

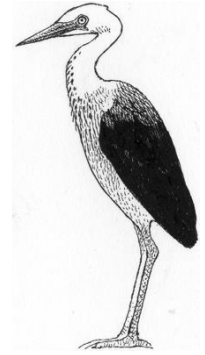


EUROBODALLA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inc.

PO Box 888
MORUYA NSW 2537

www.enhs.org.au



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July 2022

Common Cicadabird - *Edolisoma tenuirostre* - (Jardine, 1831)

The Common Cicadabird, *Edolisoma tenuirostre*, (also referred to as the Cicadabird) is found from eastern Indonesia and New Guinea to eastern and northern Australia. The species name *tenuirostre*, derived from Latin, means slender billed. Two subspecies occur in Australia: *Edolisoma tenuirostre melvillense* is found in northern Australia, from Melville Island and the eastern Kimberly to Arnhem Land and the Cape York Peninsula; *E.t. tenuirostre* inhabits eastern Australia, from eastern Queensland south of Cape York to eastern NSW and eastern Victoria. This article describes *E.t. tenuirostre*.

You may have noticed that the genus name used here differs from the one in your guidebook. Even the Australian Bird Guide, published only five years ago, lists the Cicadabird as belonging to the genus *Coracina*. But, following recent genetic research, it has been shifted to the genus *Edolisoma*. This is just one example of the ongoing upheaval in ornithology, particularly in the field of systematics, that is, the classification of birds according to the relationships between them. As DNA analysis becomes more sophisticated, it allows a better understanding of bird evolution and the connections between species. In the case of the Cicadabird, discussion continues regarding its many subspecies (over 20 at the last count) and the problem of how to specify them. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, it should be divided into several species – possibly nine, although opinions differ as to how to split it. And, just to complicate matters further, some ornithologists think that the Cicadabird should join the trillers in the genus *Lalage*. But, for now, any Cicadabirds that we are likely to see in this area are officially members of the species *Edolisoma tenuirostre*.



Male Cicadabird
Photo R Soroka

The Cicadabird is described as generally local and uncommon in Australia with a stable population and a conservation status of least concern. But, as it prefers mature forest or older regrowth, it may be vulnerable to logging. It is described as resident through most of its range but generally a summer visitor to the south, arriving in August to October to breed, returning north from January onwards. ENHS records differ slightly from this, with birds reported every year from October to March, occasionally September and April but never from May to August. Typically, there are reports from 5-10 sites each year, from Durras in the north of the shire to Wallaga Lake in the south and from the coast to the State Forest and National Parks to the west. Actual sites vary from year to year, but they are reported most years at Maulbrooks Rd and Pedro Swamp. Most reports are of single birds or calls, but some are of pairs and occasionally larger groups, notably up to 10 at Pedro Swamp in recent years and 15 there earlier this year. Nesting and/or breeding has been reported at Durras, Maulbrooks Road, Pedro Swamp and Congo.

Cicadabirds are small, slim birds, 24 – 27 cm long. The adult male is mostly dark blue-grey, with black lores, cheeks and ear-coverts, black and grey patterning on the wings, and dark grey to black bill and legs. The adult female is quite different, with grey-brown upperparts, a grey crown, a small white supercilium (eyebrow) above a dark eyeline, white underparts with fine dark bars, a brown bill, and dark brown legs. Juvenile and immature birds are similar to the female.

Female, juvenile and immature Cicadabirds could perhaps be mistaken for female White-winged Trillers, but the trillers are significantly smaller, more brown than grey-brown, and lack the barred underparts. Guidebooks suggest that the adult male Cicadabird could be confused with some of the Cuckoo-shrike species but these are all paler than the Cicadabird, apart from the Barred Cuckoo-Shrike, which is a similar dark grey but has barred underparts and a bright yellow eye and is not seen as far south as Eurobodalla.

Cicadabirds are canopy dwellers, inhabiting a variety of forest types, including rainforest, eucalypt forest, forest edges, open woodland, paperbark swamps and mangroves. They usually occur singly or in pairs, sometimes in small family groups. Their flight is fast and undulating. They are more likely to be heard than seen, as they generally remain high in the canopy but have a loud call that carries about a kilometre. The territorial call from which the bird derives its common name is a cicada-like buzz repeated up to 30 times.

Both sexes build the nest, which is a very small, shallow bowl of twigs, bark, dry grass and casuarina needles, held together with cobwebs and camouflaged with lichen and moss. The nest is placed about 20 metres up, on the fork of a horizontal branch. The female incubates the single egg for 22 days and broods the chick. Both parents feed the chick, which fledges in 27 days.

Just one last little piece of trivia: apparently the common name for the Cicadabird until 1926 was White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater. That is one name change for which we can be grateful. Gillian Macnamara

A warm welcome to new members....

Merrick Bailey, Moruya

What's coming up.....

A copy of the Field Meeting program for the latter part of this year is included with this Newsletter.

Saturday 9 July, 2pm, Moruya Riverside (2-3 km Grade 2) Meet at the Moruya Swimming Pool car park, off Shore Street (east) Moruya. Walk through Riverside Park east towards the Moruya River. Yellow Thornbill, Whistling Kite, Striated Heron, cormorants and Aust Darter.

