



FAR SOUTH COAST BIRDWATCHERS Inc.

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

NEWSLETTER JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

GLOSSY BLACK-COCKATOOS

Roger Bilney spoke at our October 2022 evening meeting about how the barring on the tail feathers of Glossy Black-Cockatoos (GBC) can indicate the age of the bird. Roger emphasised the role of high-quality photography in future research for this endangered species and he is happy to receive any photos showing GBC tail feathers.

Leo Berzins was lucky enough to see a family group of GBCs at Bournda in January. He managed to capture this image of one of the cockatoos and from the photo and the information in the brochure (see link below) thinks it is a male between 2.5 and 6 years of age but is waiting on Roger's thoughts to confirm this.



Glossy Black-Cockatoo

Image: Leo Berzins

Check the article in the last newsletter and for more information see [Glossy-Black-Fact-Sheet-4](#)

BEACH STONE-CURLEW



Beach Stone-curlew

Image: Andrew McCutcheon

Andrew McCutcheon captured this image of a Beach Stone-curlew on January 11 at Mogareeka just outside the Little Tern nesting area. Another bird has been reported at Mallacoota in late January.

In NSW the Beach Stone-curlew is classified as critically endangered.

Beach Stone-curlews are regarded as an occasional vagrant on the south east coast of NSW. We have recorded irregular sightings in recent years and the known limit of their normal range has been extended to include the far south coast of NSW.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hayden Kingston

Welcome to another year of birding in our patch. Your committee is preparing a program of interesting events. If you have a suggestion for a suitable guest speaker for the evening meetings or offers of locations for bird walks these are most welcome.

We have had some changes to the committee and to some of the roles. I would like to thank Roger for his commitment to the club over the years and for his efforts as President last year and I look forward to him returning to club activities, no one else knows someone at every place we visit.

The irreplaceable Barbara continues to step back from some of her roles including newsletter editor which she has done for the last year. In the short term I will edit the newsletter until some of the roles can be filled. Barbara will continue to do sightings and will organise walks with assistance from John Weckert. There are some changes to email contacts for the club as part of this process so please check the directory in the newsletter and make changes to your email contacts if needed.

Also our club is still without a secretary, and this is not healthy for any group. I would like to work with the committee to prioritise and define some of the vacant roles more clearly so that anyone who might be considering getting involved has a better idea of what is needed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to farewell four of our long-time members, Graham & Di Waldon and Brad & Rosemary Sinclair, who are leaving us to live closer to their families. They have been members for around 20 years and will be missed on our outings. We all wish them well for the future.

NEW MEMBERS We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:
Dr John and Robyn Oakeshott from Wanniasa
Judy Drake from Lochiel

FSCB DIRECTORY 2023 All mail to PO Box 180 Pambula NSW 2549. Email: fscbirds@fscb.org.au
Subscriptions due 1 Jan annually: Family \$20. Single \$15

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Message from the Treasurer, Jan Reed

Membership subscriptions were due on 1 Jan 2023. If you are uncertain whether you are a financial member or not, check your bank transactions or phone or email Treasurer (see above). Payment can be made to BSB 062 649. Account number 2800 1376. Reference - your name please.

FSCB AGM and EVENING MEETING

Thursday 8 December 2022

Jill Burrige

David Merrick opened the meeting and welcomed 27 members and 1 visitor. There were 4 apologies.

The evening began with the AGM and election of Office Bearers. Hayden Kingston was elected as President, David Merrick as Vice-President and the previous Office Bearers were returned to their former positions. The club Secretary remains vacant.

The non-elected positions of Conservation Officer and Public Officer remain as appointed by the Committee.

Business over with, the evening meeting commenced with some interesting sightings from the past two months:

Sightings:

- Whimbrel at Murrah
- Lesser Sand Plover aka Mongolian Plover at Panboola
- Scarlet Honeyeaters are low in numbers this year
- Olivia Williams asked for assistance to identify a quail-like bird at Jellat Flat.

