



# Gang-gang

July 2023

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

## JULY MEETING

Wednesday 12 July 2023

7.30 pm

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

The July meeting will be a normal face-to-face one held at our usual venue. Attendees should heed social distancing and good hygiene practice etc, and use their common sense and stay home if they have COVID symptoms. Mask wearing is recommended.

**Peter Fullagar - Estimating Little Penguin numbers on Barunguba (Montagu Island), NSW.**

**Geoffrey Dabb - WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND SWOOPS CYCLISTS?**

The short presentation will be by **Peter Fullagar** and **Chris Davey** on "Estimating Little Penguin numbers on Barunguba (Montagu Island), NSW".

There have been no recent estimates of Little Penguin population numbers along the east coast of Australia. For the 2022 breeding season the Department of Planning and Environment, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) initiated the 'Big Little Penguin Survey' to be run over a short period across a few islands along the east coast.

[Continued Page 2](#)

Everyone welcome

## Summary/analysis of the past month and what to watch out for this month

The weather for the 4 weeks from 31 May to 27 June inclusive covered by this column was often cloudy and windy, and much wetter than in May, with regular though not significant rain events. There were some fogs and frosts, a couple of the latter being very heavy. My analysis below supports that bird activity in the COG Area of Interest (AoI) was during June was low, as may be expected in early winter. Only the spring/summer migrants of which some overwinter were reported, and some of the autumn/winter altitudinal migrants have still been slow to arrive. My experience is that small birds have often been hard to find, except when you encounter a mixed feeding flock.

The species which received the most attention over the period was the **Freckled Duck**. A single duck was first reported from the Fyshwick Sewage Treatment Plant by Max Weatherall on 10 June. Unlike the duck seen by many

[Continued Page 2](#)



Victor Braguine

Freckled Duck

From 17-23 September surveys were conducted on Barunguba, the Tollgates and Snapper Island. Barunguba is well known as a breeding location for the Little Penguin with evening tours specifically run to see the Penguins coming ashore. A local tour company advertises that 'Montagu Island is well known for its colony of Little Penguins. It's home to around 10,000 pairs of them'. Peter Fullagar will present the results from the survey and outline plans for the future.

The main presentation will be by **Geoffrey Dabb** with the title "**WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND SWOOPS CYCLISTS?**"

Geoffrey will introduce an illustrated book he has just completed. The book is a description of the world of bird books, related to Geoffrey's life as a book-obsessed medium-grade bird watcher. It covers a lot of ground, both geographically and in time, and in the subjects touched on (New Guinea, book inscriptions, national bird lists, bird names, uses of bird photography). The title of the talk is taken from the back cover. The title of the book, on the front cover, is **TOO MANY BIRD BOOKS: THE STORY OF AN INTERMITTENT WATCHER**. As copies are not expected to be available, Geoffrey is offering the talk as a non-book-launch.

---

## Summary/analysis of the past month and what to watch out for this month

*continued from Page 1*

observers only on 9 April, it did not move on this time and by 13 June there were up to 3 ducks reported from the adjacent Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR, from where up to this number have been observed up to the time of writing. Evidence for the **Freckled Duck** starting to move back from the drying inland seemed to come from the reports of between 2 to 8 ducks being seen from a number of locations on the W side of Lake George between 18-24 June. However, interestingly the nearest report otherwise during the period is from the north central Victoria, so major movement does not seem to have yet occurred.

Of the spring/summer migrants still reported in May, there have been no further reports of the **Rufous Songlark** (last reported on 12 May), **Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo** (last reported on 26 May) or **Leaden Flycatcher** (last reported 16 May). Of the spring/summer migrants which were still present at multiple locations in the previous period, the **Australian Reed-Warbler** was not reported (the most recent record was from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR on 28 May). Likewise, the **Tree Martin** was not reported (the last records were from Campbell Park and Rowes Lagoon, both on 29 May).

There was still a report of the **Noisy Friarbird** from Blundells Cottage on 21 June, the only record since 6 May. However, there were regular reports in June of the **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, the least migratory local cuckoo, from 6 locations. Likewise, the **Rufous Whistler** was still reported from 6 locations, most recently from the Tidbinbilla NR on 11 June. The **Dusky Woodswallow** was reported from just 2 locations, most recently 2 birds from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR on 20 June. This is the spot the small numbers that overwinter seem to prefer, probably due to the presence of water. The **Olive-backed Oriole** was still reported from 6 locations, most recently 2 birds from the Callum Brae NR on 24 June.

In contrast the **Mistletoebird** was still reported from 9 locations; this species seems to be present in similar small numbers throughout the year. The **Superb Parrot** was still recorded at over 25 locations (9 south of the lake), about half of the 50 locations in May but still good evidence that this species clearly overwinters. The **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** was still reported from 18 locations, again well down from the over 45 locations in the previous period, but the **Grey Fantail** seems keen to overwinter being still reported from around 65 locations, similar to the previous period. These last four species are clearly the most likely to stay over winter.

So please keep an eye out for the above-mentioned spring/summer migrants, especially for the last 8 species, as well as of course any unexpected species. If you do see any of the latter, when reporting it please provide a very good description, preferably with a photo.

Of the species that return to Canberra and its surrounds from the mountains and higher country to spend autumn/winter here, the **Scarlet Robin** is present in large numbers being reported from close to 75 locations in total of which over 30 were urban or peri-urban. The **Flame Robin** was reported from around 35 locations, of which only 13 were urban/peri-urban. I have not been able to find them in my local patch of Cooleman Ridge in June, and I thought they may have moved on. However, on 21 June Marieline Perrins reported 14 birds from the Arawang saddle, the only report from there during the period.

