



# EUROBODALLA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inc.

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## Are we seeing a return of the Hoodies?

Over the past few months Helen and I, along with a number of locals and ENHS members, have enjoyed monitoring a pair of hoodies (Hooded Plover - *Thinornis cucullatus*) breeding on the beach immediately south of Bingie Point. Amanda Marsh had posted reports on the ENHS Facebook page of a pair in the area on several occasions during the year and in mid October it appeared they had taken up residence. This was reported to the NPWS rangers and Sophie Hall-Aspland, the Shorebird Recovery Coordinator. On 27 October Sophie let us know that the rangers had found a nest with 3 eggs, and the following day the site was fenced, the beach access track nearest the site temporarily closed and numerous signs erected at the car park and around the site. Then, knowing the incubation period for hoodies is about 28 days, the waiting, watching and worrying began.



Nest and eggs Photo A Marsh



Parent birds Photo P Gatenby

A photo of the pair taken by Paul Gatenby showed one of the pair with a flag (U1) and this has been identified as a female originally banded at Disaster Bay on 21/3/14. The same bird had been reported at Congo by Nicola Clark in March this year.

Amanda made checking on the pair a part of her regular morning walk and we also made regular visits to check progress. Lots of texts and emails were exchanged to keep everyone up to date. Then on 18 November Amanda reported a chick had hatched. We went to look the following morning and saw 3 chicks, a cause for celebration – but

still another 35 days before the chicks would be able to fly.

The chicks coped with some difficult weather, including hot strong winds and heavy rains, as well as at least one beach party which left beer cans and the remains of a campfire close to the nest site. Still Amanda was able to get them to pose for a family photo the day after the big downpour on 16 December.

The outcomes are still unclear as none of the youngsters were seen to leave. One disappeared around 21 December and another around the 24<sup>th</sup>, whilst one was still hanging around with the parents in early January, despite numbers of visitors on the beach.



12 day old chick  
Photo R Soroka

The events reminded me of a Newsletter article by Julie Morgan in 2014 noting that the Eurobodalla seemed to have become largely a Hooded Plover-free zone. They were breeding in the Shoalhaven and south from Wallaga Lake (in Bega Shire) but there was a 100km gap along the Eurobodalla coast. The 2011 Birds Australia booklet, 'My Hoodie', notes that the eastern subspecies - *Thinornis cucullatus cucullatus* historically extended from southern Queensland through NSW, Vic, SA and Tas but was now extinct in Qld and northern NSW. It estimated that there were only around 50 individuals in NSW, where they are listed as critically endangered.

Julie's article noted that historic records from the Eurobodalla show that before 2005 hoodies were reported at many locations along the coast: at Durras, Barlings Beach to Broulee, Moruya Heads to Meringo, Narooma to Mystery Bay and Tilba Lake. Breeding was recorded in the 2004–5 season at South Durras, Dawsons Beach, Nangudga and Bogola Head, but the breeding records then stopped. From 2005 to 2014 we only had reports of vagrant birds: two immature birds at Lilli Pilli in 2009, another pair at Potato Point in 2011 and a single bird at Coila Lake in 2012.

Since 2014 records of hoodies in the Eurobodalla seem to have been increasing again. In 2014 single birds were reported at Bengello Beach, Coila Lake and Tuross. In 2015 a pair successfully raised 2 chicks at Pooles Beach, Mystery Bay and birds were recorded at Narooma and Bengello Beach. In 2016 up to 6 birds were recorded at Mystery Bay, with a nesting attempt in November, although the eggs failed to hatch. In 2018 there were records from Mystery Bay, Bingie and Meringo and last year there were 7 seen at Narooma in March and records from Bingie, Corunna Lake and Pedro Pt.

This year we've had 9 birds reported at Mystery Bay, the 5 we've been watching at Bingie, 3 at Brou Lake, a pair with 2 chicks at Congo and birds at Bogola Head, Coila Lake and Tuross. The Biennial Birdlife Australia Hooded Plover survey was held 14-15 November this year and for the first time Helen and I were able to report seeing the species during the survey. Unfortunately, at the time of writing the results of that survey are not publicly available – so I'm not in a position to answer the question posed in the title of this piece. What we can say is that the Eurobodalla is not hoodie-free. David Kay



Family on the beach Photo A Marsh

## What's coming up....

A copy of the Field Meeting program for the first half of 2021 is included with this newsletter.

**Saturday 13 February, 2pm: Cullendulla Creek.** Meet at the car park off Myamba Parade, Surfside. A walk along the beach to the boardwalk through the mangroves along the creek. Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher, Gull-billed Tern, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Southern Emu-wren, Mistletoebird.

**Sunday 28 February, 9am: Wallaga Lake and Long Swamp.** Meet at the parking area at the end of Wallaga Street, Wallaga Lake Heights. A beach and headland walk then a short drive to the swamp. Hooded, Double-banded and Red-capped Plover, Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher, Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit. Musk Duck, cormorants, egrets and Black Swan at the swamp.

