



FAR SOUTH COAST BIRDWATCHERS Inc.

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

NEWSLETTER JULY/AUGUST 2022

LORD HOWE ISLAND SEABIRD DEATHS

ABC Mid North Coast

By Madeleine Cross and Nick Parmenter

Scientists studying the impact of plastic debris on a seabird colony that nests on Lord Howe Island say they found an increasing number of dead chicks during the latest fledging season — one with 200 small pieces of plastic in its digestive system.

- Researchers say Lord Howe Island seabirds are ingesting "huge quantities" of plastic
- Every year a team of scientists travel to the island to study the impact of marine plastic pollution
- One flesh-footed shearwater chick was found with more than 200 pieces of rubbish in its stomach

They are studying whether the young flesh-footed shearwaters are failing to make it off the World Heritage-listed Island and begin their migration journey due to the vast amounts of plastic they're consuming.

"The proportion of birds at risk of ingesting plastic from our oceans is increasing," Jennifer Lavers from the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies in Tasmania, said. "The debris they're picking up includes huge quantities of bottle caps, clothes pegs, pen lids."



A dead shearwater chick on Lord Howe Island had ingested more than 200 pieces of plastic. (Supplied)

IN THIS ISSUE

Calendar photos due	2
New Member	2
Meet the Penguins	2
President's Message	3
Meeting Report (June)	3
Activity Reports	4
Malleefowl	7
FSCB Directory	8
Google groups & Facebook	8
Sightings June/July 22	9
Mistletoe Dieback	11
Coming Events	12

Every year Dr Lavers and a team of scientists at Adrift Lab travel to Lord Howe Island to study the impact of marine plastic pollution and the health of the flesh-footed shearwater.

"We've been monitoring a couple of Australian shearwater species for the past 15 years or so, in particular the flesh-footed shearwater, which is a fairly large species that breeds primarily on Lord Howe Island," Dr Lavers said.

Continued over →

EVENING MEETING Thursday 11 August, 2022

Leo Berzins will present some bird photos from a recent trip to SA, northwest NSW and southwest Qld.

Alan Scrymgeour brings us 620 Million Years of Birds.

Roger Heffernan tells us all about Sittellas.

While some healthy chicks were tagged and released, the team of scientists dissected the growing number of dead birds found on the island.

The plastic is coming from the waters off east coast Australia. Not some foreign country, not some far-flung location, but here in our own backyard.



Researchers said it pointed towards wider consequences caused by plastic pollution.

"The situation on Lord Howe Island is very serious," Jack Auty, a lecturer at the University of Tasmania's School of Medicine and a researcher at Adrift Lab said. "These birds go right up to the coast of Japan, so they're able to be exposed from plastics almost globally. By looking at them, we're looking at the future of all wildlife and potentially even humans as we expose ourselves to more and more plastic."

Dr Auty said even a plastic toy that had not been produced

since 1970 was found inside a bird's stomach last year. "Plastics are here forever. If we are forced to use plastic, we need to make sure we dispose of it in the most responsible way that we can."

Why do birds eat plastic?

According to Dr Lavers, "plastic is a really good mimic, often mistaken for food. Fragments of plastic that had been floating in the ocean for decades could accumulate a 'biofilm', similar to the bottom of a jetty or boat. The pieces of rubbish probably don't look or smell like plastic to things like a sea turtle or a seabird. So, they mistakenly consume it."

This year, the Adrift Lab is using tracking devices attached to juvenile shearwaters to learn if the ingested plastic affects how the species flies, migrates and survives.

LAST CALL FOR CALENDAR PHOTOS

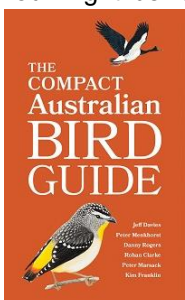
A few weeks left to send your photos for the FSCB 2023 calendar. Please email to Hayden Kingston at: hayden.k@bigpond.com by 27 August, 2022.

Images can be any size for submission but if selected they must be available at a high enough resolution for printing - at least 300dpi at A4 size (297 x 210 mm) in landscape format. As well as your name please include location photographed (within Bega Valley Shire).

Leo Berzins leo.berzins@internode.on.net is happy to answer questions about size and quality.

ANOTHER NEW BIRD GUIDE

You might be familiar with the similar looking Australian Bird Guide, (maybe too heavy to carry in the field?). Due to be released in August 2022 is the Compact version, from the same authors and CSIRO Publishing. Watch out for it and if you'd like to write a review we'd love to hear from you.



NEW MEMBER

Pam Handyside from Eden has joined us as a new member. We hope there are many great birding experiences ahead for you Pam.

MEET THE PENGUINS

If you missed 'Meeting the Penguins' with Dr Ann Jones you can find it on ABC Iview.

A brilliant production. Anything Ann presents is worth watching. (BJ no relation).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roger Heffernan

As the days gradually grow longer and winter is almost gone we can look forward to the breeding season for the majority of our birdlife. The Australian Magpies in Bombala are already actively nest building in July. Spring will bring on the return of the migrants that make our corner their home over the forthcoming months. Who will report the first Channel-billed Cuckoo sighting for this season?

Radio 2SEA FM Eden (104.7) welcomed me back for a second session last month. We thank them for taking an interest and promoting birds and birding in the region.

