced birdwatchers with students, to ensure a good learning process and quality data.

Surveys will be run from 8:00-11am. We will be using the 2-hectare, 20-min search method and datasheets from COG. We will require at least 16 COG members, who will monitor 1-2 students. Each team will complete 2 UMUs, with the whole process taking approximately 2.5-3 hours.

In return for COG's efforts, we shall provide a thank you brunch to all volunteers.

Please contact the Biodiversity Officer Tim ([tim.yiu@anu.edu.au](mailto:tim.yiu@anu.edu.au)) for registration and further details.



Chris Davey, Con Boekel and Nicki Taws planting Drooping Sheoke at 'Scottsdale' 21 October 2011. Photo: Peter Saunders, BHA



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### 2011 tours

3 — 22 September 2011  
**Strzelecki Track, Outback**  
4 places available

### Plains-wanderer Weekends

26 & 27 November 2011  
New Year's Eve 2011

### 2012 tours

9 — 25 January  
New Zealand

4 — 11 February  
Tasmanian bird & mammal tour

**Mid May Gulf Country**  
Cairns, Georgetown, Karumba,  
Gregory R, Cloncurry & Mt Isa

1 — 13 July **Top End**  
Darwin, Kakadu NP, Kununurra

17 — 23 July  
Alice Springs/MacDonnell Ranges

6 — 25 September  
Strzelecki Track, Outback

31 Oct — 7 Nov  
New Caledonia

11— 19 November  
SW Western Australia

See itineraries & trip reports on the website

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bird every summer. That leaves only the **Horsfield's Bushlark** to still be reported from the migrant bush birds you might expect to observe in any spring in Canberra.

All the focus and excitement in the couple of weeks prior to that had been on birds associated with water, with the Jerrabomberra Wetlands and the Fyshwick Sewage Works, considered by some as not worth visiting for the past year or so, providing the main activity. The **Painted Snipe** have stayed for much longer than expected, for over a month now, and with at least four seen, including a male. Also present have been up to 6 **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers**, a **Red-necked Stint**, an **Intermediate Egret** (allowing comparison with the more common **Great Egret**), a couple of **Glossy Ibis**, a **Nankeen Night-heron**, the **White-necked Heron**, as well as some **crakes** and a **Buff-banded Rail**. Away from here there was a report of a **Black-winged Stilt** in Dunlop, and 26 **Plumed Whistling-ducks** on the banks of a pond being constructed in Dickson. This has certainly been the best assemblage of these species for some years and, with parts of the inland clearly drying up, watch out for what might lob up at your local pond.

There have still been a few observations of the **Barn Owls** and of **Black-shouldered Kites**, with one remarkable record (posted with photo) of 14 of the latter pre-roosting in one tree on the Hoskintown Plain. In keeping with my perceptions of a relatively slow season to date, bush birds seem to have been a bit tardy to start breeding (I've only seen/heard baby **Australian Magpies** out of the nest on the last weekend). Highlights so far have been both a **Red Wattlebird** and a **Tawny Frogmouth** occupying different old chough mud nests (the latter has done so at Campbell Park for the past few seasons though unfortunately the young have always fledged just before the nest workshop – perhaps still there this year?), and a rare observation of a female **Spotted Quail-thrush** carrying food to her nest. Finally there are now two chicks in the **White-faced Heron** nest at Campbell Park, over two months earlier than last year.

The above has certainly fulfilled my expectations last month that this year is shaping up as the best in several years, and also fairly unpredictable, so who knows what will turn up next? As usual keep your eyes and ears open and please record all significant observations of the above species, as well as all breeding activity, and ensure these are reported for inclusion in the COG database.

Jack Holland

## Field Trip Reports

### Monday-Saturday 19-24 September Green Cape, NSW – Where ornithology and gastronomy meet



Southern Emu-wren (*Stipiturus malachurus*)  
Photo by David Cook

Nine lucky COGGERS spent a most relaxing and enjoyable few days at spectacular Green Cape near Eden, renowned for its rugged coastline, 320 degrees of ocean views and very comfortable accommodation. Weather was mostly good, and there was a pronounced correlation between increasing wind speed and increasing bird numbers, especially for albatrosses and shearwaters.

Each morning we met at 6.00am for some seabird watching. A few **Black-browed Albatross** were seen most days, while **Shy Albatross** were present every day and much more abundant. On 20 September an estimate of 8,000 was made, and on 23 September Peter counted a passage of more than 3,700 in a single hour. The other abundant seabird was the **Short-tailed Shearwater** – thousands of birds flew past on 21 September, and at dawn on 24 September at least 18 rafts comprising about 25,000 birds were seen. Some of the other birds sighted off the Point included **Eastern Yellow-nosed Albatross**, **Giant**

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**Petrel, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Sooty Oystercatcher, Pacific Gull, Caspian Tern, Crested Tern, White-fronted Tern and Brown Skua.**

Our first foray into the heath was an 8km walk to Pulpit Rock. The heath was a riot of Spring colour, and flowering species included Hibbertia, Patersonia, Westringia, Epacris, Correa, Crowea, Hakea, Banksia, Caladenia, Banksia, Dillwynia and Leptospermum. Heath dwellers seen on this or subsequent days included **Tawny-crowned Honeyeater** (seen every day), **Southern Emu-wren, Striated Fieldwren, Brush Bronzewing** and **Beautiful Firetail**. **Ground Parrots** were heard at dusk one evening.

On 22 September we walked the 8km trail from Bittangabee to the lighthouse. Some additional birds seen within the forest section were **Wonga Pigeon, Satin Bowerbird, White-throated Treecreeper, Noisy Friarbird, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Brown Gerygone, Eastern Yellow Robin** and **Eastern Whipbird**.

