

Eastern Spinebill

Scientific Name: *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*
 Atlas Number: 591

Description:

The Eastern Spinebill is most easily recognised by its very long, fine, down-curved beak and energetic flight, during which its white outer tail feathers are prominent. Males have a grey-black crown which extends in a black line on either side of the breast. The breast and throat are



photo by Charles Dove

white, with a rufous patch in the centre of the throat. The wings and lower back are dark grey and the underparts and upper back are buff. Females are similar to males but have less distinct markings.

Similar species:

Crescent Honeyeater, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Western Spinebill (in Western Australia).

Distribution:

The Eastern Spinebill's range is generally east of the Great Dividing Range from Cooktown in Queensland to the Flinders Ranges in South Australia.

Habitat:

The Eastern Spinebill prefers heath, forest and woodland.

Seasonal movements:

Largely sedentary, but undergoes some local movements, especially away from higher elevations in autumn/winter.

Feeding:

The Eastern Spinebill feeds on insects and nectar while

perched or while hovering. Nectar is obtained from a wide array of flowers, including grevilleas, but its beak is particularly well-suited to extracting nectar from tubular flowers such as epacrids.

Breeding:

The Eastern Spinebill's nest is a small cup of twigs, grass and bark, combined with hair and spider's web, built in a tree fork, generally between 1 and 5 metres from the ground. Only the female builds the nest and incubates the eggs, but both parents feed the young when they hatch. The Eastern Spinebill sometimes visits urban gardens that are well-vegetated, and will feed from both native and exotic flowers, including fuchsias.

Bird species cover text courtesy of <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

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**ILLAWARRA
 BIRD
 OBSERVERS
 CLUB Inc**

**'ONE GOOD TERN
 DESERVES ANOTHER'**

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

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

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DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

THE CHRISTMAS PICNIC

Saturday 10th December at 5 pm

The Christmas Picnic will be held on Saturday the 10th December at Integral Park, Darkes Road, Dapto. A BBQ will be provided consisting of sausages, onion and bread. If you wish to bring your own meat please do so. Bring your own salads and drinks, chairs and tables.



CHRISTMAS MEETING

Monday 12th December at 7.00 pm

Fairy Meadow Community Hall, Cnr. of Cambridge Avenue & Princes H'way, Fairy Meadow

NOTE EARLY START WITH INTERVAL AT 8.00PM.

No guest speaker but instead, for your entertainment, numerous people will pull out all stops to keep you amused with an evening of song, verse, music, slide shows and brain training quizzes. (Brush up on bird names and towns).

The featured bird in our "Come as Bird" this year is the King Parrot...Dress in your bird/Christmas/favourite t-shirt and join the parade. Great prizes to be won.

Back by popular demand is the silent auction. Bring that unwanted present or preloved items to contribute. You may be able to do your entire Christmas shopping on this evening! We need contributions from members please ..email Bill (vicepresident@iboc.org.au) if you want to present a comedy skit, read a poem, or run a quiz.

So come along and bring that extra special plate for supper and be assured of a happy and fun-filled evening.



BE ASSURED OF A GREAT EVENING

EARLY MIDWEEK WALK

Early Midweek Walk Wednesday 8th February 2017

Meet under the pines at Windang at 5pm. Bring your binoculars, picnic tea and a chair.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 2pm

The next Committee Meeting will be held at the home of Ross & Jann Gowans, 41 Joseph Street, Woonona at 2 pm.

Any members with anything they wish to raise are welcome to attend the meeting

Newsletter:

DEADLINE 27th January 2017

For all articles & photos in the next IBOC newsletter PLEASE E-mail contributions:

To Charles Dove newsletter@iboc.org.au

or post to 3/15 Shepherd Avenue, Mollymook 2539.

Ph: 0417 422 302

Positions Vacant

There are vacancies for the positions of Secretary and one Committee Member. Please contact Bill Zealey if you wish to volunteer.

AGM MEETING REPORT

November Club Meeting

Despite a number of members being away there was a good roll up for the AGM.

Members brought photos and a video to share.

Perhaps note should be made of the Life Membership awarded unanimously to Betty Hudson.

IBOC AGM RESULTS FOR 2017

Illawarra Bird Observers Club Inc. Annual General Meeting 14th November 2016

Meeting commenced at 7.35 pm.

Attendance: 20 members.

The meeting was chaired by Pam Hazelwood in the absence of Bill Zealey.

Apologies: Bill & Joan Zealey

Minutes of last AGM: Minutes were read by Pam Hazelwood and accepted 1. Kara Eddington 2. Sylvia Garlick. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was presented by Ken Brown and accepted. Moved Tom Wiley, seconded Neil McKinlay. Passed.

Pam asked the approval of the meeting to call on Chris Cartledge to act as Returning Officer for the elections. No objections were received and Chris took the floor. He declared all positions vacant and proceeded to read the nominations received.

President: One nomination was received by the due date. Bill Zealey declared elected.

Vice President: One nomination was received by the due date. Ross Gowans declared elected.

Treasurer: One nomination was received by the due date. Ken Brown was declared elected.

Secretary: No nominations received by the due date and no nomination from the floor.

Position vacant.

Committee (4 positions): Two nominations received by the due date. Jann Gowans and Darryl Goldrick declared elected. Tom Wylie nominated by Pam Hazelwood, seconded by Darryl Goldrick was unanimously elected. One position vacant.

