



FAR SOUTH COAST BIRDWATCHERS Inc.

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

NEWSLETTER MARCH/APRIL 2025

Beach-nesting Birds Season 2024-25

Leo Berzins

Sadly, it's been another poor season for beach-nesting birds in the Bega Valley Shire. These are my personal observations as a volunteer with the South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program, not an official summary of the breeding season. I undertake weekly beach surveys from mid-August to March of the known resident breeding pairs of Hooded Plovers and many of the Pied Oystercatchers from the Murrah River mouth in the north to Greenglade at Wonboyn Beach in the south.

This season, there were about 13 breeding pairs of Hooded Plovers (critically endangered in NSW) in this stretch of coastline and only four new fledglings were recorded.

Pied Oystercatchers fared a little better with seven fledglings from the 18 breeding pairs I monitored. As usual, there was some additional breeding success around some of our lakes but numbers are just guesswork based on conversations with environmentally aware residents and are not included here.



Hooded Plover

Image: Leo Berzins

Little Terns had some breeding success in our region this summer. The colony at Mogareeka was late to establish. A total of 30 nests were recorded through the season but some of them were quickly lost. An estimated 15 chicks made it through to fledging.

There was no colony at 'bird island' in Wallagoot Lake due to the high water level submerging the island.

Two pairs nested at Fishpen near the Merimbula Lake entrance, but unsurprisingly, no fledging success occurred at this busy and challenging site.

The Murrah River mouth was again a Little Tern nesting site with about 40 birds present at the peak of activity. The most concurrent nests recorded was 6, with fox predation being a major impediment to success. Nevertheless, at least one fledgling made it.

Two nests were recorded at Nelsons Lagoon for the first time but there was no fledging success.

Message from Hayden Hayden Kingston

It is really starting to feel like autumn with daytime temperatures dropping, cooler nights and some lovely rain as I write this. We have been seeing the return of lots of smaller birds to the garden recently, thornbills and wrens mainly, and I am hoping the pair of Scarlet Robins will return in the next couple of weeks as they have in recent years.

Leo Berzins and I attended the opening of the Nungatta Feral Predator-free Area and release of the critically endangered smoky mouse recently at the invitation of NPWS. This 2,080-hectare fenced area will allow for the reintroduction of up to nine threatened mammals, including up to three native mammal species currently listed as extinct in NSW. Staff from NPWS will give an update on this project at our August evening meeting.

We have a great selection of walks planned over the coming months and I look forward to seeing you at them. Our next evening meeting is on April 10th, the guest speaker will be Darren Quin who is an ecologist and project officer in the Wetland Birds Team of Birdlife Australia and coordinates the Melbourne Water Regional Bird Monitoring Program.

Darren will talk about the responses of waterbirds to environmental water flows at Lake Cullen in Northern Victoria, environmental water management involves the recovery and return of water to the environment to protect, restore, rehabilitate or reinstate wetland health.

In this project Darren engaged with volunteer birdwatchers to monitor the response of waterbirds and raised awareness in the community of the role that environmental water plays in sustaining bird populations and wetland condition.

Vale Lynda Collins

A great sadness was felt when Lynda died in hospital (SERH Bega) on 13 March 2025. Only in her early sixties, she had so much more she wanted to do but a brain tumour put an end to that. Lynda loved the birds and with her new camera and with advice from friends became a proficient photographer.

Being on or under the water was her great delight and she was always urging friends to canoe or snorkel, again with camera in hand. She walked and cycled, went on a cruise; this was not easy for her as medical problems were always present, but she was determined to do as much as she could. Lynda loved being with friends, was very knowledgeable, cheeky, funny and liked to shop.

We will miss you Lynda.



Magpie Geese

Image: Lynda Collins

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NEW MEMBERS We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Debra Robertson from Merimbula

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Evening Meeting

Thursday 13 February 2025

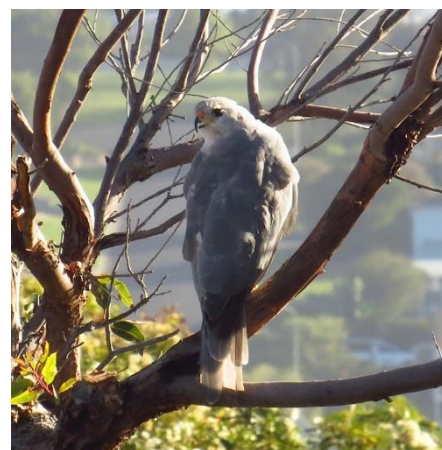
Robyn Kesby

Hayden opened the meeting and welcomed 20 members. There were 3 apologies.

Sightings

White-throated Nightjar at Nethercote. Grey Goshawk and a female Mistletoebird in the garden at Tura Beach. Two Gang-gangs at Haycock Point. Three Glossy Black-Cockatoos flying over Sapphire Coast Drive near the racecourse. Brown Cuckoo-Dove in Leo's backyard in Merimbula. Michelle sees 3 Crested Shrike-tits regularly at her birdbath in Pambula. Twenty Red-capped Plovers at Short Point. Up to 11 Dusky Woodswallows flying around with White-throated Needletails at Jan's place in South Pambula.

From further afield – Meredith reported seeing Pheasant Coucals at Uralla in the Northern Tablelands.



Grey Goshawk

Image: Liz Allen

Pelican Palace?

