



# EUROBODALLA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inc.

PO Box 888  
MORUYA NSW 2537

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



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 147

JULY 2011

**The Annual General Meeting** was held at the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2011, with 20 members attending. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted. Updates were given on the 'Birds of the Eurobodalla' book, the Society's website, and the Common Myna control program. Details were provided for the out of shire trip for 2011 and the 'Wildlife in Backyards' workshop.

Chair's Report: Mike Crowley reported that the Society was doing well and that membership had grown in the past year. He was pleased that ENHS now has its own website and congratulated those involved in its development. The Department of Fair Trading has made changes to the regulations that govern volunteer organisations and to comply we have altered our constitution.

Secretary's Report: Julie Morgan reported that the Society's activities could now be promoted through its own website, as well as through the more traditional vehicles. Correspondence was detailed. Members were encouraged to put forward their suggestions for the 2012 program of Field Meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Fearn reported that the Society's financial position was sound. Income for the year was \$2771.94, expenditure \$3221.63, the bank balance \$5976.06 and the ANZ Term Deposit \$5981. She then announced that she would be stepping down from the position.

Jill Whiter and Joan Fearn announced that they would be retiring from the committee and the publication of the newsletter, and that they and Eric Andrew are working on publishing NIE this year but would retire after this 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the publication. Office bearers and committee nominees were elected unopposed. A special resolution was put to the meeting "that the rules of the ENHS Inc. be rescinded and the new constitution be adopted to comply with the current legislation". This was unanimously accepted.

**Message of Thanks:** This year's AGM saw the retirement from the committee of two of our stalwarts, Jill Whiter and Joan Fearn. Jill, a foundation member, has been a committee member for the entire 25 years of the Society's existence and has held every position on the committee. She also wrote a monthly column in the local newspaper for many years that culminated in the publication of her highly successful 'A Naturalist's Diary' in 2007. Jill compiled NIE for over 10 years and has been its chief editor ever since. Joan has been a member since 1993 and the treasurer for 11 years. Without doubt, Joan has been the most meticulous and efficient treasurer that any society could ask for. For many years Jill and Joan have compiled, edited, printed and mailed out the bimonthly newsletter. Many a new member has benefited from the wealth of their knowledge that they have willingly shared during field meetings and from their contributions to the newsletter. The Society will sorely miss the talents of Jill and Joan and I would like to publicly thank them for their efforts on our behalf over the years. Later in the year the launch of the 25<sup>th</sup> NIE is to be celebrated at a special function, and we will take this opportunity to formally thank Jill, Joan and Eric (who has compiled NIE for 14 years) for their untiring efforts and for their outstanding commitment. We look forward to their continuing involvement in ENHS activities. MC

**Our Website:** [www.enhs.org.au](http://www.enhs.org.au) is up and running. It has attracted almost 2,000 unique visitors and has had over 175,000 hits. The website includes information on membership, field meetings, activities, observations and records, articles, lists of the fauna of the Eurobodalla, and the newsletter, in colour. If you no longer wish to receive a printed newsletter, please let me know. There is also a 'Members' sightings' discussion (or blog) page where members can post their latest sightings, ask questions, post photographs etc. The website is open to all for viewing, but to contribute to the Members' sightings page, members need to register by sending their name and email address to me. You will then receive a username and password from the

website administrator and a document detailing instructions of 'how to post on the website' by email. This document is 1MB in size so please indicate in your email if you would prefer a printed copy. Please email [juliettamorgan@gmail.com](mailto:juliettamorgan@gmail.com) JM

**We are looking for volunteers** to join an editorial team which has been established to work on the publication of the newsletter and to manage the content of the website. We need people who would be willing to write the occasional article for the newsletter or the website, or who have editing or proof-reading skills, or can spare the time to help prepare the newsletter for distribution. We also need one or two members to help with the ongoing management of the website. If you would like to help or need more details, please contact me on 4474 5888 or by email [juliettamorgan@gmail.com](mailto:juliettamorgan@gmail.com) JM

### What's coming up...

**Field Meetings: Saturday August 13 - Bumbo Road:** A drive then a walk on private property at the end of the road. Meet at the intersection of the Princes Hwy and Bumbo Rd, opposite Trunketabella Farm, at 2pm.

