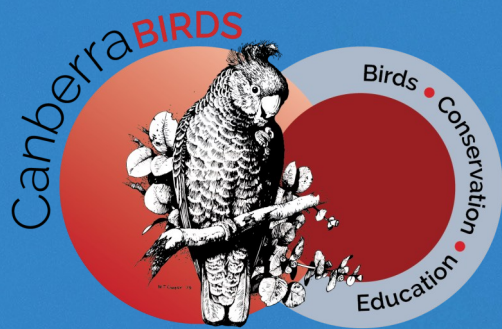




Gang-gang

Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc

Canberra Birds Newsletter

MAY 2026



Little Corella, Dalton, Gunning, Gundaroo, NSW,
19 April 2026, **Photo: Richard Arculus**

MAY MEETING

Wednesday 13 May 2026

7.30 pm

Bugang Room, Denman Village Community Centre, 5 Felstead Vista, Denman Prospect

As detailed below there has been a change in venue for the COG/Canberra Birds monthly meetings for the first half of 2026.

Speakers for the 13 May meeting will be:

Esha Shekar - Intensity of Nest Defence of White-Winged Choughs in Urban Versus Natural Habitats

Rainer Rehwinkel - Birds surveys at six NSW Travelling Stock Reserves to the SE of Canberra

Temporary change of meeting venue for Canberra Birds

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The Canberra Birds committee has decided to change the venue for our monthly members' meetings, at least until renovations of the Canberra Girls Grammar School's Multi-media Theatre are complete, expected in August/September 2026.

The new venue is the Bugang Room at the Denman Village Community Centre, located at 5 Felstead Vista, adjacent to the Denman Prospect shops (see Google Maps link <https://maps.app.goo.gl/NqW3XrN5Ijf8dzRe9>)

This is a light, spacious, modern event venue with a kitchen. There is plentiful parking, under lights, close to the door and with several disabled parking spots outside the door. The room is on the first floor, accessed by two flights of stairs or by a lift.

To help guide you once there the Canberra Birds Sandwich Boards will be outside the front door and at the top of the stairs/lift.

For people attending the meeting by public transport, the R10 bus provides a very good service around every 15 minutes from the ANU through Civic to the Denman Prospect shops with the bus stop opposite the venue. For example, a bus runs to there from 6:57 to 7:23 pm and return buses at 9:05 or 9:35 pm arriving at the ANU at 9:31 and 10:01 pm, respectively.

The first speaker will be **Esha Shekar**, a PhD student at the Research School of Biology at the ANU on "**Intensity of Nest Defence of White-Winged Choughs in Urban Versus Natural Habitats**"

Nesting birds face significant risks of predation, prompting parents to invest in nest defence. However, not all environments are the same, and parental investment may vary across different environments. Urbanization often leads to habitat changes and an increase in generalist nest predators, potentially driving a higher risk of reproductive failure for birds. This may require urban-breeding birds to invest more time and energy in nest defence, in addition to balancing other essential activities,

such as incubation, foraging, and feeding their young. In their study, they assessed the impact of urbanization on nest defence by **White-winged Choughs** (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*). They checked whether (1) urban habitats have a greater abundance of nest predators compared to natural habitats, and (2) whether nest defence would correspondingly be higher in urban-breeding White-winged Choughs. They also checked if (3) nest defence in the White-winged Choughs would increase with the age of the brood, in accordance with the nest defence theory, irrespective of their habitat. This study reflects the effects of urbanization on the composition and behaviour of urban wildlife.

The main presentation will be by well-known ecologist and field naturalist, **Rainer Rehwinkel**, on “**Birds surveys at six NSW Travelling Stock Reserves to the SE of Canberra**”

Rainer undertook a four-year survey of birds at six travelling stock reserves (TSRs) in the Bungendore to Braidwood district. This was an outcome of his previous work with NSW Government where he extensively surveyed all regional TSRs for their vegetation and also designed a Saving Our Species Project for the **Scarlet Robin**. The bird survey was a part of a project to improve management of the TSRs with funding from Molonglo Conservation. The TSRs were chosen based on their vegetation quality.

Rainer surveyed these TSRs over four seasons over the four years, using eBird as the data platform. Rainer will share aspects of the data collected by his survey.

News from the Committee

The Committee didn't meet in April, being able to manage business by email during the month. Interesting things the Committee and others have been working on include:

- **Recruitment of a new Coordinator for the Garden Birds Survey.** The GBS is our longest running survey, and was ably managed by Duncan McCaskill until his move to Queensland in late 2025. If this role interests you, read more on page 11 of this issue of Gang-gang. **Expressions of interest close on May 30.**
- **Ongoing work on the website** following its update in February. The next stage of the work will review and update the "words on the pages" and is expected to take many months. Email Julian Robinson at cogwebmaster@canberrabirds.org.au about any oddities you come across on the new website. Don't forget to include the URL of the offending page.
- Submission of the Canberra Birds' response to the **ACT Nature Conservation Strategy 2026-2036**. Submitted to on March 26, it was prepared by Jenny Bounds, our Conservation Officer, in consultation with the Committee. It will join the list of submissions and responses on the [Conservation](#) page of the website.
- The autumn **Honeyeater Migration Survey** started on Saturday March 14 and will continue until May 16. Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed their Saturday mornings to count honeyeaters along the Murrumbidgee. In addition to honeyeaters, there have been other interesting sightings including Peregrines, Wedge-tailed Eagles and White-bellied Sea-eagles. Chris Davey, the survey Coordinator will be presenting initial results of the survey at a members meeting later in 2026.

Kim Farley, *President*.
president@canberrabirds.org.au

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

In the just over 4 weeks from 25 March to 23 April covered by this column, the wet weather throughout March changed into a much drier April with some light frosts at the end. My analysis below shows continued low bird activity in the COG Area of Interest (Aoi). The spring/summer migrants mainly seem to be leaving at their usual time, or perhaps slightly delayed, but except for three species, the altitudinal migrants have been slow to move in. There was one special species observed by a number of birders over a brief period, otherwise reports of “unusual” species dropped further compared with the already low March levels.

Highlights

There was one “unusual” species that drew the most attention during the period. This was a **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike**, first observed from the COG/Canberra Birds outing to the Arawang Saddle of the Cooleman Ridge NR on 29 March, but not recognised until after the event through Teo’s excellent photo of a dark morph with an all-black head. Part of the confusion was that it was associating with other **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes**, as it often was when other observers managed to find it there and also within 1 km up to 6 April.

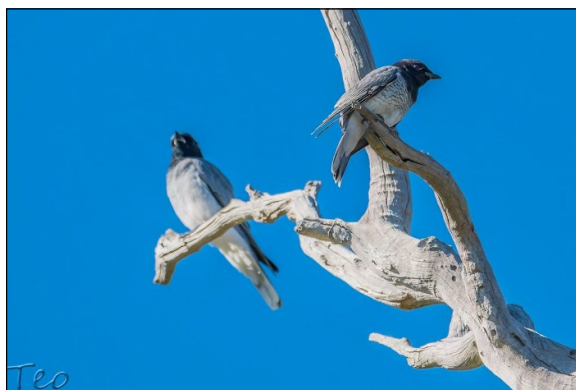
COG’s 2018-2019 Annual Bird Report lists this as a rare non-breeding autumn migrant noting “The patchy continental distribution of this nomadic species means that it is only occasionally recorded in the Canberra region.” However, the eBird map shows observations at 8 locations in the COG Aoi since the start of 2023, interestingly all in autumn (most recently at Collector on 2 March 2026) except for 2 in September. However, it is unusual for them to hang around, with only one other location involving reports over multiple days.

Spring/summer migrants

Of the earlier leaving inland spring/summer migrant species still reported in the previous period, there have been no further reports of the **Horsfield’s Bushlark** or **Rufous Songlark**, both last reported on 7 March. In contrast there was still a report of a late female **White-winged Triller** feeding on ground (typical of this species) in open grass beside patches of woodland regrowth at the Nadjung Mada NR on 10 April. In the previous period this species was still reported from 7 locations, with the most recent record being on 7 March.

There was also a very late report of 2 **White-browed Woodswallows** flying over the Hume Hwy at Gunning on 18 April, but none of the related **Masked Woodswallow**, the previous reports for both species being on 1 February. However, despite some further storms at the start of the period there were no **White-throated Needleetails** or **Fork-tailed Swifts** reported, with the most recent reports being from around 21 March and 17 March, respectively.

Of the 2 inland cuckoo species usually present each spring/summer, there were still reports of the **Horsfield’s Bronze-Cuckoo** from 2 locations (compared with 6 in March), a bird at the Lambs TSR near Yass on 29 March and at the ANBG on 11 April and JWNR on 22/4. The **Pallid Cuckoo** was still reported from 1 location (compared with 2 in March), a dark morph at Wandiyali Environa on 12 April, with the previous latest report being on 14 March.



White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Cooleman Ridge, ACT, 29 March 2026, *Tee Tong Teo*

Of the coastal spring/summer migrant species that are usually first to leave there have been no further reports of the **Dollarbird** which was last reported on 8 March. However, the **Rainbow Bee-eater** was still reported from 1 location (compared with 14 in the previous period), a bird at the Collector Common on 26 March. The **Sacred Kingfisher**, usually last of these 3 species to leave, was still reported from 5 locations (compared with close to 30 locations in the previous period), most recently at the Arawang horse paddocks and the nearby Coolleman Ridge NR Arawang saddle, both on 6 April.

