



EUROBODALLA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inc.

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AUTUMN 2016

The Eastern Osprey (*Pandion cristatus*) – Linnaeus 1758

Taxonomy, Distribution and Habitat

Until recently the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) was considered to be a single species with five subspecies whose ranges encompassed every continent except Antarctica. Recent genetic studies however have elevated two subspecies to species status. *P. cristatus* the Eastern Osprey of Australia and surrounding islands and *P. carolinensis* the American Osprey which occurs across the Americas are now separated from *P. haliaetus* which occurs across the Palearctic and winters in Africa and southern Asia.

Though they look similar to other birds of prey, Ospreys have no close living relatives. They possess a number of unique anatomical features amongst diurnal raptors with the most noticeable feature being their feet: their outer toes are reversible, a feature shared with owls, and is especially useful for grasping fish. Genetics studies suggest they may be more closely related to Storks than 'true' birds of prey.

Identification and Behaviour

Eastern Ospreys are the smallest member of the genus with males being smaller (55 cm) than females (63 cm). On good views the species is unmistakable, as the combination of dark brown upperparts and near pure white underparts, bar a breast band, is not shared by any other bird of prey apart from other Ospreys. The shape of the species is also distinctive, the long wings, slender body and elastic wingbeats making it more likely that an Osprey will be confused with a large gull or skua. This is particularly true of male birds which have a lighter flight compared to the deep wingbeats of the bigger female. Juveniles are readily distinguished from adults on the basis of their spotted plumage, and size can be used to sex birds at any age. The most frequent vocalization is a loud "kayk! kayak! kayak!" which is usually uttered when birds are interacting.



Eastern Osprey

Photo: D. Bertzeletos

Diet and Breeding

Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish, though some populations in northern Australia predate on the large colonies of flying foxes that roost in mangroves. Fish are usually detected whilst a bird is flying over clear water and are captured via spectacular plunges. Once the bird is airborne, it manoeuvres the fish so that it is facing towards the direction of flight in order to reduce drag. Ospreys are generally monogamous for life and maintain large loose territories, though some colonies exist in the Americas. The stick nests are refurbished each year and can reach massive sizes (300+ kg). These are generally built in trees, but in their absence, cliffs and offshore islands will be used. Clutches range in size between 2 to 4 brown blotched eggs and these are incubated by the female for about 40 days. The chicks are fed by both parents for a further two months before fledging.

Conservation Status and Distribution in the Eurobodalla

In Australia, Eastern Ospreys are quite common in the north and the west. However, there appear to have been some declines in populations in south Australia. Despite this, the population appears to be robust for the time being and the species readily breeds in close proximity to humans (e.g. in Perth). However, it has largely been absent as a breeding bird across much of south-eastern NSW and it does not breed in Victoria. In the Eurobodalla, it has been a rare to uncommon non-breeding visitor. The occurrences of multiple individuals and the presence of juveniles did raise the possibility of breeding occurring locally. Finally, in early 2016, a pair was observed nest building on Budd Island in the Clyde River estuary. The pair is still being monitored and it is hoped that they will successfully raise a brood. Dimitris Bertzeletos

What's coming up....

Saturday July 9, 2pm: Cullendulla Creek. Meet at the small car park off Myamba Parade, Surfside. A walk along the beach to the boardwalk that takes you through the mangroves along the creek. Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher, Gull-billed Tern, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Southern Emu-wren, Mistletoebird.

Sunday July 24, 9am: Broulee Island Nature Reserve. Meet at the car park at the end of Harbour Drive, off Bayview Street, Broulee. A walk around the island at this time of year should result in sightings of Eastern Reef Egret, Sooty Oystercatcher, as well as whales, seals and dolphins.

Saturday August 13, 2pm: Hawdons Road, Moruya. Meet at the Eurobodalla Shire Council car park, in front of the library, Vulcan Street Moruya. We will visit the Mogendoura flats, and the cemetery at Glenduart estate and stop along Larry's Mountain and Hawdons Roads. A visit to a lightly wooded area off Princes Highway will complete the afternoon. Scarlet Honeyeater, Crested Shrike-tit.

Sunday August 28, 9am: Bermagui State Forest and Wallaga Lake. Meet at the parking area on the southern side of Wallaga Lake, next to the bridge that crosses the lake. We will drive to Bermagui State Forest picnic area from there. Bermagui SF lakeside walk: White-bellied Sea-Eagle, various honeyeaters, lorikeets and thornbills. In 2012, Swift Parrot were recorded at this location. Wallaga Lake: Hooded and Red-capped Plover, Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher, Caspian Tern.

