

Gang-gang

December 2010

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

What to watch out for this month

With spring behind us it provides an opportunity to reflect upon and summarise the bird activity in this wetter year. One might have expected it to be more traditional; ie like those of the last century before the recent 10 years of drought. This is the case at least for my local patch of the NW end of Chapman/Cooleman Ridge where bird numbers are down, and with hardly a spring migrant to be found. A few of these may be found in my other patch along the southern fence line between the Chapman horse paddocks and the former Narrabundah Hill pine plantation where there are **Rufous Whistler**, **Grey Fantail** and **Dusky Woodswallows**, which from observations and reports seem to be widespread in Canberra this year. Other “traditional” spring/summer migrants such as the **Noisy Friarbird**, **Rainbow Bee-eater**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Dollarbird**, **White-throated Gerygone**, **Mistletoebird** and **Leaden Flycatcher** also seem to be present in reasonable to good numbers, especially the last-named.

On the other hand the more arid zone species which were readily seen here during the drought are less common. Naomi Langmore has noted on the chatline the lack of the **Horsfield’s** as opposed to **Shining Bronze-Cuckoos** in her study sites, consistent with the latter’s preference for wetter conditions. The **Western Gerygone** also seems to be relatively scarce this season, as do **Superb Parrots** compared with previous years. Some **White-winged Trillers** did arrive during November, and have been recorded at both Callum Brae and at Campbell Park, where during the nest workshop they appeared to be recent arrivals which still seemed to be pairing/establishing territories. Roger Curnow has reported the **Rufous Songlark**, with 3-4 pairs in Grid cells H11/I11 in NW Belconnen, with Alison Rowell reporting to me **Brown Songlarks** on Majura Road, in an area where she has seen them every year since 1999. The above sightings provide some evidence for the view that in good years inland the arid zone species will only be in the best or traditional areas in the ACT, and come to other places such as my local patch only when all the best sites, both inland and here, are occupied.

There still does not seem to have been any report of **Horsfield’s Bushlark**; perhaps we should look more closely in the spots where they have been usually seen. This also applies to the mountain breeders such as the **Cicadabird** and **Satin Flycatcher**, with only a couple of **Rufous Fantails** reported passing through in late October. Of the northern species that seem to be coming more frequently into Canberra the **Eastern Koel** has been widely reported since late October/early November, though the impression I have is that it has been calling less persistently this season. Perhaps this is be-

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Christmas Party

Black Mountain Peninsula
Wednesday
8 December — 6-8 pm

This year’s theme:

Year of Biodiversity

See page 6

Everyone welcome

(Continued from page 1)

cause there are now enough around to find early pairing much easier; Barbara Allan's posting on the chatline in late October about a pair interacting with **Red Wattlebirds**, their main host in the ACT, provides some evidence for this.

Over the past couple of years, the reporting of species previously rarely recorded in the ACT has dropped significantly compared with a spate of species and sightings mid-drought. Recent exceptions have been the **Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater** recorded during the K2C surveys, and the **Painted Honeyeater** heard/seen at Campbell Park, posted only by a single but very experienced observer, so it appears to have been moving through. A **Channel-billed Cuckoo** has also been recorded, ironically early on the first morning of the blitz, continuing the surprise observations of some less common species during this important event.

Despite my predictions of a bumper year another surprise was the relative lack of breeding activity during the annual nest workshop at Campbell Park on 14 November (see outing report elsewhere in this edition). We attributed this to some species having already completed breeding, though a number of species still seemed to be starting. Another reason seems to be the much more widespread breeding, as is clear from the number of reports on the chatline. Callum Brae seems to have lots of breeding this year, and the Wednesday walkers in mid-November found 13 different species showing breeding activity in the Hall Travelling Stock Reserve, plus four more species in the nearby cemetery. The highlight was the rare observation of the **Crested Shrike-tit** on a nest. Another noteworthy record was of dependent young **Grey Butcherbird** being fed on Mt Ainslie; this species seems to be becoming increasingly common in the Canberra suburbs, or at least in the edges thereof.

Waterbirds in particular seem to be having a very successful breeding year. One aspect that has been a feature of a number of postings is the creching of young, with parents looking after what appears to be an unusually big brood, or chicks clearly of different ages. In my over 30 years of years of bird watching I have seen this quite a few times. One feature round my area used to be the creching of young quite grey **Common Starling** fledglings, with up to 50 of them plus some adults seen feeding frantically in the open areas such as horse paddocks, while most parents were busy with the second brood. To cope with this breeding seemed to be synchronised, with one lot fledging in October and the other just before Christmas.