Ecuador:

Neill and Alison Hayes presented photos of their recent trip to Ecuador. Their boat took them up the fast flowing Napa River, a tributary of the Amazon. They did not see many birds compared to Costa Rica, but it was interesting to see oil being transported by river and they met the pleasant inhabitants of the Indian huts along the river banks.



Toucan barbet

Image: Neill Hayes

Photos from a lake near the Peruvian border showed fishing for piranhas, micro-bats, pink river dolphins, three-toed sloth and howler monkeys.

One of the more interesting birds they saw - the Hoatzin - is commonly known as "Stinky Turkey". The size of a small turkey, they are poor fliers, tending to glide. As they feed mainly on swamp plants, they have evolved an interesting digestive system involving foregut fermentation, hence their common name: their large muscular crop acts like a gizzard, and the microbes that it contains include methanogens, which are also found in the mammalian rumen (for example in domestic livestock). The young hoatzin birds have claws on their wings, enabling them to climb up trees, which disappear once they are mature.

Amazing photos of a variety of parrots included flocks of blue/green Cobalt-winged Parakeets eating clay to extract a mineral, and pythons hanging from trees, looking like branches and catching these parrots when they landed on them. Most unusual was a red and purple bird with a proboscis-like crest of red feathers extending from the head over the beak - The Andean Cock of the Rock.

There are hundreds of species of tanagers in South America which are multicoloured and of various sizes up to the largest one, the Magpie Tanager. Similarly this variety of colour applies to humming birds, with their



The Andean Cock of the Rock

Image: Neill Hayes

iridescent plumage that has the capacity to change colour instantly according to their angle to the sun, to protect themselves.

Finally, Neil showed another amazing photo of a large bird with blue, orange, black, red and navy feathers - the Plate-billed Toucan, which can be very aggressive and attacks people.

Prompted by the photos of Ecuador there was conversation about Ecuador giving their rivers "personhood" so that the river can be a protected entity in a court of law and so strengthens the environmental status of these valuable ecosystems.

Sam Nerrie:

Sam brought us back to a trip around Australia to a variety of sites with many excellent photos with washed out backgrounds focusing our attention on the details of the birds. Wild budgerigars breeding in June and caring for chicks, a female Variegated Fairy-wren with a stick insect, a stunning male Crimson Finch with turquoise and blue spots and its mate. Kingfishers included the Blue-winged Kookaburra at Jabiru, the blue Forest Kingfisher with navy head and white throat, and a Sacred Kingfisher. Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos feeding young and a Red-winged Parrot at Cloncurry.

Staying in Northern Australia: at Lawn Hill a Restless Flycatcher eating a dragonfly and a Great Bowerbird with a collection of clear glass, green glass, silver foil and bones. Finally, nearer home an Eastern Bristlebird with a spider and its egg sack in its beak at Jervis Bay.

At Lake Hattah National Park - a pair of Australian Shelduck perching above the water, Musk Lorikeet, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Blue-cheeked Yellow Rosella and Crimson Rosella and Blue Bonnets feeding in June.



Splendid Fairy-wren

Image: Sam Nerrie

Birds of the Orkney Islands off the north coast of Scotland:

Presented by Liz Allen courtesy of her son who has been working there. A great selection of photos of Black Guillemots, European Curlew, young Common Eider ducks, nesting Fulmars, Gannet, Razorbill, Common Shelduck and Puffins which dive up to 200 ft. (60 m) to fish. And sea otters...of course! Thank you Liz.

The Raffle was drawn by Robyn who drew a winning ticket for herself and then the second draw was by Hayden who also drew a winning ticket. They were grateful recipients of carefully chosen plants by Jan Reed!

A colourful, delicious Christmas supper was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all involved.

Next evening meeting: Thursday 9 February 2023 7.30pm. Uniting Church Hall, Merimbula.