Of the other migrants that have mostly left by the end of March/early April, the **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** was still reported from 4 locations (6 in March), most recently from the Rob Roy NR on 19 April. There was still a report of an adult **Eastern Koel** (unclear whether it was an adult or a juvenile) at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR (JWNR) on 25 March, compared with around 23 locations in the previous period. The **Sahul Brush Cuckoo** was also still reported from 1 location (3 in March), heard at the Zosterops Corner on 6 April with the previously most recent being on 8 March. This compares with around 12 locations still for the **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, the least migratory of our local cuckoos.

The **Latham's Snipe** was still recorded from 2 locations (6 in the previous period), at the Goulburn Wetlands on 26 March and the West Belconnen Pond on 30 March. The **Leaden Flycatcher** was still reported from 7 locations (compared with around 20 in the previous period), most recently at Evatt on 13 April. The **Australian Reed-Warbler** was still reported from 14 locations (over 35 in the previous period), most recently on 22 April at the JWNR from where it was regularly observed. **Fairy Martins** were still reported from 3 locations (5 in the previous period), most recently at the Namadgi NP Visitors Centre on 17 April, whereas **Tree Martins**, which usually stay longer, were still reported from 8 locations (17 in previous period), most recently near the big dam at the Mulligans Flat NR on 18 April.

Of the passage migrants, a female **Satin Flycatcher** was photographed at Punchbowl Swamp in the mountains to the southwest of Canberra on 24 March, as well as observed at the Black Mountain NR on the same day. There was also a report from Bendoura SW of Braidwood (on the E side the Tallaganda area) on 4 April (just one location in the previous period). In contrast there was a report of the **Australian Rufous Fantail** from just 1 location (compared with 12 in the previous period), a bird at the ANBG on 5 April.

Other spring/ summer migrants which usually leave during April include the **Western Gerygone** which was still reported from 7 locations, most recently from the ANBG on 18 April, and the **White-throated Gerygone**, still at 18 locations, most recently at Campbell Park on 12 April, compared with 11 and over 30 locations, respectively, during the previous period). The **Noisy Friarbird** was still reported from 20 locations during the period, compared with over 40 in the previous, and last reported from the Greenwood Rd Murrumbateman and Covan Creek Rd, Lake Bathurst on 19 April. Interestingly both locations are to the N in the COG Aol, whereas this species has been largely absent this autumn in my local area of Chapman and Rivett and the nearby Coolleman Ridge and Narrabundah Hill.

Rufous Whistlers was still recorded from around 85 locations, **Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes** from over 100 locations and **Grey Fantails**, which seem to have been everywhere in the past month, from many more than that. Number of these three species will reduce greatly in May, though some will overwinter, as will some of the **Mistletoebirds** (recorded from 14 locations in the period) and **Superb Parrots** which were still recorded from close to 90 locations, 23 of these being S of the lake.

Most of the **Dusky Woodswallows** and **Olive-backed Orioles**, still reported from over 60 and 16 locations, respectively, will also depart in May, though particularly the latter will overwinter, usually as single birds. So, during May please keep an eye out for the above and other spring/summer migrants which are still being reported but usually leave during this month.

Autumn/winter altitudinal migrants

Of the species that spend spring/summer the mountains and higher country but return to Canberra and its surrounds in autumn, the **White-eared Honeyeater** and the **Golden Whistler** were recorded in around 50 and 80 urban/peri-urban locations over the past month. This compares with 11 and 23, respectively, in March, an indication that both species have clearly moved back in.

There were reports of **Scarlet Robins** from around 50 urban/peri-urban locations (24 in March), so they too have clearly moved in. Despite the light frosts at the end of the period, the **Flame Robin** has been much slower to move in, reported from just 7 locations compared with 3 in the previous period. The **Rose Robin** has also moved back in/through, with

reports from 6 urban/peri urban locations, with still 2 locations in the mountains to the W of Canberra, including multiple spots within the Tidbinbilla NR. Again, there have been no confirmed **Pink Robin** sightings during the period, with the closest locations now being to the NE of Melbourne.

The **Crescent Honeyeater** has also not yet moved in, being reported from 2 locations (3 in the previous period) W of the Murrumbidgee River. The only **Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters** reported from anywhere within the COG Aol were 2 on the Angle Crossing Rd and 4 at the Strike-a-Light TSR, both on 7 April. There was a report of an **Olive Whistler** only to the W of the Murrumbidgee River. There were reports from 4 such locations for the **Bassian Thrush**, with up to 2 birds observed at the ANBG from 14 April.

Again, the **Brown Gerygone** was not reported from anywhere within the COG Aol during the period. Also there have been no reports of the **Swift Parrot** so far anywhere in the COG Aol or NSW, with the closest being across the border at Chiltern.

Unusual species

Apart from the **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** described above, there were no “unusual” species reported from the COG Aol during the period that deserve special attention except perhaps the **Singing Honeyeater** (see comments below). Given that there was no Lake Bathurst survey, in particular the results for waterbirds are not directly comparable with my April column.

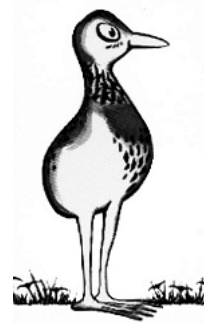
There were no **Magpie Geese** or **Plumed Whistling Duck** reported during the period (compared with 2 locations for the latter in March). **Freckled Duck** were reported from just 1 location during the period (4 in March), with up to 5 ducks present at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR (JWNR) throughout the period.

Two **Australian Shelducks** were reported from the big dam at the Mulligans Flat NR only on 11 and 21 April, with 2 also reported from Tharwa Drive on the northside of the bridge on 17 April. Outside of the ACT this species was reported from 7 locations (5 in March) stretching from the NE round to the SE of the ACT, with the highest numbers easily being the 47 ducks on the Bungendore Meadow Dam on 1 April.

Blue-billed Ducks were reported from 3 locations during the past month (7 in March), with up to 13 ducks reported from the Upper Stranger Pond where they were present throughout the period. Up to 3 ducks were reported from the JWNR to 31 March as well as at the adjacent Fyshwick Sewage Treatment Pond

Musk Ducks were reported from just 2 locations in the past reported from the Upper Stranger Pond from 30 March to 19 Hut Dam, also on 19 April.

There were no reports of **Stubble Quail** during the period which very few reports during autumn and winter. In contrast **Brown**



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(FSTP) to 11 April.

month (5 in March), with a female duck regularly April. The only other location was 2 ducks at the Tin

corresponds with the eBird Bar Charts showing **Quail** were reported from 7 locations (4 in March),

with the maximum being 6 quail from the big dam at the Mulligans Flat NR on 18 April. This again corresponds with the eBird Bar Charts showing a much more even distribution throughout the year. No **Painted Button-quail** were reported (1 location in March) and again no **Little Button-quail** were reported during the period.

No **White-headed Pigeon**, **Brown Cuckoo-Dove**, **Brush Bronzewing**, **Peaceful** or **Diamond Doves** were reported during the period. There were also no **White-throated Nightjars** reported.

No **Baillon's Crakes** were reported during the period (1 location in March), again in line with the eBird Bar Charts showing very few reports between April to August. **Spotless Crakes** were reported from 2 locations (as for March) in the past month, with 1 bird at the Mawson Ponds on 1 April and 1 at the Hibberd Crescent footbridge on Forde Creek on 15 April. **Australian Spotted Crakes** were also reported from just 2 locations in the past month (as for March), with up to 2 and 1 birds reported from the JWNR on 25 March and 22 April, respectively, and a single crane from the Bungendore Common on 18 April.

Buff-banded Rails were reported from 2 locations (3 in March), with single birds from the JWNR on 31 March and the Goulburn Wetlands on 22 April, but there were no **Lewin's Rails** reported during the period (1 location in March). The **Black-tailed Nativehen** was also not reported during the period.

Pied Stilts were reported from 2 locations (as in March) which includes 3 birds at the JWNR on 2 April and 3 spots from the NW Lake George from where a maximum of 60 birds were reported from the Wheatley VC Rest Area on 11 April (about double the numbers in March).

Probably affected by the lack of a Lake Bathurst survey in April there were no **Pacific Golden** or **Red-capped Plovers**, **Red-necked Avocets**, **Banded Lapwing**, **Australian Painted-snipe**, **Comb-crested Jacana**, **Red-necked Stint**, **Sharp-tailed**, **Pectoral** or **Common Sandpipers** reported during the period. There were also no **Caspian**, **Whiskered** or **White-winged Black Terns** reported.

The **Great-crested Grebe** was reported from 2 locations (down from 4 in March), with up to 6 grebes regularly reported from the Bracks Hole Rd, and a single bird on the Corin Dam on 23 March.

The **Australian Little Bittern** was not reported during the period, but an **Australasian Bittern** was seen flying over the reedbed next to rest area at the Rowes Lagoon on 1 April.

No **Little Egrets** were again reported during the period, but a **Plumed Egret** was reported from the Bungendore Common on 10 April (2 locations in March). Again, in contrast **Great Egrets** were reported from 11 locations during the past month (14 in March), again all but two within the ACT/Queanbeyan area and including up to 2 birds regularly at the JWNR.