Alan Scrymgeour invited us to reflect on what makes a palace. Potoroo Palace provides all the elements for a very comfortable life for potoroos with a safe, well-guarded and protected environment, a palatial spread of food, somewhere to doze in the early morning sun and a suitable area for toileting. Merimbula also provides ideal conditions for Pelicans. Alan entertained us with locations preferred by the Pelicans such as certain light poles in town to roost on and areas to stand and do their business at Short Point in gently moving water. Thanks to Alan for sharing his interesting observations!

Panboola Past Present and Future

Our guest speaker Michelle Richmond, Coordinator at Panboola, began by explaining how the land now called Panboola came about in the late 1990's. It is a combination of land donated by Alexandra Seddon, and more recently Dennis Watson, the Lynch family and the family of Robert Smith, and the former Pambula racecourse.

Panboola is frequently visited by our club members but many may not know about the plant nursery that has been established with funds from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. Five thousand plants have been propagated so far and many have been distributed to people with fire-affected properties. They are 'fire-wise' plants. Plants from the nursery will now be used to plant an area specifically for Glossy Black-Cockatoos at Panboola, and another block will be planted as a 'living seed bank' to provide seed for the future.

Wildlife at Panboola includes the 10,000 grey-headed flying-foxes currently in their summer camp at the Waterbird Sanctuary, water dragons and red-bellied black snakes near the bridge at Watsons Waterhole, and several echidnas and mobs of eastern grey kangaroos at the old racecourse.

Another project at Panboola is the restoration and interpretation of the Pambula and District Avenue of Honour that was planted along the highway opposite Oaklands in the 1920's. The casuarinas commemorate the 25 local men who went to World War 1 and did not return. This avenue is part of our history and is now being cared for by mowing, providing picnic tables and soon-to-be installed signs.

The annual Ephemeral festival connects people with nature through workshops, performances and displays in April. It is well-supported and enjoyed by all ages.



Tawny Grassbird

Image: J Weaton

Michelle finished up with photos of a selection of birds at Panboola including the Golden-headed Cisticola, Southern Emu-wren, Gang-gang Cockatoos, Purple Swamphens, Black-shouldered Kites and the newly discovered (for the site) Tawny Grassbird. She also wondered where the Magpie Geese may be after staying in the area for many months. In total, 174 bird species have been recorded at Panboola.

Hayden thanked Michelle for her talk and the raffle was drawn. There were four prizes available including two plants donated by Mitre 10 and plum jam and napkins donated by Rob and Deirdre Mansfield. Olivia Williams, Ann Knight, Barbara Jones and Hayden Kingston were the lucky winners.

A delicious supper followed. Thanks to all the helpers.

Little Penguins of Eden End of Season Breeding Results 2024 Anna Heyligers

The 2024/25 breeding season at Wheel Cove has been a notable success for the local Little Penguin population. The highlight was the nest at the eastern side of the cove, known as Rock Nest Y144. This nest produced two chicks, both of which successfully reached fledging age. One chick was accessed and microchipped in November. Encouragingly, a second clutch was observed in January, in total three confirmed chicks having hatched and fledged at Wheel Cove. There was evidence of additional chicks indicated by the guano levels around the site, however these were not captured by our cameras so cannot be confirmed. A total of three birds have been microchipped so far, with additional two this season.

In addition to the activity at Wheel Cove, a new nesting site has been discovered in Twofold Bay, marking significant progress in the region. Following a spotlighting session by our volunteers we observed three Little Penguins returning at dusk and discovered three nesting sites—one with two chicks and another where chicks had already fledged. Moving forward, there will be a plan to monitor the site regularly throughout the remainder of the breeding season.

In previous months, Little Penguin activity has also been spotted around Twofold Bay during bioluminescence events. While a photograph of a Little Penguin in a nest was taken in November, no additional photos have been confirmed. A Little Penguin was also seen hopping around in September.

As the Little Penguin population in the area continues to grow, discussions have begun about protecting these colonies. Efforts will include removing the invasive Cobblers Peg weed, as well as approaching local council and the Port Authority Area to support revegetation with Lomandra and Westringia creating a safer environment for the Little Penguins. With ongoing monitoring and efforts to safeguard their habitats, the future of Eden's Little Penguin colony looks promising.



Little Penguins

Image: NPWS

Overall, the results so far this season have been very encouraging, with clear signs of Little Penguins returning to the Eden region, including the exciting new activity. Community efforts to protect and support these colonies will be essential in ensuring their continued success in the future.

Foraging Ecology and Behaviour of Great Cormorants and Australian Pelicans

Penny Beaver is a researcher from Deakin University who is based in Bermagui. She is about to start a research project which will investigate the movements of both Pelicans and Great Cormorants, tracking them and comparing their foraging behaviour and habitat use around human activities and the impact human interactions are having on their survival and overall health.

Penny would like to connect with members who might be interested in getting involved. The plan is to catch birds in Bermagui approximately once a month but to also be on the lookout for birds with bands or devices attached.

If you are interested in getting involved contact Penny by email p.beaver@deakin.edu.au or you can visit the Facebook page [here](#).

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? 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>.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Goodenia Rainforest **Saturday 8 February 2025** **Barbara Jones**

Heavy rain the previous day, and more expected in the afternoon of the walk, was possibly the reason that only 8 participants turned up. Included were Sarah and Matthew, new members who had bravely driven direct to Goodenia while five of us car pooled at Lochiel. Hayden arrived later after clearing his road of a large fallen tree. We always expect Chalkhills Rd to be 'questionable' but the storm had made it almost impassable in parts. Taking it slowly, a Spotted Quail-thrush lifted our spirits as having crossed the road it walked up the gutter line, with us proceeding beside it for some distance.