Preparations are well underway to produce our FSCB calendar for 2023. Please send your photos to Hayden Kingston before Friday 27th August. hayden.k@bigpond.com The calendars have been popular in the past, augmenting our income assisting the promotion and care of our birds.

Conservation issues at Mirador/Tura Beach and Glebe Park at Bega have been in the media recently. Your committee has supported submissions to authorities relating to the pressures on birdlife in these locations.

Keep your eye on the Coming Events and come along if you can.

EVENING MEETING REPORT

Thursday 9 June 2022

Jill Burrige

Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thirty five members and three visitors.

Sightings:

Reports of Masked Lapwings, a hundred Australasian Gannets at rest in Merimbula Bay, White-bellied Sea-Eagle in an altercation with a Wedge-tailed Eagle and a Wonga Pigeon in town.

Alan Scrymgeour reported that the Australian Pelicans, having nested very successfully at Lake Cargelligo, had eaten all the Carp and were now dying.

Gang-Gang Cockatoo Monitoring by Atlas Of Life. If anyone is interested in assisting with this project contact Atlas of Life, PO Box 459 Merimbula 02 6495 0917 also on FaceBook

Alan Scrymgeour's presentation: Caenagnathids (Ancient Birds) and Doughnuts

Jane Symonds, for her PhD thesis, sourced 30-40 samples of ancient (35-40 million years old) bird femurs from around the world. The bones were cut in half, a 3 mm sample removed and polished to a few microns thick so that the cellular structure of the specimen could be seen using a powerful microscope.

At this point Alan distributed doughnuts that had been cut in half, frozen, unfrozen, cooked and then dried to represent the cellular structure of the ancient bones. There is a change in cell size and texture from the internal diameter to the external edge of the doughnut. What does this mean? It indicates a change in growth pattern due to a lag or that there are growth spurts. Does this happen in modern birds? Yes it does. Birds grow in fits and starts. Evidence for this is observed in Lyrebirds: they lay eggs, sit for a few days, then leave for 3-4 days then sit again and growth continues. This is also reflected in the way birds hatch at different times.

Modern birds reflect their ancient ancestors in more ways than one.

Proposal for Feral Predator Free Area (FPFA) at Nungatta in SE Forest National Park

Max Beukers, Senior Conservation Planning Officer, NPWS, discussed the proposal to establish a 2000 ha FPFA in the SE Forest NP.

Australia has the worst animal extinction rate in the world; the main predators are feral cats and European Red Foxes. Creation of National Parks does not protect native species and FPFA are the best we can do at the moment.

The government has announced the creation of four new FPFA. In this area it is hoped to re-introduce Long-nosed Potoroo, Eastern Quoll, Smoky Mouse and Eastern Bettong.

With a mindset of "do least damage" it is proposed to create a 25 km diameter FPFA at Nungatta, 40 km south of Bombala, 80 km west of Eden, totally contained in the National Park and straddling 2 local government areas. An extremely complex structure of roads, bridges and fire trails including 28.5 km fencing is required before commencement. Eradication of feral animals must be fast and 1080 baiting will be the preferred method.

This area has been chosen because the Eucalypt forest habitat should be suitable for these native species, does not have a high conservation value already and the animals should survive if they have enough food, plants, fungi and an absence of Phytophthora infestation.

Eradication of feral animals can change the landscape dramatically and the recreation of country only seen by first explorers can show what the country looked like before colonisation.

Katie Oxenham, Ecologist and Senior Project Officer for the Nungatta FPFA.

Initially the main task is to develop an ecological health framework to provide baseline data of the area and 24 monitoring sites have been set up, 12 inside and 12 outside the proposed area.

Twenty on-track motion cameras have been set up, also Elliot and Pitfall traps targeting the smallest mammals, reptiles and frogs. Agile Antechinus, Bush Rat, White-footed Dunnart, Yellow-bellied Skink and Weasel Skink have been detected. There will be acoustic monitoring of Microbat, Forest Owl, Yellow-bellied Glider and Koala.

On site camera tracking using motion sensitive cameras has detected feral fox and feral cat at every site as well as, deer, pig, wild dog, dingo and rabbit.

More baseline surveys will occur in the Spring including diurnal (day time) surveys of birds, for which Katie is seeking volunteers from members of FSCB to assist from late October to early November at 12 sites. White-Winged Chough, Superb Lyrebird, Gang-Gang Cockatoo, Rose, Scarlet and Flame Robin, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Spotted Quail-thrush and Painted Button-quail have already been identified.

If you are interested in being involved please contact Katie Oxenham at katieoxenham@environment.nsw.gov.au or mobile: 0477958735

A Kangaroo Paw and Grevillea were won in the raffle.

Roger thanked our guest speakers and everyone involved in the meeting and invited everyone for supper.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

CATHCART, BLACK LAKE AND BOMBALA

Saturday 11 June, 2022

Jenny Morrison

Even though a few of the 18 folk who gathered at Cathcart hadn't been on this outing before all were well prepared for wind and cold.

As we waited for arrivals many Little Ravens and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were seen in the surrounding paddocks and the calls of Little Corellas and Pied Currawongs couldn't be mistaken.

