



EUROBODALLA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inc.

PO Box 888
MORUYA NSW 2537

www.enhs.org.au



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 183

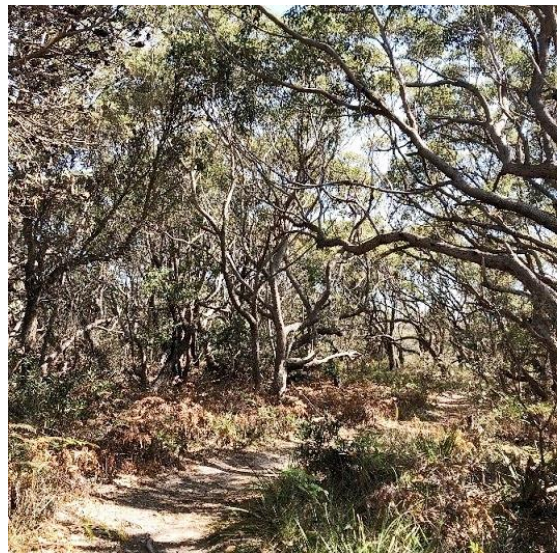
January 2020

A walk along the Bingie Dreaming Track

In September, our daughter invited two friends, both of whom are botanists, to stay for a weekend. They enjoyed a walk along the Bingie Dreaming track so much that they offered to write an article. It's wonderful to get a fresh, enthusiastic take on an area so familiar to many of us. Helen Kay.

On a fine spring day, three of us walked the Congo end of the Bingie Dreaming Track, heading down to Meringo Lagoon and looping back by the North Congo Firetrail, Congo Road and South Congo Track. One of our party is the daughter of locals, keen to show off her favourite walk in the area.

I hadn't ever visited the stretch of the coast between Moruya and Tuross before, but I expected it to feel familiar – to be filled with shady tall forests of spotted gum and vines. This track didn't feel familiar at all, with only the last stretch taking us through that forest type. Instead, we walked through many different habitats and ecological complexes - with different canopies and forest floors, and one or two different flowers in bloom. It's a perfect, relatively easy walk to get a great sense of the area in under 2 hours.



Bingie Dreaming Track Photo N Brydon

Only later did I realise that the name of the track is the Bingie Dreaming Track, and that it's named this because it follows a songline of the Yuin Aboriginal people. Songlines are linkages between places visited by Aboriginal people and are connected to indigenous oral histories. I wonder how many other walks I've taken through my life have been songlines. It gives me a whole new appreciation for our experience that day.



Patersonia sp

Photo N Brydon

The path starts behind the sand dunes of Congo, following through a pretty forest of mixed trees with a low canopy with she oaks (*Casuarina* sp.) and apples (*Corymbia* sp.) dominating, and a grassy or bracken understory with purple accents of *Hardenbergia* and *Patersonia* species.

As we climb the first headland, the path looks like clay, eroded by water flows. The canopy opens, and banksias hug the path. They are dense with seed pods (particularly the coastal banksia – *Banksia integrifolia*). We pause for a moment to look for whales but mostly to catch our breath. The path wraps back inland and suddenly we have swept down into a wooded valley. There's a much more distinct canopy and grassy understory. The trees are gnarled and loopy, so I'm guessing they were *Angophora* sp. and poking through the dropped branches was *Lomandra* sp. and spent seed heads of past orchid flowering – presumably from the year before.

Soon we were climbing to another headland, where it suddenly opened to coastal heath. We headed down through a grassy area to Meringo Beach. A shady edge to the paddocks harboured warrigal greens (*Tetragonia tetragonioides*) and red berries of Seaberry Saltbush (*Rhagodia candolleana*). I can't remember if the berries are edible so decide to let them be (turns out they are edible, but supposedly ripe from summer to autumn, so maybe it was best I didn't indulge!). Out on the beach was a hot pink pigface (*Carpobrotus* sp.), so named because the fruit is in the shape of a pig!

Looking across the beach we could see the Meringo headland and the Norfolk pines marking the settlement of Meringo.

On the way back, we decided to make it a loop walk. We made our way up the grassy headland north of Meringo Lagoon, walking inland rather than retracing our initial steps, and we connected to a path near to some small acreages, onto the North Congo Firetrail and back into the National Park. This section was through towering eucalypts (including the spotted gum, *Corymbia maculata*) and Burrawang cycads (*Macrozamia communis*) that stood a head taller than us. Finally, this was more the forest type I was familiar with on the south coast. Here we had a relatively heated discussion on appropriate tree descriptors. When I suggested that they were 'majestic', it met with some disagreement. I guess you can be the judge – but I stand by what I said!



Carpobrotus sp

Photo N Brydon

Nearing the car park, we realised that the one hour walk we were promised had easily become a two and a half hour adventure. We were starting to run low on water and I offered my water bottle to my friend who took it gladly. Admiring the scenery, I turned around to discover him pouring the contents of my water bottle over a patch of moss, watching it slowly coming back to life, glistening green in the moisture. You can never take too much water! On the way back from the walk, we saw our first echidna for the weekend.

Learnings from the day were: Trees can be majestic and you always need more water. Naomi Brydon and Owen Harrod

What's new!

We have a new, revised record sheet for bird observations. It is now available for download on our website (<http://enhs.org.au/>) and is included with this newsletter for those that receive them that way. Can all members please use the new sheet for all records made from 1/1/2020 and recycle or otherwise dispose of any old sheets in your possession – this will help the Recorder enormously in managing the transition.