Voluntary Positions filled by expressions of interest were:-

Records Officer: Darryl Goldrick

Midweek Walks: Rupert Jarvis

Monthly Walks: **Vacant**

Camps: Betty Hudson

Newsletter: Charles Dove

Webmaster: Charles Dove

Hall Manager: Tom Wylie

Library: Anne Cousins & Terry Edwell

Attendance: Neil Wheway

Kitchen: Joan Wiley & Tera Wheway

Public Officer: Chris Cartledge

Life Membership: Betty Hudson was nominated for Life Membership by Barbara Hales and seconded by Darryl Goldrick. Both spoke of Betty's long service to IBOC. Passed unanimously and accepted by Betty.

Annual General Meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

REPORT FOR MIDWEEK WALK

Purry Burry Point Primbee Wednesday 23rd November 2016 - by Terry Edwell

The walk on Wednesday was at Charlies' old hunting grounds. Thirteen eager birdos gathered in the car park at Purry Burry Point on a fine day with not much wind and a blue sky. Two Goshawks flew overhead and two Striated Herons flew past just after we arrived. After signing in we walked to the end of the road to the long wharf where Cormorants and Silver Gulls were lined up on the railings. Two Channel-billed Cuckoos were disturbed from a large Figtree and flew out over the water. Bar-tailed Godwits were feeding in the shallow water at the edge of the lake along with a young Silver Gull. Sitting hidden at the very end of the track was a White-faced Heron.

We saw a few little Thornbills on the way back to the cars and a Royal Spoonbill flew over our heads. Figbirds were heard calling from the large fig in the park and a young Magpie-lark was having a rest in the grass.

We returned to the cars and drove a little further around the lake edge where we continued our walk at the back of the houses. The backyards here are very well maintained and the grass is right to the waters' edge. We had our morning tea and then resumed our walk. An Olive-backed Oriole could be heard calling and we eventually sighted two and their nest in the swamp oaks that thrive on the foreshore. Common Blackbirds seem to be making an appearance at most of our walks and there is always a New Holland Honeyeater around. Grey Fantails were present also Little and Red Wattlebirds, Rainbow Lorikeets, Superb Fairy-wrens and a young Grey Butcherbird. There were Swans and Pelicans on the lake and we could hear the Koels calling along with Silveryeyes and Spotted Pardalotes.

It was a very enjoyable walk thanks to our leader Betty.

Bird List for Purry Burry Bay Walk 16 th November 2016			13 members	44 Species
Black Swan	Australian White Ibis	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Fantail	
Chestnut Teal	Royal Spoonbill	Little Wattlebird	Willie Wagtail	
Spotted Dove	Grey Goshawk	Red Wattlebird	Australian Raven	
Crested Pigeon	Masked Lapwing	New Holland Honeyeater	Magpie-lark	
Topknot Pigeon	Bar-tailed Godwit	Eastern Whipbird	Silveryeye	
Australasian Darter	Silver Gull	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Welcome Swallow	
Little Pied Cormorant	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Australasian Figbird	Red-whiskered Bulbul	
Little Black Cormorant	Rainbow Lorikeet	Olive-backed Oriole	Common Blackbird	
Australian Pelican	Eastern Koel	Grey Butcherbird	Common Starling	
Striated Heron	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Australian Magpie	Common Myna	
White-faced Heron	Superb Fairy-wren	Pied Currawong	House Sparrow	

REPORT FOR WEEKEND WALK

Bomaderry Creek regional Park Sunday 20th November 2016 – By Pam Hazelwood
(A part of NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service)

It is hard to get out of bed on a Sunday morning but a hardy group of 8 did so and met at the end of Falcon Crescent in Nowra North. As we set off a few Yellow-faced Honeyeaters called as we walked along. About 600 metres along this road we turned off on a walking track that led us towards Bomaderry Creek. Birds became a little scarce so Betty pointed out some of the native plants along the track and demonstrated why a Trigger Plant is so named. We used the boardwalk to cross a swampy area where we saw Sundews and Utricularias. The swamp was quite dry and only the presence of these plants and the paperbarks indicated that at times it must be very wet. On we soldiered to Palm Lookout where we had views down to the creek below. A lone Cabbage Tree Palm gives the lookout its name. Another interesting tree was a large Turpentine across the creek. Here some of the group sighted a shy Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. We walked down the steep track to the creek and found that the bridge across the creek is again open for travellers after being damaged some time ago. By this time the cloud had cleared and the sun made an appearance. With



the sun came the calls of the Cicadas. They sounded very close but were hard to spot. We made our way back to the cars and the relief of air conditioning for the short drive to Narang picnic Area. As we ate our lunch we were serenaded by a nearby Fantail Cuckoo. Once again we set off to see what surprises were in store. Some were hoping for a Rock Warbler whereas others were just happy to see the many flowers along the way. We walked to Bernie’s Lookout and then along the track along the top of the sandstone gorge towards the weir that was constructed in 1938 to provide water to Bomaderry. A pipeline that crosses the creek a little further up now delivers water and the weir has been broken to allow the creek to flow freely again. Alas no Rock Warblers were seen, perhaps they were enjoying the cooler temperatures further down towards the creek. By the early afternoon the temperature and the humidity had risen and made walking quite uncomfortable so the decision was made to return to the picnic area where the bird list was called. We saw 25 species from the Falcon Crescent walk and 16 from the Narang Picnic Area Walk. It was a day that revealed some very interesting places to walk, with some rainforest, open woodland, spotted gum forest and heath. Surely we must return at some point when the weather is cooler. Those who stayed in bed this Sunday missed out on a real treat! Thank You Betty.