With everyone there we headed off down Dragon Swamp Rd, the ephemeral lake now full and supporting many water birds of which Australasian Shovelers, Australasian Grebes, Eurasian Coots and Grey Teal were the most numerous. Insects had attracted about 100 Welcome Swallows which skimmed just above the water surface.

All was quiet at the cemetery till two Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos announced their presence.

Along Coolangubra Rd at the farm yards a Scarlet Robin was a sign that we may see more robins further on. This was the case with a total of six Flame Robins and three Scarlet Robins to please us all not to forget Red-browed Finch and Silvereyes.

A cuppa at Cathcart then next stop Black Lake.

In amongst the hundreds of Eurasian Coots, Australasian Shovelers and 30 Australasian Grebes were Hardheads, Hoary-headed Grebes, Black Swan and two Musk Ducks. Thanks to Leo's scope, apart from a detailed view we could appreciate the interaction between the different species, some hassling to get to a promising food patch or busily going their own way ignoring those around and the rafts of same species that formed then dispersed. There was much discussion about the Musk Duck and the leathery flap under its bill, and what is always so great on a FSCB outing there is always someone who knows the answer.

Moving to the other end of the lake the water was very high with no long grass where we had seen small birds such as European Goldfinch and Superb Fairy-wrens before, in fact the only birds other than water birds were Welcome Swallows and a pair of Australian Magpies.

Lunch in a warmer, sheltered spot at Bombala sounded inviting but the group was split when we saw our usual spot was now a work site. Some stopped nearby and the rest ended up at the Platypus viewing area, a quick phone

consult and we joined up at a picnic shelter near the bridge. The thermos of soup we brought for lunch was very welcome.

Did I mention it was cold and windy? Even so it was an enjoyable day, 45 species (no honeyeaters) with the raptors being White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Falcon and Nankeen Kestrel. Thank you Hayden, for organising and leading the outing.

BEGA in WINTER
Sunday 26 June, 2022
Hayden Kingston

On a crisp winter morning 18 members and one visitor from South Australia met at the Bega Saleyards. While we gathered at the cars we were entertained by Double-barred Finches, Jacky Winters, Willy Wagtails and Eastern Spinebills before we proceeded to explore the saleyards site.

From here we travelled to a wetland on private property on Finucanes Lane. On arrival we heard Whistling Kites calling and finally located two in trees across the wetland where they were being hassled by ravens. On the water the Musk Duck cruised and there were a pair of swans with seven cygnets which seemed a late breeding to many of us. We enjoyed morning tea back at the cars.

On to Glebe Park in town where we saw the usual array of water birds including two Pink-eared Ducks. Nankeen Night-Herons and the Royal Spoonbills were roosting on the island.

When we had circled the lagoon, it was a bit early for lunch so we decided to explore the wetland at the Bega Sewerage Works. A large mob of curious heifers in the adjoining paddock checked us out as we approached the bridge and an Azure Kingfisher flew out from underneath, and from here a few members caught a glimpse of the elusive platypus. When a Peregrine Falcon zoomed above us while a Swamp Harrier circled in the paddock a flock of twenty Cattle Egrets were startled into the air.



Lunch was at the Bega Cheese Heritage Centre which has recently re-opened and after a pleasant lunch, members were able to stock up on Bega Butter and Heritage Reserve Cheese. A day list of 61 species was recorded. A good count for winter birding in Bega.

All eyes on the Swamp Harrier stirring up Cattle Egrets. Image: Roger Heffernan.

TANJA/MIDDLE LAGOON
Saturday 9 July, 2022
Jenny Morrison

Fine weather was a promising start to the day and drew 21 birdwatchers to Three Ways at Tanja outside Navigate Arts (the old church). We were pleased to welcome Ali and Andy, newcomers to our outings.

Bell Miners were all around but Rainbow Lorikeets, Musk Lorikeets, Australian King-Parrots and Crimson Rosellas added their voices and groups were seen flying above and through the trees.

A couple of regular sightings for Louise and Angie at Navigate Arts were a White-browed Scrubwren that comes onto their verandah to get breakfast crumbs and a very friendly Grey Shrike-thrush known as Gary.

A Lewin's Honeyeater ignored the mobbing Bell Miners and zoomed between us below our knee level to get to flowers on the other side of the lawn. Superb Fairy-wrens and an Eastern Yellow Robin were among other small birds in the grounds around the church.

Next stop was Middle Beach car park with a walk down to Middle Lagoon then along the lake shore to the closed entrance. The water level in the lagoon was high and there were no muddy edges where waders could forage.

At first no birds were seen on the water but finally some Black Swans were spotted on the far shore, an Australasian Grebe popped up, two Great Cormorants and a Little Pied Cormorant made an appearance. Above, two White-bellied Sea-Eagles, a Whistling Kite and Wedge-tailed Eagle; on land there was activity in the bushes with a flock of Silvereyes flying from tree to tree. Flashes of yellow higher up had to be New Holland Honeyeaters.

Returning from the entrance back to the car park and a morning tea break some chose to walk along the beach. This added Pied Oystercatchers, Silver Gulls, Crested Terns and Australasian Gannets to the list.

A quick scan of the camping area rewarded us with a sighting of two Variegated Fairy-wrens.