**Sunday August 28 - Coila and Bingi:** Walk through the coastal forest from Bingi to Coila Lake. Meet at the intersection of Princes Hwy and Bingi Rd, at 9am.

**Saturday September 10 - Eurobodalla Road:** Meet on the Princes Hwy opposite the Bodalla Police Station at 2pm. We will take a drive down Eurobodalla Rd stopping at various places to view birds.

**Sunday September 25 - Wallaga Lake:** Turn east off Princes Hwy into Bermagui Rd just south of Tilba, and continue until you reach the single lane bridge over the lake. Cross the bridge, and after about 1km, take the second street on the left, Wallaga Street. Drive down to the parking area at the end of the street. Meet at 9am.

### **“Lure of the Lyrebird” Presentation by Don McGregor to be held on Saturday, August 20 at ERBG, at 2pm**

Don McGregor has offered to present the results of a three year study of lyrebirds in the Moruya State Forest. He spends many hours observing these birds and has been rewarded with spectacular film of the male Superb Lyrebird singing and dancing on its mound. He will also feature photographs of the other bird species he sees in the forest. We have booked the meeting room at the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens on Saturday August 20 for 2pm. Bookings are essential as seating will be limited. Please contact Julie Morgan on 4474 5888 or by email at [juliettamorgan@gmail.com](mailto:juliettamorgan@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.



Photo: D. McGregor

**“Out of shire” trip for 2011 – the Southern Highlands:** Our out of shire trip this year will take us to the Southern Highlands, with visits to the beautiful areas around Bowral, Mittagong, Robertson and the Illawarra Escarpment. The trip will take place from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> till Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Birding sites will include Minnamurra Rainforest, Barren Grounds Nature Reserve, Box Vale Tramway, Cecil Hoskins Reserve and the Nattai Wilderness, west of Mittagong. Members are asked to organise their own accommodation. For further details and a proposed itinerary, please refer to the ‘Activities’ page on the website or contact Mandy Anderson on 4473 7651 or by email [mandy-anderson@bigpond.com](mailto:mandy-anderson@bigpond.com)

### What to expect in August – September



Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross

Photo: M. Crowley

Whilst winter might seem to be a time of less activity for the avid nature-watcher, there are in fact many rewarding places to see our wonderful wildlife. The Humpback Whales migrating north to their breeding ground in Queensland do not merely travel ‘full steam ahead’ but indulge in sessions of tail-slapping and what appears to be playful interacting. Southern Right Whales are also about. They like very shallow water and often move into sheltered waters on local beaches to give birth and to mate. Whales are not the only creatures that move up from the cold southern waters in winter. A birding session on any local headland, especially if there is a good southerly blowing, will reward you with sightings of lots of seabirds. Rafts of Australasian Gannet and three species of

albatross are regularly observed - Black-browed, Shy, Indian Yellow-nosed - and then there are the occasional Wandering Albatross, Giant Southern Petrel, prions, and skuas. Away from the coast, groups of Cattle Egrets are seen in paddocks where cattle graze, and they will stay until October when they move north to breed. Little Ravens flock up in their hundreds in these same paddocks. They are smaller than the more common Australian Raven and have a distinctly different call.

With the approach of spring, species that have deserted us for the winter begin to arrive for the breeding season and it is always interesting to note the dates of their arrival. In early August, Eastern Curlew begin to return to the estuaries. Most are dishevelled, with very worn flight feathers after their long flight from China. They are closely followed by Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, stints and knots.

At about the same time, Square-tailed Kites make their appearance in the forests, timing their nesting to coincide with the spring breeding of honeyeaters and other passerine birds. The cuckoos also arrive and the raucous call of the Channel-billed Cuckoo can usually be heard in the first two weeks of September. They are closely followed by the Koels, and the other cuckoos: Fan-tailed, Pallid, Brush, Shining and Horsfield's Bronze. The breeding populations of most of the honeyeaters, fantails, monarch and flycatchers arrive and noisily set up their territories for breeding. MC

### **Flying foxes return to Moruya South Head**

About two years ago, the Shire was visited by large numbers of Grey-headed Flying Foxes, *Pteropus poliocephalus*, with close to 150,000 taking up residence at South Head in response to the massive winter flowering of Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*). Flying foxes are primarily nectarivores and they travel widely in search of food sources. Unlike the northern regions of Australia, there are no permanent 'camps' in this area that are inhabited year-round. Instead, the flying foxes move into an area when there is an available food source and set up temporary camps that they occupy until the food runs out. There are a number of traditional sites on the south coast where temporary camps are regularly used. One site just north of Batemans Bay has been used habitually for well over a century.



