



Gang-gang

AUGUST 2024

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

AUGUST MEETING

Wednesday 14 August 2024

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

The August 2024 meeting will be a normal face-to-face one held at our usual venue. As COVID is still widespread in the community attendees should heed social distancing and good hygiene practice etc, and use their common sense and stay home if they have COVID symptoms. Mask wearing is recommended.

Jack Holland - Horsfield's and Shining Bronze-Cuckoos

Leo Joseph – Tales of Australian Birds in New Guinea and New Guinean Birds in Australia

Please note that construction is currently occurring around the Gabriel Drive parking area, and access to there is not available. So please use the Chapel Drive entrance and park there. Then proceed to the Multi-media Centre (MMT) using the alternative route the Canberra Girls Grammar School has provided as shown in the [map on p 8](#).

Once parked proceed down past the Chapel and smaller Admin Offices, keeping them to your left. Just past the latter turn left along a relatively flat and straight broad path keeping the columns to you left. Near to the end, go left up the 3 m wide

[Continued Page 2](#)

Everyone welcome

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

The weather over the 4.5 weeks from 26 June to 27 July inclusive covered by this column has often been cold, cloudy, windy and showery, though with little rainfall. Interspersed have been some clearer days with some frosts. So, it is not surprising that my analysis below shows that bird activity in the COG Area of Interest (AoI) was very low, even more so than in June. Only some spring/summer migrants, some which don't consistently overwinter, were reported during the period, and again there has been a very low number of "unusual" species reported, probably the lowest for some years.

The only "special unusual" species to attract attention during the period was the **Singing Honeyeater** first reported by Suzi Bond from Casey on 9 July. It was then reported and photographed over about a 250 m stretch by a number of birders to at least 27 July. This is a known location where it was also reported in July 2022 and in June 2023.

[Continued Page 4](#)



Singing Honeyeater

David Cook

steps, turn half right and you will find an open glass door. Go through this, across the empty room and past the toilets, and then enter the MMT either through the bottom MMT door or go further along and up the steps where you reach the usual entry door. Though it is well lit, as it will be dark a torch for finding your way to the MMT and back to your car after the meeting is recommended.

The Bird of the Month presentation will be by **Jack Holland** on the “**Horsfield’s and Shining Bronze-Cuckoos.**”

Jack will outline the diagnostic identification features of this often-confused pair of species. The purpose of this talk is to refresh identification skills for these soon to return spring/summer migrants.

The main presentation will be by **Leo Joseph**, Director of the Australian National Wildlife Collection at the CSIRO on “**Tales of Australian Birds in New Guinea and New Guinean Birds in Australia.**”

Although we often think and talk about the birds of Australia, one of the most important lessons to come out of the last 60 years or so of research is that the birds and indeed much of the fauna of Australia and New Guinea are two sides of one coin. Consider Canberra’s familiar King Parrots. Their formal vernacular name is the Australian King-Parrot. That reminds us that there are two other species, the Papuan King-Parrot across New Guinea and the Moluccan King-Parrot on Indonesian islands and the far west of New Guinea. In this talk, Leo will take us on a tour of some recent (and not so recent) research stories about orioles, monarchs, kingfishers, logrunners, owls and even magpies that will remind us of why we should always be thinking of the birds of Australia as being part of an avifauna shared with New Guinea and indeed other surrounding areas.

Summary of Presentations from the 10 July Meeting

The first presentation was by Geoffrey Dabb on ‘Bird names and good intentions. Why our bird names are in something of a muddle. Is there good reason to expect any improvement’.

Geoffrey gave a very informative and entertaining presentation on this very complex subject, focussing in particular on English rather than taxonomic names and drawing on his strong interest in the area including serving as chair of the English Names Committee of BirdLife Australia.

He has been a regular and popular speaker at COG/Canberra Birds meetings and did not disappoint the audience by including the usual number of cartoons/memes which he also frequently posts on the COG/Canberra Birds for subscribers’ enjoyment and amusement.

Geoffrey noted that for practical purposes the story began in 1969 when CSIRO published its Index to Australian Bird Names which was then adopted by Peter Slater in his 2 volume Field Guide with which many of the older members in the audience would have been familiar.

However, the major step forward came in 1978 when the RAOU published a revised list of English names in Emu. Sixteen years later, in 1994, Christidis and Boles published their taxonomic list, adopting most of the 1978 names.

With the increasing sophistication of molecular updating forcing changes in taxonomic names things became much more complex after this, including the involvement of international bird bodies rather than just Australian. Different camps emerged with opposing views. This is all too complex to summarise here but interested readers should refer to Geoffrey’s publication in the July 2024 issue of Canberra Bird Notes [CBN 49, 51-62 (2024)]. However, some issues Geoffrey raised follow:

1. The use of a different list of preferred English names between COG/Canberra Birds and eBird which most members currently use to record their bird sightings.

2. The question of whether hyphens should be allowed, including when capitals should be used in the second part in cases such as the Bronze-Cuckoos, which would lead to 4 different possibilities (above, Bronze-cuckoo, Bronze Cuckoo or Bronze cuckoo).

This becomes even more complex if there are eponyms (for example named after person thought by some as reflecting a colonial past) such as in Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, and even trickier in the case of the Horsfield's Bushlark where the alternative Singing Bushlark was the official name for a separate species.

Geoffrey finished by noting that perhaps there is some hope that the muddle will be clarified though the publication of a unified taxonomy in 2025. We are likely to see an accompanying set of proposed uniform English names, but it is by no means certain that these will be generally adopted.

Once again on behalf of COG/Canberra Birds members many thanks to Geoffrey for his very informative and entertaining presentation on this very complex subject in which he has played a significant role trying to simplify the muddle.

The second presentation was by **Lori Gould** who showed the absolutely wonderful "Snipe" video about the local Latham's Snipe project.

Attendees felt very privileged to be able to view this video prior to its official launch later this year and were very grateful to have been afforded this opportunity.

It provided an excellent overview of the citizen's science program Lori has been co-ordinating from soon after Birgita Hansen started the national monitoring program the Latham's Snipe in 2014, when the campaign to save wetlands in Port Fairy that she was leading rejected the proponent's view that the birds would simply go elsewhere.

It was great to see and hear the views of some of the volunteers involved, including some very young children, several of which have stayed with the project throughout, as well as some of the older members, including some well-known COG/Canberra Birds identities.

It was also great to get closeup views of the birds in a number of situations, including the explanation that the positioning of the eye allows the bird to see 360 degrees all around. The demonstration of how the tracker was fitted and the care taken was also much appreciated.

