



Gang-gang

MARCH 2022

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday 9 March 2022

7.30 pm

Normal face-to-face meeting

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

The meeting will be held as a normal face-to-face one at the Canberra Girls Grammar School, Multi-media Theatre. Enter via Gabriel Drive on Gawler Cres, Deakin. Masks are mandatory indoors at schools.

The short talk will be presented by **Chris Davey** and will be a slightly extended version of the one that was going to be given at Members Night in January but was subsequently cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

The presentation titled '**Difficulties in assessing breeding success in the Gang-gang Cockatoo**' will be based on experience gained since the COG survey in 2014 in the ACT. The talk will discuss general difficulties associated with a hollow-nesting species, how to find and assess possible breeding sites, Gang-gang nesting behaviour and problems associated with measuring reproductive success.

The main presentation will be by **Richard Beggs**, a Research and Extension Officer with the ANU's Sustainable Farms Team and is entitled "**War on the Noisy Miner**:"

Everyone welcome

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

After some more storms in the first half, the weather over the 4 weeks from 26 January became much drier and warmer, with considerable browning off occurring of grass growth in the last week. While I expected the drying off to have had limited effect on the late summer bird activity in the COG Area of Interest (AoI), as the pattern would have already been well set by the wetter, cooler first 2 months of summer, in contrast to the indications a month ago, most of the inland spring/summer migrants still present in January seem to have stayed to their usual departure times. My analysis below also confirms that it has been a relatively quiet period.

In respect of the departing spring/summer migrants there have been no reports of the **Channel-billed Cuckoo**, **White-browed** and **Masked Woodswallows**, or



Julian Robinson

Gang-gang Cockatoo, juveniles

reassessing the *casus belli*".

Richard's Ph D study involved experimental patch-scale culls of Noisy Miners in woodland remnants in the fragmented agricultural landscapes of the South West Slopes of NSW. He presented the plans for the study to COG in a 2016 and then in 2018 reported how the culls had had little impact on Noisy Miner abundance due to immediate recolonisation. In this updated presentation he will provide an overview of the problem of overabundant Noisy Miners from an ecological and social perspective, will consider possible solutions, and will summarise the findings of his own research, including his environmental history of the species.

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

the **Brown Songlark** during the period. The **Horsfield's Bushlark** was reported from 2 close together locations only, West Belconnen Pond and the Parkwood Road, from where 2 were last reported on 15 February. Similarly, the **White-throated Needletail** has been reported from 2 locations only, with a maximum of 12 seen over the Brindabellas on 1 February. However, there have been no reports for the related **Fork-tailed Swift** during the period. So, despite the wet conditions it has been a very poor summer for these two species, and I expect this may continue with the drier weather.

The **Pallid Cuckoo** has been reported from 4 locations so far in February (after none at all in January), but the **Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo**, the other inland cuckoo, still from a surprising 14 locations. This compares with the east coast migratory cuckoos, the **Shining Bronze-cuckoo** and **Brush Cuckoo** reported from 15 and 26 locations, respectively. The latter in particular seems to have been very common this spring/summer, comparing well with usually more common and related **Fan-tailed Cuckoo** reported from 31 locations.

The **White-winged Triller** was reported from 6 locations only, the most recent being a female photographed at Namadgi NP Visitors Centre on 14 February. In contrast the **Rufous Songlark**, which usually leaves around the same time, was still reported from around 18 locations throughout the period, consistent with its greater presence this spring/summer. Likewise, the often-elusive **Common Cicadabird** was still reported from 3 locations in the Brindabellas during the period, most recently on 8 February.

Most of the above will have moved away from the COG Aol during March so please keep an eye out for them and other departing spring/summer migrant species such as the **Dollarbird**, **Rainbow Bee-eater** (listen for them calling overhead as they migrate north) and **Sacred Kingfisher**, which all usually leave, in that order, by mid-March (all three were still widely reported during February, up to the time of writing). Other birds that mostly leave by the end of March/early April include the **Eastern Koel** (noticeably quieter in my local patch from early February), **Leadend Flycatcher**, **Australian Reed-Warbler** (often very quiet in March), **Tree** and **Fairy Martins**, all of which were still widely reported in February. The passage migrants, the **Satin Flycatcher** and **Rufous Fantail**, were both still reported from around 12 locations, all from the mountains to the southwest of Canberra (except for 2 for the latter in Tallaganda NP), an indication that they had not yet started to move.

While the **Latham's Snipe** was still reported throughout the period, some local movement had already taken place. On 15 February Lori Gould reported that both birds fitted with satellite tags at Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR this year had moved away from there. After spending 2 weeks in the horse paddocks to the west of Duffy one had moved to Jerrabattgulla (just south of Ballalaba southeast of Canberra, between Tallaganda NP and Deua NP), and the other had recently shifted only a short distance to a wetland just to the north off the Majura Parkway.

As these birds move away please watch out for other species that move from the mountains and higher country into Canberra and its surrounds in autumn/winter, including the **White-eared Honeyeater** and **Golden Whistler**. The **Scarlet Robin** was reported from 5 peri-urban locations in February (one more than in January), whereas the **Flame Robin** has been reported only from rural locations, all but two from west of the Murrumbidgee River.

The **Rose Robin** has been reported from 4 locations in the period, all in the Brindabellas/Namadgi or Tallaganda NP, but again there were no reports of the **Pink Robin** during the period. The **Crescent Honeyeater** has been reported from around 10 locations so far in February, all on or west of the Murrumbidgee River, except for two in Tallaganda NP/State Forest. Again there have been no reports of the **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** over the period.

So please look out for the above species as they move into Canberra and surrounds. Towards the end of March please also look out for any early **Swift Parrots** migrating from Tasmania; it will be interesting to see if they visit Canberra in as large numbers as last autumn/winter, and this would depend on the amount of flowering available this autumn/winter.

