

BRUSH BRONZEWING

Scientific Name: *Phaps elegans*

Atlas Number: 35

DESCRIPTION:

The Brush Bronzewing is a dark olive-brown above with rich chestnut nape and shoulders, with blue-grey underparts. There are two curved bronze iridescent blue-green bars across each wing. A dark, chestnut stripe through eyes, underlined by white and a chestnut throat patch are distinguishing features. The male has a chestnut forehead.



The female lacks the forehead patch and is generally duller.

SIMILAR SPECIES:

The Common Bronzewing is similar to the Brush Bronzewing but smaller and lacks the scaly pattern on the wings. The Common Bronzewing lacks the dark line through the eye and the throat patch, and the male has a buff forehead.

DISTRIBUTION:

This species occurs around the coast from Fraser Island and adjacent mainland Qld, round to the Eyre Peninsula in SA, although absent just north of the NSW border and at the top of the Spencer Gulf in SA. A geographically separate population occupies the southwest corner of WA, and the species also occurs in Tasmania and coastal islands.

HABITAT:

The Brush Bronzewing inhabits areas with a dense shrub layer, and so can occur in the grassy heathlands near the coast and behind sand dunes, or further inland in wet or dry forests or woodlands including dense mallee.

SEASONAL MOVEMENTS:

Little is known for certain but it is thought that they are resident year-round, moving only locally in response to changes in food supplies.

FEEDING:

These birds feed exclusively on the ground on seeds of various plants. They are most commonly seen as singles or

pairs, with flocking being a rarely-reported occurrence and then only of less than 10 birds at a time. They drink at dawn or dusk, alighting some distance from the water then cautiously making their way to the edge to drink.

BREEDING:

While October to January is the most likely time to find nests, these fragile, slightly cupped platforms of twigs and sticks have been found with eggs or chicks in every month. The female builds the nest on the ground or in trees but more commonly in dense brush. Once the two eggs are laid, the female incubates during the day. Little is known about wild birds, but those in captivity sit for 15-18 days before the chicks hatch. The chicks fledge at about 16 days and the young remain with their parents until they nest again, which can be as little as 3 to 4 weeks later.

LIVING WITH US

Like many birds, the clearing of their habitats has restricted their ranges, although there is some indication that the spread of clover in WA has led to an increase in number.

Cover text courtesy of <https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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Founded in 1977

Club's Aim:

To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the bird life around them.

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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- | | |
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| TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP : | Ken Brown |
| EDITORS: | Charles Dove, Janina Dove |
| RECORDS OFFICER: | Darryl Goldrick |

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

GENERAL MEETING

Monday 8th August 7.30pm start

Fairy Meadow Community Centre, Cambridge Avenue, Fairy Meadow

In our August talk, Nic van Oudtshoorn looks at two very different bird species - oxpeckers, the vampires of the bird world, and weaver birds, arguably the most sophisticated avian nest makers.

Nic and Daphne have been photographing and filming these very unusual birds for many years, mainly in South Africa's Kruger National Park. The talk features amazing photos and video of these remarkable creatures.

"Oxpeckers are named from their habit of perching on large mammals such as cattle, zebra, impala, hippopotamuses, rhinos, and giraffes, eating ticks, small insects, botfly larvae, and other parasites," says Nic.

"But their real love is for animal blood. They even open up wounds to get to it."

There are many species of weaver birds, but all construct intricate nests from grass, leaves, and other plant fibers.

"These nests can range from simple roofed home to a complex cylindrical structure consisting of a single tube-shaped entrance and an internal chamber, says Nic.

"Suspended from a thorny palm or acacia tree over a body of water, the nest is constructed by the male in the breeding season with only his feet and beak to work with."



Black-headed Weaver (Ploceus cucullatus bohndorffi) male nest building



Yellow-billed Oxpeckers (Buphagus africanus africanus) on zebra

Please bring a plate of 'goodies' and a mug for supper after the meeting.

