



EUROBODALLA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inc.

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Scarlet Honeyeater - *Myzomela sanguinolenta* - (Latham 1801)

The Scarlet Honeyeater, *Myzomela sanguinolenta*, is found in Australia, in Caledonia to our east and on several of the islands of Indonesia to our north. Its Australian range is from Cooktown in Queensland, along the east coast to Gippsland in Victoria. Habitats include forests, woodlands, mangrove thickets, swamps, parks and gardens.

The species is described in many field guides as variously sedentary and nomadic in the north of its range and as a summer visitor to Sydney and areas further south. However, ENHS data for the past 20 years indicate that small numbers have been present in the Shire during many winters, with larger numbers appearing in spring, summer and autumn.



Male Scarlet Honeyeater
Photo G Macnamara

At 9-11 cm long, the Scarlet Honeyeater is the smallest honeyeater in Australia and the adult male is arguably the most brilliantly coloured. The head, breast, upper back and rump are scarlet, the underparts grey/white mottled with scarlet, and the eye, lores, bill, lower back and tail are black. Both female and immature birds are much less vibrant, with dull brown and white plumage, a reddish wash on the chin, and a dark eye and bill. Both sexes have a short tail and a fine, down-curved bill like that of many other nectar feeders. The bright scarlet plumage seems a poor survival strategy for such a small bird, frequently harassed as it is by some of the larger honeyeaters. But, as anyone who has tried to photograph them will know, they are very well camouflaged when feeding among red blossoms.

Another obstacle to successful photography is the speed of these little birds. Scarlet Honeyeaters are very active, fast moving and acrobatic, often hovering while feeding on nectar - their main food source - and dashing out in erratic, bouncy flight to catch insects. When in forest or woodland, they commonly feed high in the canopy, but will descend to take nectar from smaller trees and shrubs when blossom in the taller trees is scarce. In past years, when the bangalays (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) near my home have produced few flowers, the Scarlet Honeyeaters have visited the garden, feeding on the callistemon and grevillea cultivars, frequently dashing for refuge into the denser interiors of the bushes when being 'dive-bombed' by Red Wattlebirds.



Female Scarlet Honeyeater
Photo P Gatenby

The song and calls of these tiny birds are described in various bird guides as 'surprisingly loud', and I can attest to that. Several times this year I have been fooled into thinking that Scarlet Honeyeaters have returned to the garden, when they are in fact calling from high in the tall trees more than 70 metres away, where blossom this year is abundant. Their song is a sweet, clear warble. When I first heard it, I committed it to memory as 'Here, pretty pretty' but it does vary. According to The Slater Field Guide, it is 'plid-o-willy-erk'. Well, maybe! The contact call is easier to describe; it is a loud, clear single note.

Scarlet Honeyeaters breed from July/August to January, with occasional records of nesting in April/May. A pair will have one to three broods per season. The small cup-shaped nests are made of fine bark and grass held together with cobweb and lined with small pieces of foliage. Nests may be in the fork of a tree, suspended from a horizontal branch, or deep in a dense vine. The female incubates the eggs and both parents feed the young.

When birding in the Eurobodalla, you should have no trouble identifying Scarlet Honeyeaters. The only bird that could be mistaken for the male Scarlet Honeyeater is the male Red-headed Honeyeater, *M. erythrocephala*; female and immature Scarlet Honeyeaters can also be confused with female and immature Red-headed Honeyeaters. But the ranges of these two species overlap only on the east coast of the Cape York Peninsula. The female and immature Scarlet Honeyeaters are also somewhat like the female and immature Dusky Honeyeater, *M. obscura*, and the Brown Honeyeater, *Lichmera indistincta*. But the southern end of the Dusky Honeyeater's range is Brisbane, and the Brown Honeyeater has reached only as far south as the Illawarra, where it has been recorded as a vagrant. Gillian Macnamara

A warm welcome to new members....

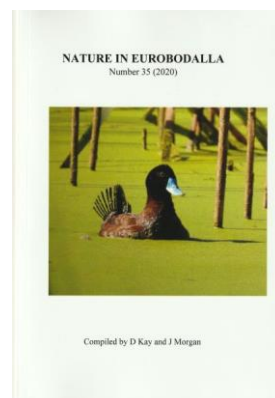
Phil Warburton, North Batemans Bay.
Geoffrey Robertson and Jenni Paull, Mystery Bay.
Rosaleen Williams, Narooma.

Nature in Eurobodalla Number 35 (2020)

We have published the 35th edition of *Nature in Eurobodalla*. It is a summary of members' observations by species for 2020 and costs \$13 if picked up or \$16 if posted.

