



EUROBODALLA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inc.

PO Box 888
MORUYA NSW 2537

www.enhs.org.au



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 195

January 2023

Bar-tailed Godwit - *Limosa lapponica* – (Linnaeus, 1758)

While I was putting this article together, a Bar-tailed Godwit made headlines around the world for the most extraordinary feat of nonstop flying ever recorded, travelling about 13,560 km from Alaska to Tasmania, at an average speed of 50 kph. The now-famous bird hatched in Alaska during the Northern Hemisphere summer, where it was tagged (satellite tag number 234684) and fitted with a tracking GPS chip. It left Alaska, at about 5 months of age, on 13 October, flew nonstop for 11 days and one hour and arrived in north-eastern Tasmania on 24 October (see <https://birdlife.org.au/news/bar-tailed-godwit-breaks-record/>).



Photo S Benjamin

All five subspecies of Bar-tailed Godwit breed in the Arctic. They nest in a variety of wet, swampy or muddy habitats in Scandinavia, northern Asia and Alaska, building shallow cup-shaped nests which may be unlined or lined with vegetation. Clutch size varies from two to five. The sexes share incubation and care for the young. Adults then migrate in the northern autumn, up to six weeks before juveniles.

The birds we see along the east coast are members of the subspecies *Limosa lapponica baueri*. They breed across northeast Siberia and Alaska, migrating south nonstop and travelling further than any other subspecies – or, in fact, any other species – to winter in China and Australasia. Many birds stop in northern Australia, but some travel further south to the south coast of the mainland and to Tasmania.

Adult birds migrate north in autumn, spending around 40 days on the north Yellow Sea, on the Yalu Jiang coastal wetland. Immatures, once arrived in Australia, do not migrate again until they are at least 2 years and up to 4 years old, so there are some sightings year-round, but they are seen in large numbers along the Eurobodalla coast from October/November to February/March.

Bar-tailed Godwit are social birds, often seen in large flocks and with other waders, on river mudflats and beaches and among mangroves. They wade through the shallows or across mud flats, probing the mud with their long bills to find molluscs, worms and aquatic insects.



Photo R Soroka

Only slightly smaller than Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, they are one of the larger shorebirds that we see in our region, approximately 37 – 39 cm from the tip of the tail to the end of the very long, slightly upturned bill. Females are larger than males and have longer bills. Non-breeding adults have grey-brown streaked upper parts and off-white underparts with some greyish-brown and brown streaking. Underwings are white. Rumps and tails are white barred with brown. Legs and feet are dark grey. Bills are pink at the base and black at the tip. Juveniles resemble non-breeding birds. The calls are described as a nasal bark, 'kak' or 'kwik', and a deeper 'kurruc' or 'kikwik'.

Males in breeding plumage have a mainly rufous head, neck and underparts, with upperparts strongly patterned in black, rufous brown and buff. Females change colour too but are more subdued than males and change somewhat later than males, so are rarely seen in Australia in their breeding plumage.

The species most likely to be confused with the Bar-tailed Godwit is the Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa limosa*. It is considered scarce on the south coast and has only been reported twice in the Eurobodalla - at Coopers Is in Oct 1992 and Brou Lake in Dec 2016. This species has a white wingbar, no white underwing and a black rather than barred tail. It also has a longer, straight bill.

The Bar-tailed Godwit subspecies *baueri* is listed as vulnerable federally and in NT and WA, rare in SA and unlisted in NSW, Queensland and Victoria. Survival rates have decreased since 2005, probably due to the reclamation of mudflats on the Yellow Sea.



Photo P Gatenby

The major threat to these birds, as with many other migratory shorebirds, is habitat loss. Destruction of mudflats along their flyways has robbed them of critically important feeding sites. Development in Australia has already resulted in habitat loss. At the time of writing, we are awaiting a decision from the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, regarding the proposed development at Toondah Harbour, on Moreton Bay, Queensland. If this goes ahead, it will remove a further 40-odd hectares of shorebird feeding sites. Gillian Macnamara

A warm welcome to new members....

Denise Allardice and Gavin Scott, Moruya

What's coming up.....

Saturday 11 February, 2pm Square Head. (2-3km Grade 2) Meet at the entrance to Cullendulla Nature Reserve, Blairs Road (near corner with Mary Street) Long Beach. A combination of Spotted Gum and Burrawang forest, rainforest gully and creek edge vegetation. Black-faced Monarch, Rufous Fantail, Scarlet Honeyeater, Pied Oystercatcher and other shorebirds.