There was also a very good demonstration and explanation of the "customised method" of catching the snipe in the mist nests, including the need to be up at 5 am to make use of the 5-minute window during which the birds fly in to forage from their night time roosts.

Attendees also appreciated some the reasons why the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR is such an attractive habitat for Latham's Snipe even though it is largely artificial and needs careful management such as control of weeds, mowing and cattle grazing management.

It was also great to hear about the interactions Lori has been able to foster with the Wild Bird Society of Japan, including visitor exchanges which allowed some of the younger volunteers to visit Hokkaido to see the snipe in their breeding habitat, and to witness some of their very different behaviour such as perching on poles in broad daylight. Lori has also made good connections with Pavel the Russian birder on Sakhalin Island north of Japan, which it now seems that it may be an even more important breeding area for them.

Once again on behalf of COG/Canberra Birds members many thanks to Lori for allowing us a preview of this absolutely wonderful video. We are very grateful for the giving up of her very valuable time to show it. Our very best wishes for the successful completion of her Ph D, which will include the information on the three snipe they have now been able to fully tracked from Canberra to their breeding grounds and their return.

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

COG/Canberra Birds 2028-2109 Annual Bird Report (ABR) notes this species as a non-breeding vagrant with records only in 2007, 2010, 2014 and 2018. However, the eBird map since 1 January 2018 shows it has been reported from 5 other locations since, all from the most northern side of Canberra, and most recently from Dunlop on 24 October 2023. More importantly this species made a number of unsuccessful attempts to breed at the Franklin Ponds in the spring/summer of 2020-2021 and summer early autumn of 2021-2022.

Of spring/summer migrants still present in June, during the period there were no further reports of the **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** (last report on 9 June) and **Noisy Friarbird** (last report 11 June). However, there were still reports from single locations of the **Western Gerygone** (one heard at the Goorooyaroo NR on 9 July) and of the **Australian Reed-Warbler** (2 birds at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR on 2 July, and one there on 25 July). There were also reports from 2 locations of the least migratory local cuckoo, the **Fan-tailed Cuckoo** (2 birds at Campbell Park on 26 June and one at the ANBG on 7 July), and the **Tree Martin** (1 bird and 3 birds at Mt Painter on 8 and 11 July, respectively, as well as 2 birds at the Aranda Snow Gums NR on 14 July – early spring arrivals?).

Single **Rufous Whistlers** were still reported from 4 well-separated locations, but up to 2 **Dusky Woodswallows** were reported only from the JWNR (a favourite winter spot for them) and the nearby Mildura St Fyshwick to 8 July, but there was a late report of one at Smiths Rd near Naas Rd on 26 July (a returning migrant?). The **Olive-backed Oriole** was reported from 7 urban locations, with up to 2 birds regularly reported from Symonston.

In contrast the **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** was still present at around 19 locations and the **Grey Fantail** from around 50 locations (both only slightly down from June). Likewise, the **Mistletoebird** was still reported from 11 locations and the **Superb Parrot** was reported from around 26 locations, 10 of these being south of LBG (again only slightly down from June).

So, during August please keep an eye out for the above-mentioned spring/summer migrants. Towards the end of the month please also look out for the **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo**, **Pallid Cuckoo**, **White-throated Gerygone** and **Fairy Martin**, which are amongst the first such species to return.

Of the species that come to Canberra and its surrounds from the mountains and higher country to spend autumn/winter here, it has been a very good winter to see **Scarlet Robins**, which were again widespread being reported from over 55 urban/peri-urban locations. In contrast, despite the weather the **Flame Robin** has been reported from around 15 such locations, only slightly up from June. I have not been able to find them locally in July, including at their usually regular late autumn/winter spot on the SW slopes of Mt Arawang. The **Rose Robin** has been reported from 6 locations, all of them on or E of the Murrumbidgee River. However, there have been no further **Pink Robin** sightings.

There were reports of the **Crescent Honeyeater** from 5 urban/peri-urban locations, including up to 3 birds regularly from the ANBG (and one in my Chapman GBS site – see below). This is from a total of 11 locations during the period. There were reports of **Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters** from 3 locations, one bird at Burra on 13 July, up to 8 birds at the Scottsdale Reserve between 13-26 July, and 3 birds at the Strike-a-Light TSR (between Bredbo and Jerangle) on 6 July.



Brown Gerygone

Shorty

In addition to the Tidbinbilla NR, up to 2 **Bassian Thrush** were regularly reported from the ANBG up to 10 June, as well as two from the Mundoonen NR on 29 June, and one at Whiskers Creek Carwoola on 10-11 July. Two **Swift Parrots** were reported from Downer on 25 July, said to have been finally confirmed after having been heard for around a fortnight. Despite this there have been no further reports. Otherwise, the closest reports have been from Young around 120 km to the NW. Following the report of two **Brown Gerygones** from the ANBG on 25 July, single birds were seen there on 26 July.

So during August please keep an eye out for the species mentioned above (as well as the **White-eared Honeyeater** and **Golden Whistler** which are often quieter before they leave) anywhere in the COG Aol before they start to move away.

Apart from the **Singing Honeyeater** there were again very few “unusual” birds reported. No **Magpie Geese** were reported in the COG Aol during the period, but 3 **Freckled Duck** were observed at the JWNr on 6 July. Again, a single **Plumed Whistling Duck** was reported only from the Trucking Yard Lane dam. Apart from one seen flying over during the Woodland survey at Goorooyaroo, as usual the **Australian Shelduck** was reported from 6 locations to the N through to the E of Canberra. However, numbers were low and further down from June, with the maximum easily being the 45 ducks seen at the Wollogorang Rd on 19 July.

Up to 7 **Blue-billed Ducks** were reported only from the Upper Stranger Pond to 17 July, and apart from the Tidbinbilla NR Sanctuary, **Musk Ducks** were reported from 4 locations with the 20 ducks observed on The Morass on 23 July easily the highest number. Again, no **Great-crested Grebes** were reported during the period.

Again, no **Stubble Quail** were reported during the period, but **Brown Quail** were reported from 7 locations, well down from June. Four **Painted Button-quail** were reported only from Whiskers Creek Rd on 10-11 July, but again no **Little Button-quail** were reported during the period.

A **White-headed Pigeon** was reported from Wanniasa on 30 June, but no **Brown Cuckoo-Dove**, **Brush Bronzings**, **Peaceful**, **Diamond** or **Bar-shouldered Doves** were reported during the period. The status of the last-named species in the COG Aol is unclear to me. The 2018-2019 ABR lists it as a non-breeding vagrant with the last record in 2017-2018, but the eBird map back to 1 January 2018 indicates no further sightings, with the closest being the NSW South Coast. There were also no further reports of the **White-throated Nightjar**.