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)

ACTIVITY REPORTS

BROGO DAM

Saturday 10 December 2022

Jenny Morrison

The weather was kind to us on this last FSCB outing for 2022. Twenty-four members and two visitors gathered at the Brogo RFS shed with binoculars at the ready and were not disappointed. Black-faced Monarch, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Olive-backed Oriole, Golden Whistler and Brown Gerygone were among the 21 species seen at the shed.

A stop along the Warrigal Range Rd gave time to listen to and admire those beautiful birds we almost take for granted: Australian King-Parrot, Crimson Rosella, Spotted Pardalote and Eastern Yellow Robin. Wood Ducks swam on a dam down the hill on our left, and in the bush near the cars Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Sacred Kingfisher and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike were seen.

On to Brogo Dam stopping at the first picnic area, some kept a watch near the cars while the rest walked back along the road. Willie Wagtails were busy at a nest in a tree near the cars. Calls of the Laughing Kookaburra, Eastern Whipbird and Pied Currawong are easy for me to identify, but as always on a FSCB outing, the experts were on hand to identify the less familiar calls – those calls that you are sure you'll remember next time but slip from the memory. White-throated Gerygone comes into that category for me and we had a splendid view of one in the trees above us.

Walking down to Brogo Dam a Crested Shrike-tit was spotted in head-high wattle. The only birds on the lake were Great Cormorant and Little Pied Cormorant. The water was high and there was no muddy shoreline to attract wading birds.

One Wedge-tailed Eagle circled overhead as we moved to the picnic shelter for lunch. Barbara and Pam had heard a Cicadabird and Leo added White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike to the list. Eyes were turned to watch the activity of a pair of Varied Sittellas at their nest and fossicking in their head-down way on the tree trunks and branches.

After lunch a short walk down to see the new pontoon at the boat launching area, then farewells and best wishes for 2023. As they drove out Barbara reported seeing an Olive-backed Oriole's nest hanging on low branches over the road.



Varied Sittella on nest

Image: Mike Healey

48 species were recorded. Thanks to Barbara, Leo and David for organising and recording.

PANBOOLA SUMMER SURVEY

Wednesday 11 January, 2023

Robyn Kesby

The 7.30am start did not deter the 13 observers taking part in the survey on this overcast warm day. It was dry enough to walk our normal route through the 'Corridor' to the river despite 40mm of rain in the previous days. Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Golden-headed Cisticolas were calling. We all had a good look at a Cisticola singing its heart out at the top of a small dead tree in the Corridor. Other highlights were two Azure Kingfishers along the river, Black-fronted Dotterels and White-fronted Chats around the muddy pools inside the old racecourse and the single Southern Emu-wren and a Scarlet Honeyeater at the end of the racecourse chute. A Latham's Snipe flew into and out of the Ephemeral Pond while we were watching there.

Six species were recorded in one eucalypt at the southern end of the Waterbird Sanctuary: Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird, Grey Fantail, Brown Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill and Spotted Pardalote. The total species count was 54.

The Grey-headed Flying Fox summer camp in the northern section of the Waterbird Sanctuary was occupied again so we did not survey this part to avoid disturbing them. A count the next week recorded 23,000. For more information about Panboola visit Panboola.com.

PANBOOLA STARTUP

Sunday 21 January 2023

Helen Merrick

The first bird outing of the year is generally a fairly casual one with a walk followed by a get-together with a catch up chat and a picnic.

A large group of birdwatchers and members of the Panboola Reserve committee gathered at Watsons Waterhole in the Panboola reserve.

Four of our members, Graham & Di Waldon and Brad & Rosemary Sinclair, are leaving us to live closer to their families interstate. John Dawson, past president of the Panboola committee, took the opportunity to thank them on behalf of Panboola for their previous contribution to the development and maintenance of the reserve. We all wish them well for their future. They will be missed on our outings.

Two walks were organized. Leo led the longer walk to the racecourse while Barbara led a short walk past Watsons waterhole to the reserve entrance opposite Oaklands. Leo reported seeing few birds, the highlights being both adult and juvenile Gang-Gang Cockatoos feeding on hawthorn berries and a Whistling Kite. The short walk was less productive with just a Little Wattlebird heard.