Sunday 26 February, 9am, Mystery Bay. (2-3km Grade 2) Meet at the entrance to the camping ground on Mystery Bay Rd. A mix of shorebirds, White-bellied Sea Eagle, honeyeaters, robins, thornbills, Olive-backed Oriole, fairy-wrens and fantails.

Saturday 11 March, 2pm, Coila Creek Road. (2-3km Grade 1) Meet at the corner of the Princes Hwy and Coila Creek Road, just south of the Coila Creek service station. White-throated Gerygone, Scarlet and Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Jacky Winter, Rufous Songlark, White-breasted Woodswallow, Olive-backed Oriole, Crimson and Eastern Rosella.

Sunday 24 March, 9am, Deua National Park. (2-3km 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, Varied Sittella, Common Wombat and Dingo.

Saturday 15 April, 2pm, Jemisons Point. (3-4km 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.

2023 subscriptions are now due

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

Important announcement

Most organisations such as ours have moved away from distributing a printed form of their newsletter and the time has come for us to do the same. The majority of ENHS members already receive their newsletter digitally and this change will remove the constraints imposed by printing in black and white and allow the hard working newsletter team greater scope for creativity in the use of photos and diagrams. As this will be the last time we print the newsletter, we ask that members who currently receive a printed copy advise us of an email address they would like the newsletter to be sent to when renewing their subscription. If you do not have an email address, please contact Julie Morgan on 0457 637 227 to discuss how we can manage this transition.

Field Meeting – Comerang – 23 October 2022

Surprisingly, on the day of our biennial visit to Comerang, the constantly inclement weather of the previous few months cleared for most of the day, enabling us to visit the beautiful dairy farm near Bodalla owned by Peter and Julie Collett and their family.

Julie greeted the enthusiastic group of about 16 members and visitors in the house garden, giving us a brief outline of some of the historical aspects of the property. She told us that it was originally owned by Thomas Sutcliffe Mort, a pioneer in the district, and the man for whom the Sydney suburb of Mortdale is named. Mort is also famous for pioneering the technique of freezing meat for export. A group of horticultural experts who recently visited the Comerang garden had identified five of the camellias as being around 150 years old. They are still flowering profusely.

Julie also outlined the various hazards that we might confront during the morning: fences which “bite”, large holes in the ground where the cattle have trodden and which were a hazard for ankles, in addition to ticks, leeches, snakes – “It’s a friendly place”, she quipped. The weather of the previous few months meant that there were sections of the farm that we could not visit. However, there was still plenty for us to explore.

Initially, we descended the hill to the edge of the Tuross River, which winds its way through the property. It seemed that the birds had all come out to enjoy the break in the weather, as there were many calls for us to identify. In particular, both Rufous and Golden Whistlers kept up a constant chorus, demonstrating the variety of calls that they produce, and confounding some of the people who were new to birding. There were several Olive-backed Orioles calling, and they were quite easily observed across the river. Red-browed Finches, Grey Fantails, thornbills and a couple of Dollarbirds were all readily observed.

Moving from the riverside, we walked into a paddock which overlooked one of the swamps, and from here we were able to add to our birdlist a number of waterfowl, and also, to everybody's delight, a pair of Sacred Kingfishers and a single jewel-like Azure Kingfisher. A Little Grassbird was calling constantly in the distance, and a group of Eastern Rosellas checked out nesting hollows in the nearby Angophoras. Another species which we don't see regularly was the Varied Sittella, who always look like little acrobats as they hang upside down from the branches.

A highlight for me was the number of different raptor species: a pair of Whistling Kites visiting a nest, two Swamp Harriers, a Peregrine Falcon and a White-bellied Sea-Eagle; some members of the group had also seen a Brown Falcon along the Comerang Road.

As we made our way back to the house, Julie pointed out the nesting hollow of the Striated Pardalotes which regularly nest there. The birds put in a brief appearance and their calls were evident to all of us.

A total of 61 species was compiled, in addition to a further 5 which had been observed in Bodalla. Julie Morgan commented that this was the highest total of any of our field meetings since the fires of 2019-2020. Our sincere thanks were extended to Peter and Julie for once again allowing us to enjoy their wonderful property. Mandy Anderson

Field Meeting – Narooma – 27 November 2022

A group of approximately 20 members headed off from Ken Rose Park Narooma under cloudy skies for the annual Shore Bird Count. Rain was forecast for the afternoon, but the morning was delightful. Before heading off, Mandy informed the group of the Wagonga Inlet Living Foreshore project, a collaboration between Council, National Parks and the Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries. The project aims to restore a section of the Wagonga Inlet foreshore between the Narooma Swimming Centre and Ken Rose Park to create a 'living' shoreline. If you would like to learn more about this project go to: <https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/council/major-projects/current-projects/planning-recreation-business/wagonga-inlet-living-shoreline>

A pair of Masked Lapwings were very vocal in Ken Rose Park and their three young chicks were being kept in line by Mum and Dad. The mangrove at the start of the walk housed two juvenile White-faced Herons who were still a little downy.