There were again no **Baillon's Crake** reported during the period, but up to 6 **Spotless Crakes** were reported from 6 locations, well down from June, with the targeted surveys seeming to have moved to the NW of the COG Aol. An **Australian Spotted Crake** was reported only from the Isabella Pond on 7-8 July. **Buff-banded Rails** were reported from 2 locations only, single birds at Marked Tree Rd at McLeods Creek on 2 July and at the Moncrieff Pond on 12 July, but up to 3 **Lewin's Rails** were reported from over 7 locations, with again the targeted surveys seeming to have moved to the NW of the COG Aol.

No **Banded Lapwings**, **Pied Stilts**, **Red-necked Avocets**, **Comb-crested Jacana**, **Common**, **Pectoral** or **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers**, or **Red-necked Stint** were reported during the period. Also, no **Caspian**, **Whiskered** or **White-winged Black Tern** or **Australasian Little/Black-backed Bittern** were reported.

No **Little** or **Plumed** (formerly **Intermediate**) **Egrets** were reported during the period, and single **Great Egrets** (both in late June) were reported from 2 locations only. Up to 5 **White-necked Heron** were



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reported from 3 locations only to the N of the COG Aol. **Royal Spoonbills** were reported from 2 locations (1 bird at NW Lake George on 20 July and 4 birds at The Morass on 29 June), but no **Yellow-billed Spoonbills** or **Glossy Ibis** were reported during the period.

Single **Barn Owls** were reported from 2 locations only during the period, but **Black-shouldered Kites** were again reported from many locations, confirming that there are still mice around (though apparently not breeding – see below). Two **Spotted Harriers** were reported from the Majura Parkway on 17 July, a **Black Kite** from the Gungahlin TSR (near Scottsdale Reserve) on 5 July, and a **Black Falcon** at Michelago on 13 July, but there were no reports of the **Pacific Baza** or **Grey Goshawk** during the period.

No **Azure Kingfishers** were reported during the period, nor was there any **Glossy Black-Cockatoo**, **Cockatiel**, **Turquoise Parrot**, **Purple-crowned**, **Scaly-breasted** or **Little Lorikeets** reported over the period, and **Musk Lorikeets** were reported from just 2 locations (3 at the University of Canberra on 16-17 July and 1 in Yarralumla on 25 July).

Two **Blue-faced Honeyeaters** were reported from the ANU on 17 July and one from Parkes Way on the same date, as well as 3 from Yass Gorge on 7 July, but no **Scarlet** or **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters** or **Little Friarbirds** were reported during the period (see above for the **Singing Honeyeater** sightings).

Up to 5 **Chestnut-rumped Heathwrens** were reported only from Whiskers Rd Carwoola on 10-11 July, but no **White-fronted Chats**, **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike**, **White-browed Babbler**, **Spangled Drongo**, **Black-faced Monarch**, **Red-capped Robin**, **Tawny Grassbird** or **Zebra Finch** were reported during the period.

During the period there have again been very few “unusual” bush birds reported, in particular pigeons/doves, parrots, honeyeaters or other passerines; in fact, there seem to have been the lowest numbers for many years.

Of the species I have asked readers to keep a special lookout for, **Jacky Winters** were reported only from 3 locations, a single bird at the Top Naas Rd on 13 July and 2 birds on Smiths Rd near Naas Rd on 22 July (both known locations), as well as one bird at Collector (a new location) on 13 July. **Hooded Robins** were reported from 4 known locations during the period, including 2 birds on Smiths Rd near Naas Rd on 22 July, 2 birds from Naas Rd at Apollo Rd on 7 July, 1 bird at Calloola Farm on 8 and 13 July. However, by far the most reported were from the Scottsdale Reserve where between 2-11 birds were reported between 23-26 July.

Restless Flycatchers were reported from 2 known locations, with one bird at the Nelanglo TSR on 1 July (and 2 on 5 July), as well as a single bird at the Scottsdale Reserve between 10-24 July. Surprisingly, there have been no reports from closer to Canberra so far, where it regularly moved in to in recent late autumn/winters.

In keeping with the very quiet month limited breeding information has come to my attention. On 3 July Zeb Muller reported recently fledged young **Eurasian Coots** at the Gungahlin Cemetery, which on 6 July Michael Lenz noted it included 1 small young and a much older still begging young, indicating that the pair had raised two overlapping broods. The BIRD INFO on the COG/Canberra Birds website shows one record of dependent young in July to 2017, though there are 2 such records in May but none for June and only one of on/leaving the nest for August, so it is unclear whether it is late or early breeding.

On 19 July I noted **Crested Pigeons** (well-known year-round breeders) gathering nesting materials and by 21 July a bird was already on the nest. The **Black-shouldered Kite** is also a well-known autumn/winter breeder, but surprisingly a trawl through the many eBird records has not found any breeding information, confirming a poor breeding season for them locally compared with the past couple of years. So please keep an eye out, especially for the juveniles/immatures with their orange heads.

Quite a few mixed feeding flocks (MFF) were still reported, in particular in late June/early July by COG Woodland surveyors. At the Mulligans Flat one on 30 June, I came across a very active one with three species of **Honeyeater** (**Fuscous**, **Yellow-faced** and **White-eared**) and four species of **Thornbill** (**Yellow-rumped**, **Striated**, **Buff-rumped** and **Brown**).

On our walks after this Andrea and I have noticed far less MMF activity as we moved through July, consistent with them breaking up as the breeding season commences. However, on 10 July we had a remarkable MFF at one of our Chapman's garden's bird baths. This included at least 15 **Striated Thornbills** (uncommon in our garden but quite regular this

winter), at least 10 **Red-browed Finch** (again uncommon in recent years but up to at least 20 have been seen since), a male **Crescent Honeyeater** [a rather quiet one (certainly no “Egypt” calling), and the first for over 5 years which was seen several occasions round that time] and 2 quiet **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** (the only sighting for the winter so far).

On 6 July Michael Lenz noticed a large flock of **Straw-necked Ibis** (SNI) circling over the Gungahlin Cemetery. From photos he assumed at least 400 birds. Andrea saw several hundred at the Mugga Lane tip the day after. Surprisingly there are no recent records from there for this species on eBird, and very few for the well-known scavenger, the **Australian White Ibis**. Despite the high numbers that are sometimes seen, there are only two breeding records for the SNI in the COG Aol under BIRD INFO on the web site.