MIDWEEK OUTING

Wednesday 10th August 9am

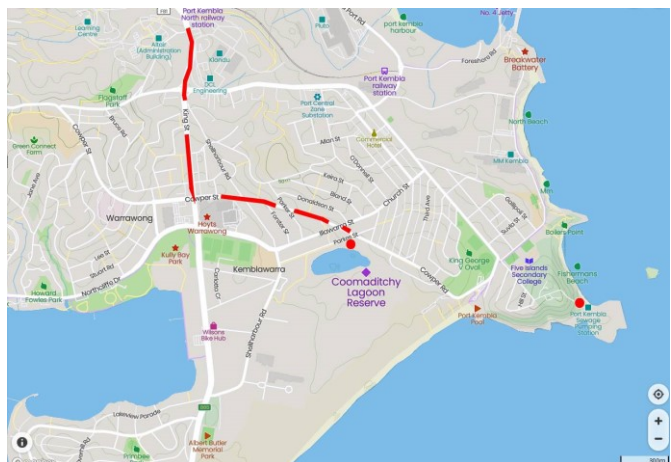
Leaders Bill & Joan Zealey

MIDWEEK WALK

Coomaditchy Lagoon and Hill 60, Port Kembla

Head down the coast to Warrawong along King Street. Turn left into Cowper Street at the Gala Cinema. Proceed straight across Illawarra Street and turn right into Parkes Street. Park on the road near the junction.

Nestled in the heart of suburbia, Coomaditchy Lagoon is the only remaining perched dunal lake in the Illawarra region and is listed on the national register of important wetlands. It is significant to local and migratory birds, a known breeding ground for the endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog. The Coomaditchy United Aboriginal Corporation is a caretaker of this



precious resource. The loop track around the lagoon takes in reed beds, tee tree wetland, dune woodland and open water. Darter, Little Pied, Pied, Little Black and Great Cormorants all breed in casuarinas on the small islands in the lagoon. We will have morning tea at the Coast Guard Lookout at Hill 60 Port Kembla.

NOTE All IBOC members should carry and be prepared to produce their proof of COVID vaccination.

In the event of inclement weather Phone Bill
on 0414747644



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MONTHLY OUTING

Saturday 13th August at 9am

Leaders *Alan & Anne Cousins*

Bangalee Nature Reserve - North Nowra

Take the Princes Highway south to Bomaderry, turn right into Illaroo Road at the traffic lights just before the Shoalhaven Bridge. At the roundabout veer right and proceed for approx. 5km passing Hockey's Lane and the winery on your right before turning left into Kaloona Drive. Follow the road and fork right at the Scout Camp Road and continue for some way on a narrow winding road crossing a creek in a steep dip. The entrance to the reserve is at the top of a rise and is indicated by a very small sign on the right-hand side of the road.

N.B. IF YOU REACH WATERSLEIGH YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR!

Meet at the reserve car park at 9am. Bring morning tea and lunch.

We will carry morning tea and return to the cars for lunch in the picnic area. There are facilities available on the reserve.

In the event of inclement weather contact Alan or Anne on 0413 869 534 by 7.30am

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Next Committee Meeting

Monday 15th August 2022 7.00pm

Committee Meeting via Zoom

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE 27th August

For all articles & photos in the next IBOC newsletter PLEASE E-mail contributions: To Charles Dove
Email newsletter@iboc.org.au
or post to 1/13 Horrocks Crescent, Kearney's Spring, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

SIGHTINGS –

please report your sightings be what they may be. No need to be rare or unusual sightings, even though it is preferred. We still need to keep track of our bird species population to view any obvious changes either an increase or decrease in any of our native species.

*Email all your bird sightings to Darryl Goldrick at
[to email click sightings](#)*

CLUB REPORTS

CLUB MEETING REPORT

Monday 11th July 2022

Due to the difficulty in obtaining presenters for our meetings, the committee had decided to trial showing videos. The first video to be shown was selected by Pam Hazelwood and was very much worth seeing.

It was called 'Birding the Birdsville Track' and was recorded in 2021. It featured many outback birds and also very dry conditions which were contrasted with a previous trip in 2010 which was a year of flooding rains.

I won't try to recall the many species shown in the video (that would only prove that I don't take notes), but I will say a list would be impressive.

For anyone who may wish to see the video, it is available to view on YouTube :

'Birding the Birdsville Track'

By Alana Dare and Greg Dare

Enjoy!

Ross Gowans

Midweek outing 13th July.

Korrongulla Swamp and Primbee Dunes

by Joan Zealey

10 members gathered at Korrongulla Swamp. After several weeks of rain, we hoped that the water would not be too deep to permit access. We found that in any case the entrance was completely blocked by a large fallen casuarina. At the entrance though, there were lots of New Holland honeyeaters among the banksias and the flowers of the native garden along the drainage channel from the swamp.