The last update of this type was in 2011. The reason for this revision is that Birdlife Australia recently concluded a major review and, in August 2019, published the Working List of Australian Birds v3. In response to this, at its meeting in November, the Committee agreed that from January 2020, we would distribute a revised record sheet for recording bird data and revise the format for listing in *Nature in Eurobodalla* and in the Annotated List of Birds of the Eurobodalla Shire to reflect the changes.

This new list includes up-to-date taxonomic classifications for all Australian birds, consistent with those of other countries and international conservation organisations. For the first time we have a list that defines, and names, all known Australian bird species and subspecies. There have been changes to both the Latin and English names of some species we see locally. For example the Black-winged Stilt has become the Pied Stilt, the Pied Cormorant has become Great, whilst the Crested Tern and Sooty Owl have become Greater, the Barn Owl, Great Egret and Osprey are no longer Eastern and the Mallard no longer Northern, the Eastern Curlew has become Far Eastern, the Dollarbird has become Oriental and the Cicadabird has become Common. The new list and details of the review process leading to it can be found at Birdlife Australia website <http://www.birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>.

2020 Memberships Are Now Due

A membership renewal form has been included with this newsletter. Single membership is \$20, family \$30 and for under 18s \$5.

What's coming up.....

Under normal circumstances, we would have included the annual program of field meetings for 2020 with this Newsletter, but current circumstances are far from normal. The Committee put together an interesting and varied program in November, but given the widespread destruction caused by devastating fires throughout the Shire over recent weeks, this will now have to be significantly revised. As we do not yet know the full extent of the impact of the fire, we have decided not to issue a field meeting program. At the time of printing (12/1/20) it appears that the meetings planned for February may still be able to proceed. These are:

Saturday February 8, 2pm: Tebbs Road and Pipparidge. Meet at the Narooma Visitors' Centre on the Princes Hwy. Pipparidge belongs to our members, John and Meg Gordon. Rufous Fantail, Green Catbird, Gang-gang cockatoo, Superb Lyrebird and Brown Cuckoo-dove.

Sunday February 23, 9am: Meringo. Meet at the Bingie turnoff, intersection of Princes Hwy and Bingie Rd. A visit to a private property with a variety of habitat types. Sacred Kingfisher, White-throated Treecreeper, Powerful Owl, Olive-backed Oriole, Common Cicadabird and Brush Cuckoo.

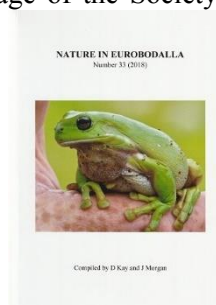
Whether these meetings can proceed will of course depend on how the fire situation develops over the coming weeks. We will send a message by email before our first scheduled meeting on February 8. If you do not have an email and would like to be informed, please let us know the best way of contacting you.

Once the Committee has a better understanding of the impacts of the fires and an opportunity to meet, a new program will be developed and distributed via email, posted on the Field Meetings page of the Society's website (<http://enhs.org.au/>) and on the Events section of our Facebook page.

Our sympathies go out to all those who have suffered loss in the recent disaster.

Nature in Eurobodalla Number 33 (2018)

We have published the 33rd edition of *Nature in Eurobodalla*. It is a summary of members' observations by species for 2018 and costs \$13 if picked up or \$16 if posted.



Box Cutting Field Meeting - 9 November 2019

Visits to Box Cutting often turn up something a bit out of the ordinary. Although the walk is only 700m long, the rainforest in the cutting provides an environment that contrasts sharply with the surrounding dry sclerophyll forest and is home to some different species. On past visits we have recorded Green Catbird, Large-billed and Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Topknot Pigeon and Rose Robin and so it was with high hopes that 13 of us headed down the track.

Given the recent dry conditions, I'd expected the rainforest to be rather less lush than on previous visits. Nevertheless, the dryness of the whole area was a surprise. Moss covered logs were brown and dusty rather than bright green and dripping as I remembered them from previous visits. There have also been quite a number of recent tree falls, so that the path along the bottom of the cutting is now something of an obstacle course.



Gang-gang Cockatoo Photo N Clarke

The afternoon was rather cool and overcast with little or no wind, but it was also surprisingly quiet with few birds either calling or moving. Some of us managed to get good views of a Black-faced Monarch, a Rose Robin, a pair of Rufous Fantail, plus a Brown Gerygone nest adjacent to the track, but these were interspersed with long periods with nothing much to see. As we returned to the road at the end of the track a pair of Gang-gang Cockatoo provided everyone with something colourful to look at to finish the walk.

Despite the scarcity of birdlife, it took the group slightly over 1½ hrs to traverse the 700m – not an energetic pace. The bird count reached 27 species, but that included a few seen on the way in from the highway and 8 species that were heard but not seen. Still, as Colin Morrison commented after we'd completed the bird count – “At least it was a nice walk.” David Kay

Osprey breeding report

Our last newsletter reported that the Osprey pair at Moruya Heads had a chick in the nest that could be heard calling from late August. The height of the tower and depth of the nest meant it was not easy to see. The good news is that the chick has been successfully raised and fledged in late October. However, there was one heart stopping moment prior to the chick's departure.

The telecommunications tower where the nest has been constructed is on the way to my property, so I drive past it most days. On October 22, the chick was seen standing on the edge of the nest with an adult nearby. It was fully grown, and its plumage was quite different to the two adult birds that we had seen regularly. Both adult birds had clear collars and very white plumage on the breast. The chick was buffy on chest and its collar was very faint.

On October 24, I noticed a very large pole lying on the side of the road just opposite the tower. I wondered where it was to go, so I spoke to a council worker who confirmed that it was to be erected near the tower the next morning. I immediately contacted the local office of NPWS, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and Eurobodalla Shire Council. By 1pm we had received confirmation that the work would be delayed for at least 2 weeks to allow the chick to leave the nest. Osprey fledglings regularly return to the nest to be fed.