The **Rose Robin** has been reported from 10 urban/peri urban locations, with none from the mountains to the W of the Murrumbidgee River. A male was seen in my GBS site in Chapman on 3 occasions over a 10-day period, the first such sighting I can recall since the January 2003 fires. On 7 June a female **Pink Robin** was observed by Luke Downey at two close together locations, initially at his place at Wamboin, and then 15 minutes later in the Kowen Forest just across the ACT border, where he had followed it loosely associated with a mixed feeding flock moving towards Canberra (interestingly the closest otherwise was from the Yarra Ranges NP close to Melbourne). No **Red-capped Robins** were reported during the period, the nearest record being from close to Grenfell.

There has been only one urban/peri urban report of the **Crescent Honeyeater** (from Cook on 4 June), and from 9 other locations, all being in the mountains to the W of the Murrumbidgee River. The only reports of the **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** were of 2 birds at the Mt Rob Roy NR on 25 June, and up to 5 birds continued to be reported from the Tharwa Sandwash to 4 June (there was a late report of 8 birds on Harolds Cross Rd near Captains Flat on 27 June). After all the reports of **Swift Parrots** in May, there were none reported during the period, the nearest reports being from SW Sydney.

There were no reports of the **Brown Gerygone** during the period, with the nearest being from Batemans Bay. I suspect they may still be present at the ANBG but are very difficult to detect. Up to three **Bassian Thrush** were reported from there during the period, they were also reported from 2 locations in the mountains.



Blue-billed Duck

Shorty



## Australian Ornithological Services P/L

PO Box 385  
South Yarra 3141  
Victoria  
04173 10200

[enquiries@philipmaher.com](mailto:enquiries@philipmaher.com)

Good birding, good food

### Plains-wanderer Weekend

4/5 November 2023

### 2024 tours

#### Kutini – Payamu Tour

(Iron Range NP) Wet Season

4 to 10 January 2024

Cairns to Lockhart River

#### Far North Queensland

1 to 14 May 2024

Part 1: Atherton Tablelands,  
Part 2: Musgrave, Archer River,  
Kutini – Payamu (Iron Range NP)

#### Top End Birding Tour

20 June to 3 July 2024

Part 1: Darwin, Kakadu NP, Pine Creek,  
Katherine,

Part 2: Victoria River, Timber Creek,  
Kununurra. Optional Black Grasswren air  
charter to Mitchell Plateau

#### Strzelecki Track Outback Tour

September 2024

Please contact Patricia Maher  
for information & itineraries.

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



---

So please look out for the above species (especially the **Brown Gerygone**) as they continue to move into or stay in Canberra and its surrounds during July.

Up to 8 (but usually 2) **Plumed Whistling Ducks** were reported only from the Trucking Yard Lane dam during the period. There were **Freckled Duck** reported as summarised above. **Australian Shelducks** were again reported from 7 locations to the E and NE of Canberra during the period, with the highest numbers seen together being 140 (around half of May) on the Wollagorang Rd on 2 June. In my experience their main distribution to the E of Canberra has been typical since the late 1970s.

A single **Blue-billed Duck** was reported only from the Fyshwick Sewage Treatment Plant and the adjacent Kellys Swamp where on 22 June Shorty photographed a male racing across the water like a Grebe does. He noted "Now I just need to get a shot of one in flight" after recently photographing one standing out of the water there. In contrast, apart from the Tidbinbilla NR Sanctuary, up to 3 **Musk Ducks** (mostly single otherwise) were reported from 5 locations. Up to 2 **Great-crested Grebes** were reported only from 3 different locations on Lake Burley Griffin.

Again, no **Stubble Quail** were reported during the period, but up to 10 **Brown Quail** were reported from 10 locations, slightly down from May. Five **Painted Button-quail** were reported from Black Mountain NR on 9 June, with other records being 1 bird at Carwoola on 3 June and 2 birds on Tuggeranong Hill on 10 June. Again, no **Little Button-quail** were reported. There were no **Brush Bronzewing**, **Diamond**, **Peaceful** or **Bar-shouldered Doves** reported during the period, but a **White-headed Pigeon** was reported on from Hughes on 4 June.

Up to 2 **Spotless Crakes** were reported only from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR. Up to 2 **Australian Spotted Crakes** were reported regularly from there during June, with one also reported from the West Belconnen Pond on 16 June. Again, no **Baillon's Crake** was reported during the period, nor were any **Lewin's Rail**. There were single reports of up to 2 **Buff-banded Rails** from 3 locations, the Murrumbidgee Country Club, the North Watson Wetlands and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR.

No **Banded Lapwings**, **Red-necked Stints**, **Common** (last recorded from the northern end of Lake Tuggeranong on 20 April) or **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** were reported during the period, but 15 **Red-necked Avocets** were reported from the north end of Lake George on 22 June. The **Comb-crested Jacana** was last reported at Rowes Lagoon NE of Collector on 2 June, has it finally moved on? No **Caspian** or **Whiskered Terns**, or **Australian Little Bittern** were reported during the period.

No **Little Egret** or **Intermediate Egret** was reported during the period, and surprisingly single **Great Egrets** only from 2 locations, Lake Road on the SW corner of Lake George on 4 June and from Yass Gorge on 25 June. So, it looks like the influx of egrets is over. However, up to 5 **Royal Spoonbill** were reported from 3 locations, most recently on 18 June, and the **White-necked Heron** from 7 locations. No **Glossy Ibis** were reported during the period, there have only been 2 reports of single birds in April so far in 2023.

Single **Barn Owls** were reported from 4 urban locations during the period and **Black-shouldered Kites** were reported from around 40 locations during the period (well up from May – see breeding details below). The **Nankeen Kestrel** was reported from around 70 locations during the period, also well up from the 46 locations in March.