Saturday September 10, 2pm: Bodalla State Forest. Meet opposite the Bodalla Police Station. A track will be chosen closer to the time with the hope that Swift Parrot will be passing through the area.

Sunday September 25, 9am: Lower area of Gulaga. Meet at the car park at Pam's Store, Tilba Tilba. Walk across farmland to the lower reaches of Gulaga. Noisy Pitta, Green Catbird, Yellow-throated and Large-billed Scrubwren, Pilotbird.

A warm welcome to new members...

Paul Gatenby, Broulee
Chris Marshall, Dalmeny

And it's a warm welcome back to Geoff and Eleanor (Den) Robin, Narooma

A new way for members to interact...

Members may be interested in joining a Facebook group dedicated to the natural history of the Eurobodalla area. The group is called, somewhat predictably, "Eurobodalla Natural History". Membership is open not only to ENHS members, but to all Facebook users. The group is a closed Facebook group, which means you have to join the group before you can view or create posts. Posting sightings and photographs, or commenting on other members' posts, is a very simple process. A guide has been prepared to assist those who do not have Facebook accounts, or who have accounts but are not familiar with Facebook. It is accessible via the following link: http://enhs.org.au/?page_id=3657

For those who are already familiar with Facebook the "Eurobodalla Natural History" group page can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/eurobodallanaturalhistory/>

Out of Shire Trip 2016

Booderee, Lake Wollumboola and Nowra area 4-8 November (extended to 11th for those able to stay longer)

This area boasts unspoilt coastline and hinterland habitats for over 350 birds. It is an easy drive from the Eurobodalla area that takes from one to two and a half hours. There is a variety of accommodation available in the area. Most of the walks are easy. We will be visiting 3 main areas:

- Booderee National Park and the surrounding areas of Vincentia and Erowal Bay which offer opportunities for the Eastern Bristlebird, Ground Parrot and Southern Emu-wren
- Coastline areas of Culburra and Comerong Island with Lake Wollumboola can host a diversity of seasonal migratory waders as well as a wide range of resident birds
- Nowra itself offers 3-4 walks in eucalypt forest with shrubland, sandstone cliffs and rainforested areas.



Eastern Bristlebird

Photo: S. Benjamin

Please contact Lyn (0408 183 510 or at lynburden60@gmail.com) to express interest in coming or if you would like some additional information. An itinerary will be available closer to the time. If you would like to visit for the day, let me know and we can plan accordingly.

The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Eurobodalla Natural History Society was held at the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens on Sunday 29th May 2016 with 21 members in attendance. The minutes from the 2015 AGM were circulated and taken as read.

Chair's Report: David Kay started his report by acknowledging that it had been 30 years since the Society was formed, with the first newsletter and annual report published in 1986. He paid tribute to the three people who had held the position of Chair before him, Stephen Marchant, Jill Whiter and Mike Crowley. He reported that the Society had had another successful year, and thanked the Newsletter team for their efforts in publishing the newsletter. David thanked all members for their continued support of the Society.

Secretary's Report: Julie Morgan detailed the participation of the Society's members in a number of activities, including the out of shire trip to Lake Cargelligo, the NPWS Shorebird Recovery Program, Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater Surveys and the Wallagoot Lake BioBlitz. She reported on the Society's website which continues to be utilised by members and non-members. Members were encouraged to put forward their suggestions for the 2017 program of field meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Malcolm Griggs presented his report and indicated that there has been a small loss for the year. Income for the year was \$2664.31; expenditure \$2908.19; the bank balance \$3400.54; and the ANZ term deposit \$7356.60.

Election of Office Bearers: Office bearers and committee nominees were elected unopposed. For full details of the 2016/17 Committee, please see the table that appears on the last page of the newsletter.

General business

Issues discussed included changing the time that field meetings are held in the summer months, the trial of a Facebook closed group called "Eurobodalla Natural History" and the possibility of entering ENHS data into the Atlas of NSW Wildlife. The ERBG was thanked for providing the space for the meeting and for preparing the room. Julie Morgan

Vale Jill Whiter

It is with some considerable sadness that I record the passing of Jill Whiter, who died in Batemans Bay on 2 June. Jill was a foundation member and a true stalwart of the Society. She edited the first edition of this Newsletter and continued as the editor and a major contributor for the next 25 years.

