



# Gang-gang

**DECEMBER 2023**

**Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.**

## **JANUARY MEETING**

**Wednesday 10 January 2024**

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

Instead of our usual COG Members' Night the 10 January 2024 COG meeting will be a Quiz Night:

#### **QUIZ MASTER – MARK CLAYTON**

There will be Range of Questions to encourage participation from all levels of bird knowledge.

At the door there will be a Draw for Seats at the Tables.

Prior registration is not required but it would be helpful if you could let Mark know on [chollop7@bigpond.com](mailto:chollop7@bigpond.com) if you intend to come.

**VENUE – Woden Valley Uniting Church Hall, off Gillies St, Curtin**

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.

There is parking for at least 30 cars in the car park off Gillies Street, and further parking in Gillies St itself, or across the road at the Curtin shops. [Continued Page 2](#)

**Everyone welcome**

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

The weather for the first month of the 5 weeks from 25 October to 28 November inclusive covered by this column was variable but continued to be dry with only one relatively moderate rain event. Consequently, conditions have continued to dry-off considerably. While a series of storms/rain events over the final 8 days changed things considerably, it is likely to be too late to change the bird pattern associated with a drier spring, which was well set by then.

Bird activity in the COG Area of Interest (AoI) seemed to level off during the dry period. All the expected regular spring and summer migrants from the inland are present though two species are probably not as widespread as they can be in a dry spring. Quite a few of the coastal migrants seem to be present in lower numbers than usual, possibly because more favourable conditions can be found elsewhere. Apart from one mega-tick there were also fewer "unusual" species reported than was the case in September or October.

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## **COG Christmas Barbeque**

**Black Mountain Peninsula  
(John Cardiff Close)**

**6.00 pm Wednesday 13 December 2023**

Sausages, bread, onions, beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks provided.

Please bring either a salad or a dessert, plus serving spoons, to share. You will also need to bring plates, cutlery, glasses, table and chairs.

There will be the usual monthly raffle.

Please use the entrance on the East side next to the Good Shepherd Anglican Church.

Please bring your own supper and drinks, including alcohol.

A good-sized kitchen with a fridge is available for our use.

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

*continued from Page 1*

The big surprise species for the period was the **Australian Painted-snipe** first reported on 31 October by Jane Cooksley from the STEP Botanic Garden at the National Arboretum. This bird (the consensus being it was a non-breeding female) was subsequently observed and photographed by many birders over the next two days, often out in the open for lengthy periods and sometimes interacting with the **Buff-banded Rails** or **Australian Wood Ducks** also present, and then again on 4 and 6 November.

It was not further reported until 11 November when it “flew in during the late evening and landed on the water. Spent the rest of the evening feeding and preening.” It was then observed by several birders early on the morning on 16 November with “Good views of her preening, sleeping and feeding” obtained, before the final report (with photograph) that afternoon. It’s tempting to speculate to where it has gone, possibly to another dam to its liking not far away, certainly the STEP Botanic Garden one is not where I would have expected it.



**Australian Painted-snipe**

*Victor Braguine*

The presence of this bird was also surprising, coming within a week of the report of the first satellite transmitter (with Lori Gould’s assistance) being attached to an **Australian Painted-snipe** near Balranald on 25 October. Interestingly the closest (by far) other record during the period was of a single bird at Richmond NW of Sydney on 28 October. This species has been very rarely reported over the past wetter years including 2023. COG’s 2018-2019 Annual Bird Report (ABR) notes as a rare, non-breeding visitor, with the eBird map showing the most recent sightings being up to 2 birds at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR (a much more likely spot to find them) from mid-December 2020 to mid-January 2021.

There have been no further records of the **Black-eared Cuckoo**, **Red-backed Kingfisher** or **Painted Honeyeater**; for the last-named there has been only the single record this spring with the closest otherwise being from near Albury-Wodonga. However, Jenny Bounds has informed me that she recorded a **Black-eared Cuckoo** at Mulligans Flat Sanctuary on the COG blitz weekend (21-22 October), as well as on the annual ANU bird survey there the previous Thursday.

Of the other inland spring/summer migrants not widely reported during October, the **Brown Songlark** continued to be regularly reported from the Parkwood/West Belconnen Pond area, but from only 2 other locations, single birds on the Wollogorang Rd on 5 November, near Hoskinstown on 19 November, and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR on 26 November. Likewise, the **Horsfield’s Bushlark** has only been reported from the Parkwood Road/Dunlop Grasslands area, and from on the Wollogorang Rd on 5 November, as well as 16 birds from Lake George East on 22 November.

Of the coastal spring/summer migrants the **Dollarbird** and the particularly the **Rainbow Bee-eater** are possibly in lower numbers than usual, reported from around 30 and 18 locations, respectively. This seems to apply more clearly to the **Brush Cuckoo**, reported from just 12 locations, only 5 of which were from the mountains to the W of Canberra where they breed.

Quite a few of my Koel spotters did not report the arrival of the **Eastern Koel** in their local patches until the first week of November. Since that time, they have been very active in my local patch of Chapman and Rivett, with lots of instances of male and female birds calling loudly while chasing each other. Another feature has been that they have often been able to be seen

relatively easily, perched on overhead wires or fences etc. Despite this there have still been prolonged spells of the male “ko-el” calling, which is usually associated with them trying to find a mate. This call has been made even with the female present.

There have been five further reports of the **Channel-billed Cuckoo**, a bird heard at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve on the 16th November, and one at Point Hut on 21 November, and then from the Cotter Campground, Higgins and Cook, in that order all on the morning of 27 November (the same bird moving through?). However, only in Cook was the bird perched in a eucalypt from where it was mobbed by **Pied Currawongs** and **Red Wattlebirds**, mostly from a distance. It called only briefly three times in the ca. 25 minutes Rob Magrath was watching.

There have been reports of the **Common Cicadabird** from 6 locations, all from the mountains to the west of Canberra except for a bird heard at Mulligans Flat on 12 November. Interestingly there have been reports of the passage migrant the **Australian Rufous Fantail** from just 8 locations, only 4 of these being from the above mountains. The **Satin Flycatcher** has also been reported from just 6 locations, 4 of these being from the mountains to the west of Canberra, and 2 from urban Canberra, both single males at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR and Holder on 4 and 17 November, respectively.