Note: Friends of Bomaderry Creek have a map available on the internet of the various walks available in the area with suggested completion times.

Western Walk from Falcon Crescent		25 species recorded	
White-headed Pigeon	Sacred Kingfisher	Noisy Friarbird	Australian Raven
Brown Goshawk	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler	Black-faced Monarch
Galah	Yellow Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	Eastern Yellow Robin
Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird	Red-browed Finch
Australian King Parrot	Spotted Pardalote	Australian Magpie	
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Pied Currawong	
Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Fantail	

Eastern Walk from Picnic Area		16 species recorded	
Australian King Parrot	Variigated Fairy-wren	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird
Crimson Rosella	Brown Thornbill	Little Wattlebird	Australian Magpie
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Spotted Pardalote	New Holland Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Satin Bowerbird	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Olive-backed Oriole	Eastern Yellow Robin

ARTICLES OF INTEREST



Fishing waste 'responsible for 90 per cent' of bird injuries, says rescue group

Ben Langford
24 Nov 2016, 1 p.m.

Waste kills birds: Gordon Bradbery with Arthur Booth and Kirsten Hort near one of the bins at the Windang boat ramp. Picture: Sylvia Liber

Waste from fishing has been blamed for “about 90 per cent” of the injuries to bird life seen by the Australian Seabird Rescue (ASB) group, who are urging fishers to do a better job of holding on to their materials.

And thanks to efforts from the West Wollongong Rotary group, several popular fishing spots around the Illawarra now have new rubbish receptacles specifically for this purpose.

Now it’s a matter of people getting used to using them responsibly.

ASB branch co-ordinator Kirsten Hort said discarded fishing line, and hooks, accounted for the vast majority of injuries to water-living birds, so when Arthur Booth from Rotary spoke to her about how to do something about it, ASB got right behind it.

“For us it’s actually our major issue in terms of injuries,” she said.

"We really supported the initiative because 90 per cent of the injuries sustained by our sea and shore birds are sustained by discarded fishing tackle and line, or unsafe fishing practices.

"Since 2005 when our branch started we've actually rescued over 1300 Pelicans alone, and the highest percentage of that is due to fishing line entanglements, ingestion of lines, and discarded line."

The bins, which are made from PVC pipe, have been installed at 12 fishing locations at boat ramps in Wollongong and Shellharbour.

Ms Hort said many fishers did the right thing but the waste left by a few – sometimes by accident – was causing the problems.

"We'll find if someone's doing some fishing, and they might just cut off a bit of line, and instead of disposing it appropriately ... throw it on the ground or throw it in the water," she said.

"It's really not all fisherfolk. We have a great relationship with the majority of them.

"But some don't realise the consequences for our marine wildlife – particularly with the Pelican, because it's a big bird.

"We've seen some horrific injuries sustained by fishing line around their legs and their wings, hooks in the eye, things like that."

The bins were trialed in several locations last year and are now being installed at other locations including Wollongong and Bellambi harbours and Windang and Berkeley boat ramps.

2016 Aussie Backyard Bird Count sees rainbow lorikeet top the list yet again

[702 ABC Sydney](#) By [Amanda Hoh](#)



Photo: [The top three birds counted in each state. \(Supplied: Birdlife Australia\)](#)

Related Story: [Aussie Backyard Bird Count has eye on ibis and cockatoos](#)

Map: [Australia](#)

The Rainbow Lorikeet, Noisy Miner and Australian Magpie have topped the national tally for the third straight year as the country's most common birds.

The next Aussie Backyard Bird Count will take place from October 23, 2017

When birds act like blokes and why it's important

Australia is a country for all seasons. You can do practically anything here, at any time of year, however, spring is the time for lovin'...and as soon as our natural environment bursts into colour and noise, a wide variety of plants, animals, birds and insects get busy finding a mate.

This year, much of NSW has received very good rainfall, and conditions are shaping up for a promising spring with many of the state's rivers, lagoons and wetlands providing a great place to find romance.

Some of Australia's truly amazing birds and animals go to what seem like extreme lengths to attract a mate with impressive displays and unusual nests—maybe a little like humans.

So if you were a White Necked Ibis, it's time to get that sweet plumage groomed and bust some moves.

The courtship ceremony of the White Necked Ibis, involves the male putting on a noisy display, as well as showing aggression towards other males. When a female arrives, the male attracts her by bowing from his branch. He then offers the female a twig, forging a bond when she grasps it and they begin to preen one another. Once the pair-bond is cemented, the birds fly off to build a nest at another location.

The male Musk Duck is a small, mostly grey bird that tries to attract a mate by making himself look really "unduck like" and splashing water at his potential love interest.

He has a large, leathery, pendulous lobe of skin which dangles below his bill, while his tail is long and stiff.

The Musk Duck uses its tail in its mating displays, with the tail being raised up and over the bird's back or spread out over the water, at the same time kicking the water to produce a loud splash and also inflating the pendulous lobe and making a calling noise.

Great Crested Grebe will undertake very elaborate and elegant dances, with a female bird that involves side to side graceful head movements, while the Kingfisher chases his mate calling constantly and then presenting her with a fish—a ritual offering.

Some birds, such as the Royal Spoonbill, form monogamous pairs during the mating season and nest alongside the Ibis, Cormorants and Herons. They work together to sit on the eggs and feed their young—others are more promiscuous.

Why is all this important?

Several reasons really. Firstly we get a tremendous amount of joy and relaxation in just watching these birds. For those of us lucky enough to live near waterways it can be fascinating to watch these mating rituals and then enjoy the birds bringing up their little families.

