



EUROBODALLA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inc.

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Winter 2019

The Elusive Brush-tailed Phascogale

Some of you may have seen an article in the local paper about a Council initiative to build nesting boxes to protect birds and animals affected by the ongoing decline in hollow bearing trees across the Shire. My new neighbour, Susan Rhind, was one of those involved and she just happens to be an expert on brush-tailed phascogales. She undertook PhD field research on the behaviour and ecology of this rare little carnivorous marsupial in Western Australia and since then has investigated their taxonomy and conservation status around Australia. Here is what she says about this elusive species

The exciting thing for people living in the Eurobodalla is that we thought the brush-tailed phascogale had disappeared from the south coast, but my recent review of records showed up a sighting at Broulee in 2015, one in Meroo NP in 2017, and older ones at Longbeach (2007) and Dalmeny (2001). In total there are only 21 records for southern NSW but the species is well known to be hard to find and rarely turns up in surveys.



Phascogale with radio collar

Photo S Rhind

The brush-tailed phascogale is about the size of a sugar glider (about 40cm long and 100-300g), similarly silver in appearance but with a distinctive black 'bottle brush' tail. There are several reasons why they are both rare and elusive, some natural and some human made. They are solitary, nocturnal and arboreal and don't like coming to the ground. And even if you spot one in a tree they are lightning fast and can vanish before you get a good enough look to decide they are not a sugar glider. They typically occur at very low densities because they feed on invertebrates found on the trunks and branches of trees and this food source can be limited.

The females have large female-exclusive (one female only) territories which can be up to 60 hectares. Male home ranges are larger but overlap with other males and the females; the males can range over kilometres during the breeding season. So, even a normal population of the species is sparse, but in places where logging has occurred, especially if coupled with drought or fire, the population can be even sparser. Large trees are both the source of their food and the source of hollows which they need for shelter and breeding, and habitat fragmentation, loss of large trees through clearing and logging is a big problem. But another reason for their rarity is their unusual breeding habits.

Brush-tailed phascogales are the largest of the dasyurid Family (the carnivorous marsupials) that exhibit semelparity, which is defined as breeding once in a lifetime. This is commonly seen in invertebrates but in vertebrates is only observed in the males of some dozen Australian dasyurids. This is a risky breeding strategy for phascogales for several reasons. A male phascogale, which has a relatively large body, must get enough food to reach full size and sexual maturity in just one year, because all males die at end of the winter mating season. Females bear up to 8 young in a litter and the litter at weaning (140 days) can weigh over 300 percent of the mother's body weight. So if food is in short supply in spring, the females as well as their dependent

young may not survive. For phascogales to persist longterm, enough females need to successfully raise young each year to renew the population. Mass breeding failure in just a single year can mean local extinction. In turn, successful breeding each year is dependent on a predictable and reliable food source. My research in the WA jarrah forest showed that drought - which is bad for invertebrates - had a massive effect on phascogale body growth, breeding and survival, and caused a population crash. So another problem facing phascogale conservation is the increase and severity of droughts and forest fires due to climate change.



Phascogale with young

Photo S Rhind

There are several subspecies of the brush-tailed phascogale in Australia (WA southwest, the Kimberley, southeast Australia *Phascogale tapoatafa tapoatafa*) and there is a newly recognised species in the Northern Territory. The conservation status of all is classed as Threatened. Information is lacking on the species in Queensland.

To slow the decline will require ongoing protection of large tracts of productive forest that still retain large trees - outside of reserves the protection of forest and old trees with hollows is critical. Controlling foxes and feral cats and keeping pet cats inside (or in a run) is also important, as cats are known to kill phascogales. In our own backyards we can help by installing nestboxes up trees. Just ensure they are under complete shade, make the round nestbox entrance a tight fit at 40mm diameter (to keep out unwanted species). Box dimensions of about 20 X 20 X 20cm are good. If you hang the box so the hole is facing the tree trunk you will keep out birds. I like to put nesting material in my nestboxes as phascogales love making nests with sheep's wool, feathers and bark. Sugar gliders and Antechinus will also use this type of box. The "best" time to do some nest box watching is at dusk in May-June during the mating season, when the males run around like crazy looking for the girls, and again around Christmas time when the young are dispersing. Susan Rhind/Helen Kay

The Editorial 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 been on a holiday where you saw some interesting birds
- 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.

