



Gang-gang

JULY 2019

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

JULY MEETING

Wednesday 10 July 2019

7.30 pm

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

The first presentation will be by **Sue Lashko** who will show and discuss the "Birding highlights from her recent trip to West Java and Southern Sumatra."

The main presentation will be by **Jessica McLachlan**, who has recently completed her PhD work at the Research School of Biology at the ANU, on "Communicating about danger: alarm calls and information use in the New Holland Honeyeater".

Knowledge about the presence of a predator could mean the difference between life and death, but animals do not always have to spot the predator themselves, as many species give alarm calls which warn others of danger. This means that animals have access to multiple sources of information about predators: they can detect danger themselves, listen to their own species' alarm calls, and eavesdrop on the alarm calls given by other species. In her talk, Jessica will present research from her PhD on New Holland Honeyeaters in which she addresses what information honeyeaters

Continued Page 2

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

During the 4 weeks from 28 May covered by this column, bird activity in the COG Area of Interest (Aoi) has continued to be very quiet, as is clear from the reduced length of this column. This was particularly true for the first few weeks of this period, despite the last part of the period being dry and with fogs and moderate to heavy frosts, the latter significantly drying up the soil moisture.

As a result, none of the late departing spring/summer migrant species still present in May have been recorded in the past four weeks, except for the report of a **Western Gerygone** by Lucy Randall at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR on 22 June. The Bird Info data on the COG website shows low numbers reported in June, but interestingly lower in both May and July. A **Fan-tailed Cuckoo** was also reported from Callum Brae by Alastair Smith on 24 June.

Most remarkable has been the immature female **Eastern Koel** photographed by Rob Parnell in his Narrabundah GBS site on 17 June. The Bird Info data

Continued Page 2



White-fronted Chat

Martin Butterfield

Everyone welcome

communicate through their alarm calls and how honeyeaters integrate the information available to them from different sources.

Summary/analysis of the past month and what to watch out for this month — *continued from Page 1*

doesn't show any records for April, May, June or September, but the first winter records were in July and August 2016. From the 2017-2018 Annual Bird Report there don't seem to have been any similar observations last winter.

Of the two migratory species usually last to leave, the **Dusky Woodswallow** has only been reported from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR where up to 17 birds have been observed during June, and 6 were still present on 23 June. Again this shows their liking to be near water in late autumn and winter, as noted previously. Single **Olive-backed Orioles** have been reported only from Symonston (last by Shorty on 22 June), the only other location being 1-2 birds reported by Alastair Smith at nearby Callum Brae up to 24 June.

Other species for which some birds stay over winter include the **Rufous Whistler**, **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** and **Grey Fantail**. Surprisingly the former has been reported only on 2 occasions, single birds from the Mount Majura NR by Shorty on 7 June, and at the ANBG by Deb and Rod R on 11 June. However, the latter two have still been reported from around 8 and 17 locations, respectively, up to the time of writing. The **Mistletoebird**, usually present in small numbers over winter, has been recorded from 4 locations, most recently from the east slopes of Mt Ainslie by Michael Lenz on 23 June. **Yellow-faced**, **White-naped** and **Fuscous Honeyeaters** have also been recorded from around 14, 8 and 10 locations, respectively, and were present up to the time of writing, despite the last-named being considered, at least in the past, a passage migrant during autumn and spring.

However, the most remarkable story continues to be the **Superb Parrot** which was recorded from over 17 locations, at least 4 being from the southside. On several occasions they were reported eating privet berries, once together with **Australian King-Parrots**, remarked on as an uncommon combination. The excitement caused by them finding this food source was tempered somewhat by the expressed concern that they would be helping spread this exotic invasive species. It was pointed out that parrots are primarily seed eaters and seek these rather than the fruit, and Michael Mulvaney then drew attention to his published research in CBN showing they are indeed seed destroyers rather than spreaders.

So please keep an eye out for the above, and any other summer migrant species, which may still pass through or stay over winter. Of the later arriving altitudinal migrants that move from the mountains but stay here over winter, the **Flame Robin** surprisingly has only been reported from 4 open peri-urban areas around Canberra in June, in contrast with the 12 reports from more outlying locations (a maximum of 27 birds were reported by Deb and Rod R on 10 June either side of Smiths Rd near Naas Rd), most of them still west of the Murrumbidgee River. Perhaps it hasn't been cold enough yet to drive them to the lower areas, as shown by that I still haven't been able to find them in their usual winter spot to the SW of Mt Arawang.