Sunday 24 July, 9am, Clyde River National Park (4-5 km Grade 3) Meet at the lookout 1.3kms along Rotary Drive, off the Kings Highway about 2.5 kms west of the Princes Highway. Walk along a track that leads to the Clyde River. Superb Lyrebird, Yellow-faced, White-cheeked and Crescent Honeyeater, White-throated Treecreeper, Eastern Whipbird, Osprey, Rose Robin, White-bellied Sea-Eagle.

Saturday 13 August, 2pm, Big Rock Road, Bodalla (2-3km Grade 2) Meet at the Bodalla Park Rest Area on the Princes Hwy just south of Brou Lake Rd. Dry eucalypt forest with rocky outcrops. Swift Parrot have been seen in the area in the past. Superb Lyrebird, Pilotbird, Fuscous Honeyeater, Brown Gerygone.

Sunday 28 August, 9am, Mogendoura Farm (2-3km Grade 2) Meet at the car park outside the Eurobodalla Shire Council and the Library, off Vulcan Street, Moruya. A walk on private property, a mix of open land and forested areas. Herons, cormorants, egrets, Mistletoebird, Grey Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Saturday 10 September, 2pm, Barlings Swamp and Bevia Road (2-3km Grade 2) Meet at the corner of George Bass Drive and Bevia Road, next to Barlings Swamp. Duck and waterfowl species, most notably Blue-billed Duck, Swamp Harrier, Australian Hobby at the swamp, Mistletoebird, various thornbills, Brown Gerygone along Bevia Rd.

Sunday 25 September, 9am, Gulaga – lower area (3-5km Grade 3) Meet at the car park at Pam's Store, Corkhill Drive, Tilba Tilba. Across farmland and up the lower reaches of Gulaga. Green Catbird, Yellow-throated and Large-billed Scrubwren, Pilotbird, Superb Lyrebird, Olive Whistler.

Saturday 8 October, 2pm, Bengello (2-5km Grade 1) Meet at the corner of George Bass Drive and Broulee Road, Broulee. A walk along the path behind the dunes, where Bangalays, Casuarinas and Banksias provide shelter and food for a variety of birds including Yellow-tailed and Glossy Black Cockatoos, many honeyeaters and other small bush birds.

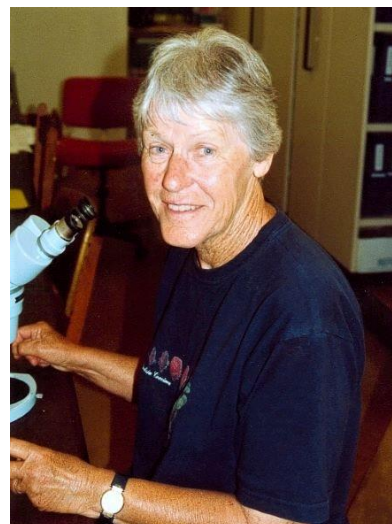
Vale Jennifer Fay Liney OAM

It is with considerable sadness that I record the passing of Jenny Liney, who died on 23 June. Jenny, with her late husband John, joined the Society in 1989 and was a regular contributor to this newsletter for over 30 years. Her articles were always entertaining and informative.

In 2011, Jenny was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her outstanding services to conservation and the environment. The award recognised her many years of volunteer work in the Eurobodalla region - for our Society, the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program and Australian Plants Society. Jenny was a quiet achiever and accepted the OAM with typical humility and grace, saying "so many people do so much more than me."

Jenny's knowledge of regional plants was extraordinary, based on extensive field exploration and study of the literature. She was willing to share that knowledge through newsletter articles, workshops and field excursions. Each week, she provided a plant identification service at the Botanic Garden. For 25 years, Jenny was the Wallace Herbarium Curator at the ERBG, and in 2019 took up the role of Chief Botanist at the Garden. She shepherded the Herbarium from a fledgling operation to the substantive scientific collection it is today.

Jenny was delightful and informative company at Society activities. I much enjoyed her enthusiasm, knowledge and wry sense of humour. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Helen Kay



Report on the Annual General Meeting

Twenty one members attended the AGM, held on 29 May at the Pavilion in the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens. The Chair, Julie Morgan, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. The minutes for the 2021 AGM had been circulated prior the meeting and it was agreed they be taken as read and accepted.

Chair's Report: Julie reported that the Society is now in its 37th year and continues to flourish. with a strong membership base, a sound financial position and publications that continue to track the changes in the natural environment of the Eurobodalla. She thanked those who had steered the society over that time, (Stephen Marchant, Jill Whiter, Mike Crowley and David Kay). She thanked all office bearers and committee members for their support and work over the year and especially thanked Steve Benjamin and Fran Anderson were standing down after many years as Committee members. Julie thanked the newsletter team (Helen, David, Mandy, Gillian and Susan), who have ensured that the publication continues to be interesting and informative, and all the contributors for their work. She noted that the 36th edition of NIE will be published in 2021 and thanked members for their recordings and David Kay for his commitment to its publication.

