

CANBERRA ORNITHOLOGISTS GROUP

UNUSUAL BIRDS IN THE ACT – 2020 update

The following is the list of ‘unusual birds’ in the ACT compiled by the COG Rarities Panel.

Common name	Latin name	Notes
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	
Brush Bronzewing	<i>Phaps elegans</i>	
Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	Reporting not required for “Bibaringa”
Bar-shouldered Dove	<i>Geopelia humeralis</i>	
Brown-capped Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps longirostris</i>	
White-throated Nightjar	<i>Eurostopodus mystacalis</i>	
Spotted Nightjar	<i>Eurostopodus argus</i>	
Black-eared Cuckoo	<i>Chalcites osculans</i>	
Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	
Bush Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Reporting not required for Mulligans Flat and Goorooyarroo
Banded Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tricolor</i>	Reporting not required for COG AoI outside ACT
Australian Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
Little Buttonquail	<i>Turnix velox</i>	Reporting not required for TSR 48
Powerful Owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>	
Barking Owl	<i>Ninox connivens</i>	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	
Square-tailed Kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	
Turquoise Parrot	<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	
Little Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta porphyrocephala</i>	
White-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris niger</i>	Reporting not required for JWNR
Blue-faced Honeyeater	<i>Entomyzon cyanotis</i>	
Black-chinned Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	
Pied Honeyeater	<i>Certhionyx variegatus</i>	
Black Honeyeater	<i>Sugamel niger</i>	
Crimson Chat	<i>Epthianura tricolor</i>	
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>	
Little Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>	
Regent Honeyeater	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	
Singing Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>	
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Ptilotula ornata</i>	

White-fronted Honeyeater	<i>Purnella albifrons</i>	
Grey-crowned Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>	
Australasian Figbird	<i>Sphecotheres vieilloti</i>	
Black-faced Monarch	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	Reporting not required for Tallaganda
Apostlebird	<i>Struthidae cinerea</i>	
Pink Robin	<i>Petroica rodinogaster</i>	
Tawny Grassbird	<i>Megalurus timoriensis</i>	
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	

CONSIDERATIONS FOR LISTING ON THE ‘UNUSUAL BIRDS’ LIST

In compiling this list, the COG Rarities Panel considered records only from the previous 10 years. This list primarily contains species for which there have been fewer than 10 endorsed records of clearly separate individuals or groups over this time. Where a bird or group of birds has been seen in roughly the same location for an extended period, that has been counted as a single occurrence.

This list is selective - there are many additional species which might be considered ‘rare’ on any number of grounds, including those that occur naturally in very low numbers. Included on the list are relatively rare species that present identification challenges, such as the female Black Honeyeater, and the Pink Robin. The Panel has excluded from this list species rare in the ACT that are particularly easy to identify, such as the Red-necked Avocet and Bell Miner. Nor has the plethora of possible shorebirds which might appear at Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR been included, though unusual bird reports are encouraged for all but the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

This list self-evidently excludes species not yet recorded in the ACT but which might turn up at some time in the future: an unusual bird report is required for any bird that does not appear in the most recent COG annual bird report or on the list of ACT birds on the COG website. Clarification can be sought from rarities@canberrabirds.org.au if in doubt.

The Panel has included in the list one species whose continued existence might be threatened by the January 2020 fires – the Brush Bronzewing. It has also included for the first time the Little Lorikeet. To keep the list of ‘unusual’ species to a reasonable length, birds that have not been recorded in over ten years have been excluded; should they reappear, of course, an unusual bird report would be required. Several other species have been dropped from earlier versions of the list as they are now being recorded more frequently, for example Pied Butcherbird, Musk Lorikeet, Red-backed Kingfisher and Azure Kingfisher.

REPORTING UNUSUAL BIRDS

An unusual bird report must be completed for the species here mentioned, then provided to and endorsed by the COG Rarities Panel before the record will be published as an accepted record in any formal COG publication. A form is available on the COG website for this purpose (canberrabirds.org.au/observing-birds/frequently-asked-questions/unusual-birds/). The Panel will also accept as a report an eBird record with a full description of the observation. It particularly welcomes photos or sound recordings in support of the observation.