As we all know everything changes over time, and even finding starlings in my GBS site, let alone breeding in among the houses, is quite a rare occurrence these days. Even the regularly observed early morning flying out of flocks over my site to feed in the paddocks to the west of Canberra, or their return towards evening to roost within the city, sometimes in flocks of several hundred, is now largely a thing of the past. It just goes to show how the status of species, even for exotic pest species, can change quite quickly, and once again underlines the need to document these changes. Have a very enjoyable holiday period bird watching, and make sure your significant local sightings are entered onto the COG database.

Photo by Geoffrey Dabb



Common Starling
(*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Wednesday 12 January — Members' night

As is traditional, for our January meeting we will be having a "**Members' Night**", with the opportunity for COG members to contribute short presentations (no more than 10 minutes) on a range of bird related topics. So if you have a favourite birding moment for 2010, some special photos to share with members, a birding story to tell, or anything you think might be of interest to other members please contact Jack Holland by email on 6288 7840 or preferably at jack.holland@environment.gov.au.

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

One of the presentations will be by Barbara Allan on the results of the 2010 blitz. The lucky draw and other prizes for participants will also be presented.

— Jack Holland

Field Trip reports

Sunday 14 November — Campbell Park, Nest workshop

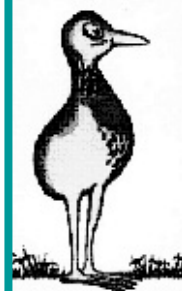
Under darkening skies and the threat of rain, over 20 members and guests joined Anthony Overs and me in the eighth annual workshop. While every year has been different, I had expected bigger differences in this very wet year compared with those held recently during the drought. However, as had been clear from reports on the COG chatline, and from my own reccie beforehand, the bulk of the activity remained around the horse crossing, perhaps shifted a bit to the west along the fence back towards the head of the gully where almost all of the action had been in the first few years.

I had expected a bumper year but another surprise was the relative lack of breeding activity. We put this down in part to some species such as the **Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike** and **Noisy Miner** appearing to have completed nesting as, while plenty of birds were seen, little sign of breeding activity was noted by the 24 pairs of eyes. On the other hand some species seemed to have only recently arrived such as the **White-winged Triller**, comprising mainly males which were often on the ground and certainly were not calling continuously. One possible pair was seen; this is one of the few places they have been observed so far this wetter season. The **Rufous Whistler** also still seemed to be establishing territories and pairing, with several males calling and moving around, and also a number of females/immatures engaged in frantic chasing. Even some of the **Leaden Flycatchers**, present in good numbers in the ACT this year, and widely reported breeding, including from this location, still seemed to be searching for a mate, though we had great views of one pair busily building their dainty nest.

By complete contrast to 2009 when they were absent, **Dusky Woodswallows** abounded, and were observed at different stages of breeding, nest building, on the nest and feeding dependent young. The **Noisy Friarbird** was also busy breeding, with three different nests and young seen, one of which was adorned with what appeared to be lots of red-pink string, and another having a small orange flag suspended from it. An **Olive-backed Oriole** was also feeding young in a nest, from which a **Noisy Friarbird** was observed stealing material. Likewise a pair of **Willie Wagtails** was observed taking material from a stick nest (probably lining) and adding it to their own nearby. However, the highlights were the dome-shaped pony-tailed **White-throated Gerygone** nest on which the final touches were still being put, and the dainty little nest of the **Varied Sittellas**, as usual in a slender upright dead fork, with the adult birds feeding young, one of which was bold enough to venture up to 10 cm from the nest. A **Common Bronzewing** was also seen on a nest in a rank bit of mistletoe, possibly the same spot as last year. Some relatively old **Australian Wood Duck** ducklings with parent were on the large dam adjacent to the woodland.