Juvenile Masked Lapwing

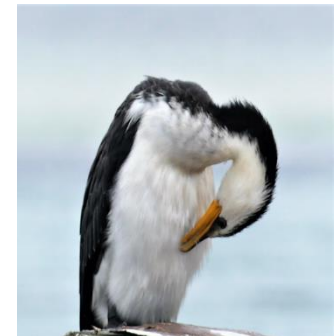
As we continued around the Inlet a small group of Bar-tailed Godwits flew overhead and landed on a sandspit. They were mingling with Silver Gulls and a pair of Pied Oystercatchers. Cormorants were well represented, with Great Cormorants diving and playing in the inlet. A Greater Crested Tern dive bombed a cormorant whilst it was underwater and was rapidly chased off. Also spotted were Little Pied, Little Black and Great Pied Cormorants. As we approached the jetty a very large Sting Ray was lurking underneath, and a Little Pied Cormorant was too busy preening itself to notice our group.



Juvenile White-faced Heron

Walking through the back streets to the western side of the Inlet provided some forest species to add to the list. The usually elusive female Koel was stationary in a blooming Jacaranda tree, allowing great viewing. Other notable species were a Sea-Eagle, a pair of Figbirds and a squadron of Little Corellas. In total 35 species were recorded.

A smaller group undertook a second survey at the private property of Heather Evans. Heather and partner have regenerated the forest on their property and it was a delight to wander through the bush on little pathways, and view the healthy forest. Here, we added 24 species of birds to the day's list. Amongst those spotted were a female Wedge-tailed Eagle, some Brown Gerygones, a pair of King Parrots and an Eastern Yellow Robin.



Little Pied Cormorant

All in all, a spectacular day. - Denise Allardice

Birds of a feather etc etc

In September, we were fortunate to revisit Sturt Desert National Park, one of our favourite places in Australia. Our timing was perfect – after recent rain, the desert was awash with wildflowers. And once again, we were able to experience the stunning sight of large flocks of budgerigars soaring and looping overhead, engaged in what appeared to be a magical synchronised dance. The flash of green and gold as a flock whirls past is unforgettable. It made me wonder why some birds form flocks.

Biologists have been trying to answer this question for over a century and have come up with a few reasons. Flocks provide safety in numbers and a reduced need for vigilance. Flocking provides many more pairs of eyes

to detect predators and in a large enough flock there are always some birds looking around for danger. As birds in flocks are less likely to be eaten by predators, they can reduce their vigilance and focus on feeding. They also have a better chance of finding food than would one bird searching alone - having more eyes searching the landscape results in higher foraging efficiency. Flocks enable improved flight aerodynamics while migrating in formation and they provide warmth in the colder months when they huddle together on the roost. Finally, while in a flock, young birds learn their songs and other vocal sounds as well as some social behaviours.

So, we understand flocking to be a behaviour that serves to protect the individual bird's interests and to benefit the group as a whole. It only makes sense for species with certain habitats, diets and predators. It seems to work best for small, vulnerable birds that live in open habitats, where food resources are distributed unevenly across the landscape.



Budgerigar flock Photo G Wilde

Is there an ideal flock size? The number will be different for each population and may change from season to season, or even day to day. The optimum size depends on many factors: food availability, climate, local predator population etc.

What are the flight mechanics of flocking birds? Let's say you are looking at a flock of hundreds of budgerigars – flying around in a big swarm overhead, changing direction this way and that. Then suddenly the flock zooms off and disappears. Which of those birds was in charge? Which one decided to change direction? The answer is that there is no single bird in charge of the flock. Flocks are organised from the bottom up – there is no leadership. Each individual bird is making decisions and those decisions ripple through the flock.

Scientists have several terms for this phenomenon: they say that flocks are self-organising or that flocking is emergent collective behaviour. All the interactions between birds collectively form the large-scale patterns that we see. Swarm intelligence is another term used to describe the way that decisions are made by large numbers of birds seemingly all at once.

