



EUROBODALLA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inc.

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NEWSLETTER NUMBER 186

October 2020

Stamp of approval from Australia Post

On a warm, sunny March morning in 2019, I parked at Burrewarra Point, Guerrilla Bay and walked down the picturesque Headland Track in anticipation of capturing a photo of the endangered Regent Honeyeater.

A couple of days earlier, Julie Morgan had introduced me to a spot where a sighting had occurred. Unfortunately, we didn't find the bird, but on this day, I had high hopes. Eventually, a beautiful bird that looked quite different from the numerous noisy Wattlebirds enjoying the nectar-laden banksia flowers flitted in and out of the dappled forest light, hiding behind tree trunks in deep shadow. I managed to capture a few average photos.



I decided that trying to follow this elusive bird through the twisted banksia trunks was a pointless exercise, so I found a banksia flower beside the track, in reasonable light, and using my bird whisperer skills, waited for the bird to come to me and alight on it. As I was whispering to myself, another photographer, who had heard of the Regent Honeyeater sighting appeared, confirmed my sighting, and set up next to me. The bird reappeared, and after tormenting and teasing us, eventually landed on the selected banksia flower. Delighted, we played duelling Nikons as the golden bird feasted and moved over the golden blossom in golden light. My hands were shaking a bit. The encounter was brief, exciting and productive, and I walked back to my car with a smile on my face, silently thanking Julie for providing me with the opportunity to see and photograph this rare and happy bird.



Regent Honeyeater
Photo A Nicol

I posted the photos on my Flickr site, the Feathers and Photos Forum, and on Instagram, and thought no more of it. Then earlier this year, I received an email from an Australia Post Publications representative who had found my photo on Flickr, requesting permission to pay for and use my photo, and two others, on a stamp. Very exciting! Four months later, the stamp issue appeared. It may still be available in Post Offices or online.

I feel that they preferred my photo, over many technically better ones on the internet, because it featured the bird in its environment. Anyway, I was very proud to have had some little part in Australian philatelic history and in helping to make the public aware of the problems facing endangered wildlife trying to recover after the fires.

A few weeks ago, I revisited the area to see whether the forest had survived the fires, and luckily it had. No Regent Honeyeater this time though.

I was also pleased to learn that some captive-bred birds were recently released back into the wild.

For the photographers in the Society I used: EXIF. Nikon D7000, 300mm f/4 with x1.7 TC. Gitzo 2531 Tripod 1/800 f/7.1 1250 ISO

Looking forward, as a new member, to some walks and to meeting you all. Alan Nicol

A warm welcome to new members....

Gee Hounsell, Broulee
Keston Gordon, Moruya Heads
Alan Nicol and Careen Leslie, Moruya Heads
Bob Snedden, Duffy ACT

What's coming up.....

In brief the field meeting program proposed for the remainder of the year is:

Saturday October 10, 2pm: Batemans Bay Water Gardens Meet at the carpark at the end of Museum Place, next to the Old Courthouse Museum, Batemans Bay. Baillon's Crake, Spotless Crake, Spotted Crake, Royal Spoonbill, Eurasian Coot and Little Bittern have been seen in recent years.

Sunday October 25, 9am: still to be determined. Meet opposite the Bodalla Police Station.

Saturday November 14, 2pm: Malabar Drive, Moruya. Meet at the Eurobodalla Shire Council car park, Vulcan Street, Moruya. A walk through a lightly wooded property off Princes Highway and a section of waterway. Southern Emu-wren, Scarlet Honeyeater and Eastern Shrike-tit.

Sunday November 22, 9am: The venue for this walk depends on wader activity, weather and water levels in the lakes and estuaries. Check the Field Meetings page of the website or call Julie, Lyn or Mandy for the venue after November 16 (contact details on the last page of this newsletter).

At each field meeting, names and a contact phone number will be recorded by the leader for contact tracing purposes. We will be observing social distancing measures during the walk. We ask that you bring your own hand sanitiser. If the group is larger than 20 people, we will break into two smaller groups. If you feel unwell or unsafe, please stay at home.

Field meeting program for 2021

The committee will be meeting before the end of November to plan the program of field meetings for the coming year. Suggestions for places to visit would be most welcome. Please let a member of the committee know if there are any walks you'd like to see included or if there is a location within the Eurobodalla you'd like to visit. Contact details of the committee are on the last page of the newsletter.

Field Meeting at Wasp Head

The weather was sunny, cool to mild with light winds for a COVID-comfortable coterie of ten under the most able leadership of Margie Burk from South Durras. Before we left the resort car park we saw a White-headed Pigeon on its nest in a pittosporum; we then proceeded on through the spotted gum forest to a grove of casuarinas on open grassy ground with clumps of lomandra at the head, and a lookout over the ocean.

The light winds were not conducive to attracting many sea birds; a few gulls, terns, oystercatchers, cormorants and just two gannets. However Dimitris' keen observing sighted Fluttering Shearwater way offshore but too far out to get a count. Even though the sea appeared calm there was quite a swell that packed some punch when it hit the shore.

