

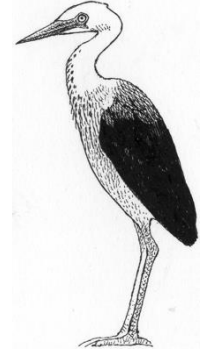


# EUROBODALLA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inc.

PO Box 888  
MORUYA NSW 2537

[www.enhs.org.au](http://www.enhs.org.au)



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 190

October 2021

## The Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus* (Gould 1843)

This year has been a particularly good one to spot a Spangled Drongo locally. More sightings were recorded in the first half of 2021 than in all 5 previous years. We had no sightings in 2017 or 2020, only 1 sighting of a single bird in each of 2016 and 2019 and records from 3 sites in 2018, a pair at one and single birds at the other two. In the first 5 months of this year, we had sightings of pairs or single birds reported from Congo, Coolagolite, Moruya Heads, Mystery Bay, Pedro Swamp and Tuross.



Spangled Drongo - Photo S Benjamin

The Spangled Drongo, *Dicrurus bracteatus*, is the only member of the family Dicruridae found in Australia. It is also found in New Guinea and eastern Indonesia. Other *Dicrurus* species are spread across southeast Asia, India, China, the Philippines and some southwest Pacific islands. The common name 'drongo' originated in Madagascar, home of the Crested Drongo, *Dicrurus forficatus*. The scientific name *Dicrurus* is derived from two Ancient Greek words: *dikros* meaning forked and *oura* meaning tail. It is the subspecies, *Dicrurus bracteatus bracteatus*, that we see in NSW. For those of us somewhat befuddled by taxonomy, it is interesting to note that scientists have reclassified birds in the family Dicruridae a couple of times in recent years. Meanwhile the Spangled Drongo continues to thrive, presumably in ignorance of taxonomy. Bird Life International currently classes the Spangled Drongo as secure across its range.

Spangled Drongos are found along the northern and eastern coasts of Australia, from the Kimberley, across the Top End and down the Queensland and NSW coasts as far as the Eurobodalla. They are far more common to the north of their range, in the tropics and subtropics. They favour the borders of wet forests, but are also found in other woodlands, mangroves and parks.



Spangled Drongo - Photo R Soroka

The species is described as partly migratory; the patterns of migration are complex, varying according to subspecies and location. Some birds move latitudinally (north/south) and some move altitudinally, breeding in higher areas and overwintering in lower coastal areas. As far as our local visitors are concerned, the literature suggests they arrive from the north in autumn, immediately after the breeding season, and return in spring, whereas ENHS records include sightings in December and from January to June, but not July-November.

The Spangled Drongo is 29-32 cm long, with shiny black plumage spotted in iridescent blue-green, red eyes, a chunky, slightly hooked, black bill with prominent feathers at the base, and a distinctive flared and forked, fish-like tail. Some birds have white spots on the upper wing. The sexes are similar, but the female is slightly smaller than the male. Young birds are a less glossy black without the iridescent spots and their eyes are brown.

These are conspicuous, active birds, often aggressive to other species. Here in the south of their range they are most likely to be seen singly or in pairs,

while flocks of a hundred or more may be seen further north. Their calls are complex and varied, often harsh and metallic sounding, and include mimicry.

Feeding mainly on airborne insects, Spangled Drongos are frequently seen perched on open branches or wires, waiting for prey. Their acrobatic flight in pursuit of insects and small birds can be quite spectacular. In common with many insectivorous birds, their bills are bordered by long wiry bristles, known as 'rictal bristles'. It has long been assumed that these bristles assist in insect capture by guiding prey into the open bill, but some research casts doubt on this. \* The Spangled Drongo's diet also includes insects from foliage and from under bark, fruit and nectar, and the occasional skink.