What's coming up....

Saturday October 12, 2pm: Illawong Nature Reserve. Meet at the corner of George Bass Drive and Broulee Road, Broulee. The walk is through woodland that surrounds Illawong Swamp. Little Grassbird, Australian Reed Warbler, Southern Emu-wren, Olive-backed Oriole, Varied Sittella, cormorants and egrets.

Sunday October 27, 9am: Belowra. Meet opposite the Bodalla Police Station. Julie and Peter Collett will lead a walk on their farm. (*Please note that it is an hour's drive to Belowra from Bodalla*). Rufous Songlark, White-winged Triller, Dusky Woodswallow, Diamond Firetail, Varied Sittella, Brown Falcon.

Saturday November 9, 2pm: Box Cutting Rainforest. Meet at the intersection of the Princes Highway and Kiangra Forest Road, 1km north of Narooma. A walk through the rainforest. Green Catbird, Topknot Pigeon, Yellow-throated and Large-billed Scrubwren, Rose Robin.

Sunday November 24, 9am: Waders Field Trip. Please check the Field Meetings page of the website for the venue or call Julie Morgan, Lyn Burden or Mandy Anderson (contact details on the last page of this newsletter) after November 20. The venue for the walk will depend on wader activity, weather and water levels in the estuaries. If conditions are not favourable, an alternative walk will be organised.

Field meeting program for 2020

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.

A warm welcome to new and returning members....

Joan Fearn, Moruya
Jenny Heathcote, Mystery Bay
Peter and Susan Heyward, Moruya Heads
Fran Vaughan, Malua Bay

Field meeting – Burrawang, 25 August 2019

The final field trip of winter was to “Burrawang,” a 38-hectare property, near Guerilla Bay. Burrawang is a Wildlife Sanctuary, providing a refuge for wildlife and protection for native vegetation. There are seventeen cabins on the property, all set in bushland. A group of Canberrans set up the sanctuary in 1982 as a non-profit organisation. Two hundred members own it under a Unit Trust arrangement where ‘members’ (unit holders) make all decisions, which are then implemented by an elected management committee.

The property contains various ecosystems on the hillsides, clifftops and dunes, and a wide variety of wildlife, birds and fish. We started with a walk through a section of Bangalay Sand Forest, an endangered ecological community, with a top storey of Bangalay (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) and Blackbutt (*E. pilularis*), a mid storey of Coastal Banksia, Old Man Banksia, Grey She-oak and Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*) and an understorey of Burrawangs (*Macrozamia communis*) and Spiny-headed Mat Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*). As we walked through this section of forest, the quiet calls of Southern Emu-wren were heard, and 2 birds popped up briefly before disappearing into the bracken. This is the first record of this species for Burrawang and a new location for the shire.



View towards Long Nose Point
Photo M Anderson

We reached the cliff and a lookout with magnificent views down the coast and, in the distance, the familiar shape of Gulaga. Barlings Island hosted a few Great and Little Pied Cormorants and four Bottlenose Dolphin swam south towards the beach.

We continued our walk along the cliffs and came to an area with quite a lot of activity. Silvereyes were migrating south, and several honeyeaters were also present: Fuscous, Yellow-faced, Lewins, New Holland, White-cheeked, White-naped and White-eared. Members were kept busy trying to identify all the species as the birds flitted from tree to tree.

We then turned towards Long Nose Point, a headland just south of Burrewarra Point, and a great spot for seawatching. The strong cold winds discouraged some from walking out to the point itself, and those of us who did, kept our stay short. We had distant views of Albatross and a whale spout, and closer views of Australian Gannet and a raft of around 200 Silver Gull, 40 Crested Tern and 6 White-fronted Tern. From there we walked through a

Casuarina forest that had been sculpted over many years by the coastal winds. Fallen limbs were decorated by bright orange bracket fungi. We then went on to Franks Beach, which was a sandy beach during our visit but is, we were told, sometimes covered by pebbles and rocks.

The walk back to the cars was through an ancient Blackbutt forest and we all marveled at the shape and size of the trees. Many of their branches had the scribbles left by the larvae of the Scribbly Gum Moth. A small group of members were delighted to see two Crested Shrike-tit quite close to the ground in this section of forest.