The way back through a stand of bangalay and denser understorey was more productive, so our total species count for the day came to 42, including a Striated Thornbill building a nest.

Back in the carpark for the count, there followed some discussion on recent events, and it was great to be back in such good company following a couple of Covid-19 recesses.

Only two non-avian species were reported, Swamp Wallabies and an Eastern Grey Kangaroo. No whales or seals were recorded.



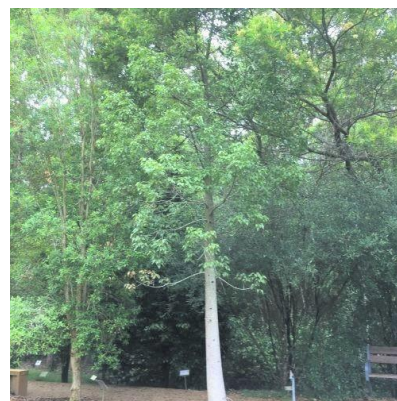
Social distancing at Wasp Head
Photo M Burk

Three of us met up, by chance for me, a little later for our lunch at a picnic and lookout spot on Durras Drive. Joslyn was there too for a chat.

A thoroughly enjoyable day in a scenic location. Colin Morrison

How good is this plant?

Brachychiton populneus is one of many species with the common name Kurrajong. The name comes from the Aboriginal word 'garrajun' meaning fishing line, as these were made from the fibrous inner bark of this species. There are 31 species of *Brachychiton*, 30 endemic and 1 from New Guinea. The genus name is from the Greek *brachys* meaning short and *chiton* meaning a coat of mail, together referring to the bristly outer covering on the seeds. The species name is from the Latin *populneus* (Poplar-like), referring to the leaves.



Juvenile tree
Photo S Needham

The genus was originally classified in the Sterculiaceae family, but has been transferred to the Malvaceae family, which includes *Hibiscus*, *Commersonia*, *Howittia* and *Sterculia*. Other *Brachychiton* include *B. acerifolius* Illawarra Flame Tree, *B. australis* Broad leaved Bottle Tree (Qld), *B. rupestris* Narrow leaved Bottle Tree (Qld), *B. bidwillii* Dwarf Kurrajong and *B. discolor* Brush Kurrajong or Lace Kurrajong. Other species known as Kurrajong include *Sterculia quadrifida* Red-fruited or Smooth-seeded Kurrajong or Peanut Tree, *Commersonia frazeri* Brush Kurrajong and *Commersonia rossii* Southern Brush Kurrajong. The Boab tree of Western Australia *Adansonia gregorii* is the only Boab in Australia. It is not a *Brachychiton*, but in the family Malvaceae.

Brachychiton populneus is widespread from rainforests to dry inland areas in Victoria, NSW, Queensland and the Northern Territory. It was introduced to Western Australia, where it is now considered an environmental weed. The trunk is wide at the base and tapers toward the top. The bark is green and smooth on young trees and branches, becoming darker grey with a granular texture and shallow vertical fissures in mature species. Adult leaves are 5-10cm long and 2-5cm wide, ovate to lanceolate, drawn out into a fine point, on slender petioles (stalks). Juvenile leaves generally have 3 pointed lobes. The upper leaf surface is a bright, glossy green, while the underside is paler and less shiny. Flowers are cream to white with reddish spots and are bell shaped, due to the partially joined 5 sepals which are 10-15mm long. Petals are absent. Separate male and female flowers are found on the same plant and the flowering period is from Oct. to Dec. The seed pod is a woody follicle, splitting along the top and resembling a boat. Seeds are yellowish and about 7mm long. Each is covered with short, prickly, fiberglass-like hairs which can cause skin and eye irritations.



Juvenile (left) and adult (right) leaves.
Photo F Anderson

There are 2 subspecies, *populneus* and *trilobus*. The subspecies *populneus* is most common in eastern NSW. It has entire or shallowly 2-3 lobed leaves, and fruit 4-7cm long, usually containing 8-18 seeds, on stalks 2-3.5cm long. *B. trilobus* is mostly found inland in the northern half of the country. It has deeply 3 lobed leaves, and fruit 2-4cm long, usually containing 3-8 seeds, on shorter stalks. Both are trees to 20m high with a dense crown. They are semi-deciduous, briefly losing their leaves in winter or just before flowering.

Brachychiton populneus is an important tree in Australia and has multiple uses. It will grow in a wide range of soil and climate. It tolerates heat, drought and frosts (once established). The leaves may be lopped in times of drought and used as a reserve crop for stock. Also, the soft, spongy wood in the trunk stores water. Saplings grow from a drought and fire-resistant tap-rooted tuber. It is a popular street, park and pasture tree, mostly due to the shade provided by the dense, broad canopy. Aboriginal people used the seeds and gum, and the tap roots of young seedlings as food. The roots, when cut, were a good source of freshwater. The timber was used to make shields and the fibrous inner bark was used to make rope, string and nets. Early settlers roasted and ground the seeds which were used as a coffee substitute. Care must be taken when removing the seeds to avoid the irritant hairs. Gloves and goggles are recommended, as is avoiding windy conditions. The yellow coating must also be removed by washing. Fran Anderson

Pictures and sounds from a Lyrebird nest.