As she recorded in the preface to her 2007 publication, Jill first visited this part of the coast as a child of 10 in 1940 and continued to visit regularly until making her permanent home at Guerilla Bay in 1981. Through



Jill Whiter in 2011

Photo: J.Morgan

her observations and recording, she developed an extensive knowledge of the natural history of the Eurobodalla. I and many other members have benefited from the wealth of Jill's knowledge, which she willingly shared at field meetings and through her contributions to this Newsletter.

For many years Jill wrote a monthly column in the local newspaper, to inform residents and visitors of the wildlife on their doorstep and also to publicise the Society's meetings. At the urging of friends and colleagues she drew together and synthesised these "jottings" (as she referred to them) into her highly successful '*A Eurobodalla Naturalist's Diary*' which was published by the Society in 2007. I still find it a delightful read and a sound reference source.

In addition to all the above Jill served as a Committee member for 25 years. Her contributions included 9 years as Chairman (no gender neutral language for her), 8 years as Recorder, 12 years as the compiler and a further 13 as the main editor of *Nature in Eurobodalla*.

Jill was delightful and informative company at Society activities. I much enjoyed her enthusiasm, knowledge and wry sense of humour. I'll miss the 'little lady', as I'm sure many others of you will. David Kay

Looking back over Autumn

The Spotted Gum continued to flower throughout autumn and this boded well for a good Swift Parrot season in the Eurobodalla. Swift Parrots hit the mainland in March so we started surveying early, but our first records weren't until mid-May. It seems that flowering eucalypts to our south and west provided ample choice for these migratory parrots. We had a group of 4 Swift Parrot in the Bodalla State Forest, 8 in the Benandarah State Forest and 100 in the Boyne State Forest, just north of the Eurobodalla. These sightings were the greatest number reported anywhere on the mainland over the survey period.

Swift Parrot surveys often lead to other discoveries and that was the case over the Swift Parrot/Regent Honeyeater survey weekend, May 14-15. Peter and Heather Haughton, Robyne Stacey and I were surveying around Batemans Bay and drove down Lattas Point Road to the oyster leases. As we watched thousands of Yellow-faced Honeyeater on their northerly migration, a female Eastern Osprey appeared and flew past us into the mangroves. She emerged carrying a stick and deposited it in a dead pine on Budd Island. This is the first record of a breeding attempt of this species in the Eurobodalla and we were all excited to be witnessing the early stages of a nest-building.



Eastern Osprey nest building at Batemans Bay

Photo: N. Clark

As we watched she repeated the exercise, but this time the stick wasn't placed as neatly and it fell to the ground. No male was seen on this day but Peter and Heather returned the following day to see a male and female Eastern Osprey resting in the dead pine. Over the next few weeks, the nest grew bigger but the storms of early June damaged the nest. We watch with anticipation to see whether the nest will be added to in the coming weeks.

Another significant find during Swift Parrot surveys was in Boyne State Forest where Dimitris and I heard a pair of Regent Honeyeater calling. We did our best to try to find the birds in dense scrub but the closer we got, the further they moved away. Dean Ingwersen was excited to hear about the pair, as over the survey period only 5 Regent Honeyeater had been reported.

Our autumn migrants have all arrived with more records of Crescent and Yellow-tufted Honeyeater than usual. Three species of unusual doves have been reported in autumn: an Emerald Dove at Mystery Bay, a Rose-crowned Fruit-dove at Cullendulla Creek and a juvenile Superb Fruit-dove was photographed at Lilli Pilli. Powerful Owl have been seen or heard at Malua Bay, Maulbrooks Road and Polwambra in Moruya, Pedro Swamp, Pedro and Comerang. A Barking Owl was reported at Mystery Bay, and more recently, a pair called at Pedro. Julie Morgan

Phragmites australis

*Down along the backwater,
Through the rushes tall,
Ducks are a-dabbling,
Up tails all!*

So goes the song in the musical version of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. In Australia, we would call the rushes reeds, one of which is *Phragmites australis*, a common reed that grows in still or slow moving water at depths of up to 900mm. The name *Phragmites* comes from the Greek *phragma* (hedge), referring to its dense, hedge-like growth habit.



Phragmites australis inflorescence

This reed is actually a grass, and, at 1-3m high, one of the tallest. It is a perennial, dying down in the winter and emerging in the spring to burst into flower during March and April. The flower head is on the end of the stalk; a much branched, plume-like inflorescence, bearing numerous long silky hairs. At first the flower head is green, becoming brown, or purplish brown as it matures and the hairs spread and become clearly visible. If a mature inflorescence is picked and allowed to dry, the hairs alter from spreading to ascending, giving a compact, plume-like head. The form of the flower indicates that it is wind pollinated; however, it also spreads by vertical and underground rhizomes.