Some members left early, but most enjoyed a social get-together in a very sheltered picnic area in the cool of the evening. We shared the area with a couple of Gippsland Water Dragons and Mike was seen lying belly-down taking photographs of them.

A very pleasant outing enjoyed by all.

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

SMART SPARROWS IN ALBURY

Kylie Waldon

The cafe down the road, which is also a plant nursery, brought in that free round of shortbread for every coffee and tea order by placing it on the spoon on the saucer, even if you also ordered scones or something else to eat, and of course, most people just left it on the spoon and walked off well fed and 'watered'. Half of the seating was outside.

I never thought House Sparrows were very smart birds, but they were in this case. At that time I was going to the cafe on a Sunday afternoon every couple of weeks (so handy!) so I got to watch them a great deal. The adult birds (both male and female though the female birds seemed more skilled) would fly onto the outside tables, eye off the shortbread, and if no one shooed them away, they would give the side of it a mighty peck, and then usually fly off. A few moments later, the same bird would return and put another great peck into the same dint, and often disturbed by people coming and going or the nursery cat doing the rounds, flew off again. A few moments later, the same bird returned, placed its lower beak into the hole and its upper beak onto the top of the shortbread and then just flew off over the wall with it.

The younger birds were there watching, but even if they were strong enough to make the dints their beaks were not wide enough to get around the top of the shortbread so they could only look in awe and confusion. Some birds were game enough to even come inside through doors opened by entering customers. I don't know how many hundreds of shortbreads disappeared this way. After about a year, the shortbread plan was stopped, so the sparrows had to find another source of ready food!

A SELECTION of SIGHTINGS from December 2022/January 2023

Please report your sightings, especially threatened species

Threatened Species

This group are listed under the EPBC Act (Commonwealth) and the NSW Biodiversity Act

31/01/23	Aust Pied Oystercatcher	16	Pambula Beach	B & R Sinclair	100m north caravan park
11/01/23	Beach Stone-curlew	1	Mogareeka	A McCutcheon	just outside Little Tern area
20/01/23	Dusky Woodswallow	1 imm	Merimbula	A Lindstrand	rescue bird
6/12/22	Gang-gang Cockatoo	3	Bega, Reedy Swamp	T Williams	around property
2/01/23	Gang-gang Cockatoo	12	Bega, Reedy Swamp	T Williams	flew into tree to count
2/01/23	Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	Bega, Reedy Swamp	T Williams	regulars
12/01/23	Gang-gang Cockatoo	4	Candelo, Quoll Lane	J Plumb	
14/01/23	Gang-gang Cockatoo	8	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis & Mihara	seen few times
15/01/23	Gang-gang Cockatoo	11	Tathra, Pacific St	J Plumb	flew past
18/01/23	Gang-gang Cockatoo	3	Bega, Black Range	A McCutcheon	
20/01/23	Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	Bega, Reedy Swamp	T Williams	regulars
4/12/22	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	pair+1 y	Sth Bermagui	D Adams	hanging around his place
26/12/22	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	pair	Pambula Beach	K Waldon	
15/01/23	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2	Sth Bermagui	D Adams	flew towards ocean
17/01/23	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2+	Nethercote	B Jones	long squawking at creek
19/01/23	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	2 ad 1 y	Wallagoot Beach	L Berzins	beach access carpark
22/01/23	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	1	Nethercote	B Jones	
2/12/22	Hooded Plover	2	Wallagoot Beach	Wallis & Mihara	often seen
11/01/23	Latham's Snipe	1	Panboola	FSCB survey	
30/12/22	Little Tern	8 + 4 nests	Fishpen, Merimbula	L Berzins	
4/01/23	Little Tern	2 + nest	Murrah Beach	L Berzins	
26/12/22	Red-necked Stint	1	Wallagoot Lake	K Waldon	
26/12/22	Sooty Oystercatcher	1	Wallagoot Lake	K Waldon	
29/01/22	Sooty Oystercatcher	2	Wallagoot Beach	Wallis & Mihara	
22/01/23	Square-tailed Kite	2	Tura Beach Golf	N Hayes	1 or 2 daily over the course
10/12/22	Varied Sittella	2 on nest	Broggo Dam	FSCB outing	very high. In picnic area
11/01/23	White-fronted Chat	6	Panboola	FSCB survey	
14/12/22	White-throated Needletail	20	Murrah Beach	L Berzins	
24/12/22	White-throated Needletail	4	Wonboyn Lake	D & P Green	
29/12/22	White-throated Needletail	3	Sth Pambula	J Reed/ H Kingston	
7/01/23	White-throated Needletail	20	Tathra, Pacific St	D and J Plumb	
16/01/23	White-throated Needletail	5	Nethercote	B Jones	
21/01/23	White-throated Needletail	24	Sth Pambula	J Reed/ H Kingston	
24/01/23	White-throated Needletail	11	Sth Pambula	J Reed/ H Kingston	
29/01/23	White-throated Needletail	15	Tathra, Pacific St	J Plumb	