Secretary's Report: David commented that the Society had managed to survive relatively unscathed through the turmoil of the past few years. 87 subscriptions had been received for 2022, of which 28 are family subscriptions. He noted that the field meeting program over the past year was badly affected both by COVID restrictions and persistently wet weather and participation has not been as high as in pre-Covid years but hoped things would return to normal over the rest of 2022. He noted that, as discussed at the 2021 AGM, a system of grading walks on the Field Meeting program had been introduced and the Committee would very much welcome feedback on how helpful this is. He noted that our Facebook group continues to be popular, with 258 members at present, and thanked Roman Soroka for his work in administering and maintaining this and to all the contributors.

Treasurer's Report: Malcolm tabled the financial statements for 2022, which showed a surplus of \$609.53, maintaining the Society's sound financial position.

Election of Office Bearers: The following were elected for the coming year: **Chair:** Julie Morgan; **Secretary:** David Kay; **Treasurer:** Malcolm Griggs; **Recorder:** Julie Morgan; **Committee:** Mandy Anderson, Nicola Clark, Julie Collett, Paul Gatenby, Gee Hounsell, and Janice Sagar.

General Business:

David commented that the Committee had discussed appropriate subscription rates for new members joining late in a calendar year. Noting that the Constitution requires that subscriptions be set at an AGM, on behalf of the Committee he proposed that the meeting approve the following arrangements:

- New members joining before 1st July will be charged the full year's subscription
- New members joining between 1st July and 30th November will pay 50% of the year's subscription
- No subscription will apply for those who join in December on condition that the full subscription for the following year is paid on joining

These arrangements were approved and the Application Form for new members will be amended to reflect this.

Julie closed the meeting at 11.35, thanking Mandy Anderson for taking the minutes of the meeting and acknowledging her many years as Minutes Secretary.

Coastwatchers Eurobodalla Koala Project

During the 2019-2020 wildfires there were two koala sightings we know of in the Eurobodalla and lower Shoalhaven (East Lynne and Bodalla State Forest). Since the fires, we know of two sightings (Bodalla and Wagonga Inlet) and two reports of koala calls (East Lynne and the Eurobodalla/Waincourt Road precinct near Council's new dam construction). This is roughly the rate of reporting (perhaps slightly higher) than what's been typical since the middle of the twentieth century.

The Coastwatchers Association Inc initiated the volunteer Eurobodalla Koala Project in 2011, when a discussion paper canvassed local koala history, possible remnant koala habitat, people's attitudes and other issues. The project has subsequently engaged in citizen science and advocacy, with the aim of reviving the Eurobodalla's extremely sparse wild koala population to the point where we can be confident it's not locally extinct.

Local knowledge, literature, multi-layered GIS spatial modelling and many habitat plot surveys have contributed to our conclusions and the directions our project is now taking. These are available on the website www.eurokoalas.com and include:

- Pilot Study (supported by Coastwatchers Tax Deductible Environment Fund)
- Bendethera Expedition (supported by the same fund)
- Wamban-Nerrigundah Study (supported by the Commonwealth Government with in-kind assistance from Forestry Corporation NSW, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Pebbly Beach Wildlife Centre)
- Revised Eurobodalla Koala Recovery Strategy
- East Lynne Carrying Capacity Study, and
- Study of Koala Habitat Significance of Bodalla State Forest

Local koalas appear to have been quite abundant until settlers cleared alluvial farming land early in the nineteenth century, forcing the animals to survive in less nutritious, more rugged forested spaces now mostly occupied by State Forests and National Parks. Research suggests poor soil is the main reason for today's low numbers even though suitable browse eucalypts persist.

Resident koala groups were readily visible in the 1940s at Dignam's Creek, and the 1950s at Pedro's Swamp and Nerrigundah. The 1952 and 1968 fires impacted severely on the Wamban population. The 1968 fire wiped out the last resident koalas near Moruya, at Telegraph Road. A landholder said there were koalas at Cadgee until an incendiary burn got out of hand in the 1980s. Although numbers are too low for statistical validity, our impression is the years 1968, around 2000 and around 2009 were critical reduction points in modern koala persistence in our Shire (starting from an already low base).

The obvious contemporary threats to the remaining rare Eurobodalla and lower Shoalhaven koalas are urban and infrastructure development, and the impacts of climate change such as landscape drying, more intense, frequent wildfire and chemical effects on browse, like changes to CO2 in the atmosphere. Contention persists about the intensity of modern Forestry Corporation NSW operations and poor resourcing of National Parks. Coastwatchers is opposed to logging native forests and its Forest Working Group routinely monitors for breaches. Another threat is wild dogs.

The latest NSW Koala Strategy does not include the Eurobodalla and lower Shoalhaven in its priority areas for action and funding, but the regional manager is in touch with us. We argue that the Eurobodalla offers NSW a location for rescuing low density koalas, as populations elsewhere decline because of urban development and climate change.

As a means of progressing the Eurobodalla Koala Recovery Strategy, the volunteer Eurobodalla Koala Project is incorporating its work into two larger, funded Coastwatchers projects for the period 2022 to 2024. These projects came along at the right time to assist a few private properties with revegetation for connectivity and bushfire mitigation, and to develop a comprehensive strategic wildlife survey (both priorities of the Eurobodalla Koala Recovery Strategy). The Coastwatchers WWF-GER Project is funded by World Wildlife Fund-Australia and comes to us under contract with the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (Great Eastern Ranges Ltd). The Coastwatchers GER-BLERF Project is the Commonwealth and State Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund contract. We partner with Eurobodalla Shire Council, South East Local Land Services, Campbell Page EcoCrews and Batemans Bay LALC Aboriginal Rangers, leveraging our networks of landholders, wildlife carers, community enthusiasts and other agencies.