Osprey Fledgling Photo J Morgan

I arranged to meet Rod Pietsch from DPIE on site the next morning. I wanted to ensure that the work had been successfully delayed and just after I arrived, Mike Crowley drove up with similar concerns. Our apprehension was well founded as contractors began to arrive at the scheduled start time. It seems that some communication had failed but luckily Rod was there, and he successfully negotiated a rescheduling of the work.

We could hear the chick calling in the nest while all this was going on. It then appeared on the edge of the nest and we watched as it took its first tentative flight. Its first attempt was just a short circle around the nest after which it landed on a pole. Its second flight was a larger circle around the nest and the third an even larger circle that had it out of view behind the large water tank for a few minutes. We were thrilled to have witnessed this momentous occasion.

The Osprey fledgling was seen at the nest several times through November but by the end of month, the family was seen much less often. This marks the most southerly successful breeding record for the species in our Shire. Julie Morgan

The First Wattle?

Callicoma serratifolia is in the family Cunoniaceae, but its common name is Black Wattle. As we normally associate the name Wattle with all species of *Acacia* which are in the Fabaceae family, this seems like an odd name. The word wattle, however, has a much older use. Anglo-Saxons used a building material which was called 'wattle and daub'. The wattle was the framework formed by interweaving flexible twigs and branches and this was then daubed with mud or clay. Early settlers in the Sydney region used the long flexible stems of this species to construct their huts and consequently called the plant a Wattle. When *Callicoma serratifolia* became less available, *Acacia* species which also had flexible stems were used for this purpose and called Wattles. Black Wattle Bay on the SW side of Sydney Harbour Bridge was named because of the large number of these species growing in the area at that time.

Cunoniaceae is a small family of about 29 genera and 270 species worldwide and 17 genera and 35 species in Australia. Other genera include *Ceratopetalum*, *Eucryphia* and *Bauera*. *C. serratifolia* is the only species in the genus *Callicoma* and is endemic to Australia. *Callicoma* is from the Greek 'kalos' beautiful and 'kome' hair, referring to the pretty, fluffy globular heads of the flowers. *Serratifolia* is from the Latin 'serratus' saw



Callicoma serratifolia Photo ERBG

toothed and ‘folius’ a leaf, referring to the serrated margins of the leaves. This species grows mainly in rain forests and along creeks and moist gullies, north from Batemans Bay to SE Qld. It is often a pioneer plant in disturbed areas along creeks and margins of rain forests

C. serratifolia is a bushy, tall shrub or tree to 20m with greyish-brown bark with a pinkish-brown inner layer. It is scaly in large trees, smooth on smaller trees. Young stems are often reddish with long hairs. Leaves are opposite, serrated, broadly lance shaped and sharply pointed, 4-12cm long and 3-5cm wide. The upper surface is smooth, shiny and dark green. The lower surface is white with woolly, white or sometimes rusty hairs. Young foliage is pale bronze and covered with fine, rusty hairs. Veins are prominent and raised, more so on the lower surface. They run parallel from the main vein and each end at a tooth. Flowers are small, white to yellow ball like clusters, 10-20mm in diameter with long (10-30mm) peduncles and appear between Oct and Dec. They do not have petals, but have 4-5 small, hairy sepals and numerous stamens, making them look like those of *Acacia*. The fruit is a small (8-10mm in diameter), hairy capsule, clustered in round heads, which split to release the seeds between

Dec and Jan. The seeds sometimes germinate in the moist fibrous trunks of tree ferns. The roots gradually grow down into the soil.

If space is available, this species could be a useful garden plant (except in drought conditions).

- It is frost tolerant once established.
- Can be used as a hedge.
- Prefers shade and a humus rich soil.
- Requires moist positions and will tolerate wet soil.
- Grows well from cuttings, and seeds germinate easily especially when young.

Fran Anderson

Cape York July 2019

This three week adventure, planned and organised by Lyn Burden, took Lyn, Mandy Anderson and me from Cairns in a big loop to Lake Eacham via a Daintree river cruise, then north again to Kuranda, Julatten and Cooktown before heading inland and northwest to Artemis Station, north-northwest to Weipa on the west coast and back to the east coast and Portland Roads. Lyn also teed up Ben Blewitt to be our guide for part of the trip. Here are just a few of the highlights.

Near the much visited curtain fig in Cairns, we saw a Lesser Sooty Owl and then a Lumholtz Tree-kangaroo, which a delighted Ben pointed out to as many visitors as possible. The Daintree river cruise yielded the hoped-for Great-billed Heron and Little Kingfisher. At Cassowary Lodge, near Kuranda, we breakfasted on the deck while various rainforest dwelling birds, including Victoria’s Riflebirds, came to the feeding tables. On the morning of our departure, as we vacated our cabins in the rain, a juvenile Cassowary greeted us. It was my birthday, and this was a pretty good present. At Hasties Swamp, near Atherton, among thousands of Plumed Whistling Duck, we saw one Freckled Duck. During our stay at Kingfisher Lodge, Julatten, we drove up Mount Lewis, where we heard then saw Chowchillas, a lifer for Mandy. Here we also saw the Atherton Scrubwren.

At Artemis Station, the co-owner Sue Shepherd has worked for years to protect the endangered Golden-shouldered Parrot, which has an estimated population of only 1,000. She took us for a walk around one very small section of her enormous property and pointed out an old nest, a hole excavated in a termite mound. In order to drill into the rocklike mounds, the parrots launch themselves straight at them, sometimes stunning or injuring themselves, occasionally fatally. There must be an easier way to build a home! Later in the day, we sat and waited at the feeding station that Sue has set up near the entrance to the property, and were rewarded with good views of a couple of the bright turquoise, brown and gold males and several, somewhat duller, green and turquoise females.