After being welcomed by Libby and Sam Bright at Tanja Lagoon Camp which is on the western end of the lagoon, we followed the track going down to the water where Welcome Swallows were skimming over the surface, hearing Bell Miners as we went. More Black Swans, Great Cormorants and Little Pied Cormorants also Chestnut Teal were seen. Making our way past the visitor tents investigation of a small dam revealed Purple Swamphens, Australian Wood Ducks, Pacific Black Duck. As expected in the open paddocks, along with kangaroos were Jacky Winters, Magpies and Willy Wagtails.

Libby invited us to join her in the garden to have our lunch. Always a lovely area to visit.

A total of 47 species. Thanks to Leo, Roger and David for doing the list.

Thank you Louise Morris (Artistic Director of Navigate Arts) Matt Scott and Angie Morris for giving us access to your special place.

Thank you also to Libby Bright, Loz Hunt and Sam Bright at Tanja Lagoon Camp, another special place.

PANBOOLA WINTER SURVEY

Wednesday 13 July, 2022

Leo Berzins

A cool, cloudy start for eight members undertaking the 100th Panboola survey. Black Swans nesting, Hardheads, Dusky Moorhens, Eurasian Coots and Australasian Grebes were early sightings. The walk to the river corridor was muddy but thankfully no longer submerged. The highlight was a busy group of about 20 Red-browed Finches. An unusual sight along this stretch was a Royal Spoonbill feeding in a small ephemeral pond with a Straw-necked Ibis nearby. The river corridor was fairly quiet but we did record both Brown and Striated Thornbills.

A good variety of waterbirds were seen in the waterlogged centre of the racecourse but the highlights were at least ten White-fronted Chats and three Australasian Pipits. Birds around the perimeter included a Golden Whistler, Yellow Thornbills and Golden-headed Cisticolas.

The Waterbird Sanctuary provided a few more birds for the list, including Little and Red Wattlebirds, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Rainbow Lorikeet. Returning to our starting point at Watsons Waterhole, we were treated to good views of a Brown Falcon, which was only our second raptor for the day.

Thanks to everyone who participated. Species count for the day was 51.

BIRD ROUTE NO 3, WYNDHAM and ROCKY HALL

Sunday 24 July, 2022

Lynda Collins

Roger welcomed a good-sized group (20 all up) in Wyndham on a brisk winter's morning. We had a number of first timers join us - Pam (from Eden) and the Smith family with two very keen young birdwatchers. Birds of note here were: two Satin Bowerbirds, four Australian King-Parrots and 10 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos.

From Wyndham we drove to Pretty Point Bridge, Mataganah Creek, on New Buildings Road. Apart from the original 100+ year old grey box timber bridge trusses (secured in a fenced area with information boards to explain their history) we saw and heard a number of birds - Red-browed Finches, Spotted Pardalote and our first Eastern Yellow Robin. The bush track that the group would normally walk along was very overgrown with new understorey growth so it was declared unsuitable for today's walk given how wet it was.

Driving to the end of New Buildings Road we stopped at the (wooden truss) bridge over the Towamba River. Here some of the group saw our first female Scarlet Robin of the day. Other birds seen were a Yellow Robin, a Grey Shrike-thrush, a White-naped Honeyeater, two Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters and an Australasian Grebe!

Next stop was morning tea and a walk up the hill to Rocky Hall cemetery. Some members decided to walk down the hill into the Reserve and saw eight Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters. Here there were a good number and variety of birds - Spotted Pardalotes, Striated Thornbill, Jacky Winters, Red-browed Finch, Scarlet Robins, White-naped Honeyeater, Australasian Pipit, and a Tree Martin.

On the way to Rocky Hall Leo spotted 20 Double-barred Finches in a paddock. Lunch was at the picnic area off Big Jack Mountain Road on the Towamba River, where over 50 Silvereyes shared our chosen spot in the dappled sunlight. Also in the area were Brown Thornbill, Golden Whistler and Yellow-faced Honeyeater.

Much thanks to Roger for leading the walk and David Merrick for recording the 42 bird species recorded on a perfect Sunday outing.

KAMERUKA

Wednesday 3 August, 2022

Tony Jarman

Twelve club members met at the entrance to the old Kameruka Golf Club and we walked down West Kameruka Road towards Candelo Road. The weather was not in our favour starting at 8 Deg to 15 Deg when we finished. The wind was moderate from generally the north west and a bit fresh. The main sighting here was two species of cuckoo.

From here we travelled by car to the Kameruka Estate main complex and thence by foot to the north where the best sighting was a Rufous Whistler (must have forgotten to leave for the winter).

Thence on to the historic cricket ground, Lords Oval for morning tea before proceeding by foot towards Kameruka's Lake where very few water birds were seen. Not even wood ducks. The stand out sighting was a Little Eagle, photographed well by Mike Healey.

In total 41 species were observed which considering the weather was not too bad.

VICTORIAN ENDANGERED, TWICE-WIDOWED MALLEEFOWL FINDS NEW MATE

ABC Mildura-Swan Hill

The endangered Malleefowl are known for their incredible ability to survive in the harshest of desert conditions, but they are still no match for feral cats and foxes.

Malleefowl are ground-dwelling birds about the size of a chicken which build large mounds to nest in and can be found in parts of NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Ecologist Trevor Bauer said Malleefowl pairs normally mated for life, making the discovery of one Victorian hen's new romance a rare one. "I haven't heard of them finding another mate before. So that's really great news."