Arriving at the picnic area birds were quiet. A Brown Cuckoo-Dove called from the gully and was answered by another one higher up near us before flying off to find its mate. That's a first for this species here for us although one had been recorded years ago at the start of Chalkhills Rd. Six walkers set off down the track to the depths, requiring foliage to be removed to allow access. Their rewards were Pilotbirds calling, Rufous Fantails, Lewin's Honeyeaters, Brown Gerygone. The two left behind heard many calls from Black-faced Monarchs and Pilotbirds. A walk down the road turned up the more usual species amongst the ferns edging and encroaching onto the road.

On departure we stopped on Chalkhills Rd at the Goodenia Rainforest sign and walked further along the flat Chalkhills Rd hoping to find a Red-browed Treecreeper. Success! One worked its way through the tall tree trunks and we all clearly saw its red brow and dark body as we followed for a while.

My passenger, Sue, declared 'it was worthwhile negotiating the somewhat difficult road'! while as the driver my words are unprintable. Three heavy items of machinery were parked along the way so one day they might be able to get back to work and rectify the damage from the storms. Goodenia is a really lovely spot in a deep gully and just looking at the huge straight trees reaching for the sky made us appreciate their beauty. Well worth a visit, preferably in a 4WD.

Including some sightings from our Lochiel meeting spot our tally for the day was 34 species. Taking our lunch home before the afternoon storm, we agreed it had been a good morning out.

Bithry Inlet Mimosa Rocks National Park **Sunday 23 February 2025** **Jenny Morrison**

There was a promise of a hot day ahead as 19 participants gathered at Three Ways, Tanja. The Bell Miner colony seemed to be very loud this year but Spotted Dove, Wonga Pigeon and Eastern Whipbird were heard and Australian King-Parrots were seen.



Red-capped Plover

Image: Rob Mansfield

A short drive brought us to Bithry Inlet car park, from where we walked north along the beach to a sand spit with a gathering of birds, mainly 60 Silver Gulls but also two Greater Crested Terns. Skirting the crowd a Hooded Plover seemed unconcerned by the humans as it searched amongst the seaweed, occasionally having a sit-down before moving off again. Red-capped Plovers also were searching the shoreline as were Sooty Oystercatchers and as we walked back to the cars for a cuppa a Caspian Tern flew overhead.

The day was turning cloudy and not as hot as expected so we walked a short distance south along the beach before turning onto the track up to The Barn adding White-faced Heron, Australian Pelican and Eastern Reef Heron to the list.

There is a lot of information on display at The Barn area and those who hadn't been to Bithry before decided they would have to make another trip to fully absorb all the information about Kenneth Myer and Sir Roy Grounds and enjoy the beautiful surroundings again.

Past The Barn the track follows the cliff with a good view of the rocks below where Sooty Oystercatchers, Little Pied Cormorants and Great Cormorants were seen. The track turns towards west through bush and further on a planting of Eucalyptus grandis. On the walk through the bush Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, New Holland Honeyeaters, Superb Fairy-wrens, Grey Butcherbird and Eastern Spinebill were seen and heard as was the colony of Bell Miners. There were no sightings at the orchard and dam area but we met a lass carefully carrying a beautiful cake and looking lost; alas the cake wasn't for us but a party near the Myer House, so we pointed her in the right direction.

As we sat for lunch at the picnic area a mother Australian Magpie and her vocal youngster joined us and didn't miss one dropped crumb. Thank you for recording the 34 sightings Leo.

Wolumla

Saturday 8 March 2025

Barbara Jones

Our walk today took us to the property of Wendy Noble on Old Mill Rd, Wolumla. This long road winds from the Princes Highway passing large properties with established homes, yet most members didn't even know it existed. The rushing traffic along the highway would explain why it's probably only the residents who turn off the highway. Wendy's home is at the end of the road – a 200+ acre block of forest with a conservation order under way. The tracks are extensive, meandering up and down on mostly wide tracks which receive occasional slashing by her to keep them clear. Several gullies were a bit challenging for some but the helping hand is always there to keep us upright.

We had 16 participants including Debra, a new member plus Wendy's Mum, Carol (who made a delicious slice) and another friend, Nancy. The group set off under Wendy's leadership. Just as well as there are tracks everywhere, some led back to the house and others almost reached the northern and eastern boundary with Bournda Nature Reserve, but not accessible except to NPWS. Using Google Earth you will see the extent of the forest stretching along to Black Range, Bega.



Eastern Yellow Robin Image: Rob Mansfield

We had arrived in thick fog which lifted for a beautiful day. Heading for the forest the call of a Common Cicadabird was a new one for some. This species has usually bred here over summer and headed north again by the end of February. No chance of seeing it but the call was repeated several times with a lengthy break between calls. As we proceeded we entered tall thick forests with huge trees. Necks were kinked trying to see to the top.

Unusually we heard two Fan-tailed Cuckoos, another species which mostly heads north by now although some will stay all year. Birds were not plentiful but a good variety of 30 species were recorded for Birdata at this site, with more at the highway, including White-winged Choughs beside the traffic.