2022 Memberships Are Now Due

A membership renewal form has been included with this newsletter. Single membership is \$20, family \$30 and for under 18s \$5.



What's coming up.....

A copy of the Field Meeting program for the first half of 2022, with a description of the system for grading walks, is included with this Newsletter.

Saturday 12 February, 2pm Jemisons Point, Potato Point. (3-4 km Grade 2) Meet next to the Rural Fire Shed on Potato Point Rd. Spotted Gum and Bangalay forest. Emu, Wonga Pigeon, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, New Holland Honeyeater, Red-necked Wallaby.

Sunday 27 February, 9am Wallaga Lake and Long Swamp. (3-4 km Grade 2) Meet at the parking area at the end of Wallaga St. Turn off Princes Hwy into Bermagui Rd south of Tilba, cross the bridge over the lake and after 1km, turn left into Wallaga Street. Beach and headland walk. Hooded, Double-banded and Red-capped Plover, Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher, Far Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit. Musk Duck, cormorants, egrets and Black Swan at the swamp.

Saturday 12 March, 2pm Meringo. (2-3 km Grade 2) Meet at the Bingie turnoff, intersection of Princes Hwy and Bingie Rd. Coastal forest and headland walk. Rufous Fantail, Scarlet Honeyeater, Cicadabird, Brown Gerygone and a variety of raptors.

Sunday 27 March, 9am Maloneys Beach. (3-4 km Grade 2) Meet at the picnic shelter at the eastern end of the beach off Hibiscus Close, which runs off Maloneys Drive. Coastal forest and beach walk. White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, New Holland and White-cheeked Honeyeater.

Saturday 9 April, 2pm Kianga Lake. (1km Grade 1) Meet at the old 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 24 April, 9am Deua National Park. (2-3 km Grade 2) Meet at the car park outside the Eurobodalla Shire Council and the Library, off Vulcan Street, Moruya. The national park is home to Large-billed Scrubwren, Superb Lyrebird, Pilotbird, White-cheeked and Crescent Honeyeater, Red-browed Treecreeper, Common Wombat and Dingo.

Field meeting - South Durras - 24 October 2021



Variegated Fairy-wren
Photo M Burk

After weeks under “stay at home” restrictions, it felt wonderful to be able to head off for a field meeting again. Despite a rather gloomy weather forecast it turned out to be a pleasant morning as a dozen members assembled at the Oval in South Durras. There were lots of birds calling so the omens were good as we headed off on a small track through the bush towards the creek.

Almost immediately we were able to watch a Topknot Pigeon feeding, which excited the photographers in the group. Some of the commoner honeyeaters, wattlebirds, thornbills, fairy wrens, gerygones and whistlers put in an appearance and cormorants flew by along the creek. Returning to the oval, we ambled along the perimeter track to

the bridge over the creek to see more cormorants and some Chestnut Teal, whilst a pair of Whistling Kite circled overhead. Around the edge of the oval a pair of Jacky Winter entertained us, then it was back to the cars for a short drive to Fern Drive.



Topknot Pigeon
Photo P Gatenby

On the walk up Fern Drive, the highlights were a Sacred Kingfisher and another Topknot posing nicely for photos, a small flock of Topknot flew over, a few White-naped Honeyeater foraged in the canopy. The bird list at the end of the morning included 42 species, then it was time for lunch on the headland.

Special thanks to Margie Burk for taking on the role as leader of the walk at relatively short notice – a great job Margie. David Kay

Field meeting – Narooma – 28 November 2021



Birdwatching at Narooma foreshore
Photo M Anderson

After a year of regular cancellations in our field meeting program because of Covid (how often has that phrase disturbed our lives!!) and uncooperative weather, the final outing of the year also looked to be “under a cloud”, but, after a brave assessment, it was decided we should go ahead. And it proved to be a very good decision.

Thirteen keen members met in Narooma for the annual shorebird survey, which took us along Wagonga Inlet on both the eastern and western sides of the highway. The mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh and mangroves offer an interesting variety of species, and on our return to the cars at the conclusion of the

walk, we were able to add some suburban and forest species to the tally. Of particular interest here was a family of 9 Wood Ducks, seven tiny, newly-hatched ducklings staying in a close huddle, and not venturing far from their proud parents.

We were pleased to see approximately 80 of the regular summer visiting Bar-tailed Godwits foraging on the sandflats. A large group of pristine white Royal Spoonbills also made a welcome appearance. They regularly roost in the mangroves near the southern end of the bridge but the previous day were foraging in the mud, sweeping their bills in search of food. We were delighted with the number of Pied Oystercatchers, 12 in total scattered widely across the shoreline. I have since learned that there are 3 active nests on one of the small islands in the middle of the Inlet. These nests are being closely monitored by the NPWS Shorebird officer, Kaitlyn.