Phragmites australis grows mostly in freshwater drains, swamps and stream edges, persisting in saturated mud, but will also tolerate a little salinity. It may form extensive reed beds, and serves to control stream bank erosion. However, the fact that it dies down in winter reduces its efficiency in this respect. As well as harbouring snakes, water dragons, eels and water invertebrates, Common Reed beds are home to the

Australian Reed-Warbler, a small olive brown bird that climbs among the tall leaves and stems, and occasionally flits across open water. Even though it is very difficult to see, its rich melodious song indicates its presence during the breeding season.

The Common Reed is somewhat cosmopolitan in distribution, being found in Pacific Ocean nations as well as in India. In Australia, the Indigenous people used the stems for making bags and baskets. They also ate the new shoots as the plants regenerated after the winter. In India it was used for matting and woven into sandals. It has made good thatching material. For example, the explorer, Edward Eyre, had accommodation for himself, servant and visitors built from *Phragmites*, and in South Australia, early soldiers were housed in *Phragmites* huts while stone barracks were being erected. In Papua and Australia, robust stems are used for arrows and the hafts for spears. Fibres from the thick stalks have been shown to make good paper, but this avenue has not been explored to any extent. In addition, it is used in Chinese herbal medicine, where the underground part of the stem growing in mud is harvested. Taken internally, it is regarded as useful for acute arthritis, jaundice and food poisoning.



Phragmites australis growing in a creek bed

So, as well as being a habitat for dabbling ducks, reed warblers and other creatures, *Phragmites australis* is also useful for the human race, as food, shelter and medicine. But most of all, it is a beautiful component of our waterways, slowing down the velocity of floodwaters and stabilising stream banks. Jenny Liney

References:

ASTON, Helen I. Aquatic plants of Australia. 1977. CRIBB, A.B., and J.W. Useful wild plants in Australia. 1982. CRIBB, A.B., and J.W. Wild medicine in Australia 1981. ELLIOT, Rodger, and JONES, David. Encyclopaedia of Australian plants, Vol. 7, 1997

Field Trip reports

Clyde River National Park, April 2016

Having lived in the Eurobodalla for more than ten years, it is always a treat for us to visit a new spot, especially one that offers so many opportunities for bird watching and walking. Clyde River National Park includes 9km of river frontage, bounded on three sides by the Clyde River and on the northeast by the Kings Highway. It was created from a part of Benandarah State Forest in 2000, when 10.91km² was set aside as a National Park.



The view from Holmes Lookout Photo: G. McVeigh

On Sunday 29 April, fifteen of us met at the car park at Holmes Lookout to begin our excursion. Sitting up high on the ridge line, Holmes Lookout offers spectacular scenic views over the Clyde River as it winds its way towards the ocean, with Batemans Bay to the southeast and glimpses of the Budawang Ranges to the northwest. Sadly, much of the natural ambience was spoilt by the amounts of rubbish left by visitors. We set off on our walk and were soon rewarded with an excellent view of a flock of Crescent Honeyeater, four Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and a Collared Sparrowhawk. There was also much excitement about a sighting of a Rose Robin which, we subsequently discovered, having taken a closer look at the photographs on Facebook, was actually a Scarlet Robin. We also saw Rainbow Lorikeet apparently nesting in a hollow in a Spotted Gum and a number of Little and Musk Lorikeet.

Some of the excitement flagged when we realised that the walk was far longer than anticipated (4.3k each way), and the walk back was all uphill. At that stage, some of the group decided to turn back and the intrepid ones soldiered on to the lookout on the river. There was little birdlife at the river to reward our efforts apart from a flock of swans, but we enjoyed it nonetheless. Despite our determination to walk all the way back, we did relent and accepted Peter Haughton's kind offer to pick us up. Lots of laughter over lunch and we finished off our day with a fine view of two Wedge-tailed Eagles flying overhead. Helen Kay



Flock of swans flying over the Clyde River

Photo: R. Soroka

Wagonga Inlet, May 2016

A glorious late autumn afternoon greeted the dozen ENHS members, as we assembled for our boat trip on Wagonga Inlet. Our primary mission was to find the Eastern Osprey that Mandy had seen recently, so we set off with high hopes of seeing one in exactly the same spot.