Warning sign Photo G Macnamara

The main reason for our visit to Weipa, the Spotted Whistling-Duck, failed to appear. The highlight there for me was the fly-over of the ‘pirate birds’. One sunset, we watched several hundred Great and Lesser Frigatebirds flying in to roost after a day at sea. They came in groups of fifty to a hundred, flying high with slow, elegant wingbeats. After a brief intermission, another hundred or so would appear from the west. They were still arriving in waves across a darkening sky when we stopped watching and headed off for dinner.

The small settlement of Portland Roads was our base during our exploration of Kutini Payamu/Iron Range National Park. Our accommodation, Portland House, was perfect. After a long drive through bush, finding houses and a seafood

restaurant felt surreal. The food was marvellous and our accommodation, next door to the restaurant, was delightful. The upstairs living space looked out over the sea. Open on all sides, it was shared with various fauna, including frogs, one of which, a White-lipped Tree frog, surprised me in the early hours by masquerading as a decorative tap handle.

In the national park, the effects of January’s cyclone were obvious: the damage was patchy, seemingly random, with swathes cut through the bush, undamaged trees standing straight among others that were leaning, branchless or fallen. Both Lyn and Ben, who had visited the area before the cyclone, remarked on the significant decrease in bird numbers. We wondered whether the changes in the environment also accounted for the change in bird behaviour; some of the species that Ben expected to pop out of the bush remained hidden.



White-lipped Tree frog
Photo G Macnamara

One bird that we were all keen to see was the Eclectus Parrot. Unusually for a dimorphic species, the brilliant red and blue female is brighter than the vivid green male. The cyclone had brought down one of their nesting trees, but we were told by a passing ranger of another tree near the rangers’ station. And there we saw females at their nest hollows being visited by males, a real delight.

Also, in the park, we saw a Northern Scrub-robin foraging on the ground and Frill-necked Monarchs bouncing around in the foliage, thankfully more conspicuous than some of our ‘targets’. We experienced a few ‘failures’. The single Palm Cockatoo seen briefly overhead was not a tick for me and, despite helpful suggestions from locals in various places, we were unable to track them down elsewhere. Another bird that we hoped to find in the national park was the Yellow-billed Kingfisher, but it evaded us despite hours spent looking.

But for me, there were far more ‘lifers’ than ‘failures’, thanks largely to my companions. Lyn and Mandy are both more experienced birders than me as well as having keener eyes. And Ben was an exceptional guide: affable, enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and a real demon with the scope. My bird count would have been significantly lower without the help of all three. Gillian Macnamara

Birdhaven – the Shoalhaven Bird Fair

It was the opportunity to listen to Sean Dooley again which drew me to the Birdhaven fair in October this year (2019). Sean is the author of [The Big Twitch](#), a very entertaining book which outlines his successful attempt to see 700 Australian bird species in a single year. This is one of the few books that I have read multiple times. Sean is also a pivotal member of Birdlife Australia and the editor of its quarterly magazine. He gave up a promising career as a television comedy writer to pursue the real love of his life – birds.

The opening event of the fair was a dinner at the Shoalhaven Heads Bowling Club at which Sean was the guest speaker, and his amusing and entertaining resume of his life as a self-confessed “bird-nerd” justified my journey north.

Saturday began with an early-morning shorebird identification walk, which was followed by a day of wonderful talks from a variety of highly qualified and engaging speakers. Nicholas Carlisle from NPWS is a seabird researcher. His talk included exciting news from Montagu Island where Gould's Petrels have begun nesting in recent years.

Professor Richard Fuller outlined the many threats to the survival of migratory shorebirds. Although his talk made us confront some very depressing statistics about the decline of migratory birds on the East-Asian-Australasian Flyway, he did also have good news – and that was the recent declaration of important shorebird habitat on the Yellow Sea as a World Heritage Site, which the Chinese government is honouring.

Next came Dr Jacqui Nguyen from the Australian Museum. She is an avian palaeontologist, and talked about what we can learn about birds from dinosaur bones. She recently named two new avian dinosaur finds, one after her father, and the other after Dr Michael Archer, whose work at the Australian Museum is legendary.

Two passionate young speakers from Birdlife Australia, Andrew Hunter and Fiona Blandford, next outlined how Birdlife is mounting campaigns to prevent the destruction of important bird habitat throughout Australia, particularly at Toondah Harbour in Moreton Bay, Queensland, where a proposed development threatens yet another important shorebird feeding site.

Peggy McDonald is not a professional ornithologist, but a passionate wildlife carer. She has established a raptor rehabilitation centre in the Southern Highlands, receiving no government funding and relying on her own funds and donations from the public. A fascinating snippet from her talk which stuck with me was that she had constructed circular aviaries so that recovering birds of prey fly continuously around the enclosure, rather than making repeated short flights from one end of a traditional rectangular enclosure to the other end, and back again. Her system provides much better opportunity for the birds to build up strength in the wing muscles.

The name that most of the attendees were familiar with was that of Tim Low, who talked about the subject matter of his famous book *Where song began*, which proposed the now generally accepted theory that songbirds originated in Australia and radiated from here to other continents. Tim is an entertaining speaker and made the very scientific topic accessible. I had met him previously during bird week on Christmas Island in 2012, where he was one of the expert guides.