Natural History Society members wanting engagement can make contact through the Society, or through the websites www.eurokoalas.com or www.coastwatchers.org.au. Keith Joliffe, Coordinator, volunteer Eurobodalla Koala Project

Glossy Black, Yellow-tailed Black and Gang-gang Cockatoos

When the birds and animals returned after the Black Summer fires it was like the world was reborn again. I bought myself a camera and headed into the local bush. I was astounded by the diversity of birdlife that flocked into our unburnt gardens and forested areas, seeking food, shelter and places to breed. Before I knew it, I was hooked...I'd walk around town staring into the sky, trees and bushes, camera in hand, a look of wonderment on my face. I found every bird I observed fascinating, but three birds in particular grabbed my attention in those early days....the common Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos, whose haunting cries usually heralded rain, the quiet Gang-gangs which I first discovered in the nature trail on Captain Oldrey Park when they rained gumnuts down on me, and the elusive Glossy Blacks. I'd like to share some information and photos I have taken of them. All the photos below were taken in Broulee.



Male Glossy Black-Cockatoo

Glossy Black-Cockatoos (Glossies) are Critically Endangered in Victoria, Vulnerable in Queensland, ACT, NSW and the Northern Territory. They feed exclusively on seeds found in the cones of she-oak trees (*Allocasuarina* and *Casuarina* species). They are quiet and inconspicuous when feeding, occasionally emitting a soft *keee-aiirrk* or *aiirrk* sound. Sometimes you can hear the soft raining sound of their discarded 'chewings' as you walk past. We have important pockets of *Allocasuarina* throughout our shire and it is incredibly important that these areas are protected.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo numbers are secure in NSW. It is the



Male Yellow-tailed BlackCockatoo

largest, noisiest and most common of the three cockatoos. They were once content to feed exclusively on the seeds of native shrubs and trees, especially banksias, hakeas and casuarinas, as well as extracting the insect larvae that bore into the branches of wattles. However, they have been known to adapt to eating exotic plants if their food source has been destroyed and their habitat fragmented. We are all familiar with their loud, haunting *kee-ow, kee-ow* call when in flight or communicating with one another. Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos can be quite destructive, I've photographed a pair ring-barking a tree, to get the juicy grubs contained inside it.



Gang-gang Cockatoos

Gang-gang Cockatoos have recently had their conservation status upgraded to 'endangered' nationally. They are gregarious but relatively quiet cockatoos and may usually be located in food trees by the sounds of feeding and falling debris. They feed mainly on seeds of native and introduced trees and shrubs, with a preference for eucalypts, wattles and introduced hawthorns. They will also eat berries, fruits, nuts and insects and their larvae. Their call has been likened to a 'creaky gate'. Broulee has been named an area of significance for Gang-gangs. We have a few who are resident throughout the year. Their numbers have declined by about 70% in the last 20 years.

Gang-gangs, Glossies and Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo nest in hollows which can take hundreds of years to form. Gang-gangs will often use the same hollow each season if it is available. Without available hollows they cannot breed. Climate change, loss of breeding and foraging habitat, competition for suitable hollows, due to land clearing and deforestation are some major reasons they are in trouble. The Gang-gangs and many other native birds in our area are dependent on mature trees for food, habitat and safe passage to other forested areas. You may have noticed the large nesting tubes that have been recently installed in trees around Captain Oldrey Park. They are Cockatubes and are being trialled by Eurobodalla Shire Council as a viable alternative to nesting hollows for Gang-gangs.

What can we, as ordinary citizens do to protect these precious birds?

We can protect and conserve the valuable habitat these birds need in our own gardens. We can preserve mature trees, especially those with breeding hollows. We can plant some bird attracting natives. Our local Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens propagates native plants, specifically for our area throughout the year. As our climate warms, fresh, clean water is becoming increasingly important and harder for native birds to find during the long summer months. So, install a birdbath in your garden and you will not only attract beautiful birds, but also save lives. Apart from protecting and conserving habitat in our own gardens we can advocate for the protection and conservation of habitat in our towns and villages. Join groups such as Landcare or Coastwatch which are dedicated to protecting, maintaining, restoring and improving our unique ecosystems.

We can add to the available information and knowledge of our local bird, animal and plant species by becoming a Citizen Scientist! Anyone can do it...grab a camera or a pair of binoculars, get out into our gardens, parks, beaches and bushland areas and record what you see. Data or sightings can be uploaded to BioNet, iNaturalist or Birdlife Australia. Dr. Susan Rhind collects data on our local Gang-gangs via the South Coast Gang-Gang Project at: ganggangfarsouthcoast@gmail.com. There's the Aussie Backyard Bird Count this October <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>.

Our native species everywhere are under threat from human impact and climate change. Every little thing you do to help in the preservation and recovery of our native birds and animals counts! It is also fun, educational, entertaining, social and great for your mental health. I highly recommend it! Gee Hounsell

This is an abridged version of an article on the 'With Our Own Eyes Eurobodalla' (WOOEE) website – our thanks to Magella Blinksell for her permission to print it here. WOOEE is an exciting blog project, which gathers local stories/art/ photos/poetry/ video/ writing and nature observations, chronicling the local climate changes we are seeing in Eurobodalla's ocean, waterways, habitats, forests and backyards, and in our lives.