Our captain, Bill Dudley, suggested that we cruise close to the shoreline so we could see the bush-birds as well as the inlet birds – and, of course, the elusive Osprey. As we cruised along, Bill regaled us with stories about the Inlet and the local history, pointing out the sites of the fish cannery (Australia's first), sawmill, the cheese factory and box factory. I was surprised to learn that there had been a township at Wagonga, at the head of the Inlet, established in 1860 to service the goldfields at Nerrigundah. In its heyday, it had a school, community hall, Post Office, Church of England, a hotel and cemetery. The township started to decline in 1919, when a bushfire ravaged most of it and the goldmines were exhausted. All that remains of the settlement today are the old hall's foundations and the cemetery. Wagonga Inlet is permanently open to the ocean, enabling large volumes of freshwater to drain quickly during storms and a tidal exchange of saltwater. The saline nature of the Inlet is a distinguishing feature, contributing to the high diversity and abundance of wildlife.

When we arrived at the spot where the Osprey had last been seen, we were somewhat disappointed to find it was not at its "pre-arranged" place. However our disappointment was short lived – as we continued cruising, we looked behind us and got a brief look at an Osprey in flight high over the hills, lit by brilliant sunshine. Other highlights included five White-bellied Sea-Eagle, a Sacred Kingfisher close to shore, a Hardhead and three Tree Martin, as well as over a hundred Rainbow Lorikeet and the anticipated cormorants, pelican, gulls and terns. Altogether, we saw 32 species.

Many thanks to Many Anderson for organising the trip and to Bill Dudley, our captain, for his informative commentary. Helen Kay

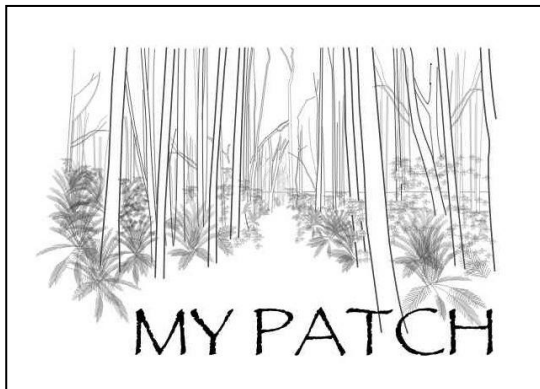
The Lyrebird Top 10

One of the most enjoyable aspects of being out in our forests in the month of May are the songs of the male Superb Lyrebird. Over the past few weeks, I have seen more lyrebirds on my travels than I've ever seen, including a group of 4 in Bermagui State Forest that were chasing one another around on a steep bank, totally unaware of my presence.

The repertoire of mimicry is at its best at this time of year as the male lyrebird tries to attract a mate for the breeding season. Over the past few years, I've noticed that the lyrebirds in our area tend to mimic a select few species and here is the male lyrebird top 10, roughly in order:

1. Eastern Whipbird
2. Grey Shrike-thrush
3. Crimson Rosella
4. Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
5. Laughing Kookaburra
6. Grey Butcherbird
7. Pied Currawong
8. Pilotbird
9. Black-faced Monarch
10. Red Wattlebird

Occasionally I also hear imitations of Gang Gang Cockatoo, Golden Whistler, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Grey Goshawk, Rainbow Lorikeet, White-browed Scrubwren and even Rose Robin. I wonder why lyrebirds prefer the calls of these species and not others that share the same forests like the thornbills and the smaller honeyeaters like Yellow-faced, White-naped, Crescent, and the Eastern Spinebill, cuckoo-shrikes or orioles.... Julie Morgan



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

Would you believe?

After every two days checking the making of a lyrebird's nest I was pleased to find it reached over half way after seven days. On checking it four days later I was disappointed to find it deserted. The reason ?two empty beer bottles lay snuggled into the lining. It takes all types. Don McGregor

Feathertail Gliders in Tuross

A neighbour found two on the 20th of February that had fallen into their wood fireplace. Two weeks before that, they found two dead gliders which they thought were mice. On the 30th of May I found a dead glider in a bucket. There must be plenty of these beautiful little things in this area. The Bangalays have been flowering along Nelson Parade for several months. Janet Haughton