So, during December and January please keep a lookout for the species mentioned above which have only arrived so far in relatively small numbers, in particular those coastal spring/summer migrants which seem to have arrived in smaller numbers so far. Please also keep a lookout for the **White-throated Needletail** and related **Fork-tailed Swift**, which have not been reported in the COG Aol so far and are usually not reported until into the New Year.



Eastern Koel (female)

Trevor Lipscombe



## Australian Ornithological Services P/L

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Good birding, good food

**Kutini – Payamu Tour**  
(Iron Range NP) Wet Season  
4 to 10 January 2024  
Cairns to Lockhart River  
incl. flights.

**Far North Queensland**  
NEW DATES  
21 May to 3 June 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)



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Of the species that move to Canberra and its surrounds from the mountains and higher country to spend autumn/winter here, there have been peri urban reports of from just 4 locations of the **Scarlet Robin**, with single birds at Bluetts Block on 28 October and Bibaringa on 27 November, and 2 birds at Gorooyaroo NR on 12 November. However, up to 6 birds were reported from the wider Mulligans Flat NR area throughout the period (this certainly seems to be a local refuge in late spring). In contrast there have been no peri-urban reports of the **Flame Robin**, the closest being a single bird at the Tidbinbilla NR on 17 November, again indicating how much further this species tends to travel to breed.

The **Rose Robin** has been reported from 5 locations W of the Murrumbidgee River, as well as a single bird in the Tallaganda NR on 31 October. Not surprisingly there were no **Pink Robins** reported, but there have been reports from around 10 locations of the inland species, the **Red-capped Robin**, with on 26 November Shorty photographing a bird with a yellow gape and a slight tinge of red on its breast that he assumed was a young male.

There were reports of up to 3 **Crescent Honeyeaters** from 3 locations to the W of the Murrumbidgee River, and also two birds from the Tallaganda NR on 31 October. Again, there were no reports at all of the **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** or the **Brown Gerygone** during the period, but a **Bassian Thrush** was still photographed at the ANBG on 13 November.

Apart from **Australian Painted-snipe** mentioned above, there were relatively few “unusual” birds reported. While no further **Magpie Geese** were reported, the **Freckled Duck** continued to be present at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR throughout the period, with a maximum of 10 ducks seen on 7 November. However, these numbers were small by the 20 and 22 ducks reported from Lake Bathurst on 29 October and 21 November, respectively, with ducks also reported from the adjacent Morass (maximum of 14 on 25 November).

Up to 2 **Plumed Whistling Ducks** were reported only from the Trucking Yard Lane dam during the period, but the **Australian Shelduck** was reported from 8 locations from the N through to the E of Canberra during the period, with the maximum being the 143 ducks reported from East Lake George on 22 November (there were also 78 ducks reported from Lake Bathurst on 21 November).

Up to 7 **Blue-billed Ducks** were regularly reported from the Upper Stranger Pond during the period, as were up to 2 ducks from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR, with a single duck reported from Greenwood Rd Murrumbateman on 18 November. Apart from the Tidbinbilla NR Sanctuary, **Musk Ducks** were reported from 8 locations, with a maximum of 10 ducks at Lake Bathurst on 29 October.

Up to 10 **Great-crested Grebes** were reported from the Cotter Dam, with two birds reported from the Murrumbidgee River at Bloomfield Flats on 29 October, and a single bird reported from Greenwood Rd Murrumbateman up to 18 November. However, by far the most (and easily the highest number I can recall in the COG AoI) were the 55 birds reported from Lake Bathurst on 29 October (18 were also reported from there on 21 November).

Up to 5 **Stubble Quail** were reported from 8 locations during the period, the lack of tall grass clearly affecting their numbers compared with the previous wetter years. In contrast **Brown Quail** were reported from 18 locations, up from October. Single **Painted Button-quail** were reported from 3 locations only, the drier weather also seems to have affected their numbers as this is down from 7 locations in October. No **Little Button-quail** were reported during the period.

A youngish **White-headed Pigeon** was photographed at a bird feeder in Wamboin, where it hung around for a few hours, on 2 November. Up to 3 **Brush Bronzewing**s were reported only from Pierces Creek Forest between 24 -27 November. Single **Peaceful Doves** were reported from Bibaringa on 27 October and Deakin on 3 November, but there were no **Diamond** or **Bar-shouldered Doves** reported during the period.



Spotless Crane

Marcus Hellyer

The crane influx has continued including the **Baillon's Crane** at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR from where it was reported by many observers with a maximum of 7 on 29 October and 19 November. Otherwise up to 2 birds were reported from 6 locations, quite remarkable considering it was hardly reported in the first 8 months of 2023. The **Spotless Crane** was also regularly reported from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve, with a maximum of 5 birds on 26 November, but with otherwise only the report of a single bird at The



Banded Lapwing

Julian Robinson

Morass on 21 November (there were also 33 birds counted at Lake Bathurst that day). No **Red-necked Avocets**, **Comb-crested Jacana**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, or **Australian Little Bittern** were reported during the period,

On 4 November Sandra Henderson reported that she had finally managed to see the **Common Sandpiper** at the Village Creek on Lake Tuggeranong for the first time for this season. It has been reported from there on 4 further occasions, making it now the fifth consecutive year it has returned to the area, a quite remarkable feat for such a small bird. Also remarkable is that on 23 November Peter Fullagar reported a second **Common Sandpiper** at Lake Ginninderra. It: "Flew up from shoreline fluttering across the water showing typical diagnostic flight with white wing stripes very conspicuous."

Single **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** were reported from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR on 6 and 11 November, with up to 2 reported from Greenwood Rd Murrumbateman as well as 8 birds from the Morass on 25 November, where a **Red-necked Stint** was also reported amongst them. No **Whiskered Tern** were reported during the period, but 2 **Caspian Tern** were observed at Lake Bathurst on 29 October and 21 November.