Photo: M. Crowley

At South Head, the flying foxes were first observed setting up camp in a grove of Swamp Oaks (*Casuarina glauca*) to the south of Dell Parade in the early 1990s, and they have since used the area on at least five occasions. This year they came back again. They first appeared on the 18<sup>th</sup> March when we counted 30 emerging from their now traditional camp. The number reached a peak of about 80 on the 6<sup>th</sup> May and by the 18<sup>th</sup> May the camp was deserted. During this time I also noticed a small camp at the Water Gardens at Batemans Bay (another site that seems to be used very regularly). It seems that both these sites are firmly fixed in the flying foxes' memory and will be used when suitable food sources become available in the region. MC

*Flying foxes also seem to have found a favourable site in the fig trees at Ringlands Rainforest in Narooma, where a group of about 30 were observed in December last year. Ed.*

### **ENHS establishes a new southern limit for the Bent-wing Ghost Moth, again**

Robin Corringham sent through the wing of an insect that she found in her backyard at Meringo in April this year. The wing was almost 90mm long, richly coloured with oranges, browns and cream, and there was a large 'eye' in the centre of the wing. I immediately recognised it as the wing of a Bent-wing Ghost Moth (*Zelotypia stacyi*), a species previously thought to have a southern limit of Cambewarra Mountain, north of Nowra. We have had two previous records for the species in the Eurobodalla - Surf Beach in March 2002 and Burrewarra Point in May 2009. All records have been sent to CSIRO Entomology, and Robin's wing provides evidence for a new southern limit for the species.

The Bent-wing Ghost Moth is the largest of the ghost moth family (Hepialidae), with the female reaching a 250mm wingspan. The adult moths are rarely collected. They emerge from February to April, are poor flyers, flying only short distances, and are often seen within 3-4 metres above the ground. The female lays her eggs at this time and the first larval instars feed on decaying wood and fungi. The larvae then burrow into the stem and branches of various eucalypt species, including Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*), Red

Mahogany (*E. resinifera*), Flooded or Rose Gum (*E. grandis*) and, in a study in the Illawarra, a hybrid Sydney Blue Gum/ Bangalay (*E. saligna* /*E. botryoides*).

The larvae live and feed inside the tree for at least three years before spinning a plug that closes the opening of the burrow, and they then pupate. The pupae are active, moving within the burrow, and push out the plug a few days before the adult is ready to emerge. The adult moth's false-eye patterned wing is said to resemble the head of a snake or a goanna.

The Bent-wing Ghost Moth was named by Newcastle miners in the nineteenth century when Eucalypt props were used in mines. The props often contained larvae or pupae of the moth, and the miners observed and reared the moth. The bent tip of the top corner of the wing, which gave rise to the common name, is clearly shown in the photograph. JM



Photo: J. Morgan

## Let's Talk Fungi

The rain of 2010 and early 2011 promised a good season for mushrooms and their allies, referred to as macrofungi. The main 'fruiting' time is autumn, and this year the extravagant growth of paddock grasses and bushland ground plants has hidden even the big mushrooms like the stately hubcap-sized white *Macrolepiota dolichaula*. I was able to pace out a 60 metre uninterrupted line of *Marasmius oreades*, which is a fairly common mushroom that lives by decomposing complex organic material, releasing nutrients into the soil. The majority of macrofungi in grassland and eucalypt woodland are saprotrophs (meaning rotten-food) and they are the major agents in the breakdown and recycling of dead plant and animal materials. Ninety percent of the macrofungi observations last autumn were of members of this group and included the bright orange bracket fungus *Pycnoporus coccineus* (pictured at right) found growing in tiers on fallen Eucalypt and Banksia branches and logs, the spectacular luminous *Omphalotus nidiformis* with caps to over 30 centimetres which grow in overlapping clusters, and tiny red *Mycena viscidocruenta* hidden in loose lying bark and vegetation litter on the ground.