Sunday's activities took the form of a village fair, with more guest speakers, but also music, food stalls, face painting, artisan goods for purchase and more bird-related information desks. Sean Dooley once again addressed us, launching the Aussie Bird Count week, and did a Pied Piper impersonation, leading visitors around the grounds of the community centre on a bird walk.

Birdhaven looks set to become a very successful annual event, and if the quality of the speakers is maintained, then I would definitely be going again. Mandy Anderson



ENHS members have many stories to tell about their observations of nature. 'My Patch' is a forum where these stories can be shared with others and will be published both in the newsletter and on the website. Photos are welcome. Please send your contributions to mypatch@enhs.org.au

Logo design by Trevor King

New Ladybird at Comerang

This spring I found a new ladybird, the sixteenth species I have identified at Comerang. It is called the Minute Two-Spotted Ladybird, *Diomus notescens* and yes, it is tiny, only 2.5 mm in length. It looks blackish, with a brown spot on each forewing. I have seen quite a few on my spinach plants but it's OK because they don't eat leaves - it just means I need to check carefully when I pick the spinach!



Diomus notescens Photo J Collett

Have a look and see how many ladybird species you have on your patch. They can be found not only in the vegetable garden but also on citrus trees, acacias, casuarinas, weeds and blades of grass. It can be tricky, though, as some species of leaf beetles look very similar to ladybirds. Julie Collett

A Strange Movement of Turtles

Living adjacent to Newstead Pond, it is not uncommon to have the occasional Snake-necked Turtle *Chelodina longicollis* moving across the back yard. This usually happens in the spring and, as I have occasionally unearthed eggs in the vegetable garden, I assumed that they were females leaving the pond to lay eggs.

Between September 19 and 23 this year, there was a large migration of turtles out of Newstead Pond, with 65 turtles counted, all moving south during those few days. During the afternoon of 20 September there were 8 individuals moving across the back yard. I did not find any turtles moving through the yard at night. This species is known to migrate long distances during dry spells, seeking new ponds and swamps, and Newstead pond at the time had diminished to about half its normal size. However, on at least three occasions in the last 15 years, it has dried up completely without a mass migration of turtles being observed.



A Snake-necked Turtle knocking on the back door
Photo M Crowley

Female Snake-necked Turtles leave water bodies in late spring and early summer to dig holes and lay their eggs, so this may have been the reason for this occurrence. If so, it is the largest egg-laying event I have seen in the past 15 years. Unfortunately, I did not think to determine the sex of the turtles, something that may have shed some light on the mystery. Mike Crowley

Mossy Point's Magnificent Spider

Spotlighting at night has many bonuses, one of which is finding something new, as the cover of darkness brings out completely different creatures. This spider is one.

We first met when I nearly walked into the sticky dangling lure suspended from a treefern frond. The spider was at the top of the lure, its body approximately 2cm in diameter with intricate colours and patterning. It took many attempts to get a decent picture especially at night. Then I found the daytime sleeping quarters, a silk cocoon between tree fern fronds, and poked my camera in for a photo.



Sticky dangling lure
Photo H Ransom

I took two photos which were clear enough to post on the Budawang Coast Nature Map (Atlas of Life biodiversity map for Moruya to Ulladulla area), and the moderators confirmed the species as *Ordgarius magnificus*. She was a female Magnificent spider. Magnificent spiders are endemic to eastern Australia. They catch prey by spinning a short web with a globule of silk at the end, known as the bolas. The spider waves the web around when it senses a moth is close by, hoping it will hit it and get stuck on the bolas. If it does, the moth is drawn in and dispatched, eaten then, or wrapped up for later.



Ordgarius magnificus. Photo H Ransom

Unsurprisingly, I have not seen the diminutive male; he is only 1.5mm in size! However, there must have been one, as my female Magnificent spider survived the winter and successfully produced a spindle-shaped egg sac. According to the Australian Museum, these may contain up to 600 eggs, but I will never know as it disappeared, probably eaten by a local satin bower bird or butcher bird. Helen Ransom

Correction: The photo of the phascolgale in the last Newsletter was incorrectly attributed to Susan Rhind. It was taken by Jiri Lochman, a professional wildlife photographer. Our apologies for this error.