Farmer and Malleefowl guardian Trevor Wyatt had been watching over 25 Malleefowl nests in remote bush near his Murrayville farm in north-west Victoria for the past 60 years. He understood how vulnerable the birds were and was heartbroken to discover feathers strewn around the 60-year-old nest recently. He also found the twice-widowed Malleefowl hen, alone. However, he was buoyed when the hen soon introduced a new beau.

"She didn't mourn too long, she must have got onto the internet, because within a fortnight she had a new mate," he said, adding "it is great news for the species, but more needs to be done to protect them".

"Foxes and cats are the biggest problem for the Malleefowl. Being a ground bird, they are quite an easy target, foxes learn to wait at the mounds for the chicks to emerge, picking them off," Mr Bauer said.

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy monitored more than 60 Malleefowl nests across 65,000 hectares, with research revealing an increase in nesting activity inside the predator-free exclusion fence. "We also do a lot of intensive baiting outside the fenced area to reduce populations of feral cats and foxes, to give these amazing birds a fighting chance," Mr Bauer said.

Despite the threat foxes and feral cats posed to the Malleefowl, they have a few survival tricks to rely on. "They are experts at camouflage, all they have to do is stand still and they become invisible. They can fly like a helicopter, straight up to roost in the trees at night so the foxes don't get them," Mr Wyatt said. Although mostly ground-dwelling birds, he has witnessed them flying over 30km away to safety to escape bushfires.



Despite the harsh desert conditions, these fascinating birds were able to lay more than 25 eggs a season, which required shifting tonnes of soil and mulch in and out of the nest every day, using geothermal warmth to incubate their eggs.

"It's just blows me away that they know how to do all this from birth," Mr Wyatt said. "Even the young chicks dig their way out from deep within the nest and can fly within about an hour of hatching. They are incredible birds."

A pair of Malleefowl with a newly hatched chick emerging from beneath a soil-covered nest. (Supplied: David Wells)

FSCB DIRECTORY 2022

President:	Roger Heffernan	6493 2208	rogerheffernan@outlook.com (note new email)
Vice President:	David Merrick	6495 9866	davidmerrick@bigpond.com
Secretary:	VACANT		
Minutes Secretary:	Jill Burridge	0434 354 027	snoplum@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer:	Jan Reed	6495 6592	treasurer@fscb.org.au
Ass. Treasurer:	Hayden Kingston	0417 227 467	
Committee:	Leo Berzins	6495 2189	Sue Romane 6495 9080
	Robyn Kesby	0414 864 873	Alison Hayes 0429 954 551
	Jenny Morrison	0428 211 005	Liz Allen 0434 375 568
Newsletter Editor:	Barbara Jones	0487 840 740	jonesbarbara@bigpond.com
Sub-Editor:	Sue Romane	6495 9080	seromane@hotmail.com
Conservation Officer:	Gayle Partridge	0418 429 491	
Website:	Leo Berzins	6495 2189	web-admin@fscb.org.au
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/farsouthcoastbirdwatchers		
Facebook entry:	Mike Healey	mikehealey@y7mail.com	
Supper Coordinator:	Jenny Morrison	0428 211 005	
Sightings Records:	Barbara Jones	fscbirds@bigpond.com	
Data Entry:	David Merrick	davidmerrick@bigpond.com	
All mail to PO Box 180 Pambula NSW 2549. Email: fscbirds@bigpond.com			
Subscriptions due 1 Jan annually: Family \$20. Single \$15			

Deadline for October Newsletter: 28 September, 2022 Articles and reports to be sent to seromane@hotmail.com

FSCB GOOGLE GROUP and FACEBOOK

Go to the welcome page at <http://groups.google.com/group/fscb?hl=en> and follow the instructions. If you have trouble contact David on dpadams@gmail.com or Barbara. In the set-up process you will be asked to give your email address and a password which will be yours just for the chat line (not your personal email password).

You won't be inundated with email. Maybe one or two a day, then nothing for a week/weeks, but the more people use the service the more useful it will become. Try it and see.

Have you seen our FACEBOOK page, maintained by Mike Healey? Please like the page and share the link with your friends! Or you can view without signing up, by going to <https://www.facebook.com/Farsouthcoastbirdwatchers>.

We are also on Twitter: [@FSCBirds](https://twitter.com/FSCBirds)

FSCB Google Chat line works! Recently it brought some instant responses for Ann Knight, questioning whether the large group of small parrots in a blossoming eucalypt in Tura were Swift Parrots or Musk Lorikeets. There was an immediate appearance of a few members to assist with ID but only Musks were seen on this occasion. Its worth calling for help with these IDs so don't hesitate to ring or send message to Google Chat Line. (BJ)

