



FAR SOUTH COAST BIRDWATCHERS Inc.

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022

2023 CALENDAR

FSCB 2023 calendars are now available at the usual price of \$10 (or \$13 including postage). They will be available at walks and meetings until sold out. You can also contact Hayden Kingston or another committee member and we will organise to get your calendars to you. Hayden's contact details are email hayden.k@bigpond.com or mobile 0417 227 467.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roger Heffernan

Spring is here, and the days becoming longer and warmer. It's time to get out with the binoculars and enjoy the birdlife around you while keeping an eye out for the young ones that have recently left the nest.

Our 2023 Calendars are ready to be bought at meetings, walks and selected local outlets. A huge thank you to Hayden Kingston for assembling the photos and managing the printing. Thanks also to those who presented their images to the panel for selection.

The 2022 Bournda Bird Olympics is coming up on Tuesday 18th October at Potoroo Palace. Students from local primary schools will compete in bird calling contests together with other bird-related activities. FSCB provides some sponsorship for the event.

The December meeting is our AGM, and it is time to consider nominations for the committee. The secretary position has been vacant in recent times which I regard as unacceptable. If the role is not filled by year's end, I will reluctantly walk away.

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SAVE THE DATE — THE AUSSIE BIRD COUNT IS BACK! 17-23 OCTOBER 2022.

The Aussie Bird Count is a great way to connect with the birds in your backyard, no matter where your backyard might be - whether it's a suburban backyard, a local park, a patch of forest, a farm, down by the beach, or the main street of town.

All you need to take part is 20 minutes, as many times as you like, and your favourite outdoor spaces - you don't even have to leave home!

As well as contributing to BirdLife Australia's knowledge of Aussie Birds, you will have the chance to win some great prizes.

Head to the website to read more, see the prizes and register as a Counter today: <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>

FSCB EVENING MEETING REPORT

Thursday 11 August, 2022

Lynda Collins

Roger Heffernan (President) welcomed 15 attendees including two from the Northern Territory.

Essential Energy, via Meals on Wheels, have kindly donated a first aid kit to the club. This kit will be taken on our regular field trips.

Roger noted that the Glossy Black-Cockatoo has been listed as Vulnerable by the Commonwealth under the EPBC Act.

Interesting sightings:

- Two Brown Falcons - near Oaklands in Pambula
- Female Scarlet Robin - Saltwater Creek, unusual here
- Scarlet Honeyeater - Aragunnu and Bithry Inlet
- 10 Double-banded Plovers - shores of Wallagoot Lake
- Swamp Harrier - Tantawangalo
- Buff-rumped Thornbill - Tantawangalo
- Masked Lapwings - lots of chicks in the Tura Beach Headland area.

Presentations:

Alan Scrymgeour gave a fascinating talk on '620 million years of birds'.

Alan and Lyn have recently returned from a trip to South Australia to the Ediacara Hills area of the Flinders Ranges – Leigh Creek is the closest township. This area has been identified as the Ediacaran Period (around 620 million years ago) and it was here that fossils of the beginnings of multi-cellular life have been found.

Alan was given permission to take soft clay impressions of some of the fossils which he shared with the attendees. Alan's talk concluded with three stories of modern birds - a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, a Superb Lyrebird and a pair of magpies. These stories illustrated the complicated intellectual behaviour of birds alive today.



Leo Berzins attended the BirdLife Australia Beach-nesting Bird Conference in South Australia in May. During his trip he covered areas in the Yorke Peninsula, Port Augusta, Gluepot Reserve, Tibooburra (NSW), and Cunnamulla (QLD). Among the photos of birds he showed were: Apostlebird, Collared Sparrowhawk, Brown Treecreeper, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Singing Honeyeater, Nankeen Kestrel, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Grey Currawong (noting these are almost black - very different to our local species), Rock Parrot, Chirruping Wedgebill, White-fronted Honeyeater, Black-faced Woodswallow, Zebra Finch, Blue Bonnet, White-breasted Woodswallow and Budgerigar.

The final presentation was by our President Roger Heffernan on the Varied Sittella - five Australian subspecies. They are small dumpy short-tailed birds with an upturned slender beak and dark barring underneath the tail. They are between 100-110 mm in height and weigh around 8-17 grams (a 50 cent coin weighs 16 grams). Common names are Orange-winged Sittella, Black-capped Sittella, Australian Nuthatch and Bark-pecker.

The five subspecies and their range across Australia are:

- Orange-winged - NSW and Victoria;
- Black-capped - South Australia across to the lower half of Western Australia;
- White-headed - located roughly from Brisbane to Cairns and inland over the ranges;
- White-winged - Northern Territory through to north-west WA; and
- Striated - generally cover Cape York in the north.