As we walked past the fishing fleet, Julie Morgan and I stopped to speak to one of the young fishermen whose family owns and operates a large ocean-going catamaran. They spend up to 8 days out on the ocean during their fishing trips. We were told that they have a responsibility to keep records of and report the pelagic bird species that they observe beyond the continental shelf. Sometimes they have an observer with them, but they regularly keep their own records and submit these to government registers.



Eastern Reef Egret Photo L Hansch

Other significant species seen on the day included a pair of Ospreys, a Whimbrel, two Far Eastern Curlews, two Eastern Reef Egrets and two Striated Herons. There were also 12 White-faced Herons. A total of 43 species was listed at the conclusion of a pleasant and relaxing morning.

We are hopeful that next year's Field Meeting program, which will be planned by the committee before the end of December, will be a lot less impacted by pandemic, plague or pestilence. Mandy Anderson

The Good, the Beautiful and the Unusual (Part 2)

In the last newsletter, I explained why the Goodeniaceae family is different from other botanical families: its method of pollination is unusual. Rather than pollen produced by the anthers and directly available to pollinators, it is first squeezed into an indusium – a cup-like structure - just prior to the flower opening– and pollinators pick up the pollen from the indusium.

Here are some other genera in the Goodeniaceae family and some local species that you might encounter.

The *Scaevola* genus consists of over 130 species, of which around 40 occur in the Pacific Basin and 80 occur in Australia. Some are also found in the tropical areas of the Indian & Atlantic Oceans. It was first described by Linnaeus in 1771 and named after Latin 'scaevus' meaning left-handed referring to the petals arranged on one side. They are perennial herbs or shrubs to about 3m tall.

Scaevola aemula (Fairy Fan-Flower) is a prostrate or low herb that grows in dry sclerophyll forests on sandy soils mostly in coastal areas.



Scaevola aemula blue form
Photo S Pearson

Scaevola calendulacea (Dune Fan Flower) is a low shrub found on sand dunes near the sea. It has sky-blue fan like flowers and fleshy leaves.



Scaevola calendulacea
Photo S Pearson



Scaevola ramosissima
Photo S Pearson

Scaevola ramosissima (Purple Fan-flower) is a low scrambling herb with slightly hairy foliage. It grows in heath & sclerophyll forest mainly in coastal areas. Flowering occurs mainly between August and March. This was the first Goodenia species to be described in 1793, but later renamed as a *Scaevola*.

The *Coopernookia* genus contains 6 species, all endemic to Australia. They are perennial subshrubs with stellate and usually glandular hairs, sometimes viscid. The genus name comes from the Coopernookia State Forest, NSW where *C. chisholmii* is common.



Coopernookia barbata
Photo S Pearson

Coopernookia barbata (Purple Goodenia) is a low shrub which has unusual hairs growing from the centre of its pale purple flowers. It grows mostly in dry sclerophyll forests, often on sandstone, mostly in coastal or escarpment ranges.

You will come across many cultivars of this family in gardens, in particular *Scaevola*. However, if you have a keen eye and know the distinctive flower shapes, you will be able to now spot many in our local natural areas. Maybe check out their indusiums and marvel at their complexity. Sharon Pearson

More on Case Moths

In the last newsletter, we read about the Saunder's Case Moth and its curious life cycle. Case moth caterpillars build a marvellous variety of cases. They spin a silk case to which they add leaves, sticks, detritus and sand grains to provide camouflage and protect themselves. It becomes their home, and they move around with the case, feeding and moving by extending the head and thorax out of the case. The head and thorax also have a protective hard exterior, but the abdomen is soft and usually remains within the case. The caterpillar pupates within the case. The male moths emerge and can fly but female case moths are flightless and usually remain within the case, where they lay eggs. When the larvae hatch, they create a silken thread and lower themselves out of the case. While we know quite a bit about the Saunder's Case Moth, only a fraction of case moth species has been described. Here are some interesting structures.

Cone Case Moth, *Lepidoscia* sp.

This case is made from the small pieces of the leaves and twigs of the plants on which the caterpillar feeds. The bands along the case are the result of the different plants the caterpillar feeds on. The caterpillar is black and white, and the case is between 2 and 3cm long. This case was photographed on a eucalypt sapling.



Cone Case Moth, *Lepidoscia* sp.
Photo J Morgan



Common Leaf Case Moth, *Hyalarcta heubneri*
Photo J Morgan

Common Leaf Case Moth, *Hyalarcta heubneri*

The caterpillars of this species feed on a wide range of plants, both native and ornamental, and collect leaves from across this plant range, so their cases are extremely variable. The caterpillar is brown and white with some orange markings. It pupates within the case, which can be up to 5cm long. The male moth is black with translucent wings and has a wingspan of 2 cm, while the female moth is smaller and flightless and stays within the case. The male's abdomen extends, which enables copulation to occur with the female in the case.