Highlights from ENHS records - Autumn 2016

Avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Black Swan	200 to 250	MHS	JM	
Pink-eared Duck	20 to 60	Com	JC	
Aust Shoveler	20	Com	JC	
Hardhead	2	Com	JC	
Hoary-headed Grebe	8	Com	JC	
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	5 to 8	Lilli Pilli/MKS	IAG/SMG	
Brush Bronzewing	1	Bodalla	MA	March
Emerald Dove	1	MB	MA	In the driveway!
Bar-shouldered Dove	Calls	Cullendulla Ck	DB	
Superb Fruit-dove	1	Lilli Pilli	IAG	Photo of a juvenile bird
Rose-crowned Fruit-dove	1	Cullendulla Ck	DB	
White-throated Nightjar	1	Pedro	JS	To 14 th March
Aust Owllet-nightjar	1	Com	JC	
White-throated Needletail	8 to 100	Com	JC	In March
Albatross sp	1	Off MO	G Tedder	In May
Australasian Gannet	8	MB	MA	
Pied Cormorant	2	Bingie	DHK	
Intermediate Egret	1	Mossy Pt/Com	ABB/JC	
Cattle Egret	Up to 53	MYA	JL/JM	
Eastern Reef Egret	2, 1	MB/ NA/Bingie	MA/DHK	
Straw-necked Ibis	250, 150	Com/MO	JC/NM	
Royal Spoonbill	12, 8	MB/BI/Com	MA/DO/JC	
Eastern Osprey	2, 1	BB/NA	PHH/JM/ RS/MA	A pair nest building at BB.
Square-tailed Kite	1	MB	AC	Last record 7 th March
White-bellied Sea-eagle	5	NA	FM	Wagonga Inlet
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Clyde R NP /Com	FM/JC	
Grey Goshawk	1	MKS/NA/MB	SMG/MA	
Spotted Harrier	1	MYA	MC	On South Head Rd near Congo Rd
Peregrine Falcon	1	Pedro/Com	JS/JC	
Buff-banded Rail	Up to 3	TS	JH	
Aust Pied Oystercatcher	8 to 9	NA	FM/MA	
Sooty Oystercatcher	15, 9	NA/Bingie	MA/DHK	
Black-winged Stilt	4	Com	JC	
Pacific Golden Plover	5	MB	MA	In full breeding plumage in March
Red-capped Plover	20	Bengello Beach/MHN	MF/SMG	
Double-banded Plover	2	MB	MA	
Black-fronted Dotterel	8, 3, 2	Com, MO, Bingie	JC/NM/ DHK	
Hooded Plover	Up to 5	MB	MA	
Latham's Snipe	1	Com	JC	In March
Bar-tailed Godwit	75	NA	MA	In March; down to 12 in April.
Eastern Curlew	2	NA	MA	March
Great Knot	1	NA	MA	In April.
Glossy Black Cockatoo	3	Bodalla/PS/ Pedro/Bergalia	MA/JM/JS/ DHK	
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	20	Malua Bay	MW	
Gang-Gang Cockatoo	20-30	PS/Pedro	JM/JS	In May
Little Corella	200	MYA	JL	
Rainbow Lorikeet	Thousands	MHS	JM	On flowering Spotted Gum

Musk Lorikeet	360	Benandarah SF	DSD/JM	On flowering Spotted Gum
Little Lorikeet	400	Boyne SF	JM	On flowering Spotted Gum
Swift Parrot	100, 15, 8, 4	Boyne SF/MHS/ Benandarah SF/ Bodalla SF	DB/DSD/ AM/JM/ MC/ J Peterie	On flowering Spotted Gum. Greatest concentration in Boyne SF on Big Bit and Tomboye Roads.
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	Malua Bay/ Mogo SF/MKS/ CO	MW/DSD/ JM/SMG/ FM	
Powerful Owl	1 or 2	Malua Bay/ MKS/PS/Pedro/ Com/MB	MW/SMG/ JM/JS/JC/ ORN	
Barking Owl	Call	MB	MA	
Southern Boobook	1	Clyde R NP	FM	Daytime sighting
Azure Kingfisher	11, 8	Bumbo Ck/ Coila Ck	MA	
Sacred Kingfisher	1	NA	FM	Wagonga Inlet
Superb Lyrebird	6	Gulaga	JM/JS	And 4 all together on a bank in the BI SF. 3 males chasing each other and a female.
Green Catbird	1	Gulaga	JM/JS	
Pilotbird	7	Gulaga	JM/JS	
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	4	Gulaga	JM/JS	
Large-billed Scrubwren	4, 2	Gulaga/NA	JM/JS	In Ringlands at NA
White-throated Gerygone	Call	Deua NP	AM/JM	Last record March 24.
Striated Pardalote	4	MYA	JM	
Eastern Spinebill	4	Malua Bay	MW	With dependent young in April.
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Up to 1000 Hundreds	BB/ Deua R/Com	PHH/JM/ RS/AR/JC	Strong migration in April and May
White-eared Honeyeater	15	Gulaga	JM/JS	
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	30 to 40	Deua NP	AM/JM	
Fuscous Honeyeater	50	BB	PHH/JM/ RS	
Red Wattlebird	50 to 100	MKS/Com	SMG/JC	Northern migration
Regent Honeyeater	2	Boyne SF	DB/JM	In May
Scarlet Honeyeater	50, 20	Mogo SF/Boyne SF/MYA /Bimbimbee	JM	Still present in May
Crescent Honeyeater	8	Gulaga	JM/JS	
White-cheeked Honeyeater	10	Bodalla SF	DSD/AM/ JM	
White-naped Honeyeater	70, 50	Boyne SF/ Benandarah SF	DSD/AM/ JM	Feeding on Spotted Gum
Noisy Friarbird	200, 100	Mogo SF/Com	JM/JC	Some migration but many overwintering due to Spotted Gum blossom
Spotted Quail-thrush	1 to 3	Clyde R NP/ Bimbimbee/ Bodalla SF/ Coolagolite	DSD/AM/ JM/DO	
Varied Sittella	7, 6, 3	Deua NP/Com/ Bingie/MO	AM/JM/JC/ DHK/NM	Old Mill Rd
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1 or 2	MYA/Com	JM/JC	
Cicadabird	Calls	PS	JM	Last record March 15