One of the real highlights of the trip was the conviviality around the dining table each night – with just 9 participants we could all share the evening meal. The standard of food was high, epitomised by Roy's wonderful pavlova on the final evening, cooked from scratch.

A total of **68 bird species** were recorded for the trip. Six species were added to the Green Cape list, namely **Brown Falcon, Barn Owl, Yellow Thornbill, Scarlet Honeyeater, Flame Robin** and **Tree Martin**. **Humpback Whales** were seen each day, often breaching close to shore, and we had good views of 2 **Killer Whales**. Some of the other mammals recorded included **Short-beaked Echidna**, several **Common Wombats**, **Common Ringtail Possum** (dec), **Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Red-necked Wallaby, Black (Swamp) Wallaby**, and **Australian Fur Seal**. Several reptiles were also sighted, including a **Red-bellied Black Snake** basking at the Point.

A terrific trip, highly recommended to future participants.

*Kathy Cook and Peter Fullagar*

### **National Arboretum Bird Survey- 25 September**

A repeat of the bird survey conducted at the Arboretum in October 2009 was conducted in clear, warm weather. Four teams of COG members surveyed the same area and in the same manner as two years previously. The area was again divided into four sections with each team responsible for a section. The number of individuals, species and block number were recorded for all birds in a block or flying over.

Each section covers a similar area. Section 1 covers the area from the Cork Oak Forest to the edge of the Central Valley and includes the Himalayan Cedar Forest, (24 blocks); section 2 includes the Central Valley and the dam near the entrance and extends beyond the Event Terrace (24 blocks); section 3 extends to the south-west and includes Dairy Farmers Hill (21 blocks); whilst section 4 covers the area to the south-west of section 3 (24 blocks) and where two years ago many of the blocks had not yet been planted but now plantings extend beyond the end of section 4.

A total of 50 species has now been recorded from the two surveys. The 2011 survey recording 40 species compared with 39 species two years previously. When compared with 2009 the number of species recorded in each section, with 2009 numbers in brackets, was as follows: Section 1- 27 (24), Section 2 - 19 (12), Section 3 - 8 (17), Section 4- 15 (16).

All blocks that were surveyed are now planted and consist of a short grassy herb layer with scattered trees that as yet have not grown sufficiently to develop a canopy layer. In 2009 many of the survey blocks in section 4 were not developed and consisted of *Pinus radiata* plantings or piles of wood, thistles and blackberry patches.

Not surprisingly this change has led to a 50% decline in the number of **Superb Fairy-wren**. Of interest is the number of species that showed an increase in abundance. These included the **Australasian Pipit, Common Starling, Crested Pigeon, Skylark**, and **Yellow-rumped Thornbill**. New species included the **Southern Whiteface**, and **White-fronted**



**Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (*Phylidonyris melanops*)**  
Photo by David Cook





**Leaden Flycatcher** (*Myiagra rubecula*) at Capertee  
Photo by Julian Robinson

and Noisy Friarbirds. Afternoon walks gave **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** and the call of **Spotted Quail-thrush** and **Painted Button-quail**. The evening gave the call of an **Owlet-nightjar**. Light & dark morphs of the **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike**, **Black-chinned Honeyeater**, **Hooded Robin**, **Crested Shrike-tit**, **Eastern Whipbirds** and **Little Lorikeet** were also seen on Carol's property over the next day and a half.

By mid-morning on the Sunday it was time to seek out the bird of the trip, the **Regent Honeyeater** with at least 8 birds seen including one nest. We left the Regent Honeyeaters to head slowly towards our lunch spot at Glen Davis stopping occasionally to look for our target birds. Plenty of non-target birds like a dark morph **Little Eagle** and **Wedge-tailed Eagle** were seen. Our lunch spot gave us **King Parrots** and homemade food from the CWA tuckshop. After lunch we headed for Wollemi NP for stunning views of a **Rockwarbler** and shortly after a **Scarlet Honeyeater**. We added 2 **Turquoise Parrots** in the air as we drove out, as well as **Double-barred Finch** and a light morph **Little Eagle**. A visit to Crown Station Road gave us **White-browed Babbler**, **White-browed Woodswallow**, more **Hooded Robins** and prolonged views of a pair of **Turquoise Parrots** feeding on the ground. Then it was on to a **Plum-headed Finch** spot just in time to see several groups of these beautiful finches take up their evening roosting positions.

There is community support for a Regent Honeyeater habitat regeneration program in the valley. On the Monday morning Carol took us to April Mill's property where there are advanced plantings and I was impressed by what had been achieved. Here we added female and male **Painted Button-quail**. Returning to Carol's property we saw a prolonged mating display of a male **Spotted Pardalote**.

During the weekend Carol pointed out birds and animals as she saw them and spotlighted for Squirrel Gliders. She happily chatted about plants to those of us who were interested. My fellow campers were generous, considerate companions and displayed a resourcefulness I have grown accustomed to and appreciate on COG outings. The timing

**Chat.** All are species that benefit from the open grassland that now dominates the Arboretum and may well be affected with the development of a future canopy layer.

*Chris Davey*

### 1-3 October – CaperteeValley Tour

Eight people joined birding guide Carol Proberts on an excellent COG outing in the Capertee Valley. As I arrived at Capertee itself, the wind was blowing hard and rain lashed the car. I did wonder if we would see many birds at all. However, as I descended into the valley passing beautiful sandstone rocks in the Garden of Stones NP, it was evident the valley was in a wind and rain shadow. I thought perhaps birds may be taking refuge in the valley and this was evident as I pulled up at Carol's gate where I saw 2 **Singing Bushlark**, 10 **Brown Quail**, 12 **Zebra Finches**, 2 **Red-rumped Parrots** and heard a **Golden-headed Cisticola** - a good start. By the time we had put up our tents we had seen **Speckled Warbler**, **Australasian Pipit**, **Jacky Winter**, **Common Bronzewing**, **Eastern Yellow Robin** and large numbers of aggressive **White-plumed** and **Fuscous Honeyeaters**



**Regent Honeyeater** (*Xanthomyza phrygia*) at Capertee  
Photo by Julian Robinson

of the trip and the mixed human land use of the valley of National Park with the combination of serious nature conservation and pastoral activities on privately held land gave us a grand list of interesting bird sightings. By the end of the weekend we had a tally of **114 birds**.