**Saturday 13 March, 2pm: Tebbs Road and Pipparidge.** Meet at the Narooma Visitors' Centre on the Princes Hwy. Drive and stop to walk along several tracks through the forest and visit Pipparidge, the property of John and Meg Gordon. Superb Lyrebird, Green Catbird, Scarlet Robin, Spotted Quail-thrush, Rufous Fantail, Green Catbird, many species of honeyeater, and Brown Cuckoo-Dove.

**Sunday 28 March, 9am: Moruya Ramble.** Meet at the Eurobodalla Council Chambers car park. We will visit the Mogendoura flats, and the cemetery at Glenduart estate and then visit either Clouett's Rd or Moruya Riverside. Yellow Thornbill, Rose Robin, Scarlet Honeyeater, Eastern Shrike-tit.

**Saturday 10 April, 2pm: Bingie Dreaming Track (Bingie/Coila).** Meet at the Princes Hwy and Bingie Rd junction. Coastal forest and lakeside walk. Rufous Fantail, Scarlet Honeyeater, Common Cicadabird, Brown Gerygone, Eastern Shrike-tit and a variety of water and shore birds on the lake.

## A warm welcome to new members....

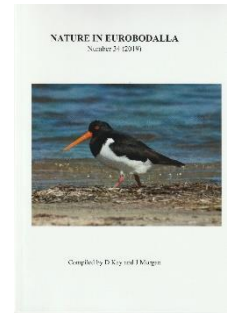
Peter Gow, Bingie  
Samuel Miers, Batemans Bay

### 2021 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.

### Nature in Eurobodalla Number 34 (2019)

We have published the 34th edition of *Nature in Eurobodalla*. It is a summary of members' observations by species for 2019 and costs \$13 if picked up or \$16 if posted.



### Field meeting report – Malabar Drive

Our field meeting on Saturday, 11 November was yet another reminder of the joys and benefits of ENHS membership, providing us with the opportunity to visit a private property on Malabar Drive.

A large group of twenty five attended, an indication that many of us had been missing our regular get togethers. After an excellent briefing by Lyn Burden, we set off for a leisurely stroll through a mature eucalypt forest with a healthy understorey adjoining some agricultural land. The forest was dominated by tall, impressive forest red gums and spotted gums and *Kunzea ambigua* in full flower.



Photo E Robin

There was a good deal of bird song, dominated by the Rufous Whistlers, though at times the convivial chatter of the group masked the bird song. A number of summer visitors, including Dollarbirds, Leaden Flycatchers and the Whistlers, both Golden and Rufous, were recorded, and others including the Black-faced Monarch and White-throated Gerygone were heard but not seen.

A few of us heard a call that we weren't sure of, possibly a Jacky Winter (which we did also see) but it turned out to be one of the calls of the White-throated Treecreeper which was later confirmed by a sighting. We saw an Oriental Dollarbird some distance away across a field but perched in a good spot for viewing.

In the undergrowth, there was a bower, creatively decorated with the usual blue plastic and glass. Later we saw an almost-adult male Satin Bowerbird, – a bit shaded for clear view, but the bill looked rather dark and there appeared to be a greenish tint to the plumage.

The group had an amusing discussion about how to best describe the location of a Dollarbird which landed in a tree some distance away. To me, it was just a small black blob, even with my binoculars. It was encouraging to see so many new members enthusiastically taking part and to reconnect with so many of the Society's stalwarts.

The total bird count for the day was 39 species, though typically for a woodland walk, many of the IDs were by call only.

As a storm had been forecast and the sky clouded over, we ended the walk promptly. Many thanks to Lyn Burden for arranging the venue and for her splendid leadership. Helen Kay

**Correction.** The last newsletter had an error in the naming of the subspecies of *Brachychiton populneus*. The correct names are *Brachychiton populneus* subsp. *populneus* and *Brachichiton populneus* subsp. *trilobus*.

## Birding in a COVID year

I doubt that anyone in the world has been unaffected by the COVID pandemic. For my own part, it has merely meant being unable to enjoy two holidays planned for 2020 – one to Bhutan and another across northern Australia from Cairns to Darwin. Hopefully, the latter is just deferred to a future time.

But we have seen some innovative adaptations to the strange new life, from the public displays of acknowledgement of front-line health workers, to community choirs of people singing from their balconies during full lockdown. Many associations, societies and groups have used technology in ways that have never been seen before, with Zoom meetings, webinars and Skype conversations replacing personal get-togethers. Even our governments have held online meetings, enabling the National Cabinet to become an important tool in dealing with the pandemic.