We decided to walk Primbee dunes instead and eventually we all met Aboriginal Centre on Baker's Lane.



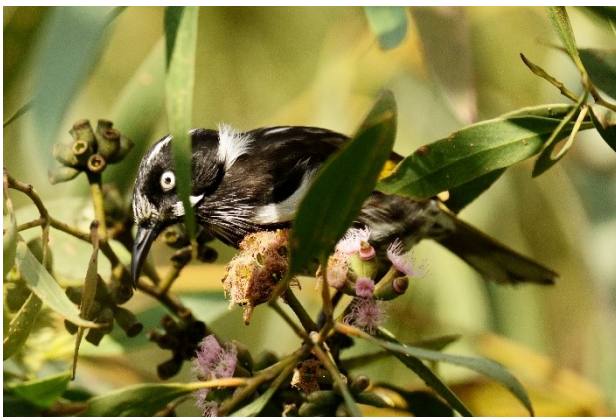
Someone had done a lot of clearing of the tracks through lantana and bitou bush. Even so we could not get all the way along the northern track due to a fallen tree. Other than wood ducks and a white-faced heron on the flooded golf course, birds were not easy to spot, due in part to the tall bushes lining the track. We got brilliant sightings of a scarlet honeyeater, and a songful grey shrike thrush. Small parties of yellow thornbills and red-browed finches were also seen. We fleetingly glimpsed a brown goshawk and a kestrel through the gaps in the tree canopy.

When we walked down to the beach, where the sand had been eaten back to a steep cliff, we saw a dolphin surfing the waves, and small flocks of silver gulls, shearwaters and several gannets. Rain threatened so we headed back to the cars for morning tea. Altogether we saw about 30 species.

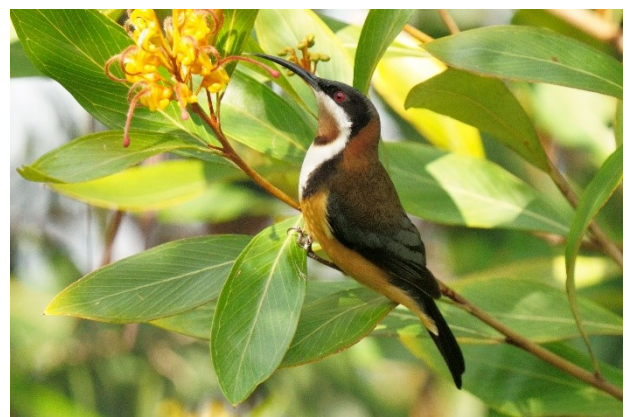
Images etc from Pam at the Primbee walk



The first shows why we didn't go on the advertised walk. The second pic shows why we couldn't complete the alternative Sand dune walk near Port Kembla golf club. So much sand had been removed from the beach in the storms we couldn't get down to the sand.
Pam



New Holland Honeyeater



Eastern Spinebill

Bird Lists

Korrongulla Wetlands, Primbee		8 species	10 members attended
Masked Lapwing	White-faced Heron	Eastern Spinebill	New Holland Honeyeater
Australian Pelican	Superb Fairywren	Little Wattlebird	Black-faced Cuckooshrike

; eBird checklist – S115020122

Primbee Sand Dunes		29 species	10 members attended
Australian Wood Duck	White-faced Heron	Scarlet Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Chestnut Teal	Brown Goshawk	New Holland Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Dusky Moorhen	Nankeen Kestrel	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Raven
Silver Gull	Crimson Rosella	Brown Thornbill	Eastern Yellow Robin
Shearwater Sp.	Rainbow Lorikeet	Yellow Thornbill	Welcome Swallow
Australasian Gannet	Lewin's Honeyeater	Grey Shrikethrush	Common Blackbird
Great Cormorant	Little Wattlebird	Golden Whistler	Red-browed Finch
Australian Pelican			

; eBird checklist – S115020121

WEEKEND OUTING

IBOC walk on Sunday 17th July 2022

Alan Cousins

Australian Botanic Gardens - Mount Annan.

9 members met at 9am in the main car park on a nice sunny crisp winter morning and had a nice stroll around Lakes Sedgwick and Fitzpatrick and Connections Gardens spotting about 11 water birds including Australasian Shoveler, Grey Teal, Hardhead, Australasian Grebe to name a few.