Highlights from ENHS records - Spring 2019

| Avian species | Number | Place | Observer | Comments |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Emu | 1 | Nerrigundah | JC | New location |
| Musk Duck | 26 | Lake Tarourga | FM | A large number |
| Hardhead | 4 | BBWG | B Nagle | |
| Hoary-headed Grebe | 8, 5 | Kelly's L/MO | DHK/ NM | Few records |
| Brown Cuckoo-Dove | Up to 40 | MKS | SMG | |
| Bar-shouldered Dove | 1 | TS/Coila L | GM/DB | Range extension |
| Peaceful Dove | 3 | Com | JC | |
| Topknot Pigeon | 35, 21, 20, 12 | MO/MYA/MHS/ PS /Bengello Bch | JM/NM/JC | All sightings in October |
| White-throated Nightjar | 2 and calls | PS/Wamban | JM/PK | First return at PS on September 13 th |
| White-throated Needletail | 3, 12, 50 | Wamban/Broulee /PS | PK/SH/PB/ JM | First return at Wamban Oct 28 th |
| Fork-tailed Swift | 5 | MO | NM | Low pressure system |
| Shearwater sp. | | Off MO/MHS | NC/JM | Thousands off shore |
| Wedge-tailed Shearwater | 10 | Sth DS | JCof | Beachcast. Hundreds off MB. |
| Short-tailed Shearwater | 2000 | Off MO | NM | Beachcast at Bengello |
| Australasian Gannet | 6, 2 | MB/MO | MA/NM | |
| Great Cormorant | Up to 70 | Com | JC | Greater numbers due to salty river water. |
| Pied Cormorant | 8, 6, 4, 2 | Broulee/MO/NA/ TS | SH/PB/NM/ MA | |
| Australian Pelican | Up to 30 | Com | JC | Large numbers due to salty water. |
| Intermediate Egret | 1 | Mossy Pt/MB | SH/PB/MA | |
| Cattle Egret | 40 | MB | MA | In breeding plumage from late Sep. |
| Striated Heron | 1 | NA | MA | |
| Little Egret | 3, 2 | Coila L/TS | MC/GM | |
| Eastern Reef Egret | 2, 1 | MB/MO/Sth DS/ Mullimburra Pt | MA/NM/ JCof/DHK | |
| Nankeen Night Heron | 1 | BBWG/MO | NC/NM | |
| Glossy Ibis | 1 | Coila L | P Gatenby | November |
| Royal Spoonbill | 12, 3 | NA/BBWG/Com | MA/JF/JC | |
| Eastern Osprey | 1 to 3 | MHS | JM | Chick fledges in late October |
| Square-tailed Kite | 1 | MKS/PS/MB | SMG/JM/MA | |
| Whistling Kite | 3 | Com | JC | Young in nest at Com |
| Collared Sparrowhawk | 1 | PS/MO/Com | JM/NM/JC | |
| Spotted Harrier | 1 | CO | V Brown | October 19 th |
| Swamp Harrier | 2, 1 | Illawong NR/MO | FM/NM | |
| Little Eagle | 1 | Eurobodalla Rd/ TS | FM/GM | |
| Peregrine Falcon | 2, 1 | PS/Mogendoura Farm/MO/Com | JM/FM/NM/ JC | |
| Buff-banded Rail | 1 | ERBG/MYA | V Brown/JC | At an almost dry swamp in MYA |
| Baillon's Crake | 1 | BBWG | DB | |
| Spotless Crake | 1 | BBWG | JF | |
| Australian Pied Oystercatcher | 22 | Coila L | DB | 3 nests at Sth DS, all with chicks in November |
| South Island Pied Oystercatcher | 1 | Coila L | DB | A vagrant from New Zealand at the lake in September |
| Sooty Oystercatcher | 8, 6 | CO/MHS/MB/ Candlagan Ck | MA/JM/HR | |
| Black-winged Stilt | 2 | Com | JC | In September |
| Pacific Golden Plover | 5, 3, 1 | CO/MB/Brou L | P Gatenby/ NC/MA/DB | |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Grey Plover | 1 | Coila L | NC | November |
| Red-capped Plover | 50 | Brou L/Coila L | DB | Runners at CO and MO in Oct. |
| Double-banded Plover | 5, 2, 1 | Sth DS/MHS/ Coila L/Brou L | NC | In breeding plumage in September. |
| Greater Sand Plover | 2 | TS | GM | In November. |
| Hooded Plover | 5, 2, 1 | Handkerchief Bch/ Bingie/CO/ Corunna/Pedro Pt | MA/AM/ V Brown/ M Moran/ PK | Adults with 3 young at Handkerchief Bch in Oct. First sighting at Pedro Pt for many years. |
| Red-kneed Dotterel | 1 | MO | NM | November |
| Latham's Snipe | 1 | BBWG/MO/ Bergalia | NC/NM/ DHK | |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 170, 62, 50, 6 | NA/ Brou L/ Coila L/Sth DS | MA/SH/PB/ NC/JCof | |
| Whimbrel | 4, 2, 1 | NA/BB/CO/ Coila L/TS | MA/PO'Kelly NC/DB/SHPB | |
| Eastern Curlew | 19, 18, 15, 4, 3 | Bengello Bch/TS MHS/MHN/BB/ NA | JM/SH/PB/ B Nagle/ P Gatenby/MA | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | 1 | BBWG | JF/T Dawe | 26 th and 27 th November |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 3, 2 | CO/Brou L | V Brown/DB | |
| Great Knot | 1 | Coila L | NC | November |
| Red Knot | 12, 6, 2 | Coila L/Brou L/ CO | DB/SH/PB/ NC/ PGatenby | |
| Sanderling | 2, 1 | Brou L/CO | NC/DB | Juvenile at Brou L |
| Terek Sandpiper | 1 | Brou L | SH/PB | November 29 th |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 50, 12, 3 | Brou L/Coila L/Sth DS | DB/MA/NC/ JCof | |
| Curlew Sandpiper | 5, 3 | Brou L/Coila L | DB/NC | |
| Little Tern | 20, 3 | TS/CO/Brou L | SH/PB/NC | In Oct at CO; Nov at TS and Brou |
| White-fronted Tern | 12, 10 | CO/Brou L | NC/MA | September/October |
| Glossy Black Cockatoo | 4, 3, 2 | MO/MKS/ PS/ Bergalia | NM/SMG/ JM/DHK | Dependent young at MO in November. |
| Gang-Gang Cockatoo | 4 | Malua Bay | MW | Seen at other locations in smaller numbers |
| Turquoise Parrot | 2 | PS | JM | In Sep. First record at this location. |
| Swift Parrot | 2 | PS | JM | September 27 th |
| Eastern Koel | 1 | SB | NC | First return September 26 th |
| Channel-billed Cuckoo | Call | MKS | SMG | First return September 27 th |
| Horsfield's Bronze- Cuckoo | 1 or call | Deua R/PS/MO | V Brown/JM /NM | |
| Pallid Cuckoo | 2, 1, calls | Com/Belowra/ Bergalia | JC/FM/DHK | |
| Brush Cuckoo | 4, 2 | PS/MO | JM/NM | First return October 16 th |
| Sacred Kingfisher | Up to 4 | Com | JC | |
| Dollarbird | Up to 6 | Com | JC | First return Sep 3 at Malua Bay |
| Red-browed Trecreeper | 1 to 3 | PS | JM | In October |
| Southern Emu-Wren | Up to 3 | Broulee/ Cullendulla | GLM/NC | |
| Large-billed Scrubwren | 1 | Brou L | NM | Western shoreline |
| White-throated Gerygone | Up to 6, 1 | Com/Wadbilliga/ Belowra/Wamban | PK/JC/FM | First return at Com September 4 th |
| Buff-rumped Thornbill | 1 | MYA/ Eurobodalla Rd | JM/FM | |
| Striated Pardalote | 4, 2, 1 | Belowra/Com/MO | JC/FM/NM | Nesting at Com and Belowra |
| Yellow-tufted Honeyeater | 12 | Wadbilliga | FM | |
| White-fronted Chat | 12, 2 | Coila L/Brou L | DB/NC | Displaying at Coila in September |
| Scarlet Honeyeater | Up to 28 | Sth DS | JCof | Feeding on garden flowers |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| White-cheeked Honeyeater | 35 | Sth DS | JCof | Influx. Feeding on crimson bottlebrush in gardens. |
| Little Friarbird | 4 | MB | MA | In October. |
| Varied Sittella | 6, 4, 3, 2 | PS/Com/MO/ Belowra | JM/JC/NM/ FM | |
| White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike | 4 | NA | MA | |
| Cicadabird | 8, 3 | PS/Wamban | JM/PK | First return October 3 rd |
| White-winged Triller | 11, 2, 1 | Com/Belowra/ MYA/Wadbilliga | JC/FM/AM/ JM | |
| Crested Shrike-tit | 2, 1 | MO/Illawong NR /Wadbilliga | NM/FM | |
| Australasian Figbird | 10, 1 | MYA/TS | JM/SH/PB | |
| Masked Woodswallow | 2 | PS | JM | At least 2 flying with White-browed Woodswallow |
| White-browed Woodswallow | 100, 15, 2 | Wamban/PS/Com | PK/JM/JC | Present in October/November. First record for Com. |
| Dusky Woodswallow | 30, 20, 14 | Wadbilliga/ Belowra/Com | JC/FM/JM | |
| Grey Currawong | 1 | Wadbilliga | AM/JM | In October |
| Rufous Fantail | 1 | Wamban/MO/ ERBG | PK/NM/SH/ PB | First record October 29 th |
| Satin Flycatcher | 1 | Bergalia | DHK | Male in November |
| Leaden Flycatcher | 8, 3 | PS/Brou L | JM/NM | First return October 15 th |
| Black-faced Monarch | 5, 3 | PS/Illawong NR | NM | First return October 6 th |
| Little Grassbird | 1 | MO | NM | October/November |
| Brown Songlark | 1 | Com | JC | November |