Australian Bagmoth, *Cebysa leucotelus*

The caterpillar of this moth feeds on lichen and uses fragments to cover its case, which is up to 2cm long. The caterpillar has a brown head and an off-white abdomen. As with other case moths, the female moth cannot fly but she has long legs and can walk, moving about in a jerky manner. She is an iridescent black with orange markings, black antennae with white tips and a large ovipositor. She is diurnal and her colouring and movement are more like a wasp than a moth. The male is black/brown with orange markings, has fully developed wings and can fly. Many males are attracted to females during the day.



Australian Bagmoth caterpillar, *Cebysa leucotelus*
Photo J Bromilow



Male and female Australian Bagmoth, *Cebysa leucotelus*
Photo J Bromilow

A Stick Moth, *Clania* genus

Amanda Marsh recently found this case moth while pruning a eucalypt and posted a photo on our Facebook page. It appears to be one of the *Clania* genus. The case has a small piece *Grevillia arenaria* embedded in it, and Amanda wondered if Stick Moth cocoons often have extra decorations. This is something I have yet to find reference to. Julie Morgan

Stick Moth, *Clania* genus
Photo A Marsh



Hooded Plover – a particular favourite

Although classified as vulnerable in the southern states – Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and southern Western Australia - the Hooded Plover is listed as critically endangered in New South Wales, with numbers as low as 62 in 1988 according to the Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds (HANZAB), although more recent NPWS numbers place their population in the high 80s – certainly an encouraging trend, but perhaps it is a little early to celebrate a strong recovery. Tasmania appears to be a particular stronghold, with close to 2000 individuals counted prior to the publication of HANZAB.

I have seen small flocks of Hooded Plovers in Victoria and WA and was always delighted to observe these very distinctive and busy little birds. But it was after identifying a young bird on Mystery Bay beach in 2014, that my enthusiasm for this species was spurred. A small group of local residents went looking for the rest of its family, and eventually discovered a pair of adults nesting on one of the beaches in the Eurobodalla National Park just to the south of Mystery Bay village. NPWS were notified, and Amy Harris visited and placed a protective cage around the nest, along with signage to hopefully encourage visitors to the beach to give the little birds the space and respect that they needed to raise their family.

Three eggs were eventually produced, and within a few weeks we had two little runners accompanying their parents along the water's edge. (Amy later determined that the 3rd egg was not viable.) Hooded Plovers, like all the plovers and dotterels, are precocial and leave the nest to begin feeding within about 4 hours of hatching. They remain with the parent birds until fledging.

Amy returned a few days later with some of her colleagues, and managed to trap, leg-band and release all four members of the plover family.



Tagged Hooded Plover Y0
Photo A Christiansen

In early November of this year, I was visiting one of the beaches in the 1080 area of Eurobodalla NP, north of Mystery Bay, and decided to take the challenge of descending the 50+ steps to the beach, knowing that Hooded Plover activity was a possibility at this time of the year. To my amazement I almost immediately observed a lovely little adult bird sporting a leg tag. My friend Ann was able to photograph him, and we could read that he was Y-0. We began referring to him as Yankee-Zero. According to NPWS records, he had been originally tagged at Tura Beach in 2013, making him at least 8 years old.

To my absolute joy, a return visit to the same part of the beach a couple of days later revealed Yankee-Zero in the company of a partner and 3 juveniles. I estimated that the little runners were a couple of weeks old, judging by their plumage colour and size. This is a very promising sign – the fact that they have reached this age without being taken by a raven or a gull, or a mammalian predator.

I'm very hopeful that this story will have a happy ending and that the three youngsters will reach maturity and add to the growing NSW population of Hooded Plovers. Mandy Anderson

Skippers in the grass - three overlooked species of local Grass-skipper (*Toxidia*)

Butterfly season is back! We often overlook the smaller species in favour of the larger species like Varied Sword-grass Browns and the swallowtails, and for this reason, this article will highlight three little butterflies which are currently on the wing in the Eurobodalla.

Grass-skippers belong to the genus *Toxidia*, and, as their common name suggests, they adore grasses; their larvae feed on several species of grasses and the adults usually fly around grassy patches within their preferred habitats. There are eight species of *Toxidia* in Australia, five of which occur in the Eurobodalla. Two species, the Banded Grass-skipper (*Toxidia parvula*) and the Southern Grass-skipper (*T. andersoni*) are not discussed here as there are only a few records between them for the Eurobodalla.