We found the nest on 16 June 2020. It is about 3m high, in the fork of a spotted gum, supported by the tree and an orchid, probably *Cymbidium suave*. When we initially inspected it, we didn't think it was finished, as there was very little lining inside, and no egg. But we put a camera up the same day to see what was going on.



Lyrebird nest and camera
Photo M and S Guppy

The nest is on a track used by trail bikes during the weekend. So, we taped off the track at both ends, and put up a sign asking them to avoid the track for the time being as there was a Lyrebird nest on it. To their credit, they have avoided the track up until now. We are impressed!

Nothing happened until 8 July, when the bird flew off as we went to check the camera. There was an egg in the nest. Some leaf movement after a trigger on 6 July suggests that the bird might have visited the nest that day and laid the egg. But that is only a guess.

Since 8 July, we have been getting regular pictures each day and night and can make several comments about her behaviour, as of 18 July.

1. We have only caught her coming onto the nest twice, and she probably comes onto the nest at least three times every 24 hours. There are some unexplained triggers, but these are not accompanied by moving leaves or fronds of the orchid, which are extremely sensitive to any sort of disturbance. So somehow, she comes onto the nest very quickly, without triggering the camera. This of course is crucial in terms of concealing the existence of a nest.

2. We catch her coming off the nest in the morning, often, between 6.30 and 7.00, as she slowly comes out of the hole before taking off. But we have only once caught some blurred tail feathers as she leaves the nest. We rarely see her leaving the nest during the day. So, coming and going is an extremely fast business.



Lyrebird leaving nest
Photo M and S Guppy

3. Most of the pictures are of her moving inside the nest, at night. So, she is rotating the egg, or simply rearranging her position, or getting her tail more comfortable, which must be curled up along the roof of the nest.

4. She is probably on the nest during all the hours of darkness, but during the day she seems to frequently be off the nest, especially between 7.30 am and 2.00 pm.

We now have a sound recorder on the nest as well. This may tell us when she comes and goes, we may be able to hear the sound of her rotating the egg (bill on eggshell), and we should hear any vocalisations that occur when she is on the nest. These vocalisations could be her talking to herself or might be her communicating with the chick while it is still in the egg; this is known to occur in other bird species. Michael and Sarah Guppy

Fires, Floods and Covid-19

The previous newsletter included a brief article about the impact of last summer's fires on our Shire's bushland and promised more detailed information to follow. Three months on, and nine months after the fires, there are still more questions than answers about the lasting impact on our local flora and fauna. Meanwhile, several organisations are working hard, despite adverse weather and Covid-19 restrictions, collaborating to repair damage and to monitor and assist recovery. As we have an abundance of articles for this newsletter, we will hold over the remainder of this update for the next edition. Gillian Macnamara

Bird Number 87

I have been a Birder since, as a ten year old, Santa left “What Bird is That” at the foot of my bed. He didn’t leave a torch but, in anticipation, I had hidden one under my pillow. Over my spotting years since, I have often found the most rewarding and rarest sightings have been when I have totally not been expecting them. On Saturday 6 May, this year whilst washing dishes, a bird strike on the window directly in front of me was about to reinforce this observation. The weight of the sound felt like possibly a honeyeater but a search in the area found nothing. Wendy, my partner, could hear muted noise in a recycling bin and a quick scavenge had her gently holding the unconscious bird in her cupped hands. The initial “what is it?” gave way to “I don’t believe it!” as black and white striped barring could be seen between her fingers. I had only ever seen this bird once before in southwest Victoria and never expected it to end up as another entry on our Deua River property birdlist. So, Beautiful Firetail, *Stagonopleura bella*, is species number 87.



Beautiful Firetail
Photo A Cram

Having sighted this Beautiful Firetail, as thrilling as that was, it now needed some care. Often after a strike, birds will go into shock and shut down. If kept quiet and secluded, they will regain consciousness in a short period and are able to be released. It’s difficult to tell if this impact was a direct or glancing strike as this obviously affects the force of the strike. The Firetail regained consciousness late in the afternoon, but it was too dark for release. The next morning, we tried but it was apparent that there was a wing injury as flying was difficult. Food and water were now essential. A collection of seeded grasses was presented, and the Firetail was observed feeding. It was looking like it would be touch and go but on checking Monday morning, sadly it had died overnight.



Beautiful Firetail
Photo A Cram

Feedback of the sighting from Julie Morgan confirmed this to be the second for the Deua region, the last being in 2018. I am not aware of distribution records for the Eurobodalla in general but from my perspective, and contrary to some websites, this is not a common bird. Tasmania appears to be its stronghold.