Other Species

24/12/22	Australasian Darter	1	Eden Wharf	K Waldon	
8/01/23	Australasian Darter	1 female	Bird Route 1, 1 st bridge	S Romane	
15/01/23	Australasian Figbird	3	Mogareeka	S Romane	
12/12/22	Australasian Figbird	1	Bega, 4 Glebe Ave	H Kingston	in backyard

11/01/23	Australian Reed-Warbler	several	Panboola	FSCB survey	
8/01/23	Australian Shelduck	1 m	Bird Route 1, 1 st bridge	S Romane	
11/01/23	Azure Kingfisher	2	Panboola	FSCB survey	
26/12/22	Bar-shouldered Dove	1 (heard)	Wonboyn, Jewish Bch	D Green	species known to observer
25/12/22	Beautiful Firetail	2	Wonboyn Lake	D & P Green	
11/01/23	Black-faced C'ko-shrike	7	Sth Pambula	H Kingston/J Reed	calling and flying as a group
10/12/22	Black-faced Monarch	1	Brogo Fire Shed	FSCB outing	
25/12/22	Black-faced Monarch	1	Wonboyn Lake	D & P Green	
27/12/22	Black-faced Monarch	1	Lochiel, Pambula River	K Waldon	
11/01/23	Black-faced Monarch	1	Middle Beach	A McCutcheon	foraging with Grey Fantails
14/01/23	Black-faced Monarch	1	Berrambool Rainforest	S Romane	
21/01/23	Black-faced Monarch	2	Nethercote	B Jones	daily at present
11/01/23	Black-fronted Dotterel	3	Panboola	FSCB survey	
20/01/23	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Panboola	S Romane	show pavilion area
16/01/23	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	Nethercote	B Jones	
11/01/23	Brown Falcon	1 imm	Panboola	FSCB survey	
10/12/22	Brown Gerygone	2	Brogo Fire Shed	FSCB outing	
25/12/22	Brown Quail	2 (1 juv)	Wonboyn Lake	D & P Green	
11/01/23	Brown Quail	few	Candelo, Quoll Lane	J Plumb	
20/01/23	Brown Quail	1	Panboola, Olwyns Link	S Romane	constant calling
25/12/22	Brown-headed H'eater	1	Wonboyn Lake	D & P Green	
21/01/23	Brush Cuckoo	1	Nethercote	B Jones	daily at present
2/12/22	Buff-banded Rail	1	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis & Mihara	
17/12/22	Buff-banded Rail	pair + 2 chicks	Eden, Curalo B'walk	K Waldon	
20/01/23	Buff-banded Rail	1	Panboola, Racecourse	S Romane	
26/01/23	Buff-banded Rail	1	Eden, Curalo B'walk	Handyside/Jones	
10/12/22	Common Cicadabird	1	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
20/01/23	Common Cicadabird	1	Nethercote	B Jones	most days at present
25/12/22	Common Koel	1 (heard)	Wonboyn Lake	D & P Green	
4/12/22	Common Myna	5	Yowrie	K Masters	LLS notified
22/12/22	Common Myna	1	Bega, Hosp roundabout	J Plumb	known hotspot
23/12/22	Common Myna	1	Wolumla	T Shaw	LLS notified
13/01/23	Common Myna	6	Eden, school grounds	R Bilney	behind SF offices
16/01/23	Common Myna	1	Eden, roadside	S Skelton	LLS notified, near Ampol
10/12/22	Crested Shrike-tit	1	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
25/12/22	Crested Shrike-tit	1	Wonboyn Lake	D & P Green	
11/01/23	Dusky Moorhen	2+ 2 chicks	Panboola	FSCB survey	
7/12/22	Eastern Reef-Egret	1	Bournda Lagoon	Wallis & Mihara	
8/01/23	Fairy Martin	2	Bird Route 1, 1 st bridge	S Romane	
11/01/23	Golden-headed Cisticola	4+	Panboola	FSCB survey	
23/01/23	Grey Butcherbird	2 y	Merimbula, Mitchies	G Holden	on the ground
15/01/23	Leaden Flycatcher	1 female	Tathra, Kianinny	S Romane	
11/01/23	Little Grassbird	2+	Panboola	FSCB survey	
26/12/22	Little Tern	few	Wallagoot Lake	K Waldon	
17/12/22	Musk Duck	1 female	Eden, Curalo B'walk	K Waldon	
21/12/22	Musk Duck	1	Bermagui, Long Swamp	K Waldon	
27/12/22	Musk Lorikeet	4	Wonboyn Lake	D Green	
11/01/23	Musk Lorikeet	8	Panboola	FSCB survey	
14/12/22	Noisy Friarbird	1	Nethercote	B Jones	calling