Breeding takes place from September to March. Courting males perform display flights, climbing then diving with wings swept back and tails cocked, calling as they descend. Both birds build the nest, a shallow cup of twigs, tendrils and grasses, held together with spider web. The nest is usually slung in a branch fork, towards the outer edges and high in an isolated tree, making it hard for predators to reach it without being spotted. Pairs normally have one clutch per season, producing three to five young. Both adults incubate the eggs, care for the young and defend the nest aggressively against potential predators such as owls and raptors. They may also be aggressive away from the nest, chasing other birds and stealing food.

Species similar to the Spangled Drongo include the Black Butcherbird, *Cracticus quoyi*, the Metallic Starling, *Aplonis metallica*, the Trumpet Manucode, *Manucodia keraundrenii*, and the adult male Common Koel, *Eudynamis scolopacea*. Of these, only the Common Koel is seen in the Eurobodalla. Like the Spangled Drongo, it has black plumage and a red eye, but its plumage is plain rather than spangled, it has a whitish bill, and its tail is rounded. At 42-46 cm long, it is also significantly larger than the Spangled Drongo.

I have often wondered why 'drongo' is an Australian insult meaning idiot. Apparently, it derives, not from the bird, but from a 1920's racehorse of the same name that was often placed but never won. I'm not sure why that equates to idiocy in the Australian consciousness – perhaps he was just happily taking his time or being polite. But I suppose he was a bit 'slow'. Gillian Macnamara

\*See 'The role of avian rictal bristles' by Roger J. Lederer in The Wilson Bulletin, available online.

### **What's coming up.....**

Who knows? We haven't managed a single meeting since the AGM in May. One meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather (although 4 hardy souls did go to the meeting point) and the others due to Covid restrictions. The planned program for the remainder of the year is below – note that the venue for the meeting on 24 October has been change from that proposed in the previously circulated program. Hopefully some, if not all, meetings will be able to go ahead, but this will depend on whatever restrictions the NSW government has in place at the time.

**Saturday 9 October, 2pm Coila Creek Road.** (2-3 km Grade 1). Meet at the corner of the Princes Highway and Coila Creek Rd, just south of the Coila Creek service station. Farmland and patches of bush. White-throated Gerygone, Scarlet and Brown-headed Honeyeater, Jacky Winter, Rufous Songlark, Musk Lorikeet.

**Sunday 24 October, 9am South Durras.** (3-4 km Grade 2) Meet at Durras Oval, opposite the corner of Durras Drive and Durras Lake Road, South Durras. A look around Durras Oval, the creek and headland and continue to Fern Drive. After the walk along Fern Drive, drive to the lake where there are facilities for lunch.

**Saturday 13 November, 2pm Kianga Lake.** (1km Grade1). Meet at the Narooma Visitors' Centre on the Princes Highway. Coastal forest and lake walk. White-bellied Sea-Eagle, many waterfowl including Black Swan, cormorants, ducks, grebes and coots, Yellow Thornbill and honeyeaters in the forest.

**Sunday 28 November, 9am Waders.** (2-4 km Grade 2). The venue will depend on wader activity, weather and water levels in the estuaries. Check the Field Meetings page of the website or call Julie or Mandy after November 24 for the venue.

### **Correction**

Due to an undetected keyboard error the last Newsletter was printed as No 187 when it should have been 189. Many thanks to our Treasurer Malcolm Griggs who alerted us to the mistake. It's reassuring to know that we have a Treasurer who checks all the numbers.

### **Field meeting program for 2022.**

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 members....**

Dee Ratcliffe and Harry Havu, Meringo

## **Update on the Glossy Black Cockatoo Project**

The Glossy Black Cockatoo project launched last year has attracted a number of volunteers and we are beginning to develop some insights into the 'Glossies' of the Moruya Heads/Broulee/Percy Davis Drive area. The project follows the same approach as the "Glossies in the Mist" project in the Southern Highlands and relies on identifying female birds. The yellow markings on the head of female Glossies vary from one female to another, which means we can identify individual birds. Once a female is identified, we can track her movement and that of her companions.