Why now? I find it hard to believe this bird was flying solo and it could possibly have been with a flock of Red Browed Finch as they were abundant at this time. (Deua locals call R.B.F “Grass Mice”). Red Browed and Firetail habitats overlap with Firetails occupying larger territorial areas. Our property is the last on Araluen Road not impacted by the fires, having become a small refuge for many displaced birds. If the Firetail was resident, I would have expected to encounter it previously. I would be happy to hear others’ experiences of this aptly named bird. Adrian Cram

Birdlife Australia’s Migratory Shorebird workshop

In May this year, Birdlife Australia presented an online workshop about the migratory shorebirds which occur in Australia. Lyndall Kidd was the presenter, assisted by Sonja Sanchez. I find the phenomenon of bird migration absolutely fascinating, and the workshop was extremely well presented and informative. I took notes during the workshop, and the following is a summary of what I learned.

There are 200 species of migratory shorebirds worldwide, of which Australia has 18 resident, 37 migratory and 25 vagrant. Americans more often use the term ‘waders’. The stint is the smallest of them and is known affectionately as the “tim-tam bird” because it weighs the same as a Tim-tam, approximately 27 grams. Miraculously, this tiny bird flies all the way to Siberia and back each year.

Migratory shorebirds leaving Australia fly via the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, which is used by 6 million birds – half of all migratory shorebirds in the world. Birds migrate to the Arctic tundra because of the billions

of invertebrates available during the short summer, providing an abundance of food for the birds and their chicks during the 24 hours of northern daylight. Shorebird chicks are precocial, remaining with parents for approximately 3 weeks of the 6 weeks that the adults spend in the breeding grounds. Chicks head south two weeks after the parent birds and find their way back to Australia unaided. Once back in the south, many chicks spend their first year over-wintering in Australia.

The tundra landscape provides excellent camouflage for both eggs and chicks. Their major predators are Arctic Skuas, Arctic Jaegers, Arctic Foxes and Snowy Owls. The red fox is also making its presence felt in recent times. Earlier and increased ice melt is also a threat to all life in the tundra.

There are several Wader Study Groups in Australia, whose members tag and track migratory shorebirds. In New Zealand, one Bar-tailed Godwit was fitted with a tiny satellite tag. It flew to Siberia via the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Its return flight amazed the wader study group, as it flew non-stop from Alaska to New Zealand, a distance of 11,000kms. It is suspected that migratory birds shrink some of their organs in preparation for their flight. They also eat voraciously and increase their body weight by 70-80%, which is equivalent to a 40kg child increasing their weight to 72kg.

Godwits live for about 30 years – they fly 25,000kms each year, making a total of 680,000kms in their lifetime. The distance to the moon is 384,000kms.

Reclamation of land in the Yellow Sea is a huge impediment. A section of these mudflats has recently been listed as a World Heritage site. (The proposed development at Toondah Harbour in Queensland is on a Ramsar site. Amazingly, Ramsar sites are not legally binding). In some places in the Yellow Sea, artificial floating roosts have been installed. These are useful for resting but not for feeding.

There are 521 shorebird monitoring sites in Australia, supporting more than 22,000,000 individuals, representing 58 species. Seven species in Australia are listed as endangered. Data collected at these sites are regularly entered on the Birddata app. Citizen scientists are encouraged to use this app so that Birdlife Australia has access to the information that has been gathered.

Like many birds, migratory shorebirds are philopatric, meaning that they return to the same sites each year, both in their breeding grounds in the north, and in the southern sites.

The second section of the Workshop was dedicated to shorebird identification, which was well illustrated and very helpful. In the southern hemisphere, we are disadvantaged in not generally seeing the birds in their breeding plumage, making identification much more difficult. Bill size, shape and length are important factors, in addition to the size of the bird, and its plumage markings. Occasionally we are lucky enough to see some colour on the Pacific Golden Plovers and the Bar-tailed Godwits as they prepare to leave for their northern migration in late March.

The only migratory shorebird that visits Australia which does not fly via the East Asian-Australasian Flyway is the Double-banded Plover, which winters in Australia and breeds in New Zealand.

How migratory birds know where and when to depart on their journeys is not fully understood, and for me remains among the many awe-inspiring, amazing phenomena of the birding world. Mandy Anderson

South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program

The South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program was established in 1999 by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to reduce the rate of decline of threatened shorebirds by enhancing breeding success. The four main species of concern are the Hooded Plover, Little Tern, Pied Oystercatcher and Sooty Oystercatcher.

Over 100 dedicated volunteers along the South Coast are currently part of the program. Volunteers play a vital role in assisting with the monitoring and protection of numerous South Coast breeding sites from Wollongong to the Vic border.

Sophie Hall- Aspland, the Shorebird Recovery Coordinator, is looking for new volunteers. In just a few hours a week, you can make a direct contribution to the conservation of threatened shorebirds in your local area. Volunteers gain a wide range of skills including bird identification skills, field skills, construction and maintenance skills.

