



Gang-gang

APRIL 2024

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

APRIL MEETING

Wednesday 10 April 2024

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

The April 2024 meeting will be a normal face-to-face one held at our usual venue. As COVID is still widespread in the community 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.

Anthony Overs – Thornbills as the Birds of the Month

Ian Fraser - Costa Rica; where the Americas meet.

Please note that construction is currently occurring around the Gabriel Drive parking area, and access is not expected to be available. If the gate is locked, please use the Chapel Drive entrance and park there. To get to the Multi-media Centre from there, please proceed keeping the Chapel and the next two buildings to your left until you reach a gap between the buildings, go through this and you will see the Gabriel Drive parking area in front of you (see the map on COG's web site at <https://canberrabirds.org.au/publications/other-resources/cog-monthly-meeting->

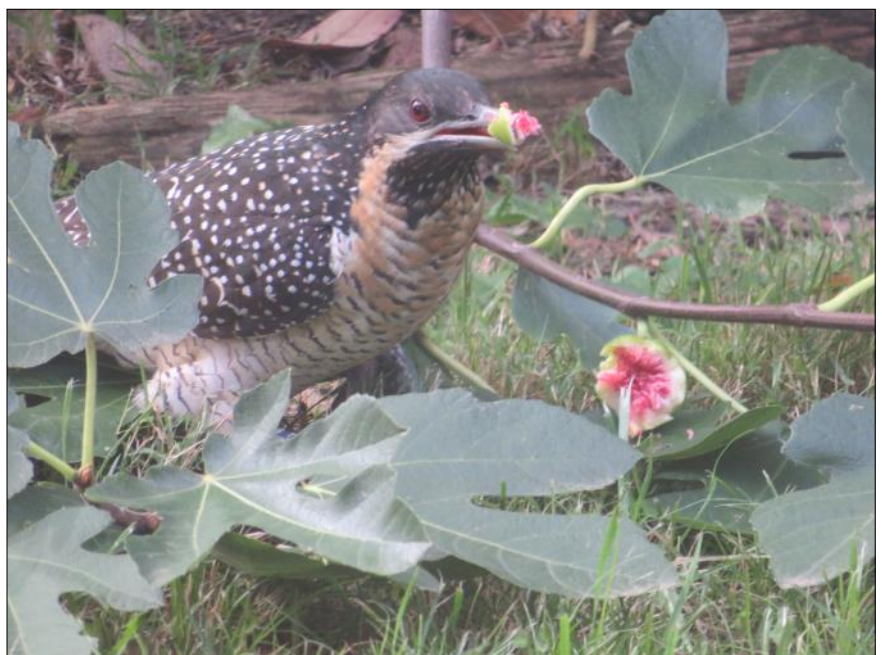
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Everyone welcome

Summary/analysis of the past month and what to watch out for in April

It remained dry for the first half of the four weeks from 28 February to 26 March inclusive covered by this column. This was followed by a week of showery weather, with a couple of moderate falls, enough to freshen up conditions. It was then dry again for the final week, but with clearly lower overnight temperatures, and the grass has remained quite green compared with before the rain. While these conditions ensured bird observer activity remained high, based on my analysis below bird activity in the COG Area of Interest (AoI) seems to have been significantly lower than for the previous two months of 2024, despite March being a month of much species movement. With a couple of exceptions many of the spring/summer migrants seem to have stayed around longer, as they have in the past few years. However, a much lower number of “unusual” species were reported than in summer.

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Eastern Koel

Christine D.

[location/](#)). Though it is reasonably well lit, as it will be dark a torch for finding your way to the Multi-media Centre and back to your car after the meeting is recommended.

The first presentation will be by **Anthony Overs** on “**Birds of the Month – Thornbills**”.

Are you having difficulty identifying some of our smaller birds? There have been requests for the local thornbills to be featured in a short presentation. In an attempt to debunk the somewhat undeserved reputation of being difficult to identify, Anthony Overs will guide us through some of the key features of the thornbills found in our area.

The main presentation will be by **Ian Fraser** on “**Costa Rica; where the Americas meet.**”

Costa Rica must be one of the most nature-rich and nature-friendly countries in the world. Only 75% of the size of Tasmania, it has 900 bird species, and it appreciates and values its natural resources more than almost anywhere else. More than 25% of the country is managed as public nature reserve, and more is protected by private reserves. Since 2005 there has been zero net forest destruction. Moreover, the infrastructure is excellent – 70 years of continuous peace since they abolished their army has enabled strong expenditure on roads and communications, as well as health and education. Nature-based tourism is a major industry, and it is done well.

Situated at the southern tip of North America, Costa Rica has a rich blend of fauna and flora from both North and South America. This talk will discuss how this came about, looks at the major habitats and examines what makes Central America so special. The emphasis will of course be on birds, the Neotropical special families and especially the endemic species. There will also be a brief look at other vertebrate groups that a visitor can expect to enjoy.

Ian Fraser is a long-term COG member who for years presented Avian Whimsies, a monthly column for Gang Gang; his passion is sharing what he’s learnt of the natural world. Since 2007 he has accompanied natural history groups to the Americas, from Tierra del Fuego to Costa Rica. It would have been more than 16 trips, but COVID... He dearly loves the Neotropics but has promised to try *really* hard to keep to his time limit!

Summary of Presentations from the 13 March Meeting

First **Lisa Fortana** introduced her Ph D project (Cognitive ecology in parrots, with a special focus on the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo), with an emphasis on the paper she presented at the Australasian Ornithological Conference (AOC) in Brisbane (investigating innovativeness in wild cockatoos using specific cognitive tasks such as puzzle boxes). She concluded with a summary of her experience in Brisbane and the contacts she made which has helped her from an academic point of view.

Next **Brendah Nyaguthii** spoke about her experience at the AOC, where she also made some valuable contacts. She followed briefly by what her poster was about (cooperative breeding behaviour in a plural breeder; the Vulturine Guineafowl), which she was able to tie in very nicely with her Ph D studies work on the White-winged Chough i.e., multilevel societies as well as their movement behaviour outside of the breeding season.

The audience enjoyed greatly hearing about Lisa and Brendah’s experiences at the AOC and the Canberra Birds Committee is very pleased that the funding of their attendance was such a positive experience - both for them and for Canberra Birds itself.