Gee Hounsell has been very busy photographing Glossy Black families in Broulee and her photos have enabled us to identify at least two distinct females. The "Glossies in the Mist" project has taught us that the yellow pattern on the female's head is asymmetric, so to identify a female Glossy, photos of each side of her head are needed. It is also useful to have photos of the front and back of her head, as well as the underside of the tail as this tells us about her age. These distinctive features can be seen in the following photos of 'Precious' from Gee.



Female Glossy Black Cockatoo "Precious"  
Photos G Hounsell

Over the same period, I and others have photographed a number of females in the Moruya Heads area. When they are eating, Glossy Black Cockatoos are quite approachable and easy to photograph but it is still a challenge to get the photos we need for a positive identification. Females tend to feed higher up in the tree, hidden among the foliage.

On 1 June, Gee reported a group of 8 birds in Broulee and Janice Sagar saw at least 7 in Moruya Heads the following day. We asked ourselves, were these the same birds? Gee and I got out with our cameras and confirmed that these were in fact two groups of birds. So, with this information and other photographs we have taken, we determined that in the Broulee/Moruya Heads/Percy Davis Drive area, there are at least 10 uniquely identifiable females. We are now compiling "look books" which are essentially identification shots of our females. This will allow us to track the local movements of our Glossy Black Cockatoos.

If you would like more information on this project, this YouTube link <https://youtu.be/0Z2qb5SW7F8> features a talk from the "Glossies in the Mist" project leader, Lauren Hook, and one of the volunteers, Erna Llenore. Erna has been very generous in guiding us with our project. We are always looking for volunteers to report

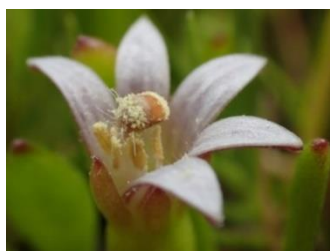


sightings of Glossy Black Cockatoos, others to learn how to identify individual birds and of course people to photograph the birds. If you'd like to join the project, please contact me by email [chair@enhs.org.au](mailto:chair@enhs.org.au) or call on 0457 637 227. Julie Morgan

## The Good, the Beautiful and the Unusual.

The Goodeniaceae family is made up of 13 genera and about 390 species worldwide and is predominantly found in Australia (370 species) across all States, but in particular in the southwest of Western Australia. There are many to be found in the Eurobodalla region and most are groundcovers or low shrubs

The flower is quite distinctive. It is made up of 5 petals – either 2 above and 3 below, or evenly spread on one side like a fan. These petals are joined at the base into a tube. The flowers come in a variety of colours.



*Selliera radicans*  
Photo S Pearson

Members of this botanical family have an unusual pollination method. Each flower has an unusual cup-like structure, called the indusium, which surrounds the stigma (female part). As the style elongates past the stamens (male parts), and just prior to the flower opening, pollen is transferred from the anthers into the indusium cup. As pollinators brush past the indusium they collect some pollen. As the stigma matures, it grows out of the indusium and becomes receptive to pollen.

The indusium comes in a variety of shapes.

The Goodenia genus was first formally described by James Edward Smith in 1793. This genus (and the family Goodeniaceae) is named after Samuel Goodenough, the Bishop of Carlisle, UK. They are herbs or shrubs which are glabrous, hairy or viscid. There are 169 species that are endemic to Australia.

*Goodenia ovata* (Hop Goodenia) is usually an erect shrub up to 2m. It has yellow flowers, and the leaves are ovate to elliptic with toothed margins. It grows in forest, woodland and sometimes on exposed rocky areas near the sea and often in disturbed areas. It is quite common in the Eurobodalla region.



*Goodenia hederacea subsp. hederacea*  
Photo S Pearson

*Goodenia hederacea subsp. hederacea* (Ivy Goodenia) is a prostrate herb with small leaves and flowers, which grows mainly in sclerophyll forests in a variety of soils along the coast and ranges.