The number of locations for the **White-necked Heron** has again dropped sharply to 6 compared with the 11 in March. Up to 7 **Royal Spoonbills** were reported from 7 locations during the past month (11 in March), but **Yellow-billed Spoonbills** were reported only from 1 location, a bird at the Bungendore Common on 18-19 April (compared with 6 locations in March). A **Glossy Ibis** was reported flying over the JWNR on 22 April.

Coffee and Chat at the Gardens Tuesday, 12 May

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 11:00 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.

Single **Eastern Barn Owls** were reported from 2 locations during the past month (as for March), again both heard at night, 1 in Symonston on 26 March and the other at Mulligans Flat NR on 11 April. A **Powerful Owl** was photographed with its glider prey in its talons on the upper Cotter River close to the western ACT border on 22 April. **Black-shouldered Kites** were reported from around 16 locations in the past month, double the 8 in March. With a reported drying inland NSW their numbers may now continue to rise.

Adult **Spotted Harriers** were reported from 3 locations (compared with 2 in March) with 1 over the grasslands to

the E of Campbell Park on 11 April, 1 at the JWNR on 18 April and 1 at the West Belconnen Pond on 20 April. Interestingly the last-named was said to be hawking along edge of wetland similar to the immature Andrea and I saw at Weston Creek near its confluence with the Molonglo River on 1 March. No **Pacific Baza** or **Grey Goshawks** were reported from anywhere in the COG Aol during the period.

Black Kites were reported from 2 locations during the period (1 in March), 2 at Murrumbateman on 9 April and another 2 at Baroona (near Sutton) on 11 April. **Black Falcons** were reported from 2 locations (0 in March), 1 flying over the JWNR on 28 March and another on the Kings Hwy at Manar on 22 April. The former had an interesting wing pattern and particularly was white around the rump and face. Checking my Compact ABG confirmed the wing pattern and importantly indicates older birds have much white in the face and undertail coverts. So, it was great to learn a bit more about a species that has often eluded me.

Azure Kingfishers were reported from 2 known locations (down from 5 in March) during the period with up to 2 birds at the Cotter Bend up to 8 April, and a single bird at the nearby Casuarina Sands on 4 April. No **Red-backed** or **Forest Kingfishers** were reported during the period.

Two **Glossy Black-Cockatoos** were reported from Bendoura (see above) on 4 April, and a **Cockatiel** was photographed (possibly a juvenile or an escapee in close to wild colours) at the JWNR on 21 April. **Musk Lorikeets** were reported from 4 locations (1 in March), one at Symonston on 24 March, 1 at Narrabundah Hill on 5 April, and an unknown number at 3 different spots in the Kambah/Village Creek area between 28 March and 9 April. However, no **Turquoise Parrot**, **Scaly-breasted**, **Little** or **Purple-crowned Lorikeets** were reported over the period.



Singing Honeyeater, Macfarlane Burnet Avenue Pond, Macgregor, ACT, 30 March 2026, *N. Froelich*

Up to 2 **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters** were reported from the known location at the Rock Valley homestead in the Tidbinbilla NR from 28 March to 6 April, with another reported from the Rows Lagoon on 31 March. A **Singing Honeyeater** was first reported by Christine D (but again first seen there by Peter Christian) at the Macfarlane Burnet Ave Pond in Macgregor on 29 March, but only Christine and 2 other observers managed to find it the next day. This is the first report from the NW ACT border area since October 2023, with more recent reports from Casey and lately from Campbell.

White-fronted Chats were again reported from just 1 location in the past month (2 in March), a single bird on the Wollogorang Rd on 1 April. **Blue-faced Honeyeaters** were reported from 5 locations (4 in March), with a bird in North Evatt on 10 April, and 1 in Scullin on 18 April (both new, at least recently, locations). There were also up to 4 birds at the ANU between 24 March and 1 April, as well as single birds on Yamba Drive Phillip on 27 March and the Mawson Ponds on 5 April. However, no **Scarlet**, **Lewin's**, **Brown**, **Striped** or **Painted Honeyeaters**, **Little Wattlebirds** or **Little**

Friarbirds were reported during the period.

No **Chestnut-rumped Heathwrens** were reported during the period (4 locations March) and see above for reports of the **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** (also 1 location in March). **Red-capped Robins** were reported from 3 locations (7 in March) with up to 6 birds regularly reported from the Bracks Hole Fire Trail as well as up to 3 birds (one with only a partly red breast was possibly a young male) from the Nadjung Mada NR. The other known location was Zosterops Corner where a single bird was observed to 9 April.

No **White-browed Babbler**, **Apostlebird**, **Australasian Figbird**, **Spangled Drongo**, **Black-faced Monarch**, **Tawny Grassbird** or **Zebra Finches** were reported during the period.

Jacky Winters were reported from 4 location over the period (just 1 in March) the most remarkable observation being at least 7 birds at the COG Woodland survey location near Tharwa. These consisted of a group of four birds comprising

three adults and one immature bird (grey-brown with fluffy plumage) at a sub-site, and another three adult birds were active along the driveway. A pair of adult birds were also seen at 2 other sub-sites but could not be ruled out as not different. Another new location was a bird photographed at the Shepherds Lookout Walk on 31 March. Known sites were a single bird at the Glendale Depot on 31 March and 2 birds at the Mulligans Flat NR from 30 March to 1 April.

Hooded Robins were reported from 4 known locations (3 in March), with up to 2 birds at the Bracks Hole Rd between 3-22 April, a female at the Naas Rd at Apollo Rd on 5 April, 3 birds at the Ingelara K2C site on 11 April and 2 birds at the Scottsdale Reserve on 29 March.

A single **Restless Flycatcher** was reported (no locations in March) from the known location the Nelanglo TSR between 11-20 April. Again, it will be very interesting to see if any come closer to Canberra over winter, as they usually do except for 2025, this year.

The **Brown Treecreeper** was reported from 2 known locations in the past month (as for March), with up to 4 birds at the Nelanglo TSR between 11-20 April and a single bird at the Strike-a-Light TSR on 7 April.

Reports of “unusual” species were very low over the period with again very few reports of pigeons/doves, raptors, parrots and honeyeaters and other passerines.

Breeding

No mid-autumn breeding has come to my attention except that the receipt of a season’s consolidated list added 19 new **Eastern Koel** fledglings, making my tally a total of 200 for 2025-2026, the largest number since, but still well below, the bumper 2020-2021 season which was a very late season as compared with this one as reported in last month’s column.

Flocks, including of migrating birds

Mixed feeding flocks (MFFs) have been reported including those during the Narrabundah Hill COG/Canberra Birds outing on 5 April (see separate report) as well as from the COG Woodland surveys. Probably the largest and perhaps the most active one was that reported by Steve Holliday and Prue Buckley on the Gorooyaroo woodland survey where a MFF of 15 species included **White-eared Honeyeater**, **Golden** and **Rufous Whistlers**, plenty of **Spotted** and **Striated Pardalotes**, **Brown**, **Striated** and **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, **Weebill**, **Western Gerygone**, **Grey Fantail**, **Willie Wagtail**, **White-throated Treecreeper**, **Silvereye** and **Yellow-faced Honeyeater**. An example of a MFF with an unexpected species present was the one reported by Julie Hotchin and Julie McGuinness on 30 March at the Tharwa woodland site with a pair of **Jacky Winters** seen with **Scarlet Robins**, **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, **Willie Wagtails**, **Grey Fantails** and a **White-throated Treecreeper**.

After low numbers for some time Andrea and I counted at least 80 **Pied Currawongs** at Narrabundah Hill on 15 April. Interestingly they were spread out all along our walk around the perimeter rather than in a group as often occurs.

As noted in my report of the Narrabundah Hill COG/Canberra Birds outing on 5 April (see separate report) there seems to have been a late start to the honeyeater migration season, as confirmed by reports from the Honeyeater Migration Survey at least up to Easter. Interestingly Andrea and I have done a number of walks around Narrabundah Hill since and have not seen any sign of migrating honeyeaters, whereas there have been a few more flocks seen at the nearby Cooleman Ridge.

The most interesting report that has come to my attention was from Sandra Henderson and Julian Robinson at the Bracks Hole Rd on 31 March following up on Julie Hotchin’s report there on 23 March (see my previous column) The eBird list they put in included **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** numbers at 2700, which was a rough count of the almost endless stream they saw/heard as they walked down to the water. Sandra indicated “while I’ve seen small migrating flocks in the past, this was an amazing spectacle.” In all those thousands there would have been no more than a dozen **White-naped Honeyeaters**. Sandra confirmed they were heading over the water, probably towards where the dam narrows into the river, so were flying over quite a wide expanse, she estimated at least 1 km.

So, in May please keep a lookout for any late migration, with **White-naped Honeyeaters** likely to be the majority of birds migrating late in the season.

May is the final month of autumn when there is still 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, and for more of the returning autumn/winter altitudinal migrants, MFFs and single species flocks, as well as roosts and roost flights. 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/Canberra Birds 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

Volunteers needed to lead field trips from July to December 2026

It is time to start planning field trips for the second half of the year and I am seeking volunteers to lead these outings.

I try not to repeat an outing for two or, preferably, 3 years, apart from some specific events such as the Campbell Park nest workshop. I would be delighted if you came up with a completely new venue. Alternatively, by looking at All Past Events on the website - <https://canberrabirds.org.au/past-events/> , you will get some ideas of where we have been and when, since 2014. I welcome both new and "old" leaders.

Please contact me at smlashko@gmail.com if you can help or if you would like to discuss possible venues.