*Pycnoporus coccineus*

Photo: J. Morgan

Another group of fungi are mycorrhizal (meaning fungus-root). They form a symbiotic relationship with plants and trees and assist with mineral and nutrient uptake. Mycorrhizal genera that appeared this year were *Amanita* and *Suillus*. Slippery Jack, *Suillus luteus*, is about 10 centimetres across, has a bright reddish-brown cap with a glutinous cuticle, and is seen under introduced pines. Inoculum of *Suillus* was introduced into Australia in the early twentieth century to improve the performance of pine plantations. Saffron Milk Cap, *Lactarius deliciosus*, is another introduced species and I have seen it under a pine in the church grounds at Tuross Head. The earliest illustration of a fungus, at Herculaneum, is said to be *Lactarius deliciosus*.



Earth Star

Photo: J. Morgan

In shaded spots in the garden there was a succession of small fragile lemon-yellow mushrooms that collapsed quickly. This is *Leucocoprinus birnbaumii* and you may have seen them in pot plants. First described from Prague Botanic Gardens in the early nineteenth century, it now occurs worldwide. Some writers say it originated in Australasia, others in California. The Earth Star, *Geastrum triplex*, (pictured at left) was also common, and these small puffballs rely on raindrops to disperse spores, the abrupt pressure causing the ejection of a cloud of spores. Starfish Fungus, *Aseroe rubra*, (pictured below) is another traveller that arrives in the garden in commercial mulch of Eucalypt woodchip. Shaped like a star-fish, it has bright red arms raying from a hollow tube. The central disc is covered in a foul-smelling slimy spore mass attractive to flies, which carry off spores on their feet.

This extraordinary fungus was first collected by Jacques Labillardiere in 1800 in Tasmania during the *Recherche* and *Esperance* expedition.

While you are searching for mushrooms, keep an eye out for lichens and slime moulds. Lichens are fungi that grow symbiotically with a photobiont, alga or cyanobacterium; there are more than 3,500 species in Australia. Slime moulds (a pity about the common name) are exquisite miniatures that need a 10x magnification hand lens to discern the intricate sculpture, colour and perfection. They can be found growing on dead bark and among damp leaf litter. The overall dampness did not result in a bumper crop of fungi this year but the lush growth of bush and garden indicates that the underground engine of microfungi is getting on rather well. Keep looking, as fungi will pop up at any time. Robin Corringham.



Starfish Fungus

Photo: J. Morgan

## Report on the Durras Geological Field Meeting



Tessellated pavement at Wasp Head

Photo: M. Versey

At last year's AGM, Brian Versey asked if a geological field meeting could be scheduled for 2011. Mike Crowley suggested South Durras as it is the southern limit of the Sydney Basin, and said that he would be happy to lead the meeting. On June 26, we visited three beaches and learnt about the geological history of the area. At Darkes Beach, Mike pointed out the unconformity, where the sandstone of the Sydney Basin overlays the much older igneous rocks that occur further south. At Wasp Head we saw the tessellated pavement, where iron minerals eroded from surrounding rocks formed hard sediments in the rock crevices. Fossils of *Eurydesma* and several species of brachiopods were also seen here. Following the walk, Brian and Margaret Versey sent this message: "We thank Mike and the committee members who supported the idea of a walk observing and learning about some of the geology in the Durras area. We found the walk very informative and absorbing - and the rocks don't

move about so much as birds! Mike's explanations and descriptions were very much appreciated, not least for the time he spent in preparing for and leading the walk." For more detail on the geological features and photographs of the day, see the 'Field Meeting' page on the website: and click on the [Field Meeting Report, 26 June, 2011](#). JM

A reminder from Birds Australia that the Swift Parrot/ Regent Honeyeater survey weekend is August 6-7. Survey forms are available from [www.birdsaustralia.com.au/our-projects/woodland-birds-for-biodiversity.html](http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/our-projects/woodland-birds-for-biodiversity.html) or from the Recorder. Sightings of these birds at any time should be reported to Birds Australia.

### INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Between 2 and 41 **Hardhead** at Comerang and 5 to 16 at BI (JC/MA/GM/JM).

Eight **Hoary-headed Grebe** at Coopers Island (FM).

Single **Intermediate Egret** at Durras (RMcK).

One **Buff-banded Rail** at BBWG (DB).

Single **Australian Spotted Crake** at Coila Lake in June (JH).

A **Spotless Crake** at Coila Lake in June (MA/AC/JC/JH/GM/JM).

Single **Grey-tailed Tattler** at NA in May (BS).

An immature **Pacific Gull** at Coila Lake in June (MA/AC/JC/JH/GM/JM/DHK).

An immature **Eastern Koel** in a cyprus at Mogo (BJones).  
Five **Large-billed Scrubwren** in 2 groups at Gulaga (BA).  
One **Spangled Drongo** at SB (EA).  
Two **Bassian Thrush** at Pedro Swamp in June (GM/JM).  
Highlights of an Eden Pelagic in May: **Little Penguin, Wandering, Shy (75) and Buller's Albatross, Northern Giant-Petrel, Fairy Prion, Fluttering and Short-tailed Shearwater, Providence Petrel, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Brown Skua, Arctic Jaeger** (EA).

#### **VULNERABLE AND THREATENED SPECIES**

This list includes new species that were added to the NPWS list of threatened species in 2010.

**Osprey: May:** singles at Durras and BB. **June:** 1 at Trunketabella.  
**Australian Pied Oystercatcher: May:** 26 at Brou Lake, 10 at WL, 6 at TS and NA, 4 at MH, 2 at Mystery Bay. **June:** 12 at TS and WL, 6 at Coila Lake, 3 at MHS, 2 at Mystery Bay and TS.  
**Sooty Oystercatcher: May:** 6 at Mystery Bay, 3 at Candlagan Ck, 2 at Durras, MHS and NA, 1 at TS and Brou Lake. **June:** up to 8 at Mystery Bay, 3 at Durras, 1 at TS and WL.  
**Glossy Black Cockatoo: May:** 2 at PDD, Pedro Swamp and Pedro, call at Durras. **June:** 2 at PDD and Pedro Swamp, 1 at Pedro and Bergalia.  
**Gang Gang: May:** 14 at PDD with 2 dependent young, 3 at Mystery Bay, 2 at NA, 1 at BP. **June:** 14 at PDD with dependent young, 1 at Gulaga.  
**Little Lorikeet: June:** Call at Pedro Swamp.  
**Powerful Owl: May:** Call at Pedro and Comerang. **June:** Call at Pedro Swamp and Pedro.  
**Barking Owl: June:** Call at Comerang.  
**Regent Honeyeater: May:** 1 at Broulee, in the company of 6 Red Wattlebirds.  
**Scarlet Robin: May:** 1-2 at Bergalia. **June:** 1-2 at Pedro Swamp and Bergalia.  
**Varied Sittella: May:** 8-14 at Pedro Swamp, 8 at ERBG, 6 at Coila, 4 at PDD. **June:** 6-10 at Pedro Swamp.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SYSTEMATIC LIST RECORDS**

The following records are from May and June 2011.