Having morning snacks, including Carol's slice, we sat on the north-facing verandah with binoculars poised. As we had not reached the anticipated Muttonwood Forest another date will be set for a return visit, where we can drive a portion of the way to investigate more of this amazing block.

We really do see some wonderful properties don't we? Thank you, Wendy.

Green Cape
23 March, 2025
Leo Berzins

On a clear, calm morning, fourteen members and one guest assembled at the Princes Hwy/Edrom Rd junction. A few birds were heard amongst the noise of highway traffic. These included Eastern Yellow Robin, Grey Butcherbird and Rufous Whistler but the highlight was a pair of Gang-gang Cockatoos that were both heard and seen.

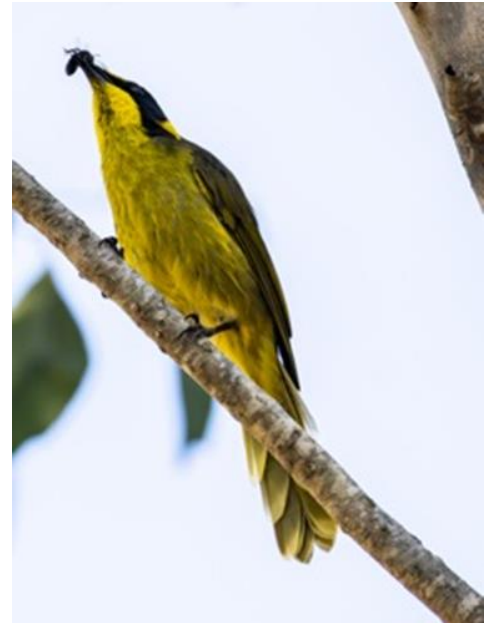
Next stop was Bull Creek where we heard Beautiful Firetail and Pilotbird but were unable to sight them through the dense vegetation. By contrast, we spotted a Yellow-tufted Honeyeater which was not calling at all.

On to Pulpit Rock for morning tea. Birds were scarce here with Welcome Swallows and White-browed Scrubwrens at least helping our tally.

A section of the Light to Light Walk was next with our usual high hopes of seeing some of the heathland specialists. No such luck but we did manage a Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater and White-bellied Sea-Eagle.

Our final stop was Green Cape itself. An Australasian Pipit, Silvereyes, Superb Fairy-wrens and Red-browed Finches were seen on our way past the lighthouse. The rocks below yielded Sooty Oystercatchers, Crested Terns, Silver Gulls and a lone White-faced Heron. Over the ocean, a couple of immature Australasian Gannets were seen along with more gulls and terns.

We concluded with lunch in the new shelter which we shared with two young women from Mallacoota who had just completed the Light to Light Walk. All in all, a good day out in perfect weather with a modest species count of 30.



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater Image: Rob Mansfield

Tasmanian Adventure

FSCB had a recent visit at Panboola from Judah Mintos, a young teenage lad with a passion for nature and a special leaning towards birds. Home-schooled, he and his family have travelled Australia and after we saw him they set off for a Tasmanian trip. Armed with a camera and binoculars and notebook Judah has written of the highlights of his trip. He found several of the Tasmanian endemics. Thank you Judah, we look forward to your next visit. Barbara



Lewin's Rail

Image: Judah Mintos

Judah Mintos continues:

Tasmania is an interesting, amazing place with an incredible range of habitats which host a wide range of different birds, including its 10 endemics that are only found on the island. We travelled and walked through rainforest, dry eucalyptus woodland, button-grass moorland, low heath & wetlands.

Along the way to Tasmania, on the Bass Strait, I found a lone Shy Albatross, Australasian Gannet & hundreds of Short-Tailed Shearwaters. When we got off the ferry we drove to Poatina, which had an abundance of Black Currawongs. These are not very attractive birds, as they prey on the small birds, so it was a shame to see them in such large numbers. Apart from the Currawongs there were Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Green Rosellas and a pair of the Tassie subspecies of Wedge-tailed Eagle, which are endangered and much larger than their relatives on the mainland. A farmer allows the eagles to take a certain number of lambs each season.

Mole Creek National Park consists of wet eucalyptus forest & cool temperate rainforest and a morning walk yielded a female Pink Robin, a few pairs of Tasmanian Scrubwrens, and Tasmanian Thornbill & Bassian Thrush, amongst others. A highlight in Mole Creek township at the back of the hotel's little river & pond was a very tame Platypus that we observed for more than 15 minutes and he was within a few meters of us!

At Cradle Mountain NP there were considerable numbers of Striated Fieldwrens in the button-grass moorland and I flushed a Latham's Snipe that was feeding nowhere near any water. Ground Parrots were heard often but not seen. Cradle Mtn is a hotspot for mammals of all kinds and while we were camping there, we were accompanied by lots of friendly Bennett's Wallabies, Pademelons & Tasmanian Bare-nosed Wombats.



Black Swans

Image: PWHP

At Moulting Lagoon near Freycinet NP, annoyingly, duck hunting had just started the day after we arrived (March 1st), so I only got a morning of birding in before the hunting commenced. Highlights were about 18 Australasian Shovelers, many, many Australian Shelduck, Striated Fieldwrens & a group of 9 White-fronted Chats.