The longer presentation was by **Michael Lenz** on “**A very interesting lake – 41 years of counting birds at Lake Bathurst (“Bundong”)**”.

Attendees were in awe of Michael’s dedication and perseverance at having continued to survey the Lake Bathurst “complex” over this very long period, including with the help of many COG members and other birders.

He showed us how the area is very complex, consisting of not only of Lake Bathurst and the adjacent Morass, but that both these are split at least into two and with different forms of replenishment, and how they differ greatly from Lake George less than 20 km away.

The system thus provides a variety of habitats for different bird species to exploit, further helped by the different stages of water levels providing differing food availability for a variety of species, such as the milfoil and rupia which he demonstrated.

Over the very long period Michael was able to observe most if not all of the local duck species there, as well as around 30 species of wader, about 2/3 of these being migratory, some of which, such as the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, once common, have now been designated as vulnerable.

Michael has also been able to identify 14 species as breeding there and showed us how particular features allowed these species to breed, differing from the presence of islands formed in times of sufficient water, to bare open ground when the system is dry.

Michael very clearly demonstrated what an extremely important system it is for a variety of birds and outlined the various efforts at gaining its formal protection, which since 2016 is now included in Birdlife Australia's network of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA).

Once again on behalf of COG/Canberra Birds members many thanks again for Michael's very interesting and informative presentation. Very few other birders would have had the foresight to first see the need, and then the persistence and dedication to conduct such long-term surveys of the Lake Bathurst system. He is rightly very proud of his achievement, and it is very pleasing that COG/Canberra Birds has established a new team to continue with the Lake Bathurst surveys.

Summary/analysis of the past month and what to watch out for in April

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To me the honeyeater migration pattern has typified the period. While Christine D reported she had seen and heard 23 **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** (YFHE) moving through Bluetts Block on 28 February (very early for migration), there were only scattered reports of isolated small numbers moving through until on 26 March (almost a full month later) when Sandra Henderson posted that in a 2-hour walk around Farrer Ridge reserve that morning she had counted close to 200 YFHE flying over in flocks of between 6 and 20 birds. She only heard **White-naped Honeyeaters** (WNHE) in one group.

This was the first significant migration event I became aware of despite the previous 4 mornings also being ideal migration conditions: cold overnight (some minimums around 4°C) followed by a clear still day. Michael Robbins, who lives in Kambah under a significant migration path adjacent to the E end of the Murrumbidgee Golf Club, confirmed on 23 and 24 March he noticed some, but not a lot of, YFHE moving across his place, with more (including possibly some WNHE) on 25 March, but not large numbers together. While he was not home much on the morning of 26 March he did notice more migration on his travels. So, it appears the migration has started and with the weather forecast may be significant over Easter but will still be occurring when the Gang-gang is available after the break.

So, watch out for more honeyeaters streaming through, with the latter often predominating in the flocks towards the end of April. Watch out also for **Red Wattlebirds**, both species of **pardalote**, **Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes**, **Dusky Woodswallows** and **Silvereyes** which have also been coming through.

Of the earlier leaving spring/summer migrants still present in February, during the period there were no further reports of the **Black-eared Cuckoo** (last reported on 11 February), the **Brown Songlark** (last reported on 28 January) or of the **Horsfield's Bushlark** (last reported on 11 February). However, **White-winged Trillers** and **Rufous Songlarks** were still reported during March, from 2 locations each, being last reported from the Booroomba Rocks track and car park on 16 March, and from the Monaro Hwy Hume on 11 March, respectively.

A **Channel-billed Cuckoo** was also still reported giving its repeated raucous "rawk-rawk-rawk" call as it flew over Jerrabomberra on 9 March (the previous latest reports were on 19 December 2023).

White-throated Needle-tails have been reported from just 7 locations, with the highest number being 12 birds over the Concrete Rd, Pierces Creek on 16 March. It has been a very poor year following on from a series of poor years for this species, but even more so for the related **Fork-tailed Swift** which has not been reported at all (the most recent report being 6 birds over O'Malley on 15 January 2023!). So please keep an eye out for these 2 species which can still be moving through into early April.

Of the species which often leave in the first half of March, the **Dollarbird** was still reported from 6 locations, the last being from the eastern slopes of Mt Ainslie on 18 March. The **Rainbow Bee-eater**, the last of which usually stays slightly later, was reported from 11 locations, and was still present up to the time of drafting. The **Sacred Kingfisher**, usually the last of these three species to leave, was reported from around 20 locations, and was also still present up to the time of writing.

Of the other species that mostly have left by the end of March/early April, the **Pallid Cuckoo** was reported from 4 locations, most recently at Campbell Park on 16 March (confirming another poor summer for this species). In contrast the **Brush Cuckoo** was reported from 7 locations, most recently from the Shepherd's Lookout walk on 23 March. The **Shining** and **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** were reported from 16 and 7 locations, respectively, with the former up present to the time of drafting and the latter last reported from both the Mulloon Creek Natural Farms (to the E of the ACT) and North Mulligans on 20 March.

While **Eastern Koel** in my local area of Northwest Chapman/West Rivett stopped calling and seemed to move away with the rain that came on Thursday evening 14 March [there were still at least 3 (with 2 male whoa calls) calling before 7 am that morning, as they had been doing regularly and much later than usual, up to then], responses to my chat line request showed they were still being seen or heard at a number of locations at the start of the following week.

There was at least still one adult around at the end of the period (26 March), a female which had been visiting Christine D's garden in Flynn almost daily for the previous 12 days to eat from her fig and later her persimmon tree when the former became scarce (see photo). It is a very good example of how when the adult **Eastern Koels** stop calling, which they do for much longer than other local cuckoos, they can still be around. So, please keep checking your local fruit trees etc. into early April.

In contrast the **Latham's Snipe** seems to have departed early, with the most recent report being the 2 birds seen on the COG outing to Glendale Depot on 3 March (see separate report), with the only other record during the period being 2 birds at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve (JWNR) on the 1st of March. However, the **Australian Reed-Warbler**, while often very quiet in March, was still reported from over 50 locations up to the time of writing, as was the **Tree Martin** reported from around 11 locations. **Fairy Martins** were less numerous over the period, reported from 7 locations, with the last 2 birds observed at the JWNR on 24 March (see also the report of a large mixed flock below).