A **Spotted Harrier** was reported from the Federal Highway at Collector on 5 June but the one around the Molonglo River, last reported on 4 May, appears to have moved on. Perhaps it moved to the Snowy Mountains Highway just E of Cooma where a similar adult was reported on both 2 and 5 June. There were no reports of the **Pacific Baza**, **Black Kite** or **Black Falcon** during the period. However, a grey morph **Grey Goshawk**, was reported from a light pole on the Tuggeranong Parkway and Caswell Drive on 5 and 6 June respectively, but somewhat surprisingly not after this as it was reported from here in previous years.

A single **Azure Kingfisher** was reported only from the Barrenjoey Inlet and surrounding area of Lake Burley Griffin from 12-17 June. No **Glossy Black-Cockatoos**, **Cockatiel**, **Greater Bluebonnets**, **Turquoise Parrots**, **Purple-crowned**, **Scaly-breasted** or **Little Lorikeets** were reported over the period. Two **Musk Lorikeets** were reported from 3 locations, Corroboree Park in Ainslie on 1 June, 2 birds at Kambah on 5 June, as well as one from Bruce on 9 June.

No **Spiny-cheeked** or **Scarlet Honeyeaters**, or **Little Friarbirds** were reported during the period. A **Singing Honeyeater** was reported from Casey on 15 June and **Blue-faced Honeyeaters** from Commonwealth Park on 10 June, Wanniassa (now the most southerly report in Canberra of them to date) on 11 June, and at the Canberra Institute of Technology Reid on 20 June.

No **White-fronted Chats** were reported from the ACT during the period, but Chris C. reported a large flock of at least 50 (many of them males) lifting in and out of grass and with many photographed perching on a fence on Lake Rd on the SW corner of

---

Lake George on 25 June. The eBird map shows this species has not been recorded from here since October 2021, but 4 were also reported from the Wollogorang Rd where they have been previously recorded in 2023, including 40 on 22 May. No **Chestnut-rumped Heathwrens**, **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrikes**, **Spangled Drongo**, **Tawny Grassbirds** or **Zebra Finches** were reported during the period.

Of the birds I have continued to ask readers to keep a special lookout for in 2023, **Jacky Winters** have been reported from 4 locations. While no further birds were reported from Smiths Rd near Naas Rd (where up to 9 birds were in May) one was reported from the nearby Tharwa Sandwash on 11 June, as well as 2 birds each at 2 different spots on a nearby rural lease on 20 June. Up to 5 birds were also reported from the Top Naas Rd during the period, as well as a single bird from Naas Rd at Apollo Rd on 25 June. **Hooded Robins** were reported from 2 locations only, a single bird on the Top Naas Rd on 17 and 25 June, as well as a pair on the Orroral Rd at Rendevous Creek (a new location) on 12 June.

**Restless Flycatchers** were reported from 5 locations; a photograph of one on Cooleman Ridge was posted on Facebook on 17 June, where one was also heard on 21 June, and one reported from nearby Howarth Pl in Chapman on 20 June. One was also recorded at the Illilanga Wetland off Baroona Rd on 4 June and the nearby Illilanga farm on 14 June, as well as a single bird from the Nelanglo TSR on 13 June. All of these may be concluded as known locations or close to them.

Some winter breeding has come to my attention including:

- On 24 June Shorty observed 2 adult and 3 juvenile **Black-shouldered Kites** in Denman Prospect. The adults were kept busy bringing mice to the juveniles and 2 of the siblings were quite competitive, including when food was transferred in the air as his sequence of excellent photos clearly captured. He did see one of the juveniles catch its own mouse so expected they would soon disperse; they were no longer being fed the following day.
- Shorty also informed me that were posts on Facebook of young **Black-shouldered Kites** near Tharwa being passed mice, as well as another possible nesting. Apart from an immature bird photographed hunting over the National Arboretum on 17 June these were the only reports of breeding for this well-known autumn/winter breeder during the period.



**Black-shouldered Kite**

*Shorty*

An example of how rewarding watching birds in your own garden can be, on the evening of 2 June Anthony Overs posted that he had just spent the last 15 minutes on the front veranda, watching all the little birds come in for one last drink and a quick bath. The resident **Eastern Spinebills** had a young bird in tow, probably about a month old at most, with no sign of moult yet which happens at about two to three months.

The other little birds that normally occupy neighbouring territories were all following each other around, which is typical mixed feeding flock (MFF) behaviour in winter. There were six **Superb Fairy-wrens** (whose territory boundary is normally right in the middle of his front yard), four **White-browed Scrubwrens**, 2 **Brown Thornbills**, and a **Grey Fantail**. As darkness approached, the lorikeets and cockies were heading to their roosts nearby. The family of three **Crested Pigeons** flew to their favourite shrub for the night. The little birds then scattered, though two or three fairy-wrens were still quietly chatting to each other as they settled down in the dense May bush.

MFFs have continued to be reported throughout June, many from the COG woodland surveys towards the end of the month. Another species that can be dominant in some of the MFFs is the **Red-browed Finch**. So please continue to enjoy watching out for these during July, they will gradually dissipate once the breeding season starts.

Michael Robbins has informed me he has still been seeing small groups of up to 40 **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** in migration mode on Farrer Ridge or still passing through his place in western Kambah during June.

Philip Veerman posted that he now has **Rainbow Lorikeets** in his Kambah home GBS area every day. On 6 June he counted a flock of about 40 of them flying out of a group of trees, the biggest number ever for there. On 25 June Meke Kamps posted

that he had just walked through the biggest mob of **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos** he had ever seen (or heard) in Stromlo. He estimated around 65 but it could have been more. They were getting stuck into the pinecones, but also congregating in fairly large numbers on the ground.