Secondly, birds are really good indicators of the health of rivers, creeks and wetlands.

Several animals or species can act as indicators but the presence and numbers of birds can give an indication as to whether the system is healthy or otherwise, and their study can be a useful way to gain an understanding of ecosystems and their needs.

In NSW, water is specifically set aside to regenerate and support the natural habitats that wildlife require.

Commonwealth and State government agencies, along with community members, identify priority sites and objectives for watering that help determine where

A pair of Royal Spoonbills

water for the environment will go.

While there is always a focus on improving habitat for a range of species including waterbirds and fish; supporting native fish movement and habitat for migratory waterbirds is paramount, including drought refuge when necessary.

While difficult to predict, it is expected that 2016 will bring benefits from coordinated watering of individual wetlands as part of a broader wetland system, such as the Macquarie Marshes and the Narran Lakes.

Water delivered into an already wet Macquarie Marsh will attract birds like Ibis, Herons, Swans, native Ducks and Geese to breed and successfully fledge their offspring.

However native birds can be quite fickle and conditions have to be just right. Food, shelter and protection from predators; all must be aligned for breeding to kick off, but if things start to deteriorate, birds can "pull the plug", abandoning their nests and any young they may have.

This requires water managers to closely monitor nesting birds and the local conditions until chicks fledge.

So next time you see a young male preening (human or avian)—smile and remember the lengths they have to go to in order to catch the eye of the opposite sex.

Bunty Driver

Environmental Water Governance, Office of Environment & Heritage and CWA member at Albury Evening Branch

Australian Freshwater Molluscs

By: Dr Anders Hallan, Category: [AMRI](#), Date: 17 Nov 2016

Developed by AMRI scientists, a comprehensive interactive guide to all Australian freshwater molluscs is now freely available to everyone!

Australian Freshwater Molluscs
Photographer: Anders Hallan © Australian Museum

Like with many other plants and animals on this continent, most Australian native freshwater molluscs – 99% in fact – are endemic, meaning they are found nowhere else on Earth. Many species are of conservation concern due to habitat loss or displacement by pests, whereas others are hosts of parasites that pose risks to animal and potentially human health. Of more than 400 species, well over 100 have very restricted ranges, with some found only in a single stream, cave system or desert spring.

We wanted to develop a resource to enable the identification of this unique and diverse fauna; one to assist with education, conservation and management, biosecurity screening, baseline ecological monitoring and a wide range of other applications. With this project now complete and freely available for everyone to use, we hope to have achieved this goal! Australian Freshwater Molluscs is now available [HERE](#).



[Bitterns in Rice Project](#)

Have you heard of "Stork Rice"? In Japan, the Oriental Stork became extinct in the wild in 1971. Some were captured for a captive breeding programme but it failed. In 1985, young birds were imported from Russia and afterwards a Stork-friendly rice farming initiative enabled rice farmers around Toyooka to take the lead on Stork conservation. Organic farming and reduced pesticide use are promoted alongside retaining water for a longer period in the paddies to ensure that the farmland remains rich in the small creatures that the bird feeds on. Crops grown through this stork-friendly farming have been named "Stork rice," and the Stork brand fetches a 50% premium over ordinary rice. Stork Rice has built a solid reputation and locals have also developed Japanese sake and spirits, rice crackers and even tofu, all bearing the Stork in their names. Live web cameras show the storks enjoying their carefully managed rice field habitats and Toyooka has become famous as "the Stork Town". Today, the Stork population in Toyooka has recovered to around 170 birds, with about 80 in the wild. **Its encouraging stories like this that inspires us to pursue bittern-friendly rice farming here in Australia.**



<http://birdlife.org.au/projects/bittern-project/bitterns-in-rice-project>

Autumn 2017 Camp

Bingara & Copeton Waters 29th April to 7th May

The IBOC Autumn 2017 Camp will be a break with tradition as we will be staying at two different venues on the Northern Tablelands for a total of eight nights:

Bingara Riverside Caravan Park Sat 29th April to Tues 2nd May (4 nights arriving Sat & leaving Wed) & Copeton Waters Holiday Park from Wed 3rd to Sun 7th May (4 nights arriving Wed & leaving Sun).

Details for **Bingara Riverside Caravan Park 29th April to 2nd May inclusive**: Keera Rd Bingara 2404. Ph 0427 241 300. No email available. Web site www.bingara.com.au/bingara-riverside-caravan-park (no online booking available)

Accommodation

6 x Std En-suite Cabins which are open plan with double bed \$85 per night for 2

8 x Deluxe Cabins en-suite with 2 bedrooms 4 with queen bed 4 bunks and 3 with double bed, 2 bunks & 1 disabled with ramps etc \$105 per night for 2. Extra persons are \$10 per night each

Powered caravan sites \$30 per night (\$26 for pensioners).

All cabins are air-conditioned and have reverse cycle heating. Linen is supplied

Note: Staff at both caravan parks recommended that we book immediately we get our newsletters as they are usually very busy at weekends.

Details for **Copeton Waters Holiday Park 3rd – 6th May inclusive**: Copeton Dam Rd Inverell. Ph 6723 6269. Web site www.inlandwaters.com.au/park/info/copeton-waters (on line booking available on the website)

Accommodation (prices are an estimate from the park as they have not yet been updated for 2017)

7 x Std En-suite Cabins which are 1 bedroom with double bed and bunks approx \$110 per night for 2

7 x Deluxe Cabins en-suite 2-3 bedrooms; queen bed, double bed, bunks approx \$150-\$170 per night for 2.