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The **Leaden Flycatcher** was also reported throughout the period from around 35 locations, while the related (passage migrant) the **Satin Flycatcher** was reported from only 4 locations, all from the mountains the W of Canberra or the Tallaganda NP, except for the latest report, a well described female and an immature from the Mulligans Flat NR on 11 March. The other passage migrant commonly observed doing so in March, the **Australian Rufous Fantail**, was observed much more widespread, with 6 locations from the mountains to the W of Canberra and 4 from the Tallaganda area where a remarkable 10 were counted on 6 March (said to be a minimum count - they were constantly flittering around and calling incessantly with high pitched calls). Remarkably they were reported from 9 urban/peri-urban locations, with a maximum of 4 birds at the Red Hill NR Lookout on 21 March.

The total of 19 locations is a very high number for this species. In contrast the **Common Cicadabird**, a much less frequently observed species on its passage migration, was reported only from 2 locations, a single bird on the Lowden Rd NE of Captains Flat on 3 March and a male photographed on the Ashbrook fire trail in the Tidbinbilla NR on 19 March (quite late for it still to be there).

So, during April please keep an eye out for the above and other spring/summer migrants which are still being reported, but usually leave during April. These include the **Noisy Friarbird** (still reported from well over 75 locations during the period, but as in recent years very scarce in my local area), **Western** and **White-throated Gerygone** (still reported from around 12 and over 35 locations, respectively, during the period), and most of the **Rufous Whistlers** and **Grey Fantails**. A number of these last two species will overwinter, as will the **Mistletoebird** and **Superb Parrot**.

Of the species that return to Canberra and its surrounds from the mountains and higher country to spend autumn/winter here, the **White-eared Honeyeater** has been relatively slow to move in as it was reported from just 12 urban and peri-urban locations (none of them truly urban) compared with 6 in February. This contrasts with the **Golden Whistler**, which seemed to be moving in (often in mixed feeding flocks) from around the end of the first week in March and was reported from over 25 such locations (some truly urban such as my Chapman garden), compared with 6 in February, during the period.

Scarlet Robins also seem to move in closer from around mid-March and were reported from well over 20 urban/peri-urban locations compared with just 4 in February. As is usually the case the **Flame Robin** has been much slower to move closer being reported from just 2 such locations in March (compared with none in February). In contrast the **Rose Robin** has been reported from 4 such locations, all from 17 March, providing some support it is also a passage migrant from the mountains to the W of Canberra where it was reported from around 7 locations. Together with reports from 4 locations to the SE of the COG Aol, the total of 15 locations is also high for this species. In contrast no **Pink Robins** were reported.

There were reports of the **Crescent Honeyeater** from 2 urban/peri-urban locations (2 birds on Tuggeranong Hill on 16 March and 1 bird at the Shepherds Lookout walk trail on 23 March), from a total of 11 reports during the period. In contrast the only report (and the first since July 2023 in the COG Aol) of the **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** was 2 birds by Kym Bradley at her patch to the S of the ACT on 22 March.

There have been further reports of a single **Bassian Thrush** at the ANBG on 29 February and 5 March. However, there have been no reports of the **Brown Gerygone** (last reported from the ANBG in December 2023) or the **Swift Parrot** during the period. The closest for the latter is 30 birds at the Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP to the W of Albury on 24 March, so please keep an eye out for them as well as the other species mentioned above anywhere in the COG Aol.

The most interesting “unusual” bird report for the period was David McDonald’s post on the COG chat line on 16 March that late the week before he received a second-hand report of a curlew in Wamboin. He contacted the landowner, who had seen it, and said that he was not previously familiar with the species. However, when he described it to an experienced birder they said it sounded just like a **Bush Stone-Curlew**. He had consulted his Frith



Image by Cape Koala Arts ©

LET'S CATCH UP

Please join us for an informal
Canberra Birds social evening at the

PUBLIC (bar & dining)
Corner of Flinders Way & Franklin St, Manuka
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4th WED of each month (7 to 9 PM)
next date: April 24th

Look for the table with binoculars on it



EVERYONE WELCOME

and Watts *Birds of the High Country*, and its description of the curlews generally not flying off when approached, but rather walking haughtily away, was just what he saw.

As readers may know, they were re-introduced to Mulligans Flat in 2014-2016, a decade ago. David noted that while there have been lots of records of the birds from the northern Canberra suburbs, all have been close to Mulligans Flat. There were no Canberra area records this far away, so far as he could ascertain from the publicly accessible databases. So, David concluded the bird could be either a Mulligans Flat bird or one that had arrived from elsewhere in NSW. David also noted that Steve Wilson mentions in his 1999 *Birds of the ACT: Two Centuries of Change*, that the last published record of the **Bush Stone-curlew** was two at O'Connor on 7 August 1970.

Lindsay Nothrop responded that he grew up on a farm with curlews aplenty so he was most familiar with them. He was writing to advise that there were curlews on the CSIRO farm at Spence in 1975 well after the above sighting. David noted that it was unfortunate that the 1975 observations do not seem to have been recorded in any of the databases currently available. This underlines my experience of how difficult it was to officially record species back in those days when interesting records were handwritten into an exercise book at the monthly COG meetings rather than being able to be put in instantly into eBird etc through your phone as happens these days.

The **White-throated Nightjar** continued to be reported, mainly from around the East and South of the Cotter Dam, but with also 3 locations to the Northwest of it. In particular, it has been observed from the Concrete Rd Pierces Creek, where 2 birds have been most recently reported on 21 March. It does call into question the status of this species in the COG Aol, and because of its cryptic nature (it's best observed from around dusk), only a well-planned detailed formal study could answer that question.

Apart from the above, there were fewer "unusual" birds reported compared with February. No further **Magpie Geese** were recorded, and just a single **Freckled Duck** was reported from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands on 21 March (the first report there since 5 January), with no other reports elsewhere in the COG Aol during the period.

The **Plumed Whistling Ducks** was again reported only from the Trucking Yard Lane dam, with 2 ducks seen there between 29 February and 13 March. The **Australian Shelduck** was reported from 7 locations during the period, as usual from the northeast through to the east of Canberra, but with all but one around the southern end of Lake George/Bungendore, with the maximum being the 30 ducks reported from the Trucking Yard Lane dam on 24 March. Overall, the numbers seemed to be down from those in February.