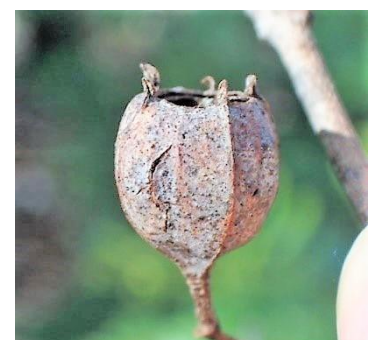
Ornithologists struggled for a long time to describe how birds communicate in flight. It is now thought that birds watch the movements of their flock mates; each individual bird responds to visual communication from the birds around it. Birds in a flock can coordinate their movements at high speed because they have high temporal resolution in their vision and their brains. That is, birds see and respond to things faster than we humans do; it's as if they see the world moving around them in slow motion. Helen Kay

If you want to see the miracle of hundreds of budgerigars moving as one, visit <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/dec/04/mesmerising-a-massive-murmuration-of-budgies-is-turning-central-australia-green-and-gold>

When is a Gum not a Eucalyptus?

Some of you might have admired the large *Angophora floribunda* on the recent ENHS field trip to Comerang Farm, Bodalla. You might have wondered why they looked like Eucalypts but were called Angophora.

The genus *Angophora* was first published by Spanish botanist Antonio Jose Cavanilles in 1797. *Angophora* is made up of the Greek 'angos' meaning a jar or vessel and 'phora' meaning to carry. This refers to the shape of the fruit which is shaped like a cup or urn.



Fruit

There are 13 species of *Angophora*, and these are only found in NSW, Vic and QLD. The main species in our local area are *Angophora floribunda* (Rough-barked Apple) and *Angophora costata* (Smooth-barked Apple/Sydney Red Gum).

Specific features of *Angophora* (photos of *A. floribunda*) are:

- Longitudinally ribbed fruit with 4-5 teeth on the rim. [Eucalyptus fruit are smooth on the outside]
- Bristle-like hairs on parts of the inflorescence, and often on the buds [Eucalyptus buds are not hairy]
- Separate petals and hard, woody sepals [Eucalyptus petals and sepals are fused into the operculum which is the hard cap covering the bud.]
- Both juvenile and adult leaves are arranged opposite each other along the stem [Eucalyptus have opposite juvenile leaves but adult leaves are alternate]
- *Angophora* branches often look contorted



Inflorescence



Leaves

Angophora floribunda is a medium to large tree to 30m tall and often long-lived (over 100 years). The bark is shortly fibrous and persistent from trunk to small branches.

The adult leaves are lance-shaped 8-12cm long and 2-3cm wide with a leaf stalk 8-12mm long. The petals are white with light green sepals. The creamy-white stamens appear from December to February.



Canopy

They are a common tree around Bodalla and, as they often grow in deep alluvial soil which is good for pasture, they are often seen as isolated trees in a paddock. It naturally grows in open forests or woodland from south-eastern QLD, eastern NSW and eastern VIC.

Interactions with animals (per Wikipedia) include:

- Grey-headed and Little Red Flying Foxes (flowers)
- White-plumed Honeyeater (foraging)
- Regent Honeyeater (nesting site)
- Jewel Beetles (flowers)
- Longhorn Beetle
- Scarlet Honeyeater (bark used for nesting material)



Bark

Next time you are passing through Bodalla, stop to look out at the farmland.... you might spot a large, magnificent *Angophora floribunda*. Sharon Pearson

Reviving the lost art of competitive bird-calling

I'm sure that our members are aware of the Birds in Backyards surveys which are promoted by Birdlife Australia during Bird Week each year – this year it took place from 17 to 23 October. I always enjoy taking part in this event, and it's great to watch the progressive totals that are posted on the app. This year, the total number of individual birds counted was in excess of 4 million, with 724 different species being reported Australia-wide. In my local post code area, which stretches from Dalmeny to Bermagui, there were 360 surveys submitted, with a species total of 160.

But as Bird Week is becoming more universally acknowledged, a number of other events are taking place, particularly within our local area. I visited the Narooma library during the week and was delighted to see a group of Under-5s involved in a morning of colouring in stencilled outlines of birds and adding tail feathers to their creations. The librarians (bless them!) had organised the event and had also created a wonderful display of bird-related resources, as well as a display of bird photography and paintings.

Of even greater significance was the bird-calling competition which was arranged by the Bournda Environmental Education Centre and held at Potoroo Palace near Merimbula. Seven south coast schools took part, with 45 student competitors. There were four categories in the competition, with bird-calling being one, in addition to bird identification, bird-call identification, and identification of feathers and beaks.

The bird-call competition itself is judged by two former “champions” – people who’d won the competitions in Sydney in the 1950s. Even at that time, it was far south coast students who scooped the pool of prizes. Birds imitated this year ranged from kookaburras to magpies, parrots and whipbirds. The winning call was a King Parrot by a student from Bega Valley Public School, and the overall winning school was Wolumla Public School. The birds must have been impressed with the accuracy of some of the imitations, as they responded from their roosts in the nearby trees.