The Naming of Plants – Part 1

The practice of naming plants has existed for millennia, with many names having rich associations with the cultures that named them. Because of this many plants have different common names in different places. One common name may be used for more than one plant, e.g. *Correa reflexa* and *Epacris longiflora* are both known as Native Fuchsia. Also, common names provide little or no information about how plants are related to each other. All of this means using common names to identify plants is not as straightforward as you might hope.

From Greek and Roman times, people arranged plants into broad groups with similar characteristics (trees, shrubs, vines etc). Medicinal plants were given long, complicated Latin names that provided lots of information, but were too clumsy to use, and probably to say as well.

In 1753, **Carl Linnaeus**, a Swedish naturalist, published a simpler method of classifying plants based on the arrangement of floral parts. Linnaeus chose a two-part name (binomial) system: the first part being the **genus** (pl. genera), the second part the **species**. Linnaeus used Classical Latin (or Latinised Greek) because it was considered an international language and was also a dead language which avoided conflict between botanists worldwide about which language to use.

Linnaeus thought that plants with similar floral parts were closely related to each other, so he grouped them in the same genus. Plants from one genus will not cross pollinate with plants from another genus. For example, you can't cross a species in the genus *Banksia* with a species in the genus *Eucalyptus*. (Genera in the family Orchidaceae are exceptions.)

Plants of a particular species within a genus are very closely related to each other, i.e., they have very similar DNA so they can cross-pollinate and produce viable seed that grows into plants like their parents. For example, *Banksia spinulosa* crossed with *Banksia spinulosa* will produce a *Banksia spinulosa*. Sometimes closely related species in the same genus, such as *Eucalyptus saligna* and *E. botryoides*, can cross-pollinate and produce an 'intergrade' between the two species.



Leucochrysum albicans
Photo S Pearson

A **subspecies** (subsp.) can occur when two populations of the same species are separated geographically, and each adapts to its different habitat. For example, *Banksia integrifolia* subsp. *monticola* occurs in the Blue Mountains and has longer, narrower leaves than the *Banksia integrifolia* that grows on the NSW coast.

Plants in a particular species can also vary, in form or flower colour for example, when not geographically isolated, due to natural variations in the genes. These are known as **varieties** (var.). *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolor* has yellow centres with white outer bracts whereas the normal species of *Leucochrysum albicans* has yellow centres and yellow outer bracts.

In the next newsletter I will introduce you to the wonderful world of the **International Code of Nomenclature** (ICN) which governs the naming of non-cultivated plants, algae and fungi, so that each has only one correct name that is accepted worldwide. Sharon Pearson

The search for a lifer

In April, Lyn Burdon and I did a road trip to Deniliquin in western New South Wales and Chiltern in Northern Victoria. The regular third member of our birding party, Gillian, was unable to join us due to a fractured fibula.

After a couple of enjoyable nights at the farm belonging to Lyn's sister's family at Tooma, we headed west to Deniliquin, stopping at reliable birding sites en route. Lyn is very familiar with this area and had planned well. The target bird – our potential lifer – for this part of the trip was the elusive and endangered Plains-wanderer, a bird which is usually seen only at night. Lyn had organised a local bird guide, and we paid him a lot to take us out for a day and evening. He collected us at 7.00am and took us to some popular birding sites within the town area. He had been told of the location of a Southern Boobook, who did not disappoint. The owl looked rather bored at what had apparently been a continuous procession of birders taking advantage of this opportunity to see a bird of the night peacefully roosting in somebody's front garden.

From there we visited various sites, several on the floodplains of the Murray River. In one forested section we had good views of Superb Parrots. About an hour north of town, our guide drove off the road into a gated area, a former TSR, heavily vegetated with large shrubs, many flowering plants such as eremophila, flowering gums, wattles and grevillea. Phil, our guide, revealed that he had been planting bird-attracting plants there for 20

years, and his efforts have been rewarded: we were surrounded by birds. Phil had also been propagating numerous different mistletoes, and the number of appreciative Mistletoebirds amazed us. Several honeyeater species were also in abundance, most notably Spiny-cheeked, White-plumed, Singing and Striped. Unfortunately, the Painted Honeyeater did not appear, denying me the opportunity of a lifer.

By midday, Lyn and I realised that we would need a break if we were to retain sufficient stamina to take part in the night-time hunt for the Plains-wanderer. After a break of a couple of hours, we set off again, birding on the way at sites which we would never have found without Phil. A spectacular sunset over arid plains rewarded our efforts, and we enjoyed a snack at the gate of the farm where we were to search for the target bird. Once darkness fell, the hunt began. Bird guides invariably have long legs, and for me to keep up in the dark was quite a struggle. It was pitch-black, and as Phil charged off across the paddocks, the darkness almost swallowed him up. But the struggle was soon rewarded with several sightings of the delightful little bird. They are not keen fliers and each one we saw stood stock still, allowing us to enjoy prolonged views, and me to take a terrible grainy photo on my phone. We saw four, but sadly no adult female bird; in this species it is the female which has the delightful coloured plumage.