For the **Rose Robin** there have only been reports of single birds from three locations, the Cotter Reserve, Mt Majura NR and the ANBG, the most recent being there by Chris Tzaros, our interstate guest monthly speaker, on 12 June. These observations are again consistent with them often being considered a passage migrant through the COG Aol in autumn/spring. The only **Pink Robin** reported over the period was the female previously recorded at the ANBG, last observed there on 11 June.

The **Crescent Honeyeater** has been reported from just 6 locations, the only ones in Canberra being from the ANBG, Jean Casburn reporting 2 calling as they moved through her Duffy garden on 16 June, and a quiet male briefly in my Chapman garden feeding on a banksia on 23 and 25 June, the other 3 locations being around the Cotter River/Casuarina Sands area. **Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters** were clearly still moving through during June, with reports from 5 widespread locations, 4 of which (Pine Island, Uriarra, Callum Brae and London Bridge, Googong) being new as far as I can tell. With sightings now from close to 20 locations, these certainly are by far the most and widespread sightings I can recall of this species around Canberra in autumn/winter.

There have been no reports of **Swift Parrots** during June, possibly due to the limited number of lerps and flowering gums this year (at least in my experience), which is consistent with all reports so far this year being of birds moving through rather

than having found a food source. On 29 May David Dedenczuk reported that the **Restless Flycatcher** was back at Southpoint (formerly the Hyperdome), and was “unfazed by the change in the shopping centre’s name”. This species was first reported in that area on 23 April, with the only other report being a rural one by Sandra Lauer from Illilanga near Michelago on 9 June. So far this year there have been no reports of the **Brown Gerygone** which often visits the ANBG during winter.

There have also been few “unusual” birds reported in June, a new one being a **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** reported by Ash Allnutt in Hackett on 3 June. The unusual wader seen by a number of observers at Kellys Swamp on 26 May has been accepted as a **Common Greenshank**. Despite being so obliging by hardly moving around at all that afternoon, it has not been sighted since, presumably having gone to a warmer spot.

On 15 June, a **Major Mitchell’s Cockatoo** was reported from a playground in Denman Prospect on Canberra Nature Map (CNM). This reminded me of the one that was regularly seen in the local area, including my GBS site in Chapman, between May 2004 and August 2008, except for a break of 20 months between Oct 2005 and June 2007. It was often flying overhead in the company of **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** and **Corellas**, including on their roost flights between Canberra and the Murrumbidgee, but it also stopped on the wires, etc. It was also reported from other suburbs, but it was never as tame as this latest one appeared to be from the descriptions in the CNM.

There has been a further report of a **Little Friarbird** by Ash Allnutt in Watson on 29 May, of **Musk Lorikeets** from the Wanniasa Hills Primary School (last reported on 13 June), and **Scaly-breasted Lorikeets** from 3 locations (Lyneham and North Watson wetlands and the Chisholm shops, from where one was last reported on 21 June).

Apart from the report from Tidbinbilla by the COG Wednesday Walkers (see elsewhere in this issue), a **Black Falcon** was seen and photographed at Jerrabomberra Wetlands on 13 June. A **Barn Owl** was also reported from there on 15-16 June, though no **Black Kites** have been reported in the past 4 weeks, including from the Mugga Lane tip area.

Though it was the first month of winter, a number of interesting breeding reports have still come to my attention:



Scarlet Robin

Lach Read



Australian Ornithological Services P/L

PO Box 385
South Yarra 3141
Victoria

Mob: 04173 10200

enquiries@philipmaher.com

Good birding, good food

South West Western Australia
2 to 11 September 2019

**Alice Springs, West MacDonnell
Ranges, Marla & Yulara**
12 to 22 September 2019
Now includes Marla (SA) for
Chestnut-breasted Whiteface and Yulara
for Sandhill Grasswren.

Tasmanian bird and mammal tour
Bruny Island, Melaleuca, pelagic.
1 to 8 February 2020

Top End birding tour
Darwin, Kakadu, Katherine, Kununurra,
Mitchell Plateau.
10 to 24 May 2020

Atherton Tablelands & Iron Range NP
1 to 14 June 2020 (2 parts)

Gulf of Carpentaria birding tour
19 June to 6 July 2020
Now includes Winton for Rusty
Grasswren.

New tour
The Pilbara birding tour
13 to 22 July 2020

The Pilbara birding tour
24 July to 2 August 2020 FULL

**Alice Springs, West MacDonnell
Ranges, Marla & Yulara**
7 to 17 August 2020

Please see itineraries, checklists
and latest news on our website

www.philipmaher.com

On 9 June, Rob Parnell reported that a **Crested Pigeon** was sitting on a nest in Narrabundah, as it still was on 23 June. He saw it carrying a twig on 1 June. As shown by the Bird Info data on the COG website, this species is known to breed year round, though activity is much reduced from April to June.