Flocks of **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos**, including with still begging and fed dependent young, also continue to have been reported with a maximum of at least 100 in the Weston Creek area on 4 July. They seemed to have moved out, though Andrea and I still counted 38 on the Molonglo River adjacent to the newer part of Coombs on 24 July.

Some of our favourite walks are along here, and on 8 July we saw at least 32 **Satin Bowerbirds** and 40 **Pied Currawongs** feeding and flying around both sides of the bridge over the river near the RSPCA. Interestingly there were very few present a couple of days later, or since. We have been seeing flocks of the latter at Narrabundah Hill, with at least 90 in one large gum there on 27 July.

While August is the last month of winter, it is also the first month when movement usually picks up. Hopefully things will improve from the very quiet July and please watch out for any further overwintering spring/summer migrants as well as the first species returning, for the altitudinal migrants before they start to leave, for late MFFs and single species flocks, for roost sites and flights, and for any early breeding activity. Please also continue to keep a special look out for the **Restless Flycatcher**, **Jacky Winter** and **Hooded Robin**. As usual please ensure that all significant sightings are properly reported and end up on the COG database.

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

Jack Holland



The eight card designs:

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

Canberra Birds 8-pack of greeting cards

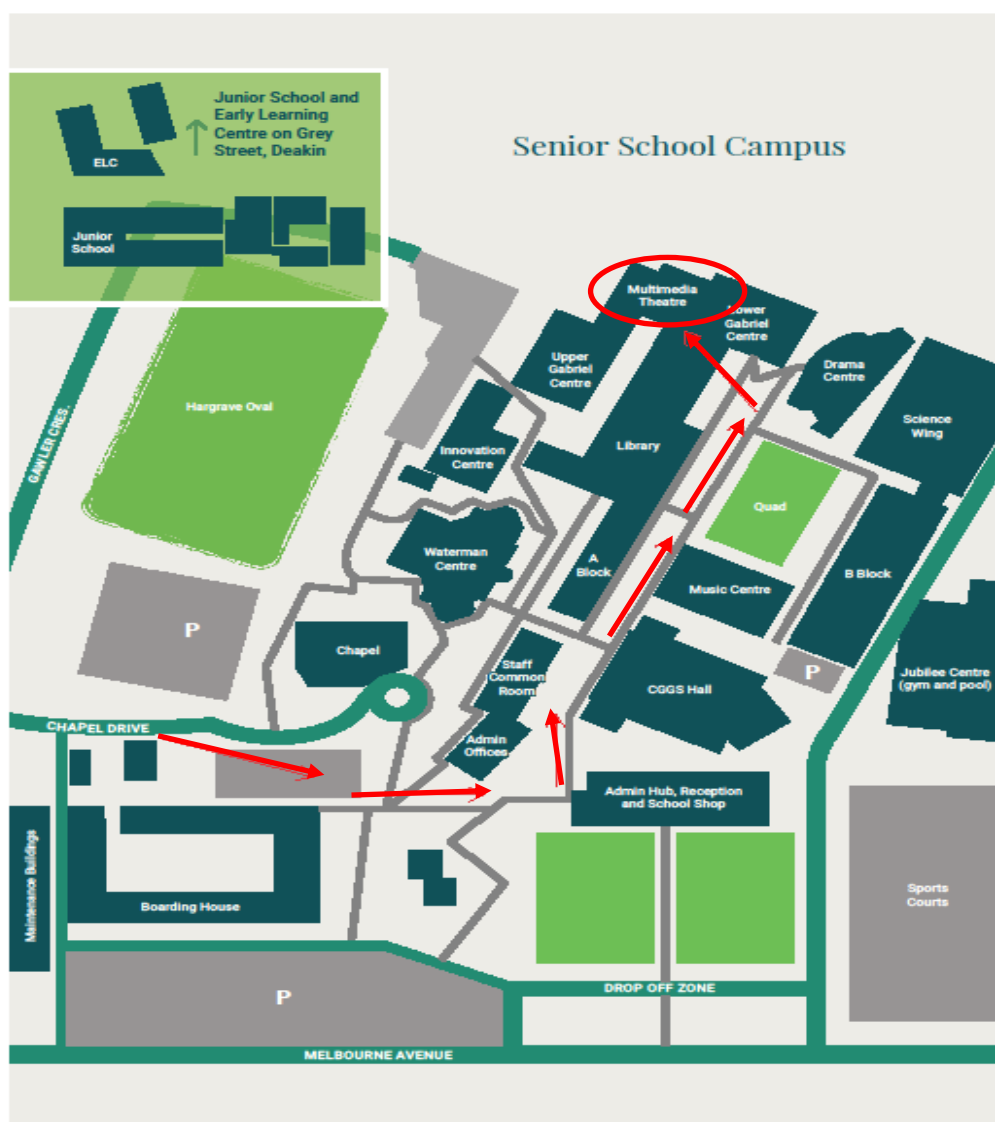
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June Meeting : map showing access to the Multi-media Centre (MMT)



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Prue Watters, Acting Treasurer

Committee News

The Canberra Birds (COG) committee meets monthly, except in December, and last met on the 18th July. Key activities over the last month have included:

- COG's response to the ACT government's **Ten-Year Review of the Nature Conservation Act 2014 – Discussion Paper**. This submission, then in preparation, was briefly summarised in Committee News in the July issue of *Gang-gang*. See the full text of our submission on the [COG Conservation Strategy](#) web page.
- COG comments on the ACT govt's **Draft Conservator Guidelines for Construction Environmental Management Plans**. A COG response was invited, and our comments submitted within a tight time frame in early July. Thank you, Jenny and Steve Read, for the work on the COG response. Among other comments our response emphasised the need for a clear definition of 'conservation areas' as well as the need for clarity on lands abutting construction zones, such as Bluetts Block, which do not have formal status as reserves.
- **Bird Information Group Network (BIGnet) meeting**. Planning for this meeting is now almost complete. COG is a member of BIGnet, along with various NSW birding groups. We last hosted BIGnet in 2019. The organising group for the meeting is Jenny Bounds and Kim Farley.
- Please also read the item on [page 10](#) seeking volunteer surveyors for the **COG Woodland Birds Monitoring Project**. Vacancies do not come up very often for this long term and well-regarded Program, so if you are an experienced birder with a free half-day once every three months, consider putting in your expression of interest.