Birdlife Australia presented a series of Zoom meetings, beginning with Sean Dooley offering a presentation of birding for beginners, followed by virtual birding tours of Tasmania and other iconic Australian birding hot-spots. Later in the series came the excellent migratory shorebirds program, which I reported on in the previous newsletter. Commercial birding companies have suffered so badly as to have had almost no business this year, leaving their highly skilled and professional guides without employment. To keep their product in the public eye, Rockjumper Birding Tours, for example, has presented a series of webinars called “Dream Destinations”, in which they take us on a virtual tour of some of the wonderful birding sites throughout the world – Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Galapagos Islands, and remote West Papuan Islands, among others. And the Australian Wildlife Conservancy has presented a series in which they have given us an insight into the amazing work that they are doing in preserving millions of hectares of Australian bush, and eliminating feral predators, at a cost of thousands of dollars per kilometre of fencing.

In our own backyards, many of us have taken a more intensive interest in what is on offer in our local area. A new Facebook page has been set up by an Australian birding expert, Nikolas Haass, which he calls [Birdthefeckathome](#). The site has attracted the interest of birders in hundreds of countries, and each day there are postings of some amazing birds that people around the world are seeing in their gardens. Having visited Costa Rica some years ago, I have particularly enjoyed seeing again some of the spectacularly colourful birds of this part of Central America – Toucans, Motmots, Honeycreepers and Trogons.

And closer to home, this year’s [Great Aussie Bird count](#) event held in October by Birdlife Australia, was the most successful that they have ever held, with almost 5 million birds counted. These results underline just how important nature has become for our wellbeing. In Victoria, where the lockdown was most severe, there were 1,418,566 birds counted. In New South Wales it was 1,377,033. Victoria's population is approximately 1,200,000 smaller than New South Wales. Within the Eurobodalla, 9,910 birds were counted, 269 checklists submitted, and 175 different species identified.

Last summer's bushfires had a huge impact on our wildlife, and this included driving many bird species out of their normal habitat. Consequently, here in Mystery Bay, we have seen greater numbers of Gang-gang and Glossy Black Cockatoos, and for the first time, in my own backyard, a pair of Brown Cuckoo-doves visited several times.

Birdwatching is a comparatively inexpensive hobby once you have purchased your binoculars – and discounting overseas trips to exotic destinations. Compare this with say flying lessons, or horse ownership or skiing. And it is a hobby which has burgeoned in popularity during the various levels of lockdown that Australians and people all around the world have had to endure.

Birdlife Australia's favourite self-confessed "bird nerd" Sean Dooley summed it up: "It really showed the importance that birds came to have in our lives this year. As our personal worlds became more restricted, birds offered a much needed connection with the outside world, and brought us a sense of solace and delight".

So it seems that everything, even a global pandemic, has a positive side. Mandy Anderson

**If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise**

As birders, we tend to be looking up to catch a glimpse of that elusive bird. But sometimes we can miss out on the small, quiet beauties at our feet. Often these plants grow low to the ground and in amongst other plants and have small flowers. Here are four of my favourites. Four more will follow in the next newsletter.



*Stackhousia monogyna*  
Photo S Pearson

*Stackhousia monogyna* (left) Creamy Candles is in the family Stackhousiaceae. It is found in moist open forest and heath on a variety of soils. The inflorescence can grow up to 60cm high. The flowers can vary from white to cream or yellow. Flowering occurs from spring to summer.

Growing in open forest among grassy understorey on heavier soils, *Boronia polygalifolia*, (right) Dwarf Boronia is in the Rutaceae family. The individual flowers grow from the leaf axils (the point where a leaf joins the stem). There is usually one flower per leaf axil but there can be up to 3. The four petals are pale pink, sometimes with darker pink on the edges. Flowering occurs from spring to early summer.



*Boronia polygalifolia*  
Photo S Pearson



*Thysanotus tuberosus*  
Photo S Pearson

*Thysanotus tuberosus* (left) Common Fringe Lily grows in heath and woodland on a variety of soils. It is in the Anthericaceae family. The inflorescence varies from 20 to 80cm tall. The 'tepals' (the term for petals and sepals of similar appearance) are purple with the petals having distinctive fringing along the edges. Flowering occurs from spring to early summer.

The inflorescence is about 15-35cm tall with up to 9 flowers. The labellum is covered in long dull red hairs (the beard). Flowering occurs mostly in spring. This orchid is found on moist sandy soil in heath, open forest and grassland.

As you would expect all these plants are pollinated by insects.

So, the next time you need to stretch those neck muscles from constantly looking at birds high up in the trees, bend your head down and you might be lucky to spot some of our small local floral wonders. Sharon Pearson



*Chalochilus paludosus*  
Photo S Pearson

**A year on**

I am sure that I am not the only Eurobodalla resident who is enjoying the cool, wet conditions this summer, looking up happily at grey skies while remembering the different, dreadful conditions of a year ago.