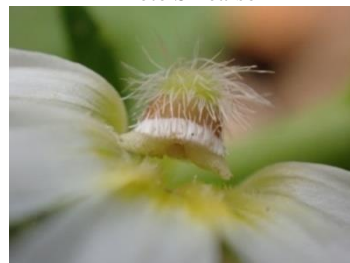
The Selliera genus contains perennial herbs which are hairless and have prostrate woody stems that root at the nodes. There are 2 species worldwide with the species below being the only one found in NSW.

*Selliera radicans* (Swamp Weed) is a prostrate herb with fleshy leaves that grows in salt marshes and on coastal cliffs.

In the next newsletter I will explain about the other genera that are in this interesting family and details about more species found in the Eurobodalla region. Sharon Pearson



*Scaevola aemula* pink form  
Photo S Pearson



*Scaevola* cultivar with a hairy-topped indusium  
Photo S Pearson



*Goodenia ovata*  
Photo S Pearson



*Selliera radicans*  
Photo S Pearson

## The Mysterious Case of the Saunders Case Moth

Finding excitement in these dreary days is a challenge. Confined at home with a broken ankle and, of course, COVID restrictions, I frequently spend my days gazing around our lovely bush block at our visiting wildlife. At the beginning of July, whilst eating breakfast, I watched, dumbfounded, as some sort of thick grub inched its way across the paving stones outside. The following day, we saw it again, suspended on the wall outside.

At around twenty centimetres long (or two brick widths), it was covered in a dull, grey case with what appeared to be twigs attached and a rounded nub of a head with black and orange markings. Julie Morgan quickly identified the creature as a Saunders Case Moth and provided me with a marvellous book, *The Secret Life of Caterpillars*, by Densley Clyne, an internationally known author and photographer who specialised in the behaviour of often less loved, smaller wildlife. Her photographs have deservedly won several awards in Australia and overseas. And then I recalled that May Gibbs, the renowned author, must have thought them so extraordinary that she featured them in her first book, *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie*.

So, what makes them so extraordinary?

The Saunders Case Moth (*Metura elongatus*) is the largest member of the *Psychidae* or bagworm family. This species occurs in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria where it feeds on eucalypts, tea trees, paperbarks and a wide range of other plants including many garden ornamentals.



Saunders Case Moth (*Metura elongatus*)  
Photo D Kay

The caterpillars make portable homes from silk and then attach plant material, such as leaves and twigs, to the outside. A newly hatched Saunders Case Moth caterpillar makes a small shelter or case of silk and leaf fragments and, as it grows bigger, the tough silk case must be strengthened and enlarged, and more sticks or twigs added to cover the new fabric. The caterpillar incorporates the twigs into the silk by cutting a slit on the inside and temporarily attaching a twig to the outside. Then they go inside and pull the twig into position from the inside and seal the slit again. The process of cutting the slit alone can take more than an hour. Fully grown, the case can reach 20mm – 30mm, conspicuous enough to be seen in our gardens.

The caterpillar stage is the longest in the life cycle, lasting up to two years. Both the male and female pupate in the case. The male moths have black wings, a hairy orange head and a black and orange, banded abdomen. Females are wingless and remain in the case as adults. The males emerge for a very brief period and have no way of feeding, so must quickly find a mate before they die. Mating takes place through the hole in the rear of the female's case. This is not easy as the female is inverted with her abdomen furthest from the opening. The male mates with the female using his elongated telescoping abdomen which gives the species name, *elongatus*. The female then lays thousands of eggs within the case and dies in the case or may drop to the ground. The eggs hatch into tiny caterpillars and feed off the remains of the cocoon. The survivors grow, move off and re-start the Saunders Case Moth life cycle, building their own sack cocoons. Helen Kay

## Covid finally catches up with intrepid road-trippers

In early August, Lyn Burden, Gillian Macnamara and I departed for our long-planned birding tour of western New South Wales, the far northwest, and the central west. Lyn had prepared three possible itineraries, one which included a side trip into South Australia to explore the Innamincka region, another which included Queensland for AWC's Bowra property, and the third, which soon remained our only option with state border closures, restricting ourselves to the remote parts of New South Wales. We had allocated three full weeks.