So, during July please watch out for any of the overwintering spring/summer migrants mentioned above, for the remaining altitudinal migrants still to arrive in numbers, for MFFs and single species flocks, for roost sites and flights, and for any winter breeding activity. Please also continue to keep a special look out for the **Restless Flycatcher**, **Jacky Winter** and **Hooded Robin**. As usual please ensure that all significant sightings are properly reported and end up on the COG database.

Once again, my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to my two main data sources, posting on the COG e-mail Discussion List ("COG chat line") and the eBird Australia database, as well as direct correspondence with me. As always, I am very grateful to all involved for publishing this information without which it would not be possible to put this column together.

*Jack Holland*

## You are invited to Bird chat and coffee at the Botanic Gardens

Join us at the cafe at the Aust National Botanic Gardens on the 2nd Tuesday of every month, starting on the 11th July. Very informal, just turn up anytime between 9:30 and 11:30 to chat with other birders and would-be birders. There will be no formal proceedings, talks or speakers - just a chance to get together with others in a pleasant location. Anyone and everyone is welcome. Look for the table with the binoculars standing on it.

Bill Graham  
Canberra Birds (COG) committee member



The eight card designs:

- **Australian magpie** at the National Arboretum Canberra
- **Australian white ibis** at the National Carillon, Canberra
- **Bush-stone curlews** at Mulligans Flat Woolshed
- **Crimson rosellas** at the National Gallery of Australia Skyspace
- **Galahs** at the Balloon Spectacular
- **Gang-gang cockatoos** at City Hill
- **Rainbow-crested cockatoo** at Black Mountain Tower
- **Tawny frogmouths** at Shine Dome

## Canberra Birds 8-pack of greeting cards

Stock up on greeting cards, and be ready for all occasions!

Each fun and vibrant card pairs a different bird species with an iconic Canberra location. The cards are drawn by local cartoonist **Stuart McMillen**, a resident of Gorman Arts Centre, Braddon.

Greeting cards **\$6 each** or **8-packs for \$40**.

Shop directly via  
[stuartmcmillen.com/shop](https://stuartmcmillen.com/shop)

---

## Committee News

The Canberra Birds (COG) committee met by Zoom on 22 June.

Bill Graham and Kim Farley have started a new Canberra Birds activity. On the second Tuesday of the month, (the day before the monthly meeting), they will be at the Australian National Botanic Gardens café from 9:30 am to 11:30 am to meet and chat with members and any other interested people. Look for more information elsewhere in this issue of Gang-gang.

Members may be aware of the Australasian Ornithological Conference 2023 which will be held in Brisbane from 28-30 November (<https://2023aoc.com/>). Canberra Birds will sponsor someone to attend the conference. More details available soon.

The committee has approved updated versions of the following Canberra Birds' documents

- Media policy
- Trip Leader's Guidelines
- Guidelines for providing financial support to third-parties
- Policy on Speakers at Members' meetings

### *Recent Submissions*

None this month

Neil Hermes *President*      Alison Mackerras *Minutes Secretary*

### Jerrabomberra Wetlands bird surveys

Since July 2012, quarterly bird surveys have been conducted at Jerrabomberra Wetlands. With special permission from ICON Water, also included in the survey area are the Fyshwick Sewage Ponds.

The surveys include all bird species and involve covering areas at the Wetlands such as Kelly Swamp, along the Molonglo River, through the area bordering Lake Burley Griffin, Jerrabomberra Creek, the Woodlands and the new wetlands development along Eyre Street.

Surveys take between 3-4 hours, meeting at the Wetlands carpark at sunrise. Surveys are conducted in January, April, July and October and are run on weekdays and designed not to clash with outings or woodland surveys. The next survey is set for mid-July.

The surveys are an excellent opportunity to learn about the terrestrial and waterbirds of the area and there is the opportunity to visit areas not open to the general public.

I am looking for volunteers who are prepared to commit some time with bird id expertise and/or are willing to act as scribes.

If you are interested and would like further details please contact Chris Davey at [chris\\_davey@aapt.net.au](mailto:chris_davey@aapt.net.au) (MOB 0418679847)

---

# Future Field Trips

## COG Trips

Each participant must register prior to their chosen trip with their name and contact number and, before proceeding on the trip, must comply with the participant's responsibilities (wording follows). An emergency contact name and phone number are required.

"I declare that I am capable of undertaking the trip having discussed with the Trip Leader any limitations I have (e.g. medications, physical), assessed the risks to myself and my property, and ensured that I am adequately equipped. I will follow the instructions of the Field Trip Leader, and advise them before moving away from the group."

New birders and visitors are welcome. If you do not have your own binoculars, COG can lend you a pair, so please advise the trip leader when you register.

Changes to trips are notified on the COG chatline <http://canberrabirds.org.au/publications/discussion-email-list/> and trips page of COG website <http://canberrabirds.org.au/category/trips/>.

A reminder that COG has a long-standing policy to give **preference to members** for field trips that can accommodate only a limited number of people.

Do NOT attend if you have tested positive for Covid, have been a close contact within the past 5 days, or have any Covid, cold or flu symptoms.

If you look on the website, you will note that there are still 11 field trip dates with neither a leader or a venue, including every weekend of September. If you can assist, please contact Sue Lashko at [smlashko@gmail.com](mailto:smlashko@gmail.com)

### Sun 9 July 2023 – Kambah Pool

**Meet at 9.00am—Kambah Pool** at southern carpark (turn left at the T-intersection once you enter the reserve).

The size, fitness and ability of the group will determine how far we walk along the track towards Casuarina Sands, before returning by much the same route to Kambah Pool. Depending on the group we may take the odd short excursion into the bush and/or along the river. There are an interesting variety of habitats and therefore possible interesting variety of birds. Come and help us explore.