An afternoon walk at the Shoobridge track on Mt Wellington got us another female Pink Robin, Black-headed & Yellow-throated Honeyeater, an Olive Whistler in a dense tea-tree thicket and the elusive little Scrubtit. The Tasmanian government is terrible in its nature laws and we came across many newly cleared areas and many logging trucks with large trunks loaded onto them. It was upsetting to see this going on and we tried not to think about all the Swift Parrots and other native animals losing their homes.

Down the south of Tasmania, around Hobart and surrounding areas, Kelp Gulls are quite abundant and their loud oy,oy,oy,oy calls fill the air around harbours, bays & beaches. It is the same with Black-faced Cormorants & Pacific Gulls; they too are common around Tasmania's coastal areas. Another bird that was nice to see and we don't commonly get around the valley was a small group of Blue-winged Parrots which we spotted feeding under a Drooping She-oak along a quiet road leading to Hobart.

I hope that readers will be inspired to go to this incredible, diverse island, if they haven't already, as we found it to be just stunning in the way of old-growth forests, birds and mammals.

Change of Bank Account details

Rob Mansfield

Your committee have recently decided to change the FSC Birdwatchers bank account to the Bendigo Bank, we feel that this will give us more flexibility with the operation of the account and better returns.

The new account details are BSB 633 000 Account Number 228 998 480

If you have our old account in your online banking could you please change the details, we will maintain the old account for a short time while we transition to the new arrangements.

The COMMON MYNA STORY from 2000 to now.

Barbara Jones

Common (Indian) Mynas are a familiar species of pest bird known by city dwellers and in large rural towns eating food scraps in towns, around schools and fossicking around farm buildings for stock food. They are aggressive and pushy, taking over tree hollows for nesting and disrupting the lives of native fauna.

Bega Valley residents were not exposed to them until 2000 when 1-4 birds were seen in Eden, Cobargo and Bemboka. How did they get there? Their preferred habitat is open easily accessed ground and Bega Shire boundaries are all forested (or coastal). Theories suggested they hitched a ride intentionally or otherwise under cover of tarpaulins on large transport vehicles carrying grain or food and escaped when drivers paused for rest breaks or at food outlets. Possibly, wide easements for power lines was an easy way to expand -- one led straight to a Cobargo dairy.

We knew Sydney and Canberra were well set up with trapping the birds and euthanising humanely. We needed to arm ourselves! The Common Myna Taskforce was formed and met regularly to plan actions. Trap designs were discussed and Far South Coast Birdwatchers had a workshop with volunteers building traps. Publicity was extensive and the community began reporting large numbers of mynas, many attracted to John Jessop's Cobargo dairy where he set up a trap and removed many hundreds. Bemboka became a favourite location and Lizzie Simkus became the communication person there and to this date she is still trapping. Candelo/Yurammie was another central area and Roger Heffernan not only distributed traps to rural areas and instructed on how to operate them but still maintains his own traps.



Basically the trap is two wire units with one unit to contain a Judas bird to act as a decoy and call birds in. The entry trap has one-way access with food and water and a one-way entry to entice the birds in by the Judas bird. The property owner then removes birds for humane disposal leaving a Judas bird to continue attracting others.

This process worked and hundreds (Cobargo eliminated about 900 and Candelo over 200) of birds have been stopped from expanding within the Shire. Local Land Services (LLS) have now taken over pest management but some of our members are still actively assisting. The scene quietened down for several years with odd sightings in regular spots but there were no available Judas birds to set and maintain traps until recently!

We now have an influx with Bemboka and Candelo on active watch again and we have Judas birds ready to widen the process. Since February 2025 Roger has trapped another 30 at Candelo with 20 waiting and Lizzie has removed 18 with another 20 hanging around Bemboka.

Sightings come to either LLS, BVSC or FSCB. We coordinate trap distribution with LLS and FSCB, to where most suitable for action. Back in 2008 the process was take a trap and Judas bird to new 'customer', set it up with water and a cover and suggest dog food to attract them.

Roger has become dedicated and creative in making his own traps from bits and pieces around the farm and has six traps set. He also experiments with feeding techniques and the following email describes his current method.

"The dog nuts are a suitable size for the birds to swallow. Others can be too big or the wrong shape. I started with a small packet of cat food mixed with the nuts and pellets. The birds left the cat food to last. When I saw a feral cat hanging around the trap, I woke up that cat food was not the best idea. Have been feeding with Coprice Family Dog nuts mixed with pellets from the dairy, the theory being that they clean up the dog nuts and if they come back hungry they still have food. I thought I'd throw in a Nashi that had fallen from the tree to amuse them. They actually go straight to the Nashi in preference to the nuts & pellets. I had trouble keeping the food on the ground left to attract the outside birds. I was blaming the black Labrador for cleaning it up. Now I think that a couple of Aussie Ravens are the culprits.

There's always obstacles to overcome. There are the animal welfare needs that have to be considered. Part of this is the constant access to clean drinking water in the 2 l. water dispensers that I make.”

Thanks to all those past and present who have stopped the invasion – we hope.

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>

Swift Parrot Search

The Swift Parrot Search (SPS) is a comprehensive monitoring program that integrates 5-minute/50-metre radius point searches with rapid habitat assessments at designated survey sites on public land throughout the species' overwintering range. There are over 2,000 SPS sites across mainland south-eastern Australia, with the south coast being a significant area of interest for Swift Parrots. Specifically, there are 71 sites within the region extending from Bermagui to Pambula.