Sue Lashko

Field trips organiser

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership payments become due from 1 July 2026 for the 2026/27 financial year. Please do not pay your membership until then.

New or renewing members should complete the online membership form which can found on our website and transfer payment to the Canberra Birds bank account.

The information from the membership form will be transferred to a database which will provide an ongoing up-to-date record of our members.

If you have any queries, please contact prue.watters@gmail.com.

Prue Watters

Membership Officer

April 2026

Interested in being our new Garden Bird Survey Coordinator?



Magpie Lark, Satin Bowerbird, Canberra Garden, ACT
Gail Neumann

Canberra Birds is seeking a new Coordinator for the Garden Bird Survey (GBS). We are looking for someone with both technical and communication skills.

GBS data is held in a Microsoft Access DB and mid to high level skills with Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access are a requirement. This includes the ability to update Lookup tables and write SQL queries.

The focus for the new Coordinator in 2026/27 will be increasing the geographic distribution of GBS sites across Canberra's suburbs as well as seeking additional sites in urban parks and greenspace. This means we need someone with good communication skills who can support current GBS contributors as well as seek and engage additional contributors.

If you are interested in being our new Coordinator, we encourage you to contact Kim Farley at president@canberrabirds.au or Chris Davey at daveychris12@gmail.com after which we will contact you to discuss the role. Please make contact by Sunday 24 May.

About the Garden Bird Survey

The GBS began in 1981 and is our longest running survey. It records bird species and their abundance in Canberra gardens. On a weekly basis, contributors record the maximum number of each species seen in or over their 100m radius site. GBS data is reported in our Annual Bird Report, on Bird Info on our website and was published in the [Birds of Canberra's Gardens book](#).

About the Coordinator role

1) Data management: data input

Contributors record data in two ways: the GBS annual paper chart or the GBS Excel Template. Both the chart and the Excel Template are provided to contributors by the GBS Coordinator.

- a) Processing paper chart data:
 - i. After 1 July each year, collect completed paper charts from contributors.
 - ii. Provide the paper charts to our data entry volunteers who input the data to Excel.
 - iii. Receive data in Excel format back from the data entry volunteers.
 - iv. Update Excel Lookup tables as required.
 - v. Load the completed Excel data into the GBS Access database.
- b) Processing GBS Excel Template data:
 - i. Collect completed GBS Excel Template files from contributors and reformat each file to correspond to the GBS format i.e. accumulate observations over 7 day periods.
 - ii. Load the completed Excel data into the GBS Access database.
- c) Load the GBS Access database to the COG Central Data Repository after any amendment to the content of the database. Keep backups and copies as per COG's Data Management Guidelines.

2) Data management: data output

- a. Extract data from the GBS Access database on receipt of Committee approved data licences.

- b. Produce data files in the required formats for inclusion in the Annual Bird Report and on Bird Info on the website.

3) Data management: what is not part of the Coordinator role

- a. Changing the functionality of the GBS Access DB unless discussed, fully documented and approved by the Committee.
- b. Changing survey protocols.
- c. Data analysis apart from summary information such as number of participants/month, suburbs covered.

4) Communication and promotion

Good communication skills are important as the role includes interacting with GBS participants, the Committee, and COG members. Specifically:

- a. Respond to GBS enquiries from contributors and others.
- b. Regular promotion of the GBS. This includes *Gang-gang*, Facebook, Chatline and at member meetings. At least initially, the Committee or its nominee will provide guidance on the content of these communications before publication.
- c. Work with the web team to update info about the GBS on the website.
- d. Report to the Committee. Initially this might be quarterly and discussion would cover anything that will assist the Coordinator and the Committee to support the GBS.

Canberra Birds Committee

COGOffice@canberrabirds.org.au



MYALLA BIRDPWATCHERS MID-WEEK SPECIAL

For birding enthusiasts seeking time, stillness and uninterrupted observation, Myalla offers the perfect mid-week base. Book Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and receive one night free — or enjoy 10% off a weekend stay. T&C's apply. Direct booking only by email to Leasha@myalla.com.au.

A Birdwatcher's Retreat in the Capertee Valley - Escape to one of Australia's most remarkable birding landscapes. Set in the breathtaking Capertee Valley, between the Blue Mountains and inland NSW, Myalla Farm Stay offers quiet, space and exceptional birdlife right outside your door. One avid guest recorded 80 bird species before even leaving the houseyard. From honeyeaters and small woodland birds in the gardens to raptors riding thermals above the sandstone escarpments, the diversity here is extraordinary. The valley is also internationally recognised for sightings of the endangered Regent Honeyeater. Backing directly onto Wollemi National Park, Myalla offers immediate access to exceptional habitat. Guests can explore an easy 6km walk to our private picnic area and lookout with sweeping views across the valley — perfect for spotting raptors. Sleeps up to 10 guests — ideal for couples, small groups or birding clubs. Slow down, take your time, and immerse yourself in the birdlife of the Capertee Valley. Learn more at www.myalla.com.au

Summary of the 8 April meeting

The short and very interesting presentation was by Rhiana Woods on “The spandrels of nest architecture in a cooperatively breeding mud nester”.

Rhiana began by indicating she used the costliness of building a mud nest to explore both a traditional adaptation perspective and a constraints perspective, as inspired by evolutionary biologists Gould and Lewontin's "spandrels" analogy.

She attempted to apply this theory to various aspects of the building of mud nests, which she defined could be short, round, tall or bulbous, by our local **White-winged Choughs**.

Rather than examine these nests by climbing the trees Rhiana manufactured a model printer that allowed the pointing of two laser dots at a defined distance apart from which she could calculate by outside measurement which one of above type of nest each examined represented.

Rhiana found a total of 21 suitable nests in the northern suburbs as well as 39 in Nature Reserves over the spring/summer breeding period. However, she was only able to measure around 51 of the nests, as many were destroyed or still occupied by late breeders (only empty nests were measured). This is still a very impressive total with some very interesting results, her main findings being:

- Mud availability appears to affect smaller groups more, as they built narrower nests when mud availability was lower and wider nests when it was higher. Large groups were able to build wider nests even when mud availability was low, suggesting that they are not as constrained.
- Nest reuse was another supporting factor that mud is a constraint, as the decision to reuse a nest was more likely when mud availability was lower.
- She then looked into why smaller groups might be constrained by mud availability more than larger groups. One possible explanation was their work force. The overall time that groups spent building was higher in larger groups, which also had a lower per capita investment (built more, but each individual contributed less).
- Rhiana then found that immatures (as determined by eye colour) were proportionally more likely to participate when groups were smaller.

Once again, on behalf of COG/Canberra Birds members many thanks to Rhiana for giving her very interesting presentation on aspects of the mud nest of a species with which we are very familiar. Our very best wishes for the successful completion of her Honours project and her future research.

The main presentation, given first for projection reasons, was by John Hurrell on “My Canberra Birding Big Year”. John presented this very enthusiastically with good humour, and with many pertinent comments including on the excellent bird photographs that he included.

John started by defining a Big Year as a personal challenge to attempt to identify as many species of birds as possible by sight and sound within a single calendar year and within a specific geographical location. He also provided a brief history of some notable examples.

He then explained that the basis for settling on the number 200 for the ACT was that for each of the past 10 years prior to 2023 the number of bird species reported on eBird ranged from 222 to 238. Therefore around 30 species could be missed, and one could still achieve the 200 birds target.

The strategies adopted to achieve this target included needing to see or hear the birds, with Lifers needing to be seen and preferably photographed. There was a concerted effort early in the year to cover as many birds as possible, especially spring/summer migrants, as well as to cover lots of different habitats including wet and dry forests, grasslands and wetlands. John also followed up reports of rare or uncommon visitors on eBird and the COG chatline etc as soon as possible.

His year began very well with 140 species seen in January with the **Bassian Thrush**, the **Eastern Shrike-tit** and the **Sahul Cicadabird** amongst the species he saw at the Warks Road/Blundells Creek Road, one of his favourite birding locations in the ACT. Other species seen at various locations, all illustrated by his excellent photographs, included the **Swamp Harrier**, **Pied Butcherbird**, **Olive Whistler** and **Pilotbird**.

John added another 23 species in February including the **Purple-crowned Lorikeet**, **Spotted Quail-thrush** and **Brush Bronzewing**. Another 13 species were added in March including the **Peaceful Dove**, and the 9 in April included the **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren**.

However, much of April was spent searching for the **Spotted Harrier** which had been reported at the Molonglo River Reserve, and John spent some time relating his efforts, including describing the “Triangle” in which it was reported by other observers, as well as the bird’s behaviours. Over the many hours spent there he finally managed some photographs though his favourite that he showed was by Angela Booth of one typically flying very low over grassland. This was the only photo in John’s presentation which was not his own.

Of the four new species in May, the **Spangled Drongo** and **Brown Gerygone** at the ANBG were very special. With 189 species already seen, John then took a break in the UK coming back mid-September, adding another 8 species including the **Black-eared Cuckoo** by the end of the month.

John’s goal of 200 species was achieved by adding another 6 species in October including the **Red-backed Kingfisher** and **Australian Painted-Snipe**. Another 1 was added in November and 2 in December, making 206 birds his final total for 2023.

Once again, on behalf of COG/Canberra Birds members, many thanks to John for giving this very enjoyable and interesting presentation. We all found it to be a great snapshot of the range of species that can be observed within the ACT and very much enjoyed his brief descriptions of many of the species’ behaviour and habitat. Our very best wishes for his continued interest in our local birds, including photographing them.