Egret on Chiltern Dam
Photo M Anderson

A further reward came with a second lifer for me – a Stubble Quail. Lyn and I were quite satisfied with our night's work. Phil seemed to think that he was not earning his fee if he didn't find us a female Plains-wanderer, but we pleaded exhaustion. On the way back to the motel we saw two beautiful Barn Owls. Phil commented that it was a very early night – 10.00pm. Later in our trip, we met a couple of birders of about our age who had been out with Phil for the same purpose and didn't get home until 1.00a.m!!!

After four days in Deniliquin, we headed for Chiltern, where all serious birders hope to see the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater. I have visited the Box Ironbark forests of Chiltern on four previous occasions, and Lyn has probably paid even more visits. I have been lucky to see Regents on two previous visits, and on one occasion we had bumped into the Birdlife Australia guru Dean Ingwersen, who called them in by playing their call. At dusk, we had watched the amazing flash of gold as a pair of Regents dove for drinks in the Honeyeater Dam. On this trip, Lyn and I were not so lucky. But at the dam we saw several honeyeater species, the biggest collection of Grey Fantails that either of us had ever seen, and each of the robin species that are found in the two areas – Flame, Hooded, Red-capped, Scarlet, Rose and Eastern Yellow.

Our species total for the ten days was 149, of which more than thirty are not seen in the Eurobodalla. As I have commented before, it is always good to visit a different area which provides the opportunity to observe a suite of bird species which we don't see in our own region. Mandy Anderson

South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program

In May, the National Parks and Wildlife Service invited shorebird volunteers to a presentation on the outcomes of the 2021-22 shorebird nesting and breeding season. There are two rangers who oversee the multiple sites from Wollongong in the north, as far south as the Victorian border. Our Eurobodalla ranger is Kaitlyn O'Brien who is based at the Narooma office. Assisting them is a band of approximately 100 volunteers who monitor the sites during the breeding season. The species of most concern are Hooded Plover, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers and Little Tern.

The challenges are ever-present for these little shore-dwellers, and most threats are due to human intervention: walkers, dogs, cars and horses on beaches, feral predators such as foxes, cats and wild dogs – in addition to native predators such as gulls, ravens and goannas. Additional challenges this year were created by the increased incidence of inundation due to extreme weather events over the summer.

NPWS is planning to run a pre-nesting-season training day in August. More volunteers are always needed, particularly as there are some sites which are not monitored at present. For more information, contact Kaitlyn at Kaitlyn.O'Brien@environment.nsw.gov.au Mandy Anderson

Highlights from ENHS records - Autumn 2022

Avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Emu	2	PP	MA	
Stubble Quail	10	Com	JC	
Brown Quail	2 to 4	Com	JC	
Blue-billed Duck	9	Barlings Swamp	GC	3 males in full adult plumage
Musk Duck	1	NA	DHK	
Pink-eared Duck	2	MYA	JC	At Mynora in May
Radjah Shelduck	1	BBWG	NC	
Australian Shelduck	Up to 8	Com	JC	
Australasian Shoveler	2	MYA	JC	At Mynora in May
Australasian Grebe	20	Com	JC	
Hoary-headed Grebe	2	MB	MA	
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	7	MKS	SMG	
Peaceful Dove	1	Broulee	GLM	
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	Com	JC	
Tawny Frogmouth	1	MB	MA	
Australian Owlet-nightjar	1	Murramarang NP/PS/Com	JM/JC	Calling during the day at Murramarang NP
White-throated Needletail	50, 20	Surfside/PS	DB/JM	Until April
Eastern Koel	Call	MB	MA	March
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	Mungararie Firetrail (FT)/PS	FM/JM	In April and May. Late records for this species.
Black-browed Albatross	3	MHS	DB	
Shy Albatross	4	MHS	DB	
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	2	MHS	DB	
Short-tailed Shearwater	1	MHS	DB	
Royal Spoonbill	Up to 50	Com	JC	
Striated Heron	1	Cullendulla Ck	RS/MB	
Cattle Egret	50, 30	MYA/Com	NC/JC	
Intermediate Egret	1	Com	JC	
Little Egret	6, 2, 1	MB/Broulee/MHS	MA/GLM/FM	
Eastern Reef Egret	2, 1	NA/MB/Broulee/CO	MA/GLM/GC	
Australasian Gannet	3, 2	MHS/Sth DS/MB/Broulee	FM/JCof/MA/GLM	
Great Pied Cormorant	6	NA	MA	
Australasian Darter	1	Mungararie FT	JM/AM	overflying
Aust Pied Oystercatcher	11	Cullendulla Ck	J Mather	
Sooty Oystercatcher	More than 10	MB	MA	
Pacific Golden Plover	2	MB	AC	
Red-capped Plover	20, 10, 5	Sth DS/CO/MB	JCof/GC/MA	
Double-banded Plover	4, 2, 1	CO/Sth DS/MB	GC/JCof/MA	
Hooded Plover	2	CO	GC	
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	Com	JC	
Far Eastern Curlew	2	WL	MA	March
Bar-tailed Godwit	Up to 20	NA	MA	
Latham's Snipe	3	Com	JC	In March
Painted Button-quail	3, 2	Deua River valley/PS	A Cram/JM	One roadkill at Deua R
Pacific Gull	1	DY	H Perkins	Immature in May
Caspian Tern	3, 1	Sth DS/NA	JCof/MA	
Common Noddy	1	MB	B Harvey	On 15 th and 18 th March with Greater Crested Terns