All cabins have reverse cycle air-conditioning. Linen is supplied

20 Powered caravan sites \$35to \$50 depending on location per night

When booking, remember to tell them that you are with the Illawarra Bird Observers Club

As this is a very popular area for weekenders for boating & fishing so close to Goondiwindi, Brisbane & the Gold Coast, I recommend that those wishing to come & use cabins or sites book ASAP to avoid disappointment as we will be staying over a weekend at each park.

Directions

Bingara is 105km NW of Tamworth on the Fossickers Way, Copeton Waters State Park is about 40km east of Bingara on back roads

Due to the distances involved in travel you will need to allow at least 2 nights on the journey.

Once you have booked please let Betty know as usual, on 4236 0307, by text on mobile 0432 892 945 or by email elizabethjudson@bigpond.com

More details on facilities in Bingara and for travel will be in February 2017 newsletter

BBQ at CASHMANS

FOR CLUB MEMBERS AT OUR PLACE ON 27TH JANUARY 2017.

Its 'Bring your own meat ' And should you like to bring a salad or sweet to share, please let the Cashmans know a few days beforehand so they can seek to balance up the 'goodies' Ph 4284 0538 or cashman5@bigpond.com

Good fortune, John C

Report on the October 2016 at Narooma

By Betty Hudson

After a last minute transfer of the camp from Forbes to Narooma due to the continued flooding and rain on the SW slopes and plains, 25 members arrived at a dry sunny but windy Island View Beach Caravan Park on the southern outskirts of Narooma. The island in question was Montague Island 35km off the coast.

Sunday morning was still windy so the main group headed off towards Nangudga Lake entrance while I waited for Kathryn. Soon catching up with the rest we had a leisurely walk to the lake entrance which was sheltered from the wind. Morning tea being called for we sat out of the wind for a break. Getting going again we started to walk along the beach towards Narooma but soon found the sand blowing into our faces so hastily retreated

to the track between the dunes and the caravan park. The birds also had the same idea and we soon began to collect a reasonable list of species although Betty's possible sighting, the previous day, of a Crescent Honeyeater was not confirmed. The sea proved too rough to give us any sightings of whales from the high dune although a Superb Fairy-wren showed off its spring plumage in the sunlight.

Lunch then a trip to Kianga just north of Narooma to check out the lake, sewage ponds and the beach lookouts as well as Mill Bay board walk. A decent walk in the edge of the forest around the boundary of the sewage works produced a good list of water and bush birds including Satin Bowerbird, Superb Fairy-wren, Yellow & Brown Thornbill's, Bell Miner, White-naped Honeyeater, Golden & Rufous Whistler's, & Leaden Flycatcher.

Kianga Lake at first sight looked very unpromising with a good growth of green weed. Just below the sewage works outfall clear water had attracted Little Pied & Little Black & Great Cormorants, as well as a patrolling Sea Eagle. On leaving we checked out the lookouts but nothing, so we kept on to Mill Bay Board Walk. From the board walk we had a good view over the mud flats to the western side of the harbour. Lots of waders were visible but too far away. Betty & Kathryn hurried to get the scope and set it up, but meanwhile, unfortunately, a White-bellied Sea-Eagle had frightened them all away. A combination of Charlie's photos and binocular observations showed Little Egret, Purple Swamphen, Pied & Sooty Oystercatchers, Masked Lapwing, Bar-tailed & Black-tailed Godwits, Eastern Curlew, Red-Knot, & Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. We then headed back to Narooma to shop, & camp for the evening.

What a change in the weather greeted us next morning, grey skies with a strong cold wind for our trip to Wallaga Lake entrance. Missing the parking area for the start of the walk we had to circle round the small village and back track. The track was a little overgrown but passable. However the winter king tides and storms had dumped a lot of vegetation debris a long way into the Casuarina Forest making underfoot very spongy and treacherous. It proved slow going until we reached what was left of the children's playground devastated by the floods as was the board walk over the next section-with missing or up turned sections in many places. A track had been made around this which was passable when dry. The most adventurous carried on up to the headland where they were rewarded with 3 Hooded Plovers & nests, and 2 Little Terns as well as large numbers of Crested Terns, cormorants, & Silver Gulls herding fish just inside the entrance. This group continued walking to Camel Rock while the rest of us drove around. Very cold and bleak at the Rock! By consent we drove into Bermagui to seek a sheltered spot for lunch with everyone picking their own venue. Kathryn & I shared our lunch with a Grey Butcherbird while watching the sea crashing on the beach. Gathering again we drove a little north to the wetland, few birds except a nesting Masked Lapwing. Just as we reached the farthest point from the cars the rain started in earnest so a mad dash back to the cars and drove back to camp. That night, our meeting was brief as the camp kitchen was very draughty & cold.