There have been comparatively few reports of “unusual birds” in the period, and none worthy of special mention. Again, **Plumed Whistling Ducks** were reported only from the Trucking Yard Lane Dam with a maximum of 5 on 16 February, but no **Freckled Ducks** were reported. In contrast **Australian Shelducks** have been reported from around 12 locations to the east and northeast of Canberra during the period, many from either side of Lake George. **Blue-billed Ducks** were reported from 6 locations in the period, while **Musk Ducks** were reported from 7 locations, not including the Sanctuary at Tidbinbilla NR.

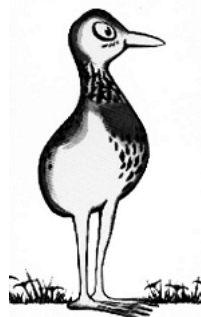
Stubble Quail were still reported from around 43 locations; interestingly there have been many fewer in my local patch of Cooleman Ridge/Narrabundah Hill this season, despite the similar conditions to last year. The **Brown Quail** was reported from around 23 locations, well up from the 14 in January. The **Painted Button-quail** continues to be present in good numbers, reported from around 10 locations in the period, but again **Little Button-quail** have not been reported. **Great Crested Grebes** have been reported from just the single location, Cotter Dam, where up to 4 birds have been reported.

No **White-headed Pigeons** have been reported during the period, and only a single **Diamond Dove** at the Glendale Depot on 31 January. However, up to 2 **Peaceful Doves** were reported by a number of observers from a spot on the Cotter Road during the period.



Diamond Dove

David Cook



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Good birding, good food

2022

The Gulf Country

9 — 26 May 2022

Cairns, Karumba, Burketown,
Mt Isa, Winton

Atherton Tablelands

30 May — 4 June 2022

Cairns, Chambers Wildlife Lodge &
Kingfisher Park

Top End

22 June — 5 July 2022

Darwin, Kakadu, Katherine, Kununurra.
Mitchell Plateau charters 6 July 2022

Central Australia

21 — 31 August 2022

Alice Springs, West MacDonnell Ranges,
Yulara, Erdunda, Marla

2022 Plains-wanderer Weekends

26 & 27 November 2022

Check website for other weekends

2023 tours

Atherton Tablelands & Iron Range

May 2023

Atherton Tablelands & Iron Range

June 2023

Pilbara WA

July 2023 (filling)

Contact Patricia Maher for itineraries.

www.philipmaher.com

No **Banded Lapwings** or **Red-necked Avocets** were reported during the period, but thirty **Red-capped Plovers** were observed at Wollgorang Lagoon on 6 February, and 10 **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** from Lake George on 26 January. On 18 February I found a **Common Sandpiper** at the north end of Lake Tuggeranong at the silt/gross pollutant trap slightly to the west of where Village Creek flows under Drakeford Drive. This has again raised the question of whether there may be 2 birds, with the one at the Isabella Pond still reported from there on 20 February, and from the photos seeming to be a much lighter coloured bird than the one I observed.

An **Australian Little Bittern** was reported from Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR paddocks on 14 February, but no **Caspian Tern** or **Intermediate Egret** were reported in the period.

A **Barn Owl** was reported only from suburban Hawker on 8 February. The **Black-shouldered Kite** was still being reported from 12 locations, and the **Nankeen Kestrel** from close to 40 locations during the period. A **Grey Goshawk** was reported from the Curtin horse paddocks on 17 February, and the ANBG on 19 February.

Up to 2 **Azure Kingfishers** have been reported by many observers only from the Cotter Bend over the period (see breeding record below). No **Glossy Black-Cockatoos** were reported during the period, (a late report on 23 February of 2 on Mt Majura – ed!) and there was only a single **Cockatiel** report (see correction of COG Aol breeding below). A **Turquoise Parrot** was reported from Bluetts Block on 6 February. A **Little Lorikeet** was reported in Hawker on 14 February, and 2 **Scaly-breasted Lorikeets** in Griffith on 4 February. Up to 6 **Musk Lorikeets** were reported by many observers from the North Watson Wetlands during the period.

A **Scarlet Honeyeater** was reported only from the Kowen Forest on 20 February, a **Singing Honeyeater** from Franklin Pond and 2 **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters** only from Lade Vale Rd near Gunning on 6 February. No **Little Friarbirds**, **Blue-faced Honeyeaters**, **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrikes**, **Zebra Finches** or **Tawny Grassbirds** were reported during the period.

Of the birds I had been asking readers to keep a special lookout for in 2021, up to 2 **Jacky Winters** were reported from the known location of Namadgi NP Visitors Centre, and a single one from Honeysuckle Creek Campground the during the COG outing on 16 February. Up to 4 **Hooded Robin** were reported from the known spot at Naas Rd at Apollo Road, with a further bird on Naas Rd on 16 February. The **Restless Flycatcher** was reported from 4 locations during the period, single birds at the known locations, Nelanglo TSR and Glendale Depot, as well as one on Lake George Rd Currawang on 13 February, and 2 birds at Tidbinbilla NR on 26 January.

Even though it was the last month of summer the still wet conditions have continued to provide a very good breeding season particularly for waterbirds (for example, see separate report for the annual COG boat trip). Some highlights follow (including one very important event held over due to its sensitivity):

- On Christmas morning Shorty went to the Cotter to look for the **Azure Kingfishers** and found the pair quite quickly. After a while he noticed one go into a hollow in the bank and did not see it come out, and he only saw a single bird for a couple of hours. The next morning he watched them from the opposite bank and confirmed they were still working on the nest hollow. The pair would take turns going into the hollow for about 5 minutes at a time. After 3 “goes” in the hollow they would dive into the water several times and preen on a branch while waiting their turn to continue working on it. On 30 December Shorty noted they had finished working on the nest. On his visits on the 4 and 6 January only the male was seen. He would go off hunting for a short time and return to a roost in front of the nest, occasionally calling towards the nest. On 8 January his heart sank as he saw the river in flood well over the foot bridges, but later checking of his photos showed the nest entrance was still above the water level, although it did look like the level just got to the bottom of the entrance. Shorty returned there a number of times towards the end the month when, had they survived, the eggs would have hatched with the young being fed. While he did see the pair together and on 26 January saw the



Azure Kingfisher

Victor Braguine

male feed the female a fish, by early February he concluded that they were not attempting a second brood, despite the male often being on the nest perch (he noted it might just have been a favourite perch). Despite the disappointment it does constitute a very important breeding attempt in the COG Aol with the BIRD INFO on the COG website containing no breeding information at all. This would be of a higher level than the possible courtship behaviour observed on the Molonglo River near its confluence with the Murrumbidgee on 19 and 24 July 2020. Note that on 1 February Deb and Rod Ralph also noted in their eBird list that they saw the pair bowing to each other. From recent sightings it seems clear that the species is resident, noting that the 2018-2019 ABR lists it as a non-breeding vagrant.