Volunteers' duties can include:

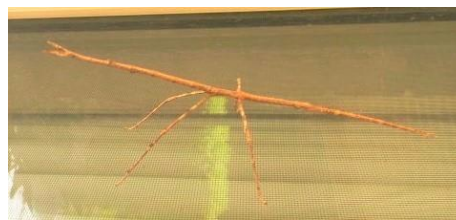
- Erecting temporary habitat protection measures, such as string and/or electric fences, and interpretative or directional signage
- Maintenance of any fences/signs erected
- Sandbagging nest sites under threat of inundation
- Surveying beaches and estuaries for any shorebird nesting activity and reporting this to the shorebird coordinator
- Monitoring of key shorebird nesting sites
- Public education, by answering questions from the public and handing out brochures

All NPWS shorebird volunteers participate in initial orientation and training before becoming formally involved. Ongoing guidance and assistance for volunteers is always available too. Volunteers are also provided with essential equipment and clothing to undertake their duties, such as gloves, long sleeved shirts and hats.

If you would like to become a shorebird volunteer please contact Sophie.Hall-Aspland@environment.nsw.gov.au Helen Kay with thanks to Sophie for providing the information.

Sticking around

Each year, stick insects take up residence around our house and are a source of fascination for us and our grandchildren, who call them all Stick Man. Over the years, I have taken dozens of photos but never taken the time to identify them.



Margin-winged stick insect
Photo D Kay

A search of the Australian Museum website indicated that our resident was likely to be a *Ctenomorpha marginipennis* or margin-winged stick insect, a species endemic to southern Australia. This was confirmed through a posting on iNaturalist Australia.

Stick insects are also known as stick bugs, walking sticks, bug sticks, phasmids and ghost insects. They belong to the order Phasmatodea; the order's name is derived from the Ancient Greek word, phasma, meaning an apparition or phantom. Like all insects, stick insects have a three-part body (head, thorax and abdomen), three pairs of jointed legs, compound eyes and one pair of antennae.

The males have full wings and can fly. The females are larger with dark hind wings. Their bodies resemble eucalypt twigs or stems so they camouflage well with the plants they rest on. The female lays 3 mm elliptical eggs that resemble plant seeds. The eggs drop to the forest floor during summer and hatch later the same year.

Stick insects are herbivorous, feeding mainly on leaves and other green plants. They are mainly nocturnal and spend much of the day, motionless, usually hidden under plants helping them avoid predators.

One of the most interesting facts about stick insects is their ability to reproduce parthenogenetically. This is a form of asexual reproduction where the unfertilised females produce eggs that hatch into females. If a male fertilises the egg, it has a fifty percent chance of turning out male. If no males are around, the line continues with females only. A single female lays from 100 to 1,200 eggs, depending on the species. Eggs resemble seeds in shape and size and have hard shells. Incubation lasts from 3 to 18 months.

Stick insect hatchlings, called nymphs, hatch from the egg as miniature versions of adults. They then go through successive moults to eventually reach adult size. This process is called incomplete metamorphosis: egg, nymph, and adult. Moulting takes place when the old exoskeleton is shed, and the larger body that had grown inside it expands and hardens into a new one. Most stick insects eat the skin they have shed after a moult to recycle proteins and to keep their location a secret from predators. Adulthood is reached for most species after several months and many moults.

The lifespan of stick insects varies by species but ranges from a few months to up to three years. Stick insects, unfortunately for them, provide a lot of nourishment to their predators. Common predators include bats, spiders, rodents, reptiles and birds. Helen Kay

Let's get to know our Glossy Blacks - an exciting new ENHS Project

The Glossy Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus lathami*, is one of two black cockatoos in our area. It can be easily identified by its red tail and smaller size relative to the other local black cockatoo, the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. The Glossy Black Cockatoo is listed as vulnerable in NSW because of loss of habitat that threatens its food sources and nesting trees. The species is particularly vulnerable as it feeds almost exclusively on casuarina cones and, in our area, relies on the Grey She-oak *Allocasuarina littoralis*.

The 2019/2020 bushfires in the Eurobodalla resulted in a significant loss of habitat for this species, particularly west of the Princes Highway, and, as a consequence, we have seen a significant increase in the numbers reported east of the highway. This influx of birds into a smaller area provides an opportunity for us to initiate a project to monitor their movements and obtain information about their post-fire adaptation.

It is possible to identify Glossy Black Cockatoo pairs and families by closely examining the females. The pattern of yellow on their heads varies, so it is possible to identify an individual by studying the pattern. The pattern is irregular so to ensure accurate identification, the right and left side and front and back need to be viewed. You can appreciate the differences by looking at the photos of two females from our area below. The female on the left was photographed just north of Moruya and has extensive yellow markings on her head, while the one on the right is from Cullendulla Creek and has few yellow patches.



Photo C Gander



Photo K Dawes

In addition, males, immatures and females can be aged by looking at the head, breast and tail feathers. For more information see the link to “What glossy is that?” in the “Related links” section on this website: <https://landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/plants-and-animals/native-animals/glossy-black-cockatoo-recovery>

Gathering the amount of detail needed to positively identify a female is not a simple exercise. Females tend to feed high up in the tree and generally do a good job of hiding behind branches. It will require skills and equipment, including a good eye, binoculars, a camera and patience, together with some good luck. While these birds are generally approachable when feeding, observers need to maintain a respectful distance and not disturb the birds. Please see the “Guidelines for photography” link in the “Related links” section on the website given above.