Lots of laughter over lunch in the picnic area as we did our bird count – a total of 42 species for the day. Julie Morgan

A little further afield

The ENHS record sheet lists a total of more than 260 species – a very impressive number, and more than a quarter of all species found in Australia and its territories. In addition, there are the less common sightings, not on our record sheet. The Noisy Pitta was a vagrant that delighted some of us near Wallaga Lake in 2014. We have seen the occasional, apparently lost Plumed Whistling-Duck at Comerang, as well as several other uncommon (for us) duck species. Cape Barren Geese appeared near Coopers Island several years ago, and a solitary Bush Stone-curlew joined a group of Masked Lapwing outside the library at Narooma for about 16 years before disappearing about 5 years ago. Its stay was long enough to justify leaving it on the species list. Obviously we have a truly rich diversity of avian species.

Nevertheless, it is always rewarding to travel further afield, and it's not even necessary to travel very far. Recently my friend Ann and I made the short trip (short for us, being in Mystery Bay) to Bega. We had been alerted to an interesting array of birds at Glebe Park in Bega. It was a particularly dull, dreary and uninteresting day, but the birds were not bothered by this. Directly across the road from Glebe Park is a large lagoon and it was here that we saw our first birds of interest – around 30 Pink-eared Ducks (which I prefer to call Zebra Ducks), 25 Black-winged Stilts, a number of Hardheads (which should be called White-eyed Ducks), as well as several of the usual species that one would expect in such a location – grebes, Coots, Black-fronted Dotterels and Swamp-hens. Lurking in the fallen willow beside the wetland was a pair of Restless Flycatchers.

Crossing the road to the pond in Glebe Park, we were delighted to find more Zebra Ducks, as well as about 30 Freckled Ducks, a Nankeen Night Heron, a single Royal Spoonbill, Chestnut Teasel and Pacific Black Ducks. In the bushes nearby were 4 Olive-backed Orioles, Eastern Whipbirds, Silvereyes and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, along with thornbills, fairy-wrens and the usual black and white species. An almost endless stream of more than 120 Pied Currawongs gradually passed overhead.



Birds at Glebe Park Photo A Christiansen

At Kiss's Lagoon on the way out of town, we saw, in addition to some of the species already listed, a pair of Pelicans, various cormorants, and White-faced Herons.

The Bega Valley also boasts a couple of populations of Beautiful Firetailss, which I am very keen to find. This would be a lifer for me, so an exploratory trip is definitely in order.

En route to Bega, we had seen an impressive number of different raptors, including Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Falcon, Nankeen Kestrel and a pair of Little Eagles. Swamp Harriers are also regularly encountered on the highway en route to Bega, particularly in the Tilba area. Kookaburras were also in good supply on the day of our visit. So it is definitely worth travelling a little further afield for a rewarding day of birding. Mandy Anderson

Congo residents protect local shorebirds

Surrounded by the Eurobodalla National Park, Congo is a wonderful environment for wildlife. The beaches, rocky platforms and Congo Creek entrance offer important habitat for breeding and foraging shorebirds, including Pied Oystercatcher and Red-capped Plover. Other species that can be seen at Congo include: Crested Tern, cormorants, Golden Plover, Sanderling, Red Knot and the Double-banded Plover which travels from New Zealand in winter.

As we know, shorebird population is in decline all over the world, and at Congo, this is evident in the reduced breeding success. This is largely due to predation by foxes, cats and ravens and nest inundation during storms and powerful surf conditions. But more distressing is the impact of humans – two years ago, eight males in their 20s walked through the nesting sites and destroyed 2 precious Red-capped Plover eggs.

This galvanised the local Congo community into action. In partnership with National Parks and Wildlife, shorebird volunteers decided to engage the whole community. The priority was to protect the nest sites, and all sites were fenced and signposted to provide space for nesting birds to incubate their eggs safely. The volunteer team also produced a leaflet which was put in letter boxes of every home. The leaflet provides useful information about the bird population and informs residents of nesting times and duration. All residents are asked to be vigilant and on the look out for any threats to nesting sites.

These efforts have already yielded very positive results – in the last breeding season, two Pied Oystercatcher and six Red-capped Plover were fledged. Congo residents are hopeful that with their continued vigilance, next year will be even more successful. Helen Kay

Persoonia – the common Geebung

In a recent newsletter I wrote about Dodonea and described the genus as easy to overlook, as for much of the year they are relatively inconspicuous. Persoonia is equally nondescript, but hopefully equally interesting.