Their appearance changes with location hence the name Varied Sittella. The species are believed to interbreed in areas where their boundaries intersect. Sittellas mostly feed upside down and nest high in a dead fork.

Raffle:

Hayden's home-grown avocados made an extra raffle prize along with the regular native plants donated by Pambula Mitre 10.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

CANDELO/TANTAWANGALO

Saturday 13 August, 2022

Roger Heffernan

It has been said that if you need rain, ask Roger to organise a bird walk. Eight members met in Candelo after an early morning storm that kept on shedding moisture. So, we went to the café for a cuppa and, for some, a little extra. The radar indicated that the skies might soon clear so we pressed on. Arriving at a private property on Tantawangalo Lane with the showers persisting we took shelter in the carport. Looking out, we could see a couple of saturated Sulphur-crested Cockatoos perched at a distance, Pied Currawong being settled in a tall pine tree.

One by one the temptation to take a walk along the riverbank lured us to investigate the site even though the showers continued. Taking cover in a second shed we watched a group of Superb Fairy-wrens busying themselves in the undergrowth. A Rufous Whistler, Willie Wagtail and an inactive Magpie nest were observed via the open walls. By now we were all feeling a little damp and agreed to call it quits.

Back at the cars, George discovered a group of Yellow-rumped and Buff-rumped Thornbills feeding close by the track which became the highlight of the morning.

Species Count: 14 Wet Ones.

BERMAGUI

Sunday 28 August, 2022

Tony Jarman

On a beautiful spring day ten members met adjacent to the Bermagui Primary School under the leadership of Barry Virtue. After checking out the birds in the surrounding area we proceeded to the NSW State Forest picnic area to the south of Wallaga Lake and thence along the Lilly Pilly foot track into the rainforest. Eighteen species were seen, the best being the Rose Robin and Scarlet Honeyeater.

On returning to the picnic area we had a cuppa and then it was off to walk the Narira Creek trail where 26 species were sighted, with the pick being a Golden Whistler. Upon returning a halt was called for lunch. It would be a bit hard to get a better setting and weather conditions to have lunch and survey the surroundings.

After lunch it was off to Long Swamp where a fairly stiff NE wind was blowing. Most of the birds were sheltering from the wind but we managed to spot 11 species, the pick being a Musk Duck.

In all 50 species were sighted and a good day was had by all.

TURA FLORA RESERVE and MUNDOOI TRACK

Saturday 10 September, 2022

Liz Allen

A lovely morning to meet at Tura Flora Reserve to start our walk, greeted by an Eastern Yellow Robin. With 12 starters including two visitors, Emily and Judah Minto (the latter a keen birder and aspiring photographer), we zigzagged through the area watching and listening, including discussion on the many wildflower species.

A particularly special sighting was of Scarlet Honeyeaters, being the first sighting for some of the group. We managed to get back to the car park as it started to rain. Species count: 40.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members.

Monica Hicks from Wolumla
Josh, Daniel, Grant and Theresa Smith from Millingandi

BLACKFELLOWS LAKE, KALARU

Sunday 25 September, 2022

Barbara Jones

We visit this property annually thanks to the kindness of the Thomas Family, the owners, and Roger Summerell, caretaker. Our visits are usually scheduled for late September and we expect to see or hear 50+ species during the morning. Over the years we have recorded 120 species. The property consists of cleared grazing land, large old eucalypts, a dam, woodland, lake and river frontages. Of the nearly 300 acres of this magnificent block, we still have a lot to explore.

Our group of 15 checked out the meeting spot which was quieter than usual. Tree Martins, no Jacky Winters, Whistling Kite soon to be seen with partner at or on the regular nest. We then proceeded either by foot or vehicle (some of us are becoming less able) to three stopping points from which to radiate.

Our newest and youngest member, Josh, calmly announced 'there's an Azure Kingfisher down there'. We all swung around towards the backwater and sure enough there it was, some distance away but extremely well spotted by younger eyes for all to enjoy. The White-throated Gerygone called as hoped so we know the migrants are returning.



From the morning tea stop we heard the honking of the White-bellied Sea-Eagles and saw one adult and two sub adults displaying above us. Yes, they sound like ducks but that's the sea-eagles.

Image from Di Waldon, looking down onto Bega River with distant burnt trees on the ridge of Thompsons Drive, Tathra.

From the eastern end of the property on the



Bega River we looked downstream to a tranquil scene with mixed waterbirds including unexpectedly a Little Egret, then went upstream to our lunch spot and further exploration.

Leo persisted with tracking down some Variegated Fairy-wrens, new for the site. They were making use of the remaining undergrowth, burnt out by the 2018 fires. This post fire photo shows the exact spot, now tangled with regrowth but we all managed to watch the two males in breeding plumage and their harem. Mike also persisted, waiting for a good photo which he added to Facebook.