The bird-calling competition was originally devised by the Gould League of Bird Lovers, apparently in an effort to discourage children from robbing birds’ nests, and to give them a greater appreciation of the wonderful array of species around them. In those early days in Sydney, south coast children were imitating birds whose calls had never been heard by their city rivals. South coast schools were the victors every year from 1953 to 1962, after which time the competition fell into abeyance.

All entrants in this year’s competition were given a copy of a bird identification book donated by the Far South Coast Birdwatchers. It’s wonderful to see the next generation carrying on this long-lost art, and well done to the Bournda staff for organising the event.

One of the judges commented: “If we didn’t have birds, it would be a sad old world”, and renowned ornithologist Dr Stephen Garnett from Charles Darwin University, commenting on the Songs of Disappearance album (a compilation of the calls of many of our endangered birds) said: “Birds are the original artists and have been creating beautiful sounds for millions of years”. So too are the children of our local schools.

You can watch and hear some of the competitors on the ABC Southeast website www.discover.abc.net.au and enter “Bird call competition” in the search-bar. Mandy Anderson

Gillian Wilde – Celebrating birds through art

Tuross artist and friend of the Society, Gillian Wilde, has won the Eurobodalla prize in the 2022 Basil Sellers Art Exhibition for her painting of a Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Glory Going.

Gillian’s art explores her passion for the natural world, seeking to encapsulate fleeting moments for us to observe and contemplate. In this work Gillian uses inks on hand dyed collage papers to intensify the colour of the tail and by placing it in an upside-down pose it narrows the focus of the viewer to catch its gaze. She says that “the size and colour surrounded by negative space demand attention for this endangered bird.”

Glossy Black-Cockatoos are Critically Endangered in Victoria and Vulnerable in Queensland, ACT, NSW and the Northern Territory. The 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires severely impacted much of their range by causing the destruction of breeding sites and creating a major food shortage as they feed almost exclusively on the fire-sensitive she-oaks which take up to ten years to produce seedpods.



We have Gillian to thank for drawing the public’s attention to this species and its present plight by depicting its image in this finely honed and compelling work. Helen Kay

When do Spinebill Chicks Get Their Long Beaks?

For eight years on our study site on Maulbrooks Road, we found an average of 5 (1-9) Spinebill nests each year, which progressed to at least the 1-egg stage. But without exception these nests were at least 4 meters high. We were able to look into some nests with a mirror on a long pole, but the others were so high that their status had to be determined by the birds' behaviour. Taking a series of photographs was never possible. So, we were always left wondering about when the chicks acquired the long bill. We often saw young birds that had fledged that season, but they always already had an unusually long bill.



Day 4

This bizarre season however, a pair nested in some ti-tree at about head height. The nest was found with two eggs, which hatched on either 29 or 30 September. The birds fledged on 11 October. Pictures were taken of the chicks on October 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and of the fledged young on 11 October. Because we didn't want to get too close to the nest, and because the chicks were often partially obscured by foliage, which we didn't want to move or remove, the length of the beaks is not always easy to discern. The last picture of the fledged young was particularly difficult as they were deep in the ti-tree, obscured by a lot of foliage, and we maintained an even greater distance than usual, as the chicks are very vulnerable, and the parents very anxious at this stage.

The pictures are numbered in days, taking 29 September as Day 1. We have a few chick development series, as we used these to age chicks when we found nests after the birds had hatched. So based on our other series:

1. We would rate the beak length as normal on Day 4.
2. There is slight evidence of an unusually long beak on Day 7.
3. There is no discernible change from Day 7 to Day 10.
4. On Day 11 the beak is longer, but you need to look closely as the tip is obscured.
5. On Days 12 and 13 there is no significant change from Day 11, but again, you need to look closely on Day 13 as the tip is obscured.