Persoonia is an Australian genus of about 90 species of evergreen shrubs, or sometimes small trees, in the Protea (Proteaceae) family named for the 18th century German botanist and mycologist, Christian Hendrik Persoon. These plants are commonly called geebungs, a version of the Dharuk Indigenous word jibbong referring to the edible fruit of some species. In Western Australia and South Australia, they go by the common name, snottygobbles.



Persoonia linearis Photo J Dark

For much of the year, they have a shabby droopy appearance, but from mid spring to late autumn, they have very attractive bright green leaves with smooth edges, and masses of almost stalkless small tubular yellow flowers. The flowers are followed by succulent yellow or green fruit, sometimes produced in large heavy clusters.

Persoonia linearis (having narrow or linear leaves) sometimes known as the Narrow-leaved Geebung is the most common local species. It is a large shrub generally reaching 2 to 5 metres in height, with attractive blackish fine papery bark, which is reddish underneath. The soft green foliage is comprised of leaves that are long and narrow, up to 90 mm long by 1-6mm wide. The small yellow flowers are borne in the leaf axils at the ends of

the branches, typical of many geebung. They occur over a long period, from mid spring to late autumn. The flowers are followed by fleshy, green fruits, known as drupes, which hang in grape-like clusters and are consumed by vertebrates such as kangaroo, possums and currawongs.

Found in dry sclerophyll forest on sandstone-based nutrient-deficient soils, *P. linearis* is adapted to a fire-prone environment; the plants resprout from epicormic buds beneath their thick bark after bushfires.

Persoonia levis, or the Broad-leaved Geebung is also found locally. It is an understory shrub to small tree growing in a range of woodland environments, usually dry open forest or sandy heath. Their bright green leaves contrast with the dull shade of eucalypts making them stand out in the bush. The leaves are large, ranging from 8-20cm long and 2-4cm wide, attached alternately across the stem. The branchlets are often bright red, contrasting with the green of the leaves.

Like the entire genus *Persoonia levis* has tiny yellow flowers from 10-15cm long that appear in summer. The long buds are cylindrical with a squashed round base; as the flowers open, they display 4 spreading segments which curl backwards. Above the segments are 4 anthers which curve downwards with the style sitting upright in the centre. Fruits are small, round and green and ripen after falling to the ground where they can be eaten by native birds and animals.

Persoonia levis hybridises with *P. linearis* as well as several other species. The hybrid of these two species is called *Persoonia x lucida* or Shiny Geebung (source: VicFlora). The leaves take on the characteristics of both species being linear-lanceolate or oblanceolate, 5-10cm long and 5-10mm wide. The flowers are solitary in the axils of the leaves, the drupe is ovoid and about 10mm long and 8mm wide. It is found in coastal heathlands in far East Gippsland and NSW.

This photograph was taken at Moruya Heads and shows the larva of the Double-headed Hawk Moth (*Coequosa triangularis*) feeding on the leaves of a Geebung. Helen Kay



Double-headed Hawk Moth larva feeding on Geebung.
Photo J Morgan

Black-faced Monarch at the Gardens

There are a few birds in the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens (ERBG) that are hard to photograph for one or more reasons: they may be scarce, shy and/or moving quickly either high in the trees or low in bushes. These birds include the Rufous Fantail, Eastern Whipbird, Golden Whistler, Bassian Thrush, the Glossy Black-Cockatoo, the Superb Lyrebird and the Black-faced Monarch. The Gardens are richer for the presence of these birds. The downside is that people like me are attracted to the Gardens.



Black Faced Monarch Photo G McVeigh

You will not see them all in a single visit. It is best to find out the seasons when different species will be at the Gardens and, if possible, visit regularly to see them. Entry is free and it is a great place to observe native animals in their habitat.

The Black-faced Monarch is found on the eastern Australian coast in rainforests, woodlands and damp gullies. I recently saw one near a gully in the ERBG. In February I photographed a juvenile Black-faced Monarch and a juvenile Eastern Yellow Robin screeching at each other.

The Black-faced Monarch is classed as a flycatcher; it catches insects either on leaves or in flight. You would think that a bird with an orange belly would be easy to see but that is not the case. Geoff McVeigh

Common Wallaroo sighting in Mystery Bay

The Common Wallaroo is a member of the Macropod family and has two sub-species, *Macropus robustus robustus*, which is the form found east of the Great Dividing Range, and *Macropus robustus erubescens*, often referred to as the Euro, whose territory is west of the Divide, extending to the west coast. There have been few sightings of the Wallaroo in the local area, with reports from Nelligen and Quaama, and further afield near Ulladulla and west of the Deua National Park.