Having become quite allergic to camping as I age, and with unpleasant memories of having to accompany large groups of teenagers on school camps during my working life, my accommodation choice is always cabins, which offer the flexibility to prepare our own meals as an option, not to mention ensuite bathroom facilities. Lyn is happy to camp nearby in her easily erected tent, and Gillian likes to do a little of each.



Orange Chat  
Photo M Anderson

Our first two nights saw us in Leeton (which, I must mention, has a very good Chinese restaurant), giving us easy access to the Ramsar-listed Fivebough Swamp. It is an unprepossessing landscape on first sight, but there was plenty of water in the swamp this trip, and the water birds did not disappoint. For me, the highlight was a large group of Avocets, readily viewed with binoculars, but looking even more spectacular through the spotting scope. Other favourites here were good numbers of Australian Shovellers and Australian Shelducks. In addition, a small brown bird which had been singing vociferously, eventually jumped into view and cooperatively perched on top of some reeds – it was a Little Grassbird, which we were able to observe a number of times.

From Leeton, we headed for Balranald, where we stayed in a caravan park on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River which was swollen with floodwaters. More water was expected in the coming days as rainfall further north shed its load down the river system. From Balranald, we were able to explore Lake Paika Station, where we were delighted to see a good number of Pink-eared Ducks, and Wattle Flat in Cocopara National Park, where sightings of Red-capped Robins, Splendid Fairy-wrens and Speckled Warblers were the highlights.

Moving north, we spent a night at Menindee, where the lakes were full of water, 2 nights in Silverton in excellent accommodation at the old pub, one night at Milparinka then on to Tibooburra. Milparinka consists of a hotel with very basic accommodation, and, located in the old court-house, a museum which outlines the history of the community when it was a thriving gold town. The remainder of Milparinka is a sad couple of ruins and some signs indicating the location of long gone businesses and homes.

Our next stop was Tibooburra, which is the access town for Sturt National Park. We were fortunate to be able to have a full day exploring this red desert park. Lake Pinaroo was a special site, giving us great views of more Avocets, more Pink-eared Ducks and to our amazement a good number of the rare and endangered Freckled Ducks.

But it was while we were in Tibooburra that the wheels fell off, figuratively speaking. Lyn had re-jigged our itinerary as various localities capitulated to Covid, but we had planned to continue. We heard of the lockdown of regional New South Wales very late on the day of its announcement, having spent many enjoyable hours exploring Sturt National Park. At first, it was suggested by some of the locals that we would have to remain in Tibooburra for the duration - in fact, not just in Tibooburra, but restricted to our motel rooms. Eventually, some logic crept into the mix, and we realised that this level of isolation would not be likely, nor even sensible. Nevertheless, we raided the supermarket and did a week's food and wine shopping in preparation for hunkering down.



Spotted Harrier  
Photo M Anderson

Emerging the following morning from my state of semi-shock, I decided to make a call to Services New South Wales, and after a long wait, learnt that we could legally travel home, avoiding any hot-spot LGAs. Within an hour we had successfully re-packed Lyn's vehicle with, in addition to our usual excessive amount of baggage, the newly acquired supplies, and we headed home via overnight stops in Cobar (since mentioned as a potential hotspot) and Temora.

In 2020, Lyn and Gillian and I had done a three week tour of Queensland with a professional guide, aiming to improve our raptor identification skills. Well, this outback trip offered us many opportunities to test these skills, and I'm not sure how well we would have scored if there had been a test at the end. Much discussion over a Brown Goshawk/Collared Sparrowhawk which patiently sat on a low branch and gave us every opportunity to distinguish its defining features, showed that we still had a bit to learn, when experts later judged from our photos, that it was in fact a Spotted Harrier. (We did well with the Black-breasted Buzzards though).