24/12/22	Noisy Friarbird	1	Wonboyn Lake	D & P Green	
29/12/22	Noisy Friarbird	1	Sth Pambula	J Reed/H Kingston	
19/12/22	Oriental Dollarbird	1	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis & Mihara	
17/01/23	Oriental Dollarbird	2+	Millingandi	S Romane	several calling together
28/12/22	Rose Robin	1 heard	Wonboyn Lake	D & P Green	
24/12/22	Rufous Fantail	2	Wonboyn Lake	D & P Green	
27/12/22	Rufous Fantail	1	Lochiel, Pambula River Lochiel	K Waldon	
10/12/22	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
10/12/22	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Brogo, roadside	FSCB outing	
7/01/23	Scarlet Honeyeater	1	Wonboyn Lake	D Green	
11/01/23	Scarlet Honeyeater	2	Panboola	FSCB survey	
10/12/22	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
10/12/22	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	Brogo Fire Shed	FSCB outing	
24/01/23	Southern Boobook	1	Nethercote	B Jones	
25/01/23	Southern Boobook	1	Candelo, Quoll Lane	J Plumb	
24/12/22	Southern Boobook	1	Wonboyn Lake	D & P Green	
2/12/22	Southern Emu-wren	3	Eden, Curalo B'walk	R Heffernan	
26/12/22	Southern Emu-wren	5	Wonboyn, Jewfish Bch	D & P Green	
11/01/23	Southern Emu-wren	1	Panboola	FSCB survey	racecourse
26/01/23	Southern Emu-wren	1	Eden, Curalo Lake	P Handyside	
6/12/22	Spotted Crake	2	Bega, Reedy Swamp	T Williams	crossing track
21/12/22	Striated Heron	1	Mogareeka	K Waldon	north side off car park
3/12/22	Swamp Harrier	1	Wallagoot, 'Watery Fowls'	Wallis & Mihara	
11/01/23	Swamp Harrier	1	Panboola	FSCB survey	
6/12/22	Tawny Frogmouth	1 young	Bega, Reedy Swamp	T Williams	on ground, put on a branch
25/01/23	Tawny Frogmouth	1	Candelo, Quoll Lane	J Plumb	
11/01/23	Tree Martin	3	Panboola	FSCB survey	
21/12/22	Variegated Fairy-wren	8	Bermagui, Long Swamp	K Waldon	
7/12/22	Whimbrel	1	Murrah Beach	L Berzins	
10/12/22	White-bellied C'koo-shrike	1	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
11/01/23	White-faced Heron	12	Panboola	FSCB survey	
10/12/22	White-throated Gerygone	2	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
7/01/23	White-throated Nightjar	1	Bega, Black Range	A McCutcheon	flew over garden
19/01/23	White-throated Nightjar	2	Bega, Black Range	A McCutcheon	
10/12/22	White-throated Nightjar	1	Nethercote	B Jones	calling
13/12/22	White-winged Triller	1 heard	Merimbula, Mirador	P Roberts	
20/01/23	White-headed Pigeon	7	Bega, Reedy Swamp	T Williams	not usual here
11/01/23	Yellow Thornbill	8	Panboola	FSCB survey	