**Remember** to bring water and clothing appropriate to the weather forecast. No booking required. If you have any questions contact Michael Robbins (mrobbins at [home.netspeed.com.au](http://home.netspeed.com.au))

### Sunday 16 July – Googong Western Foreshore

**Description:** we will walk the western foreshore of Googong Dam. A good range of waterbirds and bush birds can be found, and over 100 species have been reported here.

**Meeting time and place:** Meet at the carpark for the foreshores at 9.00am. You need to get onto Old Cooma Road out of Queanbeyan. Once on Old Cooma Road, continue on to the left turn onto Googong Road. Follow Googong Road past the Googong township all the way to the Googong Foreshores carpark. This is just before the locked gate.

**eBird hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/australia/hotspot/L3877216>

**Walking distance:** 2km

**Degree of difficulty:** easy

**End time** (approx.): 11.30am

**What to bring:** water, sturdy footwear, hat, sunscreen. Bring morning tea.



---

Participants must register with the leader, providing their name and mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact.

**Name of leader and contact details:** Sandra Henderson, [shirmax2931@gmail.com](mailto:shirmax2931@gmail.com)

### Wednesday 19 July - Nadjung Mada Nature Reserve

Leader: Sandra Henderson ([shirmax2931@gmail.com](mailto:shirmax2931@gmail.com))

**Meet** at 9am at the locked gate at the end of Morisset Rd, Mitchell. The vehicle track past the front entrance of Bimberi goes to the gate.

Note that the reserve gate is likely to be locked (there are sheep in the reserve) so participants will have to climb over the gate.

The reserve is quite new, but has mown tracks, many very old Yellow Box and much regrowth.

**Please register** with leader prior to the outing with name and number, and name and number of an emergency contact.

### Sunday 30 July - Goorooyarroo NR

**Description:** Goorooyarroo NR covers 829 hectares and is located in north-east Canberra. It consists mainly of Yellow Box-Red Gum grassy woodland and has a predator-proof fence within part of the reserve. It is a great reserve for finding birds typical of this habitat, such as honeyeaters, pardalotes and thornbills, and we will hopefully see **Superb Parrots**.

eBird hotspots: Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve

**Meeting time and place:** 9.00 am at the carpark off Horse Park Drive near the intersection of Horse Park Drive and the Federal Highway, NOT the entrance near the old Rocks Carpark.

**Walking distance:** 5 km approximately - we will see how far into the reserve we wish to walk on the day.

**Degree of difficulty:** Fairly easy as we will be walking the main undulating track in the reserve.

**End time** (approx.): 12.30 pm

What to bring: Water and morning tea.

Participants must register with the leader, providing their name and mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact

**Numbers limited:** no

**Name of leader** and contact details: Bill Graham, email [bsgraham1948@gmail.com](mailto:bsgraham1948@gmail.com)

### Sunday 6 August - Bungendore

**Meet at 8.30am** at Spotlight carpark in Queanbeyan for carpooling.

We'll travel to Bungendore to check out three birding sites. The farm dam out on Lake Rd (birding from the road beside the dam) often has a wide variety of species, the town common has a couple of large ponds (about 500m walking), and Trucking Yard Lane dam and paddocks (viewing from the roadside) are always worth a look. If anyone has a scope that may be useful for the Lake Rd stop.

**Leader:** Sandra Henderson ([shirmax2931@gmail.com](mailto:shirmax2931@gmail.com))

**Please register** with your name and phone number, and the name and number of an emergency contact.

### Sunday 13 August – Cooleman Ridge

**Meet at 9:00am** at the nature reserve end of Kathner Street, Chapman. That's the end farthest from Hindmarsh Drive. We will walk 3 to 4 km depending on which route we decide on. There are some steepish sections but great views from the trig station. The eBird hotspot is <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2541730/>.

**Leader:** Alison Mackerras ([alison@mackerras.id.au](mailto:alison@mackerras.id.au))

### Sunday 27 August - Percival Hill Nature Reserve, Nicholls

**Start time:** 8.45 am. **Finish:** approx 12.30 pm.

**Description:** Percival Hill Reserve to the south is bordered by Ginninderra Creek. It has lots of reeds and ground cover for many species including **European Goldfinch**, and **Red-browed Finch** and **Double-barred Finch**. We will pass Gungahlin Pond that has island rookeries for **Royal Spoonbill** and **Australian White Ibis**. The hill summit has a vantage point that suits raptors like **Little Eagle** and **Wedge-tailed Eagle**. The woodland hosts many species including **White-eared** and **White-plumed Honeyeaters**.

**Meet at Harden St, Crace**, by Crace Recreation Park for carpooling. This is a moderate ability walk of 4-5 km with a steep hill to climb. **Bring** sturdy boots, hat, warm clothing and morning tea.

**Please register** with Bill Graham on email [bsgraham1948@gmail.com](mailto:bsgraham1948@gmail.com) (please note new email address).

Advance notice of a mid-week trip to the coast in October:

### Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 October - Shellharbour area

We will stay at the NRMA Shellharbour Beachside Holiday Park, Shellharbour Village, (<https://www.nrmaparksandresorts.com.au/shellharbour-beachside/>) which offers villas, cabins and powered sites. Note that NRMA Blue members receive a discount. Numbers will be limited to 16, so please register early as bookings should be made soon. Advise me if you would like to share. **DO NOT book accommodation until I have confirmed your registration.**

We will explore nearby Killalea State Park, Lake Illawarra, Minnamurra and other sites recommended by members of the Illawarra Bird Observers Club who have offered to join us on walks and a joint dinner one evening. Visit their website - <https://www.iboc.com.au/> - for a list of their walks and bird species observed. We will encounter a range of waterbirds and shorebirds as well as bush birds and if we are lucky, an **Australian Logrunner**.