This makes my recent sighting in Mystery Bay all the more interesting. I was showing a visitor the jewels of our region in early August, and having driven out to 1080 Beach, we were heading back along the forest drive when I noticed the solitary Wallaroo near the edge of the road in the Spotted Gum forest. It stood momentarily watching us, and then headed bush with slow loping hops.

The Wallaroo is a particularly attractive macropod. In my experience, they have always been solitary, whereas the Eastern Grey is generally in a mob which ranges in size from a small family group to a large mob. The Wallaroo is markedly larger than any of the wallaby species, and easily distinguished from them. It often has a darker coat, is stockily built – because it regularly inhabits very rugged and difficult terrain – and usually has a “fluffier” or shaggier coat than the kangaroos. Its front paws appear to be larger, and its ears more rounded. The western variety, the Euro, generally has a more reddish coat.

The sighting of the Wallaroo capped off an interesting day in the field for my ex-patriate friend who resides in Hong Kong. We had watched a Long-nosed Bandicoot feeding in the picnic area of 1080 – it is not often that a bandicoot can be observed in daylight hours – and I had shown him our local colony of seals, as well as many of the cormorants, pelicans, godwits, terns and oystercatchers which make Narooma their home. He was so impressed with this novel experience that he immediately offered to buy my “surplus” pair of binoculars and seems keen to make bird-watching a new interest when he retires back in Australia. Mandy Anderson

Eastern Osprey breeding report

The Eastern Osprey pair has returned to their nest on the telecommunications tower at Moruya Heads. This tower is built on the highest point at South Head and, without any vantage point nearby, observation of what is happening in the nest is quite a challenge. Still, our nomadic photographer, Geoff McVeigh, has captured some interesting happenings at the nest.

The osprey pair first built the nest in 2018 and the location they chose seemed to be precarious as it straddled two parts of the structure. Last year we watched as many sticks brought up to the nest simply fell through a large gap and crash to the ground. They managed to build what looked to be a flimsy nest but after a series of extremely windy days in July 2018, it was severely damaged and the pair abandoned it.

This year, activity began in May and by early June the nest began to look



Osprey nest building Photo G Mc Veigh

larger and more substantial than last year's. The osprey pair seemed to overcome the structural challenges of the tower and were observed on most days throughout June adding sticks to the nest. Placement was quite deliberate and Geoff observed a bird place a stick and then take off with it, returning to place it in another spot. We assume they had learned from their past experience at this site.

During July both birds were observed at the nest, sometimes with fish, other times with sticks. There always seemed to be a bird on the nest and by mid-July we were convinced they were brooding. On July 26, an osprey was sitting on the nest when the



Photo G McVeigh

second returned with a fish and both stayed as the fish was consumed. On another occasion, fishing line was observed among the sticks on the nest and we can only assume it was brought up with a fish.

On August 20, Mike Crowley heard a chick calling and photographed what looked to be a downy head of a young osprey. Then on August 26, Geoff photographed what could well be a larger chick and heard a bird clambering over the nest. More calls were heard in late August and we are still unsure whether there is a single chick or perhaps two.

We will update this report in the next newsletter. Geoff McVeigh and 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

Oystercatchers on Bingie beach

Whilst on my regular early morning walks, it is not unusual for me to share Bingie beach with Sooty Oystercatchers. Occasionally, there are Pied Oystercatchers working the beach, feeding on pipis.

Recently I witnessed an interesting interaction between two birds that kept me entertained for nearly 15 minutes. A Pied Oystercatcher had managed to dig up and eat at least 20 pipis when a Sooty Oystercatcher joined in and they continued to work their way through a few more; though it didn't appear that the Sooty Oystercatcher had very much success. The Pied Oystercatcher didn't react to the intrusion and continued close contact with the Sooty Oystercatcher. Finally, the Sooty Oystercatcher got bored and flew off leaving the Pied Oystercatcher to continue working over the area.



Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher feeding together
Photo A Marsh

The following morning, there were two Pied Oystercatchers in proximity, working the same area of beach, as well as a one-footed Sooty Oystercatcher. In the time I was there, they didn't appear to have the same amount of success with the pipis as the day before.