No **Little Egret** was again reported during the period, and a **Plumed** (formerly **Intermediate**) **Egret** was reported only from the Government House bike path on 15 November. In contrast **Great Egrets** were reported from 20 locations, reflecting a drying inland, again supported by **White-necked Herons** being reported from 23 locations. **Royal Spoonbills** were reported from 10 locations (up from October), with easily the maximum being the 12 birds at the SW end of Lake George on 10 November, and up to 3 **Yellow-billed Spoonbills** were reported from 8 locations, well up from the 3 in October. However, no **Glossy Ibis** were reported during the period.

A **Barn Owl** was reported from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve on 5 and 17 November, as well as from Illilanga on 29-30 October, where it flew in and roosted in a casuarina overnight. **Black-shouldered Kites** were still reported from around 50 locations (similar to October). A **Black Kite** was reported from Rowes Lagoon on 21 November, but there were no reports of the **Pacific Baza**, **Grey Goshawk**, **Spotted Harrier** or **Black Falcon** during the period.

Seven **Glossy Black-Cockatoos** were reported from the Scotts Nature reserve on 25 November, but no **Azure Kingfisher**, **Cockatiel**, **Turquoise Parrots**, **Greater Bluebonnets** and **Purple-crowned**, **Scaly-breasted** or **Little Lorikeets** were reported over the period, with 5 **Musk Lorikeets** reported only from Kambah on 9 November.

A male **Scarlet Honeyeater** was still reported from the ANBG on 29 October, and the 2 **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters** reported to the S of Canberra were seen again on 13 November. Two **Blue-faced Honeyeaters** were reported from Hughes on 13 November, and a single bird from Ainslie on 23 November. However, no **Singing Honeyeater** or **Little Friarbirds** were reported during the period.

In the ACT two **White-fronted Chats** were reported only from the Molonglo paddocks (to the north of the woodland track) on 17 November, as well as up to 6 birds from the Wollagorang Rd and 2 at Lake Bathurst during the period. Two **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren** were reported only from Blue Gum Hill in the Namadgi Nature Park and Whiskers Creek Rd Carwoola, both on 18 November. A **Tawny Grassbird** was reported from the Yass River at Gundaroo on 18 November, but no **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrikes**, **White-browed Babbler**, **Spangled Drongo** or **Zebra Finches** were reported during the period.

Again, the relatively few "unusual" bush birds, in particular raptors and parrots as shown by the above 4 paragraphs, is a bit puzzling.

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Of the birds I have continued to ask readers to keep a special lookout for in 2023, **Jacky Winters** were reported from 3 known locations only during the period, with single birds at Illilanga on 6 and 18 November, the Namina TSR on 15 November, and at the Namadgi NP Visitors Centre on 25 November. The **Hooded Robin** was reported from 2 locations, a single bird in the Orroral Valley on 29 October and a male ("Large Robin with full black head & bib, black wings with a visible white wing bar") at Pine Island on 6 November. This new location is as close to urban Canberra it has been reported for a number of years. In contrast **Restless Flycatchers** were reported from 5 locations, with up to 3 birds at the Nelanglo TSR during the period. Single birds were reported from Illilanga on 28 October, the SW corner of Lake George on 10 November, the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR on 11 November and Blue Gum Hill in the Namadgi NP on 18 November, the last 3 being new locations, at least for 2023.

It's been hard to get an accurate impression of what kind of a breeding season it has been so far, with the 12 November Nest Workshop (see separate report) suggesting it is below par, backed up by quite a few of my local **Australian Magpie** nests seeming to have failed to raise fledglings. We have also seen loose flocks of over non-breeding 20 magpies together.

A couple of mainly personal observations follow:

- Early December is usually the time to look out for the first **Eastern Koel** fledglings, but with their relatively late arrival (see above) I expect few to be reported until well into 2024. The **Red Wattlebirds** (RWB, expected to again be their main host) in both my garden in Chapman and Jenny Bounds' place in Weston are already feeding their second brood.
- A very interesting observation of Rosemary Blemings was of an altercation lasting about 5 minutes between a female **Eastern Koel** (sitting very out in the open on overhead wires) and a **Magpie Lark** in her Flynn garden on 25 November. The **Magpie-lark** clearly identified the Koel as a threat (as do the RWBs around my place), even though to my knowledge there is only one probable ACT record of them ever hosting a Koel chick.
- Unfortunately, after 2 months the **Australian Hobby** breeding event just outside of my GBS site I mentioned in my previous columns has had an unsuccessful outcome, finally succumbing to an onslaught of **Pied Currawongs**. At 08:23 h on 27 October I heard them calling and saw up to 6 Pied Currawongs (PCs) around the tree, including approaching the nest very closely with constant calling. When I moved to under the tree two PCs were very close with a Hobby seeming to be calling from the nest. While there was still some calling after I left at 08:33 h, the larger bird (female) was on an open perch at 08:51 h eating something for a couple of minutes. More PCs arrived and over the next hour there was lots of chasing of up to 5 PCs by the larger bird, with up to at least 8 PCs in tree, some getting very close, of the around 20 PCs in the immediate area, with 3 PCs still around at 09:51 h.
- Surprisingly both birds were still present after this onslaught, as were PCs with a maximum of 6 seen being chased on 3 November. However, on 6 November PCs were again very noisy and there were at least 10 in the nest tree at 08:25 h, and on closer investigation there were up to 50 PCs in the area, being called in, with up to 25 in the tree, with some of them vigorously pursuing one **Australian Hobby** and others very close to the nest. Based on the calling there again seemed to be one bird on the nest trying to protect the young. It was like Alfred Hitchcock's movie *The Birds* and the situation seemed hopeless when I left at 08:35 h.
- Over the next 90 minutes PCs were constantly around with up to 20 of them in/around the tree, at times being chased by both Hobbies. They slowly seemed to move into Rivett and from 10:03-10:05 h at least 60 PCs came up from there flying towards Cooleman Ridge (mainly over our house 150 m away from the nest). The nest area was then quiet, though with still some PCs around the area.
- I thought the PCs were indicating "Mission accomplished" but surprisingly both **Australian Hobbies** were still around with the two birds sitting very close together (<1 m apart) that evening, the larger bird clearly with some tail feathers missing. They continued to be around with up to 6 PCs seen close to the nest area up to 11 November, after which the PC attention seemed to drop off. I hoped the chicks had somehow survived as at 17:01 h on the afternoon of 16 November the larger bird was heard calling while flying towards nest, she was then seen below nest with food apparent (but not eating it) at 17:06 h.
- Unfortunately, this does not seem to have been the case as she was only seen one more time, sitting quietly in an open perch for well over 2 hours on the evening of 18 November. So after 2 months there neither bird has been seen or heard, which was often the way I knew they were active, since and where they have gone to is unclear. Interestingly the closest record of an **Australian Hobby** during this time was from over 6 km to the N at the Namarag River reserve on the northern side of the Molonglo River on 20 November.