Instead, we will focus is on the Lilac Grass-skipper (*Toxidia doubledayi*), the White-brand Grass-skipper (*T. rietmanni*), and the Dingy Grass-skipper (*T. peron*). All these species are small, brownish grey, the males all have sex-brands, they are endemic to Australia, they fly low to the ground and luckily, they are attracted to flowers (providing the best opportunities to observe and photograph them!). The Lilac Grass-skipper and the Dingy Grass-skipper appear to have a more widespread distribution in the Eurobodalla than the White-brand Grass-skipper. Burrewarra Point and Mossy Point are local hotspots for all three species, and Broulee Island is a good place for finding Dingy Grass-skippers.

Records of presence at sites in the Eurobodalla

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Lilac Grass-skipper <i>T. doubledayi</i>		P				P	P	P	P	P		P
Dingy Grass-skipper <i>T. peron</i>	P	P			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
White-brand Grass-skipper <i>T. rietmanni</i>		P	P	P			P					

1. Broulee Island. 2. Burrewarra Point. 3. Chatham Point. 4. Comerang. 5. Cullendulla Creek/Surfside. 6. Moruya. 7. Mossy Point. 8. Old Man Bed Swamp. 9. Pedro Swamp. 10. Surf Beach. 11. Tilba Lake. 12. Wallaga Lake.

The Lilac Grass-skipper (26 mm) is a species that prefers green grassy gullies in open eucalypt forest and woodland. They are a common and widespread species, and fly in sunny weather from September to April, although there are records from June. Populations of this species appear to do well under cool, wet conditions and can be vulnerable to climate change (from heat waves) and loss of habitat (from urbanisation). Their larvae are known to feed on *Oplismenus* and *Ottochloa gracillima* grasses.



Male lilac Grass-skipper
Photo K Harris



Male White-Brand Grass-skipper
Photo J Collett

The White-brand Grass-skipper (24-25 mm) can be common but they can be quite localised, as is reflected in the presence/absence table of ENHS records. Like the Lilac Grass-skipper, their larvae eat *Oplismenus* and *Ottochloa gracillima* grasses, but have also been recorded on *Panicum pygmaeum*. Adults like to fly around the edges of rainforest habitat and fly from October to April but are most commonly observed from December to March. This species often occurs with the Lilac Grass-skipper and as they are very similar in size; try to obtain a view of the upperwing pattern to separate them as their upperwings have better distinguishing features compared to the underwing.

The Dingy Grass-skipper (29-30 mm) is unusual among the *Toxidia* as their males hilltop, which is where butterflies congregate in an area higher than the surrounding ground (for example a hill or a ridge) and is important for courtship and mating. The only other *Toxidia* to do this is the Southern Grass-skipper. Their larvae are known to eat non-grasses (*Gahnia sieberiana*,



Dingy Grass-skipper
Photo S Bond

Dianella caerulea, *Lomandra*) and they also eat an introduced grass, Buffalo Grass *Stenotaphrum secundatum*. There is not a great deal known about the larvae and pupae for this species, despite the adults being common. The adults are comparatively larger than the previous two species and they inhabit open eucalypt forest habitat like the Lilac Grass-skipper. The adults fly from September to May, peaking in January and February.

Adult flight period for the Eurobodalla

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Lilac Grass-skipper												
Dingy Grass-skipper												
White-brand Grass-skipper												

Number of records (mainly ENHS but also Steve Holliday/Prue Buckley personal records)

	1-4	5-9	10 and above
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A good reference to use when identifying butterflies in the Eurobodalla is Michael Braby's The Complete Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia. There is also the Butterflies Australia app which is free to download, where you can submit your butterfly sightings and check the photographic field guide. Suzi Bond.