*Julienne Kamprad*

### **Saturday 8 October – Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve nature trails**

After a week of cold, wet weather, 12 COG members and friends (including a welcome visitor from Adelaide who used the crow-eater name ‘Murray Magpie’ for what we boringly call **Magpie-lark!**) met at the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve to bird the Cascade and Lyrebird Trails. These have been re-built, and somewhat relocated, since being damaged by the 2003 fires. What is now called Lyrebird Trail incorporates much of what was the Mountain Creek Trail, and omits some sections of the former Lyrebird Trail. The weather was good: overcast with patches of sunshine, calm, no precipitation.

We observed 21 bird species in all which was OK considering that we were in just one habitat type, as one participant pointed out. The **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** and **Grey Fantail** seemed the most abundant. A number of Spring/Summer migrants were back, one of which really frustrated us: the **Rose Robin**. We heard five, but could not see any! No **Superb Lyrebirds** were seen or heard; the males are moulting at present, and largely silent. (On a recce there a fortnight earlier I found an exquisite lyrate—the male’s outer tail feather—on Cascade Trail.) The bush was delightfully full of the calls of the **Golden Whistler**, **Grey Shrike-thrush** and **White-throated Treecreeper**. The dense regrowth meant that we did not see many birds, but that was OK as it provided an opportunity for us to test, and further develop, our skills at identifying species by their calls.

*David McDonald*

### **Sunday 16 October - K2C survey**

The 4<sup>th</sup> K2C bird survey was held on a beautiful spring morning. Ten teams from COG covered 44 sites on 26 properties from Williamsdale to beyond Bredbo. An impressive total of 101 species was recorded during the morning, including most of the expected spring migrants and a wide range of woodland birds.

Many of the sites included one or more threatened species. There are not many other surveys where the most frequently seen robin is the **Hooded Robin** (5 properties), followed by **Scarlet Robin** and **Eastern Yellow Robin** (3 properties each), and one record of a **Flame Robin**. Other threatened and significant woodland species included **Brown Treecreeper**, **Diamond Firetail**, **Speckled Warbler**, **Varied Sittella**, **Southern Whiteface**, **Restless Flycatcher** and **Crested Shrike-tit**. Of note was a first record in the K2C surveys of **Jacky Winter**.

**Honeyeaters** (**Yellow-faced** and **White-naped**) were moving through in small flocks on their return journey to the mountains. **Fuscous Honeyeaters** were a feature of the Apple Box woodlands and a **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** was seen on Scottsdale. Both **White-throated** and **Western Gerygone** were recorded, as well as 5 cuckoo species and 6 raptors.

The species total was boosted by some interesting waterbird sightings from two large farm dams. At one dam there were **Musk Duck**, **Australasian Shoveler**, 46 **Hardhead** and, the most unusual sighting for the day, a **Black-tailed Native Hen** swimming across the dam.

Sincere thanks to the COG volunteers, landholders, K2C Facilitator Lauren Van Dyke, and Bush Heritage Australia for allowing us to finish up at Scottsdale and for covering the cost of lunch (supplied by the Snowy Mountains Café). The next survey will be held on 22 April 2012.



**Turquoise Parrot** (*Neophema pulchella*) at Capertee—Julian Robinson





**Cook's Petrel** (*Pterodroma cooki*)  
Photo by Tobias Hayashi

### Wednesday Walk - 19 October - 'Illilanga' and Strike-a-Light TSR.

A group of 14 enjoyed a visit to the property 'Illilanga' and Strike-a-Light TSR. The day yielded a total of 53 species, with 9 breeding records among them.

At Illilanga near Michelago a total of 38 species was seen in a leisurely wander around the property. Highlights were a pair of Diamond Firetails sitting beautifully against the sky, a courtship display by two **Dusky Woodswallows**, and a flyover by a **Great Cormorant**. The cooler, drier conditions this year meant the hoped-for orchids were not flowering, although bulbine and rock lilies were putting on a nice show. In and near the Strike-a-Light TSR on the Jerangle Rd, a pair of **Rainbow Bee-eaters**, very vocal **Rufous Songlarks** and Hooded and **Flame Robins** were special sightings among the 30 species seen there.

Other species seen on the day included a **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Wedge-tailed Eagles**, a **Brown Falcon**, **Brown Goshawks**, **Red-browed Finches**, a **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Western Gerygones**, and Fuscous, White-eared, White-plumed and **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters**.

Many thanks to COG members Jeremy Mears and Sandra Lauer, the owners of Illilanga, for the Anzac biscuits as well as the tour of the property.

*Sandra Henderson*

### East of Eden, NSW—22 and 23 October

Fifteen members travelled down to Eden to join skipper Richard Buckingham for two pelagic day trips aboard his vessel, the Connemara. Luckily the predictions earlier in the week for no wind at all did not materialise – this would have resulted in most seabirds sitting on the water and few interesting sightings. As it was we had light winds both days and very calm seas, thus resulting in comfortable wildlife viewing both days. We departed early at 6am with the sun just getting above the horizon and headed out to the edge of the continental shelf. Both days we travelled approximately 45km east of Eden to the 200 fathom mark and threw out a burley of fish scraps and tuna oil to attract petrels, storm-petrels and albatross to the boat.