There was just a single report of two **Blue-billed Ducks** at the Upper Stranger Pond on 6 March. Apart from the Tidbinbilla NR Sanctuary, **Musk Ducks** were reported from 4 locations, the maximum being 7 at the Tin Hut Dam (Googong) on 3 March. Up to 4 **Great-crested Grebes** were reported only from the Cotter Dam during the period.



Painted Button-quail

Victor Braguine

Stubble Quail were reported from around 14 locations during the period, well down from the over 50 in February, reflecting that they have stopped calling. **Brown Quail** were reported from around 11 locations, again about half of the 22 in February. Up to 2 **Painted Button-quail** were reported from just 3 locations, the highlight being the one Victor Braguine photographed in his Kaleen garden on 3 March (see photo). Doug Liang also had one in his Waramanga garden in November 2023). Again, no **Little Button-quail** were reported during the period.

Single **Peaceful Doves** were reported from 2 locations, at Commonwealth Park on 6 March and the JWNR on 23 March, but there were no **White-headed Pigeons**, **Brush Bronzings**, **Diamond** or **Bar-shouldered Doves** reported during the period.

Compared with spring and summer, reports of the **Baillon's Crake** have dropped very significantly, with only the single report of a bird at the JWNR on 15 March during the period, with no reports from any other locations. In contrast up to 4

Spotless Crakes were regularly reported from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands, and up to 4 crakes at 6 other locations, slightly down from February. Up to 2 **Australian Spotted Crane** were reported from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands with single birds only at 2 other locations (also down from February). Up to 2 **Buff-banded Rails** were reported from 6 locations (up from February), but single **Lewin's Rails** were only reported from 2 locations, well down from February.

Up to 23 **Pied Stilts** were reported from 3 locations only, all from Lake Rd on the southwestern side of Lake George, well up from the numbers in February. No **Banded Lapwings**, **Red-necked Avocets**, **Comb-crested Jacana**, **Pectoral or Sharp-tailed Sandpipers**, or **Red-necked Stint** were reported during the period. Also, no **Caspian Tern**, **Whiskered Tern** or **White-winged Black Tern** were reported during the period.

However, the **Common Sandpiper** was still reported from the Village Creek inlet at Lake Tuggeranong, where Andrea and I last found it on 13 March. We were a bit surprised to see it there as the mud bank and the grate etc of the gross pollutant trap had been very well cleaned recently, which must have disturbed it greatly and also likely removed its food sources. It seemed much sharper and more brightly coloured than usual, and may have been preparing to migrate, somewhat earlier than previously.

The **Australasian Little/Black-backed Bittern** continued to be reported from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands up to 20 March. While reports on eBird have all been of a single bird, there have been at least 2 birds as both a female and juvenile have been reported. Its presence there for over 3 months since it was first reported on 10 December is one of the longest, if not the longest, period it has been continuously recorded in the COG Aol, helped by that it bred at the Wetlands.

No **Little Egret** was again reported during the period, but up to 4 **Plumed** (formerly **Intermediate**) **Egrets** were reported from 4 locations. In contrast up to 4 **Great Egrets** were reported from around 15 locations (up from February). **Royal Spoonbills** were reported from around 11 locations (as for February), and up to 4 **Yellow-billed Spoonbills** were reported from 4 locations, similar to February. No **Glossy Ibis** were reported during the period.

Single **Barn Owls** were reported 2 locations during the period, and **Black-shouldered Kites** were reported from over 55 locations (similar to February). An immature **Spotted Harrier** was reported from Briars Sharrow Rd Hoskintown on 17 March and a **Black Falcon** was reported flying in a fairly leisurely fashion with a few quick flaps followed by a long glide on slightly drooped wings at the JWNR on 6 March. However, there were no reports of the **Pacific Baza**, **Grey Goshawk** or **Black Kite** during the period.

An **Azure Kingfisher** was reported by several observers from 2 spots on the Cotter Reserve from 1-9 March, as well as one at the Tidbinbilla NR on 28 February. No **Glossy Black-Cockatoos**, **Cockatiel**, **Turquoise Parrots**, **Greater Bluebonnets** and **Purple-crowned**, **Scaly-breasted** or **Little Lorikeets** were reported over the period, but 4-5 **Musk Lorikeets** were reported on single occasions from 3 locations.

A single **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** from those which bred at the Rock Valley homestead in the Tidbinbilla NR was reported only on 7 March. A single male **Scarlet Honeyeater** was reported from the ANBG on 11 March, but no or **Singing** or **Blue-faced Honeyeaters** or **Little Friarbirds** were reported during the period.

White-fronted Chats were reported only from location within the COG Aol with up to 6 seen at the Edgeworth Pond (Coombs) between 6-9 March. Up to 2 **Chestnut-rumped Heathwrens** were regularly reported from Bluetts Block, with 2 and then 4 reported from Whiskers Creek Rd Carwoola on 5 and 22 March. A **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** was reported from the Shoreline Walk at the Googong Dam on 27 February, but no **White-browed Babbler**, **Spangled Drongo** or **Zebra Finches** were reported during the period.

Less species were observed over the period, with there being relatively few "unusual" bush birds, in particular pigeons/doves, waders, raptors, parrots and honeyeaters, reported.

Of the species I have asked readers to keep a special lookout for, **Jacky Winters** were reported from 5 locations during the period. Four of these were at or close to the known location, the Namadgi Nature Park Visitors Centre, with one seen there on 11 March, one near Mt Tennant on 16 March, another at the Tharwa Sandwash on 19 March, and 2 recorded on the woodland survey on the rural lease south of Tharwa on 22 March. A single bird was also reported from the Brandy Flat Hut (the only clear new location) on 17 March.

The **Hooded Robin** was reported from 3 known locations, with 1 and 3 birds reported from Naas Rd at Apollo Rd on 3 March, and on 24 March Kym Bradley reported that her adult and juvenile male were doing well at her patch to the south of Canberra. On 2 March a male was reported at Bracks Hole on the Cotter Dam, with a probable juvenile male there on 13 March (see further details below).

Restless Flycatchers were reported from 3 known locations, with up to 2 birds reported from the Nelanglo Travelling Stock Reserve over the period. A single bird was reported from Illilanga on 2 March, and one based on the scissors-grinding call at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands on 1 and 3 March (it was not able to be located despite a search).