Our total bird count was over 150, including three lifers for me: Pied Honeyeater, Chirruping Wedgebill and Inland Dotterel. I can't help but wonder how our total would have finished up if Covid hadn't caught up with us. Mandy Anderson



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

*Logo design by Trevor King*

## A winter without Scarlet Robins

When we moved to our house in Bergalia in April 2006, we were delighted to have the company of a pair of Scarlet Robins which spent the autumn and winter in our neighbourhood before disappearing in mid August. This pattern was repeated each subsequent year, with birds arriving from late March to early June and leaving in late July or August. Their arrival became something we always looked forward to. We would also often see pairs or individuals on our walks around the Congo, Meringo and Bingie areas.

This year however we have not seen any, and it seems we are not alone in this. Julie Morgan reported the species at her place each year from 2005 to 2018 but not in the past two years. Checking the records, it appears that Julie and Peter Collett are the only ones to have seen the species this winter, with sightings at Belowra and Comerang.

There appears to have been a pattern of declining numbers over the last few years. In 2013 the species was reported at a dozen sites along the coast, in 2016 at 7 sites, 2018 at 4 sites and 2019 at only 2 sites. We can speculate about the possible reasons for this – bushfires, climate change, habitat loss – but it will be sad if we lose these striking birds from the coastal parts of the shire. David Kay



Male Scarlet Robin Photo D Kay

## Highlights from ENHS records - Winter 2021

It has been an unusual year and it is interesting to note what has not returned to the Eurobodalla by the end of winter: Eastern Koel, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Brush Cuckoo, Pallid Cuckoo, Rufous Whistler. There were also no records of Bassian Thrush and Ghost Moths through winter which is the first time this has occurred for many years.

Avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Blue-billed Duck	Up to 12	Barlings Swamp	NC/GC/PG	Possible young on June 16 <sup>th</sup>
Musk Duck	1 or 2	PS	JM	Male displaying.
Black Swan	Up to 6	Com	JC	4 young in August.
Australian Shelduck	2 to 4	Com	JC	
Australasian Grebe	Up to 23	Com	JC	
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Up to 20	MKS	SMG	
Topknot Pigeon	8	Murramarrang NP	M Burk	August
Aust Owlet-nightjar	1	Com	JC	August
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Call	PS	JM	First return 16 <sup>th</sup> August
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1 or call	MKS/PS/TS/ Bergalia/MB/ Cool	SMG/JM/M Craig/DHK/ MA/DO	Not as widespread as usual at this time of the year.

Fluttering Shearwater	20	BP	GC	
Royal Spoonbill	25, 15	NA/Com/WL	MA/JC/DO	
Cattle Egret	20, 15, 6, 5	MYA/Com/ Bergalia/MB	JM/JC/DHK/ MA	
White-necked Heron	5, 1	Com/Bergalia	JC/DHK	
Great Egret	10, 3, 1	MHS/Com/ Broulee	JM/JC/GLM	
Intermediate Egret	Up to 6, 1	MHS/Com	JM/JC	
Little Egret	2	Broulee/MHS/ MB	GLM/JM/MA	
Eastern Reef Egret	1	Broulee	GLM	
Australasian Gannet	2	Broulee	GLM	
Great Pied Cormorant	2	Broulee	GLM	
Australasian Darter	1	Com	JC	
Aust Pied Oystercatcher	3, 2	WL/Broulee/ Candlagan Ck/ MB	DO/HR/GLM/ MA	
Sooty Oystercatcher	6, 5, 3, 2	MB/Broulee/ Mossy Pt/ Candlagan Ck	MA/HR/GLM	
Red-capped Plover	4	MB	MA	
Hooded Plover	2	Bogola Head/ WL	S Pearson/MA	
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	Com	JC	
Far Eastern Curlew	12, 2	MHS/NA	D Stevenson/ MA	First return at MHS August 15 <sup>th</sup>
Caspian Tern	2	MB	MA	
White-fronted Tern	1	TS	DHK	June
Greater Sooty Owl	Call	MB	MA	
Barn Owl	1	Maloney's Bch	K Joseph	August
Southern Boobook	1 or call	Bergalia/MB	DHK/MA	
Osprey	2	BB/MHS/PS	DB/JM	On nest at MHS
Square-tailed Kite	1	MKS/PS	SMG/JM	First return August 11 <sup>th</sup>
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	TS/Com/Cool	M Craig/JC/ DO	Singles elsewhere
Grey Goshawk	1	Bingie Pt	DHK	
Brown Goshawk	1	MKS	SMG	
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	MKS/PS	SMG/JM	
Azure Kingfisher	1	Com	JC	August
Australian Hobby	1	Broulee	GLM	July
Peregrine Falcon	2, 1	TS/Com/MB	M Craig/JC/ MA	
Glossy Black Cockatoo	16, 11, 7	Broulee/PS/ MKS/Pedro	G Hounsell/ GLM/JM/SMG /JS	
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	38, 30	Deua R/BP	A Cram/GLM	
Gang-Gang Cockatoo	6, 2	Broulee/MKS	GLM/SMG	Far fewer records this year
Little Corella	200	MYA	GM	
Eastern Rosella	8, 2	Com/Bergalia	JC/DHK	
Musk Lorikeet	2	Broulee/PS	G Hounsell/JM	
Little Lorikeet	4	PS/MB	JM/MA	
Aust King Parrot	20	Com	JC	July
Superb Lyrebird	Calls	MKS/Cool	SMG/DO	Fewer reports this year
Southern Emu-wren	9	Broulee	GLM	
White-naped Honeyeater	2, 1 or calls	PS/Cool/MKS	JM/DO/SMG	
Brown-headed Honeyeater	6, 1	Com/PS	JC/JM	Nest building at Com in August