Please email future sightings to Barbara Jones jonesbarbara@bigpond.com

KEY BIODIVERSITY AREA (KBA) UPDATE

In the last newsletter Gayle Partridge, our Conservation Officer, reported on the BIGnet meeting and gave an update on the Nadgee to Mallacoota KBA which is one of 47 KBA sites in NSW and the one most relevant to us. Since Gayle's report that a guardian was being sought for the KBA we have learnt that Simon Conaty from NPWS has taken on the guardianship role.

The guardians have a role in monitoring and reporting on the site. We have invited someone from NPWS to speak at a future evening meeting on the monitoring that they have been undertaking in the KBA and particularly what they have observed since the devastating bushfires hit the area in 2019/20.

2022 Aussie Bird Count results

Wet weather brings out the mudlarks!

From Birdlife Australia

Even severe floods and constant deluges weren't enough to deter a growing flock of Australians from participating in the 2022 Aussie Bird Count, held last October.

Despite record rains and floods over much of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, over 77,000 people across Australia braved the conditions to be part of the nation's largest citizen science project. "Between us, we recorded more than 3.9 million birds of 620 different species," said Sean Dooley, BirdLife Australia's National Public Affairs Manager.

"It's an incredible testament to the diversity of birdlife we have in our own backyard here in Australia." "While some of these surveys came from very remote areas — even on Norfolk Island and Christmas Island — the majority were conducted in the places where most people live: our cities, towns and farms."

While heavy downpours saw a small drop in the number of surveys in the eastern states, the nationwide results did not vary greatly from previous years' totals. In 2022, the top ten birds remained the same, with the Rainbow Lorikeet easily taking out the number one spot as most numerous bird — for the ninth year running! "We thought that the wet weather may have had an impact, but the only major mover in the top 20 was the New Holland Honeyeater, which leapt four spots, up to 11th place in 2022," Sean added.

While Aussie Bird counters proved themselves to be great mudlarks in the wet weather, the actual Mudlark, another name for the Magpie-lark, was one common bird which also seems to have thrived in the wet conditions, especially in country regions. "It was the fourth most frequently recorded bird across regional Australia, where it was recorded in more than one in four surveys — and one in three surveys in Queensland!"



Another bird which didn't seem to be deterred by the wet weather was the Eastern Koel, a large, migratory cuckoo found in eastern and northern Australia. Many counters didn't even have to go outside into the rain to know that a koel was there, as its loud and distinctive 'coo-ee' call is easily heard.

"2022 saw the highest numbers of Eastern Koels in every state where it occurs," Sean added. "This was particularly noticeable in Victoria and the ACT, where the Koel has been expanding its range in recent years. For example, it jumped more than a hundred places in Victoria in the past five years and 60 places in Canberra — quite remarkable for a species that was a rarity there just 20 years ago."

The 2023 Aussie Bird Count will take place from 16-22 October.