The birding highlight for many were the small number of Wandering Albatrosses that gave close fly-by views each day. Although these huge seabirds did alight on the berley slick, they never came in particularly close to the boat. However, their enormous size is best appreciated in flight when their 3m plus wingspan is fully evident – just stunning! At the other end of the size spectrum, we were also joined by up to 20 tiny Wilsons Storm-petrels that actively fed on the oily slicks. The weekend was also notable for the moderate number of 'Cookilaria' petrel sightings. These rare birds along with the vast majority of shearwaters were migrating southwards and gave reasonable, albeit brief, views in the light winds – we saw both Mottled (3 on Sat/5 on Sun) and Cook's Petrels (1 on Sat/1 on Sun). We also had good views of a single White-chinned Petrel at the berley point each day and reasonable numbers of Great-winged and Providence Petrels. The Humpbacks also put on a great show, particularly on Sunday with prolonged flipper and tail slapping and lots of breaching (including one large whale unexpectedly breaching within 50m of the boat, just spectacular!).

For a list of birds and mammals sighted, go to page 13 of this gang-gang.

*Daniel Mantle*



**Providence Petrel** (*Pterodroma solandri*)  
Photo by Daniel Mantle



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## Spring Woodland Surveys – compiled by Jenny Bounds

### Mulligans Flat NR

Jenny Bounds reported very pleasant weather for the survey on 18 September, with the team reporting a lot of bird activity. This survey was a week earlier than usual because of competing surveys, and there were some interesting results. Rose Robins were recorded on or near the 2 north/south ridges which run through Mulligans; they are rarely recorded on surveys, so obviously they were in passage at this timing. Superb Parrots were recorded at several sites, particularly near the large dam. Also recorded were Varied Sittella, Scarlet Robin, Red-capped Robin, Painted Button-quail, Speckled Warbler at several sites, Masked Lapwing on a nest near the first dam (within the Sanctuary), White-plumed Honeyeater (which has been scarce in recent years), Golden and Rufous Whistlers, and a few small groups of migrating honeyeaters (Yellow-faced, White-naped). Noisy Friarbirds and Olive-backed Orioles were vocal. No Leaden Flycatchers were recorded, possibly it is just too early for them, and there were no Hooded Robins, again. A total of 52 species was a reasonable early spring survey tally.



**Mottled Petrel** (*Pterodroma inexpectata*)  
Photo by Tobias Hayashi

### Goorooyarroo NR North

Nicki Taws finally managed to get out to Gooroo North on a reasonable morning, Monday 4 October, reporting it was still a bit breezy and with frost on the ground but an improvement on the previous few days. On the whole bird activity seemed quiet, with spring migrants a little slow to return in great numbers; in particular there were very few of the usually conspicuous Rufous Whistler and Grey Fantail. The most common small birds were both species of pardalote, but few of the normally abundant thornbills. There were several Western Gerygone, one White-throated Gerygone, Mistletoebird, Speckled Warbler, one Olive-backed Oriole, one silent Shining Bronze-cuckoo and one Red-capped Robin. A highlight was the regular flights by Superb Parrots in pairs or singles, all heading from south-west to north-east.

### Goorooyarroo NR South

Steve Holliday with Prue Buckley and David and Kathy Cook, had to contend with a cold wind all morning for the survey on Sunday 2 October, although at least the rain held off! They managed to record 43 species, a fairly low count for spring (they had 51 species on the corresponding survey last year). Of interest were 4 species of raptor (2 Nankeen Kestrel, 2 Wedge-tailed Eagles, a Brown Goshawk and 2 Brown Falcons), Speckled Warbler (2), Mistletoebirds and 3 Superb Parrots. Returned migrants included Western Gerygones, 8 Dusky Woodswallow, Noisy Friarbirds, Tree and Fairy Martins, an Olive-backed Oriole and a couple of Rufous Whistlers. No cuckoos were found (3 species were recorded on the same survey last year); nor did they see Red-browed Finches or Diamond Firetails which had been present on earlier surveys this year. Other wildlife included lots of frogs calling from the dams and, rather surprisingly, a couple of reptiles attempting to bask in what little sunshine there was, a small Shingleback and a Bearded Dragon.

### Mt Majura NR

Kathy Walter and John Goldie conducted their surveys over a number of days from 21 -24 September. Sites 1-5 were surveyed on the 24th and the weather was rather disappointing compared to earlier in the week which may have affected the sightings. They reported two nice mixed flocks. Most notable sightings overall were a Buff-rumped Thornbill building its nest, a few flocks of Striated Thornbills, one Speckled Warbler and a number of Golden Whistlers. A number of other breeding records included Australian Raven on nest, Crimson Rosella inspecting hollow, Noisy Miner on nest, nest with young and dependent young. Most notable non-bird was a very cold Eastern Bearded Dragon.

### Campbell Park/Mt Ainslie NR

Michael Lenz reported the weather was not ideal for the survey on 30 September, but at least it was not windy all the time, and the light showers started only after the counts had been completed. Noisy Friarbirds and Rufous Whistlers were present at several sites; other spring arrivals included Mistletoebird and both species of gerygone. At two sites, Speckled

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Warbler and Brown Goshawk were recorded and at another Brown Falcon. A flock of 10 Double-barred Finches and 3 Varied Sittellas were other highlights. However, only few thornbills and Superb Fairy-wrens were found, mostly in areas between sites. A pair of Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes were building a nest. Other observations of interest included 2 pairs of Jacky Winter, and young White-plumed Honeyeaters begging loudly from a nest.