| Non-avian species | Number | Place | Observer | Comments |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Platypus | 2 | Deua R | A Cram | |
| Short-beaked Echidna | 1 | Mossy Pt/PS/MB/ Brou L | HR/JM/MA/ DB | |
| Dusky Antechinus | 1 | ERBG | SH/PB | |
| Long-nosed Bandicoot | signs | MB | MA | |
| Common Wombat | 1 to 2 | Cool/Com | DO/JC | New burrows at Com |
| Yellow-bellied Glider | 1 | Mossy Pt | HR/FM | Feeding signs at Illawong NR |
| Common Ringtail Possum | 4, 1 | PS/MB | JM/MA | |
| Common Brushtail Possum | 6, 3, 2 | Com/Cool/LP | JC/DO/IAG | Young at Com |
| Eastern Grey Kangaroo | 69, 38 | Cool/Sth DS | DO/JCof | |
| Red-necked Wallaby | 6 | Cool | DO | |
| Grey-headed Flying-fox | 3 | Com | JC | |
| Snake-necked Turtle | 10, 1 | Com/ PS | JC/JM | Laying eggs at Com |
| Yellow-bellied Waterskink | 3, 2 | Com/ERBG | JC/SH/PB | From October at Com |
| Eastern Water Skink | 1 | LP | IAG | November |
| Dark-flecked Garden Sunskink | Up to 6 | Mossy Pt | HR | |
| Pale-flecked Garden Sunskink | 3 | Mossy Pt/Broulee | HR/SH/PB | |
| Eastern Blue Tongue | 1 or 2 | Mossy Pt/Com/ Cool | HR/JC/DO | |
| Jacky Lizard | 4, 2, 1 | PS/ Mossy Pt/ Cool/Broulee | HR/JM/DO/ GLM | Female laying eggs in November |
| Gippsland Water Dragon | 3, 2 | Wadbilliga/Malua Bay | FM/MW | |
| Lace Monitor | 6, 3, 1 | Belowra/ PS/LP/ Cool | JC/JM/IAG/ DO | |
| Diamond Python | 1 | Com/MB | JC/MA | |
| Eastern Brown Snake | 1 | Deua R | Summerhayes | |
| Bottle-nosed Dolphin | 10, 6 | Broulee I/MHS | SH/PB/JM | |

| | | | | |
|----------------|--|--------|-------|------------------------|
| Humpback Whale | | MHS/MA | JM/MA | A number off the coast |
|----------------|--|--------|-------|------------------------|