Much less expected was Kym Bradley's posting of a photo of an adult **Double-barred Finch** feeding a clearly juvenile bird on 11 June. In this case the Bird Info data shows only 1 record of feeding dependent young in May, though there are records of nest building in both April and July

Around the same time Sandra Henderson reported a **Great Cormorant** with medium-sized young still in a nest on the Molonglo River west of the Tuggeranong Parkway Bridge (though the **Australasian Darters** she reported there earlier seemed to have finished). Again the Bird Info data shows dependent young in May (in line with my experience from the Molonglo Reach), but no breeding records at all for June through to August.

On 17 June Geoffrey Dabb posted that **Noisy Miners** had almost completed a nest in a street tree in Narrabundah. He noted this was not unusual, as confirmed by the Bird Info data which shows nest building in all months of the year (and dependent young in all except for July).

On 17 June Martin Butterfield saw 5 **White-fronted Chats** at the North Weston Ponds, with (from a photo) one of the females carrying nesting material. The Bird Info data has no breeding records from May to July, though there are carrying food and nest with young records in both April and August. Christine D posted that she'd noticed some interesting photos in an eBird list from 16 April 2018, these being Ian McMahon's of a male also appearing to carry nesting material.



Birdwatchers & nature lover's accommodation

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

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

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

Discounts available for Birdlife Australia members.

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

www.feathersnfriends.com.au

Fred & Jeanette Birkbeck

244 Clacherty Road
Julatten QLD 4871

Tel: 07 4094 1665

Email: freddy@feathersnfriends.com.au

Despite this breeding activity mixed feeding flocks (MFFs) have still been reported up to the time of writing, particularly in late reports from the COG Woodland surveys. As noted previously the one in my garden in Chapman has been much reduced, with up to 12 **Striated Thornbill**, not often present, the dominant species. So please continue to keep an eye out for them.

Certainly the flocks of **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos**, **Little Corellas** and **Galahs** on the median strips, ovals, etc, seem to have been much more noticeable during June. An unusual sighting was by Nick Payne who on 14 June saw a closely packed flock of around 70-80 **European Goldfinches** along the Majura bike path. He noted that it was a far greater number together than he'd seen previously. This accords with my experience; they are certainly much less numerous, almost completely absent, from my local patch of Coleman Ridge/Narrabundah Hill than they were in the late 1970s/early 1980s, though the eBird database records a high of 346 birds reported by Alastair Smith at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR on 25 June 2017.

So please watch out for any overwintering spring/summer migrants, for altitudinal migrants, for MFFs and single species flocks, for roost sites and flights (limited information came to my attention in June), and for any further early commencement of breeding activity (the **Yellow-rumped Thornbill** and **Australian Raven**, among others, often do so in July). As usual please ensure that all significant observations 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, postings on the COG E-mail Discussion List ("COG chatline") and the eBird Australia database, as well as some direct correspondence to 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

Field Trip Reports

Sunday 2 June – Uriarra loop track

A resolute party of COG members and a guest gathered on a cold, but spectacular, early winter's morning at the East Uriarra carpark. The sky was a brilliant blue, and the morning sun illuminated the low-lying mist in the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee valleys. In these cool, humid conditions, we commenced the loop walk, travelling in a clockwise direction towards the confluence of the two rivers. **Laughing Kookaburras** and **Galahs** were plentiful in the car park, filling the still air with their cacophonous calls, as we approached the banks of the river. Once on the track, we quickly encountered one of the hoped-for birds, an adult **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**, flying majestically above the Murrumbidgee. Two **White-faced Herons** flew in company upriver, before suddenly parting ways. We enjoyed glorious views of the Murrumbidgee, as the morning mist dissipated, with as many birds being heard as seen. **Eastern Spinebills** were well represented, especially below the ruins of the old Camp Sturt (destroyed by fire in 2003). On reaching the curious Sturt Island (the largest riverine island in the ACT), we encountered three **Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters** – probably *bird du jour*. Sturt Island also produced two **Mistletoebirds**. We passed the dramatic confluence of the two rivers, observing the nearby Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (LMWQCC), before returning over the hill to the start of the loop. We sighted an excellent 41 species during the morning's outing.

David Dendenczuk

Saturday 15 June - Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve - Superb Lyrebird Survey

The sixteenth annual survey of the Superb Lyrebird was run under perfect conditions with a cool morning, no wind and clear skies. The survey is designed to provide an index of population numbers within the Reserve since the 2003 bushfires.