Perhaps indicative of a poor breeding season is that I have still been seeing some small mixed feeding flocks. In respect of large flocks on 22 November Andrea and I observed a flock of around 25 **Straw-necked Ibis** flying over the SW corner of Narrabundah Hill. They landed briefly in the adjacent horse paddocks before they took off to follow a larger flock of at least 50 birds seen flying East < 1 km away in horse paddocks over the end of Kathner St Chapman/the Northwestern end of Cooleman

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Ridge. At a conservative 75 birds this is by far the largest number seen in the area for many years. Where they were going to is unclear, again no one else seems to have recorded anywhere near that many in the area.

So please watch out for more of the remaining returning spring/summer migrants (particularly the coastal ones) mentioned above, for any altitudinal migrants remaining in urban/peri-urban areas, for roost sites and flights, and in particular for early summer breeding activity with birds likely to take advantage of the very good rain over the last part of the period. 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*

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## Committee news

Committee members look forward to seeing you at the December barbecue. The details are in this issue of Gang-gang.

The Canberra Birds (COG) committee met by Zoom on 16 November.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 8 November. The committee for 2023-24 is:

President: Neil Hermes

Vice-President: Kim Farley

Treasurer: vacant

Secretary: Margaret Robertson

General Members: Jenny Bounds, Brittany Brockett, Bill Graham, Zac Flegg, Julie Hotchin, Ben Milbourne, Steve Read, Prue Watters

As you can see, we are still looking for someone to volunteer for the treasurer's role. Prue will be happy to help you and has taken steps to simplify the processes.

Kathy Eyles and Alison Mackerras did not stand again and the committee thanks them for their service to COG and the committee.

Neil Hermes *President*

## Coffee and Chat at the Gardens Tuesday, 12 December

You are invited to Canberra Birds monthly Coffee and Chat at the Australian National Botanic Gardens cafe. Come along any time between 9:30 and 11:30. All welcome – experienced birders, new and would-be birders, locals and visitors. Look for the table with the binoculars on it.



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# Field Trip Reports

## Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 October - Shellharbour area

Prue Watters led 14 COG members on a very successful trip to the Illawarra, where we were based at Shellharbour. Special thanks also to Ralph Stadius of Illawarra Birders who prepared our itinerary and gave very generously of his time to lead us to various local hotspots over the following three days. A couple of other IB members also joined us for various walks, and dinner at a local club one evening.

Our first site on Tuesday was Killalea Regional Park at Shell Cove, where we walked around a very picturesque freshwater lagoon adjacent to Killalea Beach. The lagoon held an array of common waterbirds with bush birds in the surrounding coastal vegetation. The pick of the 60 species seen were **Tawny** and **Little Grassbirds**, **Swamp Harrier**, with **Grey Butcherbird** and **Brown Gerygone** on nests. We also had good views of breaching and fin-slapping **Humpback Whales** offshore.

The following day we visited Jerrara Dam near Jamberoo, where we scouted the littoral rainforest patches along the creek lines leading to the disused reservoir. The forest was very productive of bush birds, and we had great views of **Topknot Pigeon**, **Brown Cuckoo-dove**, **Black-faced Monarch**, **Brown Gerygone**, **Lewin's Honeyeater**, and glimpses of **Green Catbird**. A **Baillon's Crake** at the Reservoir, seen in poor light, kept us guessing until the photographers allowed a definitive diagnosis. The tally here was 58 species.

In the afternoon, we concentrated on ducks and other waterbirds at Tallawarra Ash Ponds, a large closed fenced area, with key access only, owned by Energy Australia, containing long disused ash settlement ponds for coal-fired power stations. Again, a good tally of 60 species was seen, the pick being 32 **Pied Stilt**, a **Latham's Snipe**, 20 **Royal Spoonbill**, an **Australasian Spotted Crake**, and good views of 2 **Dollarbird**.

Thursday morning was all waders at Shoalhaven Heads, where plenty of spotting scopes, the wader expertise of Ralph and Sue Lashko, good light and a convenient 8am high tide, allowed great views of 42 **Eastern Curlew**, 2 **Whimbrel**, 220 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 18 **Red-necked Stint**, 30 **Red-capped Plover** and, the bird of the trip, a very uncommon **Broad-billed Sandpiper**. We also saw four tern species: **Crested**, **Caspian**, **Gull-billed** and the beautiful **Little Tern**, the latter breeding at the Heads. Another highlight was the Shoalhaven Heads bakery and their A1 pies.

After rain overnight abated, our luck with the weather continued into the final day when we stopped on our homeward journey at Minnamurra Rainforest. The short loop walk added four good birds to our final trip tally of 125 species: **Superb Lyrebird**, **Yellow-throated** and **Large-billed Scrubwren**, and **Bassian Thrush**.

Thanks to Prue and Ralph for putting together a very successful trip to a lovely part of the coast, Sue for bird identification assistance and Lia Battison for entering all our sightings into eBird. We hope to reciprocate by hosting Illawarra Birders in Canberra in the next year or two.