The July 2020 newsletter provided a brief update on the impacts of last summer's fires and the recovery efforts undertaken by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in collaboration with State Forest, the Australian Wildlife Rescue Organisation (WIRES) and drone technologists Ripper Alliance.

Regaining access to national parks proved difficult over winter. The efforts of NPWS staff were hampered when high winds, heavy rain and flooding caused further damage, bringing down trees, closing more roads

and trails and re-closing some that had already been cleared. Despite this additional damage, and despite the added complications associated with COVID-19, NPWS staff and local contractors had, by early September, managed to clear over 220 km of roads across six national parks. At that time, another 468 km of road remained to be cleared, and the hard work has continued.

We will probably never know the full extent of the damage done by the fires. There was much that we did not know about the flora and fauna of some areas before they were burned. It is quite likely that we have lost some species without even knowing it. For example, it is estimated that about 100,000 Australian insect species remain unnamed. And the extent and severity of the fires means that it will take years to analyse their impact on the fauna and flora that is known to us. We just do not know which species can recover from such intense burning.

One species of interest is *Acacia covenyi* or Blue Bush, a rare Acacia that is endemic to Deua National Park. It grows in the Bendethera area, which was burned in 2001-2 and again in 2002-3, but the canopy remained intact after these fires and the *Acacia covenyi* showed signs of ageing. The 2019-20 fires laid the area bare to the limestone for the first time in perhaps 50 years. Seedlings appeared after the fires, but it is too soon to tell whether they will flourish in the long term.

There is some encouraging news about one local population of a near-endangered species. Team Quoll Illawarra & Southern Highlands is a group of researchers and citizen scientists from the University of Wollongong who monitor Spotted-tailed Quolls. These native, carnivorous marsupials use a wide range of habitats, including heathlands, sub-alpine woodlands, temperate woodlands and forests, riparian forests and wet sclerophyll forests. The population in Monga National Park appears to be doing quite well after the fires. As with many other areas of research, there is insufficient baseline data to know exactly what impact the fires have had, but about 40 individuals have been seen since the fires – including one who made the 10 kilometre journey from Buckenbowra State Forest to Monga National Park – and the animals bred in winter. For anyone who would like to see spotted-tailed quolls in action, the team quoll Facebook page is a great source of information, with some delightful video footage. Gillian Macnamara

### Lyrebird Update

In the last newsletter, we reported on a lyrebird's nest which we found 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 the nest, we thought it was unfinished, as there was very little lining and no egg. But we put up a camera on the same day to see what was going on.

On 8 July, an egg was first seen, and the female was also seen for the first time flying out of the nest. But the pictures show some leaf movement on 6 July, so it is possible that the egg was laid then. On 15 August there was still one egg. Then on our next visit, on 27 August, we found a chick. We are not sure when the egg hatched.

For about the next month we had a camera on the nest 24/7, and we also managed 13 x 6 hours of sound recordings. The recorder was placed on top of the outside of the nest at various times of the night and day. (The batteries last 6 hours.)

We will report back again when we have worked through all the pictures and the 80 hours of sound recordings. Initial superficial examination of the sound recordings reveals that the female is 'talking' to the egg before it hatches and to the chick after it hatches. But until we marry the sounds and pictures, we will not know if she was in or outside the nest when these utterances occurred.

Interestingly, it was much easier to detect the adult's arrivals and departures using the sound recordings; they missed nothing. The camera on the other hand often missed her arrivals, but rarely her departures. She became very busy after the chick hatched.

Unfortunately, for the data-gathering exercise anyway, the chick was taken by a goanna on 29 August. We captured this predation in its entirety on the camera; it took 7 minutes. We were pleased that at least the predator was not feral. Sarah and Michael Guppy

## What is this?

This was the question that came with a photo that a friend Michelle sent me in September. She could see that the main structure was a cocoon but wondered what the creature beside it could be.

What looks like a ball of fluff, I discovered is actually a flightless female *Iropoca* moth, *Iropoca rodundata*, as seen in the accompanying photo. I had seen one many years ago in the Australian National Insect Collection at CSIRO and the prospect of seeing one in person was very exciting. The cocoons and females are usually found under the bark of trees but this one was on a post under Michelle's verandah. The female moths have rudimentary wings and cannot fly. They emerge from their pupa with the eggs ready to lay and emit a pheromone that attracts males. After mating, they lay their eggs among the hairs of the cocoon, and in this photo the female is on the cocoon just above the egg mass.



Female *Iropoca rodundata*. and cocoon  
Photo J Morgan

*Iropoca* moths are part of the Lymantridae family, more commonly referred to as Tussock Moths. The common name comes from the long tufts of erect hair that stick up from the body of the caterpillars, almost like a toothbrush. It is worth noting that the hairs of several species of Tussock Moth caterpillars can cause severe irritation in humans. The caterpillars feed mainly on eucalypt leaves then spin a cocoon from material that includes their own hairs and pupate inside the cocoon.