The next day was another contrast, fine and warm for our trip to Gulaga NP & Mt Dromedary via Tilba Tilba. A missed turn as we approached the village gave us a bit of a scenic tour at the start but we found the track on the northern side of the mountain easily after a lovely drive through spectacular Bodalla State forest. Leaving the Tibla - Punkalla Rd down a steep hill we came to the start of the access track. Crossing the first of the causeways we carefully negotiated the mismatched heights of the concrete slabs and then the deep ruts after the next one. The track now became very easy to drive. Finding a place with sufficient parking for all the cars we stopped, found back packs, hats, insect repellent and sunscreen before tackling the slow climb through the state forest up towards the start of the national park. A Restless Flycatcher flitting between trees caught our attention here. As we walked a number of small areas with many bush birds were giving us sightings of a good variety of birds including White-headed & Wonga Pigeons, Black-faced Monarch, Shining Bronze & Fan-tailed Cuckoos, White-throated Treecreepers, Pilotbird, White-browed & Yellow-throated Scrubwrens, while Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Bell Miners serenaded us from the trees. Finding a sunny spot with "soft looking" rocks to sit on we stopped for morning tea then resumed the climb which became very steep and rather rough towards the NP boundary. Pam going a little further up than most of us saw a Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, while Anna stopping by a small pool of water had the Crescent & Brown-headed Honeyeaters. Other birds seen during our descent were Black-faced & the dark phase of the White-bellied Cuckoo-shrikes, Cicadabird, Golden & Rufous Whistlers, Olive-backed Oriole & Dusky Woodswallow. A total of 46 species for the morning.

Returning via Tilba we headed to Mystery Bay for Lunch. By this time a cold wind had got up so no one lingered over lunch. A quick walk to the lookout revealed no birds or whales, so we headed off to the access track to Eurobodalla National Park including some beaches. After a short drive into the forest we came across a wrecked vehicle stuck across the track. With the arrival of the ranger we were advised not to touch it as the police wished to inspect it in site. So with some ingenuity and careful driving we all squeezed past half up a steep bank and kept on to 1080 beach. The view from the lookout was amazing but few birds, amongst them Black-browed Albatross, Australasian Gannet, Eastern Reef Egret (Dark phase), Sooty Oystercatcher and our only sightings of an Eastern Rosella & Dollarbird for the week. It was then back to camp to prepare for our dinner at the Golf Club, a fitting end to a great day out. Once again an excellent choice, well organised by Neil Wheway.

Another fine day greeted us on Wednesday for our drive round Wagonga Inlet. Punkalla Bridge was our first stop where birding proved excellent with 40 species recorded including our lone Wedge-tailed Eagle for the week. There were even Water Buffalo in an adjacent paddock mingling with the Ducks, Egrets & Herons. Leaving here after morning tea we headed on to Brett Wheway's property. An awkward turn in, marked by a pair of underpants hanging on a tree, was successfully negotiated by all. We did a quick survey of birds in the cleared area for a total of 22 species including one of the few Noisy Friarbirds we saw. On again on the very scenic narrow winding dirt track to the tidal limit of the inlet at Grumly Bridge and the adjacent Cobra bridge. The water at Grumly Bridge was tidal, Kathryn tasted it - salty, but that flowing under Cobra Bridge, fresh. Parking was plentiful and a nice grassy area for lunch. Some interesting sightings here, Azure Kingfishers making repeated trips across the creek, Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters were also busy in the surrounding trees and the Bell Miners keeping us alert with their chiming, only 13 species but good ones.

Reluctantly leaving here we headed off to the Boxcutter Rainforest walk a joint effort by State Forests and Green Corps volunteers. A steep descent led down into a rainforest Gully protected from hot winds by the dry

forest on the tops of the ridges, a stark contrast between the tree ferns & other rain forest plants and the dry forest on the ridges. Typical rainforest birds were heard but not seen other than a Rufous Fantail which caught our attention. Returning to the road we had to negotiate our way out through closed roads & others which bore no relation to those on the map. Returning to the highway north of Narooma, we returned to camp to get prepared for our evening boat trip on the Inlet and to say goodbye to Kathryn, who had to head back to Canberra ready for work the next day.

We met at the marina at 5 pm on a fine warm night for a 2 hour cruise looking for waders but unfortunately the tide was wrong .We were rewarded by an insight into local history and that of the Inlet by the boat's owner. A great \$10's worth. Fish & Chips again for tea! Thanks to Neil Wheway for organising this for the club.

Another day, another place to explore! Leaving camp we headed north to Bodalla, of Cheese Factory fame, and followed the Tuross River Valley west into the hills. The results of severe flooding were very evident with road pavement damage and debris built up along the fences and collected on the upstream side of culverts as well as sand & silt deposited in paddocks. Crossing the Tuross we then started to climb up into the foothills of the ranges. Many birds were recorded as we drove beside the river and on subsequent farm dams including a Square-tailed Kite flying overhead. It was a little worrying navigating without a topographic map especially with warning signs at each junction of a bridge that had been washed away in the floods and consequent road closures. However we continued on up a long sealed hill to the top where there the road narrowed, and became gravel while a sign warned of large heavy trucks using it. Keeping on down the winding narrow road we came to another major river crossing and arrived at the small settlement of Nerrigundah surrounded by State forests. It boasted a fire station and a public phone - no mobile reception! After a false start we found the correct road out to reach Coman's Mine Site, our destination for the morning. The mine is the site of an old gold mine which had been cleared from the forest and a walking track put in again by State Forests and Green Corp volunteers. A more isolated place in the late 1800's would be hard to imagine. Coman lived here by himself and had only a horse for transport the 20km back to Bodalla for supplies. The road from Nerrigundah crossed another creek which caused me to stop and look. The crossing was steep sided and filled with large loose blue metal. It was decided I could make it and got over safely. A further 5 km on we came to the sign for the mine where we stopped for morning tea before tackling the track. An interesting place, but erosion on the track prevented us from accessing the lower section of the site. Birds especially honeyeaters were very much in evidence throughout the rainforest: notable sightings were, 9 species of honeyeater inc Scarlet, Crescent, New Holland, Noisy Friarbird, & Red Wattlebird; both Rufous & Grey Fantails & Willie Wagtail; Flame & Eastern Yellow Robins; Golden & Rufous Whistlers & Grey Shrike-thrush as well as a Superb Lyrebird. A total of 36 species for a short walk in the rainforest! Returning to the cars we retraced our way back to Nerrigundah then to Bodalla. I was undecided about crossing the loose gravel again as it was very steep on the far side, but Peter S showed me the exact track to steer and I just got the front wheels to purchase on the hard road surface beyond. We were out OK. It was now back to camp for lunch with everyone going their own ways for the afternoon. Some to Mogo Zoo, some to Merimbula!