### **Red Hill NR**

Harvey Perkins did the survey in the cool heavy overcast conditions of Saturday morning, 24 September. Although it seemed to get off to a slow start, the final numbers of birds (332) and species (32) were spot on average for a Red Hill spring survey (these numbers include all inter-site observations as well as site counts). Very little breeding activity was noted, an Australian Raven rearranging sticks in an almost completed nest being the only solid indicator. A couple of starlings were loitering around hollows, and a male Gang-gang half-heartedly looked into another hollow. A Shining Bronze-Cuckoo was a welcome highlight (third record out of 52 surveys, all in spring), as was the first White-winged Triller for these surveys, a furtive female that flew up from some grass-enshrouded fallen timber. Other good birds were Australian Hobby and Brown Goshawk, and an unseen but vocal Sacred Kingfisher. It was the first survey for two years in which Speckled Warblers were not recorded.

### **Symonston (Callum Brae NR)**

Sandra Henderson did the survey in great conditions on Tuesday 27 September. Some expected species were not seen on the morning, and nothing unexpected showed up. Even the Brown Goshawks failed to put in an appearance, for the first time in ages. The Black-shouldered Kites which had been recent regulars were not around either. Plenty of parrots were looking out from hollows (Eastern and Crimson Rosellas, Little Corellas) and a currawong on a nest in one survey site. The aggressive magpie nesting near the entrance watched but didn't swoop. Eastern Rosellas were everywhere, in noisy groups of 4-10, and a dozen Dusky Woodswallows were up along the quarry fence. She had fantastic views of an Olive-backed Oriole at the first survey site as it foraged in head-height eucalypt regrowth.

### **Tuggeranong Hill NR**

Lia Battisson did the survey on Saturday 24 September in overcast, cool and still conditions. Vegetation growth over most of the Hill has been boosted over the last couple of surveys but, in particular, the sapling growth at sites 2 and 3 is now so profuse that the sites are hardly recognisable. It was very exciting to have a small mixed feeding flock including Superb Fairy-wren, Grey Fantail, Buff-rumped Thornbill and Silvereye at Site 1. A Rufous Whistler amongst other things was recorded at Site 3, but there were no birds at Site 7, which remains very bare. In all, 19 species were recorded during the survey, with a further 6 species, including Noisy Friarbird and Grey Butcherbird observed in between times. The only breeding record was a Pied Currawong, which broke off a twig and applied it to its nest. Perhaps the absent Galahs at Site 2 were inside their hollow?

### **Woodland near Tharwa**

David McDonald surveyed this leasehold site in fine weather on 27 September. There were good numbers of birds observed, including one species of special significance: a pair of Speckled Warblers that flew to a branch, emitting loud alarm calls, as David was pishing fairywrens in the blackberries below! Perhaps the warblers were nesting nearby? Disappointingly, the Brown Treecreepers that have been observed on the site on recent surveys were not in evidence this time. Also disappointing was just one breeding record (a Pied Currawong feeding young in the nest). In some years Rufous Songlarks are on the site in good numbers by this time, but on this survey just one of them was recorded, and it was silent.

### **Naas Valley Woodland Site**

Julie McGuinness reported that despite the cool temperature and the rotten wind on 25 September, she had one of the best spring surveys for a while at this leasehold. In the 100 metre band of the first site, she saw a Brown Treecreeper and a Hooded Robin in the same bino view. Julie had not seen a Brown Treecreeper for at least a year at the Naas site, so this was a very pleasant surprise and Hooded Robin is only a very occasional sighting. The second site had half a dozen Diamond Firetails, 2 Speckled Warbler and a Southern Whiteface, as well as a couple of White-winged Trillers feeding on the ground with Yellow-rumped Thornbills. There was not much breeding activity in evidence, though a couple of small groups of Willie Wagtails with independent juveniles were seen. Dusky Woodswallows, a Restless Flycatcher, a Jacky Winter, a couple of White-throated Gerygones calling, 3 or 4 Rufous Whistlers and half a dozen Tree Martins

*(Continued on page 12)*



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## Future Field Trips

The Guidelines for the conduct and advertising of COG field trips are published on the COG web site. Both trip leaders and members/participants should familiarise themselves with these guidelines. In particular, the Registration Form should be completed for each field trip.

### Saturday 5 November - Braidwood

The Braidwood Landcare group has contacted COG to see if we would be interested in surveying seven properties where some revegetation has been done. We will not only survey the revegetation sites, but also remnants and riverine areas. Up to 14 surveyors are required for Saturday morning, beginning at 8.00am (departing Canberra 6.30-6.45am. Please contact Sue Lashko on 62514485 or [smlashko@gmail.com](mailto:smlashko@gmail.com) if you are interested and to receive further details.

### Sunday 13 November - Campbell Park, Morning Nest workshop

This will be a repeat of the very successful practical nest workshops held over the past eight years. This very informal outing has again been timed to coincide with the peak of the breeding season. The morning will start with the usual short presentation including tips on the types of nests built by different species of birds, and how to find nests or nesting behaviour. This will be followed by several hours putting this into practice, looking for signs of nesting etc, which will also allow plenty of opportunity for bird watching. This workshop is particularly suitable for beginners or those relatively new to birdwatching, although more experienced members and repeat customers are also welcome. Although every year has been different, we often don't walk very far as there is usually a "hot spot" where most of the nesting occurs. To participate, please contact Jack Holland (6288 7840 A/H) by email on [jack.holland@environment.gov.au](mailto:jack.holland@environment.gov.au). Anthony Overs will be assisting as usual. Meet at 8:00 am at the picnic tables at the far end of the car park. Take Northcott Drive up to the start of the Campbell Park Offices, where you take the right fork and keep to the outside of the very large car park, skirting it until you get to the end. Intending participants might also like to look at the map on the COG web site under the *Maps, Forms and Lists* button.