- The four juvenile/immature **Cockatiels** at Campbell Park were last photographed by Mikayla Burke on 30 January. Steve Read pointed out that the claim in my February column that the breeding event at Campbell Park was the first for the COG Aol is incorrect. He noted that in late December 2019 Richard Allen first posted on eBird an observation of a male and female with two begging dependent juveniles being fed in willows and poplars just north of Yarralumla Creek adjacent to See Place, Curtin. Quite a few observers were subsequently able to view this family group.
- As a follow up to his 12 January report, on 31 January Anthony Overs posted that the breeding in his Hawker garden had continued. The resident **Red-browed Finches** had produced a trio of young, with the utterly charming little group visiting the bath (and having a bit of seed at the feeder). The **Grey Fantails** that breed in the nearby woodlands in The Pinnacle had been successful, with many young birds chasing each other and also using the bath. The resident **Willie Wagtails** had built a couple of nests, then changed their minds each time and moved. He was not sure where the final nest was located, but the pair raised a couple of young that was present for much of the day. Over the past couple of days, a **White-throated Treecreeper** had ventured down Dungowan St, from The Pinnacle, possibly a dispersing young bird. The **Superb Fairy-wrens** he had reported actually had three young rather than two. Despite still being dependent, they were now much more confident and left the sanctuary of the dense shrubbery. The local **Red Wattlebirds** had just reared a third brood; they had been lucky not to have to raise an **Eastern Koel**, despite their obvious presence in the area. The **Crested Pigeons** reported before were sitting on the nest.
- On 30 January Mark Clayton noted that two of the **Musk Lorikeets** at the North Watson Pond indulged in what was either courtship feeding or juveniles being fed - it was a bit hard to see the colour of two of the birds' beaks. This would add a further breeding record for this species to those I detailed in my December 2021 column.
- In Daniel Appleby's 10 February eBird list, of the birds he saw at Tidbinbilla NR, he included a photo of a **Rufous Fantail** feeding a dependent young. This is a relatively rare observation with the BIRD INFO on the COG website including only 12 breeding records for this species to 30 June 2018.
- By 23 February I had reports of 108 **Eastern Koel** fledglings, including 19 in my local area of Chapman/Rivett and a first one for Yass. This is well below the 185 at this time last season. While it's still a little early to tell whether we'll have the same late surge as we had then, one possible pointer that we might not is that I've had no begging fledglings at all around my place since 12 February. The new fledglings from earlier that week really moved on quickly compared with some of the early ones. So please still keep an ear/eye out for them and I would be very grateful if you can report any observations to me.

Apart from the small one in my garden over the period, few reports of mixed feeding flocks (MFF) have come to my attention, so please look out for this autumn phenomenon especially for the unexpected species often quietly feeding in amongst all the activity. Watch out too for the signs of species that migrate in flocks, especially for first migrating **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** with movement usually starting in the last week of March.

The **Common Mynas** roost in my neighbour's ornamental pears since early January is still very active with, a couple of days ago, at least 135 birds having been estimated gathering beforehand in another neighbour's gum and counted as they flew into the roost site. Given how few I see during the day they must be coming in from a very wide catchment.

March is the middle month when there is lots of bird movement and activity in the COG Aol. So please watch out for the last of the departing spring/summer migrants mentioned above, particularly the **White-throated Needletail** and the **Fork-tailed Swift**, and for the first 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**; the continued low number of reports, especially for the latter two, is disheartening. 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 email Discussion List (“COG chatline”) 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

Committee News

The COG committee met by Zoom on 17 February.

The committee spent the first hour of the meeting considering how best to implement some of the larger projects identified through the members’ survey in 2019 and the committee’s strategic planning sessions in 2020 and 2021. The committee is hoping to make significant progress on several of these in the next six months and may be asking for assistance from COG members. Watch this space.

The committee’s submission about the proposed development of an area next to Bluett’s block can be found on our website – see <http://canberrabirds.org.au/conservation-2/cog-conservation-strategy/>

The professionally-produced version of the Woodlands Birds Survey Report has been published on the COG web-site – <http://canberrabirds.org.au/conservation-2/woodland-birds/cog-woodland-bird-monitoring-project/>. This version replaces the interim version published in November.

Neil Hermes *President* Alison Mackerras *Minutes Secretary*

ACT Environmental Volunteers

I am pleased to inform you that my Office has recently published a web-based report on environmental volunteering in the ACT. In my role as Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, I act as an independent voice for the environment and sustainability in the ACT.

Volunteers gave over 100 hours of their time talking to my staff and providing information and photos to be included in the report.

We are extremely lucky in the ACT to have many volunteers and organisations working to preserve and protect our natural areas and species. The report website explores how volunteer contributions to a healthy environment in the ACT are measured, recognised, and valued. First and foremost, it is a celebration of the work that you all do.

In the report you will find volunteers’ stories, different types of volunteer opportunities, and benefits and values of volunteering for the environment in the ACT. For instance, the report estimated that the equivalent wage cost for environmental volunteering work in the ACT would be over \$21.5 million per year.

The environmental volunteering space in the ACT is complex, with many government agencies and non-government organisations involved in supporting the thousands of people who give their time to protect, restore, and expand our knowledge of the natural environment.