Based on these pictures, we suggest that a lot of the beak length is produced after fledging. This might make sense as the long and slender beaks would simply get in the way in the nest, when the young birds are being fed insects. Michael and Sarah Guppy



Day 7



Day 11



Day 13

Highlights from ENHS records - Spring 2022

Avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Stubble Quail	Up to 10	Com	JC	Started calling later than usual this year
Brown Quail	1 or call	Bengello/Com/ Cool	DHK/JC/DO	
Black Swan	50	Coila L	NC	
Australian Shelduck	2	Com	JC	
Chestnut Teal	Up to 40	Com	JC	nesting
Australasian Grebe	6, 2, 1	Com/MB/DS	JC/MA/JCof	
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	6, 2, 1	MKS/Corunna/ DS/PS/Bodalla	SMG/MA/JCof /JM	
Topknot Pigeon	12, 3, 2	Coila L/PS/ Com/Gulaga	NC/JM/JC/GM	Fewer records this year
Tawny Frogmouth	4, 1	Pedro/MB/Cool	JS/MA/DO	2 young at Pedro
White-throated Nightjar	3 to 4	PS	JM	First return on November 2 nd
Aust Owlet-nightjar	Call	PS/Gulaga	JM/FM	
Eastern Koel	1 or 2	Widespread	Various	First return September 17 th
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Up to 5	Widespread	Various	First return September 25 th
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Call	PS/Com	JM/JC	
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1 or 2	Widespread	Various	First return September 10 th
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1 to 4	Widespread	Various	
Brush Cuckoo	1 to 2 or calls	PS/MKS/Com/ MB	JM/SMG/JC/ MA	First return September 25 th
Pallid Cuckoo	1	Com	FM	First return October 23 rd
Dusky Moorhen	6	MO	NM	With young
Little Penguin	1	MB	MA	Found decapitated in village
Shearwater sp.		Off Kianga	T&A Ross	Streaming past in October
Royal Spoonbill	22, 17, 6	Com/NA/MB	JC/FM/MA	
Straw-necked Ibis	40	Mogendoura Farm	FM	Overflying
Striated Heron	1	Broulee	GLM	
Cattle Egret	Up to 10	MYA	JM	In breeding plumage early October
White-necked Heron	1	Bergalia	DHK	Fewer records
Intermediate Egret	2, 1	NA/MYA	MA/JC	At Mynora in MYA
Little Egret	12, 1	NA/Broulee/MO	MA/GLM/NM	
Eastern Reef Egret	2, 1	MO/Broulee/ MB/CO	NM/GLM/MA /NC	Immature transitioning into adult plumage at CO
Great Pied Cormorant	6, 3, 1	NA/Broulee/DS	MA/GLM/ JCof	
Aust Pied Oystercatcher	12, 6, 4	NA/MO/BI	MA/NM/DO	Fewer elsewhere
Sooty Oystercatcher	4, 3, 2	Broulee/MO/DS /MB/CO	HR/GLM/NM/ MA/JCof/NC	
Pacific Golden Plover	4, 1	CO/MB	NC/MA	
Red-capped Plover	23, 4, 3, 2	DS/MO/Bingie/ CO	JCof/NM/DHK /NC	2 young at Kelly's Lake, Bingie
Double-banded Plover	1	MB	MA	Late record
Hooded Plover	1 or 2	Bingie Pt/CO/ MB/WL	DHK/NC/MA	
Black-fronted Dotterel	4, 2, 1	MO/Com/MYA	NM/JC	At Mynora in Moruya
Far Eastern Curlew	15, 4, 1	MYA R/NA/DY /Cullendulla Ck	GC/MA/ A Loveband	
Bar-tailed Godwit	110, 100, 2	NA/DY/MYA R	MA/GC	
Ruddy Turnstone	1	Brou L	MA	
Red-necked Stint	11	DS	JCof	