Our bird count for the morning was 53 species, about average. The sun was a bonus.



We lined up to enjoy the view for morning tea.

Image: Leo Berzins

NUNGATTA BIRD SURVEYS

September 20-22, 2022

Leo Berzins

At our June meeting, the guest speakers were Max Beukers and Katie Oxenham from NPWS who told us about the project to construct the 2000 hectare Nungatta Feral Predator-Free Area in South East Forest National Park south of Bombala. Volunteers for bird surveys were welcome and the first ones were conducted in September.

Three FSCB volunteers (Life Member Jackie Miles, Dave Webb and Leo Berzins) joined Katie and two other NPWS staff and three contracted ecologists to conduct three days of surveys at ten sites. Each of the ten sites was surveyed twice daily for three days. Surveys started at 5:30 am and teams of three were allocated three or four sites each morning and afternoon. Each survey was conducted as a 30 minute 2 hectare area search. As with any forest survey, most birds were recorded on call only. The keen hearing and instant recall of the young ecologists were most impressive and helped us record a total of 60 species. This was a pretty good result considering the forest is still recovering from the catastrophic 2019/20 fires.

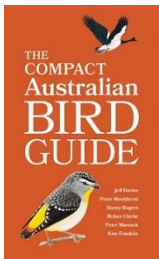
What birds did we see and hear? The most common seemed to be White-throated Treecreeper, Spotted Pardalote, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail and Red Wattlebird. Scarlet and Rose Robins were recorded at multiple sites, as were Yellow-tufted and White-naped Honeyeaters and Red-browed Treecreepers. The best bird was a Beautiful Firetail, seen by Katie, Dave and me as an incidental observation rather than on a survey.

Three days of birding in the southern forests with a great bunch of people. What's not to like? Now I'm off to get a hearing test and do some serious training in bird call recognition.

A Twitter note from Leo Berzins August 18, 2022

'Back into weekly beach-nesting bird surveys on NSW far south coast. No nests yet but over many hours and beach miles, saw 27 Hooded Plovers (~40% of NSW population). Great to find X1 and partner again, after missing them last week.' (See photo).

Thanks Leo, we look forward to hearing how they all cope over the breeding season.



BOOK REVIEW

The Compact Australian Bird Guide CSIRO Publishing

This 252-page book, by the same authors as 'The Australian Bird Guide', is what it says, compact. It has used the same artwork as the original book but has eliminated most of the text. Many of the bird portraits vary in size from the original text, but they retain the clear images required for rapid ID. The distribution maps are also very clear.

As in the original book, the birds are divided into three categories, Marine and Coastal Birds, Freshwater Birds and Land Birds with a visual quick reference in the front of the book.

An alphabetical index to bird groups is included. The index at the back includes both scientific and common (English) names. They are in alphabetical order according to genus. The species names are then grouped together, e.g. Falcon is found under "F", Black, Brown, Grey, Peregrine. I find this easier to use than the index in the original book where they are listed according to species name and you have to look for Black and Brown under "B", Grey under "G" and Peregrine under "P".

The compact edition does not replace the original publication, but it is an ideal book to keep in the car glove box or your daypack for a quick reference. You can read the full text in your Bird Guide when you get home. I bought my copy from Candelo Books in Bega for \$34.99.

David Merrick

BIRDING IN ECUADOR

Alison and Neill Hayes

Having taken a couple of trips to Costa Rica in recent years and experienced some truly outstanding birdwatching, Alison and I decided to make Ecuador our next destination. This country is only slightly larger than Victoria, but it has a huge name when it comes to birds: 17% (over 1,600) of all species are found here, and it ranks number 5 in the world. However, rather than making this a dedicated birdwatching trip, we decided to go for a more general experience of the Amazon rainforest, and in August, took a 10-day cruise down the Napo River - a major tributary of the Amazon River - that passes through the Ecuadorian Amazon basin (the "Oriente"). The vast scale of this river system is hard to grasp – the Ecuadorian section of it accounts for just 2% of the total area!

Grey skies and a pleasantly warm temperature were the norm, and ponchos had to be hastily thrown on occasionally, but this did nothing to dampen the spirits of our small group. With cameras and binoculars always on standby, we went out on small boats for daily explorations along the numerous tributaries of the Napo River, pulling over to the bank to investigate wildlife sightings, and disembarking to take walks or to visit local indigenous communities.



A highlight among the birds sighted was a number of Hoatzins, right on the water's edge, where they nest. This large, striking and extraordinary bird is unique, in that it has foregut fermentation. To explain it briefly, they feed mainly on swamp plants, which requires an unusual digestive process: their large, muscular crop acts like a gizzard, and the microbes that it contains include methanogens, which are also found in the mammalian rumen, e.g. in domestic livestock. The rumen can be directly compared to the crop of a Hoatzin, as it is also a system for foregut fermentation. This bird is known locally as "Stinky Turkey" – no explanation needed!