Highlights from ENHS records - Spring 2021

Avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Emu	1	Bodalla	DHK	On Potato Pt Rd
Stubble Quail	Up to 10	Com	JC	
Brown Quail	2	Com	JC	
Musk Duck	1	PS	JM	Male displaying
Australian Shelduck	2	Com	JC	
Grey Teal	Up to 20	Com	JC	With young
Australasian Grebe	6, 2	Com/Belowra	JC	
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Up to 20	MKS	SMG	
Common Bronzewing	Up to 12	MKS	SMG	
Topknot Pigeon	30, 20, 15, 10	Murrumarrang NP/MO/PS/DS	NM/M Burk /JM/FM	Fewer recorded at other locations
White-throated Nightjar	Calls	MKS/PS	SMG/JM	First return on October 14 th
Aust Owlet-nightjar	Call	PD	JM	September
White-throated Needletail	Up to 4	PS	JM	
Eastern Koel	Up to 10	Widespread	Various	First return September 8 th
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Up to 4	Widespread	Various	First return September 20 th
Horsfield's Bronze- Cuckoo	Call	PS	JM	In October
Shining Bronze- Cuckoo	4, 3, 1	PS/MO/DS/Com /MKS	JM/NM/FM/JC /SMG	
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1 or 2 or calls	Widespread	Various	
Brush Cuckoo	Calls	PS/MKS	JM/SMG	First return September 29 th
Pallid Cuckoo	2, 1	Com/Belowra	JC	First return November 4 th
Buff-banded Rail	2	MO	NM	In November
Little Penguin	1	Broulee	GLM	In the talons of a White-bellied Sea-Eagle
Shearwater sp.		Off MB	A Cram	In October
Royal Spoonbill	22, 17, 6	Com/NA/MB	JC/FM/MA	
Glossy Ibis	1	MO	NM	On a dam at MO Stud in breeding plumage, Nov 8 th
Striated Heron	3, 1	NA/MYA	FM/MA	
Cattle Egret	20, 8, 6, 2	MYA/MO/MB/ Broulee/Com	JM/NM/MA/ GLM/JC	In breeding plumage late September
White-necked Heron	1	Bergalia/Com/ MYA	DHK/JC/JM	

Little Egret	6, 4, 3	Nangudga/MB/ NA	MA/FM	
Eastern Reef Egret	2, 1	NA/DY	FM/MA/GM	
Australasian Gannet	5, 2	MO/Broulee/ MB	NM/GLM/MA	
Great Pied Cormorant	10, 6, 4	NA/CO/MO/ Broulee	FM/NC/NM/ GLM	
Aust Pied Oystercatcher	12, 8, 3	NA/Broulee/MB /BI	FM/HR/MA/ DO	
Sooty Oystercatcher	6, 4, 3	CO/MB/ Mossy Pt/ Candlagan Ck	NC/MA/HR	
Pacific Golden Plover	4, 1	CO/MB	NC/MA	
Red-capped Plover	25, 20, 8	Brou L/CO/WL	MA/NC	
Hooded Plover	5, 2, 1	Bingie Pt/MB/ MO/CO	AM/DHK/MA/ NM/NC	Nesting at Bingie Pt with 1 chick in Nov; nesting at MB with 3 chicks in Nov.
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	Com/MO/ Cullendulla	JC/NM/ G Hounsell	
Whimbrel	1	NA	FM	
Far Eastern Curlew	12, 2, 1	TS/MB/NA	NC/MA/FM	
Bar-tailed Godwit	At least 125, 20	NA/Coila L	NC/MA/GM/ S Pearson	Juveniles
Ruddy Turnstone	1	CO	NC	
Red-necked Stint	2	Brou L	NC	
Sanderling	6, 3, 1	CO/WL/Brou L	NC/MA	
Little/Fairy Tern	6	TS	NC	
Caspian Tern	1	Broulee/WL/DY /MB	GLM/MA	
Greater Sooty Owl	1, calls	MKS/MB	SMG/MA	
Masked Owl	2, calls	Broulee/MB	HR/A Christiansen	
Barn Owl	1	PS/MB	JM/S Jenner	
Powerful Owl	1, call	MO/PS	NM/JM	
Southern Boobook	Calling	Bergalia/MKS/ MB	DHK/SMG/ MA	
Osprey	2, 1	PS/NA/MHS	JM/FM	Nest at MHS abandoned after work on tower.
Square-tailed Kite	1	MKS/PS/Brou L /MB	SMG/JM/MA	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	PS/Com/Tilba/ Belowra/Cool	JM/JC/T&A Ross/DO	
Swamp Harrier	2, 1	Tilba/Broulee/ MHS/MO/MB	T&A Ross/JM/ GLM/NM/MA	
Grey Goshawk	2, 1	PS/Com/MB	JM/JC/MA	
Brown Goshawk	1	MKS/Tilba	SMG/T&A Ross	
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	MKS	SMG	
Oriental Dollarbird	4, 3, 2	Com/MO/MB/ Sth DS/Bergalia	JC/NM/MA/ FM/DHK	First return September 16 th
Azure Kingfisher	1	Com/ERBG	JC/NC	
Sacred Kingfisher	6, 4, 2	Com/PS/MO/ Belowra	JC/JM/NM	First return September 29 th
Australian Hobby	1	Com	JC	
Brown Falcon	1	Com/MB	JC/MA	
Peregrine Falcon	1	Com	JC	
Glossy Black Cockatoo	6, 5, 4, 2	MKS/Broulee/ PS/MB/Bergalia	SMG/JM/MA/ GLM/DHK	