Ten COG members and friends were assembled at the car park by 8.00 am and after breaking up into teams we soon started to survey the five main walking trails. Although volunteer numbers were down and two of the trails were surveyed by single observers it was still possible to also survey the Lyrebird trail. The trail is not part of the original five because it was not until sometime after the 2003 fire that the trail was reopened.

Taking a minimum count, 28 individual **Superb Lyrebirds** were recorded within the Reserve (Gibraltar Rocks-1 (1), Devil's Gap -1 (1), Fishing Gap-6 (3), Ashbrook-4 (4), Camel Back-16 (16)). Figures in brackets are numbers reported last year, in total three more than in 2017; see Figure 1. Five birds were recorded from the Lyrebird/Cascades trail of which four were also recorded from the Camel Back trail leaving one sighting allocated to the Lyrebird/Cascades trail and not included in the totals.

During the survey 33 bird species were recorded with the number seen depending very much on the trail walked; Gibraltar Rocks-26, Devil's Gap-9, Fishing Gap-18, Ashbrook-12, and Camel Back-7 with 10 species reported from the Lyrebird/Cascades trail. There was an increase in the total number of species from 29 last year with an increase from Gibraltar Rocks and Fishing Gap and a decrease for the remaining trails.

There were two species reported from the six trails, **Superb Lyrebird** and **White-throated Treecreeper**. **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** and **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** were heard from all trails except Devil's Gap.

Species seen from one track only included **Galah**, **Little Raven**, **Wonga Pigeon**, **Superb Fairy-wren**, **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**, **Spotted Pardalote**, **Spotted Quail-thrush**, **Weebill**, **Buff-rumped Thornbill**, **Grey Currawong**, **Australian King-Parrot** and **Grey Fantail**. Of additional interest was a flock of 22 **Gang-gang Cockatoos** on the Ashbrook trail.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers.