Julie McGuiness



COG Members at Shoalhaven Heads

*Tee Tong Teo*





Clockwise from top: **Tawny Grassbird** Richard Arculus; **Topknot Pigeon**, **Black-faced Monarch** Tee Tong Teo, **Large-billed Scrubwren** Graeme Austin, **Superb Lyrebird**, **White-browed Scrubwren**, Tee Tong Teo, **Brown Cuckoo-Dove** Graeme Austin





Clockwise from top: **Red-capped Plover** Graeme Austin, **Royal Spoonbill**, **Eastern Curlew**, **Great Crested Tern**, **Pied Stilt** Tee Tong Teo, **Broad-billed Sandpiper**, **Great Cormorant**, **Australian Pelican** Graeme Austin

## Sunday 29 October - Booroomba Rocks Car park to Apollo Rd via Bushfold Flats

Matthew Larkin and I co-led this outing from Booroomba Rocks car park along the Alpine Track to Bushfold Flats and then along the Mt Tennent fire trail to Apollo Road. We were joined by COG stalwarts David D and Roy H, a newer chum who earned my gratitude by being willing to keep a bird list, Russell Kelly, and Lindsey Gilbert who hopefully enjoyed the trip so much she's now joined COG.

For Matthew and me, the interest was mainly in changes in birds heard/seen compared to the weekend before (when we Blitzed from Booroomba car park up the track to the top of Booroomba Rocks) and ten days before the Blitz (a check of the area to the top of the Rocks and part of the Alpine Track). A big difference was with cuckoos with a fair number of **Shining Bronze Cuckoo** on the first trip, but lots of **Fan-tailed Cuckoo** on the Blitz and COG outing, and only a single **Shining Bronze Cuckoo** and few **Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo**.

Another feature of October 29 was the very considerable number of **White-eared Honeyeater** all along the track from Booroomba carpark to Bushfold Flat, more than the numbers of **Yellow-faced** and **White-naped Honeyeater**, and **Red Wattlebird**. A likely **Pilotbird** was heard along the Alpine track, and on the track to Bushfold Flat we heard/saw a fair number of **Spotted Pardalote**, **Grey Shrike-thrush**, **White-throated Treecreeper**, **White-browed Scrubwren**, **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**, **Crimson Rosella**, and **Grey Fantail**, but few **Brown Thornbill** or **Australian King Parrot**.

From Bushfold Flat out to Apollo Road was different habitat, although the 2020 fires meant there was considerably less difference than before the fires. Even so we added **White-winged Triller**, **Willie Wagtail**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Magpie-lark**, **Australian Magpie**, **Common Bronzewing**, **Buff-rumped Thornbill**, **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**, **Brown-headed Honeyeater**, and a good-sized flock of **White-browed Woodswallow**. We were a little distracted by plants, especially orchids. However, we did also record **Rufous** and **Golden Whistler**, **Eastern Yellow Robin**, **Satin Bowerbird**, **Gang-gang Cockatoo**, **Eastern Whipbird**, **Pied Currawong**, **Striated Thornbill**, **Dusky Woodswallow**, **Noisy Friarbird**, **Superb Fairy-wren**, **Silvereye**, **Australian Raven**, **Brown Goshawk** and **Wedge-tailed Eagle**.

Michael Robbins

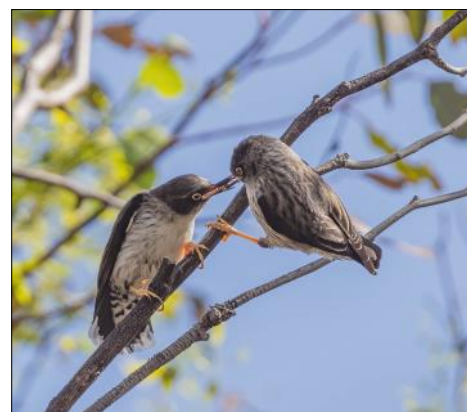
## Sunday 12 November – Campbell Park nest workshop

Twenty two members and guests joined me for the twentieth running of this annual event, last year's having been washed out. Again, the e-mailing of the notes beforehand allowed me to largely dispense with the short spiel at the start, and we soon headed slowly off towards the horse gate, where the main activity had been noted during the rekkie a couple of days before. Sue Lashko had kindly again offered to help lead so we could split up into two groups, exchanging notes whenever we passed each other, and then again at morning tea.

It was a somewhat different morning, while there was lots of bird activity, with much calling and chasing, even up to 11 am by which time it had become quite warm, there was much less confirmed breeding activity than in past years. In fact, the distinct impression was that breeding for many species was only just starting, perhaps triggered by the moderate rain event 3 days before, the first for over a month.

The best confirmed breeding observation of the morning was a pair of **Grey Fantails** completing and shaping a lovely goblet shaped, quite cream-coloured, nest, with the ponytail clearly visible and allowing very good views by all. A **Noisy Friarbird** was also seen just commencing to build in the usual spot on the outer branches of a gum. Other confirmed breeding was a **Noisy Miner** (one of the many present) carrying food to a nest high in a gum near the start, with a **Pied Currawong**, that well-known surreptitious breeder, quietly flying past, also carrying food. Several **Varied Sittellas** were seen, one of which was photographed passing food to a fledgling.

A **Common Starling** was carrying food to a hole in the many-hollowed big gum tree near the dam, famous for the **Nankeen Kestrels** nesting there a couple of years



Grey Fantail

Lindell Emerton

Varied Sittella

Ann Eldridge



ago. This tree also had **Little Corellas**, **Crimson Rosellas** and **Red-rumped Parrots** checking out nest holes. Unfortunately, we were not able to approach more closely as the area is currently out of bounds due to unexploded ordnance being found in the area (this also restricted access to some other areas). **Galahs** and **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** were also seen examining nest holes and a pair of **Striated Pardalotes** was photographed going in and out of a small one in a dead gum.



A very interesting observation seen by all was a pair of **Weebills** which appeared to be feeding very low down in the grass and weeds very close in front of us for a number of minutes. Like me other experienced birders could not recall seeing them so confiding. Closer examination showed they seemed to be picking up small amounts of fine material, presumably for nest lining, but they did not reveal its location. Male **White-winged Trillers**, at least 10 in total, were calling very noisily and chasing each other (just a single female was seen and photographed by some), as well as some displaying, in line with an ANU researcher's advice that they had only recently arrived. There was also a pair of **White-throated Gerygones** calling and seen around the horse gate, but no nest could be found, though on one occasion one bird pursued a **Noisy Friarbird** for around 50 m.