For readers looking for a more detailed account than above, John has published it in the July 2024 edition of the Canberra Bird Notes 49(1): 1-15 (2024).

Jack Holland



Laughing Kookaburra, Tidbinbilla NR, ACT, 15 April 2026,

Tee Tong Teo

A walk at Stromlo Woodlands led by COG and FOG for the ACT Conservation Council

The 18th of April was a beautiful morning for a walk, and a walk at Stromlo Woodlands did not disappoint. The walk was led by Kim Farley (Canberra Birds), Rainer Rehwinkel (Canberra Birds & Friends of Grasslands) and Andrew Zelnik (Friends of Grasslands). Sixteen members of the public had signed up under the Council's Branching Out: Canberra Nature Walks program. We saw flocks of migrating Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, many beautiful old trees and learnt lots about plants as well as birds. If you haven't visited Stromlo Woodlands you can find the spot via the [eBird Check-list](#) made on the day.

Conservation Council Walk, Stromlo Woodlands, ACT,
18 April 2026, *Kim Farley*



Premiere Film Screening *On the Edge*



The Conservation Council of the A.C.T. has sponsored a documentary about Canberra's Western Edge, *On the Edge*, that will premiere on **Tuesday 12 May, 6.00 to 8.00 pm** at the National Film and Sound Archive. *On the Edge* explores the crossroads Canberra currently faces between further suburban expansion into the bush or building sustainably, in harmony with nature, and how this might be achieved.

The film will be followed by a panel discussion chaired by Executive Director of the Conservation Council, Simon Copland, which will further consider issues around sustainable development in the A.C.T. The panel will feature:

- Trent Housenloge - On the Edge film maker
- Selina Walker - Emerging Ngunnawal Elder
- Kim Farley - President of Canberra Birds
- Dr Ed Wensing - Expert urban planner

More information about the and to purchase tickets here:
<https://events.humanitix.com/on-the-edge-film-screening>.

For a taste of what the documentary covers, including some glorious views of Canberra's 'Western Edge', view the trailer for the film here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NtAhsYFXNc>

Field Trip Reports

Sunday 15 March - Cooleman Ridge – part 1

On a clear, mild, early autumn morning, Angela Booth led a group of 14 for a walk on the western section of Cooleman Ridge Nature Reserve. It included parts of the remnant and regenerating woodland that form part of a green corridor and provide habitat for a variety of birds. The walk started from Darrell Place, Chapman.

A total of 39 species were observed. The highlight was a male **Scarlet Robin** heard calling and finally observed in good light.

Large numbers of **Galahs**, **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** and **Crimson Rosellas** were observed, along with smaller numbers of **Eastern Rosellas**, **Rainbow Lorikeets**, **Little Corellas** and **Red-rumped Parrots**.

There were also large numbers of **Australian Ravens**, **Australian Magpies** and **Pied Currawongs**. **Grey Butcherbirds**, **Magpie-larks**, **White-winged Choughs**, **Laughing Kookaburras** and a **Sacred Kingfisher** were also seen.

Satin Bowerbirds and **Grey Fantails** were seen constantly. Honeyeaters were confined to **Noisy Miners**, **Red Wattlebirds** and **Noisy Friarbirds**. Other birds included female **Rufous Whistlers**, **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes** and **White-throated Treecreepers**. **Welcome Swallows** and **Tree Martins** were seen overhead.

Weebills, **Spotted** and **Striated Pardalotes**, **Yellow-rumped Thornbills** and **Superb Fairywrens** were numerous, while **Red-browed Firetails**, **Brown Thornbills** and a **Striated Thornbill** and 2 **Yellow-throated Gerygones**, including one immature, were also seen. The only raptors spotted were a **Brown Goshawk** and a **Nankeen Kestrel**.

Eastern Wallaroos were observed in addition to many Eastern Grey Kangaroos.

Thanks to Angela for organising and to Julie McGuiness for keeping the bird list and to Tee Tong Teo for the photos.



Scarlet Robin, Australian Raven, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Cooleman Ridge, 15 March 2026,

Tee Tong Teo

Evan Bitmead



Red-capped Robin, Bracks Hole Road, 22 March 2026,
Tee Tong Teo

Sunday 22 March – Bracks Hole Road

The outing to Bracks Hole Road had **Red-capped Robin** and **Great Crested Grebe** as target birds for most, and quite a number of the participants had never been there before. One of the first birds seen, near the first intersection, was a male **Red-capped Robin**, very intent on spotting insects on the track. It was the first of several of this species seen, and **Scarlet Robins** also put in an appearance. As we neared the water, a **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** was visible in a dead tree some distance away and, although it flew further up the river, most of the group managed to see the bird. A group of four **Great Crested Grebes** kept to the far side of the water, and several

Australasian Darters and **Little Pied Cormorants** were identified. **Eurasian Coots** and **Australian Wood Ducks** were added to the list when we were able to view the inlet.

A couple of small groups of **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos** were seen high overhead. On the walk back to the cars we encountered a few other visitors, all hoping to see the grebes. Those at the back of our group were delighted to find **Eastern Shrike-tit** along the track - an unexpected bonus.

Sandra Henderson



Canberra Birds members, Bracks Hole Road, ACT, 22 March 2026,

Tee Tong Teo

Sunday 29 March – Cooleman Ridge – part 2 – Mt Arawang

Mount Arawang is at the southern part of the Cooleman Ridge Nature Reserve, with parking about 500m further south on the east side of Namatjira Drive at the bottom of Fisher.

Our group of 10 people enjoyed a walk on the fire trail circumnavigating the base of Mount Arawang. It was a beautiful morning, following a few days of rain. There were quite a few birds along the eastern side, but our identification by call was hindered by the traffic noise from the nearby road. It was easier to hear the birds as we walked around the western side.

The highlights included three small flocks of **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters**. It was good to learn their single-note contact call - 'chip'. They were feeding with a few **Weebills** and **Spotted Pardalotes**. One flock included a **White-naped Honeyeater**. These were all in trees rather than flying overhead. Some flocks were in eucalyptus trees with plenty of white flowers. We saw small flocks of **Striated Thornbills**, two **Striated Pardalotes** (one was a juvenile), three **Brown Thornbills**, one **Rufous Whistler** and heard several **Golden Whistlers**. Five **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes** were perching on top of dead trees (three in the same tree, shuffling their wings). We also saw **Silvereyes**, a **Noisy Friarbird** and ten **Grey Fantails**.



Thank you to Lia for a very interesting walk.



Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Spotted Pardalote, Weebill, Mount Arawang, ACT, 29 March 2026,

Tee Tong Teo

If you are visiting Mount Arawang, it is also possible to walk to the summit, and the least strenuous (but still challenging) trail is over a metal bridge about 500m from a small carpark at the Kambah horse paddocks on Namatjira Drive.

Judi

Sunday 5 April – Narrabundah Hill

Twenty-two members and guests joined me on this annual outing. We walked for about 2.0 km, first along the northern boundary, but only around 400 m down the western side of the reserve, before heading up hill for a few hundred metres to check some bird activity there, then returning by the same route. The aims were to observe any honeyeater migration, as well as to find mixed feeding flocks (MFFs), autumn altitudinal migrants and any late departing summer migrants. While the sun which was out as we were gathering beforehand, unfortunately it soon clouded over and stayed that way for most of the walk. This may be the reason why only a single **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** was heard/seen and then by only very few of the group. However, in previous walks under similar or even worse conditions we have always managed a few small flocks. There may have been a few others in some of the mixed flocks, but no more were definitely identified, nor were any White-naped Honeyeaters seen or heard.

The first bird to sit out well was an adult **Grey Butcherbird** and, even though the light was not ideal, most had good views. Shortly after another was seen in a standoff with a female **Magpie-lark**, and later another was heard. A couple of silent **Australian King-Parrots** also flew through.

We didn't encounter our first MFF until about halfway along the northern boundary with up to half a dozen seen after that. A feature was that, with the exception of the **Grey Fantail**, which seemed to be hawking everywhere with many very clearly marked so likely having come up from Tasmania, the smaller birds in general did not show well, often staying within the green leaves before darting out into some more foliage. A male **Rufous Whistler** did present well, with most of the group getting good views, better than the nearby 2 female/immature **Golden Whistlers**. Also, in these feeding flocks were **Weebills**, **Superb Fairy-wrens**, some **Silvereyes**, including the buff-flanked Tasmanian form, and **Spotted Pardalotes**.

New MFF species were found when checking the activity slightly uphill from the western boundary including a pair of **Scarlet Robins** which were quite co-operative compared with the pair seen slightly earlier, allowing good views for the whole group. The surprise here was at least 15 **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, initially in the quite thick understory of blackberries, etc, before moving to a typically more open floor habitat. As we were walking back to the cars the slowest walkers did finally identify some **Striated Thornbills**, which had been suspected earlier. They also saw 2 **Wedge-tailed Eagles**, the only raptor for the morning.

A surprise was no White-eared Honeyeater, the autumn altitudinal migrant which has been slow to come to the area this year. A few other summer migrants were present, including several **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes** briefly seen or heard.

At 29 species, this was the lowest total in the now 12 trips I have led at this timing (the previous lowest was 31 species in 2021; before that there had usually been between 42 and 50). The reason for this very low count wasn't clear, possibly because the conditions (cool and cloudy, though with light winds) weren't ideal. Nevertheless, participants enjoyed the morning, and I was reminded again of how important COG outings can be as social occasions.