**White-browed Woodswallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*)**  
at Capertee—Photo by Julian Robinson

### Saturday & Sunday 19-20 November - Goulburn area (overnight campout)

This trip will be the joint outing for 2011 as part of our continuing links with the Goulburn Field Naturalists Society (GFNS). We will be travelling to Goulburn early Saturday afternoon, returning mid Sunday afternoon, camping overnight at Arthursleigh on the Wollondilly River. This is a lovely, otherwise hard to get to, river oak-lined stretch of the river where the GFNS have their bird hide, and where we picked up 44 species on a morning visit in October 2010. This will be a 'bring everything in, take everything out' campout. On the way we will stop in Goulburn to view progress with the proposed wetlands at the old brick pits. As usual participants will contribute a dish to a communal dinner, along with our hosts, on the Saturday evening. To book your place, or for further information please contact Jack Holland (6288 7840 AH or by email on [jack.holland@environment.gov.au](mailto:jack.holland@environment.gov.au)).

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## Sunday 4 December - Kama Nature Reserve

Chris Davey will be leading a walk at the Kama Nature Reserve from 8:00 am on Sunday 4 December. The area has been visited regularly since 2006 as part of the COG woodland survey of the threatened Yellow Box/Red Gum community. The reserve is a new addition to the Canberra Nature Park that is well worth a visit.

The meeting place can be found off William Hovell Drive, see Yellow Pages, Map 14, A8. Parking can be a problem. If heading north along William Hovell Drive, park at the Kama sign and walk across the road to the meeting spot. If heading south along William Hovell Drive then turn sharp right just before the underpass and into the designated carpark. This is where we will meet as we will enter the Reserve via the underpass. If this is all rather confusing please call Chris Davey (Tel 02 62546324). Sturdy boots, water and sun hat will be required.

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*(Continued from page 10)*

were the other species of note. One other noteworthy thing was not seeing or hearing a starling – a first for the survey. A few Yellow-faced Honeyeaters flew through, but there was little other honeyeater activity.

### Newline

Sue Lashko surveyed Newline on 24 September in fine conditions. It was especially pleasing to see 4 Brown Treecreepers, perhaps the usual pair with last year's young plus a new arrival. Recent migrants included Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo and Noisy Friarbird. The pair of Rainbow Lorikeets that have been recorded in the Noisy Miner-infested Site 7 for several surveys seem to have managed to survive by imitating the Noisy Miner calls; during the 10 minute survey, they only gave their lorikeet call once. Striated Pardalotes and Eastern Rosellas were the most common species, apart from Common Starlings.

## "Death in the Gardens" - ANBG fundraiser

Some members may be interested in the following fundraising event, Thursday 10 or Friday 11 November 2011, 7.15pm : Death in the Gardens (<http://www.friendsanbg.org.au/DintheG.html>)

The Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens are gathering for their annual dinner.

DCI Holmes (Ret'd) is to speak on "Botany as a Forensic Science". However, as the guests assemble it is revealed that there has been a sudden death in the Gardens. Newscasts introduce an element of suspicion into the occasion and further clues suggest that foul play may be involved. It begins to look like murder!

What could have happened? Who could have been involved? Was it Technical Director Ann Gophera, who was turned down for the top job? Or Aidan Anthus, the junior horticulturist who has a mysterious past? Or one of half a dozen other members who are shown to have possible motives?

Who could lead the Friends to solve this mystery except the inimitable DCI Holmes?

Participants are guaranteed a challenging and competitive mystery, and a tasty supper. This lighthearted evening's entertainment will engage everyone at whatever level they choose. Come on your own or make up a table.

DATES: Thursday 10 or Friday 11 November 2011 in the Crosbie Morrison Building at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. Please arrive by 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

Garden gates will be locked after 7.40pm.

COST: \$25 for Friends members and ANBG staff; \$30 for non members:

includes entertainment, cheese platter, dessert and tea/coffee. Wine and juice for sale on the evening. No BYO please.

PHONE BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES: Barbara Podger 62477188; Tricia Morton 62816813; or email enquiries to:

[bookings@friendsanbg.org.au](mailto:bookings@friendsanbg.org.au)

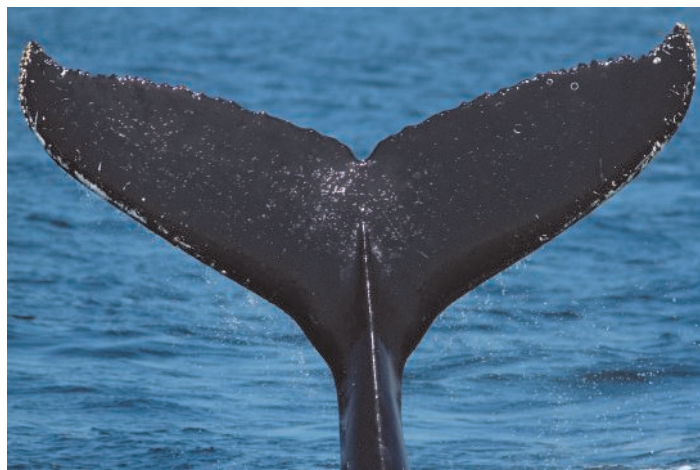
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## Discover the Botanical Resource Centre at the Australian National Botanic Gardens

Extend your botanical skills and identify local Australian plants using plant identification tools, microscopes, and a public reference herbarium collection at the Botanical Resource Centre. Open seven days a week from 9.30am to 4.30pm and free of charge, visitors can browse the public reference herbarium of plants from ACT and south-eastern New South Wales, test their identification skills or bring specimens to identify (from ACT and south-eastern NSW region). Trained volunteer facilitators are present on Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings, and can be booked to give an introductory tour on other days.