The males are an attractive moth, with grey markings on the wings, an orangey-brown furry body and feathery antenna. Their hindwings are smaller than their forewings and plainer than patterned upperwings. Males are most commonly reported from June to October in our area. Julie Morgan

## Reed Warblers in the Brindabellas

In 2016 we did a nest predation study on Koorabri, a property at the southern end of the Brindabella Valley, and the results were written up and published in ENHS Newsletter 174, Winter 2017. There were many Fan-tailed Cuckoos on the site in 2016, but we found no parasitism of any nests.

The study area at that time included four stands of *Phragmites* reeds. We noted in that article that Australian Reed-Warblers arrived in December, late in the breeding season, just as we were finishing the study. We stated at that time that we would like to find out if their nests were the target for the cuckoos.

Accordingly, in November 2019, we mist-netted the reed beds and caught and colour-banded 9 Reed-Warblers. The plan was (1) to locate the nests, (2) to link individual birds to nests, (3) to monitor the nests for parasitism, and (4) to see if the same birds came back to these isolated reed beds the next season.

Unfortunately, the fires intervened, and we did not return to Koorabri in the 2019/2020 breeding season. But we have been back twice this season, in early September and early October.

In September, before the warblers' arrival, we cut narrow avenues in the reed beds for the subsequent setting of mist nets. The birds arrived on about 12 September, and on our early October trip, we caught 11 of them. Three had been banded in November 2019, which was a real bonus and very exciting for us. Nobody knows where these three birds have been during the intervening year, or how they find their way back to a small patch of reeds at the far end of the Brindabella valley, which is surrounded by dense forest.

Two of the birds we caught in October had brood patches and, when we searched the reed beds, we found about six old nests and two new ones, one with eggs. The tall reeds were only just beginning to shoot in October. We had wondered whether the birds would build nests in old reeds; the answer is obviously yes. We put cameras on the new nests, to assist us in identifying which birds are associated with each nest.

We plan to go back about every month until the end of February and will report back with our findings in the next newsletter. Sarah and Michael Guppy

## Guerilla Bay Bioblitz

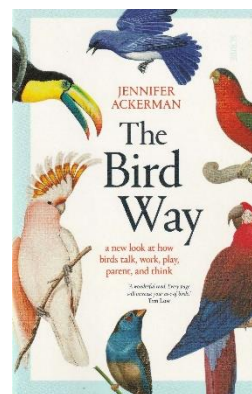
Annie Lane, Landcare Coordinator at Guerilla Bay and Chair of Budawang Coast Atlas of Life, has written to the ENHS advising that she is planning to run a Bioblitz of Guerilla Bay reserves. For those not familiar with a BioBlitz, it is a citizen science event, with scientists, naturalists and the community working together to explore their local area with the aim of recording as many species as possible. The event will run for 2 days and 1 night on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 March.

Annie is looking for volunteer survey leaders who would be willing to lead surveys of their chosen taxa with community members. The event is in the early stages of planning and lining up local experts is her first priority. Several surveys of the same taxa are run over the Bioblitz so that interested community members have an opportunity to participate and the number of species recorded is maximised. Anyone interested can contact Annie on 0428837218.

## The Bird Way

The Society recently received a copy of a new book entitled “The Bird Way” by Jennifer Ackerman, published by Scribe Publications. According to the message from the publisher, the copy was free with no strings attached. Nevertheless, we thought we should provide members with a review/promo of the book.

In the words of the publisher, its a radical examination of the bird way of being and of recent scientific research that is dramatically shifting our understanding of birds - how they live and how they think. From the tropical rainforests of eastern Australia and the remote woodlands of northern Japan, to the rolling hills of lower Austria and the islands of Alaska’s Kachemak Bay, Ackerman shows there is clearly no single bird way of being. In every respect - in plumage, form, song, flight, lifestyle, niche, and behaviour - birds vary.



I found it fascinating and quite an easy read and would highly recommend it. Its available from around \$25 retail or you could borrow the ENHS copy if you ask the right person nicely. David Kay

### Highlights from ENHS records - Spring 2020

Avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Emu	6	Bodalla	DB	October
Stubble Quail	Up to 20	Com	JC	
Musk Duck	1	PS/NA	JM/DHK	Males displaying
Aust Shoveler	6	T'bella	DB	
Grey Teal	30	Com	JC	With young
Chestnut Teal	30	Com	JC	With young
Australasian Grebe	1	MO/Com	NM/JC	Fewer records
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Up to 8	MKS	SMG	
Peaceful Dove	1	Com	JC	Sep-Oct
Bar-shouldered Dove	4, 1	Coila L/TS/Com	GM/JC/FM	
Topknot Pigeon	35, 15, 14	Sth DS/Bergalia /Com	JCof/DHK/JC	Fewer recorded at other locations: MO, MB, TS
Rose-crowed Fruit-dove	1	SB	J Hurrell	September 17 <sup>th</sup>
White-throated Nightjar	Up to 6	PS	JM	First return on October 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Aust Owlet-nightjar	1	Com	JC	
White-throated Needletail	15	MO	NM	Fewer reports this spring