Chris Davey

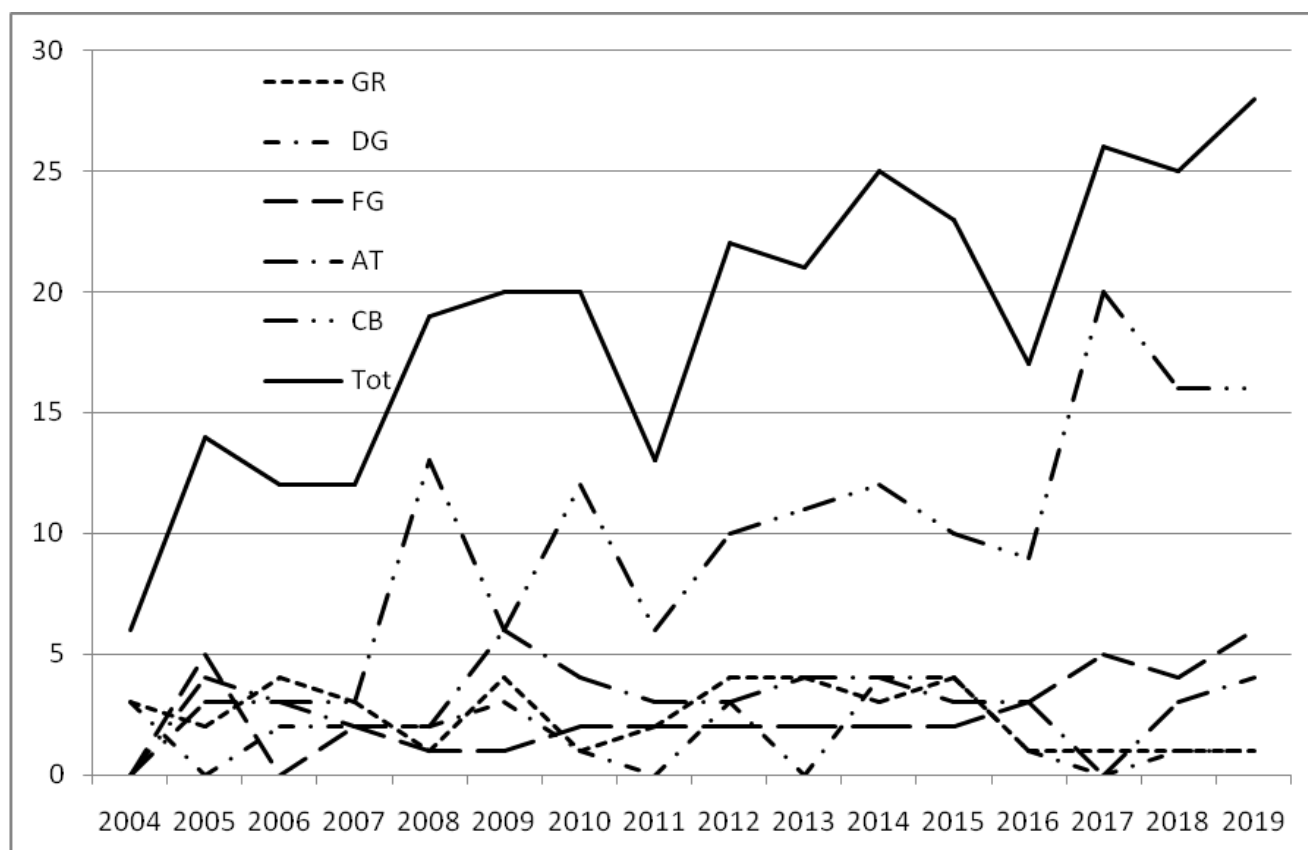


Figure 1. Numbers of Superb Lyrebirds recorded from walking trails at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, 2004-2019. GR-Gibraltar Rocks, DG-Devils Gap, FG-Fishing Gap, AT- Ashbrook Trail, CB-Camel Back, Tot- Total number of birds.

Wednesday 18 June – Tidbinbilla to Birrigai and back

Seventeen members and guests gathered in the car park at the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve Visitors Centre in clear and pleasantly cool conditions. A range of the usual suspects were seen before we moved off towards the Time Trail in search of robins.

Flame Robins were actively feeding, making counting a little challenging but 10 was recorded as the total, evenly split between males and females. A male **Scarlet Robin** was also seen at this time, and another pair close to the end of the outing. An Emu was grazing in the paddock.

Passing through some denser vegetation, we added 3 **Eastern Yellow** but the hoped-for 4th species (Hooded Robin) did not manifest itself. Several other species, including a **Speckled Warbler** were recorded here.

As we headed back across the paddocks, our first and only raptor for the day appeared, coming up from a low level and soaring in the middle distance. With long wings held level in flight and a uniform brown colour, it was identified as a **Black Falcon**, a lifer for some of the group and an addition to others' ACT life lists.

We recorded a total of 32 species, with a full list at <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S57500168>

Martin Butterfield



Brown Treecreeper (Nelanglo TSR)

Lach Read

Sunday 22 June – Nelanglo TSR

Eight members braved the minus 4°C morning to visit this productive TSR north of Gundaroo. It took a while for the birds to warm up but once they did start moving, even the **White-plumed Honeyeaters** were much quieter and less aggressive than usual. We enjoyed seeing a pair of silent **Crested Shrike-tits** feeding in the prolific buds of a eucalypt. A pair of **Scarlet Robins** and a **Jacky Winter** showed well and 4 **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos** glided silently over our heads before disappearing over the hill. The undoubted highlight was a party of 6 **Brown Treecreepers** moving slowly through the TSR, spending most of their time on the ground with the occasional foray up a tree or stump. We recorded 6 species of **Thornbill**, with **Striated** and **Buff-rumped** showing particularly well.

In a little over two hours, we recorded 30 species.

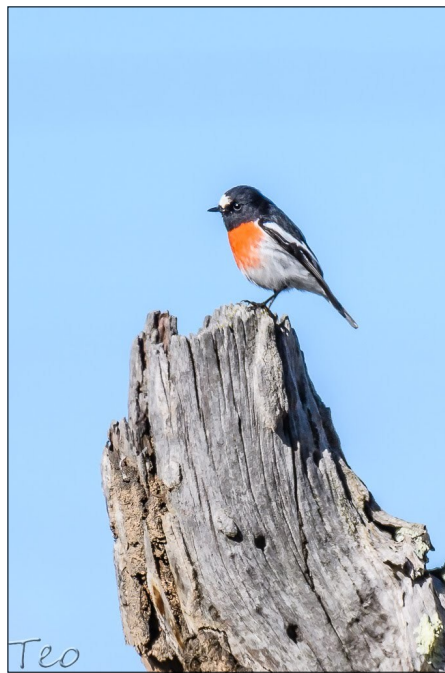
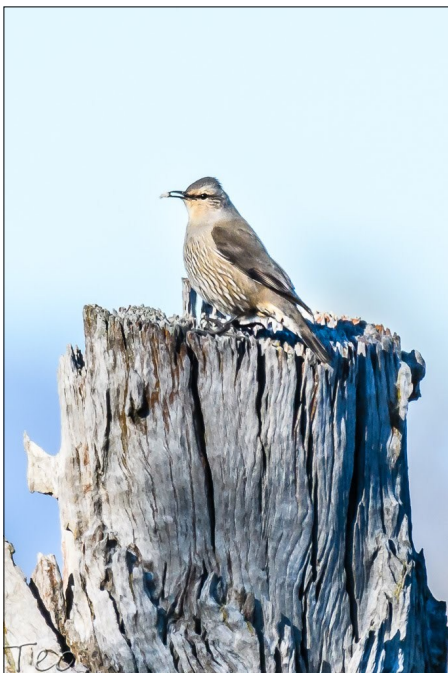
Sue Lashko