Hoatzin Image Neill Hayes

drawn to the sodium in the clay. The predictability of their visits is not only a boon for birdwatchers, but also for Boa Constrictors, who can be sure of finding a meal here if they wait patiently. We saw two large ones, motionless but in plain view, and eventually a hapless parrot was caught by one of them.....oh well.....!

Ecuador has a diverse landscape, and we also spent an outstanding day in the Andean foothills around Quito, the highlight being a visit with a bird guide to see the renowned Cocks-of-the-rock. These birds are known not just for their striking bright orange/red plumage, but for very prominent fan-like crests, and above all, for impressive courtship rituals carried out by competing males. We saw a fair bit of activity, although not actually the full-on displays that fortunately we are all able to watch on wildlife documentaries nowadays.

We also visited a couple of places which have established feeding set-ups to attract nectar- and fruit-eating birds, and watched in awe as stunningly beautiful Hummingbirds, Tanagers, Mountain-Toucans, Toucan Barbets and many others, constantly came and went.

All in all, a wonderful trip, and we recommend Ecuador to all birdos.



Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan

Image: Neill Hayes

Far South Coast Birdwatchers uses the nomenclature of birds as used by BirdLife Australia
They have just released their **Working List of Australian Birds v4**
<https://birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>

WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) Report for 2021/22 Season.

Abbreviated from **Mike Tarburton's** email:

This season there were 3885 reports sent in, or published where I could find them. This is significantly more than the 3194 reports last season. Unfortunately, the number of reports that did not give a count of the birds was still significant and it was up from 66 to 89 which is still not as good as the 30 four years ago. The largest flock reported was of 3,000 birds, seen by Demetris Bertzeletos at Surfside in Sthn NSW on 28th Feb. The next largest flock was of 1,100 seen by Colin Brownlie at Kates Ck, Nth of Cann River in Vic on 12th March. When we compare this with last year we see that many birds congregated around Sth NSW in both seasons.

A big thank you is due to local bird club officials who have forwarded sightings from their members – very much appreciated.

The average flock size this season was 27. This compares with 27, 28, & 26, for the three previous years. Each of these figures is significantly lower than the mean of 33 for the decade 2010-2020. However, this might be indicating a levelling off in the decline, so please keep counting for another few years so we can determine if the Japanese breeding efforts are starting to pay off.

Thanks again to all those who have taken the trouble to send me your sightings. It does not matter whether you sent in 1 report or more than 100, they are all useful in helping determine the WTNT population status and defining other aspects of their behaviour.

One of the Japanese researchers told me that eight of the ten clutches she was studying had hatched by the 5th August.

Thank you & happy swift watching in the coming season.

Sincerely Mike Tarburton

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)

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

From BirdLife Vol 7 #3 Sept 2018

What's the link between a shortage of sardines in the North Pacific and a new threat to Hooded Plovers on Australian beaches? **John Peter** speculates on a possible scenario.

When fishermen plying their trade in the North Pacific noticed a sharp decline in the number of baitfish in their nets, they could never have imagined that it might eventually affect a threatened endemic species that lives half a world away. The dearth of baitfish reflected a shortage of the tiny marine crustaceans (known as euphausiids or krill) they rely on as food, which coincided with warmer-than-usual seawater temperature off Canada.

But it wasn't just the baitfish that were affected by this lack of food. The Short-tailed Shearwaters that visit the same seas during their non-breeding season also rely on the same crustaceans to survive. With a long migration imminent, the birds needed to increase their food intake, as, like all migratory birds, shearwaters need to build up sufficient energy reserves for their journey - up to 12,000 kilometres across the Pacific back to their breeding colonies on the islands scattered in Bass Strait. The scarcity of food meant they would be unable to build up the huge energy levels they needed for their impending long-haul flight to Australia. They migrated nonetheless, presumably expecting to replenish their lost

energy after they arrived (they don't forage during their 18-day migration). This made an already arduous venture even more difficult and dangerous. Inevitably, those shearwaters that made it back to Australia returned in poor condition.

However, like the seas off Canada, the seas off south-eastern Australia were also unseasonally warm, leaving the shearwaters' cool-water food unavailable here too. The layer of warm water floating at the surface forced their usual euphausiid prey to occur lower in the water column, out of the reach of the hungry shearwaters. It was a double-whammy that huge numbers of shearwaters could not overcome. Hundreds of thousands of the seabirds died and their carcasses washed up on beaches in a massive 'wreck'. Their bodies were soon riddled with insects and their larvae as the process of decomposition began.