Shortly after morning tea (when participants sat woodswallow-like along a large log) drizzle/light rain set in, and about half of the group decided to return to the cars rather than to chance getting drenched. Unfortunately they missed the highlight of the day, an **Australian Owlet-nightjar** sitting quietly looking out from its hollow, which stayed put while being admired and photographed. We were looking for it as Anthony had heard it call previously. Other species

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**2010: Celebrating 30 years of
Plains-wanderers
2-7 April 2011**

Laos

Bald-faced Bulbul tour

8 – 23 April 2011

Sabah (Northern Borneo)

13 – 28 May 2011

Gulf Country

Cairns-Atherton-Cloncurry-Mt Isa

22 June – 5 July 2011

Top End

Darwin-Kakadu NP-Katherine-
Kununurra

10 – 17 July 2011

Alice Springs

6 – 13 August 2011

Pilbara (Western Australia)

Karijini and Millstream & Chichester
National Parks

**3 – 22 September 2011:
Strzelecki Track, Outback**

13 – 22 October 2011

Yorke Peninsula, Lake Gilles,
Ceduna

**Plains-wanderer Weekends
2011**

26 & 27 November

10 & 11 December

New Year's Eve 2011 Plains-
wanderer Weekend

**Tour itineraries, bird lists, check-
lists and latest news are on the
website**

www.philipmaher.com

heard a number of times but not seen were the **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** and **Mistletoebird**, while the **Dollarbird** only called briefly with some of the participants getting views. A **Little Eagle** with a clear M wing pattern was also seen circling overhead.

In total 42 species were found, a bit up from last year, but with only 11 species showing confirmed breeding activity, including some examining of nest holes, down from last year. The latter was surprising, but is possibly explained by the early and extended breeding season allowed by the continued rain since winter. My thanks go to Anthony Overs for helping to lead this popular COG event once again, and also to Sue Lashko, Kevin Windle, Elizabeth Compston and Robin Hide for posting breeding information on the chatline or providing it directly to me. — **Jack Holland**

Sunday 21 November — Bumbalong Valley

Due to a lack of interest I had to cancel this proposed overnight camp-out to one of my favourite local spots, ironically on the one weekend of the five I either led or participated in COG activities over October/November that wasn't threatened by rain or wet conditions. Nevertheless Muriel and Pat joined me in the morning drive down to partly salvage this trip, where we enjoyed a lovely relaxed few hours of bird watching with our host Lynette on her and partner Justin's lovely property squeezed between the river and the hillside at the very northern end of this lovely valley.

Despite near perfect conditions (perhaps a tad too warm later) activity was surprisingly low compared with our previous visit at the end of March 2009, with the calling of some species such as the **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, **Eastern Yellow Robin** and **Dollarbird** ceasing by 9 am. The **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** also was comparatively silent and we did not locate it until we found it in the tea trees etc outside of the large *Eucalyptus viminalis* trees in the centre of the camp-site where they had been so conspicuous last visit. Likewise the **Fuscous Honeyeater** was also much quieter and in lower numbers than in March 2009.

A couple of pairs of **Rainbow Bee-eaters** were present but rather quiet and easily overlooked, often sitting quietly, as one did with a large insect in its bill which we suspected it took to a nest when we finally moved away. **Sacred Kingfishers** also called only intermittently, including the alternative call that I associate with pairing/breeding; this was also confirmed by the way one bird vigorously dive-bombed a large monitor lizard that came stalking by as we had lunch. One species that called loudly and often was the **Rufous Whistler**, and we watched a male calling deafeningly while his partner was taking nesting material into the same spot in a low bush.

In the end we recorded 32 species in a less than 1 km stretch of the river bank. This was well down on the 52 species seen last visit. I suspect a major reason for this was the different season; March 2009 was still in drought conditions and many species had congregated close to the water. Like the experience at Campbell Park the week before I suspect the much better conditions have allowed species to spread out again. Further evidence for this was a 20 minute stopover after lunch at the "S bend" halfway back to the causeway that yielded 17 species with six not recorded earlier including **Brown Treecreeper** and **Dusky Woodswallow**, though in my experience this has always been a very productive spot.

The Bumbalong Valley remains one of my favourite birding spots within an hour of Canberra, and many thanks to Lynette and Justin for inviting COG onto their property once again, and my apologies to them that the early start to the Christmas rounds appears to have kept the interest so low. We should visit again, and in my view a visit to the Bumbalong Valley should be included in the Birds Australia camp-out that COG is hosting at the nearby Scottsdale in April 2011. — **Jack Holland**

Wednesday Outing — 17 November: — Hall TSR and Cemetery

18 members and guests had a splendid morning's birding in the somewhat swampy surrounds of the Hall Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR) and contiguous woodland. In summary, at the TSR we recorded 39 species of birds of which 13 showed at least one form of breeding activity. Those who went on to the cemetery added a further three species and a further four breeding records.