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Contribute to citizen science - Expressions of Interest sought for volunteering in our Woodland Bird Monitoring Program

The Canberra Birds (COG) Woodland Bird Monitoring Program has been running for more than two decades and is an important citizen science initiative that surveys 15 ACT locations (covering 142 individual sites). The Woodland survey is a key COG Program that provides evidence-based data on bird trends that inform conservation actions for our birds. More about the Program and a list of publications it has produced can be found on the [COG Woodland Bird Monitoring Project](#) web page. Much of the success of the Program is due to the commitment of a valued team of volunteers over a long period.

Experienced birders now have the opportunity to contribute to this Program as we have vacancies for **Jerrabomberra West Nature Reserve** and **Mulligans Flat Sanctuary**. Surveys are undertaken quarterly over a morning.

Jerrabomberra West Nature Reserve

We are seeking two people to undertake the surveys at the Jerrabomberra West NR by the Monaro Highway. There are 7 sites in the woodland patch at the back of this reserve, which protects a large area of endangered grasslands. It links to Callum Brae NR. 110 species of birds have been recorded on surveys over nearly 20 years. Dusky Woodswallows are regular seasonal breeders, and some uncommon species are recorded from time to time, such as Southern Whiteface and Diamond Firetail, as well as Flame Robins on the woodland/grassland edge in winter. A small group of Swift Parrots moving through in April one year was a special record. Walking fitness for a circuit of around 4km is required. We are looking for people who can commit to doing the surveys on a regular basis.

Mulligans Flat Sanctuary

There is an opportunity for several people to join the team at Mulligans Flat, which surveys 24 sites there, quarterly on a Sunday morning. Teams of two usually undertake a circuit in the reserve with 4 or 5 sites each, taking around 2.5 hours. Jenny Bounds manages the Mulligans surveys and provides morning tea (including the famous ginger cake and Tim tams) after the surveys, at the Woolshed. Walking fitness is required. There is a learning opportunity with others in the team to develop more knowledge and expertise in bird calls, and potentially to assist with surveys at other locations/sites.

What skills do volunteers need?

Sorry, but this is not a survey for beginner birders. You will need a good knowledge of our local birds and be able to identify them by sight. It is also important that you can identify birds through their common calls, as sometimes birds will be heard but not seen.

What next?

For more information please phone Jenny Bounds, the Program Coordinator on 62887802, or email an Expression of Interest to cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au. Please include your phone contact details.

Kim Farley, *Vice-President*

A dark, textured rectangular box containing white text for an advertisement. The text lists two locations: 62 OWEN ST HUSKISSON 0415516616 and 108 QUEEN ST BERRY 0488004700. It describes the business as 'The region's most trusted source for Binoculars and Spotting Scopes', offers 'Free advice and unique guest accommodation in Jervis Bay..', and lists brands they stock: SWAROVSKI - LEICA - ZEISS - STEINER, BUSHNELL - VORTEX - SCHÖEFHAUSSEN. The website www.naturelodge.com.au is at the bottom.

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Field Trip Reports

Sunday 14 July - Wanniasa Hills Nature Reserve

On a freezing, foggy morning, 19 keen birders and our intrepid leader, Sandra, undertook a three kilometre loop walk in the Wanniasa Hills Nature Reserve.

Commencing on Long Gully Road, we followed a wide trail uphill, passing the reservoir on our right. As we climbed, the fog slowly lifted. Six **White-winged Choughs** huddling together on a branch were a memorable sight.

On reaching the ridge line, we observed two **White-eared Honeyeaters** and a mixed feeding flock of **Striated, Buff-rumped, Brown** and **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, a **Weebill**, two **Golden Whistlers**, two **Spotted Pardalotes** and two **Striated Pardalotes**, and **Superb Fairywrens** were heard. **Crimson Rosellas** and **Eastern Rosellas** enjoyed the emerging sunshine.

We turned left off the trail, walking down a grassy slope towards the powerlines and the road. A large flock of over 100 **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** and around 30 **Galahs** were observed in the near distance feeding on the ground. It was not obvious what had attracted them to that particular spot.

Continuing to our left under the powerlines, we had good views of four **Scarlet Robins**, two males and two females. Closer to the road, **Silvereyes** and **Red-browed Finches** were seen.

In total, 27 species were observed. We also admired the wonderful display of *Leucopogon attenuatus* (Small-leaf Beard Heath), the small white-flowered shrub for which Wanniasa Hills is well known.

Susan Cribb

Wednesday 17 July, Isaacs Ridge – Mugga Lane

Fourteen members and visitors joined me on a cold but still, sunny morning for a wander around the northern end of the Isaacs Ridge Nature Reserve on Mugga Lane. We encountered a few surprises, including two over-wintering **Olive-backed Orioles** and a group of three **Black-faced Cuckooshrikes**. At one point, just as I explained that the area often has **Mistletoebirds** through winter, one called and flew over us.

Other birds of note included a female **Scarlet Robin**, a large group of **White-winged Choughs**, a **White-eared Honeyeater**, a **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Spotted Pardalotes**, a **Satin**



Black-faced Honeyeater

Sandra Henderson



Pied Currawong

Richard Arculus

Bowerbird and **Brown** and **Buff-rumped Thornbills**. A very pleasant outing to a seldom visited area of this reserve.

Sandra Henderson

Sunday 28 July – Nadjung Mara NR, Kenny

Eleven brave birders joined Peter Miller and Michael Robbins on a crisp, sunny 3°C morning on the edge of the Gungahlin suburb of Kenny. We were greeted not just by a biting wind, but a rather bleak landscape of industrial waste and paddocks of rank grass. Looks can be deceiving! A slow three-hour loop along the closed-off section of Old Well Station Road, then through the woodland of mostly old yellow box in Nadjung Mara Nature Reserve, followed by a planted section bordering Flemington Road yielded 38 species, a very respectable figure for a winter morning.



The highlight of the walk was the cooperative birds; **Golden-headed Cisticolas**, **Flame Robins**, **Yellow-rumped** and **Striated Thornbills**, Tasmanian **Silvereyes**, **Red-browed Finches**, and **White-plumed** and **White-naped Honeyeaters** sat still, allowing prolonged looks and close photographs. **Superb Parrots** flew slowly past in perfect light, and a “charm” of about 40 **European Goldfinches** feeding on thistle seeds allowed good views. A cruising **Brown Goshawk** set off an uproar from **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos**, **Galahs** and 15 **Australian Magpies**. A pair of **Black-shouldered Kites** and a **Nankeen Kestrel** added to the raptor list.

Many thanks to Peter who rides to work along Old Well Station Road and who posted some of his sightings on the chatline several months ago. Out of this, came a very enjoyable and bird-rich walk.