Grey-tailed Tattler	1	CO	NC	
Caspian Tern	Up to 5	DS	JCof	
Greater Sooty Owl	Calls	MB	MA	
Masked Owl	3	Pedro	JS	One young
Powerful Owl	3	MO	NM/ N McNaughton	One young
Southern Boobook	Calling	MO/Corunna	NM/MA	
Osprey	1	PS/NA/MHS	JM	
Square-tailed Kite	1	PS/MO/CO/MB	JM/NM/PG/ MA	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	4, 2	PS/MKS/Com/ Cool	JM/SMG/JC /DO	2 young at PS
Swamp Harrier	1	MO/Com/MB	NM/JC/MA	
Grey Goshawk	1	MB	MA	
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	PS/MO	JM/NM	
Rainbow Bee-eater	2	Surfside	DB	Calling overhead. First record for ENHS.
Oriental Dollarbird	4, 3, 2	Com/DS/MB/ Bergalia	JC/JCof/MA/ /DHK	First return September 27 th
Azure Kingfisher	2, 1	Com/MYA	JC/DHK	
Sacred Kingfisher	4, 2	Com/PS/ Bergalia/MO	JC/JM/DHK/ NM	Singles elsewhere
Australian Hobby	1	Com	JC	
Brown Falcon	1	Com/MB	JC/MA	
Peregrine Falcon	1	PS/MO/Com	JM/NM/JC/FM	
Glossy Black Cockatoo	4, 3, 2	PS/MB/MKS/ BB/Broulee/ Bergalia	JM/MA/SMG/ DB/GH/DHK	Fledgling recorded at MYA in September (L Dann)
Gang-Gang Cockatoo	Up to 20, 10	Broulee/Cool	GH/HR/DO	Immatures in a flock at Broulee. Nesting at Broulee and DS (GH, M Burk)
Eastern Rosella	8, 2, 1	Com/Bergalia/ MB/NA/Tilba	JC/DHK/MA/ FM	
Musk Lorikeet	Up to 60	Broulee	JM/PG/GH	Feeding on flowering gums
Little Lorikeet	4, 2	Broulee/PS	GLM/JM	Far fewer reports
Superb Lyrebird	Call	MKS/NA/ ERBG	SMG/MA/NC	
Green Catbird	2	Tilba	MA	
Southern Emu-wren	3	Broulee	GLM	
Crescent Honeyeater	1	Broulee	JM	Captain Oldrey Park
White-cheeked Honeyeater	2	Broulee	JM	
White-naped Honeyeater	7, 6, 2	MO/PS/NA/ Gulaga	NM/JM/MA/ FM	
Brown-headed Honeyeater	6, 2	Com/PS	JC/JM	
White-eared Honeyeater	1	Gulaga	FM	
Noisy Friarbird	Up to 20, 6, 4	PS/Bergalia/MO	JM/DHK/NM	Nesting at PS
Scarlet Honeyeater	6	MHS/MO/NA	JM/NM/MA	Fewer elsewhere
Red Wattlebird	40, 26, 20	Com/Broulee/ PS	JC/GLM/JM	Migrating south-east and a young in September
Striated Pardalote	3, 2, 1	Com/PS/DS/ Brou L/MB	JC/JM/JCof/ MA	Nesting at Com
White-throated Gerygone	1 or 2	Com	JC	In October and November
Pilotbird	Call	Gulaga	FM	
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	2	Gulaga	FM	
Large-billed Scrubwren	2	Gulaga	FM	

Varied Sittella	5, 2, 1	Com/Cool/MKS	JC/DO/SMG	
Australasian Figbird	10, 5, 3, 1	MYA/Coila L/ NA/PS/Broulee	JM/NC/FM	
Eastern Shrike-tit	2, 1	Broulee/MO	GLM/NM	
Rufous Whistler	6, 4	Com/PS	JC/JM	First return September 12 th
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	2, 1	PS/Com	JM/JC	
Common Cicadabird	5, 1, call	PS/Com/MKS	JM/JC/SMG	First return October 1 st
Dusky Woodswallow	12, 1	Cool/Com	DO/JC	
Rufous Fantail	1	Broulee/PS/Cool	JM/DO	First return October 16 th
Leaden Flycatcher	1 or 2	MKS/PS/MO	SMG/JM/NM	First return October 16 th
Black-faced Monarch	3, 2, 1	Broulee/Gulaga/ Surfside/PS/MO /Bodalla/MKS	PG/FM/RS/JM /NM/MA/SMG	First return September 23 rd
Little Raven	8	MKS	SMG	Also recorded at MB
White-winged Chough	12, 8, 5	Com/MKS/PS	JC/SMG/JM	Fewer elsewhere
Rose Robin	1	Com	JC	
Golden-headed Cisticola	Up to 10	Com	JC	
Little Grassbird	2	Com	JC	
Tree Martin	10, 4	MYA/PS/Com/ MO	JM/JC/NM	Active nest hollow at MO
Bassian Thrush	Call	Gulaga	FM	
Mistletoebird	1 or 2	PS/MYA/ Gulaga	JM/H Watson/ FM	
Australian Pipit	3, 2, 1	Bingie Pt/Com/ Brou L/Tilba	DHK/JC/MA/ FM	