You can find the report website at www.actenvirovolunteers.com.au.

Dr Sophie Lewis
ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

COG's cogs - No 7

By the standards of previous 'cogs' Julian is a late-starter when it comes to birds. It happened quite by chance in 2006, when Greening Australia commissioned Julian to photograph the Superb Parrots that had appeared in Canberra for the first time. He completed the job with enthusiasm and was soon looking around for his next birding hit.

After some unsuccessful excursions which entailed standing in a clearing for hours, followed by more hours crouched in a bush, Julian decided he needed to improve his birding knowledge. Enter Geoffrey Dabb who generously offered to give a birder's tour of Callum Brae reserve. Their outing would be life-changing (for Julian, Geoffrey not so much). On that walk they saw about 40 species including Varied Sittellas, a Scarlet Robin, Jacky Winters and twelve Diamond Firetails – an unlikely collection today.

Julian's eyes now opened; he joined COG!

A big birding win for Julian came just recently when he managed to catch a young Gang-gang take to the wing on its very first flight. Watching the parents flying either side of the fledgling, calling and apparently guiding the fast-flapping chick to a suitable landing spot was a magical experience.

But birds aside, Julian probably has the least bird-orientated job in COG. With a background in engineering and technical project management, and interests in ergonomics and presentation, he was a natural fit in the COG subcommittee aiming to build a new website. Soon he was shepherding the website project through to its completion in 2014 and has remained as COG's dedicated webmaster ever since.

A major objective when building the new website was to use a 'content management system' that would allow members without technical knowledge to add and edit their own material. In this COG has been only partly successful.

Turned out COG had some pretty specific needs, which led to a bit of a hybrid site. Some areas are easy to use (meetings, trip information and committee papers), while others require a bit of background knowledge on arcane procedures and html. As webmaster, Julian's time is spent making these and other regular updates, as well as building and adding new sections and pages when required, looking after hosting arrangements, fixing technical problems, creating forms and responding to queries.

Some other things that dropped off the radar still need a bit of tender love and care. The photo gallery needs an update, as does the Bird Info data (now nearly 5 years out of date, and dependent on the arrival of COG's new database). Most importantly, a set of essential how-to-do-it instructions also needs to be completed.

So why mention the shortcomings? Because out there somewhere is a COG member who understands websites, design, Wordpress innards, add-on databases, post-html programming and hosting platform technology... or at least has a basic grounding and is willing to learn. COVID reminds us that the run-over-by-a-bus scenario needs to be catered for, so we're looking for someone who would be excited to assist, understudy or perhaps take over the role of COG webmaster. The title of webmaster may not include pay or fancy hat, but it's satisfying work and, more often than not, enjoyable. So, if anyone is interested, please get in touch with Julian at cogwebmaster@canberrabirds.org.au.

Acknowledgements

Nathan Finger and Julian Robinson



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

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://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.

Be Covid safe on COG field trips:

Maintain social distancing of 1.5 metres

Maintain hand hygiene

Wear a mask in shared cars if carpooling (Note: carpooling is voluntary)

DO NOT ATTEND if you have tested positive for Covid, have been a close contact within the past 7 days, or have any Covid, cold or flu symptoms.

Sunday 6 March – Tin Hut Dam, Googong

This trip replaces the November trip which was cancelled due to Covid.

Meet at 7.30am in the Spotlight carpark in Queanbeyan to organise carpooling (which is voluntary); masks should be worn in shared cars. The road to Tin Hut Dam is unsealed, and is rough in some sections. We'll be walking around Tin Hut Dam and in the surrounding woodland. It is a relatively easy walk, with a formed track for about half the loop, but no defined track on the western side, so it is likely we will have to walk through some grass. Some birds we might see include **Musk Duck, Western Gerygone, Southern Whiteface**, cuckoos and raptors.

End time: ~ 10.30-11am.

Bring: water, morning tea, sunscreen, hat, sensible footwear.

Numbers limited to 16.

Registration is essential, no later than Friday 4 March. Email: Lkmanderson@hotmail.com with your name, mobile number, and an emergency contact name and number.

Liam Manderson

Sunday 13 March – Kama Nature Reserve

Description: Kama Nature Reserve is on the western side of William Hovell Drive. The walk down to the Molonglo River is an easy walk, sloping gently downhill on the way there and uphill on the way back. Sixty-two species have been recorded there in the month of March, including **Speckled Warbler**, **Western Gerygone** and **Brown Falcon**.

eBird hotspots: Kama Nature Reserve

Meeting place: meet in the carpark of Hawker College opposite 38 Murranji St, Hawker (note there are 2 other carparks). From there we will carpool, with masks to be worn in shared cars. The reason for this is that the Kama car park is on the opposite side of the road to the reserve, is very small and dangerous to approach. There is 'no right turn' when travelling from the southeast (city).

Meeting time: 8:15am.

Walking distance: 5.4 kms

End time (approx.): 11:30am

What to bring: Water and morning tea, sunscreen, hat and sturdy shoes.

Name of leader and contact details: Please **register** with the leader, Lia Battisson by email to liabattisson@grapevine.com.au, providing your name and mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact. Register **before 7pm on Friday 11 March 2022**. Numbers will be limited to 15.

Friday 18 to Monday 21 March - Jervis Bay extended weekend

This trip is fully booked.

We will camp at Green Patch campground in Booderee National Park, about 4 hours' drive from Canberra. All sites are unpowered and they have various sizes, some suitable for caravans or campervans. Further information about making a booking will be sent to you once you register for the trip. We will be birding a number of different habitats in Booderee with target species being **Sooty Owl**, **Southern Emu Wren**, **Eastern Bristlebird** and **Tawny-crowned Honeyeater**. Numbers will be limited to 20, so first in!! Cost of campsites are from \$51 per night depending on the size. Members will also need to pay the Park Use fees of \$26 per vehicle for 4 days.

Please contact Kathy or John at walter.goldie@gmail.com to **register** your interest or for more information.