Above: Spotted Pardalote, White-plumed Honeyeater.

Below: Brown Treecreeper, Scarlet Robin, Crested Shrike-tit.

Tee Tong Teo



New Places: June 2019

Sandra Henderson

Mackey VC rest area to Black Bob's Creek bridge.

This is a rest stop on the Hume Highway, not far from Berrima. The bridge, accessible along what used to be the Great Southern Road (now a dirt vehicle track) from the back of the rest stop, has great historic significance having been originally built in the 1830s. The sub-structure is still the original sandstone structure, while the top is a concrete arch built over Black Bob's Creek in the 1930s. The steps from the old road down to the pool beside the bridge were carved out of the sandstone by convicts. I knew nothing of this fascinating history when I wandered down the road from the rest stop, but another "wanderer" had come from Sydney specifically to check out the bridge, so he answered my questions about the history of the area, and I answered his about the **Wedge-tailed Eagles** circling over the paddocks. A **Golden Whistler**, an **Eastern Yellow Robin**, and a **White-throated Treecreeper** were calling from the bush between the rest area and the creek and, although I did not see any water birds, the old weir on the farmland side (with lots of reeds) and a series of downstream pools, looks promising. To be investigated further!

Stirling Playing Fields

These fields are on Streton Drive, Weston Creek, and cover quite a large area, with some large trees on the perimeter. A very large group of **Red-rumped Parrots** was feeding on the unkempt part of the site, and the casuarinas were alive with **Striated Thornbills**. Two **Grey Fantails** were also in the casuarinas. Not a particularly exciting site, but since I drive that road quite often, I'm likely to stop there every now and again.

Nelanglo TSR

This TSR, visited regularly by COG member Michael L., is near Gundaroo. A small group of COG members visited in mid-June with high expectations for good birds, and we were not disappointed. We managed 30 species, including five species of thornbills, **Weebills**, **Crested Shrike-tits**, and at least six **Brown Treecreepers**. **White-plumed Honeyeaters** were plentiful. There is little understorey, and the dam in the TSR had plenty of water but not a single bird. Some of the Yellow Box are magnificent, and in a few months there will be lots of flowering, so it will be worth a repeat visit.

Tidbinbilla Road

Of course I've been along this road many times, but I had never stopped at either the Lambrigg Lookout, between Tharwa and the Point Hut Road intersection, or at Paddys River, on the left past the Paddys River TSR.

Lambrigg Lookout, as the name implies, gives a great view of the grazing land below, which includes two dams. There is a sign giving some history of the area. Several **Australian Wood Ducks** were flying from tree to tree, investigating hollows.

Paddys River, which has a parking area near the road, started well with a **Pied Butcherbird** sitting in a low shrub next to the carpark – no doubt the same bird seen occasionally at the Paddys River TSR nearby on the other side of the road. The only other birds of particular note were the many **Yellow-rumped Thornbills** making their way through the riverside vegetation. The accumulation of rubbish suggests it is frequented by some of our less environmentally-minded citizens.



Julatten, 1½hrs. North of Cairns

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

Self-contained Units,
Bunk Rooms & Campground

www.birdwatchers.com.au

sootyowl@bigpond.com

Find us on Facebook

Ph: 07 40941263

Future Field Trips

COG Trips

Each participant must sign a COG Field Trip Registration Form at the start of each trip and before proceeding on the trip which acknowledges the participant's responsibilities (wording follows). An Emergency Contact Name and 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."

Changes to trips are notified on the COG chatline

<http://bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/archives/html/canberrabirds/2012-03/index.html>

and trips page of COG website.

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.