With such a bounty of invertebrate food on offer, many opportunistic Australian Magpies - renowned for their intelligence and adaptability - were attracted to the beaches to feed. Magpies generally inhabit open woodlands and treed grasslands. And, before this wreck, were seldom seen strutting about on sandy beaches. The sudden abundance of food would have made the shift in habitat worthwhile.



It seems that previous wrecks of shearwaters didn't attract flocks of magpies, but this time they hit the beaches in droves. After all the shearwater corpses had decomposed, been buried in the sand or washed away by the tides, many magpies continued to fossick along the strand line - clearly the high tide mark remained a good source of food - and these days magpies have become a regular feature on many beaches where they were once unknown or nearly so.

Beaches are, of course, not the domain of magpies alone - they're also home to Hooded Plovers (and other beach-nesting birds), which lay their eggs on the sand above the high-water mark or in adjacent dunes. Hoodies' indistinct nest-scrapes and

Tura Beach Magpie *Image: Liz Allen* camouflaged eggs and young blend into their surroundings, generally protecting them from predation, though, with practice, the nests can be located quite readily.

While foraging on the beach, inevitably some of the magpies stumbled across Hooded Plovers' nests (the shearwater wreck coincided with the Hoodies' breeding season) and, being opportunists, they ate the eggs or the chicks. This predatory behaviour was unexpected, as there had been no previous records of magpies taking their eggs or young before the shearwater wreck attracted them to the beaches.

In the first year that this predatory behaviour was recorded, it was observed at four widely-separated sites in Victoria, indicating that similar happenstances of discovery must have played out simultaneously along the coast. It's now been recorded as far west as the Fleurieu Peninsula in South Australia, and as far east as Victoria's Gippsland coast. The Australian Magpie is now a recognised predator of Hooded Plovers, adding to the growing list of threats that plague these beleaguered shorebirds. Predation of Hooded Plovers' eggs and chicks by magpies is now sufficiently widespread and frequent to suggest that it's not all simply down to chance encounters, so how did the knowledge spread across the coastal magpie population? It was quite possibly through a process known as 'Social (or Cultural) Learning', where one or two birds chance upon a previously untapped resource and begin exploiting it. The successful behaviour is then copied by nearby birds which observe the behaviour. Before long, it can spread through a local population in this way. If birds at different locations make the same discovery independently and the knowledge is passed on to observant bystanders, it can soon disseminate across an entire region. It's made easier if the bird is an intelligent species.

A similar situation arose on Victoria's Phillip Island, where a few Little Ravens discovered that Little Penguin nesting burrows often contain eggs and chicks, and the number lost to corvids quickly mounted. The problem was exacerbated as increasing numbers of ravens learned the new hunting method - and the more that learned it, the more widely the knowledge was radiated through the local population.

And so it seems with magpies preying on Hooded Plovers' eggs and chicks, an incidental discovery that caught on and became an increasingly widespread issue. Yet it could have been different. If just one of the links in this long chain of events linking opposite sides of the globe hadn't occurred, the chances are that this additional threat to Hooded Plovers might never have materialised.

SMH September 30, 2022

BEOWA NATIONAL PARK

The name of an infamous slave trader has been officially erased from maps after a tract of coastal cliffs and beaches on NSW's South Coast was renamed Beowa National Park amid a plan to transfer land titles of all national parks to Aboriginal owners under consideration by the state government.

Ben Boyd National Park was given the new name, which means "orca" or "killer whale" in Thaua language, on Friday at a ceremony attended by NSW Environment Minister James Griffin.

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Subscriptions due 1 Jan annually: Family \$20. Single \$15			

Deadline for December Newsletter: **25 November, 2022** Articles and reports to be sent to seromane@hotmail.com

A SELECTION of SIGHTINGS from August/September 2022

Please report your sightings, especially threatened species

Threatened Species

14/08/2022	Aust Pied Oystercatcher pair	Nth Tura Bch, near Bournda Is	L Allen	
10/09/2022	Aust Pied Oystercatcher present	Tura, Mundooi Track	FSCB outing	
23/09/2022	Aust Pied Oystercatcher pr+nest, eggs	Pambula Lake, on oyster leases	A Reed	unusual spot
7/08/2022	Glossy Black-Cockatoo 5 nests,	Wonboyn and Batemans Bay	R Bilney	
11/08/2022	Glossy Black-Cockatoo 2	Sapphire Coast Drive Bournda	Jodie per BJ	
13/09/2022	Glossy Black-Cockatoo 1	Sth Bermagui, Strudwicks Rd	D Adams	
13/09/2022	Glossy Black-Cockatoo 3	Kalaru, entry road to racecourse	J Plumb	
20/09/2022	Glossy Black-Cockatoo 3+1 heard	Bournda NP, Games Bay Rd	J Plumb	
24/09/2022	Glossy Black-Cockatoo 3	Tathra, opp Kianinny Cabins entry	J Plumb	
14/08/2022	Hooded Plover pair	Nth Tura Bch, near Bournda Is	L Allen	
4/08/2022	Little Eagle 1	Kameruka oval area	FSCB outing	
21/09/2022	Little Eagle 1	Niagara Lane, Sandy Creek Bridge	R Heffernan/B Henshaw	
21/09/2022	Powerful Owl 2+1 young	Berrambool Rainforest walk	K Oxenham	on ebird
10/09/2022	White-bellied Sea-Eagle present	Tura, Mundooi Track	FSCB outing	
25/09/2022	White-bellied Sea-Eagle 3	Blackfellows Lake property	FSCB outing	