**To register** contact Prue Watters [prue.watters@gmail.com](mailto:prue.watters@gmail.com)



### Feathers'n'Friends

#### Birdwatchers & nature lover's accommodation

Feathers'n'Friends cottage is fully self-contained with extensive facilities to ensure guests can enjoy short or extended stays.

The secluded lodging is surrounded by tropical rainforest and beautiful gardens with varying habitats and a large variety of birds and wildlife.

Activities in the area include birdwatching at nearby Mt Lewis and other birdwatching locations, as well as Daintree River nature tours and other attractions.

Discounts available for Birdlife Australia members.

Check our website for comprehensive details, rates, and bookings:

**[www.feathersnfriends.com.au](http://www.feathersnfriends.com.au)**

Fred & Jeanette Birkbeck

244 Clacherty Road  
Julatten QLD 4871

Tel: 07 4094 1665

Email: [freddy@feathersnfriends.com.au](mailto:freddy@feathersnfriends.com.au)

### NATURE LODGE OPTICS

62 OWEN ST HUSKISSON 0415516616

108 QUEEN ST BERRY 0488004700

The region's most trusted source for  
**Binoculars** and Spotting Scopes

Free advice and unique guest  
accommodation in Jervis Bay..

Proud Official Stockists of  
**SWAROVSKI - LEICA - ZEISS - STEINER**  
**BUSHNELL - VORTEX - SCHÖEFHAUSSEN**

[www.naturelodge.com.au](http://www.naturelodge.com.au)



Julatten, 1½hrs. North of Cairns

**FOR THE BEST BIRDWATCHING  
IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND**

Self-contained Units,  
Bunk Rooms & Campground

[www.birdwatchers.com.au](http://www.birdwatchers.com.au)

[sootyowl@bigpond.com](mailto:sootyowl@bigpond.com)

Find us on Facebook

Ph: 07 40941263

---

## Field Trip Reports

### Rendezvous Creek, Wednesday 21 June, 2023

On the coldest morning for many years, eight hardy souls headed out for the Wednesday walk. The brisk breeze at Namadgi Visitor Centre wasn't a good omen, but when we arrived at Rendezvous Creek it was still and sunny. **Superb Fairywrens** darted through vegetation near the carpark, and were seen in several spots along the way. With the ground and grass crunching under our feet in the frost, we made our way around the loop trail, admiring the ice crystal formations on grass stalks, and the almost magical way sunlight reflected off ice crystals on bushes at one point, giving them the appearance of being strung with multicoloured fairy lights. We had good views of two pairs of **Scarlet Robins** making good use of mullein stalks. Small groups of **Buff-rumped Thornbills** were making their way through the grasslands, and there were a number of **White-eared Honeyeaters** heard and seen. At the furthest point of the loop a **Superb Lyrebird** was heard calling on the slope in front of us. Most on the walk saw **White-throated Treecreepers**, and we all saw the **Wedge-tailed Eagle** with **Australian Magpies** in pursuit as we got back to the carpark. A really enjoyable walk in a lovely part of Namadgi!

Sandra Henderson

### The Pinnacle, Sunday 25 June, 2023

Blue skies and a bracing cold breeze greeted us at the start of our outing in The Pinnacle Nature Reserve. 25 species were seen, with a pair of **Tawny Frogmouths** a highlight. A flock of **Brown-headed Honeyeaters** passed directly overhead through the canopy, and a mixed feeding flock included **Golden Whistler**, **Scarlet Robin**, and **Brown** and **Buff-rumped Thornbills**. A very large group of **Crimson Rosellas** was moving around the reserve, and the final bird of the morning was a **Nankeen Kestrel**.

For those of us who spend a lot of time in some other reserves, it was wonderful to be in an area with very few weeds, which is largely due to the work of the local volunteers (Friends of the Pinnacle). Our leader on the day, John Brannan, is a very active member.

Sandra Henderson



Tawny Frogmouth

Sandra Henderson

### Sunday 11th June 2023, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve- Superb Lyrebird Survey

The 20th annual survey of the **Superb Lyrebird**, designed to provide an index of population numbers within the Reserve since the 2003 bushfires, was run under perfect conditions with a cool morning, a slight wind and clear skies.

Thanks to the 14 volunteer we were able to survey five of the trails so that all, apart from Lyrebird/Cascades, were surveyed.

Counts were as follows, Gibraltar Rocks- 2 (2), Devil's Gap- 3 (not counted), Fishing Gap 5 (not counted), Ashbrook-4 (2), Camel Back-13 (8). Figures in brackets are numbers reported last year. It should be noted that at times a calling bird can be heard from more than one trail. In this case the sighting is designated to one trail only.

As in previous years, the numbers from Lyrebird /Cascades are not included in the total because this trail has only been surveyed since 2017 and not in the last two years. We therefore assume a total count for this year to be 27, down from the total of 18 the previous year and 25 in 2021, see Figure 1.

For the first survey in 2014 the only Lyrebirds recorded were 3 at Gibraltar Rocks and 3 at Devils Gap. Since then the numbers at Gibraltar Rocks, Devils Gap and Fishing Gap trails have remained relatively stable at around 2-3 birds with an average of 3 birds at Ashbrook. At the Camel Back, numbers increased to around 25 in 2014 and have remained relatively stable since.