Greater Sooty Owl	Calling	MB	MA/AC	
Powerful Owl	2, calls	PS/MKS	JM/SMG	
Osprey	3, 2, 1	NA/MHS/PS/ Broulee	MA/JM/GLM	Inspecting old nest on the telecom tower at MHS
Wedge-tailed Eagle	4	Cool	DO	2 immatures
Grey Goshawk	1	PS/MHS	JM/FM	
Brown Goshawk	1	PS/Mungararie FT	JM/FM	
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	PS	JM	
Oriental Dollarbird	Up to 4, 1	Com/Punkalla	JC/MA	Until early April at Com
Azure Kingfisher	1	MYA/Nangudga /PP/Com	DHK/MA/JC	
Sacred Kingfisher	1	Punkalla	MA	March
Peregrine Falcon	1	Com/NA	JC/T&A Ross	
Glossy Black Cockatoo	5, 3, 2	Broulee/PS/ Mossy Pt	GLM/JM/HR	
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Up to 55	MB	MA	
Gang-Gang Cockatoo	12, 4, 2	MKS/Bodalla SF/Broulee	SMG/JM/PG/ GH	Young being fed by a male at Murramarang NP in April
Eastern Rosella	7, 6, 4, 3	Com/Cool/ Mungararie FT/ Bergalia	JC/DO/JM/ DHK	
Swift Parrot	1 or 2	PS	JM	First record April 29 th On flowering Spotted Gum
Musk Lorikeet	Up to 150	MHS	JM	On flowering Spotted Gum
Little Lorikeet	40	Surfside/MB	DB/MA	On flowering Spotted Gum
Rainbow Lorikeet	Up to 300	MHS	JM	On flowering Spotted Gum
Superb Lyrebird	3, 2	Bodalla SF/ Mungararie FT	JM/FM	Singles or calls at a number of locations
Red-browed Treecreeper	Call	ERBG	FM	
Southern Emu-wren	Up to 8	Cullendulla Ck	GLM	
Crescent Honeyeater	1	ERBG	NC	
White-cheeked Honeyeater	4	Bodalla SF	JM	
White-naped Honeyeater	10, 6	Mungararie FT/ Bodalla SF/PS	FM/JM	Fewer in other locations
Brown-headed Honeyeater	6, 4	Com/Bodalla SF /PS/Cool	JC/JM/DO	
White-eared Honeyeater	4, 3, call	PS/ERBG/MKS	JM/FM/SMG	
Noisy Friarbird	16, 15, 10	Bodalla SF/PS/ Maloneys Bch/ MHS	JM/FM	Widespread records. Species will overwinter when Spotted Gum flowers.
Scarlet Honeyeater	14, 8, 2	Bodalla SF/PS/ ERBG/MB	JM/MA/FM	Species will overwinter when Spotted Gum flowers.
Fuscous Honeyeater	Calls	PS	JM	Migrating with Yellow-faced Honeyeaters
Bell Miner	Calls	Cool	DO	
Striated Pardalote	10, 6	Mungararie FT/ PS	FM/JM	
Pilotbird	2	Mungararie FT	JM	
Large-billed Scrubwren	1	Broulee	L Hansch	
Buff-rumped Thornbill	4	Mungararie FT	FM	
Varied Sittella	6	Bodalla SF/PS	JM	
Spotted Quail-thrush	Up to 6, 1	Mungararie FT/ Donalds Ck Rd	JM/FM	

Eastern Shrike-tit	4, 1	Mungararie FT/ Murramarang NP	JM/HR	
Rufous Whistler	2, C	PS/Com/MKS	JM/JC/SMG	Last record April 8 th
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2	PS	JM	
Common Cicadabird	5, 2	PS/Murramaran g NP	JM/HR	
Dusky Woodswallow	15, 5, 2	Mungararie FT/ Com/Cool/MB/ Mogo SF	FM/JC/DO/ MA/JM/HR	
White-breasted Woodswallow	30, 10	Bingie/PS	AM/JM	
Rufous Fantail	2, 1	PS/MB/Murramarang NP	JM/MA/HR	
Restless Flycatcher	1	Com	JC	
Black-faced Monarch	2, 1	Broulee/MKS/ PS/Murramaran g NP	GLM/JM/HR	
Little Raven	Up to 30	Com	JC	Also at MB
White-winged Chough	23, 6, 4, call	Com/PS/ Bergalia/MKS	JC/JM/DHK/ SMG	
Rose Robin	1 or 2	Murramarang NP/Mungararie FT/Bodalla SF/ Surfside/Com/ NA/Cool	JM/HR/RS/JC/ MA/DO	
Tree Martin	Up to 50, 6	Com/Broulee	JC/GLM	
Bassian Thrush	Call	MKS	SMG	
Mistletoebird	1 or 2	PS/Mungararie FT	JM/FM	