Many thanks again to Sandra Henderson for helping me lead the walk when numbers increased in the last few days. Many thanks also to Judi for doing the eBird list, which is always a very difficult task when a large number of people are seeing and calling out names of the different birds they are seeing.

Jack Holland

Saturday 11 April – Eden pelagic

The bar for COG's first round of 2026 Eden pelagics was set high, with a Victorian group scoring some very unusual warm-water records in the fortnight prior. A group of **Australian Ravens** harassing a **Grey Goshawk** kept us entertained as we waited to board, and we motored out towards the continental shelf in south-westerly winds and decent swell.

Within the first hour we amassed a good following of **Shy Albatross** and **Wedge-tailed Shearwaters**, many of them sticking with us for the entire day. About halfway to the shelf, I was very surprised to see a **Grey-backed Storm-Petrel** ducking between the waves some distance behind us – while Eden is one of the best ports from which to see this



White-faced Storm-petrel, Black Petrel, Wilson's Storm-petrel, Eden Pelagic, NSW, 11 April 2026,
Julian Teh

species, in my experience it is unusual to encounter one over shallow waters before the shelf break. The bird reappeared twice more, but sadly didn't catch up to us for good views.

At the shelf we were surrounded by a large flock, many poached from a passing fishing boat that we moved to intercept – **Shy, Black-browed, Campbell, Indian Yellow-nosed** and **Buller's Albatross** gathered around us, along with large numbers of **Flesh-footed Shearwaters**. At least 20 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** put on a spectacular show, and a brief but satisfying appearance from a **White-faced Storm-Petrel** rounded out the Eden storm-petrel set. Not to be outdone, a pair each of **White-chinned** and **Grey-faced Petrels** circled the boat at close range.

The undisputed highlight of the day was a single **Black Petrel**, picked up by Anthony among the throng of shearwaters right beside the boat. Everyone enjoyed excellent views, and had a chance to compare it to the closely-related **White-chinned Petrels** and visually similar **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** at close range. An occasional summer-autumn visitor to the east coast, this is only the fourth eBird record of this species off Eden.

By early afternoon the wind had died off, the chum had run low and the birds were beginning to lose interest. We set off for shore with only a few albatross giving chase, and enjoyed a quiet (if slightly bumpy) ride in, punctuated by our traditional stop at the sawmill pontoons to view the **Black-faced Cormorant** colony.

Unfortunately, the Sunday trip had to be cancelled at the last minute due to forecast 30 knot winds and heavy swell offshore. Instead, a group of 10 enjoyed a circumnavigation of Lake Curralo, one of my favourite birding spots on the south coast. In just under four hours we tallied up 74 species, including **Buff-banded Rail, Bar-tailed Godwit, Southern Emu-wren, Crescent Honeyeater, Varied Sittella** and a frustratingly heard-only **Black-faced Monarch**.

As always, our thanks to Mark and Lindsay from Freedom Charters for another great day out, and to all participants for maintaining good cheer in the face of unpredictable pelagic birding.

Julian Teh

Saturday 11 April – K2C surveys – Bredbo region

The autumn 2026 K2C bird surveys were held over several days due to limited volunteer availability. The main survey day was Saturday 11 April, a fine but windy morning during a long, dry and warm autumn spell. The sheltered sites generally yielded more birds; an interesting exception being the Ingelara woodland where, despite the strong wind, the dense metre-high regrowth afforded enough shelter for a lovely selection of woodland birds (including **Hooded Robin, Speckled Warbler, Yellow** and **Buff-rumped Thornbills**, and **Diamond Firetail**) to stay foraging down at ground level.

There was almost no movement of honeyeaters in the windy conditions; the usual suite of **Yellow-faced, White-naped, White-eared, Fuscous, White-plumed** and **Brown-headed Honeyeaters** were recorded but in low numbers. A group of 5 **Noisy Friarbirds** were seen moving northwards. Other lingering summer migrants included **Rufous Whistler, Grey Fantail, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Dusky Woodswallow**, and a couple of records of **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**.

Threatened species were in lower than usual numbers, the most prevalent being **Scarlet Robin** (5 properties) **Dusky Woodswallow** (5), **Hooded Robin** (3), **Diamond Firetail** (2), **Brown Treecreeper** (2), **Southern Whiteface** (2) and

Flame Robin (1). This may have been partly due to the conditions during the survey or the fact that one of the reliable properties for these species was not surveyed.

Thanks again to the volunteers, the landholders for continued access, and Bush Heritage for the use of the facilities at Scottsdale for our post-survey lunch.

Nicki Taws

Sunday 12 April - Wandiyali-Environa Wildlife Reserve

Wandiyali is a privately own nature reserve between Jerrabomberra and Googong. The reserve has been free from grazing for around twenty years, and the owners have been actively restoring the environment through intensive land care activities such as replanting, weed control and fence removal. 600ha of the property is now enclosed by a predator-proof fence and Wandiyali has entered into a partnership with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to begin reintroducing locally threatened or extinct species.

Despite stiff competition from other birding activities being held on the same weekend, 10 birders participated. The property owners met us at the gate and, after a short overview of Wandiyali and its mission, we were then led on a birding tour of the upper half of the reserve.

It was quite cold and windy to start and the birds were shy aside from a large flock of **Red Wattlebirds**. We did find a nice **Brush Cuckoo** by the property fence dining on caterpillars, a lifer for several our group.

As we walked we were told about the property and various landcare activities that the landowners and their supporters are performing. It was really remarkable to witness the changes that these efforts have produced over the past two decades. The owners deliberately plant and preserve tree and plant species to create diversity in the property's vegetation, which in turn supports diverse birdlife.

As the sun came out, our bird sightings improved. We saw a range of raptors including **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, **Brown Falcon** and **Nankeen Kestrel**. As we walked up to a high-point on the property we saw mixed feeding flocks of **Buff-rumped** and **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, and **Weebills**. There were also several **Scarlet Robins**. As we returned to the gate and our cars we encountered a large flock of **Dusky Woodswallows**.

In total, we recorded 40 species, but the real star of the show was Wandiyali itself, a remarkable gem preserved and restored through many years of hard work and dedication. Our thanks go to the owners for hosting our visit.

Marcus Hellyer

Wednesday 15 April – lesser know parts of Tidbinbilla NR

A perfect day greeted us at Tidbinbilla - sunny, no wind and mild temperatures. The very first bird to greet those arriving early at the entry carpark was a **Grey Currawong**, calling as it flew away. First stop for the morning for the group was Webb's picnic area, where small groups of **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** were passing over, with just a few **White-naped Honeyeaters** among them. Next stop was Greens picnic area, where **White-throated Treecreepers** were actively hunting in trees beside the river, and an obliging **White-eared Honeyeater** in a track-side tree was admired by all. At Blewitts picnic area three **Laughing Kookaburras** turned up, obviously hoping for BBQ offerings.



Brush Cuckoo, Brown Falcon & Willie Wagtail, Golden Whistler, Dusky Woodswallow, Wandiyali Environa Wildlife Reserve, NSW, 12 April 2026,
Marcus Hellyer



The main stop was the Eucalypt Forest, where we all admired the four Koalas near the entry. The bird of the day was the **Red-browed Treecreeper** next to the track, but we also managed good views of **Eastern Yellow Robins**, **Satin Bowerbirds** and a group of **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos** flying through.

Sandra Henderson



Satin Bowerbird, Red-browed Treecreeper, Eastern Yellow Robin, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, ACT, 15 April 2026, *Tee Tong Teo*

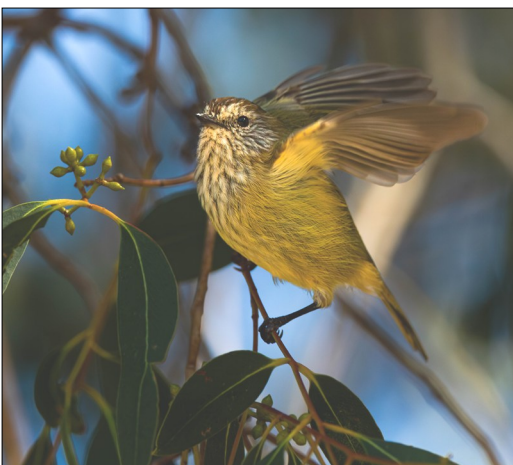
Sunday 19 April – Dalton, Jerrara Creek TSR, Gunning and Gundaroo

On a perfect autumn day, 9 members enjoyed a wander through the countryside north of Canberra. Our first stop was at Dalton Showgrounds and the adjacent Dalton Cemetery. Among the 18 species recorded on a slow walk around the perimeter of the showground, and then the wooded strip outside the cemetery proper, were small mixed feeding flocks made up of **Scarlet Robin**, both pardalotes, **Grey Fantail**, **Buff-rumped** and **Striated Thornbill**, and **Weebill**.

The morning tea stop in the small park beside Oolong Creek in Dalton was initially only going to be a brief break without the need for a bird list, but it turned into our most productive stop of the day with 27 species recorded as new species appeared and we discovered a lovely revegetated area behind adjacent houses and further along the creek. The mixed feeding flock here included **Golden Whistler** and **Brown Thornbill**, and there were four species of honeyeater, **White-eared** and **Yellow-faced Honeyeater**, **Eastern Spinebill** and **Red Wattlebird**.