A SELECTION of SIGHTINGS from June/July 2022

Please report your sightings, especially threatened species

Threatened Species

17/6/22	Gang-gang Cockatoo	3	Bega, Reedy Swamp Rd	T Williams	there all the time
10/7/22	Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	Nethercote	B Jones	regulars
9/6/22	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	Bird Route No 1	D Webb	opposite the stock yards
14/7/22	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	H Kingston	feeding in she oaks
20/6/22	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	1 to 4	Sth Bermagui, Strudwicks Rd	D Adams	flying around sporadically
30/7/22	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	Rocky Hall Cemetery	G Holden	overflow
31/7/22	Hooded Plover	2	Nelson Lagoon	D & H Merrick	
29/7/22	Pied Oystercatcher	1	Merimbula, Fishpen	G Holden	
31/7/22	Pied Oystercatcher	3	Nelson Lagoon	D & H Merrick	
9/7/22	Pied Oystercatcher	2	Bournda Lagoon	G Merrick	
15/7/22	Pied Oystercatcher	2	Merimbula, Spencer Park	G McCann	
31/7/22	Pied Oystercatcher	2	Tura Beach	L Allen	
17/7/22	Powerful Owl	1	Berrambool Rainforest Gully	L Berzin	photo
17/6/22	Sooty Oystercatcher	4	Nth Tura Beach	L Allen	
15/7/22	Sooty Oystercatcher	1	Merimbula, Spencer Park sands	G McCann	
8/6/22	White-fronted Chat	30-40	Panboola	D Webb	racecourse
13/7/22	White-fronted Chat	10	Panboola	FSCB survey	
<hr/>					
26/6/22	Australasian Darter	1	Bega, STW	FSCB outing	
10/6/22	Australasian Gannet	3000	Merimbula Bay	L Berzins	Most in rafts of 500
16/7/22	Australasian Gannet	600	Merimbula Bay	L Berzins	
11/6/22	Australasian Grebe	30+	Black Lake	FSCB outing	
23/7/22	Australasian Pipit	1	Rocky Hall Cemetery	FSCB outing	
2/6/22	Australasian Pipit	4	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
13/7/22	Australasian Pipit	3	Panboola	FSCB survey	
11/6/22	Australasian Shoveler	30	Cathcart, Dragon Swamp Rd	FSCB outing	
11/6/22	Australasian Shoveler	100+	Black Lake	FSCB outing	
14/6/22	Australian King-Parrot	2	Eden, Curalo Lake	R Heffernan	
25/6/22	Australian King-Parrot	pair	Tura Beach, in garden	D Merrick	first for a long while
26/6/22	Australian King-Parrot	2	Bega, Glebe Park	FSCB outing	
1/7/22	Australian King-Parrot	37	Nethercote	B Jones	on grass feeding
6/7/22	Australian King-Parrot	7	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
23/7/22	Australian King-Parrot	4	Wyndham township	FSCB outing	
26/6/22	Australian Shelduck	2	Bega, Glebe Park & Opposite	FSCB outing	
11/6/22	Australian Shelduck	2	Cathcart, Dragon Swamp Rd	FSCB outing	
19/7/22	Australian Spotted Crake	1	Panboola	D Webb	photo, Ebird
31/7/22	Australian Wood Duck	pr + 9 y	Tura, Sapphire Coast Dr	C Meslin	
14/6/22	Azure Kingfisher	3	Eden, Curalo Lake	R Heffernan	
26/6/22	Azure Kingfisher	1	Bega, STW	FSCB outing	
30/7/22	Azure Kingfisher	2	Merimbula Ck at Berrambool	L Allen	
19/7/22	Black Kite	1	Tura, Headland Drive	D Merrick	heading for Merimbula
26/6/22	Black Swan	2+7y	Bega, Finucanes Lane	FSCB outing	
5/7/22	Black Swan	1 on nest	Panboola	M Richmond	
11/6/22	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Panboola	M Richmond	its back!
21/7/22	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	Berrambool Rainforest	L Allen	
21/7/22	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	2	Nethercote, Ruggs Rd	W Smith	
17/7/22	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	2 (pair)	Tura, Sapphire Coast Drive	C Meslin	photo
20/7/22	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	Nethercote	B Jones	almost a pet
23/7/22	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	2	Tathra, Pacific Way	J Plumb	
17/7/22	Brown Gerygone	many	Berrambool Rainforest Gully	L Berzin	
15/7/22	Brown Quail	2	Green Cape	L Allen	
14/6/22	Buff-banded Rail	1	Eden, Curalo Lake	R Heffernan	photos
14/6/22	Cattle Egret	1	Eden, Curalo Lake	R Heffernan	behind Old Abattoir
26/6/22	Cattle Egret	20	Bega, STW	FSCB outing	
1/7/22	Cattle Egret	7	Greigs Flat	B Jones	
8/7/22	Cattle Egret	15	Sth Wolumla	R Heffernan	Cochranes
12/7/22	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Mogilla,	J Plumb	stirred up the Silvereyes
15/7/22	Common Myna	1	Bega, Glen Mia Estate	J Fuary	1 on verandah.
5/6/22	Crescent Honeyeater	6	Cowdroys Beach	J Plumb	
17/7/22	Crescent Honeyeater	many	Berrambool Rainforest Gully	L Berzin	
9/6/22	Double-banded Plover	6	Merimbula Lake, on the Bar	D Webb	
9/6/22	Double-banded Plover	5	Bird Route No 1	D Webb	