Sue Lashko



Flame Robin, White-plumed Honeyeater, Superb Parrot, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, White-naped Honeyeater, Striated Thornbill, European Goldfinch

Richard Arculus

Future Field Trips

COG Trips

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

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

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

Changes to trips are notified on:

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

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

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

Sunday 11 August – Stirling Ridge

Meet at the dirt carpark off Fitzgerald St, Yarralumla (-35.30366 149.11154) at 8.30. Beware when entering the carpark for it is very uneven due to erosion.

We will walk well-formed trails with the occasional foray into grassy paddocks. The walk will cover about 3.5km and take around 2 hours including a morning tea stop half way along so bring something to eat and drink.

We will visit the ghost town of West Lake for an historical interlude.

Register with Chris at chris_davey@aapt.net.au with your name and mobile number, and name and mobile number of an emergency contact. As usual, suitable footwear and clothing for this time of the year are recommended.
Chris Davey

Sunday 18 August – Waterbirds for beginners – Jerrabomberra Wetlands

This morning walk will be aimed specifically to help beginners and new members identify waterbirds, as well as other birds in the surrounding treed and grassed areas, and to learn about their behaviour and calls. Jerrabomberra Wetlands is well suited to viewing ducks and other waterbirds at close quarters from the hides. Dress appropriately for winter conditions.

Meet at 9.00 am at the carpark at the end of Dairy Road. **Registration** is essential; please provide your name and mobile phone number, as well as an emergency contact name and number. Book your place with Sue (smlashko@gmail.com or text 0449 898 838), who will be happy to discuss whether this outing is suitable for you. Please make sure to bring your binoculars, and the ACT field guide by McComas Taylor if you have it. **If you do not have binoculars, please let me know as COG can supply you with a pair to use on the day.**

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

Sue Lashko

Wednesday 21 August – Dickson and Lyneham Wetlands

Park in the dirt carpark next to Dickson Wetland on Hawdon St, Dickson, at 8.30am. We will walk around that wetland then walk to the Lyneham Wetland. **Please register** with Sandra (shirmax2931@gmail.com) with your name and number, and the name and number of an emergency contact. This is an easy walk on footpaths and formed tracks.

Sandra Henderson

Sunday 25 August - Kaleen horse paddocks and Lyneham Ridge

This is an area that I have recently discovered and includes the Kaleen horse paddocks and their surrounding vegetation, as well as a network of tracks through Lyneham Ridge. We will take a circular route around the horse paddocks, under Gungahlin Drive and onto the ridge, stopping for morning tea, hopefully in a sunny spot on the ridge, and then back to the cars. A recent visit yielded **Scarlet Robin**, **Speckled Warbler** and **Golden Whistler** as well as the usual winter mixed feeding flock species.

Meet at 9.00am at the dirt carpark on the south side of Ellenborough Street just after it goes under Gungahlin Drive (if you are coming from the west) – 35.232122S 149.119565E. If you look at the satellite view in Googlemaps, you will see that it is about 100m past the Gungahlin Drive bridge. Dress warmly and bring morning tea.

Please register with Sue (smlashko@gmail.com) with your name and number, and the name and number of an emergency contact.

Sue Lashko

Sunday 1 September – Shepherds Lookout to Uriarra Crossing

Description: This walk will take us from Shepherds Lookout, with its excellent birding and views, down to the confluence of the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee rivers and Uriarra Crossing. We will return via the Uriarra Loop track, before climbing back up to Shepherds Lookout. Many interesting birds are often found in the area, including honeyeaters, cuckoos and birds of prey.

eBird hotspots: Shepherds Lookout <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2405757> and Uriarra Loop Track <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L9391286>

Meeting time and place: Meet at 8:00 am at the Shepherds Lookout carpark on Stockdill Drive in Strathnairn (accessed via Pro Hart Avenue). The small parking area can become quite congested, so please take care when parking along the roadside.

If using navigation apps, please note that there is no access to Shepherds Lookout from Uriarra Road, and you must select the carpark as your destination rather than the lookout itself.

Walk details: A moderate walk of approximately 9 kms that may take 3-4 hours. There may be gates or stiles to navigate as well as some narrow, steep and rocky sections.

What to bring: Water, morning tea, binoculars, sturdy footwear, sun protection, camera (optional).

Registration: Please register with Lachlan by email (poephila@outlook.com), no later than Friday 30 August. Participants should provide their name and mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact. Lachlan Duncan

Sunday 8 September – Wee Jasper



LET'S CATCH UP

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

PUBLIC (bar & dining)
Corner of Flinders Way & Franklin St, Manuka
(across from Coles)

3rd Wed of each month (7 to 9 PM)
next date: 21 August

Look for the table with binoculars on it



EVERYONE WELCOME

Image by Cape Koala Arts ©

Description: We will be visiting a private property in Wee Jasper which fronts onto the Goodradigbee River. The house is very interesting, having been built around the rocks.

Meet at: Denman Village shops off Felstead Vis, Denman Prospect, at 7.30am for carpooling.

Walking distance: 2 kms

End time (approx.): 12:30 back at Denman Village shops.

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

Name of leader and contact details: Please **register** with the leader, by email to liabattisson@outlook.com, providing your name and mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact. Please do so **before 7pm on Friday 6 September 2024**. Numbers will be limited to 16.

Lia Battisson

Saturday 14 September -Urambi Hills NR

Joint outing with ACT Landcare for the Kambah 50 Years Celebration.

Meet at 8:30 am at Meredith Circuit, Kambah, between houses 34 & 42 entrance to Urambi Hills Nature Reserve.

This walk will explore the lower western slopes of Urambi Hills to Tuggeranong Creek. Depending on day we may visit UH trig via the new path, and easy zig-zag to top. Then on the return route to Meredith Circuit, we will visit a few of the sites Michael surveys*, as well as other 'birdy' spots and note a few interesting plants in UHNR.

Registration essential to mrobbins (at) home.netspeed.com.au, with your name and phone number, and name and number of an emergency contact. Maximum 20 attendees.

Please bring binoculars, a hat, water, sunscreen, morning tea and wear sturdy shoes.

* Michael has been helping the Urambi Hills Park Care group by conducting bird surveys each three months using the Woodland Bird Survey protocol at 8 sites in UHNR since 2017.

Michael Robbins

Sunday 15 September – Molonglo Gorge

Meeting time and place: 8:30am [Trail Head - Molonglo Gorge Picnic Area/Car Park](#).