We returned to the cars in a now very busy car park and drove around the one-way circuit to Bottlebrush Gardens for morning tea seeing Eastern Rosella, Eastern Whipbird, Grey Butcherbird etc. After morning tea, we proceeded to Banksia Gardens and spotted Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, and several Honeyeaters, ie Lewin's, Yellow-faced, White-naped Honeyeaters and Red Wattlebird.

We returned to the cars for a long lunch and ended the day with a final count of 46 species Thank you to those who attended. Even though the species count was lower than previous visits in Springtime it was a lovely day out.

Bird Lists

Lakes Sedgwick & Fitzpatrick & Connections Garden		27 species	9 members attended
Black Swan	Spotted Dove	Nankeen Kestrel	Little Wattlebird
Australian Wood Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Eastern Rosella	Grey Butcherbird
Australasian Shoveler	Eurasian Coot	Red-rumped Parrot	Australian Magpie
Pacific Black Duck	Australasia Swamphen	Musk Lorikeet	Pied Currawong
Grey Teal	Masked Lapwing	Rainbow Lorikeet	Magpie-lark
Hardhead	Little Pied Cormorant	Satin Bowerbird	Welcome Swallow
Australasian Grebe	Laughing Kookaburra	Noisy Miner	

; eBird checklist – S115296082

Bottlebrush Garden		7 species	9 members attended
Little Corella	Eastern Rosella	Eastern Whipbird	Australian Raven
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Noisy Miner	Grey Butcherbird	

; eBird checklist – S115296344

Banksia Garden		24 species	9 members attended
Australian Wood Duck	Musk Lorikeet	Noisy Miner	Eastern Whipbird
Crested Pigeon	Superb Fairywren	Red Wattlebird	Magpie-lark
Galah	Eastern Spinebill	White-plumed Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	White-naped Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Crimson Rosella	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Spotted Pardalote	Welcome Swallow
Eastern Rosella	Bell Miner	Yellow Thornbill	Red-browed Finch

; eBird checklist – S115296874

A total of 46 species were recorded for the day

Links

A new look at an old Australian raptor places "Taphaetus" lacertusos de Vis 1905 in the Old World vultures (Accipitridae: Aegyptiinae) | Zootaxa <https://mapress.com/zt/article/view/zootaxa.5168.1.1>

Birds thriving in the wet — but drought 'like death and taxes' Heavy rainfall across NSW has spurred record breeding of wetland birds but researchers warn that better strategies for water management are needed to ensure future success. [Read the full story](#)
Shared from [ABC app](#)

Australian Frog Atlas: Revealing the true distributions of Australia's frogs with the help of citizen scientists - The Australian Museum Blog. <https://australian.museum/blog/amri-news/australian-frog-atlas/>

Endangered black-eared miner to be scrutinised by researchers to learn extent of cross-species breeding - ABC News
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-09/endangered-black-eared-miner-frisky-with-wrong-species/101222370>

Fairywren Project Update mid-2022 – The Fairywren Project
<https://fairywrenproject.org/2022/06/30/fairywren-project-update-mid-2022/>

Ranger's work for royal albatross: Royal Cam. <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/albatrosses/royal-albatross-toroa/royal-cam/rangers-work-for-royal-albatross/>

TROUBLE IN PARADISE FOR LORD HOWE ISLAND'S SHEARWATERS

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/>

Failing fledglings in a seabird colony on a subtropical island in the South Pacific could be a sign of a growing global disaster...and it has nothing to do with climate change.

For anyone who loves birds, a sunrise stroll in autumn along Neds Beach, on the eastern side of World Heritage-listed Lord Howe Island (LHI), 750km north-east of Sydney, should be cause for celebration. It's the start of the fledging season for a breeding colony of Flesh-footed shearwaters in the kentia palm forest that forms the backdrop to the popular beach. For millennia, it's believed, juveniles of this migratory seabird species have



emerged here at this time of year from underground nests, where they've spent the previous three months growing fat on fish and squid brought to them by diligent parents from waters off Australia's east coast, hundreds of kilometres away. Most of the parents departed about a week earlier, heading to the north Pacific for winter feeding and leaving the chicks alone. But some ancient calling imprinted in their DNA kicks in, and the young Shearwaters inevitably toddle towards the Tasman Sea, their rubbery webbed feet leaving tell-tale tracks in the sand.