I spent the afternoon whale watching at Dalmeny. So much activity with adults and calves passing close into the shore round the point, evading some of the Shearwaters heading south down the coast.

For our last day we decided to have a late start to try to catch the tides at the right stage for the waders on the harbour & Inlet mud flats. 9.00 am saw us leave camp & head off to the harbour foreshore just below the bridge. It looked hopeful with plenty of sand still exposed. A quick look showed birds over the far side by the shipping channel. Carefully checking the sand we made our way over, finding a flock of Crested Terns sheltering from the wind. Too late again, with the tide rapidly coming in we reluctantly had to head back to the shore. Hoping that the tide would be a little later on the shores of the Inlet we drove round to the marina. Some sand exposed with a few Bar-tailed Godwits & two Eastern Curlews feeding. Getting out of the wind we had morning tea before heading off to Mill Bay Board Walk & the entrance to the harbour and a patch of sand where Ross assured us that waders could be found even at high tide. Pied & Sooty Oystercatchers were resting on a small island by the channel, while Pelicans swam past & all 4 species of Cormorants were perched on the rocks of the channel wall. A walk along the side of the retaining wall showed us plenty of bush birds and 2 Ringtail Possums nesting in an old bird's nest but no waders. With the wind getting colder and the lack of birds we decided to return to camp. After lunch everyone went their own way with many starting to pack up. In the evening we had our meeting by the caravans around a beautiful camp fire with entertainment from people reading some favourite traditional poems. A great way to end a good camp! Thank you to everyone for changing their travel arrangements & making the effort to get there despite the sudden change of venue.

Bird List

Black Swan	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Cicadabird
Australian Wood Duck	Nankeen Kestrel	Brush Cuckoo	Golden Whistler
Chestnut Teal	Brown Falcon	Azure Kingfisher	Rufous Whistler
Pacific Black Duck	Australian Hobby	Laughing Kookaburra	Grey Shrike-thrush
Rock Dove	Purple Swamphen	Sacred Kingfisher	Australasian Figbird
White-headed Pigeon	Dusky Moorhen	Dollarbird	Olive-backed Oriole
Spotted Dove	Eurasian Coot	Superb Lyrebird	Dusky Woodswallow
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	White-throated Treecreeper	Grey Butcherbird
Common Bronzewing	Sooty Oystercatcher	Satin Bowerbird	Australian Magpie
Crested Pigeon	Hooded Plover	Superb Fairy-wren	Pied Currawong
Wonga Pigeon	Masked Lapwing	Variegated Fairy-wren	Rufous Fantail
Black-browed Albatross	Bar-tailed Godwit	Pilotbird	Grey Fantail
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	Black-tailed Godwit	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Willie Wagtail
Australasian Gannet	Whimbrel	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Raven
Australasian Dartar	Eastern Curlew	Brown Gerygone	Leadon Flycatcher
Little Pied Cormorant	Red Knot	Striated Thornbill	Restless Flycatcher
Great Cormorant	Red-necked Stint	Yellow Thornbill	Black-faced Monarch

Little Black Cormorant	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Brown Thornbill	Magpie-lark
Pied Cormorant	Little Tern	Spotted Pardalote	White-winged Chough
Australian Pelican	Caspian Tern	Eastern Spinebill	Jacky Winter
Eastern Great Egret	Crested Tern	Lewin's Honeyeater	Flame Robin
Intermediate Egret	Silver Gull	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Cattle Egret	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Australian Reed-Warbler
Striated Heron	Galah	Bell Miner	Silvereye
White-faced Heron	Little Corella	Little Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Little Egret	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird	Tree Martin
Eastern Reef Egret(dark Phase)	Rainbow Lorikeet	Scarlet Honeyeater	Common Blackbird
Eastern Reef Egret(white Phase)	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Crescent Honeyeater	Common Starling
Australian White Ibis	Australian King-Parrot	New Holland Honeyeater	Common Myna
Black-shouldered Kite	Crimson Rosella	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Mistletoebird
Square-tailed Kite	Eastern Rosella	White-naped Honeyeater	Red-browed Finch
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Eastern Koel	Noisy Friarbird	House Sparrow
Whistling Kite	Eastern Koel(dark morph)	Eastern Whipbird	Australasian Pipit
Grey Goshawk	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Grey Goshawk (white Phase)	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	

134 species and 4 colour phases recorded



The Willie Wagtails in the reserve behind us. There are 3 babies, so would be a tight squeeze.
Judy Baker



White-faced Heron nesting
By Judy Baker



Laughing Kookaburra nesting with 3 Chicks
By Judy Baker





The picture of the Mistletoebird the Topknot as well as all the Pelicans was at Kanahooka.

The Mistletoe bird was fighting with a Golden-headed Cisticola.