The best non-breeding bird of the morning was a **Rufous Songlark**, first seen in a dead tree near the horse gate after morning tea. It then came to the ground on the track, allowing all participants (some of whom were not familiar with it) reasonable views. It was then heard calling relatively quietly for at least a few minutes, while not the full call it may stay to breed. Checking my notes confirms that this is a first sighting for this Workshop. A pair of **White-plumed Honeyeaters** were seen near the dam, they may have been breeding which has only been recorded once before.



A number of **Dusky Woodswallows** were seen, but again no breeding activity was confirmed, the same applied to the couple of **Sacred Kingfishers** that were seen and heard. A **Shining Bronze-cuckoo** was seen only by Sue Lashko's group, while a **Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo** was heard by most participants. A **Grey Shrike-thrush**, again unusual for this Workshop, was also heard calling very loudly. At least 5 **Gang-gang Cockatoos**, also rarely seen during this outing, were observed before and early into the walk, including feeding on the wattle pods.



Participants continue to enjoy this very popular outing. A total of 50 species were seen on the morning, slightly up from previous years, but many of the birds often did not allow good views, though most participants were able to have them of a male **Rufous Whistler**, which again had often been heard calling. Only 13 species were confirmed to be breeding at some level, well down from the past few years, hollow nesters accounted for more than half of them. Breeding activity was relatively evenly spread around the horse gate.

My sincere thanks again to Sue Lashko for helping lead the group, and to Lia Battisson and Sandra Henderson for doing the eBird lists, always a very difficult task with so many observers.

Jack Holland

**Striated Pardalote** Ann Eldridge

**Weebill** Irene Lorbergs

**White-throated Gerygone, Rufous Songlark** Lindell Emerton



### Wednesday 15 November - Molonglo River loop walk

Ten members joined me for a walk along the Molonglo River past the breeding sites used by cormorants and darters. The foliage this year is so dense it was difficult to see the birds and nests. We were able to see several **Australasian Darters** on nests, and **Little Pied Cormorants** nest-building and displaying. Although a **Little Black Cormorant** and several **Great Cormorants** were seen in the trees, there was no obvious breeding behaviour. **Pacific Black Ducks** and **Australian Wood Ducks** were on the water, and a small number of **Dusky Moorhens** and **Eurasian Coots** were spotted. There was much excitement when Ian spotted a Platypus in the river. Near the end of the walk a **Brown Goshawk** was seen carrying a **Common Starling** as it moved from tree to tree, being continually disturbed by a family with a small dog walking along the edge of the water. A total of 36 species was seen.

Sandra Henderson

### Sunday 19 November – private property, Nanima

On a perfect, still and sunny morning, 12 COG members visited a private property which is part of Birdlife's Birds on Farms project. The property has not been grazed for many years, apart from a few horses, and eroded creek lines have been rehabilitated using fallen timber to slow the flow of water. The northern part of the property which is quite steep and well-timbered has been left to regenerate, while fenced plantings provide good habitat in the paddocks lower down.

We made our first stop at a good-sized dam where a large, dead tree provided the perfect roost for a **White-necked Heron**, a **Little Pied Cormorant**, and a pair each of **Magpie-larks** and **Eastern Rosellas**. **Pacific Black Duck**, **Grey Teal** and **Australian Wood Duck** were in the dam, along with **Australasian Grebe**, and a pair of **Black-fronted Dotterels** fed along the muddy edge. **White-winged Trillers** were very vocal, as were **Rufous Whistlers** and **White-throated Gerygone**. Patient watching at a row of young eucalypts with lots of new growth produced wonderful views of **Striated Pardalotes** and, eventually, **Brown-headed Honeyeater**.

The other two stops were in the forested areas of the property. The eagle eyes of the youngest attendee soon sighted a **Sacred Kingfisher** and **White-throated Treecreepers** at the second stop. Then, as we were driving towards our final stop, the call of a close **Brush Cuckoo** brought us to a halt. We all piled out of the cars and had great views of two birds which continued to be very vocal. As often happens, one good bird led to several more: a pair of **Varied Sittellas** put in a brief appearance and then we found three nests in quick succession, all close together. **Noisy Friarbirds** were putting the finishing touches to a nest (the second such nest for the morning), and **Olive-backed Orioles** were on eggs, as were **Leaden Flycatchers** – in the highest Leaden nest I have ever seen, way up in a large eucalypt. A **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** was seen and an **Australian Owlet Nightjar** briefly heard here.

Morning tea was enjoyed on the verandah of the owner's "retreat" at the back of the property, with a **White-faced Heron** on the nearby dam.

What was particularly enjoyable for all participants was the quality of the property, the views to the south and the prolonged sightings we had of most of the 42 species recorded for the morning.

Sue Lashko



Striated Pardalote, Brush Cuckoo and Leaden Flycatcher, *Marcus Hellyer*  
White-necked Heron, White-winged Triller *Sue Lashko*

## 26 November 2023 – Canberra Discovery Trail, Tharwa Bridge to De Salis historic cemetery

Twelve members met at the Tharwa Bridge, to walk south along the Murrumbidgee River as far as the De Salis cemetery and the junction with the Gudgenby River. The track is just two kilometres and flat, so an easy walk, and pleasant in the warmth of the morning. A flock of **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** made their presence known as we gathered, but struggled to compete with the noise of the passing traffic. We had clear views, albeit at the top of the dead trees, of a **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** and shortly afterwards, a **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo**. The kek, kek, kek call of a raptor captured our attention and when the bird came into sight it was identified as a **Brown Falcon**. Two **Nankeen Kestrels** were harassing it and two **Wedge-tailed Eagles** were soaring in the distance, all in one binocular view. Some members of the party had already seen a **Black-shouldered Kite** earlier in the morning. Other highlights included a **Leaden Flycatcher** and good views of a very cooperative female **Rufous Whistler**. Thank you to Sandra for organising this walk.