Swift Parrot

Image: Mick Roderick

Beau Meney, from the Woodland Birds Team at BirdLife Australia, is seeking the participation of FSCB members in the upcoming 2025 monitoring season. The dates for the 2025 season are: Round 1 from Saturday, April 26th to Sunday, June 8th, and Round 2 from Saturday, July 18th to Sunday, August 31st.

The aim is to have as many sites as possible visited **at least once** during each of the two 6-week survey rounds. Additional surveys are both welcome and encouraged. If a site is visited more than once in a survey period, it only strengthens the dataset.

You can find the sites within your local area by going to Birdata and navigating to the 'Swift Parrot Search' module through the 'Record Survey' tab and using the interactive map in your area. The app also tracks movements and facilitates site navigation on the go.

To register or find out more about what the surveys entail visit the Swift Parrot Search webpage [here](#) where you can register and nominate areas where you intend to survey. When you register you will receive an email containing various resources for the surveys.

Editor's note

I hope you have enjoyed this latest edition of the newsletter. I look forward to receiving more terrific local stories and photos for future editions so don't forget 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 submit it with some details for inclusion. Remember your smartphone can take a great photo suitable for the newsletter.

Contributions for the next newsletter need to be in by the 29th May 2025, 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

A SELECTION of SIGHTINGS from February 2025/March 2025

Please report your sightings, especially threatened species

Threatened Species

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

Date	Species	Number	Location	Observer	Notes
23/02/2025	Aust Pied Oystercatcher	4	Bithry Inlet	FSCB outing	
1/03/2025	Aust Pied Oystercatcher	2	Murrah Beach	O Williams	
20/03/2025	Beach Stone-curlew	1	Merimbula, Spencer Park	L Berzins	photo
8/02/2025	Dusky Woodswallow	11	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd,	Kingston/ Reed	with needletails
8/03/2025	Dusky Woodswallow	2	Wolumla, Old Mill Rd,	FSCB outing	
21/02/2025	Eastern Osprey	1	Merimbula Lake	G Holden	Carrying fish
22/02/2025	Eastern Osprey	2	Merimbula, Berrambool	D Robertson	Sitting on lights
10/03/2025	Eastern Osprey	2	Merimbula Lake	G Holden	On catamaran
14/03/2025	Eastern Osprey	1	Berrambool	D & H Merrick	
19/03/2025	Eastern Osprey	2	Merimbula Lake, on mast	B Jones	
3/02/2025	Far Eastern Curlew	1	Nullica River west of bridge	P Handyside	
5/02/2025	Far Eastern Curlew	1	Merimbula, Top Lake	S Romane	
26/02/2025	Far Eastern Curlew	1	Wallaga Lake	J Carr	
4/02/2025	Gang-gang Cockatoo	15	Tura Beach Drive	A Knight	overflow
8/02/2025	Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	Summerhill Rd, Sth Pambula	H Kingston	
25/02/2025	Gang-gang Cockatoo	20	Tanja, Barrabooka Rd	M Spittle	at cattle trough
25/02/2025	Gang-gang Cockatoo	10	Pambula Beach	R Kesby	
27/02/2025	Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Kingston/ Reed	
8/03/2025	Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	Wolumla, Old Mill Rd	FSCB outing	
10/03/2025	Gang-gang Cockatoo	6	Tura Beach, Surf Circle	A Knight	In cotoneaster
23/03/2025	Gang-gang Cockatoo	2	Eden, Edrom Rd/Princes Hwy	FSCB outing	
1/02/2025	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	Tura, forest behind Elizabeth Dr	G Merrick	
16/02/2025	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	Yowaka River Fire Trail	D Robertson	
13/03/2025	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	3	Tura, Pacific Way	S Romane	
23/02/2025	Hooded Plover	1	Bithry Inlet	FSCB outing	
1/03/2025	Hooded Plover	1	Murrah Beach	O Williams	
26/02/2025	Hooded Plover	3	Long Beach	O Williams	
15/02/2025	Latham's Snipe	9	Bermagui Nth Wetlands	B Virtue et al	Moorhen Cove
12/03/2025	Little Eagle	1	Tura, over Golf Circuit	J Mintos	photo
3/02/2025	Sooty Oystercatcher	1	Nullica Beach	P Handyside	
23/02/2025	Sooty Oystercatcher	3	Bithry Inlet	FSCB outing	
26/02/2025	Sooty Oystercatcher	2	Bermagui, Moorheads Beach	J Carr	
23/03/2025	Sooty Oystercatcher	6	Green Cape Light Station	FSCB outing	
23/03/2025	Pilotbird	1	Bull Creek	FSCB outing	
11/03/2025	Powerful Owl	1 calling	Tura Beach, Surf Circle	A Knight	6:15 am dark
13/03/2025	Powerful Owl	1	Tura, behind Golf Circuit house	J Mintos	photo
11/03/2025	Swift Parrot	4	Tura, behind Golf Circuit house	J Mintos	photo
20/03/2025	Swift Parrot	3 or 4	Tura Beach, Golf Circuit	Mintos/ Romane	photo to BirdLife
1/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	1	Tanja, Barrabooka Rd	J Oakeshott	
2/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	1	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Kingston/Reed	
7/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	1	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Kingston/ Reed	
8/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	20	Merimbula, Monaro St	L Berzins	
8/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	20	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Reed/Kingston	