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 March – Eden pelagics

Both trips are fully booked, with a waiting list. We hope to run more pelagic trips in October.

Sunday 3 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 some of the few currently known local migration routes. We will walk along these two boundaries, depending on conditions and the species seen, possibly along most of the western one, 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 the **Scarlet Robin** and mixed feeding flocks, or late departing summer migrants such as the gerygones.

Meeting time: This 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 register with Jack Holland by email on jandaholland@bigpond.com – please include your name, mobile number, and emergency contact name and number.

Sunday 10 April – K2C surveys near Bredbo

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 add to the property lists with spring-summer migrants. 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 6 April**. Email: ntaws@bigpond.com or 0408 210736.

Friday 15 to Monday 18 April – Easter camp to Round Hill NR

This trip is fully booked with a waiting list.

Sunday 24 April – private property near Gunning – morning outing

Meet at Sutton Primary School in Victoria Street, Sutton, at 7.45am for carpooling. It is a drive of approximately 45 minutes to the farming property which has a beautiful, bird-attracting garden, as well as a variety of habitats on the farm.

Bring morning tea, and wear clothing and shoes suitable for walking through grass.

Register with Sue Lashko at smlashko@gmail.com – provide your name, mobile number and the name and number of an emergency contact. If you would like to carpool from Canberra with members from your area, advise me of the name of your suburb and I will try to link you with nearby attendees.

Numbers limited to 20.

Sunday 1 May- Picaree Hill Conservation Area

Advance notice of this outing – further details will be available in April Gang-gang and on the website, once the leader has made a pre-trip visit.

Location: Smith's Road, New South Wales, about 1 hour drive from Canberra. The general location can be found at -35.0056 149.1532.

Description: The outing will be to a private conservation area not accessible to the general public. Bird surveys were conducted by the outing's leader in autumn 2003, 2004 and 2005 and twice in spring 2003 and 2004.

Meeting time and place: Yet to be arranged but there will be carpooling from the Hall Primary School, Hoskins St.

Walking distance: To be determined but approximately a circular route of 5-6 km.

Degree of difficulty: The walk will be along vehicle tracks although there may be a section of off-road walking. Easy-medium, the terrain is hilly but general fitness would be adequate.

End time: To be determined.

What to bring: Water, morning tea, lunch, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, insect repellent.

Numbers: To be determined.

Name of leader and contact details: Chris Davey. MOB 0418 679 847. Register at chris_davey@aapt.net.au – provide your name, mobile number and the name and number of an emergency contact.

Birds and Heritage Tour of Norfolk Island

Return airfares from Sydney to Norfolk Island, 7 nights accommodation, 7 days car hire and escorted touring with Neil Hermes and Michael Hermes

Norfolk Island (3655ha) lies in the south-west Pacific 1400km east of mainland Australia and 1500km south-west of Fiji. An external territory of Australia, Norfolk has strong ecological affinities with New Zealand.

The Norfolk Island Group is a globally important biodiversity hotspot and has been designated as an 'Important Bird Area' by Birdlife International. The group is a breeding site for several 100,000 seabirds including the Masked Booby, Grey Ternlet, White Tern, Sooty Tern, & Wedge-tailed Shearwater. Phillip Island supports one of the largest breeding populations of Red-tailed Tropicbirds in Australia. Norfolk is also home to the endemic & endangered Norfolk Island Green Parakeet, & other endemic birds such as the Norfolk Island Golden Whistler & Norfolk Island scarlet robin.

Join experienced guides Neil and Michael Hermes on a personalised journey through Norfolk Island's history, amazing wildlife and stunning scenery drawing on the knowledge and memories from Neil's time as a Norfolk Island National Parks Officer and Michael's background as an archaeologist.

From AUD \$2,539

Date: 02-09 September 2022 Duration: 8 Days

Inclusions

Return economy airfare to Norfolk Island, meet & greet at Norfolk Island Airport, return airport transfers on Norfolk Island, 7 nights twin share accommodation, 7 days car hire - petrol additional, half day island orientation tour, welcome 'fireside' chat with Neil Hermes and Michael Hermes and 2 course dinner at Bounty Bar and Bistro, Norfolk Island National Park tour with Neil Hermes, guided Kingston cemetery, Polynesian sites and fossils tour with Michael Hermes, Tour covering St Barnabas and Melanesian Mission and 100 acres Acers Reserve with Neil Hermes and Michael Hermes, Tour covering Anson Bay, Captain Cook, WWII and walks with Neil Hermes and Michael Hermes and Norfolk Island shopping bag, map, handy hints & shopping discounts.

Confirm with deposit before 13 December 2021 and save:

- \$250 deposit if booking prior to 13 December 2021, or
- \$1000 if booking after 13 December 2021

Information at neilhermes.com.au or Norfolk Island Travel Centre
norfolkislandtravelcentre.com/event/norfolk-island-wildlife-heritage-tour

Field Trip Reports

Sunday 30 January – Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve

Eight COG members joined me for the annual outing to celebrate World Wetlands Day, which is actually celebrated on February 2. This is the first year that the Day will be observed as a United Nations international day, following its adoption by the General Assembly on 30 August 2021. The theme for 2022 is 'Action for People and Nature', which is "an appeal to invest financial, human and political capital to save the world's wetlands from disappearing and to restore those that we have degraded." What better place to celebrate than at our own Jerrabomberra Wetlands where the staff and volunteers have expanded the wetlands, managed weeds and carried out extensive native plantings.