From here we drove a short distance just west of Dalton to Jerrara Creek TSR, which looked promising but was very quiet. The only additions to the list were **Dusky Woodswallow**, **Common Bronzewing**, **White-throated Treecreeper** and **Australian Raven**.

We then drove back to Gunning for lunch in Barbour Park alongside Meadow Creek. Here, **Dusky Moorhen**, including several immature birds, **Australian Wood Duck** and **Australasian Grebe** were seen. After lunch, we followed the creek north to the Bruce Bray Riparian Walk from where a **Black-shouldered Kite** was spotted by eagle-eyed Evan, preening near the top of a distant tree. A detour up a back street gave us enough elevation to look into the sewage pond where we added **Pacific Black Duck**, **Grey Teal**, **Australasian Shoveler**, **White-faced Heron**, **Eurasian Coot** and **Hoary-headed Grebe**.



Striated Thornbill, Dalton, Gunning, Gundaroo, NSW, 19 April 2026, *Richard Arculus*

The last stop was at Gundaroo Cemetery from where we could look over Gundaroo Common. Bird activity had slowed in the sunny, still conditions but we did add **Crested Pigeon** and **Little Raven** to the list, and had another mixed feeding flock.

A **Brown Falcon** near Sutton, only the second raptor species of the day, brought an end to a very pleasant day's birding and an acceptable autumn total of 52 species.

Many thanks to Bill Graham who once again put together a day's birding to places most of us neglect in our area-of-interest.

Sue Lashko

Sunday 26 April – private properties at Wallaces Gap

The fog had just lifted and the forest was awakening at 9am when 15 birders arrived at the first of three private properties on today's trip. On the road outside Lucy's property we were treated to three of the **Thornbills** regularly seen in the area (**Striated**, **Brown** and **Buff-rumped**). Not far away were **Spotted** and **Striated Pardalotes** which could easily be heard before they were seen. **Yellow-faced**, **White-eared** and **White-naped Honeyeaters** and one **Eastern Yellow Robin** were also spotted amongst the tall trees. As we travelled through Lucy's property, we saw the scratchings of Superb Lyrebird but unfortunately they weren't around when we passed by. Lucy said we'd missed them by 30 minutes.

Descending down the hill into Mareshell's property we came across the highlight of our trip - 4 **Varied Sitella** with everybody obtaining a good view of their acrobatics at close range. Nearby we also saw **Eastern Spinebill** and the ever-present **Red Wattlebird**. Descending lower into the valley, we passed through a grove of mature Silver Banksia - favourite habitat of the 5 **New Holland Honeyeaters** seen feeding in the flowers.

Moving onto Ben's property, we could hear a few different calls along the creek line but the birds evaded our keen eye. We took a short detour to a patch of Snow Gums that often play host to **Scarlet Robin**. Luck was on our side and we all had excellent views of a male and female.

Time was getting on, so after 2.5km and 3 hours in the field we made our way back to the cars and had a pleasant lunch enjoying the view of the Shoalhaven River valley below and the mountains beyond. Interestingly we didn't see many of the medium or large birds that usually inhabit these areas; it was mainly small woodland birds seen on today's outing. Lia kindly finalised the eBird list with 27 species observed.

Thanks to the three property owners for each giving us a guided tour of their well-cared-for land in this seldom-visited area.

Ben Bradey



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Future Field Trips

COG Trips

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

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

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

Changes to trips are notified on:

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

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

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

Sunday 10 May – Nursery Swamp

On this trip we will visit one of the most delightful spots in Namadgi National Park. **Spotted Quail-thrush** have been seen and heard on the uphill section, and in the higher altitude section, there's the possibility of **Olive Whistler**.

Meet at the Kambah Village shopping centre car park (cnr Drakeford Drive and Marconi Crescent) at 8.30 am for carpooling. Suggested contribution from each passenger to drivers: \$10.

We will then drive to the Orroral Valley. The first part of the walk is 2 km uphill on a fairly steep track, then we continue along a valley through Black Salles to Nursery Swamp, a fen at 1,100 metres altitude containing peat that has been dated to 10,000 years BP. The walking distance is about 10 km round trip. The area is of great significance to Aboriginal people, containing both rock art and tool-making sites.

We will return in the early afternoon, so bring morning tea, lunch and water, and be prepared for changeable weather as we will be at altitude.

Registration for this trip is essential **by 6pm on Friday 8 May**; maximum: 16 attendees.

To register, or to obtain further information, please contact the trip leader, Michael by email - mrobbins (at) [home.netspeed.com.au](mailto:mrobbins@home.netspeed.com.au) with your name, mobile number, and the name and number of an emergency contact.
Michael Robbins

Saturday 16 May – Australian National Botanic Gardens – beginners' outing

This morning walk will be the first for 2026 aimed specifically to help beginners and new members identify birds and to learn about their behaviour and calls. The Botanic Gardens are especially suitable for such an outing, as they allow the opportunity to observe a range of local bush birds in a variety of habitats. Due to the available food supply, they are also a relative haven for birds during late autumn/winter. Anthony Overs will lead this outing, which will consist of a stroll through this lovely part of Canberra for a couple of hours. Meet at 9.15am at the ANBG bus shelter. Registration is essential; please provide your name and mobile phone number, as well as an emergency contact name and number. Book your place with Anthony (0419202155, or anthony.overs@gmail.com), who will be happy to discuss whether this outing is suitable for you. Please make sure to bring your binoculars and field guide. **If you do not have binoculars, please let me know as COG can supply you with a pair to use on the day.**

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

Anthony Overs

Wednesday 20 May – Bruce Ridge/Gossan Hill

Meet at 9am in CIT Parking lot at the southern end of Bay 3. (Take the third entrance on the left along Purdie St, after turning off Haydon Drive; Bay 3 is then the first parking area to the left).

This will allow anyone who wants to use public transport, a R2, R3, R4, R5 or R6 bus, to get off at the CIT stop on Haydon Drive and meet those who have decided to use their car, before we explore part of Bruce Ridge and Gossan Hill.

Walking will mainly be on wide tracks, a little undulating in parts. It should take about 3 hours.

Please register with Matthew at mblx55@hotmail.com with your name, mobile number and the name and mobile number of an emergency contact.

Matthew Larkin and Michael Robbins

Sunday 24 May – Kama Nature Reserve

Description. Although not part of the proposed Western Edge development, the habitat and birds in the Reserve area are a good representative of flora and fauna to be found in the area designated as the Western Edge. Excellent views of parts of the proposed area can also be viewed from the Reserve.

Kama Nature Reserve is a designated COG woodland site with surveys conducted since 2005 by Chris Davey. Surveys were first conducted before the area was declared a Reserve and was grazed by cattle and sheep, so there have been many changes since then.

The habitat in the Reserve consists of Yellow-Box/Red Gum woodland in the northern section leading to grassland and riverine habitat to the south. This outing will be conducted in the woodland section of the Reserve.

During the walk we will visit some of the monitoring points and compare images taken in 2005, 2015 and again in 2025 showing the changes in the vegetation as the area slowly recovers from the effects of stock grazing.

Meeting time and place. The outing will start at 8:00am at the Reserve carpark (-35.2597 149.0296). The carpark is situated on the northern side of William Hovell Drive. If heading from the City continue past the entrance and turn back at the roundabout where William Hovell Drive meets Drake Brockman Drive. DO NOT TRY to ENTER the CARPARK when heading north across on-coming traffic. The Reserve is entered via a stock path underneath William Hovell Drive.

Walk details. The walk will cover about 5 km on well-formed dirt tracks and take about 2-3 hours. Water, sun hat and good walking shoes will be required.

Please register with Chris (daveychris12@gmail.com) and include your name, phone number, and the name and number of an emergency contact.

Chris Davey

Sunday 7 June - Mt Taylor NR, western edge

Meet at 9am at the Mt Taylor Reserve bitumen carpark near traffic lights and roughly opposite Mannheim Street on Sulwood Drive, Kambah. This is a one-way carpark - if coming from the south you'll need to drive up the northern end of the carpark to enter it (where the traffic signs say 20 km/hr). It is also possible to park in Gouger St, Torrens and walk for 10 minutes directly west to meet us on Sulwood Drive.

We will walk all the way around the Mt Taylor Base Loop starting on the Sulwood Fire Trail. There is no need to climb to the summit. Our loop mostly follows fire trails with quite a few ups and downs and some narrower tracks on rockier ground, over a distance of about 5.5km. We aim to finish before 12 noon.

Recent e-bird listings show thornbills, whistlers and honeyeaters.

Please register with Judi on JudithPaulM@gmail.com and include your name, phone number, and name and number of an emergency contact.

Saturday 13 June – Superb Lyrebird survey – Tidbinbilla NR

Since the January 2003 bushfires we have been monitoring the return of the **Superb Lyrebird** to an area of the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. We wish to get an idea of the present distribution within the Reserve and are asking COG

members to join us for a morning's survey. We are calling for expressions of interest to join us at 8.00am at the Reserve car park to walk the trails and to record the location of calling birds. Depending on the trails walked the survey should take about three hours.

This outing will be a repeat of the very successful surveys conducted at this time of the year since 2004. For previous survey results see *Gang-gang* p11, July 2023.