The TSR breeding efforts were **Varied Sitella** (NB), **Crimson Rosella** (IH), **Dollarbird** (DI), **Red-browed Finch** (CO, ON), **Willie Wagtail** (NY), **Dusky Woodswallow** (ON), **Noisy Friarbird** (ON), **Sacred Kingfisher** (CF), **Common Myna** (CF), **Crested Shrike-tit** (ON), **Leaden Flycatcher** (NB), **Laughing Kookaburra** (CF) and **Eastern Rosella** (IH). To these we added, at the cemetery, **Magpie-lark** (ON), **Noisy Miner** (ON), **Australian Magpie** (DY) and **White-winged Chough** (NY).

Other 'special' birds added were **Superb Parrot** and **Brown Treecreeper**! Particular attention was paid to the legs of the Brown Treecreeper and, as far as could be determined, they were unadorned by bands of any description.

Volunteers Required

Brian Fair needs volunteers to assist him with the mail out of the *Gang-gang* newsletter during 2011 from his residence in Queanbeyan. The task is not onerous (1 to 2 hrs) and is done on a Tuesday night at 7.30pm, once per month.

The dates for the 2011 mail outs are:

1 February, 1 March, 5 April, 3 May, 31 May, 5 July,
2 August, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November and 6 December.

If you can help Brian either once or twice next year, please contact him by any of the following means:

Email: briandf1@bigpond.com, Home phone: 02 6297 5321,
Work Phone: 02 6265 7084, Mobile: 0407 920 174

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 4 December – Yanununbeyan (near Captains Flat)

There will be 6-7 planned stops within Yanununbeyan for general bush birding that will include off-track walking. Common sense appropriate to the Australian bush in summer is required – carry water, sunscreen and a hat. See Martin's blog (<http://franmart.blogspot.com/2010/10/planning-cog-trip-to-yanununbeyan-sca.html>) for the full day plan, maps of the meeting point and planned route and a list of birds previously recorded in the area. This list includes a wide variety of **honeyeaters, thornbills, parrots, cuckoos and raptors**.

Meet at 8am at the Spotlight carpark (off the Bungendore Road) in Queanbeyan for car-pooling. Could someone please volunteer to manage the coordination of the car-pooling (please contact Martin as directed below). Martin will join the group at the junction of Captains Flat Road and Briars Sharrow Road.

To book your place, or for further information please contact Martin Butterfield (e-mail: martinflafb@gmail.com).

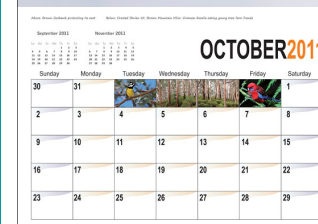
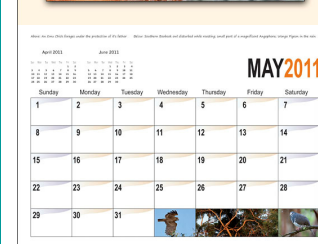
Saturday 15 January 2011 — Mt Taylor Nature Reserve (morning walk)

Meet at 7am at the Colquhoun Street entrance to the Mt Taylor Nature Reserve, which is off Sulwood Drive in Kambah.

This is a repeat of the outing to this location held in early September 2009. We will look to see how this important habitat for birds has responded to a year of high rainfall and experience the differences from visiting in the middle of summer compared to early spring. This part of the nature reserve contains the endangered Yellow Box-Red Gum Grassy Woodland and so we hope to see a large variety of birds. We will also ascend a short way up the slope of the mountain, where the habitat changes to include a lot of *Allocasuarina verticil-*

(Continued on page 6)

Perfect Christmas Gift!



12 BIRD IMAGES WITH A DIFFERENCE
Some behavioural, some cute and some
gorgeous...plus 50 other photos

\$20 each

Julian Robinson

Tel: (02) 6239 6226

Julian.robinson@internode.on.net

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lata – a food source for the **Glossy Black-Cockatoo**, which we hope to record here for the first time since 1996.

Medium fitness required as terrain is sloped. Bring water, sunscreen and morning tea. To register or for further information, contact Matthew Frawley email: frawley.matthew@gmail.com or on 6155 1358 (w), 6296 1026 (h).

Sunday 23 January – Brindabella Ranges (day outing)

This will be COG's annual summer visit to the Blundells Creek/Warks Roads area of the Brindabellas, which as members know was devastated in the 18 January 2003 bush fires but continues to regenerate well and species such as

Eastern Whipbird are now back in good numbers.