For more details of the 2022 results visit [aussiebirdcount](https://aussiebirdcount.org.au)



Masked Lapwing egg well camouflaged

Image: David Adams



Red-capped Plover sunbathing

Image: Liz Allen



Swans on ephemeral lake at Panboola

Image: Max Sutcliffe

Editor's note

I hope you have enjoyed this first newsletter for 2023 which is also my first newsletter as Acting Editor. It isn't too tough a gig and we really do need someone to step up and take on this role so if you are interested please talk to me or someone on the committee.

If you have any story suggestions or better still if you can write the story send them in similarly if you see something of interest take a photo and send it in with some details for inclusion in the newsletter. Remember your smartphone can take a great photo suitable for the newsletter.

Contributions for the April newsletter need to be in by the 28th March, send trip reports and articles to Sue on seromane@hotmail.com and send photos to me on president@fscb.org.au and please send sightings to Barbara on jonesbarbara@bigpond.com

Cheers Hayden

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)*

Thursday 9 February, 2023 **EVENING MEETING**

Meet 7.00 for 7:30 pm in Merimbula Uniting Church, Henwood St, Merimbula. Guest Speaker will be Ross Crates talking about his work with Regent Honeyeaters. Plus member sightings, photos projected to the screen, and supper.

Saturday 11 February, 2023 **THE PINNACLES AND HAYCOCK POINT**

Meet Leo (6495 2189) at 8:45 am just 100m into Haycock Rd (signposted by NPWS) off the Princes Highway between Pambula and Eden. Once assembled we'll convoy, to the new Pinnacles circuit then to Haycock Point car park. Here we have beach, headland, bush and scrub for a good variety of species. Bring a snack, lunch, drink and a chair. Lunch near cars.

Sunday 26 February, 2023 **GOODENIA RAINFOREST**

Re-scheduled due to poor weather last October. 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 **OR** proceed independently to Goodenia Rainforest car park by 9:30 am. Goodenia is on Chalkhills Rd, Lochiel leaving 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, but worth it. Bring a snack and lunch. Sometimes the Chalkhills sign is missing so if you reach Wyndham turn around!!!!!!!

Saturday 11 March, 2023 **BERMAGUI**

Meet Barbara (0487 840 740) at 8:45 am at the corner of Wallaga Lake Rd and Bermagui to Cobargo Rd. From here we will take in lake and ocean at Fairhaven Point, Beauty Point and Camel Rock for starters then lunch and a look at the Bermagui Sculptures 2023.

Wednesday 15 March, 2023 **BERRAMBOOL**

Meet John (0448 219 991) at 8:45 am in the car park at Berrambool Oval, Merimbula. Access is from Berrambool Drive, off Sapphire Coast Drive (in view of Woolies), at the newly constructed traffic configuration bend. We'll walk the perimeter of the oval and if you haven't been there it is surprising what we find. Then into the patch of bush behind the northern houses.

Monday 20 March, 2023 **COMMITTEE MEETING**

9:30 am in Panboola Office, next to Idlewilde Motel. Members may attend.

Sunday 26 March, 2023 **WALLAGOOT, 'WATERY FOWLS'**

Meet Cliff (6457 5222) at 8:45 am inside the gate of 'Watery Fowls'. Turn off Sapphire Coast Drive onto Bournda Road on the south side of Wallagoot Lake. Drive about 500m to just before Tickalara Close and turn left into the driveway to the home of Cliff Wallis and Sayaka Mihara. BYO snack and lunch and chair as usual, plus insect repellent. Always a good species count here and easy walking.

Saturday 8 April, 2023 **EASTER SATURDAY**

No walk Enjoy Easter with family and friends.

Wednesday 12 April, 2023 **PANBOOLA SURVEY**

Meet Robyn (0414 864 873) at 8:00 am at Panboola Centre, Watsons Waterhole, next to Idlewilde Motel in Bullara St, Pambula for the autumn survey. Wear sturdy shoes and hat. Carry snack and drink, insect repellent. Takes about 3 hours.

Thursday 13 April 2023 **EVENING MEETING**

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