Chris Davey (daveychris12@gmail.com) 0418 679 847 and Peter Fullagar

Sunday 21 June – south of Point Hutt

Details to be confirmed – see the website for updates at <https://canberrabirds.org.au/trips/south-of-point-hutt/>
Michael Robbins



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

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Woodland Surveys – Autumn 2026 survey round –

compiled by Jenny Bounds

After a warm summer with some very hot periods, and limited rain, regular rain events (some heavy), occurred over March, mostly driven from systems in the tropics.

Note: not all sites are reported.

Mulligans Flat NR

Jenny Bounds and the team did the quarterly survey on Sunday 29 March, in very pleasant weather, sunny and still. There was lots of small bird activity, including some movement of migrating **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters**, a few birds around several sites and groups moving on the central, quartz ridge. **Superb Parrots** were active on the east side, small numbers around the west ridge and the flat in the Woolshed environs (one group of 10 birds). An increase in observations of **Scarlet Robins** was evident (usual over cooler months), recorded at 10 of the 24 sites and a few other incidental sightings between sites. An **Eastern Yellow Robin** was an uncommon record. Two **Aust. Hobby**, an interesting record. One **Olive-backed Oriole** near the Woolshed, warming up in the sun before quietly moving on, a couple of **Rufous Whistlers** moving through, and a number of **Grey Fantails** doing the same. Small groups of **Varied Sittellas** (uncommon species) were recorded at sites 20/23 (eastern side), and site 11 (not far from the Woolshed). 14 **Straw-necked Ibis** on the eastern side of the reserve. And, 6 **Pink-eared Ducks** on the large dam, now regularly recorded there. A total of 48 species, about average for autumn survey.

Goorooyaroo NR (southern area)

Steve Holliday and Prue Buckley did the autumn survey on 31 March in ideal conditions. It was sunny, mild to warm, and with light winds. The reserve was looking quite green after recent rains but dams on and near the circuit had little water in them. They recorded 39 species for the morning, with 31 of these found during 10 minutes counts. This was a lower species count than usual for autumn - last year recorded totals of 45 and 35 on the equivalent survey.

Amongst the more interesting species recorded during counts were a **Wedge-tailed Eagle** at site 2, a **Mistletoebird** at site 1, **Scarlet Robins** at sites 1 and 7, **Superb Parrots** at 3 sites, and a **Grey Currawong** at site 6. Incidental records included a **Speckled Warbler**, more **Scarlet Robins**, an **Olive-backed Oriole**, and **Eastern Spinebills** and **Brown-headed Honeyeaters** feeding in flowering mistletoes. One large mixed flock at site 8 included: **White-eared Honeyeater**; **Golden** and **Rufous Whistlers**; many **Spotted** and **Striated Pardalotes**; **Brown**, **Striated** and **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**; **Weebill**; **Western Gerygone**; **Grey Fantail**; **Willie Wagtail**; **White-throated Treecreeper**; **Silvereye** and **Yellow-faced Honeyeater**. While a few honeyeater species were present in low numbers, no migrating groups were noted.

Mt Majura NR

The surveys were conducted over 3 days from 30 March to 1 April. Things were relatively quiet (only 4-5 species in some sites) with the exception of a couple of mixed flocks at sites 4 and 5. These sites are the furthest away from urban spaces and often have the most variety of species. Highlights included: a pair of male **Scarlet Robins**; 2 **Speckled Warblers**; **Brown**, **Buff Rumped** and **Yellow Rumped Thornbills** at a couple of sites; 2 **White Eared Honeyeaters** at site 5, but no other honeyeaters seen within sites; **Superb Parrots**, **Common Bronzings** and **Gang-gang Cockatoos** at a couple of sites. Of note 12 **Crimson Rosellas** were seen drinking water that had collected on the top of the Hackett watertank. 28 species total. Additional species seen between sites included 1 **Laughing Kookaburra**, 30 **Little Corellas** (flying overhead), 1 **Aust. Raven**, 1 **Golden Whistler**, 2 **Silvereyes** and 1 **White Plumed Honeyeater**, and a number of **Grey Fantails**.

Mt Ainslie NR/Campbell Park

The autumn woodland survey of the 9 sites on the eastern lower slopes of Mt Ainslie was carried out on 20 March by Brian Grinter and Michael Lenz. It was a mild and calm morning. The most widespread species were again **Crimson Rosella** and **Noisy Miner** (each at 7 sites), followed by **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** (5), **Red-rumped Parrot** and **Spotted Pardalote** (4 sites each). The first 5 sites were dominated by parrots (7 species, including several **Superb Parrots** and a group of 3 **Gang-gang Cockatoos**) with hardly any small birds. At site 7 they encountered a mixed feeding flock, raising the species profile considerably. Species of note: **Western** and **White-throated Gerygone**; **Rufous**

Whistler; Olive-backed Oriole; White-eared Honeyeaters; and several **Noisy Friarbirds** in areas with flowering mistletoes. Especially pleasing was to find 5 **Common Bronzewing** and 3 **Speckled Warblers**. Both species have been absent/almost absent for a considerable time. Less vigorous growth of weeds (as a result of a dry summer), allowing better ground foraging for these species, may explain their re-appearance. **Birds of prey** were absent and **Australian Raven** was only recorded once (as also noted during the summer survey). 33 species were recorded in total (25 at the sites, 8 along the route).

Newline

Sue Lashko surveyed on 11 March, an overcast, mild morning. As always, the sites in the front paddocks were quite productive, with two **White-throated Gerygones**, both **Pardalote** species, and one each of **Noisy Friarbird** and **Yellow-faced Honeyeater**, as well as the usual array of resident woodland birds. Two **Brown Quail** were flushed and a **Collared Sparrowhawk** flushed the **Common Starlings** to make counting easier. The back site near the old quarry was also very good perhaps because there is no longer any disturbance from trucks and heavy machinery, and the revegetated areas adjacent to the site are providing good habitat. Among the dozen species recorded there were **White-throated Treecreeper**, **Rufous Whistler**, both **Pardalotes**, **Grey Fantail**, **Weebill**, and **Silvereye**. In the other sites, migrants still present included **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** and **Dusky Woodswallow**. Both **Red-browed Finch** and **European Goldfinch** were recorded but **Double-barred Finch** were nowhere to be found. A total of 42 species was recorded, which is a little above the autumn average.

Tuggeranong Hill NR

Lia Battisson surveyed on Friday 27 March. It threatened to be a wet day, but at 8 am there was a pause in the rain, and Lia managed to survey the first four sites before another shower fell. After a break of 30 minutes the rest of the sites were surveyed. There were no **Rainbow Lorikeets** anywhere on the Hill, for the first time in a long while. At site 1 there was a small mixed feeding flock, comprised of **Spotted Pardalotes**, **Weebill**, **Yellow and Buff-rumped Thornbills**, **Grey Fantail** and a **White-eared Honeyeater**. There were very few **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** and only two groups of 3 and 2 respectively were migrating. For the third autumn in a row, there were 3 separate observations of **Scarlet Robin**, each of them a male. In all, 17 species were observed in sites, and a further 15 in between, which is a bit short of the average for this time of the year.



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Naas Sites

Julie Hotchin and Julie McGuiness conducted the autumn survey on this rural leasehold south of Tharwa on 30 March. The morning was overcast initially and fog over the ranges did not clear until mid-morning. The site was quite green although both dams had little water. As the morning progressed bird activity was quite good, surprisingly so at site 2, which is usually very quiet. Overall, 43 species were recorded, of which 29 species were in the six sites and 14 species between sites, which is similar to last year (24 and 17 respectively).

The highlight was seeing at least seven **Jacky Winters** across four locations: a group of four (three adults and an immature bird) were very active at site 4 as were another three adult birds along the driveway. Two pairs were also seen at sites 2 and 6, but as they may have been part of the two groups (timing and proximity), were not included in the total number recorded. One pair of **Jacky Winters** was part of a mixed flock with **Scarlet Robins**, **Willie Wagtails**, **Grey Fantails** and **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**. Interestingly, this is the second survey in a row that a young **Jacky Winter** has been recorded there, each time at site 4. A few **White-eared**, **White-plumed** and **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** were present at one site, and several more **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** flew through. Spring migrants still present included **Dusky Woodswallows**, **Rufous Whistler**, **White-throated Gerygone** and numerous **Grey Fantails**. Parrots included **Crimson** and **Eastern Rosella**, and **Galah** and **Red-rumped Parrot** (in large numbers). **Scarlet Robins** were observed at two sites. Fair numbers of **Striated Pardalote**, **Weebill**, **Willie Wagtail** and **Yellow-rumped Thornbill** were active. A **Pied Butcherbird** was heard calling at a distance. The only raptor sighted was a **Nankeen Kestrel**.

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

2025-2026 memberships:

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

New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

Nil

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for JUNE 2026 edition:

Wednesday 27 May 2026

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.

COG information

President: Kim Farley

president@canberrabirds.org.au

Treasurer: Peter Millar

cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au

Secretary: Sandie Jones

cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au

Address for correspondence

The Secretary
COG, PO Box 331
Jamison Centre, ACT 2614

Canberra Bird Notes

Editor: Michael Lenz

michael.lenz.birds@gmail.com

Sub-editor: Kevin Windle

Kevin.Windle@anu.edu.au

COG website

canberrabirds.org.au

COG Webmaster

Julian Robinson

cogwebmaster@canberrabirds.org.au

COG library

Membership Enquiries & Updates:

membership@canberrabirds.org.au

for change of address or other details.

Gang-gang Newsletter

Editor: Zac Flegg

Lay-out Editor: Gail Neumann

gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au

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