Another interesting interaction between species was one morning watching three Reef Herons trying their hardest to intimidate a White-faced Heron from its favourite viewing rock; they finally succeeded but it took a while.

Unfortunately, another early morning walker is a fox whose paw prints I see following the high tide line, every morning without fail. Amanda Marsh

Highlights from ENHS records - Winter 2019

Avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Freckled Duck	15 to 28	MHS	MA	On Newstead Pond
Grey Teal	23	Sth DS	JCof	In July
Chestnut Teal	50	MO	NM	In August
Hardhead	1	MO	NM	August
Australasian Grebe	3	MO	NM	
Hoary-headed Grebe	5, 1	MO/Sth DS	NM/JCof	
White-headed Pigeon	9, 6	LP/MB	IAG/MA	
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Up to 25	MKS	SMG	
Bar-shouldered Dove	Call	PS	JM	In June. First record at this location.
Tawny Frogmouth	2	MO	NM	
Black-browed Albatross	Up to 20	MHS	DB/JM	
Shy Albatross	Up to 450	MHS	DB/JM	450 counted in August
Grey-headed Albatross	1	MHS	DB	June
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	1	MHS	DB	June and August
Salvin's Albatross	1	MHS	DB	August
Northern Giant Petrel	1	MHS	DB	Adult in August
Giant Petrel sp	1	MHS	DB	Immature in August
Prion sp.		MHS/BP	DB/G Clark	Many off shore in July-August
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	500	Off MO	NM	August
"Fluttons" Shearwater (Fluttering/Huttons)	Thousands	MHS/BP	DB/G Clark /JM	July-August
Australasian Gannet	More than 30, 20	Bogola Head/ MHS	FM/DB/JM	
Australasian Darter	1	MHS/ Mummaga L	FM	
Pied Cormorant	2, 1	MO/MHS	NM/FM	
White-necked Heron	3	Bergalia	DHK	
Eastern Great Egret	3	Broulee	GLM	
Intermediate Egret	1	MHN	MF	
Cattle Egret	Up to 8, 6	MYA/Bergalia/ MB	JM/DHK/ MA	Fewer than in recent years
Striated Heron	1	TN	V Brown	June
Little Egret	2	Broulee	GLM	
Eastern Reef Egret	3, 2	Bingie/MB	AM/MA	
Straw-necked Ibis	150	Bogola Head	FM	June
Royal Spoonbill	15, 6, 4	NA/Candlagan Ck/MHS	MA/MF/JM	
Eastern Osprey	3, 2, 1	BB/MHS/DY	NC/JM/T&A Ross	Nest building at BB and MHS. Young at MHS in August.
Whistling Kite	4	Bergalia	DHK	
Brown Goshawk	1	MO	NM	
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	MKS/MO	SMG/NM	
Grey Goshawk	2, 1	PS/Bergalia/ Coila	JM/DHK/ M Craig	Pair displaying at PS in August
Little Eagle	1	MO	NM	August
Spotless Crake	1	Bevian Rd	NC	
Eurasian Coot	130	Bingie	DHK	Kelly's L
Aust Pied Oystercatcher	4	Sth DS	JCof	
Sooty Oystercatcher	14	BB	MF	
Black-winged Stilt	4	MHS	MC	August
Pacific Golden Plover	2, 1	CO/MB	V Brown/ NC/MA	Overwintering.
Red-capped Plover	6	Sth DS	JCof	