Jenn Lavers, who's been working with seabirds since the early 2000s, tries to stay optimistic about the Shearwaters' future but admits she gets despondent by what she sees during her annual field work on LHI.

You could expect to see them bobbing for a while on the water before elegantly rising on wind gusts caught by wings spanning about a metre and honed precisely by natural selection for the supreme purpose of gliding non-stop and indefinitely.

But on this mid-autumn dawn there are no tracks, or any other signs of fledglings successfully launching into a life on the ocean. As we arrive at Neds we collect the carcass of a chick killed on the road leading to the beach. Then photographer Justin Gilligan, marine ranger Caitlin Woods and I scope the beach and pick up three more dead juvenile birds – all of which are scrawny and underweight but had clearly been heading for the water.

Their feathers are full of sand, suggesting that, too weak to make it very far, they’ve been rolled repeatedly in the shore waves and drowned. They all have emerging pin feathers needed for flight, but two of the chicks still have a lot of down, which isn’t waterproof. This would have grown heavy as it became wet and is likely to have hastened their drowning. We leave the body of a fourth bird on the sand because it’s already been claimed by a ghost crab that’s begun stripping its flesh. Then, as we’re leaving, a tourist cycles up and hands us another shearwater chick found on the beach. This one’s still alive, barely, but it’s throwing its head back in characteristic mortal throes and is dead within minutes.

Another chick is found wandering dazed on Neds Beach after reaching the water’s edge, too weak to get beyond the shoreline. It’s clearly been tumbled in the water and is confused about where to head next. This chick didn’t survive.



[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

Voice of Real Australia is a regular newsletter from Australian Community Media, which has journalists in every state and territory.

Today's is written by ACM national agriculture writer Chris McLennan.



HERE I AM: The extended La Nina wet may have saved viable populations of one of the world's rarest birds.
Pictures: Owen Lishmund, La Trobe University.

La Trobe University led research uncovered a record number of Plains Wanderers. A survey uncovered 60 adults and 41 chicks where once people wondered whether they were lost forever. "A further encouraging sign was that 85 per cent of monitoring sites supported Plains Wanderers - the highest percentage of sites since surveys began 12 years ago," the university said. Experts are now arguing whether anything we humans have ever done has done any good at all. Instead they said the three-year La Nina wet "facilitated a wide-spread and prolonged breeding event". Just in the nick of time it seems.

Friday July 15, 2022



Thought I would share this lovely robin i saw last Sunday when we visited family at Gundaroo.