See Nungatta Surveys report on page 5 for more sightings

28/08/2022	Australasian Grebe 3	Bermagui, Long Swamp	FSCB outing	
2/09/2022	Australian Hobby 1	Bega	J Plumb	
20/08/2022	Australian Magpie 1	Merimbula, outside RSL	M Sutcliffe	nest building on pole
22/08/2022	Australian Shelduck 2	Bird Route No 1, 1 st bridge	T Jarman	
25/09/2022	Australian Shelduck 4	Bird Route No 1, near Benooka	B Jones/D Waldon	

25/09/2022	Azure Kingfisher	1	Blackfellows Lake property	J Smith, FSCB outing	
26/09/2022	Black-faced Monarch	3	Mogilla, rainforest area	J Plumb	
27/09/2022	Black-faced Monarch	1	Nethercote	B Jones	at creek
30/08/2022	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Bega, opp Glebe Park	D Merrick	hovering
13/09/2022	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Bega, opp Glebe Park	J Plumb	
29/09/2022	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Mogilla, Filmer Williams Rd	J Plumb	
5/08/2022	Boobook Owl	1	Nethercote	B Jones	calling at 6:00 pm
7/08/2022	Boobook Owl	1	Sth Pambula, Summer Hill Rd	H Kingston	heard calling early
25/09/2022	Boobook Owl	1	Pambula Beach residential area	D Waldon	
24/09/2022	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	2ad 2juv	Nethercote	B Jones	
4/08/2022	Brown Falcon	1	Kameruka, near Hall	FSCB outing	
10/08/2022	Brown Falcon	2	Pambula Flats (Oaklands)	L Berzins	2nd one new
22/08/2022	Brown Falcon	pair	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
31/08/2022	Brown Falcon	2	Bega, Jellat Jellat	J Plumb	
28/08/2022	Brown Gerygone	8	Bermagui SF, rainforest walk	FSCB outing	
10/09/2022	Brown Gerygone	1	Tathra, top of Pacific Way	J Plumb	
3/09/2022	Buff-banded Rail	1	Mogareeka, boat ramp side	J Plumb	
13/08/2022	Buff-rumped Thornbill	4	Tantawangalo (W.Neville's)	FSCB outing	
11/09/2022	Buff-rumped Thornbill	7	Wolumla, Yurammie Reserve	J Plumb	
29/09/2022	Cattle Egret	2	Lochiel, Mt Darragh Rd	B Jones	
3/09/2022	Cattle Egret	40	Bega, Stafford's corner	T Jarman	
11/09/2022	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Kanoona	C Smith	1st again
15/09/2022	Channel-billed Cuckoo	calls	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
20/09/2022	Channel-billed Cuckoo	calls	Bemboka	E Simkus	
23/09/2022	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Tathra	D Webb/K Oxenham	via eBird
10/09/2022	Crescent Honeyeater	present	Tura, Mundooi Track	FSCB outing	
3/09/2022	Crested Tern	100+	Mogareeka, Fords Headland rocks	J Plumb	
23/09/2022	Double-barred Finch	4	Bega Saleyards	J Plumb	
21/09/2022	Dusky Woodswallow	4	Niagara Lane, Sandy Creek Bridge	R Heffernan/B Henshaw	
23/09/2022	Dusky Woodswallow	4	Bega Saleyards	J Plumb	
21/09/2022	Eastern Koel	1	Bermagui	B Virtue	first for season
28/08/2022	Eurasian Coot	40	Bermagui, Long Swamp	FSCB outing	
23/09/2022	European Goldfinch	8	Bega Saleyards	J Plumb	
24/08/2022	Flame Robin	1 male	Wonboyn, Greenglade	L Berzins	photo
25/09/2022	Little Black Cormorant	16	Blackfellows Lake property	FSCB outing	
4/08/2022	Little Corella	30	Kameruka oval area	FSCB outing	
29/09/2022	Little Corella	100+	Bega CBD area	B Jones	in parks
25/09/2022	Little Egret	1	Blackfellows Lake property	FSCB outing	
25/09/2022	Little Raven	30	Bird Route No 1	B Jones/D Waldon	
10/09/2022	Masked Lapwing	present	Widespread good breeding season	4 large young survived at Blackfellows	
28/08/2022	Musk Duck	1	Bermagui, Long Swamp	FSCB outing	
25/09/2022	Musk Duck	pair	Bird Route No 1	B Jones/D Waldon	
21/09/2022	Nankeen Kestrel	2	Niagara Lane, Sandy Creek Bridge	R Heffernan/B Henshaw	
29/09/2022	Noisy Friarbird	2	Tathra, Games Bay corner	J Plumb	
28/08/2022	Noisy Friarbird	2	Bermagui SF	FSCB outing	
25/09/2022	Noisy Friarbird	1	Blackfellows Lake property	FSCB outing	
9/09/2022	Olive-backed Oriole	1	Bega, CBD, near Coles	J Plumb	
16/09/2022	Olive-backed Oriole	1	Sth Bermagui, Strudwicks Rd	D Adams	first for a while
25/09/2022	Olive-backed Oriole	2	Blackfellows Lake property	FSCB outing	
25/09/2022	Pink-eared Duck	1	Bega, Glebe Lagoon	H Kingston	
28/08/2022	Rose Robin	2	Bermagui SF, rainforest walk	FSCB outing	
11/09/2022	Rose Robin	1	Wolumla, Yurammie Reserve	J Plumb	
26/09/2022	Rose Robin	2	Mogilla, rainforest area	J Plumb	
28/08/2022	Scarlet Honeyeater	6	Bermagui SF, rainforest walk	FSCB outing	
10/09/2022	Scarlet Honeyeater	present	Tura Beach Flora Reserve	FSCB outing	
10/09/2022	Scarlet Honeyeater	present	Tura, Mundooi Track	FSCB outing	
23/09/2022	Scarlet Honeyeater	25	Bega Saleyards	J Plumb	
26/09/2022	Scarlet Honeyeater	5	Mogilla, rainforest area	J Plumb	in mistletoe
11/08/2022	Scarlet Robin	1 female	Saltwater Creek	L Berzins	
24/09/2022	Spangled Drongo	1	Nethercote	B Jones	sat briefly
11/09/2022	Spotted Quail-thrush	1	Wolumla, Yurammie Reserve	J Plumb	
23/09/2022	Spotted Quail-thrush	1	Sth Pambula, Summer Hill Rd	J Reed/H Kingston	along drive
4/08/2022	Striated Pardalote	1	Kameruka, near Hall	FSCB outing	
23/09/2022	Striated Pardalote	4	Bega Saleyards	J Plumb	
22/08/2022	Striated Pardalote	2	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
25/09/2022	Striated Pardalote	present	Bird Route No 1	B Jones/D Waldon	
4/08/2022	Striated Thornbill	2	Kameruka, near old golf club	FSCB outing	
28/08/2022	Striated Thornbill	3	Bermagui SF, rainforest walk	FSCB outing	