Meet Bruce Lindenmayer at Uriarra Homestead (cnr Cotter and Uriarra Rds) at 8.30 am. Note there are actually TWO intersections of Cotter and Uriarra Roads, the other one being just up the road from Eucumbene Drive, Duffy! Participants will need to take either road and travel the 15 or so km to Uriarra Homestead at the other end.

Following a quick look at the waterbirds on the large dam there, we will car pool, and also do the usual shuffle, leaving some cars at the top of Blundells Creek Rd and some at the bottom so we only need to walk downhill. We hope to see some of the special wet forest birds, such as **Rose Robin**, **Rufous Fantail**, **Satin Flycatcher** and **Red-browed Treecreeper** that breed in this area. Could those intending to participate please ring Bruce (6288 5957, mobile 0417 418 759) beforehand as due to the sensitivity of the area and potential parking problems it has been agreed to limit numbers. Please note that the trip involves car-pooling and a downhill walk of about 3km. Bring sturdy walking boots, water and lunch.

Wednesday Walks for December and January

In the past we have not held a walk in December but those present in November agreed that we should walk in both months. This is of course subject to there not being a total fireban on the selected days. If that should be the case, the event will be cancelled.

- **December 15 — Callum Brae:** meet at 9am at the gate on Mugga Lane.
- The venue for the January outing will be decided at the December trip and announced through the COG website shortly thereafter.

— **Martin Butterfield**

19-26 November 2011—Bird-banding trip—Cape York

The bird banding trip to the Iron Range National Park on Cape York Peninsula previously announced some time ago in Gang-gang will be held from November 19/26, 2011. If you can get yourself up there the banding team will be happy to show people the birds of the area “in the hand”.

I **will not** make arrangements for anyone other than the banding team but am happy to let people know where they may potentially see birds on their way up and back. Please contact me at chollop7@bigpond.com or phone (h) 62413620. — **Mark Clayton**



COG Christmas Party Black Mountain Peninsula

Wednesday 8 December

starting at 6.00 pm.

There has been some development going on in the area and the usual toilet block is out of action, but facilities are available about 500m away towards the entrance to the Peninsula. Sorry about the inconvenience but the Committee looked elsewhere and we were unable to find a better spot.

Sausages, bread, onions, beer, wine and soft drinks will be supplied. Please bring either a salad or a dessert to share (with serving spoons), your own plates, cutlery, glasses, table and chair. The theme this year will be a celebration of the 'Year of Biodiversity' so some lateral thinking may be required. Any item associated with biodiversity would be most welcome.

The COG publication 'Birds of Canberra Gardens' will be available for sale (Christmas present?) and Julian Robinson will be there with his 2011 calendars (page 5).

Some recent photographs taken by COG members



Diamond Firetail
(*Stagonopleura guttata*)
Photo by Roger Williams



White-plumed Honeyeater
(*Lichenostomus penicillatus*)
Photo by Margaret Leggoe



White-fronted Chat
(*Epthianura albifrons*)
Photo by Eric Wenger



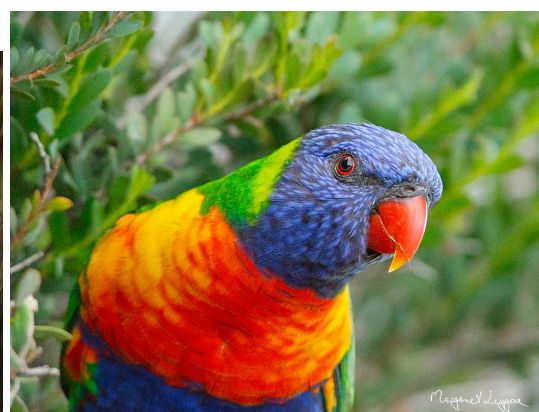
White-browed Scrubwren
(*Sericornis frontalis*)
Photo by Margaret Leggoe



Mistletoe Bird
(*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*)
Photo by Margaret Leggoe