While the previous day's rain had caused several people to withdraw from the outing, Sunday was perfect for birding with overcast and cool conditions, with no wind and not a drop of rain. We began well with a **Collared Sparrowhawk** flying through the carpark clutching an unlucky small bird. On Kelly Swamp, many **Dusky Moorhens** and **Purple Swamphens** had chicks of varying sizes and colourations. The variety of ducks was lower than in previous years, with just **Pacific Black** and **Pink-eared Duck**, and **Hardhead** on the water, and **Australian Wood Duck** on the mown grass among the billabongs. A female **Australasian Darter** and a **Little Pied Cormorant** obligingly perched side-by-side, allowing comparisons to be made. **Golden-headed Cisticola** and **Australian Reed Warbler** were plentiful and vocal, and everyone managed to see both, but the **Little Grassbird** stayed hidden as did the **Brown Quails**. Just a few people managed to see a perched **Sacred Kingfisher** before it disappeared, and a **Latham's Snipe** flushed and then quickly dropped into the grass among the billabongs, but good views were had of the many bush birds on the walk. We recorded 45 species for the Kellys and Billabong Loops.

Three of us then continued on to complete the Woodland Loop, but before we did, we spotted an **Australian Hobby** perched on the powerlines, unphased by the passersby on the bike path and happy for us to approach for a very good view. In the woodland, we recorded 37 species 12 of which were new for the morning, including a pair of **Tawny Frogmouths** with their large chick, a **Dollarbird** and a **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo**, as well as **Yellow**, **Yellow-rumped** and **Brown Thornbill**.

Many thanks to Lia for entering the eBird lists.

Sue Lashko

Sunday 6 February – Pejar Dam and Crookwell

Bill Graham organised this outing, which attracted 13 participants. We started at Pejar Dam at St Stephens Road, where the undoubted highlight was a **Spotted Harrier** hunting over the grassy slopes across the dam. **Musk Ducks** and a distant **Great Crested Grebe** were also added to the list, with a range of more common water and bush birds. We then moved on to the main picnic area for morning tea overlooking the spillway where over 40 **Silver Gulls** were resting. A couple of **Yellow Thornbills** were seen briefly, as was a **Mistletoebird**.

At Todkill Park in Crookwell we were treated to a male **Musk Duck** displaying to a female, and giving its whistling call - a rather strange sight, and not one we see very often. A single **Blue-billed Duck** was seen on the far side of the pond, as well as a group of five **White-faced Herons**. A very brief stop at cold and windy Rowes Lagoon was not very productive, although the usual **Musk Duck** was patrolling close to the picnic area.

We stopped at both rest areas along Lake George. There were many thousands of ducks and other waterbirds on the edge, although getting counts of the various species was a little difficult. The **Wedge-tailed Eagles** above the escarpment were mesmerising – at one point three hanging motionless in the air together, with the strong wind making it effortless. At Badcoe VC rest area, well over 100 **Australasian Shovelers** were counted, as well as 350 **Grey Teal**, with four other duck species present in smaller numbers. At Wheatley VC rest area, **Australasian Shovelers** were again the most numerous species.

Despite the wintery conditions throughout the day, this was a great outing, to some areas most of us were not familiar with.

Sandra Henderson

Next Page (clockwise from left):
**Musk Duck, Wedge-tailed Eagle,
White-faced Heron, COG members at Pejar Dam,
Grey Fantail, Silver Gull, Little Black Cormorant.**
TeeTong Teo



Thursday 10 February – CSIRO Wildlife Collection

Following Dr Leo Joseph's talk to COG on **Golden Whistlers**, he extended an invitation for a visit to the CSIRO Wildlife Collection. Twenty members enjoyed a wonderful afternoon, beginning with an introduction to the collection and a closer look at a variety of species laid out on a large surface including **Golden Whistlers**, **Plains Wanderer**, **Sooty Albatross**, **Shining** and **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo**, **Noisy Pitta** and, from Papua New Guinea, **Ribbon-tailed Astrapia**. Nests, eggs and specimens in jars are also part of the collection.

The group then divided into three to explore the cabinets of skins from **Cassowary** and **Emu**, which were carefully folded onto the shelves, to **Red-necked Avocet**, **Eclectus Parrot**, **Palm Cockatoo**, **Eastern Ground Parrot** and tiny **Splendid Fairy-wrens**, among many others.

We finished with a quick visit to the mammal cabinets, just to whet our appetites for another visit!

Many thanks to Dr Leo Joseph and his staff for a fascinating and amusing tour of the CSIRO Wildlife Collection.

Sue Lashko

Sandra Henderson



Clockwise from left: COG Members at CSIRO Wildlife Collection, Eastern Ground Parrot, Eclectus Parrot, Palm Cockatoo, Red-necked Avocet

TeeTong Teo

Sunday 13 February – East Basin/Molonglo Reach - Electric boat cruise

Under partly cloudy, cool conditions, with little breeze, 14 members and guests joined me on what was my twenty second time on this now annual trip to view the water and land birds of this area. As usual we left from Kingston Harbour on the electric boat, the EL Gull, and first ventured a few hundred metres up Jerrabomberra Creek, before moving along the east bank of East Basin into Molonglo Reach and along the south bank to the far bridge, before retracing our route.

Several **Australian Darters** were seen in Jerrabomberra Creek, including very good views of one in the water, clearly illustrating why they are sometimes known as snake birds. The early ones appeared to be females as opposed to several males along Molonglo Reach. They allowed very good looks as they rested on logs with outstretched wings, the red on their necks indicating close to full breeding plumage. However, no immatures were clearly identified and for the fourth year in a row no older nests could be seen in previously favoured spots, despite the water levels expected again to have been more conducive to breeding this season.

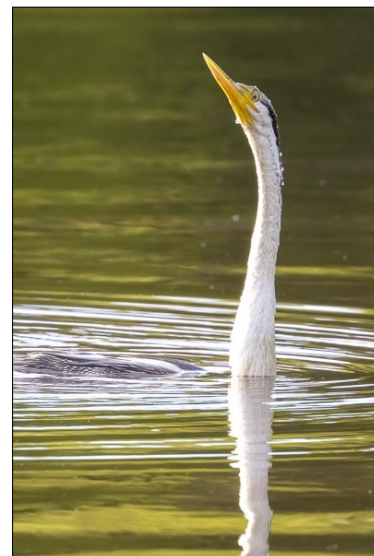


over 80 counted, many of them together between the two bridges as we turned around. Elsewhere a single duck had 8 small ducklings trailing behind. **Pacific Black Ducks** were more evenly spread throughout the trip with, on one occasion, 3 still quite young ducklings seen. Only 2 other duck species were seen, several **Grey Teal** and a single female **Chestnut Teal**. Very few of the three larger Rallidae species were seen, with only a single **Eurasian Coot** recorded.