29/09/2022	Swamp Harrier	1	Tathra Rd, Jellat Jellat flats	D Merrick	
22/08/2022	Tree Martin	8	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
25/09/2022	Tree Martin	2	Blackfellows Lake property	FSCB outing	
29/09/2022	Tree Martin	10	Mogilla, Filmer Williams Rd	J Plumb	
29/08/2022	Variegated Fairy-wren	3 groups	Mimosa Rocks NP, Wajurda Point	J Plumb	
20/09/2022	Variegated Fairy-wren	3 groups	Bournda NP, Games Bay Rd	J Plumb	
25/09/2022	Variegated Fairy-wren	2m+4	Blackfellows Lake property	FSCB outing	
21/09/2022	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	Niagara Lane, Sandy Creek Bridge	R Heffernan/B Henshaw	
20/08/2022	Whistling Kite	2 nb	Tura Beach Surf Circle	A Knight	seen mating
25/09/2022	Whistling Kite	2 / nest	Blackfellows Lake property	FSCB outing	
1/09/2022	White-bellied C'ckoo-shrike	1	Nethercote	B Jones	
2/08/2022	White-eared Honeyeater	1	Yurammie, Heffernan	R Heffernan	
14/08/2022	White-fronted Chat	2	Nth Tura Bch, near Bournda ls	L Allen	
17/08/2022	White-fronted Tern	1 dead	Merimbula Beach	G Holden	photographed
25/09/2022	White-throated Gerygone	heard	Blackfellows Lake property	FSCB outing	
21/09/2022	White-throated Needletail	2	Sth Pambula, Summer Hill Rd	J Reed	
4/08/2022	White-winged Chough	4	Kameruka, near Hall	FSCB outing	
18/08/2022	White-winged Chough	4	Nethercote	B Jones	regular four
22/08/2022	White-winged Chough	9	Yurammie	R Heffernan	
4/08/2022	Yellow Thornbill	4	Kameruka oval area	FSCB outing	
25/09/2022	Yellow Thornbill	4	Blackfellows Lake property	FSCB outing	
20/08/2022	Yellow-tailed Black-C'too	30	Berrambool	M Sutcliffe	flying south
3/09/2022	Yellow-tailed Black-C'too	40	Bega, Glebe Ave	H Kingston	