Tawny Frogmouth
(*Podargus strigoides*)
Photo by Martin Butterfield



Rainbow Lorikeet
(*Trichoglossus haematodus*)
Photo by Margaret leggoe

Committee News

- At last month's AGM COG's committee for 2010-11 was confirmed.
 - President: Chris Davey
Vice-President: Matthew Frawley
Secretary: Sandra Henderson
Treasurer: Noel Luff
There are nine general members of the committee, all of whom are carrying on from last year.
Many thanks to all who attended the AGM.
Chris' president's report for the past year will be made available in the near future.
- A submission drafted by Jenny Bounds, to the ACT Legislative Assembly Inquiry into the *Ecological Carrying Capacity of the ACT*, has been lodged. It is an opportunity to use declining woodland birds to illustrate that urban spread is an issue and to seek changes in greenfields planning.
- The Conservation Group is working on a submission to the Eastern Broadacre Study which covers future development of the Majura and Jerrabomberra Valleys. Some issues will be connectivity corridors through Newline woodland, and a recommendation to incorporate the Mugga Lane Zoo site into Callum Brae NR. Submissions are due on 28 November.
- Jenny Bounds attended a Woodlands Roundtable held by the Chief Minister to discuss a plan for restoration and revegetation in woodlands.
- A small group is working on redesign of the COG observation record sheet.
- **Superb Parrot** breeding surveys are being carried out at the request of the ACT government.
- A subcommittee is to meet with the preferred supplier for redesign of the COG website.
- A group will be formed to examine issues of membership and recruitment, with a view to getting a better idea of who is, and isn't, joining COG, and how we might encourage some under-represented community sectors.
- The COG Committee has agreed to a redesign of the COG Observation Record with the aim of making recording easier, and encouraging more members to put in records. Currently a subcommittee of Chris Davey, Martin Butterfield, Paul Fennell and Michael Robbins is preparing a draft of the redesign. Some of the changes planned are to simplify the sections on Positional Data and Type of Search and drop the sections on *Weather* and *Habitat*.



Superb Parrot

(*Polytelis swainsonii*)

Photo by Geoffrey Dabb

ANU Fenner School Bird Surveys

COG members again made a big contribution to the 2010 Fenner School Bird Surveys at Jervis Bay, Mulligans Flat/Goorooyarroo and the new Grassy Box-gum Woodland Stewardship Project.

The Jervis Bay Project has now been extended from Booderee National Park to include 40 more sites on Defence land at Beecroft Peninsula. Whilst I was not able to attend the Jervis Bay Survey in September, Beecroft proved a very popular place, with **Eastern Bristlebirds**, **Ground Parrots** and **Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters** on many sites, as well as easy access and great accommodation in the lighthouse.

Mulligans / Goorooyarroo in October was also a great success, despite rainy days and the general scarcity of dry area specialists such as **Superb Parrots**, **White-winged Trillers**, **Red-capped Robins** and **woodswallows**. However, it was pleasing to record my first **Diamond Firetails** and **Varied Sitellas** in these reserves for some years. The project has again received funding from the Australian Research Council which will support on-going environmental monitoring and the reintroduction of extinct species behind the feral-proof fence.

The Stewardship Project involves long-term biodiversity monitoring on private properties which have reserved remnant and restored areas, and is funded under the Commonwealth's "Caring for Country" Program. Whilst the properties are scattered throughout rural eastern Australia, COG members surveyed in the Canberra region and over a wide area centred around Cowra. Sites surveyed varied greatly from intact remnants with largely native understorey to weedy areas with scattered trees awaiting restoration. On-going monitoring of plants and animals will be an essential part of this program. Interesting species recorded include **White-browed and Grey-crowned Babblers**, **Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters**, **Blue Bonnets**, **Apostlebirds** and many sightings of **Superb Parrots**.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered for 2010 projects and a special mention for Jenny Bounds, Steve Holliday and Terry Munro who were involved in all of them.

Several organisations have combined to produce a colourful 60 page booklet *Bird Trails of the Riverina and South West Slopes*. I will leave a few free copies on the COG Desk and could probably get more if there is extra demand.

— Bruce Lindenmayer

News from Canberra Indian Myna Action Group

A few months ago, CIMAG enrolled its thousandth member and, following an excellent segment on ABC 1 program *Stateline* in October, has experienced a further upsurge in new membership enquiries and, once again, a waiting list for traps.

CIMAG is now using trapping nest-boxes in addition to the existing "PeeGee" cage traps. This is in part a reaction to observed trap wariness of some **mynas** and also to an anticipated bumper 2010/11 myna breeding season. Whilst

CIMAG has now recorded more than 32,000 (and estimated as many as 40,000) mynas removed from the ACT since 2006, areas such as Canberra Nature Parks, horse paddocks, shopping centres, fast-food outlets and newer suburbs still present particular challenges.