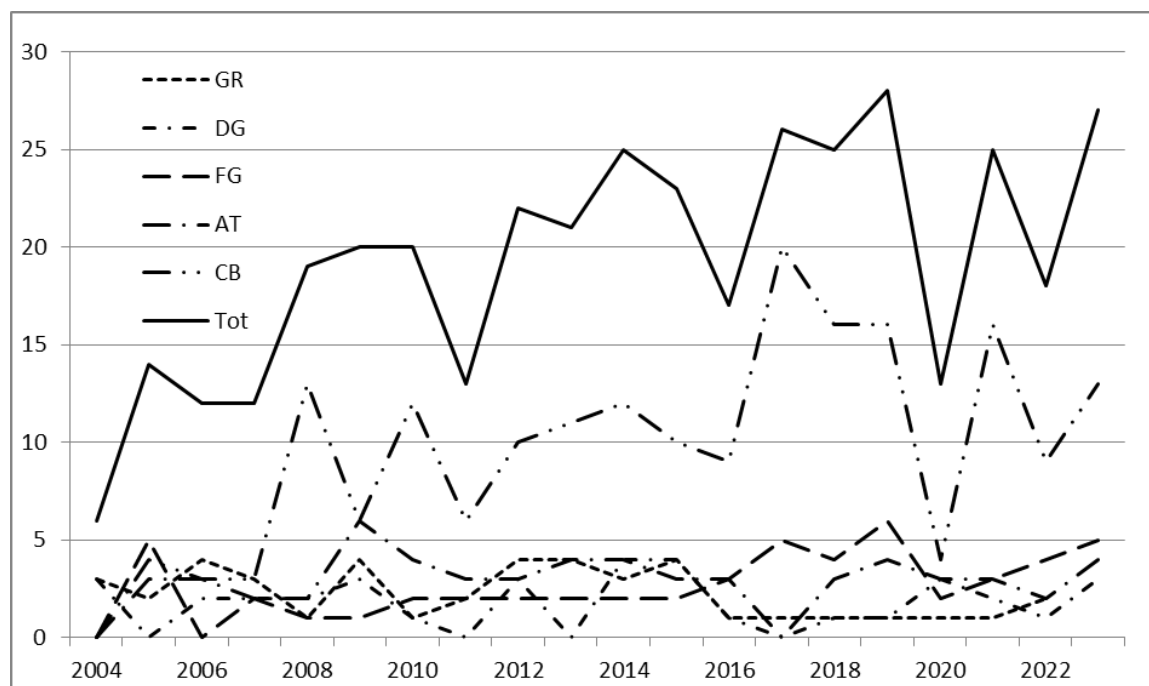


Figure 1. Numbers of Superb Lyrebirds recorded from walking trails at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, 2004-2023. GR-Gibraltar Rocks, DG-Devils Gap, FG-Fishing Gap, AT- Ashbrook Trail, CB-Camel Back, Tot- Total number of birds.

During the survey 38 bird species were recorded with the number seen depending very much on the trail walked; Gibraltar Rocks- 25, Devil's Gap- 16, Fishing Gap- 20, Ashbrook- 18, and Camel Back- 16. There was a larger number of species compared to the total of 28 last year. Birds not reported previously on the survey included the **Little Corella** on Fishing Gap and a single **Rufous Whistler** on the Camel Back Trail. The total number of species recorded over the 20 surveys now stands at 60.

Apart from the **Rufous Whistler** the outstanding feature were the number of **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** and **White-naped Honeyeaters**. First observed on this survey in 2020 with only two of each species reported, that year and neither species recorded since, we reported a total of 73 from Gibraltar Rocks and Fishing Gap and a total of 51 **White-naped Honeyeaters** from Devil's Gap, Fishing Gap and Ashbrook. The other exciting observation was of 4 **Spotted Quail-thrush** on the Devil's Gap trail.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers.  
Chris Davey

## Eden pelagics, Saturday 3 June and Sunday 4 June

We chose to run this round of COG pelagics in June, rather than the traditional April, to see if we could encounter some different species and winter migrants. Despite being hampered by some tricky weather conditions, we saw a range of good birds!

Saturday began slowly with a pair of **Pacific Gull** inside the heads, and a flotilla of **Little Penguin** seen by a lucky few from the top deck. As we got out to sea, **Albatross** started turning up with good numbers of **Buller's**, **Shy**, **Indian Yellow-nosed**, **Campbell** and a couple of **Black-browed** following the boat to the shelf. Drifting along our oil slick at the continental shelf, we



Buller's Albatross

Julian Teh



---

were entertained by up to 12 **Wilson's Storm-petrel**, as well as excellent (if in some cases brief) views of **Grey-faced, Providence, White-chinned** and **Northern Giant Petrel**, **Fairy Prion** and as many as five **Brown Skua**. Highlights of an already excellent day were a single **Grey-backed Storm-petrel** that hung around for an extended period, and a **Cape Petrel** that flew up behind the boat right as we had to call it a day and head for land.

South-easterlies overnight had expectations high for Sunday, and as we motored out to the shelf things were looking promising, the ride getting rougher and windier the further we went. Unfortunately the second we hit the shelf, the wind died completely! Bringing birds in was tough work, however, eventually we did attract many of Saturday's species, including a very hungry **Sooty Shearwater**, and a trio of Northern Giant Petrels. Highlight of the day was being able to compare the differences between Black-browed and Campbell Albatross, sitting side by side not two meters off the bow. If only all birds made it so easy!

Many thanks to our fantastic skipper and crew, and all of the participants for a great weekend out on the water.