9/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	1	Bega, Glebe Ave	H Kingston	
9/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	20	Tathra, Thompsons Rd	S Hilton	Wheeling for 2 hrs
9/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	1	Bega, Glebe Ave	H Kingston	
10/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	10	Tura, Headland Drive	D Merrick	
10/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	200	Merimbula, driving to Oaklands	L Berzins	beside airport
10/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	100's	Panboola	M Richmond	high and low
10/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	50	Merimbula, Berrambool	M Sutcliffe	9am heading north
10/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	13	Princes Hwy Potoroo Palace	R Heffernan	
10/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	30	Tathra, Thompsons Rd	S Hilton	2 hours
10/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	200	Tura	S Romane	loose flock
12/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	6	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Kingston/ Reed	
23/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	16	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Kingston/ Reed	
25/02/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	15	Bermagui near harbour	J Carr	evening
13/03/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	1	Tura, Golf Circuit	J Mintos	
13/03/2025	Wh-throated Needletail	9	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Kingston/ Reed	

Other Species

Date	Species	Number	Location	Observer	Comments
23/03/2025	Australasian Pipit	1	Green Cape Light Station	FSCB outing	
11/03/2025	Australasian Shoveler	7	Black Lake	G Holden	
4/03/2025	Australian Shelduck	25	Bird Route 1	Allen/Morrison	
28/02/2025	Bar-tailed Godwit	60	Merimbula, Spencer Park	L Allen	some in br. plumage
20/02/2025	Bassian Thrush	1	Gulaga Saddle Walk	J Carr	
23/03/2025	Beautiful Firetail	1	Bull Creek	FSCB outing	
18/03/2025	Black Kite	26	Buckajo, flock circling north	A Plamondon	EBird rare bird listing
3/02/2025	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Jellat Jellat	S Romane	
8/02/2025	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	Goodenia Rainforest	FSCB outing	
12/03/2025	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	Tura, Golf Circuit	J Mintos	
29/03/2025	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	Merimbula, Munn St	J Chester	first time there
3/02/2025	Brown Falcon	2	Bega, Boundary Rd	S Romane	1adult 1juvenile
8/02/2025	Brown Gerygone	1	Goodenia Rainforest	FSCB outing	
16/02/2025	Brown Gerygone	1	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	A Reed	
23/02/2025	Caspian Tern	1	Bithry Inlet	FSCB outing	
1/03/2025	Caspian Tern	1	Murrah Beach	O Williams	
19/03/2025	Cattle Egret	16	Pambula, Oaklands	B Jones	then to Bens Swamp
8/03/2025	Common Cicadabird	2	Wolumla, Old Mill Rd	FSCB outing	
6/02/2025	Common Myna	18	Bemboka	E Simkus	still more to catch
25/02/2025	Common Myna	30	Yurammie	R Heffernan	20 more to catch
21/03/2025	Common Myna	3	Towamba near village	S Skelton	
17/02/2025	Common Sandpiper	1	Mogareeka	B Virtue	EBird rare bird alert
19/03/2025	Crescent Honeyeater	1	Panboola	M Sutcliffe	juvenile, photo
8/02/2025	Crescent Honeyeater	1	Goodenia Rainforest	FSCB outing	
23/02/2025	Eastern Reef Egret	1	Bithry Inlet	FSCB outing	
26/02/2025	Eastern Reef Egret	1	Wallaga Lake	J Carr	
20/02/2025	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	Gulaga Saddle Walk	J Carr	juvenile
8/03/2025	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	2	Wolumla, Old Mill Rd	FSCB outing	
10/02/2025	Fork-tailed Swift	10	Merimbula, Berrambool	M Sutcliffe	photo, heading north
23/03/2025	Greater Crested Tern	30	Green Cape Light Station	FSCB outing	
12/02/2025	Grey Goshawk	1	Tura garden	L Allen	photo