To get this project off the ground we need volunteers. There are many roles to perform, for example, we need people to report the location of Glossy Black Cockatoos, which involves not only looking for the birds but also evidence of feeding sites, indicated by chewed up casuarina cones. We will also need volunteers with

appropriate photography equipment and patience, and still others with an eye for detail who will work to identify individuals and put together a database.

If you are interested in getting involved in this project, please contact me at chair@enhs.org.au or just give me a call on 0457 637 227.

Much has been learned through two conservation projects, the “Glossies in the Mist” program in the Great Western Wildlife Corridor, and the Kangaroo Island study of the Glossy Black Cockatoo sub-species *Calyptrorhynchus lathami halmaturinus*. I would like to thank Glossies in the Mist volunteers, Erna and Jennie, for sharing their experience and knowledge. Julie Morgan

Highlights from ENHS records - Winter 2020

| Avian species | Number | Place | Observer | Comments |
|---------------------------------|----------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Emu | 3 | Bodalla | MA | |
| Musk Duck | Up to 3 | PS | JM | Returned to swamp after rain. Male displaying. |
| Black Swan | 2 | Com | JC | Nesting in June/July at Com. |
| Grey Teal | 30 | Bingie/Com | DHK/JC | |
| Australasian Grebe | 1 or 2 | DS/Com | JCof/JC | |
| Hoary-headed Grebe | 2 | Bergalia/Com | DHK/JC | |
| Brown Cuckoo-Dove | Up to 20 | MKS | SMG | |
| Bar-shouldered Dove | 1 | Com | JC | |
| Tawny Frogmouth | 1 | MO | NM | |
| Aust Owllet-nightjar | 1 | Com | JC | August |
| Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo | 1 | PS | JM | First return 21 st August |
| Shining Bronze-Cuckoo | 1 to 4 | MKS/PS/MO/Com | SMG/JM/NM/JC | First return 21 st August |
| Fan-tailed Cuckoo | Up to 6 | PS | JM | Widespread records of this species throughout winter. |
| Brush Cuckoo | Calls | PS | JM | First return 23 rd August |
| Pallid Cuckoo | 1 | Belowra/Cool | JC/DO | First return 6 th August |
| Dusky Moorhen | 2 | DS | JCof | |
| Eurasian Coot | 1 | DS | JCof | Few reports this winter. |
| Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross | 1 | BP | NC | July |
| Black-browed Albatross | 1 | Surfside/BP | DB/NC | On a very windy day at Surfside. |
| Giant Petrel sp. | 1 | BP | NC | |
| Fluttering Shearwater | lots | Wasp Head | FM | |
| Yellow-billed Spoonbill | 1 | Com | JC | In June and August |
| Striated Heron | 1 | MYA | FM | |
| Cattle Egret | 20, 6 | MYA/MB/Tilba | JM/MA | |
| Intermediate Egret | 1 | Com | JC | |
| Little Egret | 1 | MO/MB | NM/MA | |
| Eastern Reef Egret | 2, 1 | NA/SB/Broulee/Bingie/Mullimburra Pt/TS/MB | DHK/NC/R Soroka/M Craig/MA | |
| Australasian Gannet | 18, 6, 4 | Broulee/DS/MB | GLM/JCof/MA | |
| Great Pied Cormorant | 5, 1 | MO/Broulee | NM/GLM | |
| Australasian Darter | 1 | Com/NA | JC/MA | |
| South Island Pied Oystercatcher | 1 | Candlagan Ck | HR/GLM/DB | Last report 21 st July |
| Aust Pied Oystercatcher | Up to 50 | Coila L | DB/GM/MA | |
| Sooty Oystercatcher | 8, 5 | Mossy Pt/CO/Broulee | HR/GM/GLM | |
| Pacific Golden Plover | 1 | CO | M Craig | |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Red-capped Plover | More than 60 | Coila L | DHK | |
| Double-banded Plover | | | | No reports over winter. |
| Lesser Sand Plover | 1 | CO | GM | In June |
| Hooded Plover | 9 | MB | R Nipperess | |
| Black-fronted Dotterel | 2 | MO | NM | |
| Far Eastern Curlew | 1 | TS | M Craig | Return August 30 th |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 110, 90 | Coila L | MA/GM/DHK | June/July |
| Red-necked Stint | 2 | Coila L | DB | June |
| Aust Gull-billed Tern | 1 | BB | DB | July |
| Caspian Tern | 19, 2, 1 | DS/Broulee/MB | JCof/GLM/MA | |