The committee has reviewed the programs for monitoring mynas in the ACT, with valuable assistance from Martin Butterfield, David Lindenmayer and (PhD candidate) Kate Grayrock. CIMAG records monthly catch totals in each suburb, whilst a team of skilled bird observers (mostly COG members) do marked transect bird counts every two months in 15 suburbs and the adjacent nature parks, for Kate's project. The COG Garden Bird Survey (with 70+ participants over almost 30 years) and its statistical analysis has been particularly useful, and it will be interesting to see the calculated 2009/10 values for "A" (abundance) and "F" (frequency). All of the above surveys are limited to some degree in time and range, and CIMAG will consider possible new surveys (perhaps with COG & ANU involvement) when Kate has completed her thesis.

Support from COG, its committee, GBS participants and transect surveyors in recent years, has made a big contribution to CIMAG and is greatly appreciated. — Bruce Lindenmayer



**Common Myna
(*Sturnus tristis*)
Photo by Geoffrey Dabb**

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, barbdebruine@hotmail.com, or see <http://www.stayz.com.au/25595>.

PASSIVE SOLAR HOUSE

South Rosedale

Arupingi is a passive solar house situated in a peaceful bushland setting in South Rosedale.

Birdwatching is possible from the comfort of a chair on the front or back deck, while for the more energetic, Guerrilla Bay and Burrewarra Point are within walking distance. The wetlands at Barling's Beach are only a few kilometres away. Rich birding is available in almost any direction.

Contact Greg or Sallie Ramsay

6286 1564 or
gramsay@actewagl.net.au

COG SALES



Birds of
Canberra
Gardens



Birds of Canberra Gardens (\$20.00 for book only or \$25.00 with *Bird Calls of the ACT* CD included - members prices only)

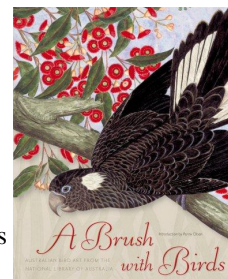
Nearly 230 bird species have been recorded in and around Canberra suburban gardens over the past 27 years in the COG Garden Bird Survey. The life and times of most of these birds are described in this book, illustrated with brilliant photographs and abundance graphs. *Birds of Canberra Gardens* describes the abundance and distribution of birds and discusses how and where to find them throughout the year. It also provides some

ideas on how your garden may be made more attractive to native birds. *Birds of Canberra Gardens* is an excellent introduction to the birds of Canberra.

Boom & Bust: Bird Stories for a Dry Country Edited by Libby Robin, Robert Heinsohn and Leo Joseph - \$27.00 for members.

A Brush With Birds with Introduction by Penny Olsen (\$23.00 for members).

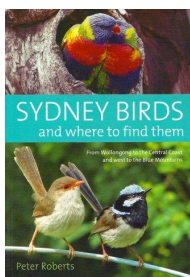
The paintings of Australian birds in *A Brush with Birds* are by artists whose work is represented in the National Library of Australia. They span the years from first settlement to the 1970s, telling us about the times as well as the birds, and showing how the style of bird art has evolved. This book is lavishly illustrated with vibrant and luscious art and it includes the stories of the artists behind the paintings.



Owls: Frogmouths and Nightjars of Australia by David Hollands (\$55.00 for members)

The Owls of Australia: A Field Guide to Australian Night Birds by Stephen Debus, illustrated by Jeff Davies, photographs by David Hollands (\$20.00 for members)

Sydney Birds and Where to Find Them by Peter Roberts (25.00 for members)



Covering the Sydney Region from Wollongong to the Central Coast and West to the Blue Mountains, *Sydney Birds and Where to Find Them* features the 30 top bird-watching localities in and around Sydney. These birding hot spots stretch from Tuggerah Lakes on the Central Coast to Lake Illawarra near Wollongong and from the Blue Mountains in the west to some surprisingly accessible sites tucked away in the heart of the city. Each locality entry lists the key species to look out for, including rare and seasonal visitors. It describes how to access the location, both by public transport and road, and what amenities to expect; maps.