White-eared Honeyeater	2, 1 or calls	Broulee/PS/NA/ MKS	GLM/JM/MA/ SMG	Fewer records again this year.
Noisy Friarbird	Up to 15	PS	JM	First return July 28 <sup>th</sup>
Scarlet Honeyeater	2 or call	PS/TS/Tilba	JM/GM/MA	First return August 18 <sup>th</sup>
Striated Pardalote	2	Com	JC	On nest in August
Large-billed Scrubwren	1	NA	MA	July
Varied Sittella	7	Com	JC	
Australasian Figbird	Up to 6, 1	MYA/TS	JM/M Craig	
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2, 1	PS/Com	JM/JC	
Grey Currawong	2	Deau R	A Cram	August
Dusky Woodswallow	6	Cool	DO	
Spangled Drongo	1	PS	JM	June
Restless Flycatcher	1	Bergalia	DHK	
Little Raven	Up to 200	Com	JC	
White-winged Chough	20, 6, 4	Com/Cool/MKS	JC/DO/SMG	Fewer reports
Rose Robin	2, 1, or calls	PS/Com/Cool/ MKS	JM/JC/DO/ SMG	
Flame Robin	2, 1	Com/MYA	JC	At Mynora in MYA
Scarlet Robin	2	Com	JC	Fewer records again this year.
Little Grassbird	2	Com	JC	August
Fairy Martin and Tree Martin	Up to 10	Cool	DO	A mixed flock overflying in August
Silvereye	30, 20, 10, 6	Broulee/PS/Com /Bergalia	GLM/JM/JC/ DHK	
Mistletoebird	2	PS	JM	August

<b>Non-avian species</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Common Wombat	Signs	Com/Cool	JC/DO	
Short-beaked Echidna	1	Cool/PS	DO/JM	
Long-nosed Bandicoot	Signs	MB	MA	
Yellow-bellied Glider	1 or calls	Mossy Pt/MKS	HR/SMG	
Sugar Glider	1 or calls	Cool/ Mossy Pt/PS/MKS	DO/HR/JM/SMG	
Common Ringtail Possum	1	MB	MA	
Common Brushtail Possum	3, 2, 1	LP/Com/Mossy Pt/PS	IAG/JC/HR/JM	
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	5, 20, 10	Cool/ PS/Com	DO/JM/JC	
Red-necked Wallaby	Up to 5	Cool	DO	
Swamp Wallaby	Up to 6	PS	JM	Female with young at foot
Grey-headed Flying-fox	1 or 2	Mossy Pt	HR	
Dingo	Call	Com	JC	June and August
Southern Right Whale	2	TS	M Craig	Mother and calf in July
Dark-flecked Sunskink	Up to 7	Mossy Pt	HR	
Eastern Blue-tongue	1	NA	MA	August
Jacky Lizard	1	PS/Cool/Mossy Pt	JM/DO/HR	Throughout winter
Lace Monitor	1	PS/NA	JM/MA	In August
Diamond Python	4	Brou L	MA	In July
Red-bellied Black Snake	1	PS/MB/Cool	JM/MA/DO	July-August