| Brown Skua | 1 | BP | NC | July |
| Powerful Owl | 1 | PS/Pedro/MO | JM/JS/NM | |
| Osprey | 2, 1 | MHS/TS Cullendulla Ck | JM/R Soroka/ M Craig | Nest at MHS may have been abandoned after storms. |
| Square-tailed Kite | 1 | MKS/PS/MO | SMG/JM/NM | First return August 22 nd |
| Little Eagle | 1 | Coila L/NA | DB/T&A Ross | |
| Grey Goshawk | 1 | PS/Bergalia/MO /MB | JM/DHK/NM/ MA | |
| Brown Goshawk | 2, 1 | MO/PS | NM/JM | |
| Whistling Kite | 3 | Bergalia/MO/ MB | DHK/NM/MA | On nest at DS in Jun (JCof) |
| Azure Kingfisher | 1 | Com | JC | |
| Australian Hobby | 2, 1 | Bergalia/Com | DHK/JC | |
| Black Falcon | 1 | Surfside | DB | August |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1 | Cullendulla/PS/ Com/MB | R Soroka/JM /JC/MA | |
| Glossy Black Cockatoo | 16, 14, 8, 6 | PS/Pedro/ Broulee/PDD | JM/JS/GLM/JF | Widespread records across shire. |
| Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo | Up to 30 | MYA | SMG/T Patrick | |
| Gang-Gang Cockatoo | 35, 18, 15 | PS/Bergalia/ Mossy Pt | JM/DHK/HR | More widespread coastal records this year. |
| Little Corella | 200 | MYA | LB | |
| Musk Lorikeet | Up to 20 | MYA | JM | |
| Little Lorikeet | 2 or call | PS/MA | JM/MA | Fewer reports this year. |
| Superb Lyrebird | Up to 5 | Tilba | MA | Also reported calling at MKS, NA, Belowra, Bodalla |
| Red-browed Treecreeper | 2 | PS | JM | |
| Southern Emu-wren | Up to 4 | Broulee | GLM | Probable new site for the species in Eurobodalla NP, MHS; needs confirmation. |
| White-cheeked Honeyeater | 2, 1 | MO/PS | NM/MJ | |
| White-naped Honeyeater | 10, 3 or calls | PS/LP/MKS | JM/IAG/SMG | |
| Brown-headed Honeyeater | 10, 7, 1 | Com/PS/Cool | JC/JM/DO | Nest building at Com in July. |
| White-eared Honeyeater | 2, 1 | PS/Bergalia/MB /Cool | JM/DHK/MA/ DO | Fewer records and numbers than in recent years. |
| Noisy Friarbird | 1 or calls | PS/MKS | JM/SMG | First return at PS August 27 th |
| Scarlet Honeyeater | 4, 2, 1 | MO/PS/Bergalia | NM/JM/DHK | First return July 24 th |
| White-fronted Chat | 2 | Coila L/MB | GM/MA | First record for MB. |
| Fuscous Honeyeater | 6, call | MKS/PS | SMG/JM | |
| Yellow-tufted Honeyeater | | Belimbla | E. Kincaid | |
| Striated Pardalote | 1 or 2 | PS/Com | JM/JC | |
| Striated Thornbill | 6 | DS | JCof | Nest building in July. |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Brown Thornbill | 10, 6 | MO/Broulee | NM/GLM | Nest building in July and August. |
| Varied Sittella | 6, 4 | PS/Com/MO | JM/JC/NM | |
| Australasian Figbird | Up to 6 | MYA | FM | |
| Rufous Whistler | 1 | PDD/PS | JF/JM | First return to PDD July 24 th |
| White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike | 1 | PS | JM | |
| Grey Currawong | 1 or 2 | Cool | DO | In June. |
| Dusky Woodswallow | 5, 4 | Cool/Belowra | DO/JC | |
| White-breasted Woodswallow | 5, 4 | MO/PS | NM/JM | First return to MO on August 24 th |
| Restless Flycatcher | 1 | Cool | DO | August |
| Little Raven | Up to 180, 80, 20 | Com/Belowra/MYA | JC/SMG | Large flocks at Com in July-August. |
| Australian Raven | 140 | MYA | JC | At Mynora in August during storms. |
| White-winged Chough | 25, 18, 15, 12 | MKS/Cool/PS/Com | SMG/DO/JM/JC | |
| Rose Robin | 1 or 2 | Surfside/MKS/PS/Bergalia/Com/MB/Cool | RSoroka/SMG/JM/DHK/JC/MA/DO | First record at Bergalia. |
| Flame Robin | | Belimbla | E Kincaid | |
| Scarlet Robin | 2, 1 | Belowra/Bergalia | JC/DHK | Fewer records this year. |
| Rufous Songlark | 2 | Belowra | JC | Pair in July. |
| Tree Martin | 20 | MB/Com | JC | Checking out a nest hollow at MO in August. |
| Bassian Thrush | 1 | MO | NM | Fewer records this year. |
| Mistletoebird | 1 | PS | JM | |
| Beautiful Firetail | 1 | Deua R | A Cram | Male; window strike |
| European Goldfinch | Up to 5 | Belowra | JC | July and August |