Another breeding record was 3 **White-faced Heron** spread along a large branch with a considerable amount of whitewash. They didn't appear to be yet full size, and with no white on the face behind the eye and the generally browner colour we concluded they were juveniles, though we couldn't see the nest. One of the scattered pairs of **Black Swans** also had 3 well advanced cygnets with them.

Most of the land birds were also well-known species, with the probable highlight being a male **Eastern Koel** on Molonglo Reach with most participants managing to get reasonable views; some also saw the female with it, or a male elsewhere. Only two single **Sacred Kingfishers** were seen, again not by all, with even fewer seeing the single **Dollarbird**, and only 3 **Dusky Woodswallows** were seen. By far the most common land bird was the **Welcome Swallow**, with close to 100 observed in two groups.

At 45 the total number of species was up from the last couple of years but well down compared with the 51 for the previous two years before them. Despite it being quiet, participants again enjoyed the trip which remains a popular and very pleasant late summer



Darters, White-faced Heron

Andrew Bourne

outing, even though this time leading seemed an even more difficult task than usual. Just a few larger birds showed themselves well and, while lots of smaller birds were flitting around, it was quite frustrating not being able to point them out and get good looks at them, especially for the less experienced participants.

Many thanks to Lia Battisson for keeping the eBird lists. Many thanks also to Jim Paterson for again skippering the boat.
Jack Holland

Wednesday 16 February – Honeysuckle Creek

Eighteen birders joined Lia and I for a walk at the Honeysuckle Creek site. With the campground occupied by Convoy to Canberra vehicles, dogs(!) and campers, the planned route was modified somewhat to avoid that area. We started by walking the perimeter of the old tracking station site, and quite a few birds were seen adjacent to the top of the site. These included a **Painted Buttonquail**, which flushed, flew a few metres, then scuttled away through the bush. It's been eight years since this species was seen in the area, according to eBird records. We then followed the Honeysuckle Loop track, which follows the creek then goes through the bush in a wide loop around the area. The highlight was a pair of **Satin Flycatchers** with a nest with at least one chick – both male and female adults were seen. Other birds seen around the loop included a **Jacky Winter**, a distant **Brown Goshawk**, a number of honeyeater and thornbill species, **Red-browed Finches**, **Crimson Rosellas**, **White-throated Treecreepers**, **Eastern Yellow Robin**, **Flame Robin**, **Satin Bowerbirds** and **White-browed Scrubwrens**. **Grey Fantails** were very numerous. A total of 31 species was recorded by the group.

Sandra Henderson

Sunday 20 February - Mt Ginini

In fine, sunny weather eleven COG members arrived at the meeting point of Bull's Head to begin the convoy to the Mt Ginini carpark. From here we set off slowly towards Pryor's Hut, frequently stopping to admire the wildflowers and basking Mountain Log Skinks. Birds were absent to begin with, so we focused on the many butterflies instead. We found Spotted Alpine Xenicas, Orange Alpine Xenicas, Solander's Browns and further along Silver Xenicas. There were plenty of Australian Painted Ladies and Common Grass-blues, plus a few Cabbage Whites and Marbled Xenicas.

We finally started to encounter some birds, and came across a calling **Bassian Thrush**, and some **Striated** and **Brown Thornbills**. A little further on we heard and then managed to see two **Satin Flycatchers** calling and flying around in the tree canopy, but the light was now poor as the sky had clouded over. An Alpine Sedge-skipper was found perched on the side of the track and as we walked from Stockyard Gap up to Stockyard Spur, several **Gang-gang Cockatoos** flew overhead, perched close by, and flew off again. Two basking Highland Copperheads were spotted at the side of the walking track, affording great views of this lovely high country reptile. As we approached Stockyard Spur, the clouds rolled in and the temperature dropped, with a few drops of rain. Butterfly and reptile activity ceased and we stopped for a rest and some lunch at Stockyard Spur.

After this, we walked towards Pryor's Hut to see the boundary of where the 2020 fire had burnt to and to see the difference in vegetation and bird activity; here we found our first **Flame Robins** of the walk. We then turned around and retraced our steps back to the carpark. As we left Stockyard Spur and the fog behind us, we came across a vocal **Grey Currawong** and several Shouldered Brown butterflies. Later on we were treated to brilliant views of two **Olive Whistlers**, with a male perched in clear view and calling on a branch in front of us. We also encountered **Flame Robins** attracted to some water on the walking track, and there was another small flock of honeyeaters as we neared the carpark. A couple of White-banded Grass-darts appeared to make the final butterfly species for the walk.

While it was mostly a quiet bird walk, we did find a total of 19 species and the bird of the day was undoubtedly **Olive Whistler**. Many thanks to Lia for recording the eBird list.

Suzi Bond

COG members have lunch at
Stockyard Spur

Julian Robinson



What birds did we see on our trip?

Introducing eBird Trip Reports

Birders love keeping lists of all the birds seen on a special trip – over a day, a week or a month. While we can easily create individual eBird Checklists for each location we visited, we haven't been able to link all our lists together to see what we saw over the whole trip.

That changed in December 2021 with the launch of eBird Trip Reports. These are very user-friendly (yes, really) and create a summary of where you went birding and what you saw – for one or multiple locations – over a single day, or for up to a month – either on your own or with other eBirding friends. Trip Reports are based on your existing or future checklists, so you don't need to do much beyond knowing the date(s) of your trip. You can decide whether to keep your Reports private, share them with friends or have them visible to the whole eBird community.

What do eBird Trip Reports offer?