Focusing on identification of flora from the Australian Capital Territory and south-eastern New South Wales, the centre is a great resource for students and researchers, plant surveyors and native plant enthusiasts and amateur botanists.



**Humpback Whale** Photo by Daniel Mantle

### List of birds (Saturday total/Sunday total) sighted

**East of Eden 22-23 October 2011** (trip report page 8):

Saturday berley point – 37 03S 150 23E (280-310 fathoms)

Sunday berley point – 36 58S 150 20E (190-210 fathoms)

Black-browed Albatross	8/10
(all close birds were melanophris)	
Yellow-nosed Albatross	2/0
Shy Albatross	180+/20+
(all cauta or cauta/steady)	
Wandering Albatross	4/2
(one gibsoni, rest not split but possibly all gibsoni)	
Fluttering Shearwater	20/100+
Hutton's Shearwater	40/0
Fluttering/Hutton's Shearwater	1000+/200+
Short-tailed Shearwater	500+/500+
Sooty Shearwater	1/0
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	300+/200+
White-faced Storm-petrel	1/0
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	20+/20+
Great-winged Petrel	2/30+
(most or all gouldi)	
Providence Petrel	6/10+
Cape Petrel	10+/1
Mottled Petrel	3/5
Cook's Petrel	1/1

Unidentified Cookilaria	0/2
(probably both distant Mottled Petrels)	
White-chinned Petrel	1/1
Northern Giant Petrel	1/1
Giant Petrel sp.	0/1
Arctic Jaeger	1/2 (all nearshore)
Australian Gannet	
Black-faced Cormorant	2/1
Little Black Cormorant	2/10
(10 birds flew past in formation at 190 fathom mark)	
Great Cormorant	2/0
Little Pied Cormorant	1/0
Little Penguin	6/0
Crested Tern	
Pacific Gull	2/2
Silver Gull	
Cuckoo sp. (probably Pallid)	1/0
Eastern Reef Egret	0/1
Fish & Mammals:	
Sunfish sp.	0/1
Mako Shark sp.	0/1
Australian Fur Seal	10+/10+
Common Dolphin	50+/0
Bottlenose Dolphin sp	40/0
Humpback Whale	6/12
Southern Right Whale	1/0

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## Avian Whimsy #91 Dinosaurs Rule – in my garden...

I love the fact that I have dinosaurs outside my study window. I prefer it when they are in the form of thornbills rather than sparrows, but the basic premise remains. Like most children who have the opportunity to know about them, I was fascinated by dinosaurs, and recall a plastic set (perhaps from cereal packets), comprising a *Stegosaurus*, a *Triceratops*, a *Brontosaurus* (as it was then known) and of course *Tyrannosaurus rex*. In my mind – reflecting the relatively rudimentary knowledge of the time – dinosaurs were all large, dim-witted and ultimately unsuccessful, as evidenced by their being long extinct. I was of course wrong on all three counts. Another thing of which I had no inkling was that one of my treasured models was a relative of the ancestral thornbill.

There is now no serious doubt that birds represent the direct descendents of the one group of dinosaurs which 65 million years ago managed to survive the cataclysmic meteorite strike (or a combination of that with any of massive volcanic activity, climate change or changing atmospheric oxygen levels, depending on who you ask). The ensuing mass extinction event which marked the end of the Cretaceous era and the start of the Tertiary ('K-T'), took out the rest of the dinosaurs, as well as many bird groups (including all the still-thriving toothed taxa), and non-dinosaur reptiles including the fabulous flying pterosaurs and marine mososaurs (lizards) and plesiosaurs, plus many invertebrate and plant groups. (This extinction was of course immortalised in *Fantasia*, in the fantastic scene – in every sense – where columns of dinosaurs marched to their doom to the throb of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*; I'll never forget it.) Among the many casualties were the rest of the immediate relatives of the birds, the generally erect, primarily carnivorous Theropods (which included *Tyrannosaurus*), and in particular the small fast Maniraptors, best known, for better or worse, as the 'raptors' of *Jurassic Park*.

The Brown Thornbill hanging upside down in the foliage has possibly never given consideration to its many dinosaur-originating characters. One of the most important adaptations for birds is their unique respiratory system, based on a system of bellows-like air sacs which, put simplistically, enables each inhalation to bypass the lung, and then be fed forwards through it in a constant stream, changing the entire contents of the lung with each breath and enabling maximum uptake of oxygen by the oncoming blood flow. These sacs (extensions of the bronchial wall) are found between internal organs and muscles, under the skin and even inside some bones. Occasionally we can see them externally, such as in the inflatable display sacs of frigatebirds, but their main function is in providing birds with immensely efficient respiration. 'My' thornbill could be transferred to the top of Mount Everest and probably wouldn't be much perturbed; put bluntly, we would be.

The origins of the sacs go back some 230 million years, to a time when atmospheric oxygen levels were much lower than today's (that happens from time to time); sea level then would have been equivalent to about 4500 metres above sea level today. The prevailing reptiles doubtless struggled with this, but one minor group came up with a radical response – air sacs in bone cavities (and probably elsewhere, but that's harder to see in fossils) to improve oxygen uptake. This group comprised the ancestral dinosaurs, which dominated the world for the next 165 million years (think on that next time you're tempted to use 'dinosaur' as a metaphor for 'unsuccessful'). This key to their original success is also one of the keys to the triumph of modern dinosaurs, like the one outside my window.

We might be tempted to include eggs in the list of dinosaurian inheritances but that would be unfair – they predated the dinosaurs and even the reptiles themselves. The sealed egg was a wonderful innovation of early amphibians, enabling their descendents, the amniotes, to break the shackles that tied them to water. However it seems that dinosaurs did develop the calcium-based eggshell, so different from the parchment-skinned eggs of other reptiles, and so characteristic of birds.