Double-banded Plover	5, 2, 1	CO/Bogola Head/Sth DS	V Brown/NC/FM/JCof	Immature at CO. Breeding plumage in August.
Black-fronted Dotterel	2, 1	MO/Coila	NM/NC	
Bar-tailed Godwit	28, 20, 1	NA/DY/MHS	MA/B Tilley /MC	July-August
Whimbrel	1	NA	MA	August
Eastern Curlew	2 to 3	NA	V Brown /MA	June and August
Curlew Sandpiper	2	CO	NC	August 26 th
Brown Skua	4	MHS	DB	August
Caspian Tern	6, 5, 1	CO/Sth DS/ Mummaga L	V Brown/ JCof/FM	
White-fronted Tern	More than 40	MO	NM	Smaller numbers at CO, MHS and Burrawang
Pacific Gull	1	Kianga	T&A Ross	Juvenile in July
Glossy Black Cockatoo	6, 4, 3	ERBG/MKS/PS /Broulee	NC/SMG/JM /GLM	
Gang-Gang Cockatoo	3, 2	Broulee/MKS/ Cool/Malua Bay	GLM/SMG/ DO/MW	
Musk Lorikeet	8, 6	Bimbimbee/MO	FM/NM	Also at MB
Little Lorikeet	Up to 8	PS	JM	Only location for this species over winter
Swift Parrot	2	MB	AC	July
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	MO	NM	First return August 3 rd
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	MO	NM	First return August 2 nd
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	3	MO	NM	Singles elsewhere
Powerful Owl	1	MKS	SMG	June and August
Southern Boobook	Calling	Malua Bay/Cool	MW/DO	
Azure Kingfisher	2	MO	NM	
Sacred Kingfisher	Call	Mummaga L	FM	August 10 th
Superb Lyrebird	More than 4	MB	MA	West of the highway.
Variegated Fairy-wren	40, 20	Burrawang/PS	FM/JM	
Southern Emu-wren	7, 4, 2	Broulee/ Candlagan Ck/ Burrawang	GLM/HR/ FM	New location for the species at Burrawang.
Striated Thornbill	20,10	MKS/PS/MO	SMG/JM/ NM	Carrying food at MO in August.
Striated Pardalote	1 or 2	PS/MO	JM/NM	In July/August
White-eared Honeyeater	10, 2, 1	PS/Bimbimbee/ MKS/Bergalia/ Burrawang/MO	JM/FM/SMG DHK/NM	
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Up to 3	MKS	SMG	July-August
Fuscous Honeyeater	20, 2	PS/Burrawang/ MKS	JM/FM/SMG	
White-fronted Chat	10	Coila	NC	August 26 th
Scarlet Honeyeater	3, 2, 1	MO/PS/MB/ Burrawang	NM/JM/MA/ FM	Through winter
White-cheeked Honeyeater	6, 1	Burrawang/MO	FM/NM	
Brown-headed Honeyeater	10, 4, 1	Malua Bay/PS/ Cool	MW/JM/DO	
White-naped Honeyeater	30	Burrawang	FM	
Noisy Friarbird	1	MKS/MB	SMG/MA	First return at MKS August 7 th
Varied Sittella	2	PS/MO	JM/NM	
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1	PS	JM	August 6 th

Crested Shrike-tit	3, 2, 1	Burrawang/MO Bingie/Deua R	FM/NM/AM V Brown	An immature with 2 adults at Bingie in July.
Rufous Whistler	1	Mummaga L	FM	First return August 10 th
White-breasted Woodswallow	7	MO	NM	Unusual record in August
Grey Currawong	1	Deua R	V Brown	
Restless Flycatcher	1	Bergalia	DHK	
White-winged Chough	8, 6	PS/MKS	JM/SMG	
Scarlet Robin	2	Bergalia	DHK	June. Fewer records this winter
Rose Robin	1	MO/MB	NM/MA	
Silvereye	Hundreds	TS/Burrawang	M Craig/FM	Southward migration Jul-Aug.
Tree Martin	8, 5	MO/MYA	NM/JM	
Bassian Thrush	Call	MKS	SMG	June
Common Blackbird	2	LP/MB	IAG/MA	
Mistletoebird	1	MKS	SMG	June. Fewer records this winter
Australian Pipit	3, 1	Bingie/MO	DHK/NM	