Sunday 6 July - Kambah Pool to Red Rocks Gorge, with possible side trip

The well-made and maintained path between Kambah Pool and Pine Island offers a clear and fairly easy walk to Red Rocks Gorge along (although mostly well above) the Murrumbidgee River. It is about 2.5 km to the Gorge with a steepish down and up (roughly 30 metres elevation) about half way along, where the path dips to the river. There is potential for interesting sightings, including the famed Peregrine Falcons that nest at the Gorge, although it is a bit before their nesting season. Bring water and something for morning tea. Also, if you wish to explore across the river, bring something for lunch. NOTE: We will only cross the river if the weather is good and the flow through the rapids near the lookout down river from the Gorge is low enough to get across without wading. If we do cross, we'll explore a bit of the east side of the Bullen Range before crossing back across the rapids and then walking back to Kambah Pool. If we do cross the river, those who don't feel so inclined could take the path back to the Kambah Pool earlier than those who cross.

Meet Michael Robbins at 9 am at the car park at the south end of Kambah Pool, second turning left after you cross the cattle gird at the entry to the Bullen Range Nature Reserve.

Sunday 21 July – The Pinnacle Nature Reserve

The Pinnacle NR is one of a chain of Canberra Nature Park reserves in the Belconnen hills. Heavily planted with trees in the 1980s and 1990s, it now offers a lovely mix of woodlands and open areas, including a largely undisturbed patch of remnant Red Stringybark woodland, and expansive views across the Molonglo Valley. July is a good time to spot the **Scarlet Robins** that regularly over-winter at the reserve, and the local **Speckled Warblers** are enjoying a bit of a resurgence in recent years.

Meet at 9 am at the reserve gate at the southern end of Dungowan St, Hawker and feel free to bring something for a spot of morning tea at the Pinnacle summit, weather permitting.

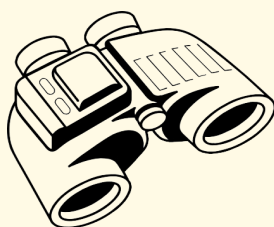
John Brannan

Nature Lodge Optics

Nature Lodge Optics, a family owned business based in Huskisson, Jervis Bay, has been supplying quality binoculars to customers in the Canberra region since 2007.

Originally established in the UK in 1946, the owners established a branch in Australia several years ago and have become the region's leading independent binocular store.

Open 7 Days, the store always has over 100 pairs of binoculars in stock with a particular emphasis on Birdwatching products.



Major brands such as Steiner, Zeiss, Bushnell, Nikon & Pentax are represented together with smaller hi-tech brands like Weaver, Vortex, Forest Optics, Visionary and Vanguard.

A selection of Spotting Scopes, Night Vision & Tripods are always available.

As a family business and NOT a franchise the owners Daniel and Joanna Payne will always be happy to source the specialist or unusual products that individual customers require having established a global network of suppliers.

The store also specialises in polarised eyewear with brands such as Maui Jim, RayBan & Oakley to name just a few.

The helpful and informative website www.binoculars4u.com.au is regularly updated but is no substitute for personal service and recommendation which is always on hand.

**We welcome customers new and old to call us on
02 4441 7770**

Saturday 3 August – Lake Ginninderra beginners

This is the second of our bird walks for 2019 that is aimed specifically at beginners. Meet Anthony Overs (bookings essential on 0419202155 or anthony.overs@gmail.com) at 8.30am in the car park at the western end of Diddams Close on Ginninderra Peninsula (also known as Diddams Close Park).

We will walk the shores of the peninsula around to the eastern side, then back to the car park along Diddams Close. We should be able to view several species of waterbirds up close, focusing on the identification features of the common species such as the various ducks, "waterhens" and cormorants. A variety of bush birds are also likely to be seen. Bring your binoculars and field guide. If you do not have binoculars, please let me know and you can borrow a pair from COG for the outing.

Saturday 24 August – Burrinjuck

Note change of date. This will be a full day trip to Burrinjuck Dam, located 30kms SW of Yass. The intention is to spend the morning exploring Burrinjuck State Park on the dam foreshore. The Hume and Hovell Track passes through the park. After lunch, we intend to walk parts of Burrinjuck Nature Reserve. Target birds include **Wonga Pigeon** and the first returning migrants. Carpooling will occur from Hall with passengers contributing to petrol costs. Due to parking limitations, the number of vehicles we can take from Hall will be limited. Departure time from Hall will be 7.45am and anticipated return time to Hall is 3-5pm. Registration is essential - email roostcensus@canberrabirds.org.au. Final details will be sent to registered participants when finalised.