While it was the first month of autumn, breeding has continued, and the following are mentioned:

- On 5 March Anthony Overs posted that about a week ago, his local **Eastern Spinebills** turned up with a brand-new young bird in his garden, making it their third successful nest for the spring/summer. He still had no idea where the nest is, however, he suspected it is just across the street in a big native front garden. An unusual thing he'd found about the young birds raised this season was that they had recently been calling a lot, and he meant A LOT! He had noticed a couple of young birds making the piping call often and for long periods of time. It sounded like they were practising as the calls didn't sound clean, and they were a little erratic with timing and cadence issues. They were calling for five to ten minutes at a time - one bird called for 90 minutes!! My experience with recently fledged **Eastern Spinebills** is that they are very noisy, though giving a very loud begging and not necessarily their piping call.
- On 13 March Greg Wood posted a photo of an immature bird taken at the Bracks Hole Rd, which it was agreed was very likely a juvenile male **Hooded Robin** from the grey hood (which from Kym Bradley's photos develops quite early) and white vent. Unfortunately Greg didn't get a photo from the back as the one sure identifying feature is that the half-moon white patches on the sides of the tail (not near the end). It was also a bit unusual to get them in long dry grass which was possibly the reason for the yellowish tint on the birds underparts except for the darker tail.
- It is now fully confirmed that it has been a very different breeding season for the **Eastern Koel**, with the adults seeming to stay much later than usual in both my local patch and elsewhere (see above). Despite employing much the same methods and sources as in previous years, the number of fledglings of which I am aware of is much lower at 67 (very few added for March) compared with around 180 in the two previous years, with most usually reported by now.
- This number is the lowest since the comparable count for the 2019-2020 season which was very dry and smoky (compared with the very wet December/January this year), and which was lower than the couple of seasons before that. The reasons for this and the longer staying adults are unclear, although there appear to be fewer **Red Wattlebirds** (RWBs, their main host and the only confirmed one for 2023-2024) around than in previous seasons or perhaps they have become less "naïve" than previously.

Quite a few mixed feeding flocks (MFF) have been reported, with several times the **Australian Rufous Fantail** (together with lots of **Grey Fantails** which are moving through at the moment) being caught up in all the activity. Interestingly the MFF in my garden has been much less conspicuous though one of the **White-browed Scrubwrens** has continued to attack our TV room window. So please continue to watch out for MFFs, especially for the unexpected species.

For a different MFF on 10 March Geoffrey Dabb found a large number of birds fossicking for the crumbs and crusts left over from the working week at Marist Brothers College Pearce. Two families of **Australian Ravens**, more than 20 **Australian Magpies** and a gang of **White-winged Choughs** had replaced the week-day human feeders in a small asphalt space. Rod McKay encountered a large mixed flock of roughly 70-80 **Fairy Martins** and **Welcome Swallows** at Barrer Hill around 12 March. They alternately perched on a dead tree and then hawked in a cloud of small insects, quite the sight when they all took to the air at the same time.

In respect of large single flocks, on the morning of 25 March McComas Taylor reported that a flock of 200-300 **Little Corellas** had flown west over Ainslie. It was the biggest flock he had ever seen, and may have been the same as the flock of at least 200 Andrea and I saw feeding in the median strip on the Eastern side of the Parkes Way/Coranderrk St roundabout and pool on the morning of 23 March, only a couple of km away.

While not huge numbers, on their Majura woodland survey on 22-23 March Kathy Walter and John Goldie saw nearly 20 **Common Bronzewings** in total. They noted it was quite an unusual number but were confident they were different birds

as they flushed in different directions. Andrea and I encountered a similar number over several months on the Molonglo Woodland Track a few years ago, where otherwise only a few would be seen occasionally.

April is the second month when there is lots of bird movement and activity in the COG AoI. So please watch out for the last of the departing spring/summer migrants mentioned above, particularly the **White-throated Needle-tail** and the **Fork-tailed Swift**, and for more of the returning autumn/winter altitudinal migrants, MFFs and single species flocks, as well as roosts and roost flights. 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

eBird Frequently Asked Questions Seminar

This 30-minute seminar will start at 7:00 pm sharp on 10 April at the Multi-media Centre at Canberra Girls Grammar. This is the same venue, and directly before the April COG meeting.

It will be of interest to people already using eBird but will not be too technical for interested non-users. I will focus on the top four topics I am asked about in my role as ACT eBird reviewer. These are:

How does eBird define what is "rare"?

Why and how should birders document rare sightings in eBird?

Hotspots and Personal Locations - what's the difference and does it matter?

Should I use the eBird smart phone app to record my sightings?

Kim Farley
ACT eBird reviewer,
kimlouisefarley@gmail.com

Coffee and Chat at the Gardens Tuesday, 9 April

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.



Committee News

With no Committee meeting in February, the March meeting had a lot of business to cover, including that:

- We noted that in February and March COG provided advice in response to requests from one ACT government agency and four community organisations. Jenny Bounds attended the ACT Biodiversity Conservation Forum and Jenny and Steve Read attended an urban planning meeting.
- COG is hosting a meeting of the NSW based Bird Interest Group Network (BIGNet) in Canberra on 21 September.
- Speakers have been approached and a venue booked.
-
- Activities in celebration of the COG 60th anniversary will include a dinner later in the year.
- Draft Ethical Birding Guidelines have been prepared and will shortly be circulated to members for feedback.
- Key longer term COG projects are progressing slowly but surely.

The Committee approved updated versions of the following Canberra Birds' documents:

Field Trip Policy January 2024

Field Trip Leader's Guidelines January 2024

Recent Submissions

Objection to Development Application 202342296. (Re proposed large pond/dam at Whitlam on Lower Deep Creek adjacent to Kama NR). To be posted to the COG website.

Neil Hermes *President*

Membership Payment Changes

In March 2024, the Canberra Birds Committee agreed to change some of its membership practices. Canberra Birds has a 12-month financial year membership period, and this will remain unchanged. However, we have also provided an additional 3 month period of membership for those who join between April and June. This has added complexity to our processes. The change was also influenced by the increasing number of people who were unsure whether they had paid their membership and some paying twice in the same year. As of 1 April 2024, Canberra Birds will introduce the following changes:

- Discontinue the 3-month extended membership with membership running only from 1 July to 30 June each year.
- The Membership Officer will send out a reminder notice in June to all Canberra Birds members advising that their membership is due for renewal from 1 July at which time the membership fee should be paid. If unpaid, membership will lapse from the end of September.
- The Membership Officer will send a reminder notice to all unpaid members at the end of August and will inform them at the end of October that their membership has lapsed. We hope that these changes will make it easier for all members to keep abreast of their membership. Please contact me if you have any queries.