Pam Hazelwood



Carly Weatherly enjoyed the company of the Satin Bowerbird in her backyard

Monthly Sightings: June/July 2022

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	Nº	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
White-headed Pigeon	3	26-Jun-22	Bonaira nature reserve	Rainforest	Alan and Anne Cousins
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	23-Jul-22	Bellambi	Creek outlet to Beach	Robyn/John Cashman
Crested Pigeon	2	10-Jul-22	Hill 60, Port Kembla	Shrubbery	Laurie Williams
Wonga Pigeon	1	17-Jun-22	Upper escarpment, Thirroul	Rainforest edge	Ian McKinlay
Eastern Great Egret	1	24-Jun-22	Hewitts Creek estuary	Tidal edge	Ian McKinlay
Cattle Egret	2	25-Jun-22	Gibson Pk, Thirroul	short grass in park	Ian McKinlay
Topknot Pigeon	2	26-Jun-22	Native Fig, Ann St, Thirroul	suburban	Ian McKinlay
Topknot Pigeon	4	18-Jun-22	Cordeaux Heights	Flying toward escarpment	Wayne Green
Tawny Frogmouth	2	20-Jun-22	Sheargold Park, Cordeaux Heights	Roosting in Casuarina	Wayne Green
Tawny Frogmouth	1	19-Jun-22	Cordeaux Heights	On clothes line in backyard	Wayne Green
Masked Lapwing	4	23-Jul-22	Bellambi	Creek outlet to Beach	Robyn/John Cashman
White-faced Heron	1	23-Jun-22	Saddleback Mountain Road	Childrens playground	Anne Cousins
Pacific Gull	2	23-Jul-22	Bellambi	Beach	Robyn/John Cashman
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	2	27-Jun-20	Austinmer	in flight along escarpment edge	Mike Morphet
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	1	15-Jul-22	Coledale Beach	O'head	Steve McIntosh
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	27-Jun-22	Cordeaux Road, Unanderra	Residential area - chasing birds	Wayne Green
Grey Goshawk	1	23-Jun-22	M1 Motorway, Unanderra	Hunting from light pole.	Wayne Green
Nankeen Kestrel	1	17-Jun-22	Bulli Park (opp High School)	over sports field	Ian McKinlay
Nankeen Kestrel	1	26-Jun-22	Gibson Pk, Thirroul	sportsfield	Ian McKinlay
Peregrine Falcon	1	22-Jun-22	Wollongong	Roof of Pte Hospital	Steve McIntosh
Long-billed Corella	25	22-Jul-22	Albion Park	Powerline in same flock as Little Corella	Darryl Goldrick
Little Corella	25	22-Jul-22	Albion Park	Powerline	Darryl Goldrick
Rainbow Lorikeet	14	7-Jun-22	Blue Haven Bonaira Kiama	Grassland	Alan and Alan Cousins
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	7-Jul-22	Bushrangers Bay, Bass Point	Carpark	Steve McIntosh
Southern Boobook	1	17-Jul-22	Thirroul	southern edge of Excelsior Mine area	Mike Morphet
Laughing Kookaburra	2	16-Jul-22	Fountain dale Road Jamberoo	Bush land	Alan and Anne Cousins
Superb Lyrebird	1+	17-Jun-22	Upper escarpment, Thirroul	Rainforest - many heard	Ian McKinlay
Superb Lyrebird	1 fem	16-Jul-22	Fountain dale Road Jamberoo	Bush land	Alan and Anne Cousins
Superb Lyrebird	1	5/10-JUL-22	Austinmer	Forest - singing	Steve McIntosh
Satin Bowerbird	1 fem	1-Jul-22	Corrimal	Backyard	Carly Weatherly
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	several	17-Jun-22	Thirroul Escarpment tracks	rainforest	Ian McKinlay
Large-billed Scrubwren	2	17-Jun-22	Upper Escarpment, Thirroul	Rainforest	Ian McKinlay
Brown Gerygone	several	17-Jun-22	Excelsior Firetrail, Thirroul	Regrowth forest	Ian McKinlay
Brown Thornbill	3	1-Jul-22	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphet
Brown Thornbill	several	13-Jul-22	Hill 60, Port Kembla	Shrubbery	Laurie Williams
Eastern Spinebill	1	9-Jul-22	Tarrawanna	Yard	Laurie Williams
Lewin's Honeyeater	1	26-Jun-22	Bonaira nature reserve Kiama	Rainforest	Alan and Anne Cousins
Lewin's Honeyeater	1	9-Jul-22	Tarrawanna	Yard	Laurie Williams
Little Wattlebird	1	6-Jul-22	Corrimal	Front yard	Carly Weatherly
Red Wattlebird	2	25-Jun-22	Blue Haven Bonaira Kiama	Gardens	Alan and Anne Cousins
Red Wattlebird	1	17-Jul-22	Thirroul	backyard	Mike Morphet
Golden Whistler	1m	26-Jun-22	Bonaira nature reserve Kiama	Rainforest	Alan and Anne Cousins
Golden Whistler	1m	13-Jul-22	Thirroul	front garden	Mike Morphet
Australasian Figbird	50	18-Jun-22	Cordeaux Heights	In eucalypt tree - Residential creek	Wayne Green
Grey Butcherbird	1	30-Jun-22	Lake Illawarra South - front yard	Roosting on house powerline	Darryl Goldrick
Grey Fantail	1	26-Jun-22	Bonaira nature reserve Kiama	Rainforest	Anne Cousins
Willie Wagtail	1	21-Jul-22	Bulli	Woolworths car park	Mike Morphet
Australian Raven	1	26-Jun-22	Bonaira nature reserve Kiama	Rainforest	Alan and Anne Cousins
Eastern Yellow Robin	1	15-Jul-22	Thirroul	backyard foraging	Mike Morphet
Bassian Thrush	3	17-Jun-22	Upper Escarpment, Thirroul	Rainforest - separate sites	Ian McKinlay

*Email all your bird sightings to Darryl Goldrick at
[to email click sightings](#)*