- A map of all the places you made a checklist during the trip
- Species totals from all the trip's checklists
- Links to the individual checklists
- Links to the bird photos or audio of bird calls from the trip
- A simple link for sharing the trip with your birding companions

Ability to create a Report for future dates, with all lists submitted during that time frame being automatically added to the Trip Report

What do Trip Reports look like?

The screenshot below shows a sample Trip Report, courtesy of our own Archer and Zeb.

Or view their complete Report at this link <https://ebird.org/tripreport/36382>

The screenshot shows the eBird website interface for a specific trip report. On the left, a dark sidebar contains the title 'North Coast Trip -- Taree > Ballina > Border Ranges', the dates '27 Jan - 3 Feb 2022 (8 days)', and the status 'Public'. Below this, it lists the location 'Australia' with sub-regions 'Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Queensland' and the participants 'Archer Callaway, Zebedee Muller'. A 'Share' button is visible. The main content area features a map of Australia with a red line indicating the trip route along the New South Wales coast, passing through Taree, Ballina, and the Border Ranges. To the right of the map, a summary box shows statistics: '200 Species observed (+10 other taxa)', '306 Checklists', '99 Species with photos', and '8 Species with audio'. Below this, a section titled 'Species observed' lists '2 Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*'. The top navigation bar includes links like 'Submit', 'Explore', 'My eBird', 'Science', 'About', 'News', and 'Help', along with a 'Donate' button and user information for 'Kim Farley (1478)'.

Want to know more?

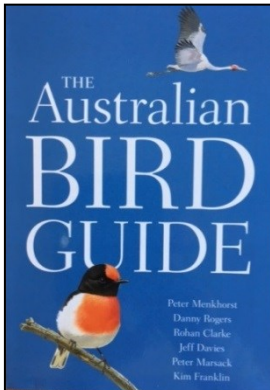
If you are an eBird user, have a play around with Trip Reports by clicking on the 'Trip Report' link on the left hand panel of your 'My eBird' page.

The [eBird Trip Reports](#) info page is also very helpful, or contact Kim Farley, the ACT eBird reviewer at kimlouiseafarley@gmail.com for advice on Trip Reports or about any other aspect of eBird.

Publications for Sale

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

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



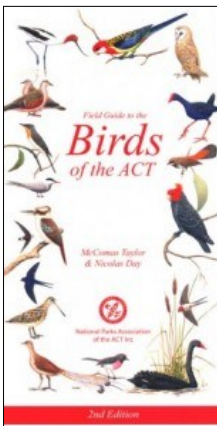
The Australian Bird Guide

2nd edition

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 \$38 (RRP \$49.95).

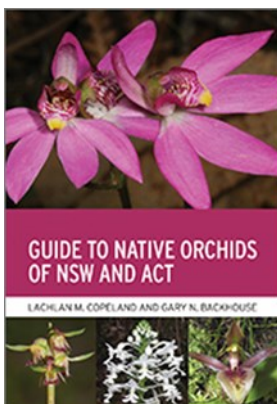


Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT

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.



Guide to Native Orchids of NSW and ACT

Lachlan Copeland, Gary Backhouse

An essential guide for all orchid enthusiasts, covering the richest area for wild orchids in Australia.

This comprehensive guide describes the 582 species of wild orchids that occur in NSW and the ACT. This region covers the richest area for wild orchids in Australia and includes over 500 species of seasonal ground orchids and 62 species of evergreen tree and rock orchids. Orchids found in this region include the tallest, heaviest, smallest flowered, most numerous flowered and most bizarre orchids in Australia, including elusive underground species.

Members' price: \$35 (RRP \$49.95)

New Places: February 2022

Sandra Henderson

Pejar Dam

One of the destinations for a recent COG outing, and Goulburn's main water supply dam, this is certainly a place I'll visit again. On the COG trip we stopped at two areas of the dam. The first was on St Stephens Rd, probably an area frequented by fishermen, as the sign on the gate would indicate. Sightings of a **Spotted Harrier** and **Musk Ducks** were a good start to the day. The picnic area provided some nice bush birds.

Todkill Park, Crookwell

This is the site of the sports fields at Crookwell. On the far side of the fields is a sizeable body of water. While the **White-faced Herons** and a **Blue-billed Duck** were good to see, it was the male **Musk Duck** whistling and splashing in a courting display that really caught the attention of the COG group. Well worth a visit.

Honeysuckle Loop Track

Where: starts at the bottom of the Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station site, and finishes across from the Honeysuckle Creek Campground entry.

This is a short (1.5km) loop track in the bush around the old Tracking Station site. When I first walked the loop a **Brush Cuckoo** was calling nearby. The track follows the creek for some distance, and later goes through an extensive area of *Indigofera*, which must look spectacular when flowering.

When I took the COG Wednesday Walk group there a couple of weeks later, the more sharp-eyed in the group found a pair of **Satin Flycatchers** attending a nest with at least one tiny head visible at times. A **Jacky Winter** was also spotted in the same area.

Lower Cotter Catchment – Priors Road, Crusher Road.

These two roads are marked on the map in the carpark for the Lookout Track off Brindabella Rd. The gravel track leading to some ICON Water infrastructure becomes Prior Rd, then Crusher Rd. I followed these for about 2km around the northern edge of the dam, then took another track which also seems to be called Priors Rd which goes down closer to the water (but is not directly connected to the first Priors Rd, but perhaps was before the dam was raised). A detailed map of the area (<https://www.mindat.org/loc-21761.html>) shows Crusher Rd going all the way to Uriarra Village.

At several places along the way I encountered mixed flocks with varying numbers of **Grey Fantails**, **Silvereyes**, **Red-browed Finches**, **Eastern Yellow Robins** and **Superb Fairywrens**. I encountered four **Common Bronzewing**s on the track. The tracks are undulating; the second part of Priors Rd starts with a long downhill section, but nothing too difficult. The blackberries were delicious.



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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

2021-2022 memberships:

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

New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

E Serras
B Lowrey

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for April 2022 edition:

Wednesday 30 March 2022

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.

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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.

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