Gang-Gang Cockatoo	1 or 2	Mossy Pt/MKS/ Bergalia/Com/ Cool	HR/SMG/ DHK/JC/DO	Fewer reports than last year
Eastern Rosella	8, 4, 2	Com/Belowra/ Bergalia/MB/ MO	JC/MA/NM/ DHK	
Swift Parrot	6, 2, 1	Bodalla/Surfside /MB	A Christiansen /DB	
Musk Lorikeet	6, 4, call	MO/Com/MB	NM/JC/MA	Far fewer reports
Little Lorikeet	Up to 6	PS	JM	Far fewer reports
Superb Lyrebird	1 or call	MKS/West Flat/ NA/Belowra	SMG/JC/MA	
Green Catbird	2 or 3	Tilba	MA	
Red-browed Trecreeper	1	PS	JM	
Southern Emu-wren	Up to 4	Broulee	GLM	
White-cheeked Honeyeater	2	PS	JM	
Brown-headed Honeyeater	8, 4, 3	Com/PS/West Flat	JC/JM	Two young at Com in October.
White-eared Honeyeater	1	MB	MA	An unusual October record
Noisy Friarbird	Up to 25	PS	JM	Nesting through spring with young in November.
Scarlet Honeyeater	20, 10, 6	NA/Com/PS	MA/JC/JM	Fewer elsewhere
Red Wattlebird	More than 100	MKS	SMG	Migrating south-west in October
Striated Pardalote	4, 2, call	PS/Com/MB	JM/JC/MA	Nesting at Com
White-throated Gerygone	2	Com	JC	In September and October
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	2	Tilba	A Christiansen	
Varied Sittella	6, 5, 4	MKS/Com/PS	SMG/JC/JM	
Australasian Figbird	15, 1	MYA/MB	JM/A Christiansen	
Eastern Shrike-tit	2	PS	JM	
Rufous Whistler	6, 5, 4	Com/Belowra/ MB/PS	JC/MA/JM	First return September 7 th
White-bellied Cuckoo- shrike	3, 2, 1	West Flat/PS/ MB	JC/JM/A Christiansen	
Common Cicadabird	10, call	PS/MKS	JM/SMG	
Dusky Woodswallow	20, 4, 3, 2	Cool/MO/Sth DS	DO/NM/JC/ FM	
White-breasted Woodswallow				No records, first time for many years.
Rufous Fantail	1 or 2	MKS/Broulee/ PS/MO/NA	SMG/PG/JM/ NM/JMG	First return October 22 nd Nesting at MKS in Nov.
Leaden Flycatcher	4, 2, 1	PS/Com/MO/ MKS	JM/JC/NM/ SMG	First return September 30 th
Black-faced Monarch	3, 2, 1	MO/PS/Com/ NA	NM/JM/JC/ JMG	First return October 1 st
Little Raven	4	MB/Cool/ Belowra	MA/DO/JC	
White-winged Chough	12, 8, 6	Com/MB/MKS/ CO	JC/MA/SMG/ DHK	
Rose Robin	2	PS/Com	JM/JC	
Golden-headed Cisticola	4	Com	JC	
Aust Reed Warbler	2, 1	MO/PS/MB	NM/JM/MA	

Rufous Songlark	More than 10	Belowra	JC	Also at Wadbilliga and Belimbla
Little Grassbird	2	Com	JC	
Fairy Martin	1 or 2	Cool	DO	
Bassian Thrush	3	PS	JM	One juvenile
Mistletoebird	1 or 2	PS	JM	
European Goldfinch	2	Com	JC	

Non-avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Common Wombat	1 or signs	Com/Cool	JC/DO	
Short-beaked Echidna	4, 3, 2	MB/MKS/Cool/PS	MA/SMG/DO/JM	2 males pursuing a female at MKS. Singles elsewhere.
Yellow-bellied Glider	1 or calls	Broulee/Mossy Pt	HR	
Sugar Glider	1 or calls	Mossy Pt/PS	HR/JM	
Greater Glider	4	Broulee	HR	
Common Ringtail Possum	present	Broulee	HR	
Common Brushtail Possum	1 or 2	Com/PS	JC/JM	Young on mother's back at PS
Eastern Pygmy Possum	1	Deua R	A Cram	Found dead. First record for ENHS.
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	42, 30, 10	Cool/PS/Com	DO/JM/JC	
Red-necked Wallaby	5, 1	Cool/Bergalia/PS/MB	DO/DHK/JM/MA	Pouch young at Bergalia
Swamp Wallaby	14, 10	MB/PS	MA/JM	Pouch young and joeys
Eastern Coastal Freetail Bat	1	Com	JC	Juvenile. Endangered species.
Seal sp.	1	Com	JC	
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	8	Broulee	GLM	
Humpback Whale	2	Murramarrang	HR	
Snake-necked Turtle	10, 2, 1	Com/Mossy Pt/PS	JC/HR/JM	Laying eggs at Com
Yellow-bellied Water-skink	2	Com	JC	
Eastern Blue-tongue	2, 1	Com/Broulee	JC/GLM	Singles elsewhere
Jacky Lizard	3, 2	Mossy Pt/PS/Cool	HR/JM/DO	
Gippsland Water Dragon	Up to 10	Com	JC	
Lace Monitor	1 or 2	Cool/PS	DO/JM	
Eastern Small-eyed Snake	1	Mossy Pt	HR	
Mustard-bellied Snake	1	Malua Bay	S Cohen	