26/02/2025	Grey Goshawk	1	Bermagui, Moorheads Beach	J Carr	
12/03/2025	Grey Goshawk	1	Tura, Golf Circuit	J Mintos	moved on by magpies
7/02/2025	Lewin's Rail	1	Merimbula Boardwalk	S Romane	
8/02/2025	Lewin's Rail	1	Merimbula Boardwalk	J Mintos	photo
17/02/2025	Lewin's Rail	1	Bega, Kisses Lagoon	M Higgins	via H Kingston
17/02/2025	Lewin's Rail	2	Nowa Nowa wetlands	M Smith	
8/03/2025	Little Raven	1	Wolumla Old Mill Highway cnr	FSCB outing	
12/02/2025	Mistletoebird	1	Tura garden	L Allen	female, photo
15/02/2025	Mistletoebird	2	Eden, Lake Curalo	S Romane	1female, 1 juvenile
21/03/2025	Noisy Miner	1	4 Glebe Ave Bega	H Kingston	
7/02/2025	Peregrine Falcon	1	Merimbula, in Church grounds	D Robertson	eating seagull
14/02/2025	Pied Stilt	8	Jellat Jellat	S Romane	
4/03/2025	Pied Stilt	27	Bird Route 1	Allen/Morrison	
8/02/2025	Red-browed Treecreeper	1	Goodenia Rainforest	FSCB outing	
20/02/2025	Red-browed Treecreeper	1	Gulaga Saddle Walk	J Carr	
12/02/2025	Red-capped Plover	20	Merimbula Bch	P Merrick	near Short Point
23/03/2025	Rose Robin	1	Nethercote	B Jones	in front garden
8/03/2025	Rose Robin	1	Wolumla, Old Mill Rd	FSCB outing	
7/03/2025	Royal Spoonbill	27	Eden, Lake Curalo	P Handyside	exposed sand bar
8/02/2025	Rufous Fantail	1	Goodenia Rainforest	FSCB outing	
23/03/2025	Rufous Whistler	1	Eden, Edrom Rd/Princes Hwy	FSCB outing	
24/02/2025	Shy Albatross	1	Bermagui, Blue Pool	J Carr	close to shore
23/03/2025	Silvereye	40	Green Cape Light Station	FSCB outing	
8/02/2025	Spotted Quail-thrush	1	Chalkhills Rd to Goodenia	Jones/Romane	roadside
5/02/2025	Striated Heron	1	Merimbula, Top Lake	S Romane	
14/02/2025	Stubble Quail	2	Jellat Jellat	S Romane	
18/02/2025	Tawny Frogmouth	1	Tura, Pacific Way	S Romane	calling behind house
9/03/2025	Tawny Frogmouth	1	Nth Tura, Sapphire Coast Dr	C Meslin	calling close to house
2/02/2025	Tawny Grassbird	1	Panboola, end of Olwyn's Link	J Weaton	photo via PWHP
23/03/2025	Tawny-crowned Hn'yeater	1	Green Cape, Pulpit Rock Rd	FSCB outing	
10/03/2025	White-necked Heron	3	Panboola, Tips Billabong	P Merrick	2 + 1immature
13/02/2025	White-throated Nightjar	1	Nethercote Rd	B Jones	
8/03/2025	White-winged Chough	6	Wolumla Old Mill Highway cnr	FSCB outing	
18/03/2025	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	Bega, Glebe Lagoon	S Romane	
25/03/2025	Yellow-tld Black-Cockatoo	29	Nethercote	B Jones	eating hakeas
23/03/2025	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	1	Bull Creek	FSCB outing	

Please email sightings to Barbara Jones jonesbarbara@bigpond.com



Bar-tailed Godwit

Image: Judah Mintos

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 9 April, 2025

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 10 April, 2025

EVENING MEETING

Meet in the Uniting Church Hall, Henwood St, Merimbula for a 7:30 pm start. Guest speaker will be Darren Quin who is an ecologist and project officer with BirdLife Australia. Darren will talk about the responses of waterbirds to environmental water flows at Lake Cullen in Northern Victoria.

Saturday 12 April, 2025

'WATERY FOWLS' WALLAGOOT

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.

Wednesday 23 April, 2025

BERRAMBOOL OVAL

Meet John (0448 219 991) at 9:00 am in the car park within Berrambool Oval, accessed off Berrambool Drive, Merimbula. A surprisingly productive bird habitat including creek, open grassland and forest on level ground. An optional Rainforest Walk too. Will the Ospreys be adding on to last year's nest? Bring lunch for a stop on the lakeside.

Sunday 27 April, 2025

'BENOOKA' WALLAGOOT & PRIVATE PROPERTY NEARBY

Meet Damian (0418 993 378) and Barbara for a 9:00 am start at the gate to 'Benooka' 396 Wallagoot Lane, about 4 kms from the corner of Sapphire Coast Drive and Wallagoot Lane, Wallagoot. We'll be driving to the furthest point of this property overlooking Benooka Lake and Jellat Jellat Creek. On leaving we'll be moving further down Wallagoot Lane (Bird Route 1) to base for refreshments at Damian's before a walk into the forest southwards and back to base for lunch. Bring chair and food.

Saturday 10 May, 2025

SEVERS BEACH AND HAYCOCK POINT

Meet Leo (6495 2189) at 8:45 am just 100 m into Haycock Rd (signposted by NPWS) off the Princes Highway between Pambula and Eden. Once assembled we'll convoy to Severs Beach on the Pambula River, then to Haycock Point car park. Here we have beach, headland, bush and scrub for a good variety of species. Bring food and a chair.

Monday 19 May, 2025

COMMITTEE MEETING (3rd Monday)

9:15 am for 9:30 am in the Panboola Centre, next to Idlewilde Motel.

Sunday 25 May, 2025

TANTAWANGALO PROPERTY

Meet George (0407 225 667) at 9:15 am in Candelo Park. We will be visiting his property at Tantawangalo where he will escort around this huge property for yet another visit. Bring the usual lunch and chair.

Thursday 12 June, 2025

EVENING MEETING

Meet in the Uniting Church Hall, Henwood St, Merimbula for a 7:30 pm start. Guest Speaker will be Doug Reckord, Principal of Bournda Environmental Education Centre.

Saturday 14 June, 2025

CATHCART, BLACK LAKE, BOMBALA

Meet Hayden (0417 227 467) at 9:15 am at the Cathcart Memorial Hall car park. Rug up for a visit to some of our favourite spots around Cathcart/Black Lake/Bombala. Hope to see Flame Robins and a platypus or two. Bring a snack and a chair for a morning tea stop along the way and pack some lunch or pick up a hot takeaway in town.

Sunday 22 June, 2025

WINTER IN BEGA

Meet Barbara (0487 840 740) at 9:15 am at the Bega Saleyards, Kerrisons Lane, Bega ready for the traditional Bega in Winter outing. Visiting at least four sites we always have a great species count of water and bush birds. Bring food but we could well be lunching in the grounds of Bega Cheese Heritage Centre with shop available.

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