25/6/22	Double-barred Finch	23	Yurammie	R Heffernan	Myrtle Mtn Rd
26/6/22	Double-barred Finch	12	Bega Saleyards	FSCB outing	
23/7/22	Double-barred Finch	20	Big Jack Mountain Rd	FSCB outing	
31/7/22	Eastern Reef-Egret	1	Nelson Lagoon	D & H Merrick	
11/6/22	Eurasian Coot	50	Cathcart, Dragon Swamp Rd	FSCB outing	
11/6/22	Eurasian Coot	100+	Black Lake	FSCB outing	
11/6/22	European Goldfinch	1	Cathcart, Coolangubra Rd	FSCB outing	
11/6/22	Flame Robin	6	Cathcart, Coolangubra Rd	FSCB outing	
13/7/22	Golden-headed Cisticola	5	Panboola	FSCB survey	
19/6/22	Ground Parrot	1	Green Cape - Pulpit Rock	M Richmond	
11/6/22	Hardhead	12	Black Lake	FSCB outing	
26/6/22	Hardhead	2	Bega, Glebe Park	FSCB outing	
5/7/22	Hardhead	2	Panboola	M Richmond	
13/7/22	Hardhead	14	Panboola	FSCB survey	
11/6/22	Hoary-headed Grebe	2	Black Lake	FSCB outing	
19/7/22	Lewin's Rail	1 heard	Panboola	D Webb	E-bird
19/7/22	Little Grassbird	2	Panboola	D Webb	E-bird
11/6/22	Little Raven	7	Cathcart CBD	FSCB outing	
13/7/22	Masked Lapwing	30	Panboola	FSCB survey	
11/6/22	Musk Duck	2	Black Lake	FSCB outing	
26/6/22	Musk Duck	1	Bega, Finucanes Lane	FSCB outing	
27/7/22	Musk Duck	1 male	Eden, Curalo Lake Boardwalk	D Waldon	
17/6/22	Musk Lorikeet	~50	Surf Circle/Caldy Place	A Knight et al	
11/6/22	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Bombala town area, transit	FSCB outing	
26/6/22	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Bega, Finucanes Lane	FSCB outing	
1/7/22	Nankeen Kestrel	2	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
26/6/22	Nankeen Night Heron	6	Bega, Glebe Park	FSCB outing	
23/6/22	Peregrine Falcon	1	Yurammie	R Heffernan	chasing 50 Little Corellas
14/6/22	Pied Cormorant	2	Eden, Curalo Lake	R Heffernan	
26/6/22	Pied Cormorant	2	Bega, Finucanes Lane	FSCB outing	
26/6/22	Pink-eared Duck	2	Bega, Glebe Park	FSCB outing	
13/7/22	Purple Swamphen	32	Panboola	FSCB survey	
9/7/22	Red-capped Plover	8	Bournda Lagoon	G Merrick	
31/7/22	Red-capped Plover	4	Tura Beach	L Allen	
13/7/22	Restless Flycatcher	1	Nethercote	B Jones	daily at house windows
31/7/22	Rose Robin	1	Tura, Sapphire Coast Dr	C Meslin	
26/6/22	Royal Spoonbill	8	Bega, Glebe Park	FSCB outing	
13/7/22	Royal Spoonbill	6	Panboola	FSCB survey	
30/7/22	Rufous Whistler	1	Merimbula Ck at Berrambool	L Allen	
5/6/22	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Cowdroys Beach	J Plumb	
18/7/22	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Panboola	D Webb	
16/7/22	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Merimbula Boardwalk	L Berzins	presume o'wintering + 22/6
5/6/22	Scarlet Honeyeater	6	Cowdroys Beach	J Plumb	
19/6/22	Scarlet Honeyeater	6	Bermagui, SF Rainforest	J Plumb	
11/6/22	Scarlet Robin	3	Cathcart, Coolangubra Rd	FSCB outing	
30/6/22	Scarlet Robin	1 imm	Yurammie	R Heffernan	photo
14/7/22	Scarlet Robin	2	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	J Reed/H Kingston	1m + 1f
23/7/22	Scarlet Robin	1	New Buildings	FSCB outing	
23/7/22	Scarlet Robin	2	Rocky Hall Cemetery & Reserve	FSCB outing	
15/7/22	Scarlet Robin	2	Nungatta	K Oxenham	
4/6/22	Southern Emu-wren	5	Panboola	J & D Plumb	
19/7/22	Spotless Crane	3	Panboola	D Webb	photo
10/6/22	Spotted Quail-thrush	3	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	J Reed/H Kingston	pair + juv
26/6/22	Swamp Harrier	1	Bega, STW	FSCB outing	
19/7/22	Swamp Harrier	1	Panboola	K Oxenham	
20/6/22	Swift Parrot	5	Merimbula, Benandra Place	R Bilney	
15/7/22	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	1+	Green Cape	L Allen	photos
13/7/22	Tree Martin	1	Panboola	FSCB survey	
23/7/22	Tree Martin	2	Rocky Hall Cemetery	FSCB outing	
17/6/22	White-eared Honeyeater	1	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
23/7/22	White-eared Honeyeater	1	Pretty Point Bridge	FSCB outing	
30/6/22	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	20	Tura Headland	D & H Merrick	
10/6/22	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	22	Bega, Glebe Ave	H Kingston	flying over
31/7/22	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	11	Tura Beach garden	L Allen	regulars
23/7/22	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	2	New Buildings	FSCB outing	
23/7/22	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	8	Rocky Hall Reserve	FSCB outing	

MISTLETOE DIE-OFF BAD NEWS FOR WOODLAND BIRDS

13 July 2022 research article published by the Royal Society B

Mistletoe plants suffered widespread die-off during the recent 2019-20 drought, and it spells bad news for Australia's woodland birds, new research from The Australian National University (ANU) shows.