Frogs JC/W Jones/JM/HR/DO	Common Eastern Froglet, Brown-striped Frog, Haswell's froglet, Bibron's, Dendy's and Tyler's Toadlet; tree frogs: Keferstein's, Brown, Eastern Sedgefrog, Jervis Bay, Broad-palmed, Peron's, Tyler's, Verreaux's.
Moths JC/JM	Diamondback, Concealer, Plume, Cabbage Centre Grub, Black Geometrid, Oval-spot Taxeotis, Cream Wave, Mecynata, Sodaliata, Red-spot Delicate, Banded Porela, Variable Halone, Magpie, Tiger, Tobacco Looper, Mistletoe, Green-blotched, Variable and Brown Cutworm, Bogong, Native Budworm.
Butterflies MA/JC/JM/GLM/DO	Lilac Grass-skipper, Narrow-brand and Greenish Grass-dart, Orchard Swallowtail, Black Jezebel, Caper White, Cabbage White, Brown Ringlet, Varied Sword-grass Brown, Wonder, Bank's and Common Brown, Meadow Argus, Painted Lady, Yellow Admiral, Bright Copper, Common Grass Blue.
Dragon & Damselflies	Aurora and Common Bluetail, Tau Emerald, Blue-spotted Hawker.
Beetles JC/JM	Net-winged, Green Scarab, Banded Pumpkin, Honeybrown, Whirligig; Leaf Beetles: Acacia, Aerarium, Eight-spotted, Metallic Green Acacia, Dotted Paropsine, Small Blue; Ladybirds: Transverse, 26 and Common Spotted, Spotted Amber, Variable, Mealybug.
Bugs JC	Water Strider, Bronze Orange, Harlequin, Green Vegetable

Spiders JC/JM	Black House, Leaf-curling, Jumping, Huntsman, Daddy Long Legs, Two-tailed, St Andrew's Cross, Flat Rock, Red-back, Garden Orb Weaver, Giant Water, Water.
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RAINFALL (mm). September: 43.5 at MKS, 43 at Com, 64.25 at Cool. **October:** 101 at MKS, 130 at Bergalia, 163 at Com, 134 at MB, 108 at Cool. **November:** 191.5 at MKS, 182 at Bergalia, 163.5 at Com, 187.5 at Cool.

Contributors

MA	M Anderson, MB	GLM	G&L McVeigh, Broulee		M Burk, DS
DB	D Bertzeletos, Surfside	GM	G Macnamara, TS		A Christiansen, MB
JC	J&P Collett, Com	AM	A Marsh, Bingie		S Cohen, Malua Bay
PG	P Gatenby, Broulee	NM	N Montgomery, MO		M Craig, TS
JMG	J&M Gordon, NA	JM	J Morgan, PS		A Cram, Deua R
SMG	S&M Guppy, MKS	DO	D Ondinea, Cool		S Jenner, MB
GH	G Hounsell, Broulee	HR	H Ransom, Mossy Pt		W Jones, Deua R
DHK	D&H Kay, Bergalia	FM	Field Meeting		S Pearson, NA
					T&A Ross, NA
Places					
BB	Batemans Bay	ERBG	Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens	PDD	Percy Davis Drive, MYA
BBWG	Batemans Bay Water Gardens	LP	Lilli Pilli	PS	Pedro Swamp
BI	Bermagui	MKS	Maulbrooks Rd S, MYA	PP	Potato Point
BP	Burrewarra Point	MO	Meringo	SB	Surf Beach
Cool	Coolagolite	MYA	Moruya	SF	State Forest
Com	Comerang	MH	Moruya Heads, N&S	T'bella	Trunketabella
CO	Congo	MB	Mystery Bay	TN	Tomakin
DS	Durras	NA	Narooma	TS	Tuross
DY	Dalmeny	NP	National Park	WL	Wallaga Lake

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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.