Non-avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Common Wombat	Signs	Com/Cool	JC/DO	2 roadkill between NA-MB
Sugar Glider	1, calls	Mossy Pt/PS	HR/JM	
Common Brushtail Possum	3, 2, 1	Cool/Com/PS	DO/JC/JM	
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	31, 20	Cool/PS	DO/JM	
Red-necked Wallaby	5, 2, 1	Cool/MB/PS/ Mossy Pt	DO/MA/JM/HR	
Grey-headed Flying-fox	20, 7, 4	PS/Mossy Pt/ Com	JM/HR/DO	Large group at MB
Seal sp.	3	MHS	FM	
Snake-necked Turtle	Up to 10	Com	JC	April
Yellow-bellied Water-skink	2	Com	JC	March
Weasel Skink	1	Mossy Pt	HR	March
Bar-sided Skink	1	PS	JM	April
Gippsland Water Dragon	Up to 6	Com	JC	
Lace Monitor	1	PS/Cool	JM/DO	
Eastern Small-eyed Snake	1	PS/Cool	JM/DO	
Red-bellied Black Snake	2, 1	Com/PS/Cool	JC/JM/DO	

Frogs JC/JM/ HR/DO/FM	Common Eastern Froglet, Brown-striped Frog, Dendy's and Tyler's Toadlet; tree frogs: Brown, Eastern Sedgefrog, Jervis Bay, Keferstein's, Peron's, Tyler's, Verreaux's.
Moths JC/JM	Southern and Variable Oxycanus, Beet Webworm, Eggfruit Caterpillar, Neat Epidesmia, Cream and Varied Wave, White-stemmed Wattle, Processionary, Lydia Lichen, Variable Halone, Reticulated Footman, Lichen-eating Caterpillar, Magpie, Tiger, Spotted

	Calathusa, Wedged Rhapsa, Three-lined Snout, Plain Pantydia, Triangle Owlet, Eriosoma, Tobacco Looper, Green-blotched, White-collared Noctuid, Variable Cutworm, Native Budworm.
Butterflies MA/JC/GLM/JM /DO/HR/DO/FM	Splendid Ochre, Narrow-brand Grass-dart, Orchard Swallowtail, Imperial and Black Jezebel, Cabbage White, Dusky Knight, Brown Ringlet, Varied Sword-grass Brown, Common Brown, Meadow Argus, Yellow Admiral, Monarch, Common Grass Blue.
Dragon & Damselflies JC/JM	Common Bluetail, Blue and Wandering Ringtail, Red and Blue Damsel, Australian Emerald, Black-faced Percher, Australian Emerald.
Beetles JC/JM	Green Scarab, Metallic Green Acacia, Banded Pumpkin, Small Blue Leaf, Aerarium Leaf, Three-lined Potato, Green Striped; Ladybirds: Steel Blue, Yellow Shouldered, 26 Spotted, Variable, Mealybug, Striped, Fungus-eating.
Bugs JC/JM/FM	Water Strider, Bronze Orange, Green Vegetable, Horehound, Brown Shield, Common Spittle.
Other insects JC/JM/GLM/DO/ FM	Bees: Blue Banded. Wasps: Common Paper, Orange Caterpillar Parasite. Fly: Signal, Beefly, Hoverfly, Native Dronefly. Yellow-winged Locust.
Spiders MA/JC/JM	Spiny, Black House, Leaf-curling, Jumping, Huntsman, Daddy Long Legs, Golden Orb, Two-tailed, St Andrew's Cross, Giant Water, Water, Garden Orb Weaving.

RAINFALL (mm). **March:** 349.5 at MKS, 388 at Bergalia, 381 at Com, 298 at MB, 342.75 at Cool. **April:** 200 at MKS, 188 at Bergalia, 302.5 at Com, 158 at Cool. **May:** 52.5 at MKS, 67 at Bergalia, 42.5 at Com, 39.5 at MB, 38.5 at Cool.

Contributors

MA	M Anderson, MB	SMG	S&M Guppy, MKS	FM	Field Meeting
DB	D Bertzeletos, Surfside	GH	Gee Hounsell, Broulee		M Craig, TS
MB	M Burk, Sth DS	DHK	D&H Kay, Bergalia		A Cram, Deua R
NC	N Clark, Surf Beach	AM	A Marsh, Bingie		L Hansch, Sunshine Bay
GC	G Clark, ACT	GLM	G&L McVeigh		B Harvey, MB
JCof	J Coffey, Sth DS	JM	J Morgan, PS		J Mather, LP
JC	J&P Collett, Com	DO	D Ondinea, Cool		H Perkins, DY
AC	A Christensen, MB	HR	H Ransom, Mossy Pt		T&A Ross, NA
PG	P Gatenby, Broulee	RS	R Soroka, Surfside		
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

ENHS Committee and Contact Details

Chair/Recorder	Julie Morgan	0457 637 227	chair@enhs.org.au
Secretary	David Kay	0408 183 510	secretary@enhs.org.au
Treasurer	Malcolm Griggs	4472 4150	treasurer@enhs.org.au
Committee	Mandy Anderson, Nicola Clark, Julie Collett, Paul Gatenby, Gee Hounsell, Janice Sagar		
Public Officer and Membership	Malcolm Griggs	4472 4150	treasurer@enhs.org.au
Minutes Secretary	Mandy Anderson	4473 7651	
Editorial Team	Mandy Anderson, 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.

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