Prue Watters (prue.watters@gmail.com)
Acting Treasurer,
Canberra Birds

Great Crested Grebe

On 13 October 2020 I walked along Concrete Road with three companions, and as the river widened into the back of the Cotter Dam, and an inlet was visible on the far side, I heard a strange call, possibly from a bird, and I remarked at the time that it sounded a little like a Barking Owl. We had just seen two Great Crested Grebes in the river. On the following day I walked along Bracks Hole Road to reach the inlet seen the previous day, but this time I had a much better view. There were ten Great Crested Grebes present. On October 29 when I next visited I saw courtship displays and birds carrying nesting material. A total of 17 adults were counted. By 18 December when I visited with young birders Matt and Ned, we saw baby grebes – three youngsters with one pair of adults, and another, even smaller, on the back of another adult. Several other birds were on nests.

Time to find out more about these birds! Several sources mentioned that the calls of courting birds includes barking, and a search for examples turned up a call very much like the call of a barking owl. That solved the mystery of the call I'd heard a couple of months earlier. Steve Wilson's *Birds of the ACT. Two Centuries of Change* mentioned there'd been occasional breeding reports. The Annual Bird Report in 1987 (*CBN* 12(1), March 1987) reported that up to 200 pairs had bred on Lake Bathurst, and there are sporadic reports of nests on Canberra's lakes. Generally, the ABR text reported them as rare or uncommon.

Perhaps the birds found the inlet at the end of Bracks Hole Road when the Cotter Dam was raised – there is still flooded vegetation in that inlet which gives the species their preferred breeding habitat. When we've seen nests, they've usually been tucked in among the flooded shrubbery at the edges and back of the inlet.

Great Crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*) are found in Europe, Asia and Africa. They can be found on many larger water bodies, and often in large numbers. I can recall seeing about 150 at Lake Bindegolly many years ago.

Sandra Henderson



Great Crested Grebe

Sandra Henderson

Field Trip Reports

Sunday 3 March – Namadgi National Park - Rendezvous Creek and Glendale Depot

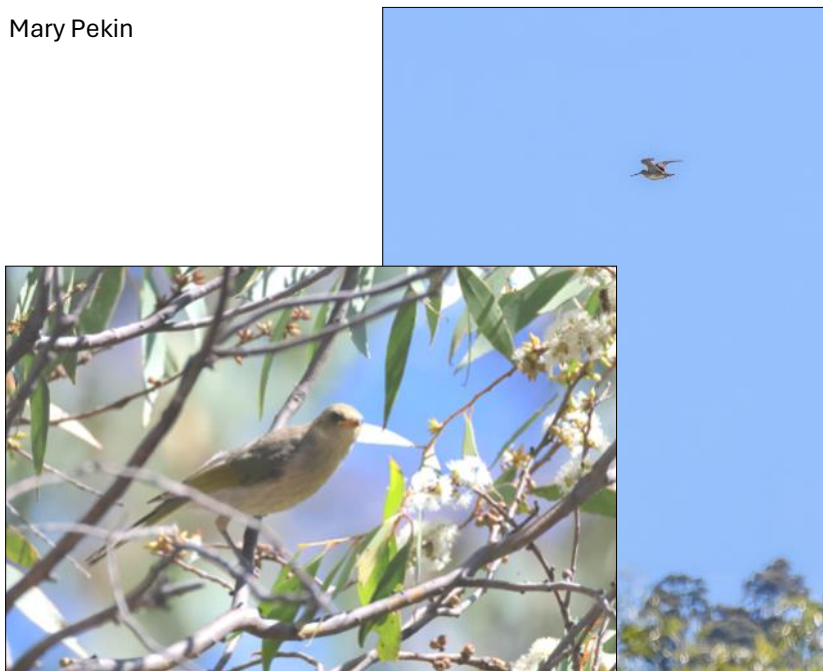
Marcus Hellyer led a group of 14 COG members and visitors on a perfect Sunday morning – still, warm, blue sky, meandering alongside Rendezvous Creek and roaming over open grasslands and through shady woodland. We called in at Glendale Depot for an hour or so on our way back and were suitably rewarded.

At Rendezvous Creek, we had good views of **Fan-tailed Cuckoos**, a **Rufous Fantail**, **Rufous Whistlers**, and **Yellow-faced, White-naped** and **White-eared Honeyeaters**. **Scarlet Robins** looked stunning against the giant granite boulders, while a **Superb Lyrebird** and an **Eastern Whipbird** sang magnificently, albeit unfortunately, out of sight. We also saw **White-browed Scrubwrens**, **Spotted Pardalotes**, **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**, **White-throated Treecreeper**, **Red-browed Finches**, and **Laughing Kookaburras**, and a **Sacred Kingfisher** was waiting for us back at the car park.

A highlight of our birding morning was the spotting of two **Latham's Snipes** flushing from the grasslands just opposite the Glendale depot building. All of us had a great view. Just around the corner, two **Australian Pipits** were wandering along the path and allowed us to follow them for quite a distance. Even though it was later in a hot morning, our bird list also included **Australian Wood Ducks**, **Common Bronzings**, **Fuscous Honeyeaters**, **Noisy Friarbirds**, **Yellow-rumped Thornbills** and a **Grey Butcherbird**.

A total of 32 species was recorded at Rendezvous Creek and 26 species at Glendale. We were also stopped in our tracks by kangaroos, a giant Rosenberg's Monitor, Cunningham's Skinks and many butterflies. Thanks Marcus for a great morning of birding and company.

Mary Pekin



From top: **Fan-tail Cuckoo**, **Scarlet Robin** - *Doug Wilson*,
Red-browed Finch, **Laughing Kookaburra** - *Marcus Hellyer*,

Latham's Snipe - *Tee Tong Teo*,

Fuscous Honeyeater - *Marcus Hellyer*.