Eastern Koel	Up to 4	Widespread	Various	First return September 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Up to 4	Widespread	Various	First return September 14 <sup>th</sup>
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	MKS/PS	SMG/JM	In April
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	4, 3	PS/MO	JM/NM	Singles or calls at other locations
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	4, 3	PS/MO	JM/NM	Widespread records of this species
Brush Cuckoo	4, 1	PS/MKS/MO/Com/MB	JM/SMG/NM/JC/MA	
Pallid Cuckoo	1 or call	MKS/Com	SMG/JC	
Dusky Moorhen	5	BBWG	FM	Adult with 4 young
Eurasian Coot	6	BBWG	FM	1 young. Few records of this species.
Black-browed Albatross	2	Wasp Head	DB	November
Prion sp.	200	Wasp Head	DB	November
Providence Petrel	1	Wasp Head	DB	November
Great-winged Petrel	1	Wasp Head	DB	November
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	100s	Wasp Head	DB	November
Short-tailed Shearwater	1000s	Wasp Head/MO	DB/NM	October/November
Sooty Shearwater	1	Wasp Head	DB	November
"Fluttons" Shearwater	1000s	Wasp Head	DB	Fluttering/Hutton's
Striated Heron	1	NA	MA/V Brown	
Cattle Egret	15, 10	MYA/MB	JM/MA	In breeding plumage in Sep
Intermediate Egret	1	Com	JC	September
Little Egret	3	Brou L/MB	MA/FM	
Eastern Reef Egret	2, 1	MO/Bingie Pt /NA/MB	NM/DHK/GLM/MA	
Australasian Gannet	75, 50	MHS/Wasp Head	PG/DB	
Great Pied Cormorant	10, 7	MO/Sth DS	NM/JCof	
Australasian Darter	1	Com	JC	
South Island Pied Oystercatcher	1	Broulee	PG	September 14 <sup>th</sup>
Aust Pied Oystercatcher	41	Brou L	MA	Nesting at Sth DS, CO, Brou L, NA; chicks from October
Sooty Oystercatcher	7, 6	Mullimburra Pt/MO	DHK/NM	
Pied Stilt	24	T'bella	DB	October
Grey Plover	1	Tomago R	P Martin	
Pacific Golden Plover	15, 4	Brou L/CO/MB	NC/PG/MA	
Red-capped Plover	65, 30	Brou L/CO	MA/G Clark	Nesting at Sth DS, CO. Chicks from October
Hooded Plover	5, 4, 3	Bingie/CO/Brou L	AM/DHK/MA/G Clark	Nesting at all 3 locations with chicks from November
Black-fronted Dotterel	10	MO	NM	At MO Lagoon in November
Far Eastern Curlew	18, 2, 1	MHN/NA/Brou L	B Nagle/V Brown/MA	
Bar-tailed Godwit	160, 145, 30	NA/Brou L/TS	MA/DB/M Craig	
Red Knot	Up to 45	Brou L	DB/NC/MA	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Up to 6	Brou L	DB/NC/MA	
Curlew Sandpiper	Up to 4	Brou L	DB/NC	
Sanderling	2	Brou L	NC	
Latham's Snipe	2	MO	NM	September
Common Sandpiper	2	Cullendulla Ck	RSor	November
Grey-tailed Tattler	2	CO	PG	October
Little Tern	Up to 80	Brou L	DB/FM/MA	Nesting in November