Also titles from CSIRO Publishing's Australian Natural History series (\$27.00 each for members):

Kookaburra

Australian Magpie

Wedge-tailed Eagle

Cockatoos

Albatross

Mound-builders

Tawny Frogmouth

Herons, Egrets and Bitterns

Australian Bustard (coming soon)

All these items (and more) plus COG T-shirts and Polo shirts are available at the monthly meeting sales desk

DRAFT PROGRAM – COG 2011 FIELD TRIPS

I am delighted to coordinate a year of field trips to many varied locations, both within our area of interest and beyond. I encourage you to enjoy the opportunity they provide to learn about our birds, to see new places, to spend time with friends and make new friends. I welcome any suggestions for locations and volunteers to lead – just call me on 0423 439 889 or email me at frawley.matthew@gmail.com.

January	15-16	Mount Taylor Nature Reserve (Saturday morning)	M. Frawley
	22-23	Brindebella Ranges - Blundell Creek/Warks Roads area (day trip Sunday)	B. Lindenmayer
February	5-6	Jerrabomberra Wetlands - World Wetlands Day (Sunday morning)	H. Perkins
	19-20	Collector (Sunday morning)	L. Battisson
March	5-6	Eden Pelagics (Saturday and Sunday trips). Numbers limited to 12 people per day.	D. Mantle & A. Overs
	19-20	Molonglo Reach Boat Trip (Sunday morning)	J. Holland
April	6-9	Scottsdale (BA Camp-out incl. K2C surveys)	BA campout
	10	Various ACT trips for BA camp-out	BA campout
Easter & Anzac Day	(22) 23-24 (25-26)	Yathong NR camp-out	Noel Luff
May	7-8	ANBG - Beginners (Saturday morning)	Anthony Overs
	14-15	Local Day Trip TBA	Leader TBA
	21-22	Kelly Swamp - joint outing with community group (Sunday morning)	M. Frawley, D. Mantle, & C. Boekel
June	Queens Birthday 11-12 (13)	Accommodated weekend trip to be confirmed. . Either Currarong or Barren Grounds/Illawara area	Leader TBC
	18-19	Superb Lyrebird Survey - Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve (Saturday morning)	C. Davey & P. Fullagar
	25-26	Wanniassa Hills (Sunday morning)	S. Henderson
July	9-10	Urambi Hills (Saturday morning)	M. Robbins
	23-24	Mundoonen Nature Reserve (day trip - Sunday)	T. Munro & T. Bell
August	13-14	Lake Ginninderra - Beginners (Saturday morning)	A. Overs & D. Mantle
	27-28	Kambah Pool to Red Rocks Gorge (all day Saturday) - joint outing with Canberra Field Naturalists.	M. Robbins
September	(2)3-4	Little Forest Plateau, Ulladulla (campout)	K. Walter & J. Goldie
	10-11	Lake Road, Lake George (Sunday morning)	S. Lashko
	17-18	Frogs Hole Creek, Frogmore (weekend camp-out)	J. Holland
	(19)-24-25	Green Cape Week - Accommodation booked	R. Harvey & P. & H. Fullagar
October			
Labour Day	1-2 (3)	Capertee Valley Camp-out with professional bird guide (numbers limited 8-12 people).	Carol Probets
F&C Day	8-9 (10)	Lyrebird and Cascade Trails, Tidbinbilla NR (day trip Saturday)	D. McDonald
	15-16	K2C surveys	N. Taws
	22-23	Eden Pelagics (Saturday and Sunday) - provisional based on sustained interest in pelagic trips	D. Mantle & A. Overs
	29-30	Bird Blitz	B. Allan
November	12-13	Campbell Park, nest workshop (Sunday morning)	J. Holland
	19-20	Wollondilly River, Goulburn - joint outing with Goulburn Field Naturalists (weekend camp-out)	J. Holland
December	3-4	Local Day Trip TBA	TBA
	10-11	Plains Wanderer Weekend - Deniliquin area with professional guide. Numbers limited to 10-14 people.	Phil Maher



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)

COG welcomes the following new member:

D Higgins, Campbell

NEXT NEWSLETTER

February deadline

Wednesday 26 January 2011

Please send, articles, advertisements, updates etcetera 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—Chris Davey, ph 6254 6324
chris_davey@aapt.net.au

Vice President—TMatthew Frawley
frawley.matthew@gmail.com

Treasurer—Noel Luff

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 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
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

Office

COG no longer maintains an office. For all enquiries or access to COG's library phone Barbara Allen 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 with the subject 'subscribe' without the quotation marks

Editor Canberra Bird Notes

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Gang-gang

If undeliverable, please return to
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