Sunday 10 March – Mt Rogers

Eighteen members and friends gathered at the car park at 8.00 a.m. to explore the bird life of this North Canberra reserve. The weather was fine and the temperature set to climb into the low thirties, but at this hour it was still pleasantly cool. Kirsty Craven, who knows the reserve well, gave us a brief introduction to its geological features before leading us on a round trip by some of its less well-marked pathways, avoiding the dog-walkers and their charges on the main tracks.

Birds were active at many points and some autumn flocking of common species was noted. **Grey Fantails, Silvereyes, Weebills, Superb Fairy-wrens** and **Spotted Pardalotes** were particularly numerous. Thanks to Kirsty's thorough reconnaissance and familiarity with the site, we were able to track down two species of finch: most of our party managed to see one **Red-Browed Finch** and two **Double-Barred Finches** where Kirsty had found them previously. Another highlight was a single **Sacred Kingfisher**, sighted briefly by some.

No small honeyeaters were seen or heard and, of the thornbills, we recorded only the **Brown Thornbill**. The total count of species was 24.

Our thanks are due to Kirsty for leading a wonderful outing and sharing her local knowledge, and to Lia Battisson for keeping the tally of birds.

Kevin Windle

Sunday 17 March - One Tree Hill, Hall

Seven enthusiasts climbed One Tree Hill, near Hall in the ACT, on a mild, cloudy Sunday morning. As we slowly climbed the hill, we shared the trail with cyclists and walkers. The total return distance was 9 kilometres for those who climbed the hill, and 8 kilometres for those who rested below the final ascent.

We had clear views of **Nankeen Kestrels** flying around the top of the hill, **Scarlet Robins, Leaden Flycatchers, Spotted Pardalotes** (26), **Rufous Whistlers, White-eared Honeyeaters, Red-browed Firetails** and **Noisy Friarbirds**. We also spotted a **Grey Butcherbird, Grey Currawongs, Golden Whistlers** and **White-throated Treecreepers**, and a **White-throated Gerygone** was heard. **Grey Fantails** were out in abundance, with 40 counted, as were **Buff-rumped, Yellow-rumped, Striated** and **Brown Thornbills**. On the dams below the trail we spotted **Pacific Black Ducks, Eurasian Coots** and an **Australasian Grebe**.

Some of our group climbed the last 200 metres to the top and were rewarded with fantastic views across the growing sprawl of the Gungahlin communities, out to Taylor. The beautiful, shining pink Hindu temple, sitting in the midst of the suburbs, was literally glowing whenever the sun came out.

We were delighted to record a total of 37 birds. Thanks to Lia for a morning climb that was well worth the effort.

Mary Pekin

Wednesday 20 March – McQuoid's Hill

Nine members and friends were well directed by our leader Michael Robbins to the gate on Kambah Pool Road leading to the reserve. We were welcomed in the carpark by a single Willie Wagtail and two Australian Magpie and went on to record 43 different bird species during the morning.

On reaching the reserve we saw more **Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Noisy Friarbird** and **Australian Raven**. There was also a flock of what were probably **Little Raven**.

We set off to walk around the hill but took a detour into the woodland above and were rewarded with great glimpses of two **Rufous-tailed Fantail** flitting about with two **Grey Fantail** in our first mixed feeding flock (MFF) of the day. Soon after, two **Black-shouldered Kites** were spotted at the tops of two dead eucalypts near the carpark and then we had

good views of them flying towards us. We didn't have such good views of the other raptors we saw, **Wedge-tailed Eagle** and **Brown Goshawk**.

We resumed the path around the hill recording many smaller birds in several MFFs, including **Spotted Pardalote**, **Striated Pardalote**, **Silvereye**, **Weebill**, and **Yellow-rumped**, **Striated**, **Brown Thornbill** and **Buff-rumped Thornbill**. We saw few **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** migrating, but saw a flock of at least 16 **Red Wattlebird** migrating. Our other two honeyeaters for the morning were **Noisy Miner** and **White-eared Honeyeater**.

We saw a fair sample of the parrot family: **Galah**, **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**, **Australian King-Parrot**, **Crimson Rosella** and **Rainbow Lorikeet**.

Other birds heard, and some seen, were **White-winged Chough**, **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**, **Magpie-lark**, **Satin Bowerbird**, **White-throated Gerygone**, **Grey Shrike-thrush**, **Grey Butcherbird**, **Scarlet Robin**, **White-throated Treecreeper**, **Brown Quail**, **Crested Pigeon**, **Common Myna** and plenty of **Common Starling**.

On completing the circuit six people took the track up the hill to view a **Wedge-tailed Eagle's** nest. It took Michael longer to find than he expected as a decent-sized branch had recently broken and fallen so as to partly hide the nest. The bonus was while searching for the nest we heard, although didn't see, an **Eastern Yellow Robin**. After all had good views of the nest, we continued downhill and on our way saw more **Superb Fairy-wren** and **Red-browed Finch**.

Michael Robbins

Sunday 24 March – Mt Jerrabomberra

A group of 15 members met at the Jerrabomberra Mountain Reserve car park off Halloran Drive. We set off at 8:30am; weather was a humid 14 degrees with cloudy skies and mist blanketed the tops of the hills throughout the district. We followed the gently inclining gravel road to the summit of Mt Jerrabomberra. Seven **Common Bronzings** were sighted along various points on the first part of the track, but the highlights of the morning were in two sections of dry forest with a mixed variety of species half-way up the hill and towards the top of the summit. In total, 34 species were recorded, including **Satin Bowerbirds**, an **Eastern Spinebill**, **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters**, a **White-eared Honeyeater**, **Weebills**, plentiful **Spotted Pardalotes** and **Grey Fantails**, **White-browed Scrubwrens**, six **Golden Whistlers**, two **Rufous Whistlers**, **Silvereyes**, two **Leaden Flycatchers**, three **White-throated Treecreepers**, an **Eastern Yellow Robin**, **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** and a **Grey Strike-thrush**. Adjacent to the large water tank midway up, an **Australian Owlet-nightjar** was heard by all, but not seen. The group had a rest on the summit at 10:30am before heading back down when the skies had opened to a mostly sunny day.