<b>Frogs</b> JC/JM/HR/DO	Common Eastern Froglet, Brown-striped Frog, Haswell's froglet, Bibron's, Dendy's and Tyler's Toadlet; tree frogs: Brown, Eastern Sedgefrog, Jervis Bay, Keferstein's, Peron's, Verreaux's.
<b>Moths</b> JC/JM	Cabbage Centre Grub, Black Geometrid, Bracken, Fallen Bark Looper, Pink Arhodia, Cream Wave, Subidaria, Red-spotted Delicate, Native Cranberry, Common Anthelid,

	Variable Halone, Magpie, Crimson Tiger, Green-blotched, Brown Cutworm, Native Budworm.
<b>Butterflies</b> JC/JM	Black Jezebel, Cabbage White, Meadow Argus, Common Grass Blue.
<b>Bug</b> JC	Harlequin
<b>Beetles</b> JC/JM	Ladybirds: 26 Spotted, Spotted, Variable, Striped.
<b>Other insects</b> JC/JM	Common Paper Wasp
<b>Spiders</b> MA/JC/JM	Giant Water, White-spotted Swift, Black House, Leaf-curling, Jumping, Huntsman, Daddy Long Legs, Flat Rock.

**RAINFALL (mm).** **June:** 51 at LP, 90 at MKS, 148 at Bergalia, 70.5 at Com, 96.25 at Cool. **July:** 2 at MKS, 13 at Bergalia, 6.5 at Com, 33 at Cool. **August:** 23 at LP, 80 at MKS, 79 at Bergalia, 59 at Com, 58.5 at MB, 66.5 at Cool.

### Contributors

MA	M Anderson, MB	SMG	S&M Guppy, MKS	HR	H Ransom, Mossy Pt
DB	D Bertzeletos, Surfside	DHK	D&H Kay, Bergalia	FM	M Burk, DS
GC	G Clark, ACT	GLM	G&L McVeigh, Broulee		M Craig, TS
NC	N Clark, Surf Beach	GM	G Macnamara, TS		A Cram, Deua R
JC	J&P Collett, Com	Am	A Marsh		G Hounsell, Broulee
PG	P Gatenby, Broulee	JM	J Morgan, PS		S Pearson, NA
IAG	I&A Grant, LP	DO	D Ondinea, Cool		K Joseph
					D Stevenson, MHS
<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

### ENHS Committee and Contact Details

Chair/Recorder	Julie Morgan	0457 637 227	chair@enhs.org.au
Secretary	David Kay	4474 5619	secretary@enhs.org.au
Treasurer	Malcolm Griggs	4472 4150	treasurer@enhs.org.au
Committee	Fran Anderson, Mandy Anderson, Steven Benjamin, Nicola Clark		
Public Officer and Membership	Malcolm Griggs	4472 4150	treasurer@enhs.org.au
Minutes Secretary	Mandy Anderson	4473 7651	
Editorial Team	Mandy Anderson, Susan Heyward, David Kay, Helen Kay, Gillian Macnamara, Julie Morgan		editor@enhs.org.au
Website Team	Amanda Marsh, Julie Morgan, Roman Soroka		chair@enhs.org.au

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

Copyright 2021. All rights reserved. While all due care has been taken to ensure that the content of this newsletter is accurate and current, there may be errors or omissions and no legal responsibility is accepted for the information in this newsletter.

### 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 so 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.