By Terry Edwell



Scarlet Honeyeater
Mollymook NSW
charles dove 11/2016

Scarlet Honeyeater – Fishermans Paradise
by Charles Dove



Bar-shouldered Dove
Bannisters Beach Heads - Ulladulla NSW
charles dove 11/2016

Bar-shouldered Dove – Ulladulla
by Charles Dove



White-bellied Cuckoo Shrike - black morph - Leaden Flycatcher female
Yattee Yattee NSW
charles dove 11/2016

White-bellied Cuckoo Shrike Dark Morph Yattee Yattah
by Charles Dove



Leaden Flycatcher m (possible Yorki) ?
Yattee Yattee NSW
charles dove 11/2016

Leaden Flycatcher (Yorki) Yattee Yattah
by Charles Dove

MONTHLY SIGHTINGS: October - November 2016

compiled by Darryl Goldrick

SPECIES	No	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT	OBSERVER
Australian Brush-turkey	1	Nov	Marshall Mount	Rural garden-rainforest edge	Anna Knowlson
Bar-shouldered Dove	2	06-09-16	Ulladulla	Woodland	Charles Dove
Topknot Pigeon	5	31-Oct-16	Unanderra Hockey Pavillion	O'head heading to Escarpment	Bruce Coyte
Topknot Pigeon	2	13-11-16	Kanahooka	Swamp Oaks	Terry Edwell
Topknot Pigeon	20+	30-10-16	Yattee Yattah	Eucalypt Forest	Charles Dove
Whistling Kite	1	06-09-16	Milton	Open Forest	Charles Dove
Australian Wood Duck	23	12-11-16	Cradle Way,Bulli	Retention Pond	Mike Morphett
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	4/2ch	06-09-16	Lake Conjola	Beach	Charles Dove
Hooded Plover	2	06-09-16	Ulladulla	Rennies Beach	Charles Dove
Hooded Plover	2	06-09-16	Ulladulla	Racecourse Beach	Charles Dove
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	5	12-11-16	Brickworks Est,Bulli	O'head	Mike Morphett
Australian King-Parrot	1	07-11-16	Bulli Fire Stn	Residential	Alan Cousins
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	1h	23-11-16	Excelsior Mine Area	Rainforest	Mike Morphett
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	3	12-09-16	Ulladulla	Eucalypt Forest	Charles Dove
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	13-11-16	Nebo Bradford Breaker Walk Track		Mike Morphett
Brush Cuckoo	1?	12-11-16	Towradgi Creek, Towradgi	Riparian sth bank	Jack Baker
Powerful Owl	1h	23-11-16	Excelsior Mine Area	Rainforest	Mike Morphett
Sacred Kingfisher	2	06-09-16	Fishermans Paradise	Open Forest	Charles Dove
Dollarbird	1	02-11-16	McCauleys Hill	O'head	Ian McKinlay
Dollarbird	1	31-10-16	Excelsior Mine Site	Forest edge	Mike Morphett
Dollarbird	18	26-10-16	West of Bulli Hospital	O'head - hawking insects	Max Davies
Green Catbird	2	23-11-16	Thirroul	Yard	Mike Morphett
Satin Bowerbird	1	02-11-16	McCauleys Hill	Fig Tree (mimicking)	Ian McKinlay
Satin Bowerbird	1	Nov	Oak Flats	Garden	Sylvia Garlick
White-throated Gerygone	1?	02-11-16	Towradgi Creek, Towradgi	Riparian sth bank	Jack Baker
White-throated Gerygone	4	30-10-16	Yattee Yattah	Eucalypt Forest	Charles Dove
Scarlet Honeyeater	10+	06-09-16	Fishermans Paradise	Bottlebrush	Charles Dove
White-naped Honeyeater	10+	06-09-16	Ulladulla	Eucalypt Forest	Charles Dove
Noisy Friarbird	Lots	31-10-16	Regal Hts, Al Park	Silky Oaks	Bruce Coyte
Eastern Whipbird	1	10-11-16	Drualla Rd, Jamberoo	Yard	Betty Hudson
Varied Sittella	10+	30-10-16	Yattee Yattah	Eucalypt Forest	Charles Dove
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2 BM	30-10-16	Yattee Yattah	Eucalypt Forest	Charles Dove
Cicadabird	1h	Nov	Marshall Mount	Rural garden-rainforest edge	Anna Knowlson
Golden Whistler	1	13-11-16	Nebo Bradford Breaker Walk Track		Mike Morphett
Golden Whistler	1m	12-11-16	Drualla Rd, Jamberoo	Yard	Betty Hudson
Rufous Whistler	1m	11-11-16	Croome	Bush	Kara Eddington
Australian Raven	8	01-11-16	Bellambi	Scavenging in Straithes Mews	Mike Morphett
Leadend Flycatcher	2 pair/n	30-10-16	Yattee Yattah	Eucalypt Forest	Charles Dove
Black-faced Monarch	1	13-11-16	Nebo Bradford Breaker Walk Track		Mike Morphett
Black-faced Monarch	1?	12-11-16	Towradgi Creek, Towradgi	Riparian sth bank	Jack Baker
Black-faced Monarch	1	13-11-16	Jamberoo	Farm Garden/Shrub	Kara Eddington
Black-faced Monarch	3	30-10-16	Yattee Yattah	Eucalypt Forest	Charles Dove
Jacky Winter	5	30-10-16	Yattee Yattah	Open Forest	Charles Dove
Golden-headed Cisticola	2	15-11-16	Kanahooka	Grassy Lake Edge	Terry Edwell
Bassian Thrush	2	13-11-16	Nebo Bradford Breaker Walk Track		Mike Morphett
Mistletoebird	1	13-11-16	Kanahooka	Tea Tree Shrub	Terry Edwell

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN FEBRUARY 2017



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