Fairy Tern	Up to 4	Brou L	NC/FM	
Greater Sooty Owl	Calling	MB	MA	In November
Powerful Owl	2, 1	MO/PS	NM/JM	
Barking Owl	Calling	MB	MA	
Osprey	2, 1	MHS/PS/BB/ BBWG	JM/FM	Nest at MHS abandoned after storms in September
Square-tailed Kite	1	PS	JM	
Little Eagle	1	MO	NM	
Oriental Dollarbird	Up to 4	Com	JC	First return October 18 <sup>th</sup>
Sacred Kingfisher	4, 2	PS/Com/PDD/ MO	JM/JC/JF/NM	First return September 16 <sup>th</sup> Nesting in November
Australian Hobby	1	Com/MHS	JC/JM	
Peregrine Falcon	4 to 5	BB	GLM/RSor	Nested in old Osprey nest, 2 to 3 young in November
Glossy Black Cockatoo	More than 8	MB	MA	
Gang-Gang Cockatoo	10, 6	Sth DS/PS/TS/ MO/Cool	JCof/JM/GM/ NM/DO	Fewer elsewhere. More reports than usual
Long-billed Corella	2	Surfside	DB	
Red-browed Treecreeper	1	PS/MO	JM/NM	
Southern Emu-wren	3	Broulee	GLM	
Brown-headed Honeyeater	8, 2	Com/MO	JC/NM	Nest with young at Com in October
Noisy Friarbird	Up to 16	PS	JM	Nesting in October
Scarlet Honeyeater	Up to 50	MB	MA/T&J Lipscombe/	
White-fronted Chat	4	Brou L	DB	
Striated Pardalote	1 or 2	MO/TS/Com	NM/GM/JC	
White-throated Gerygone	Calls	Com/MYA	JC	In September and November
Weebill	1	Brou L	MA	Unusual in our area
Varied Sittella	4	Com/MO	JC/NM	Young at MO in October
Australasian Figbird	10, 6, 2, 1	TS/MYA/ BBWG/NA/PS	A Nicol/JM/ FM/V Brown	
Eastern Shrike-tit	1	MO/MYA	NM/FM	
White-bellied Cuckoo- shrike	1	MKS/PS	SMG/JM	Fewer reported than in past years
Common Cicadabird	10, 1, call	PS/Surfside/ MKS	JM/RSor/SMG	First return October 1 <sup>st</sup>
Dusky Woodswallow	6, 5	Com/DS/Cool	JC/JCof/DO	
White-breasted Woodswallow	6	PS	JM	In November
Rufous Fantail	1	MO/NA	NM/JMG	First return October 26 <sup>th</sup>
Leaden Flycatcher	4	PS	JM	Singles elsewhere. First return October 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Satin Flycatcher	1	Brou L	DB	November 6 <sup>th</sup>
Black-faced Monarch	2	PS/MO	JM/NM	Singles elsewhere. First return September 7 <sup>th</sup>
Little Raven	180, 80	Com/Belowra	JC	
White-winged Chough	Calls	MKS/PS	SMG/JM	Fewer records this spring
Rose Robin	1	PS/Com	JM/JC	
Golden-headed Cisticola	Up to 10	Com	JC	
Aust Reed Warbler	4	BBWG/Com	FM/Com	Nesting at Com
Tree Martin	10, 8, 5	Com/BBWG/ MO	JC/FM/NM	Breeding at BBWG and MO
Bassian Thrush	1	Bevian Rd	FM	Juvenile
Mistletoebird	6, 2, 1	MYA/Com/PS	FM/JC/JM	Nest at MYA in November
Red-browed Finch	Up to 40	Com	JC	Nesting in September

Australasian Pipit	6, 3, 1	Com/Bingie Pt/Belowra/MB	JC/DHK/MA	
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Non-avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Common Wombat	1-2, signs	Com/MB/Cool	JC/MA/DO	
Short-beaked Echidna	1	PS/Bergalia/MB/ Cool	JM/DHK/MA/ DO	
Yellow-bellied Glider	Calls	MKS	SMG	
Sugar Glider	Calls	Com	JC	
Common Brushtail Possum	2	Com/MB	JC/MA	
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	60, 20, 18	Cool/Com/Sth DS	DO/JC/JCof	
Red-necked Wallaby	7, 4	Cool/Bergalia	DO/DHK	
Grey-headed Flying-fox	2	Com	JC	
Microbat	1	Cool	DO	
Seal sp.	6	MHS	JM	
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	2	Sth DS	JCof	
Southern Right Whale	2	BP	GLM	Mother and calf
Humpback Whale	40	Sth DS	JCof	
Snake-necked Turtle	5	Com	JC	Laying eggs at DS
Yellow-bellied Water-skink	3	Com	JC	
Eastern Blue-tongue	2	Mossy Pt/Com	HR/JC	Singles elsewhere
Jacky Lizard	4, 3, 1	PS/Cool/Mossy Pt	JM/DO/HR	
Gippsland Water Dragon	Up to 10	Com	JC	
Lace Monitor	3, 2, 1	Cool/PS/Com/ Brou L	DO/JM/JC/MA	
Diamond Python		MB	MA	present
Red-bellied Black Snake	2, 1	Com/MB/PDD/PS /Cool	JC/MA/JF/JM/ DO	