Julian Teh



**Grey-faced Petrel**

*Brian Jones*



**Brown Skua**

*Ken Haines*



**Grey-backed Storm-petrel**

*Julian Teh*



**Cape Petrel**

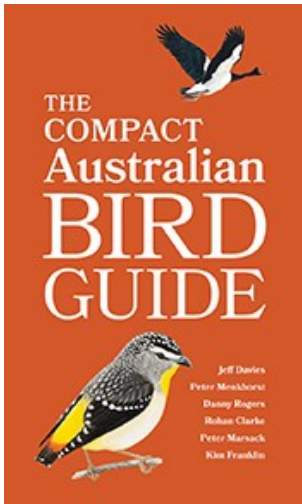
*Julian Teh*

---

## Publications for Sale

COG provides a range of birdwatching related publications for sale to members at discounted prices (around 10-30% off RRP).

Below are some of the most popular books and latest publications. We get new books in all the time and sometimes popular books sell out, but they can easily be re-ordered. If you are looking for a particular book, talk to the sales desk team at the meeting, as they can look at ordering it for you or contact Kathy on [sales@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:sales@canberrabirds.org.au)



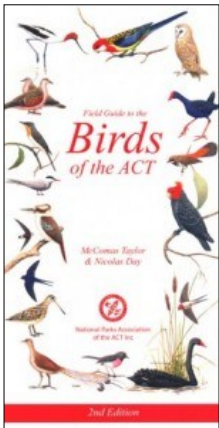
### THE COMPACT AUSTRALIAN BIRD GUIDE

Peter Menkhurst, Danny Rogers, Rohan Clarke, Jeff Davies, Peter Marsack, Kim Franklin

The Compact Australian Bird Guide is an easy-to-use and beautifully illustrated quick identification guide to all bird species regularly occurring in Australia. The content has been carefully designed to provide the reader with key information to enable rapid identification of a bird, in a convenient form. 264 pages | 198 x 120 mm

Based on The Australian Bird Guide.

**Members' Price \$28.00 RRP \$34.99.**

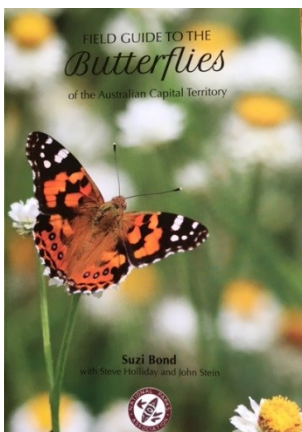


### Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT

*McComas Taylor & Nicolas Day*

This revised second edition illustrates in colour the 217 birds likely to be seen in and around the ACT. It has easy-to-follow descriptions in a compact format. Only local birds are shown making this Field Guide much simpler to use than comprehensive national guides. McComas Taylor has been watching birds in Canberra for over 30 years and has written, broadcast and lectured on the subject. Nicholas Day is widely recognised as one of Australia's foremost wildlife artists.

**Members' price: \$20.**



### Field Guide to the Butterflies of the ACT

*Suzi Bond, with Steve Holliday and John Stein*

A beautiful book with detailed notes and photographs of the wide range of butterflies found across the Australian Capital Territory. Dr Suzi Bond is a member of COG and a Visiting Fellow at the ANU where she researches the butterflies found in the ACT. Her research is driven by a fascination for our local butterfly fauna and a desire to better understand their populations and ecology.

With contributions from Steve Holliday and John Stein this book is a must for anyone interested in the butterflies of the ACT.

**Members' Price: \$27.**

## Canberra Birds Conservation Fund

Donations to this fund are tax deductible. Funds are used to support projects that protect and enhance native birds and the environments that sustain them.

## COG membership

2022-2023 memberships:

- Individual: \$50
- Family: \$55
- Institution: \$50
- School student (under 18) \$20

## New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

M Kelly

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for August 2023 edition:**

**Wednesday 26 July 2023**

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

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

or

**c/- The Secretary, COG,**

**PO Box 331, Jamison Centre, ACT 2614.**

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.

## COG information

**President:** Neil Hermes

0413 828 045

[president@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:president@canberrabirds.org.au)

**Treasurer:** Vacant

[cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au)

**Secretary:** Margaret Robertson

[cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au)

### Address for correspondence

The Secretary  
COG, PO Box 331  
Jamison Centre, ACT 2614

### Canberra Bird Notes

Editor: Michael Lenz

[michael.lenz.birds@gmail.com](mailto:michael.lenz.birds@gmail.com)

## COG website

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

### COG Webmaster

Julian Robinson

[cogwebmaster@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:cogwebmaster@canberrabirds.org.au)

### COG library

### Membership Enquiries & Updates:

[membership@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:membership@canberrabirds.org.au)

for change of address or other details.

### Gang-gang Newsletter

**Editor:** Sue Lashko

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

**Lay-out Editor:** Gail Neumann

### Publication Sales

Kathy Walter

[sales@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:sales@canberrabirds.org.au)

## COG E-mail Discussion List

COG E-mail Discussion List COG has an email discussion list for members and friends: 'CanberraBirds'. Join (subscribe to) the list by following the links on the COG website or by sending an email message to [canberrabirds-subscribe@lists.canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:canberrabirds-subscribe@lists.canberrabirds.org.au). The subject line and body of the email can be empty.

To unsubscribe, either permanently or temporarily, send an email message to [canberrabirds-unsubscribe@lists.canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:canberrabirds-unsubscribe@lists.canberrabirds.org.au).

If you wish to re-subscribe after being unsubscribed temporarily, simply follow the 'subscribe' instructions above.

Copyright in *Gang-gang* articles is retained by the articles' authors.

*Gang-gang* is published on COG's website in PDF format.

ISSN 2208-018X