Non-avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Short-beaked Echidna	4, 2, 1	Pedro/PS/ MHS/Cool	S Doyle/ FM/DO	
Long-nosed Bandicoot	1, signs	MB/Mossy Pt	MA/HR	Daytime sighting at MB
Common Wombat	Up to 3	Cool	DO	
Yellow-bellied Glider	1	Mossy Pt/PS	HR/JM	Call at PS confirms extension of range south of the Moruya R
Sugar Glider	1	Mossy Pt/PS	HR/JM	
Common Brushtail Possum	1 or 2	LP/Mossy Pt/ Cool	IAG/HR/ DO	
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	Up to 48	Cool	DO	
Red-necked Wallaby	4	Cool	DO	
Swamp Wallaby	3	PS/Cool	JM/DO	Singles elsewhere
Common Wallaroo	1	MB	MA	First record for the society.
Red Fox	1	TN	MF	Roadkill
Rabbit	2	LP	IAG	
Australian Fur Seal	15, 12, 1	MHS/NA/ Broulee	DBJM/MA /B Platts	
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	6, 4	MHS/ Burrawang	DB/JM/FM	
Whale sp.	1	MHS/ Burrawang	DB/JM/FM	
Humpback Whale	5	Sth DS/MHS	JCof/DB/ JM	Large pod off Bogola Head in June (FM)
Dark-flecked Garden Sunskink	1	Mossy Pt	HR	June
Weasel Skink	1	Mossy Pt	HR	August
Eastern Blue-tongue	1	Mossy Pt	HR	August
Jacky Lizard	2	PS/Burrawang	JM	First on August 7 th
Diamond Python	1	PS	JM	Overwintering in a herb pot on the verandah until August 20 th
Red-bellied Black Snake	1	Candlagan Ck	MF	Roadkill

Frogs JM/DO/HR	Common Eastern Froglet, Brown Striped Frog, Bibron's and Tyler's Toadlet; tree frogs: Brown, Eastern Sedgefrog, Jervis Bay, Keferstein's, Peron's, Verreaux's.
Moths KD/JM/D McLaughlin	Ghost, Plume, Black Geometrid, Long-fringed Bark, Common Gum Emerald, Varied Wave, Dark-patch Carpet, Long-nosed, Iropoca, Painted Apple (larva) Eastern Halone, Crimson Tiger, Green-blotched.
Butterflies JM/FM	Black Jezebel, Cabbage White, Brown Ringlet, Meadow Argus, Varied Dusky-blue.
Other JM	White-faced Brown Paper Wasp.
Spiders FM/JM	Golden Orb, Black House.

RAINFALL (mm). June: 82 at LP; 36.5 at MKS, 39.25 at Cool. **July:** 2 at LP, 7 at MKS, 10.75 at Cool. **August:** 4 at LP, 1 at MKS, 0.5 at Cool.

Contributors

MA	M Anderson, MB	SMG	S&M Guppy, MKS		V Brown, ACT
DB	D Bertzeletos, Surfside	DHK	D&H Kay, Bergalia		G Clark, ACT
AC	A Christiansen, MB	AM	A Marsh, Bingie		M Craig, TS
NC	N Clark, Surfbeach	JM	J Morgan, PS		S Doyle, Pedro
JCof	J Coffey, Sth DS	DO	D Ondinea, Cool		D McLaughlin
MC	M Crowley, MHS	HR	H Ransom, Mossy Pt		B Platts, Broulee
MF	M Fyfe, Broulee	MW	M Wilkinson, Malua Bay		T&A Ross, Kianga
JMG	J&M Gordon, NA	FM	Field Meeting		B Tilley
IAG	I&A Grant, LP				
Places					
BB	Batemans Bay	ERBG	Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens	PS	Pedro Swamp
BBWG	Batemans Bay Water Gardens	LP	Lilli Pilli	PP	Potato Point
BI	Bermagui	MKS	Maulbrooks Rd S, MYA	SB	Surf Beach
BP	Burrewarra Point	MO	Meringo	SF	State Forest
Cool	Coolagolite	MYA	Moruya	T`bella	Trunketabella
Com	Comerang	MH	Moruya Heads, N&S	TN	Tomakin
CO	Congo	MB	Mystery Bay	TS	Tuross
DS	Durras	NA	Narooma	WL	Wallaga Lake
DY	Dalmeny	NP	National Park		

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The editorial team hoped you may be interested in this snippet from thirty years ago.

Newsletter No. 17 - July-Aug 1989

REMINDER. The Sponsored Birdwatch will be held in the week 23-30 October. Ask your friends and relatives to sponsor your efforts to the tune of 10 cents, 20 cents or whatever amount they are willing to pledge per species then team up with a friend or two, choose a day to suit you all and go forth to count the birds seen and heard. Record your sightings and send the list to me. If you prefer to do it the easy way a garden count or a walk around the neighbourhood is perfectly acceptable too. We need money to publish the Annual Report; if we do not publish our records there is not much point to having a Society except as a social meeting ground for a monthly walk in the bush. Our field meetings are pleasant outings where we exchange knowledge and learn about the natural products of our Shire but our serious intent is the publication of our records. Would you please let me know (044-717007) if you are willing to participate?