Feathers on the other hand are very much a dinosaur legacy. They apparently arose from finely divided scales in the Theropods before the birds became a recognisable grouping, as insulation – remember that these dinosaurs were 'warm-blooded', our careless way of saying that they maintained a constant body temperature, which is aided by minimising heat loss. In fact this warm-bloodedness, or homoiothermy, is itself a major bequest from the dinosaurs. (The mammals, whose line diverged from the main reptile line a staggering 320 million years ago, achieved the same state quite independently and perhaps a little earlier than the dinosaurs did.)



While eggs themselves are not attributable to the dinosaurs, it seems that the characteristically birdy habit of brooding eggs (as opposed to burying them and leaving them and the hatchlings to take their chances) is definitely down to the dinosaurs – those lumbering, unsophisticated, unsuccessful animals... There is even a strong suggestion, based on examination of a surprising number of fossilised brooded clutches, that the boofy dinoblokes were the primary egg-carers.

As ever there is more to be said than there is space allotted to say it in. Perhaps we can continue this conversation another day, but meantime I hope you can revel with me in the fact that dinosaurs still soar, and the great great grand-nieces of *Tyrannosaurus rex* are picking insects from a leaf near you, as we speak.

Ian Fraser

## MUDBRICK COTTAGE

### Mallacoota

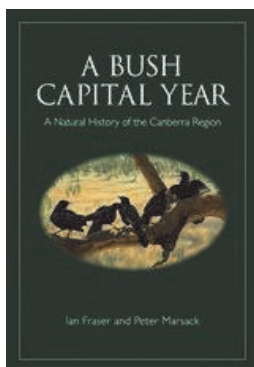
Our mudbrick cottage (Blue Wren Cottage) is available for rental for all those nature lovers out there!!

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>.

# COG SALES

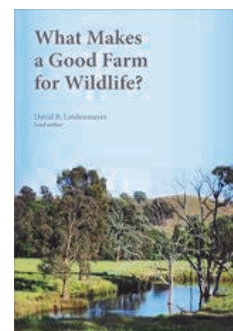


## **A Bush Capital Year: A Natural History of the Canberra Region** Ian Fraser , Peter Marsack

*A Bush Capital Year* introduces the fauna, flora, habitats and reserves of the Australian Capital Territory and includes the most recent research available. It also emphasises often unappreciated or even unrecognised urban wildlife. For each month of the year there are 10 stories which discuss either a species or a group of species, such as mosses and mountain grasshoppers. While never anthropomorphic, many of the stories are written from the organism's point of view, while others are from that of an observer. Beautiful paintings complement the text and allow better visualisation of the stories and the subjects. Members price \$32

## **What Makes a Good Farm for Wildlife?** David Lindenmayer

Based on thirteen years of intensive research, the book breaks the discussion into chapters on key environmental and vegetation assets and then discusses how to make these assets better for biodiversity. The work encompasses information on vertebrates and invertebrates on farms and their relationships with significant vegetation and environmental assets: woodland remnants, plantings, paddocks, rocky outcrops and waterways. A chapter is dedicated to each asset and how it can be managed. Members price \$27

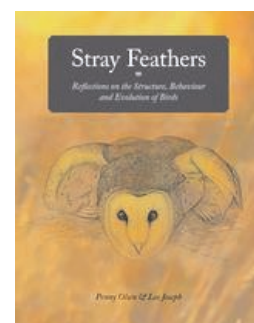


## **The Complete Guide to Finding the Birds of Australia 2nd Ed** Richard Thomas , Sarah Thomas , David Andrew , Alan McBride

First published in 1994, this was the first ever book of its type in Australia – a complete guide to locating every resident bird species. This fully revised second edition describes the best-known sites for all of Australia's endemic birds, plus regular migrants such as seabirds and shorebirds. It covers all states and territories, and is the first guide to include all of Australia's island and external territories. A comprehensive Bird Finder Guide details site information on all Australian bird species, and the authors provide valuable travel advice. Member's price \$32 – expected for the April meeting.

## **Stray Feathers: Reflections on the Structure, Behaviour and Evolution of Birds** Penny Olsen , Leo Joseph

*Stray Feathers* showcases some of the remarkable adaptations of Australian birds. A brief introduction describes how evolution shapes form and function, followed by a series of vignettes illustrating the wondrous variety of forms and functions shaped by evolution. For example, did you know that barn owls can hunt in absolute darkness and that cuckoos commence incubation before their egg is laid? Members price \$39 – expected for the June meeting



Also titles from CSIRO Publishing's *Australian Natural History* series (\$29.00 each for members): *Kookaburra*, *Australian Magpie*, and many more.



## 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](http://www.visitnsw.com.au) (follow the links to accommodation and Wonga)

## COG welcomes the following new members:

J Penhallurick, Fraser (rejoining)

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

### December deadline

Wednesday 30 December 2011

Please send, articles, advertisements, updates etcetera 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 and welcomed.

## COG info

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Email: [alisonrf@iinet.net.au](mailto:alisonrf@iinet.net.au)

*Treasurer*—Noel Luff  
Email: [noelluff@homemail.com.au](mailto:noelluff@homemail.com.au)

*Secretary*—Sandra Henderson 6231 0303  
[cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au)

*Address for correspondence*  
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Civic Square, ACT 2608

*Newsletter distribution*  
Brian Fair and helpers

*COG membership*  
2010-2011 memberships:

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

*Membership inquiries*—  
Sandra Henderson ph 6231 0303  
[membership@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.canberrabirds.org.au)

### Office

COG no longer maintains an office. For all enquiries or access to COG's library phone Barbara Allan on 6254 6520

### 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) with the subject 'subscribe' without the quotation marks

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### Gang-gang editors—

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## Gang-gang

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