| | |
|--|---|
| Frogs NC/JC/SH/PB/ JM/DO/HR/FM | Common Eastern Froglet, Brown Striped Frog, Brown and Tyler's Toadlet; tree frogs: Jervis Bay, Keferstein's, Peron's, Tyler's, Verreaux's, Eastern Sedgefrog. |
| Moths JC/KD/JM/RSor | Diamondback, Forester, Pale Cup, Meal, Eggfruit Caterpillar, Mahogany & Buff Bark, Black Geometrid, Bracken, Hakea, Fallen Bark Looper, Spring & Oval-spot Taxeotis, Triangular, Neat Epidesmia, Twin & Spotted-fringe Emerald, Cream & Varied Wave, Plantain, Mecynata, Subidaria, She-oak, Rufous Snout, Common Anthelid, Convolvulus & Coprosma Hawk, Mistletoe Browntail, Variable & Cryptic Halone, Lichen-eating Caterpillar, Crimson Tiger, Tiger, Triangle Owlet, Tobacco Looper, Gum-leaf Skeletoniser, Whistling, Green Blotched, Bogong, Brown & Variable Cutworm, Native Budworm. |
| Butterflies NC/JC/SH/PB/ JM/FM | Dingy Grass-Skipper, Spotted Sedge-skipper, Narrow-brand and Dark Grass-dart, Greenish Darter, Macleay's and Orchard Swallowtail, Blue Triangle, Black Jezebel, Capar and Cabbage White, Dusky Knight, Brown Ringlet, Varied Sword-grass Brown, Common Brown, Meadow Argus, Australian Painted Lady, Yellow Admiral, Bright Copper, Varied Dusky-blue, Samphire Blue, Common Grass Blue. |
| Beetles JC/JM | Argentinian and Green Scarab, Net-winged, Acacia and Paropsine Leaf, Pintail, Pittosporum. Ladybirds: Striped, Common, Orange and 26 Spotted, Minute Two Spotted, Transverse, White-collared, Variable, Fungus eating, Steel Blue. |
| Dragon & Damselflies JC/SH/PB/JM | Common Bluetail, Red and Blue Damsel, Bronze Needle, Australian Emperor, Black-faced and Wandering Percher, Blue-spotted Hawker, Blue Skimmer. |
| Spiders JC/JM/HR | Leaf-curling, Daddy Long Legs, Black House, Huntsman, Lucrida Jumping, Striped Saitis, Spiny, White-tailed, Comb Footed, Two-tailed, Magnificent, Garden Wolf. |

RAINFALL (mm). September: 28 at LP, 42 at MKS, 37.5 at Com, 30.25 at Cool. **October:** 19 at LP, 51 at Bergalia, 22.5 at Com, 44.5 at MB, 27.75 at Cool. **November:** 19 at LP, 24 at Bergalia, 16 at Com, 29.5 at MB, 20.25 at Cool.

Contributors

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| MA | M Anderson, MB | SH/PB | S Holliday/P Buckley ACT | RSor | R Soroka, Surfside |
| DB | D Bertzeletos, Surfside | DHK | D&H Kay, Bergalia | MW | M Wilkinson, Malua Bay |
| NC | N Clark, Surf Beach | PK | P Kingston, Wamban | FM | Field Meeting |
| JCof | J Coffey, DS | GLM | G&L McVeigh, Broulee | | V Brown, ACT |
| JC | J&P Collett, Com | GM | G Macnamara, TS | | A Cram, Deua R |
| KD | K Dawes, Surfside | AM | A Marsh, Bingie | | P Gatenby, Broulee |
| JF | J Fearn, PDD | NM | N Montgomery, MO | | B Nagle, Broulee |
| MF | M Fyfe, Broulee | JM | J Morgan, PS | | G Summerhayes, MYA |
| IAG | I&A Grant, LP | DO | D Ondinea, Cool | | Others via Facebook page |
| SMG | S&M Guppy, MKS | HR | H Ransom, Mossy Pt | | |
| | | | | | |
| Places | | ERBG | Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens | NR | Nature Reserve |
| BB | Batemans Bay | LP | Lilli Pilli | PS | Pedro Swamp |
| BBWG | Batemans Bay Water Gardens | MKS | Maulbrooks Rd S, MYA | PP | Potato Point |
| BI | Bermagui | MO | Meringo | SB | Surf Beach |
| BP | Burrewarra Point | MYA | Moruya | SF | State Forest |
| Cool | Coolagolite | MH | Moruya Heads, N&S | T`bella | Trunketabella |
| Com | Comerang | MB | Mystery Bay | TN | Tomakin |
| CO | Congo | NA | Narooma | TS | Tuross |
| DS | Durras | NP | National Park | WL | Wallaga Lake |

ENHS Committee and Contact Details

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------|-----------------------|
| Chair/Recorder | Julie Morgan | 0457 637 227 | chair@enhs.org.au |
| Secretary | Lyn Burden | 0408 183 510 | secretary@enhs.org.au |
| Treasurer | Malcolm Griggs | 4472 4150 | treasurer@enhs.org.au |
| Committee | Fran Anderson, Mandy Anderson, Steven Benjamin, John Gordon, David Kay, Gillian Macnamara | | |
| Public Officer and Membership | Malcolm Griggs | 4472 4150 | treasurer@enhs.org.au |
| Minutes Secretary | Mandy Anderson | 4473 7651 | |
| Editorial Team | Mandy Anderson, David Kay, Helen Kay, Gillian Macnamara, Julie Morgan | | |
| Website Team | Amanda Marsh, Julie Morgan, Roman Soroka | | |
| | | | chair@enhs.org.au |

All mail correspondence to P.O. Box 888, Moruya, NSW, 2537.

Copyright 2020. All rights reserved. While all due care has been taken to ensure that the content of this newsletter is accurate and current, there may be errors or omissions and no legal responsibility is accepted for the information in this newsletter.