Lia Battisson



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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

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## Field Trips—January-June 2024

2024		Field trips	
	Date	Venue	Leader
Jan	14	Warks Rd/Blundells Creek Rd	Kim Farley
	17	Wednesday Walk	
	21	Black Mountain NR	Julie Hotchin
	28	Captains Flat & Tallaganda	Prue Watters & Archer Callaway
Feb	4	Jerrabomberra Wetlands (World Wetlands Day )	Chris Davey
	11	Moncrieff Ridge	Bill Graham
	18	Gungahlin Hill NR	Lachlan Duncan
	21	Wednesday Walk	
	25	Mt McDonald	Sandra Henderson
Mar	3	Rendezvous Creek	Marcus Hellyer
	10	Mt Rogers	Kirsty Craven
	17	Canberra Centennial Trail - Hall to One Tree Hill	Lia Battisson
	19-22	Cowra area	Bill Graham
	20	Wednesday Walk	
	24	Mt Jerrabomberra	Sandra Henderson
	28 Mar-1 Apr	Easter Camp - Bimbimbi River Camp, Walwa	Marcus Hellyer
Apr	7	Narrabundah Hill	Jack Holland
	14	K2C	Nicki Taws
	17	Wednesday Walk	
	21	Burrinjuck East - Bloomfield Flats and Good Hope	Bill Graham
	28	Honeysuckle Creek	Sandra Henderson
May	5	Square Rock	Lia Battisson
	12	venue required	leader required
	15	Wednesday Walk	
	Sat 18	ANBG beginners	Anthony Overs
	26	Oaks Estate River Corridor	Sandra Henderson
Jun	1st-2nd	Eden pelagics	Julian Teh
	9	Wollogorang, Breadalbane, Cullerin	Bill Graham
	Sat 15	Superb Lyrebird survey	Chris Davey
	19	Wednesday Walk	
	23	venue required	leader required
	30	Kelly Road	Sandra Henderson



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# 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.**

### Sunday 3 December – Coombs Ponds

This walk will be around the big ponds at Coombs, with possibly an extension walk along part of Molonglo River. **Meet at 8am** at the parking area down from the RSPCA in Kirkpatrick Street, Weston. As well as a variety of waterbirds, there may be **White-fronted Chats** and raptors, as well as a number of summer visitors. Bring hat, sunscreen, water and morning tea.

**Register** by email to [afulk94@icloud.com](mailto:afulk94@icloud.com) or phone/text 0403795156. Please provide your name, mobile number and the name and number of an emergency contact.

Anne Fulker

### Sunday 10 December - North Mulligans Nature Reserve - beginners and new members

This walk is aimed at getting you to know new birds from different groups, e.g. parrots, honeyeaters, thornbills, waterbirds, and black and white birds. We will look at their identifying features, calls and behaviour, and the habitat they use. Bill Graham will lead this walk for about 2 hours.

**Meet** at 7.45am at the carpark on the left after the last roundabout on Mulligans Flat Road between Forde and Bonner. **Registration** is essential; please provide your name and mobile phone number as well as an emergency contact name and number.

**Book your place** with Bill (0466874723, [bsgraham1948@gmail.com](mailto:bsgraham1948@gmail.com)), who is happy to discuss if this outing is suitable for you. Please bring binoculars and field guide, water, hat, sun protection, sturdy footwear, long pants and morning tea. Limited to 12 people.

If you do not have binoculars, please let me know as COG can supply you with a pair to use on the day.

Note that the aim of the walk is to introduce you to bird-watching, not bird photography, so **please leave your camera at home.**

Bill Graham



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### Wednesday 20 December - Casuarina Sands Nature Reserve

**Meet** in the main parking area at 8.30am for a walk through the reserve. As usual, wear sturdy shoes, hat, and bring water and sunscreen. No registration required. This is an easy walk, although some of it may be on sand. If time permits we could wander along the river as far as the bridge near the Cotter pumping station.

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

### Sunday 14 January 2024 - Namadgi National Park - Blundells Creek Rd/Warks Rd

This outing will explore the forests of Namadgi National Park along Blundells Creek Rd and Warks Rd. The area hosts interesting species not seen in the drier and lower altitude parts of the ACT. In particular we will be looking for summer migrants such as Satin Flycatcher and Rufous Fantail, but also hoping for Shriketit, Red-browed Treecreeper and Rose Robin. Pilotbirds, Whipbirds and Lyrebirds occur in the area, though are more often heard than seen.

We will **meet** at 7:30am in the carpark at Stromlo Forest Park (off Dave McInnes Drive) for carpooling and then drive up into the National Park. The road is unpaved from near the Park boundary but in good condition. We will do some walking, but not very far, and not arduous.

Suggested contribution by passengers to their driver is \$6 per person. Please have the correct change.

Bring a hat, water and morning tea, and wear appropriate footwear.

**Register** with [kimlouiseFarley@gmail.com](mailto:kimlouiseFarley@gmail.com) with your name, mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact.

Kim Farley

### Wednesday 17 January, 2024 - Mulligans Flat – evening walk

An easy evening walk, with a chance of seeing or hearing **Bush Stone-curlews** and other nocturnal species. **Meet** at 7.30pm at the reserve entry on Eric Wright St, Forde, where there are parking bays. Sturdy shoes and a torch are essential; insect repellent may be handy. Please **register** with Sandra at [shirmax2931@gmail.com](mailto:shirmax2931@gmail.com) with your name and contact number, and name and number for an emergency contact.

### Sunday 21 January - Black Mountain Nature Reserve

We will walk for 3-4 km in part of the northern section of the reserve, along management trails and some narrower bush trails, taking 2-3 hours. Most of the walk is flat, with one short section going up an incline (but not steep). We can expect to see a variety of woodlands birds and summer visitors, including the possibility of a **Dollarbird**. If we're lucky we may see **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren**, which has previously been seen in this area.

Wear sturdy shoes, and bring a hat, sunscreen and water.

**Meet** at 8.00am at the entrance to Black Mountain Nature Reserve on Belconnen Way (if driving east towards Belconnen, the car park is on the left, past the intersection where Dryandra St merges with Belconnen Way. A large sign indicates the entrance and car park. If the car park is full, there is space to park carefully along Belconnen Way.)