Non-avian species	Number	Place	Observer	Comments
Platypus	1	Com	JC	
Common Wombat	1 or signs	Com/Cool	JC/DO	
Short-beaked Echidna	1	PS/Bergalia/MB/ Cool	JM/DHK/MA/ DO	
Yellow-bellied Glider	Calls	Broulee	JM/HR	
Sugar Glider	Calls	Broulee/MKS/MB	JM/HR/SMG/ MA	
Greater Glider	2	Broulee	HR/JM	
Common Brushtail Possum	1 or 2	Com/Cool	JC/DO	
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	29, 20, 18	Cool/PS/DS	DO/JM/JCof	
Red-necked Wallaby	6, 4, 3	Bodalla/Cool/ Bergalia/PS	FM/DO/DHK/ JM	Pouch young at Bergalia and Bodalla
Swamp Wallaby	5, 2	PS/Com/Cool/MB	JM/JC/DO/MA	
Dingo	Calls	Com	JC	
Samba Deer	2, call	Cool/Mossy Pt	DO/HR	
Grey-headed Flying Fox	20	Broulee	JM	
Common Dolphin	30	BP	NC	
Southern Right Whale	1	BP	GC	
Humpback Whale	Pods	Off BP and Bingie	GC/P Warbuton	
Snake-necked Turtle	5, 1	Com/PS	JC/JM	
Yellow-bellied Water-skink	1	Catalina	SB	
Weasel Skink	1	Mossy Pt	HR	
Eastern Blue-tongue	2, 1	Com/Mossy Pt/ NA	JC/HR/MA	
Jacky Lizard	4, 3, 2	Mossy Pt/PS/Cool	HR/JM/DO	
Gippsland Water Dragon	2	Com	JC	
Lace Monitor	1 or 2	Cool/PS/MB	DO/JM/MA	

Diamond Python	1	Cool/MB	DO/MA	
Mustard-bellied Snake	1	Surfside	RS	

Frogs JC/JM/HR/DO	Common Eastern Froglet, Brown-striped Frog, Spotted Grass Frog, Bibron's, Dendy's and Tyler's Toadlet; tree frogs: Keferstein's, Eastern Sedgefrog, Jervis Bay, Peron's, Tyler's, Verreaux's.
Moths JC/JM	Concealer, Plume, Eggfruit Caterpillar, Black and Red-lined Geometrid, Pink Arhodia, Oval-spot Taxeotis, Triangular, Neat Epidesmia, Cream and Varied Wave, Mecynata, Subidaria, Filata, Banded Porela, Favoured and White Footman, Banded, Spotted, Lydia Lichen, Lichen-eating Caterpillar, Heliotrope, Crimson Tiger, Tiger, Granny's Cloak, Northern and Southern Old Lady, Australian Cabbage Looper, Mistletoe, Green-blotched, Southern Armyworm, Brown and Black Cutworm, Native Budworm.
Butterflies MA/JC/JM/GLM /DO/HR/FM	Lilac Grass-skipper, Narrow-brand Grass-dart, Blue Triangle, Orchard Swallowtail, Imperial, Black and Scarlet Jezebel, Caper White, Cabbage White, Dusky Knight, Brown Ringlet, Varied Sword-grass Brown, Wonder and Common Brown, Meadow Argus, Painted Lady, Yellow Admiral, Common Grass Blue.
Dragon & Damselflies	Red and Blue Damsel, Common Bluetail, Wandering Ringtail, Tau and Australian Emerald.
Beetles JC/JM	Net-winged, Green Scarab, Banded Pumpkin; Leaf Beetles: Acacia, Small Blue, Eight-spotted, Metallic Green Acacia, Dotted Paropsine; Ladybirds: 26 Spotted, Striped, Steel Blue, Yellow Shouldered, Fungus Eating
Bugs JC/JM	Bronze Orange, Assassin. Cicada: Silver Princess, Beach Squeaker
Spiders SB/JC/JM	Black House, Leaf-curling, Jumping, Huntsman, Daddy Long Legs, Two-tailed, Whip, Triangular, Peacock, Garden Orb Weaver, Giant Water, Water.

RAINFALL (mm). September: 186.5 at MKS, 122.5 at Com, 155.75 at Cool. **October:** 352.5 at MKS, 331 at Bergalia, 314.5 at Com, 183 at MB, 235 at Cool. **November:** 35.5 at MKS, 53 at Bergalia, 76.5 at Com, 54.5 at MB, 51.25 at Cool.

Contributors

MA	M Anderson, MB	SMG	S&M Guppy, MKS	FM	Field Meeting
SB	S Benjamin, Catalina	DHK	D&H Kay, Bergalia		M Burk, DS
DB	D Bertzeletos, Surfside	GLM	G&L McVeigh, Broulee		M Craig, TS
GC	G Clark, ACT	NM	N Montgomery, MO		L Dann, MYA
NC	N Clark, Surf Beach	JM	J Morgan, PS		A Loveband, LP
JCof	J Coffey, DS	DO	D Ondinea, Cool		N McNaughton, Bingie
JC	J&P Collett, Com	HR	H Ransom, Mossy Pt		T&A Ross
PG	P Gatenby, Broulee	JS	J Sagar, Pedro		P Warbuton
GH	G Hounsell, Broulee	RS	R Soroka, Surfside		H Watson, 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

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	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, 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 2023. 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.