<b>Frogs</b> JC/JM/HR/DO	Common Eastern Froglet, Brown-striped Frog, Bibron's and Tyler's Toadlet; tree frogs: Eastern Sedgefrog, Jervis Bay, Keferstein's, Peron's, Tyler's, Verreaux's.
<b>Moths</b> DB/ JC/A Cram/ KMD/JF/JM/DO/ HR/R Sor Greatest diversity of moth species recorded in a season since our records began. 81 in spring with 72 in October.	Saunder's Case, Diamondback, Concealer, Pale Cup, Meal, Plume, Eggfruit Caterpillar, Cabbage Centre Grub, Beet Webworm, Frilled, Fallen and Buff Bark, Twig and Apple, Looper, Hakea, Black and Red-lined Geometrid, Pink Arhodia, Twisted, Spring and Oval-spot Taxeotis, Neat Epidesmia, Twin Emerald, Cream and Varied Wave, Plantain, Mecynata, Red-spot Delicate, Native Cranberry, Elusive White-spot, Banded Porela, Common, Eye-Spot and Grass Anthelid, Emperor and Helena Gum Moth, Convolvulus and Coprosma Hawk, Sparshalli, Iropoca, Processionary, Snowy, Favoured, Reticulated and Hookwing Footman, Lydia Lichen, Variable Halone, Lichen-eating Caterpillar, Heliotrope, Magpie, Crimson Tiger, Tiger, Double-line Snout, Northern Old Lady, Tobacco Looper, Whistling, Vine, Mistletoe, Black Noctuid, Green-blotched, Southern Armyworm, Black, Variable and Brown Cutworm, Bogong, Native Budworm.
<b>Butterflies</b> MA/DB/NC/JC/ JM/GLM/DO/HR /FM/RSor	Lilac Grass-skipper, Narrow-brand and Greenish Grass-dart, Painted Sedge-skipper, Blue Triangle, Orchard Swallowtail, Imperial and Black Jezebel, Pink Grass Yellow (first record for shire), Caper White (migration), Cabbage White, Brown Ringlet, Varied Sword-grass Brown, Common Brown, Meadow Argus, Painted Lady, Yellow Admiral, Lesser Wanderer, Monarch, Varied Dusky and Cycad Blue, Common Grass Blue.
<b>Dragon &amp; Damselflies</b> NC/G Clark/ JC/JM	Aurora and Common Bluetail, Tau and Australian Emerald, Wandering Percher, Wandering Ringtail.
<b>Beetles</b> G Glark/JC/JF/ JM	Net-winged, Argentinian and Green Scarab, Three-lined Potato, Pintailed, Comb-clawed, Jewel, Whirligig; Leaf Beetles: Acacia, Aerarium, Eight-spotted, Metallic Green Acacia, Spotted Paropsine, Pittosporum; Ladybirds: Striped, Transverse, Orange, 26 and Common Spotted, White collared, Steel Blue, Mealybug.
<b>Bugs</b> MA/JC/JM	Water Strider, Bronze Orange, Assassin. Cicadas: Black Squeaker, Green Grocer, Razor Grinder, Double Spotted.

<b>Other insects</b> JC/JM	Bees: Masked. Wasps: Common Paper, Orange Caterpillar Parasite. Fly: Hoverfly, Native Dronefly. Cockroach: Austral Ellipsoid instar.
<b>Spiders</b> MA/JC/JM	Spiny, Black House, Leaf-curling, Jumping, Huntsman, Daddy Long Legs, Golden Orb, Two-tailed, St Andrew's Cross, Flat Rock, Red-back, Grey House, White Porch, Garden Orb Weaver, Slender Leaf-shaped.

**RAINFALL (mm). September:** 15 at MKS, 11.5 at Com, 20.5 at MB, 12.25 at Cool. **October:** 183.5 at MKS, 125 at Bergalia, 119 at Com, 129.5 at MB, 204.25 at Cool. **November:** 43 at MKS, 127 at Bergalia, 118.5 at Com, 53.85 at Cool.

#### Contributors

MA	M Anderson, MB	GLM	G&L McVeigh		G Clark, ACT
DB	D Bertzeletos, Surfside	GM	G Macnamara, TS		M Craig, TS
JCof	J Coffey, Sth DS	AM	A Marsh, Bingie		A Cram, Deua R
JC	J&P Collett, Com	NM	N Montgomery, MO		J Hurrell
KMD	K &M Dawes, Surfside	JM	J Morgan, PS		T&J Lipscombe, ACT
JF	J Fearn, PDD	DO	D Ondinea, Cool		P Martin, MYA
MF	M Fyfe, Broulee	HR	H Ransom, Mossy Pt		G Mendell, TS
PG	P Gatenby, Broulee	RSor	R Soroka, Surfside		B Nagle, Broulee
JMG	J&M Gordon, NA	FM	Field Meeting		A Nicol, MHS
SMG	S&M Guppy, MKS		V Brown, ACT		T&A Ross, NA
DHK	D&H Kay, Bergalia		M Burk, DS		
<b>Places</b>					
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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#### *The Newsletter team would like to say ...*

Thank you to all the contributors to our Newsletter, those who write articles and those who submit their observations. Without you, we couldn't publish a newsletter, thank you for your interest and dedication.

We are always looking for new contributors to increase the diversity of interests and voices. Please consider writing an article if you:

- Feel curious about an aspect of natural history and want to learn more about it
- Have discovered a new birding spot in our local area
- Have learned something interesting about wildlife that you would like to share

The Newsletter team is always happy to help so please don't feel that you need to be an expert to contribute. We certainly don't feel like experts but work as a team to finalise articles.