**Register** by email to [hotchinbridge@bigpond.com](mailto:hotchinbridge@bigpond.com) up to the day before the trip. Please provide your name and contact number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact.

Julie Hotchin

### Sunday 28 January – Captains Flat area and Tallaganda

We intend to do a few exploratory walks around the Captains Flat area, an area that appears to be seldom visited by Canberra birders despite its relative proximity. It is expected that this will consist mostly of walking along fire trails / gravel roads into Tallaganda State Forest and Tallaganda Nature Reserve, and possibly some birding around the town. There should be a mix of habitats on offer, with some trails following the ridgelines and others delving through wetter gullies.

**Meet** at the Spotlight Queanbeyan car park for carpooling at 7:45am. Bring lunch in anticipation of a mid-afternoon return to Queanbeyan, subject to temperatures on the day; also bring a hat, sunscreen, water and morning tea, and wear appropriate footwear and long trousers.

**Register** at [prue.watters@mail.com](mailto:prue.watters@mail.com) with your name, mobile number and name and number of an emergency contact.

Archer Callaway and Prue Watters

### Sunday 4 February - Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR – World Wetlands Day

To celebrate World Wetlands Day, during this morning outing we will visit Kelly Swamp and Jerrabomberra Creek. Depending on numbers, the group may be divided into two, so a volunteer to lead a possible second group would be

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appreciated. Bring hat, sunscreen, water and, if you have one, a telescope. **Meet** at 7.30am in the carpark at the end of Dairy Road, Fyshwick.

NB: this walk is flat and is wheelchair-friendly.

**Register** at [chris\\_davey@aapt.net.au](mailto:chris_davey@aapt.net.au) with your name, mobile number and name and number of an emergency contact.  
Chris Davey

### Sunday 11 February - Moncrieff Ridge

This will be a short walk under 3kms for about 2 hours. **Meet** at 7.45am at the Amaroo District Playing Fields carpark off Horse Park Drive. **Registration** is essential. Please provide your name and mobile phone number as well as emergency contact name and number. Limited numbers. Book your place with Bill on [bsgraham1948@gmail.com](mailto:bsgraham1948@gmail.com). Bring hat, sunscreen, sturdy footwear and morning tea.

Bill Graham

### Sunday 18 February 2024 – Gungahlin Hill

**Description:** Gungahlin Hill is a woodland area rising on the western edge of the Gungahlin Grasslands Nature Reserve. This will be an opportunity to wander through open forest and grassy woodland areas, where we will aim to see a variety of parrots and other woodland bird species.

**eBird hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2543552>

**Meeting time and place:** Meet at 8:00 am at the stile on Cocoparra Cres in Crace, near the intersection with Nuleri St. There is plenty of street parking available.

**Walk details:** An easy-moderate walk of approximately 3-4 kms on established tracks, with some hilly sections.

**What to bring:** Water, morning tea, binoculars, sturdy footwear, sun protection (hat, sunscreen, sunglasses).

**Registration:** Please register with Lachlan by email ([poephila@outlook.com](mailto:poephila@outlook.com)), no later than Friday 16 February 2024. Participants should provide their name and mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact.

Lachlan Duncan

### Sunday 25 February – Mount McDonald

**Meet** at 8.30am in the carpark on Brindabella Rd (off Cotter Rd, between the Cotter Bridge and Cotter Reserve). We will walk up the track, across the Mt McDonald track and up to the Cotter Dam lookout, then return to the Mount McDonald Track and walk up to the trig. The walk is uphill most of the way, but not too difficult. The initial section from the carpark can produce **Spotted Quail Thrush** and **Common Bronzewing**s, and on the management track back to the carpark on the return from the trig I once encountered a family of **Chestnut-rumped Heathwrens**. About 5km of walking in total, so sturdy shoes, hat, sunscreen and water are essential. Bring morning tea and we will stop at the top for a short break. **Registration** essential – name and number for yourself and an emergency contact to Sandra at [shirmax2931@gmail.com](mailto:shirmax2931@gmail.com)

Sandra Henderson

Advance notice of March trips – register now to avoid missing out.

### Tuesday 19 - Friday 22 March 2024 - Cowra, Central Western Slopes, NSW

Cowra is 185 kms north of Canberra. Sites will include Barryrennie Road, Conimbla National Park, Cowra Sewage Treatment Plant, Wyangala Dam and Cowra Japanese Garden. Target species include **Black-chinned Honeyeater**, **Chestnut-rumped and Inland Thornbills**, **Turquoise Parrot** and **Ground Cuckooshrike**. We plan to stay at Cowra Caravan Park <https://www.cowravanpark.com.au/Home> ph 02 6342 1627. There are cabins available, as well as sites for tents, camper trailers, caravans, etc. Numbers limited. **To register** for this trip and further information, please contact Bill Graham at [bsgraham1948@gmail.com](mailto:bsgraham1948@gmail.com)

Please register asap as accommodation may be in high demand and bookings will need to be made very soon. Do not book accommodation until your registration is confirmed.

Bill Graham and Kim Farley

### Thursday 28 March to Monday 1 April - Easter at Bimbimbi River Camp

This camp will be on the Upper Murray, near Walwa, about 300km from Canberra. The property has 3km of access to the Murray River, with campsites set back from the river and Crown land along the riverbank. There are no facilities, except a toilet, so you will need to take everything else you need, including water, and take everything out, including your rubbish. Activities for the three full days are still in the planning stage.

**To register**, contact Marcus Hellyer at [pickelbarrel@gmail.com](mailto:pickelbarrel@gmail.com) with your name, mobile number and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact (ie. someone who will not be travelling with you).

## 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

2023-2024 memberships:

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

## New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

A Joyce  
L Gilbert  
B Grinter  
C Driscoll  
D Williamson

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for February 2024 edition:**

**Wednesday 31 January 2024**

**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.

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**Treasurer:** Vacant

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**Secretary:** Margaret Robertson

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### 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:** Zac Flegg

**Lay-out Editor:** Gail Neumann

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

### Publication Sales

## 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).

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