Rufous Whistler	2	Pedro	JS	Last record in April
Australian Figbird	10	MYA	JM	
White-breasted Woodswallow	6	PS	JM	April
Dusky Woodswallow	5, 4	Belowra/NA	JC/DHK	A dependent young in Belowra in April
Rufous Fantail	1	Jeremadra/PS/ Bingie/MO/TS	GLM/JM/ DHK/NM /JH	Last record in TS on May 15. Quite late for this species.
Leaden Flycatcher	Calls	PS	JM	March
Black-faced Monarch	1	Bumbo Rd/Com	MA/JC	March
Little Raven	70, 4, 2	Com/MB/BB	JC/MA/JM	2 feeding on a carcass on the Princes Hwy at BB
White-winged Chough	14	Pedro	JS	
Scarlet Robin	1 or 2	BB/Malua Bay/ Bergalia/MO/PS	PHH/JM/ RS/MW/ DHK	
Rose Robin	1 or 2	Deua NP/Deua R/MYA SF/MB	PHH/JM/ RS/AR/AC	
Golden-headed Cisticola	4	Com	JC	
Little Grassbird	2	Com	JC	In May
Silveryeye	Thousands	PS/MYA/NA	JM/AM	Migration strongest in April
Tree Martin	100, 20	Com/MYA	JC/JL	
Bassian Thrush	1	Lilli Pilli/ Bodalla SF	IAG/JM	
Common Blackbird	2	MYA	JL	
Mistletoebird	6	Gulaga	JM/JS	

Non-avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Short-beaked Echidna	1	Coolagolite	DO	
Brown Antechinus	1	Lilli Pilli/ ERBG/MYA/ MYA SF	IAG/JL/NC	
Antechinus sp.	1	PS	JM	
Common Wombat	1 and signs	Mogo SF/ Coolagolite	JM/DO	One feeding in the daytime at Mogo
Feathertail Glider	Up to 4	TS	JH	Janet found a dead glider in May. Her neighbours had seen 4 in February. See Our Patch for more details.
Sugar Glider	2 and calls	Pedro/Com	JS/JC	
Common Brushtail Possum	4, 6	Pedro, Com	JS/JC	2 golden morph found in NA and Bodalla (MA)
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	Up to 50	Coolagolite	DO	
Red-necked Wallaby	8	Coolagolite	DO	
Grey-headed Flying Fox	Thousands	BBWG/MHS	JM/JS	Also a small camp at Ringlands.
Bush Rat	1	Pedro	JS	
Black Rat	1	PS/Pedro	JM/JS	
Dingo	Calls	Com	JC	
Red Fox	1	Pedro	JS	
Pig	1 to 6	Com	JC	
Snake-necked Turtle	4	Com	JC	
Yellow-bellied Water Skink	1 to 3	Com	JC	
Gippsland Water Dragon	10	Com	JC	
Jacky Lizard	1 or 2	PS/CO/ Coolagolite	JM/FM/DO	March/April
Lace Monitor	1 or 2	PS/Pedro	JM/JS	In March
Diamond Python	Numerous	MB	MA	