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 9)*

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 6 November, 2022 PANBOOLA 20TH BIRTHDAY POSTPONED until 6 November

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) who knows everything about Glossy Black-Cockatoos. He will be talking about the ageing and sexing of the Glossies, and the similarities and differences with the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo. Alan Scrymgeour has a presentation for us and Rohan Bilney has some news.

Monday 17 Oct – Sunday 23 Oct, 2022

THE AUSSIE BIRD COUNT

If you registered with BirdLife Australia in previous years you might not need to do anything more than 'start up' this year. Otherwise go to 'Aussie Bird Count' to register your details, download the app and get started. Easy for beginners too. (See front page)

Tuesday 18 October, 2022

BIRD OLYMPICS AT POTOROO PALACE

Conducted by Bournda Environmental Education Centre this annual event is supported by FSCB for primary schools from within the Bega Valley.

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?

Sat/Sunday 22/23 October, 2022

BIGNET MEETING

Gayle Partridge, FSCB Conservation Officer will be representing FSCB at Shoalhaven Heads. Southern NSW BirdLife have assisted in preparations for this BIG weekend, in conjunction with the 'Bird Haven Festival 2022'.

Sunday 23 October, 2022

GOODENIA RAINFOREST

Meet Roger (0438 932 208 - Nalda) at Goodenia at 9:30 am **OR** meet Barbara (0487 840 740) at 8:45 am in the parking area behind the Tea Tree Roadhouse, Mt Darragh Rd, Sth Pambula so we can car pool. Otherwise proceed independently to Goodenia Rainforest car park by 9:30 am. Chalkhills Rd, Lochiel leaves Mt Darragh Rd 10 km from Sth Pambula. Turn right here and travel carefully, can be rough, for about 8 km. There are two options for the walk, staying high and dry on the top road or walking a steep and often slippery track through the rainforest. Bring a snack and lunch; tables and BBQ available. Sometimes the Chalkhills sign is missing so if you reach Wyndham turn around!!!!!!!

Wednesday 2 November, 2022

MALLACOOTA

Meet Barbara (0487 840 740) and others at 9:00 am in the park on the right hand side of Princes Hwy just before the bridge at Genoa Vic. and the turn to Mallacoota. Pack a bag and stay overnight? Talk about this at a walk in next few weeks or phone Barbara.

Sunday 6 November, 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. If you would like to assist with the FSCB table please talk to Robyn Kesby (0414 864 873)

Saturday 12 November, 2022

GREEN CAPE

Meet Leo (6495 2189) at 9:00 am on the corner of Princes Highway and Edrom Rd (Chipmill Rd), 15 minutes south of Eden. We'll take in Bull Creek, highlights around Green Cape and maybe Saltwater Creek. Bring lunch, chair etc, no shops anywhere!

Monday 14 November, 2022

COMMITTEE MEETING

9:15 for 9:30 am in the Panboola Office. Members are invited to see committee in action with a view to signing up for a position at the AGM in December. Please consider offering your time and skills.

Sunday 27 November, 2022

BEMBOKA

Meet Lizzie Simkus (0407 930 223) at 9:00 am at the Football Ground, Colombo Park, Bemboka, on the right below the highway just before entering the township from the coast. Bring everything including chair.

Thursday 8 December, 2022

EVENING MEETING and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meet 7.00 for 7:30 pm in Merimbula Uniting Church for Members Night with bits and pieces, reports and photos from trips and of course the AGM with hopefully some new faces putting up their hands. Members contribute with a small plate of supper.

Saturday 10 December, 2022

BROGO DAM

Meet at 9:00 am at the Brogo Fire Shed, about 1 km along Warrigal Range Rd. (About 20 km north of Bega turn left on to Warrigal Range Rd, the Brogo Dam Road.) Can car pool at Fire Shed if desired, otherwise we'll go to the top car park on the left beyond the manager's cottage. Bring all you need for a good day of birds and friendship.

There's a Red Wattlebird in Merimbula probably dreading the return of certain birds.

Last year this is what it cared for, an Eastern Koel, a member of the cuckoo family, in lieu of a Red Wattlebird chick!

Fortunately Leo Berzins didn't seem to mind the noise of the hungry chick and we were lucky to benefit from photos of its growth and sympathise with the poor wattlebird feeding a Koel twice the size of itself.

What will 2022/23 season bring?

Image: Leo Berzins.