Mark Tindale



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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 7 April – Narrabundah Hill – morning outing

Description: This outing has again been timed for the autumn honeyeater migration season, with the northern and western boundaries of the reserve having known local migration routes. We will walk along these two boundaries, depending on conditions and the species seen, and we will either return by the same or a different path. This will be around 4 km on relatively flat ground. We will also look for other autumn birds such as **Scarlet Robin** and mixed feeding flocks, or late departing summer migrants such as gerygones.

Meeting time: While daylight savings will have ended that morning the **walk will start at 8:30 am** to maximise the opportunity to see the honeyeaters which generally come through late in the morning in early April (we saw over 2500 birds there at a similar timing in 2019).

Meeting place: Meet at the parking area and stile at the northeast end of the reserve, at the corner of Warragamba Avenue and Eucumbene Drive, Duffy. **Please note that the entry to this parking area is a little tricky and is in fact about 25 metres past (on the Mount Stromlo side) the T-junction with Warragamba Avenue and, for those driving along Eucumbene Drive from Duffy, involves a quite tricky 180 degrees turn, so please take care.**

Please take water and morning tea to have on the track.

Name of leader and contact details: To participate, please contact Jack Holland by email on jandaholland@bigpond.com – please include your mobile and emergency contact name and number.

Sunday 14 April – K2C surveys, Bredbo area

COG will continue with the K2C surveys that have been running since April 2010. The surveyed properties have healthy populations of many of the rarer woodland birds such as **Diamond Firetail**, **Hooded Robin** and **Speckled Warbler**. We will be visiting the same sites to continue the monitoring and see if we can witness the autumn migrations. The surveys will be undertaken in 'blitz' fashion; that is, observers in small groups will visit a number of sites on one or more properties before regrouping for lunch and a sharing of the survey's findings. Less experienced observers are

welcome to join in the survey as each team will have at least one experienced observer. Anyone interested in participating is asked to contact Nicki Taws before Wednesday 10 April. Email: ntaws@bigpond.com or 0408 210 736.

Wednesday 17 April - Sanctuary at Tidbinbilla

Meet at the entrance to the Sanctuary at 8.30am.

We will walk the loop track, which is an easy walk of about 2km, and with luck will catch up with some of the more interesting birds which have been seen in the Sanctuary this year, including Eastern Shrike-tit, Azure Kingfisher, and Rose Robin. There's also a chance of seeing Antechinus and Bandicoots. There is no entry fee for Tidbinbilla at present.

Please register with Sandra at shirmax2931@gmail.com, **bring** water, hat and sunscreen, and wear sensible shoes.

Sunday 21 April - McLeod's Creek Nature Reserve, Gundaroo

The reserve of 240ha has a woodland section to the east where **Painted Button-quail** have been recorded. The larger section is grassland with scattered trees. The species list is 99, including **Scarlet, Flame and Red-capped Robins, Eastern Shrike-tit** and various raptors.

Meet at Sutton Primary School carpark at 8.00am for carpooling. Walking distance about 3.5km. **Degree of difficulty** – medium. **End time:** approx. 11.30am. **Bring** water, morning tea, hat, sunscreen and wear long pants.

Please register with the leader by 19 April with your name and mobile number and name and mobile number of an emergency contact. Numbers limited to 16.

Bill Graham (bsgraham1948@gmail.com)

Sunday 28 April 2024 - Honeysuckle Creek

We'll walk a woodland track that starts at the tracking station and ends at the campground. **Meet** at the Tracking Station site at 8.30am. To get to Honeysuckle Creek, drive out on Naas Rd from Tharwa, and turn right onto Apollo Rd.

Bring: hat, sunscreen, water, sturdy shoes. This will be an easy outing, with a bit of history thrown in!

Please register with Sandra at shirmax2931@gmail.com with your name and mobile number, and name and number for an emergency contact.

Sandra Henderson

Sunday 5 May – Square Rock

The walk up to Square Rock from the carpark will require some energy, but is quite achievable at birdwatching pace, and the view at the top is worth the climb. The round trip is approximately 6 kilometres. Possible birds include

Bassian Thrush and **Spotted Quail-thrush**, as well as good views of raptors at the top.

Meet at the Kambah shops at 8:30am for carpooling.



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

Bring water and morning tea, and wear sturdy shoes. **Bring** a warm jumper and/or a rain jacket in case of any deterioration in the weather.

Register at liabattisson@outlook.com with your name, mobile number and the name and number of an emergency contact.

Lia Battisson

Saturday 18 May- Australian National Botanic Gardens – beginners' outing

This morning walk will be the first for 2024 aimed specifically to help beginners and new members identify birds and to learn about their behaviour and calls. The Botanic Gardens are especially suitable for such an outing, as they allow the opportunity to observe a range of local bush birds in a variety of habitats. Due to the available food supply they are also a relative haven for birds during late autumn/winter. Anthony Overs will lead this outing, which will consist of a stroll through this lovely part of Canberra for a couple of hours.

Meet at 9.15am at the ANBG bus shelter.

Registration is essential; please provide your name and mobile phone number, as well as an emergency contact name and number. Book your place with Anthony (0419202155, or anthony.overs@gmail.com), who will be happy to discuss whether this outing is suitable for you.

Please make sure to bring your binoculars and field guide. **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.

Anthony Overs

Sunday 26 May – venue required and leader required. Contact Sue Lashko if you can help.

Sunday 23 June – Oaks Estate

Note the change of date from 26 May.

Meet at 9am at the lower end of River St in Oaks Estate. There's a small dirt parking area right at the end, otherwise park on River St, preferably on the same side as any cars already there. This is an easy walk, along the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers. Most of the time we will be in the ACT, but a diversion to the historic Riverside Cemetery takes us into NSW. It is an 'out-and-back-walk' (about 6km total distance), all on tracks.

As usual, **bring** hat, sunscreen and water, and wear sturdy shoes.

Register with Sandra at shirmax2931@gmail.com

[Sandra Henderson](#)



Scarlet Robin - Rendezvous Creek trip

Marcus Hellyer



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Tel: 07 4094 1665

Email: freddy@feathersnfriends.com.au

Wings on King

Autumn Bird Surveys

25th- 28th
April 2024

Agenda
25th Welcome & Orientation
26th - Bird Surveys
27th Bird Surveys & dinner with guest speaker
28th - 1st May optional Orange-bellied parot surveys

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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 Hickson

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for May 2024 edition:

Wednesday 24 April 2024

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

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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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. 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.

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