Mustard-bellied Snake	1	MB	AC	
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Frogs JC/JL/JM/DO	Common Eastern Froglet, Eastern Banjo and Brown Striped Frog, Haswell's Froglet, Brown Toadlet; tree frogs: Brown, Jervis Bay, Keferstein's, Peron's, Leaf-green, Tyler's, Verreaux's
Moths JC/DHK/JL/JM	Bardi Grub, Plume, Meal, Beet Webworm, Orange Cup, Tree Lucerne, Red-lined Geometrid, Hakea, Cream Wave, Plantain, Twin Emerald, Mecynata, Neat Epidesmia, Dark-patch Carpet, Subidaria, Red-spotted Delicate, White-stemmed Wattle, Convolvulus Hawk, Lichen-eating and Eggfruit Caterpillar, Lydia Lichen, Heliotrope, Tiger, Crimson Tiger, Magpie, Spotted Clearwing Snout, Semi-Looper, Green-blotched, Variable and Black Cutworm, Native Budworm
Butterflies JC/JL/JM/FM	Splendid Ochre, Narrow-brand and Greenish Grass-dart, Blue Triangle, Orchard and Dainty Swallowtail, Cabbage White, Dusky Knight, Brown Ringlet, Imperial, Spotted and Black Jezebel, Varied Sword-grass Brown, Common and Spotted Brown, Marbled Xenica, Meadow Argus, Aust Painted Lady, Yellow Admiral, Common Grass Blue, Tailed Emperor
Dragon and Damselflies JC/JM/AM/FM	Gold-fronted Riverdamsel, Common Flatwing, Common Bluetail, Wandering and Scarlet Percher, Blue Skimmer, Australian and Tau Emerald, Common Glider
Beetles JC/JM	Plague Soldier, Click, Three-lined Potato, Dung, Acacia and Metallic Acacia Leaf, Acacia Golden Green Leaf, Argentinian Scarab; Ladybirds: Twenty-six and Common Spotted, Striped, Amber, Variable, Fungus-eating, Mealybug, Transverse, Steelblue, White Collared.
Bugs JC	Bronze Orange, Harlequin, Green Vegetable, Brown Shield, Water Strider and Boatman.
Spiders JC/JL/JM	Golden Orb, Leaf-curling, Red-back, Daddy Long-legs, Black House, Two-spined, White-tailed, Huntsman, Jumping, Water, Wheel-weaving Garden, St Andrew's Cross, Net-casting, Two-tailed.

RAINFALL (mm). March: 24 at MKS, 19.5 at MYA, 57.8 at TS, 48 at Com, 63.5 at MB, 51.25 at Coolagolite. **April:** 22 at MKS, 28 at MYA, 74.4 at TS, 35 at Com, 61.5 at MB, 82.25 at Coolagolite. **May:** 9 at MKS, 6.5 at MYA, 13.8 at TS, 9.5 at Com, 16.75 at Coolagolite.

Contributors

MA	M Anderson, MB	IAG	I&A Grant, Lilli Pilli	HR	H Ransom, Mossy Pt
ABB	A&B Bellingham, Mossy Pt	SMG	S&M Guppy, MKS	JS	J Sagar, Pedro
DB	D Bertzeletos, Surfside	PHH	P&H Haughton, Lilli Pilli	BS	B Scales, Kianga
AC	A Christiansen, MB	JH	J&J Houghton, TS	RS/AR	R Stacey and A Rees, MYA
NC	N Clark, Surf Beach	DHK	D&H Kay, Bergalia	MW	M Wilkinson, Malua Bay
JC	J&P Collett, Com	JL	J&J Liney, MYA	FM	Field Meeting
MC	M Crowley, MHS	GLM	G&L McVeigh, Broulee	ORN	R Nipperess & O Niennattrakul MB
DSD	D&S Deans, ACT	NM	N Montgomery, MO		J Peterie, Bimbimbee
MF	M Fyfe, Broulee	JM	J Morgan, PS		G Tedder, CO
		DO	D Ondinea, Coolagolite		
Places					
BB	Batemans Bay	ERBG	Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens	NP	National Park
BBWG	Batemans Bay Water Gardens	MKS	Maulbrooks Rd S, MYA	PS	Pedro Swamp
BI	Bermagui	MO	Meringo	PP	Potato Point
BP	Burrewarra Point	MYA	Moruya	SB	Surf Beach
Com	Comerang	MH	Moruya Heads, N&S	SF	State Forest
CO	Congo	MB	Mystery Bay	TS	Tuross
DS	Durras	NA	Narooma	WL	Wallaga Lake

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