Mistletoes are flowering plants that generally grow as parasites attached to the branches of trees or shrubs.

According to study lead author, Dr Ross Crates, they're crucial to the survival of birds during times of drought when other food sources like eucalypt nectar and insects are scarce.

"We counted mistletoe across southeastern Australia and carried out bird surveys from 2016 to 2021, spanning a major drought event," Dr Crates said.

"We found mistletoe die-off was widespread during times of high temperatures and low rainfall. But we also found birds relied more on mistletoes as food source during these times."

Dr Crates and his co-authors say as mistletoes suffer more widespread die-off as droughts become more frequent and intense due to climate change, it could limit the ability of birds and other animals to survive.

"It's bad news particularly for animals like the critically endangered Regent Honeyeaters, which rely on mistletoe nectar to breed in times of drought," Dr Crates said.

"The death of mistletoes could contribute to ecosystem collapse under current climate change projections.

"They're unique in the sense they can moderate the impact of droughts on our native birds but are vulnerable themselves."

The authors are calling for more research into the drivers of mistletoe mortality to address the potential impacts of large-scale die-off.

The study has been published in [Proceedings of the Royal Society B](#).



Courting couple in Chantal Meslin's garden at Tura. Brown Cuckoo-Doves are appearing more often in members' gardens lately.



That look!. The Powerful Owl in Berrambool seems to be giving Leo Berzins a stern look!

COMING EVENTS

*Held on second Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month and odd weekdays.
Evening Meetings on second Thursday of February, April, June, August, October and December.
Information about outings or help with transport contact anyone on committee (see FSCB Directory page 8).*

Thursday 11 August, 2022

EVENING MEETING

Meet in the Uniting Church Hall, Henwood St, Merimbula for a 7:30 pm start.

NOW and continuing through until 28 August, 2022. SWIFT PARROT and Regent HE surveys

Saturday 13 August, 2022

TANTAWANGALO

Meet Roger Heffernan (6493 2208) at 9:00 am in the Candelo Park near the tennis courts. Bring a chair food and drink. Our destinations will depend on road and paddock conditions at the time.

Sunday 28 August, 2022

BERMAGUI

Meet Barry Virtue (0437 590 619) at 9:00 am just north of the Bermagui Bridge, on the corner beside the Bermagui Public School, opposite the group of small shops. Once assembled Barry will offer options for decision by those present. Plenty to see in the area and Barry knows it all. Chair and food essential.

Saturday 10 September, 2022

TURA FLORA RESERVE AND MUNDOOII WALK

Meet Liz Allen (0434 375 568) at the Tura Flora Reserve at 9:00 am, parking opposite 23 High Crescent, then criss-crossing the reserve's tracks for around 40 minutes. Reconvene at the Tura Beach car park for morning tea. Then we head out along the Mundooii track turning right at the T intersection and head towards Back Lake and Mirador turning back just before the track gets rocky. Note track is uneven with many tree roots. Then back to the picnic area at the car park for lunch (BBQ area at end of Tura Drive) and a look at the golf ponds.

Monday 19 September, 2022

COMMITTEE MEETING

Commencing 9:30 am in Panboola Office building.

Sunday 25 September, 2022

BLACKFELLOWS LAKE

Meet at 9:15 am at the end of Blackfellows Lake Rd, which leads off the Bega – Tathra Rd just east of Kalaru Village. Follow this road, swinging left when you see the boat ramp and then wind around passing houses on the right to the very end and stop at the gate. This is a private property and we must all enter together to enable gate to be shut. Lunch at cars. Bring chair and all you need. No facilities, plenty of trees.

Saturday 8 October, 2022

NUMBUGGA

Meet Hayden (0417 227 467) at 9:00 am on the corner of Snowy Mountains Highway and Wents Road. From Bega go north on the Princes Highway and take the Cooma turn off, drive 15 km west to reach Wents Road on your right. If coming from Bemboka it is 5 km east of Morans Crossing on your left. We will visit sites along Numbugga Creek and return to Bega via Walls Flat Road. Always a super bird list from this morning. Bring a chair.

Sunday 9 October, 2022

PANBOOLA 20TH BIRTHDAY

Panboola will be celebrating their 20th birthday with a huge line up of fun and activities. Put Panboola 20th Birthday in your search engine and see what's happening, including a presence from FSCB.

Thursday 13 October, 2022

EVENING MEETING

Meet for a 7:30 start. Uniting Church Hall, Henwood St, Merimbula. Special Guest speaker will be Roger Bilney, (Rohan's dad) talking about the ageing and sexing of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo, and the similarities and differences with the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

Wednesday 19 October, 2022

PANBOOLA SURVEY

Meet Robyn Kesby (0414 864 873) at 7:30 am at the Panboola Centre, next to Idlewild Motel in Bullara St, Pambula for the spring survey. Wear sturdy shoes. Carry snack and drink, hat and insect repellent. Takes about 3 hours. Spring survey is known for raptors. Will we be lucky?