Ryu Callaway

Saturday 31 August – Lake Road, Bungendore

Meet at the entrance to Lake Road at 09:00. We will car pool and drive further down the road, then park at a convenient spot and walk from there. The outing will take about 2 hours and depending on the time we will visit Trucking Yard Lane for the Plumed Whistling-Ducks. The Lake Road swamp may contain water so if possible bring along your telescope and tripod. No need to register but shoes for walking along a dirt road are recommended. For the technically minded enter -35.2343 149.4104 into Google Earth to find the meeting spot. Drive time is about 40 minutes from Canberra via Mac's Reef Road.

For any queries please contact Chris Davey (MOB 0418 679 847)

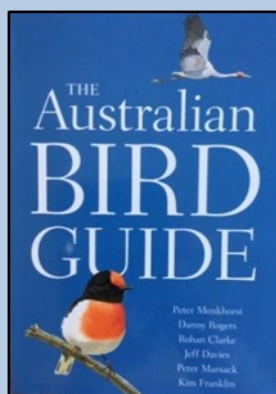
Publications for sale

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

Below are highlighted a sample of popular publications available from the sales desk at COG meetings. We get new books in all the time and sometimes popular books sell out, but they can easily be re-ordered. If you are looking for a particular book, talk to the sales desk team at the meeting, as they can look at ordering it for you or contact Kathy on

sales@canberrabirds.org.au

CLEARANCE SALE PRICE!

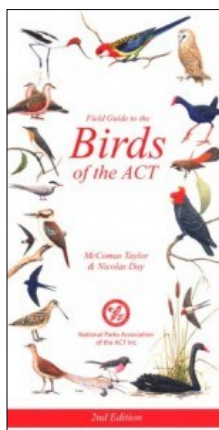


The Australian Bird Guide

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

The most comprehensive field guide to Australian birds ever seen and winner of the 2017 Whitley Medal. The guide features around 4700 colour illustrations, with particular emphasis on providing the fine detail required to identify difficult groups and distinctive plumages. Comprehensive species accounts have been written by a dedicated team of ornithologists to ensure identification details, distribution and status are current and accurate.

Members' price \$25. Normally retails at \$50.

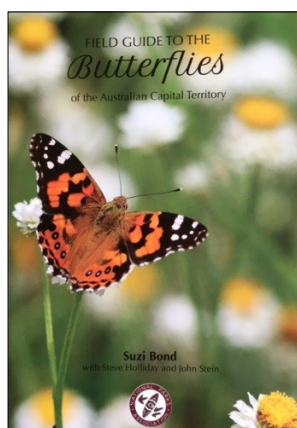


Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT

McComas Taylor & Nicolas Day

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

Members' price: \$20.



Field Guide to the Butterflies of the ACT

Suzi Bond, with Steve Holliday and John Stein

A beautiful book with detailed notes and photographs of the wide range of butterflies found across the Australian Capital Territory.

Dr Suzi Bond is a member of COG and a Visiting Fellow at the ANU where she researches the butterflies found in the ACT. Her research is driven by a fascination for our local butterfly fauna and a desire to better understand their populations and ecology.

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

Members' Price: \$27.

Canberra Birds Conservation Fund

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

COG membership

2019-2020 memberships:

- Singles: \$40
- Family: \$45
- Institution: \$40
- School student (under 18) \$20

New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

M Job
M Stevenson
S Fitzgerald

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for August 2019 edition:

Wednesday 31 July 2019

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

gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au

or

c/- The Secretary COG,

PO Box 301 Civic Square, ACT 2608

Articles should be less than 500 words (300 for reports of 1-day field trips) except by prior arrangement with the editor.

Photographs (prints or electronic) with or without articles are encouraged.

COG information

President: Neil Hermes

0413 828 045

president@canberrabirds.org.au

Treasurer: Prue Watters

cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au

Secretary: Bill Graham

cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au

Address for correspondence

The Secretary
COG, PO Box 301
Civic Square, ACT 2608

Canberra Bird Notes

Editor: Michael Lenz

lenzmj@hotmail.com.au

COG website

canberrabirds.org.au

COG Webmaster

Julian Robinson

cogwebmaster@canberrabirds.org.au

COG library

Membership Enquiries & Updates:

membership@canberrabirds.org.au

for change of address or other details.

Gang-gang Newsletter

Editor: Sue Lashko

gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au

Lay-out Editor: Gail Neumann

Publication Sales

Kathy Walter

sales@canberrabirds.org.au

COG E-mail Discussion List

COG E-mail Discussion List

COG has an email discussion list for members and friends: 'CanberraBirds'.

Join (subscribe to) the list by following the links on the COG website or by sending an email message to canberrabirds-subscribe@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@canberrabirds.org.au.

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

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

Gang-gang is published on COG's website in PDF format, as well as being distributed in print format.

ISSN 2208-018X