This is a 6km round trip walk along the Molonglo Gorge hiking trail ([eBird Link](#)). It's a riverside woodland habitat. In addition to waterfowl and cormorants along the river, past highlights have included **Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Rufous Whistler, Pallid Cuckoo, Olive-backed Oriole** and a variety of raptors that soar in the skies above the river and gorge. Scenic views over the gorge, rapids and railway line are also a highlight.

This is a medium to high difficulty walk, as there are some sections that involve scrambles over boulders and there is a total elevation climb of about 100m. However, the majority of the climb is at the beginning (walking poles, optional).

Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and morning tea as there is a pleasant waterside picnic area at the top of the gorge. End time should be approximately 11:45am.

Most of the trail is single file, so numbers are limited to 16 people. **Participants must register** with Mark by email at markjtindale@yahoo.com.au by Thursday 12 September, providing your name and mobile number, and the name and mobile of an emergency contact.

Mark Tindale



Sunday 22 September – private property near Murrumbateman

This morning outing will be to a property which is part of Birdlife's Birds on Farms project. It is a former vineyard, with revegetated sites as well as remnant vegetation sites. There should be a good variety of woodland birds as well as spring migrants.

Meet at Hall Primary School in Hoskins Street, Hall, at 8.00am for carpooling.

Registration is essential to smlashko@gmail.com, with your name and phone number, and name and number of an emergency contact.

Sue Lashko

Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 September – Culburra area

On this mid-week trip to the coast, we will explore Wollumboola Lake, Orient Point Wetlands Reserve, Abrahams Bosom and possibly other sights around Currarong, Silkwood Walk from Callala Bay to Callala Beach and other sites recommended by members of the Illawarra Bird Observers Club. We will encounter a range of waterbirds and shorebirds as well as bush birds. Some may wish to stay for an extra night so they can visit the Beecroft Firing Range where there have been excellent sightings of **Ground Parrots** and **Eastern Bristlebirds**. The Range is open to the public from midday Friday to Sunday afternoon.

Accommodation will be at Holiday Haven, Culburra Beach, (<https://www.holidayhaven.com.au/culburra-beach/>) which offers cabins and powered sites. **Register** with Prue at prue.watters@gmail.com with your name, mobile and the name and mobile of an emergency contact. Numbers will be limited to 16, so **please register early as caravan park bookings should be made soon**. Advise me if you would like to share. DO NOT book accommodation until I have confirmed your registration.

Prue Watters

Sunday 29 September– Pejar Dam and Jean Todkill Park, Crookwell

Description: Both dams are hotspots for raptors and waterbirds. The highlights include **Great-crested Grebes**, **Musk Duck** and **Blue-billed Duck**.

Meeting time and place: Netball Centre Lyneham at 7.00 am for carpooling. Suggested contribution to driver, \$10. Please bring the correct money.

Walking distance: Pejar Dam (St Stephens Road 0.5 km, main picnic area 1 km, North Arm 1 km) and Jean Todkill Park 1 km. Degree of difficulty: easy

End time: 4.00 pm at Lyneham.

What to bring: water, morning tea, lunch, sunscreen, water, sturdy shoes, hat.

Participants must register with the leader by text on 0466874723 or email bsgraham1948@gmail.com at least 24 hours before, providing their name and mobile number, and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact.

Numbers limited to 16.

Bill Graham

Advance notice of extended camping trip in October. Register now because campsites need to be booked.

Monday 14 to Sunday 20 October - Warren Wetlands and Gundabooka National Park – extended camping trip

An extended camping trip is planned to Warren and Gundabooka NP, both in inland NSW. The town of Warren is north-west of Dubbo (about 470 km from Canberra), and Gundabooka National Park is another 320 km further, to the north-west. We are planning one night at a caravan park in Warren on 14 Oct and a morning exploring the fabulous wetlands on the edge of town. We will move on to Gundabooka NP on the afternoon of 15 October and the trip ends on Sunday 20 October. Campers are to make their own campground and caravan park bookings and ensure they have a relevant National Parks Pass. Once at Gundabooka we will be birding around the broader campground area and the subsequent days we will drive to places further in the park. We have not done a “reccie” for Gundabooka so the trip will be a bit exploratory.

To register, contact John Goldie or Kathy Walter on walter.goldie@gmail.com. The trip is limited to 16 people. Please DO NOT make bookings until your registration has been confirmed. Campers are to make their own campground and caravan park bookings and ensure they have a relevant NSW National Parks Pass. Campers are also to make their own arrangements for getting to and from the start/finish.

Kathy Walter and John Goldie



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Woodland Surveys – winter 2024 survey round

compiled by Jenny Bounds

Mulligans Flat NR

A highlight of this survey round was Fuscous Honeyeaters overwintering (with other honeyeaters) in the woodlands of Mulligans Flat, Goorooyaroo and Mt Majura.

Note: not all sites are reported.

Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve

Jenny Bounds and the team surveyed on Sunday 30 June. It was not great conditions for the survey, the air was very damp, low hanging cloud, some drifts of very light drizzle on and off (the tail end of a low-pressure system). Fortunately, no wind. Surprisingly, there were birds around a lot of the sites, including a number of mixed flocks, especially small groups of honeyeaters including **Fuscous**, **Yellow-faced**, **White-naped**, **White-eared** and **Brown-headed**. Urn Heath was flowering (*Melicrus* sp. a low spreading shrub), a couple of **Fuscous Honeyeaters** were seen feeding on this at one site; **Fuscous Honeyeaters** are known to exploit this nectar source some winters. **Scarlet Robins** were recorded at 7 sites, **Golden Whistlers** at 6 sites, **Grey Shrike-thrushes** at 3 sites, and group of 4 **Varied Sittellas**. Six **Pink-eared Ducks** were on the large dam. Four of the thornbills were in a flock with honeyeaters at one site (no 5) (**Yellow-rumped**, **Striated**, **Buff-rumped** and **Brown Thornbills**). Due to confusion about who was surveying this site, it was surveyed late, but had a very nice mixed feeding flock in the site then. Rosellas were low in numbers, a few **Crimson Rosellas**, but no **Eastern Rosellas**, and very few **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos**. Total species 42, on the low end of the range for winter surveys (usually around mid to high 40s), but good given the conditions.

Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve (northern area)

Nicki Taws did the winter survey on a cold and breezy morning with plenty of water underfoot. A highlight of the survey was the honeyeaters, not normally a feature of any season at this woodland. **Fuscous Honeyeaters** were recorded at 4 sites and **White-naped Honeyeaters** at 3 sites. It seems to be an overwintering year for these two species in the region. **Brown-headed** and **White-eared Honeyeaters** were also recorded. It was generally quiet otherwise with only one small mixed feeding flock recorded, containing thornbills, pardalotes, **Scarlet Robin**, **Speckled Warbler** and **Golden Whistler**. A lone **Australian Shelduck** flying overhead was an unusual addition to the species list.

Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve (southern area)

Steve Holliday and Prue Buckley surveyed on 26 June. Conditions were cool but quite pleasant to begin with, less so once the wind got up mid-morning. 31 species were recorded across the reserve (compared to 25 on the equivalent survey last year), with 27 of these found during the point counts. There was a pale **Brown Falcon** at site 1 and **White-throated Treecreepers** at sites 7 and 8, the latter are uncommon in the surveys. Several small mixed flocks were

encountered, mostly consisting of four species of **Thornbills**, **Superb Fairy-wrens**, **Weebills** and **Spotted Pardalotes**, with a small number of other species. There were more **White-plumed Honeyeaters** around than usual, also a few **White-naped Honeyeaters**. An interesting incidental observation was of a **Collared Sparrowhawk**. There were a surprisingly large numbers of insects in the air, including numerous swarms of gnats, and quite a few **Welcome Swallows** feeding on these.

Coffee and Chat at the Gardens Tuesday, 13 August

You are invited to Canberra Birds monthly Coffee and Chat at the Australian National Botanic Gardens cafe.

Come along any time between 9:30 and 11:30 on the second Tuesday of the month.

All welcome – experienced birders, new and would-be birders, locals and visitors.

Look for the table with the binoculars on it.



Mt Majura Nature Reserve

The survey was conducted over 22-23 June by Kathy Walter and John Goldie.

Sunny but cool weather with some breeze on the first day. Most sites were extremely quiet, but they were rewarded with a couple of nice mixed flocks at two of the sites. There was a surprising number of **Common Bronzings** – 10 at

one site and 2-3 at others (the autumn survey in March recorded 20). Other highlights were two mixed flocks which included **White-naped**, **Yellow-faced** and **Fuscous Honeyeaters**, **Eastern Spinebill**, numerous **Scarlet Robins**, **Golden Whistler** and smaller birds like **Brown Thornbills**, **Superb Fairy-wren** and **White-browed Scrubwren**. Only one **Speckled Warbler** was heard briefly. Two **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos** ripping bark off a tree trunk, looking for grubs was a nice addition. In total, 31 species were recorded.

Mt Ainslie Nature Reserve/Campbell Park

Michael Lenz and Robin Hide carried out the winter survey on 26 June at 9 sites on the lower eastern slopes of Mt Ainslie. Conditions were quite pleasant with no frost overnight and light wind. The most common species were **Noisy Miner** (8 sites), **Spotted Pardalote** (7) and **Crimson Rosella** (6). Species numbers ranged from 1 to 8 per site. Overall activity at sites was rather low. They encountered 2 mixed feeding flocks (one in a site, one outside). Birds of note included: 2 **Varied Sittellas**, 1 **Speckled Warbler**, 20 **Welcome Swallows**, 31 **Australian King-Parrots** and 2 **Fan-tailed Cuckoos** (together). 20 species were recorded at sites, another 16 outside.

Majura Field Range

The winter survey was done by Kim Farley on 28 June, accompanied this time by a Defence staff member. It was very chilly, with the temperature still hovering around zero at 9.00am, but the fog cleared to a beautiful sunny day. The number of bird species recorded in the sites was low, and the number of individual birds was also low. Only one **Scarlet Robin** was recorded, two **Brown Thornbills** and just a handful of **Buff-rumped Thornbills**, and no **Flame Robins**. By comparison, **Weebills**, **Brown-headed** and **White-eared Honeyeaters** were relatively plentiful. The highlight was a flock of 13 **Gang-gang Cockatoos** which flew over near one of the sites. Several mixed groups of **Eastern** and **Crimson Rosellas** feeding on the ground between sites were lovely to see. In all 28 species were recorded across the whole Training Area, including species only seen between sites. The average number of species recorded on the actual sites was around 7.

Newline

Sue Lashko surveyed on 30 June. As was to be expected on a chilly winter morning, bird activity was quite subdued with **Silvereyes** and both **Pardalotes** the most vocal species at several sites. The exception was the site close to the old quarry, where a **Brown Goshawk** circled around and caused **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos**, **Galahs**, **Crimson** and **Eastern Rosellas**, **Red-rumped Parrots** and **Rainbow Lorikeets** to take to the air, and **Noisy Miners** to arrive in numbers. The only other raptor recorded was a **Nankeen Kestrel**. **Australian Wood Ducks** were lurking near possible nesting hollows in a couple of sites. The 36 species recorded was about average for a winter survey.

Tuggeranong Hill Nature Reserve

Lia Battisson, after aborting the survey on 22 June as it was too cold and windy, managed to survey the sites on 26 June, a calmer sunny morning, though still very fresh. Certainly, there were more active birds on the Hill then. Highlight of the morning was a small mixed feeding flock at site 1 comprising 35 **Red-browed Finches**, **Superb Fairy-wrens**, **Weebills**, **White-eared Honeyeaters**, **White-browed Scrubwren** and **Striated Thornbills**. Also, 4 species of **Thornbills** between sites. Species numbers were well down on the average, even for winter, with just 15 species within survey sites and another 7 elsewhere.

Naas Sites

Julie McGuinness with Julie Hotchin surveyed the six sites on this rural leasehold south of Tharwa on Friday 28 June. It was a lovely winter's morning, cold, clear and calm, with a minus temperature on arrival. Species diversity and numbers were low. A total of only 21 species were recorded in the sites. Most species observed were common non-migrant woodland species. One winter altitudinal migrant was heard, **White-eared Honeyeater**. There were both **Eastern** and **Crimson Rosellas**, **Red-rumped Parrots**, **White-winged Choughs**, **Aust. Wood Ducks** and a **Willie Wagtail** between sites. The **White-eared Honeyeater** and **White-plumed Honeyeater** were recorded at or near the first site close to the homestead. There were also **Weebills**, **Buff-rumped Thornbills**, **Striated Thornbills**, **Striated** and **Spotted Pardalotes** at or near various sites. The usual **Noisy Miners** were around. A highlight was 7 **Common Bronzewing**s at one open woodland site near the Namadgi National Park boundary.

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

2024-2025 memberships:

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

New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

L Day
A Hopkins
J Wong
B Edgar
D Clark
C Caldwell
P Russell
P Miller

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for September 2024 edition:

Wednesday 28 August 2024

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

gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au

or

c/- The Secretary, COG,

PO Box 331, Jamison Centre, ACT 2614.

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

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

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