| Non-avian species | Number | Place | Observer | Comments |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------------|--------------|--|
| Common Wombat | Signs | Com/Cool | JC/DO | Female found dead in August on floodplain. |
| Short-beaked Echidna | 1 or signs | Cool/PS | DO/JM | |
| Long-nosed Bandicoot | Signs | Mossy Pt | HR | |
| Brush-tailed Phascogale | 1 | MB | | Reported to MA. Rarely recorded. |
| Yellow-bellied Glider | 2 or calls | Mossy Pt/MKS | HR/SMG | |
| Sugar Glider | 2 or calls | Mossy Pt/PS/Com | HR/JM/JC | |
| Common Ringtail Possum | 1 | Mossy Pt | HR | July |
| Common Brushtail Possum | 3, 2, 1 | LP/Mossy Pt/Com/Cool | IAG/HR/JC/DO | |
| Eastern Grey Kangaroo | 53, 16 | Cool/ DS | DO/JCof | |
| Red-necked Wallaby | Up to 7, 1 | Cool/Mossy Pt | DO/HR | |
| Grey-headed Flying-fox | 1 or 2 | Mossy Pt/MB/Cool | HR/MA/DO | |
| Dingo | Call | Com | JC | |
| Fallow Deer | | West Flat | JC | |
| House Mouse | 1 | Cool | DO | |
| Seal sp. | 4 | MHS | JM | |
| Bottle-nosed Dolphin | 16, 10 | DS/Broulee | JCof/GLM | |
| Southern Right Whale | 1 | Murramarrang | M Burk | |
| Humpback Whale | 5 | BP | NC | |
| Dark-flecked Sunskink | 2 | Mossy Pt | HR | |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|------------------------|--------------|--|
| Jacky Lizard | 3, 2, 1 | PS/Cool/Mossy Pt | JM/DO/HR | |
| Red-bellied Black Snake | 2, 1 | Murramarrang NP/Com/MB | M Burk/JC/MA | |

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| Frogs JC/JM/HR/DO | Common Eastern Froglet, Brown-striped Frog, Bibron's and Tyler's Toadlet; tree frogs: Brown, Eastern Sedgefrog, Jervis Bay, Keferstein's, Peron's, Tyler's, Verreaux's. |
| Moths JC/JF/JM/DO/HR | Pale and Variable Oxycanus, Plume, Light Brown Apple, Loop-line Bark, Hakea, Black and Red-lined Geometrid, Fallen Bark Looper, Twin Emerald, Cream Wave, Subidaria, Native Cranberry, She-oak, Common Anthelid, Iropoca, Mistletoe Browntail, Browntail, Gum, Magpie, Crimson Tiger, Dark Eteiid, Green-blotched, Bogong, Native Budworm. |
| Butterflies MA/JC/JM/GLM DO/HR/FM | Imperial and Black Jezebel, Cabbage White, Meadow Argus, Yellow Admiral, Monarch, Common Grass Blue. |
| Beetles JC/JM | Net-winged, Acacia Leaf, Aerarium Leaf; Ladybirds: 26 and Common Spotted, White collared, Variable, Striped, Fungus-eating, Mealybug, <i>Orcus bilunulatus</i> . |
| Other insects JC/JM | Wasps: Common Paper, Orange Caterpillar Parasite. Fly: Hoverfly. |
| Spiders MA/JC/JM | Giant Water, White-spotted Swift, Black House, Leaf-curling, Jumping, Huntsman, Daddy Long Legs, Golden Orb, Two-tailed, St Andrew's Cross, Flat Rock, Red-back. |

RAINFALL (mm). **June:** 5 at LP, 8.5 at MKS, 10 at Bergalia, 11 at Com, 19 at MB, 12 at Cool. **July:** 175 at LP, 311 at MKS, 292 at Bergalia, 232 at Com, 296 at Cool. **August:** 90 at LP, 211 at MKS, 167 at Bergalia, 190 at Com, 151.75 at Cool.

Contributors

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|------|-----------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| MA | M Anderson, MB | DHK | D&H Kay, Bergalia | | M Burk, DS |
| DB | D Bertzeletos, Surfside | GM | G Macnamara, TS | | M Craig, TS |
| LB | L Burden, MYA | AM | A Marsh, Bingie | | A Cram, Deua R |
| JCof | J Coffey, Sth DS | NM | N Montgomery, MO | | S Doyle, Pedro |
| JC | J&P Collett, Com | JM | J Morgan, PS | | E Kincaid, Belimbla |
| KMD | K & M Dawes, Surfside | DO | D Ondinea, Cool | | R Nipperess, MB |
| JF | J Fearn, PDD | HR | H Ransom, Mossy Pt | | T Patrick, MHS |
| IAG | I&A Grant, LP | FM | Field Meeting | | T&A Ross, NA |
| SMG | S&M Guppy, MKS | | | | R Soroka, Surfside |
| Places | | | | | |
| BB | Batemans Bay | ERBG | Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens | PDD | Percy Davis Drive, MYA |
| BBWG | Batemans Bay Water Gardens | LP | Lilli Pilli | PS | Pedro Swamp |
| BI | Bermagui | MKS | Maulbrooks Rd S, MYA | PP | Potato Point |
| BP | Burrewarra Point | MO | Meringo | SB | Surf Beach |
| Cool | Coolagolite | MYA | Moruya | SF | State Forest |
| Com | Comerang | MH | Moruya Heads, N&S | T'bella | Trunketabella |
| CO | Congo | MB | Mystery Bay | TN | Tomakin |
| DS | Durras | NA | Narooma | TS | Tuross |
| DY | Dalmeny | NP | National Park | WL | Wallaga Lake |

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| | | | |
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