**GROUND BIRDS.** 10 **Stubble Quail** at Comerang (JC); a covey of **Brown Quail** at Coila and 2 at Comerang (WN/JC).

**WATERSIDE.** Max 100 **Black Swan** at MHS, cygnets at Pedro Swamp and TS; up to 120 **Aust Wood Duck** with dependent young at MYA; max 150 **Pacific Black Duck**, 20 **Grey** and 60 **Chestnut Teal** (with dependent young) at Comerang (JC); single **Musk Duck** at Deep Creek Dam (FM); one dead **Little Penguin** at TS; **Black-browed** and **Shy Albatross** at Durras and MHS; max 15 **Aust Grebe**, up to 30 **Aust White Ibis** and 8 **Straw-necked** at Comerang; 15 **Royal Spoonbill** at Trunketabella, up to 13 at Comerang, 12 at TS, no more than 10 at NA, 3-4 at BBWG (MA/JC/GR/WN/BS/DB); an adult and an immature **Striated Heron** at Coila (RMcK); **Cattle Egret** widespread, max 70 at MYA (JM); single **White-necked Heron** at Bergalia (DHK); up to 10 **Eastern Great Egret**; max 22 **White-faced Heron** at TS, nest building at Comerang (GR/WN/JC); up to 6 **Little Egret** at TS; 2 **Eastern Reef Egret** at BP, singles elsewhere; max 20 **Aust Pelican**; up to 200 **Aust Gannet** in 4 rafts at BP (JW); max 34 **Little Pied Cormorant**, 100 **Little Black**, 29 **Great**; 2 **Darter** at Coopers I, single at Coila (FM, RMcK).

**RAPTORS.** 1 or 2 **Aust Kestrel**, 2 juveniles at MYA in May (JL); 1 **Aust Hobby** at BBWG and Pedro Swamp; 2 **Brown Falcon** at Comerang; single **Peregrine** at Pedro, TS, Comerang and Mystery Bay; a **Black-shouldered Kite** at Bergalia (DHK); up to 7 **Whistling Kite** at TS (GR/WN); max 4 **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** at Mystery Bay; single **Swamp Harrier** at MHS and WL (JM/MA); 2 **Grey Goshawk** at WL, singles at Cullendulla Ck, BP and Bergalia; 2 **Brown Goshawk** at BP, Pedro Swamp and TS, 1 at Mystery Bay; 2 **Collared Sparrowhawk** at Cullendulla Ck, singles at MHS, Pedro Swamp and Comerang (DB/JM/JC); 1 or 2 **Wedge-tailed Eagle**.

**CRACKES, RAILS, GALLINULES & BUTTON-QUAIL.** Up to 10 **Purple Swamphen** at Bergalia (DHK); more than 25 **Dusky Moorhen** at Trunketabella; at least 50 **Eurasian Coot** at BI (MA/GM/JM); 3 **Painted Button-quail** (2 roadkill) at MYA in May (ACr/WJ).

**WADERS.** No more than 70 **Masked Lapwing** at Comerang; up to 48 **Red-capped Plover** at TS, 15 at Coila Beach, max 13 at WL, 6 at Durras, 2 at Brou Lake (GR/WN/CM/MA/RMcK/BS); 26 **Double-banded**

at MO, 4 at WL; 2 **Black-fronted** at Comerang, 1 at BI; max 58 **Bar-tailed Godwit** at NA in May (BS); 4 **Whimbrel** at WL in May, 2 at TS and WL in June; 3 **Eastern Curlew** at TS and WL, 1 or 2 at MH and 1 at Cullendulla Ck (GR/WN/MA/GM/JM/EA/DB).

**SKUAS, GULLS & TERNS.** Max 400 **Silver Gull** at SB (EA); up to 8 **Caspian Tern** at WL, 5 at TS, 4 at NA and 2 at Coila; max 90 **Crested Tern** at Coila; 2 **White-fronted Tern** at Durras, 1 at BB (DB).

**OTHER NON-PASSERINES.** Up to 30 **Rock Dove** in MYA; max 12 **White-headed Pigeon**, nest with an egg at TS; no more than 4 **Spotted Dove** in MYA (JL); single **Brown Cuckoo-Dove** at Broulee and Box Cutting (JW/MA/GM/JM); up to 18 **Common Bronzewing** at Pedro (JS); max 12 **Crested Pigeon** at Barlings and TS; up to 4 **Wonga Pigeon**; 5 **Peaceful Dove** at Coopers I, 2 at PDD and Comerang (FM/BA/JC); max 18 **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo** at BP; up to 80 **Galah** at Comerang (JC); up to 80 **Little Corella** at BB, dependent young at MYA (JW/JL); max 90 **Sulphur-crested**; up to 50 **Rainbow Lorikeet**; up to 20 **Musk** in flowering gums near ESC Bldg at MYA; more than 25 **Crimson Rosella** at Pedro; up to 12 **Eastern** at Comerang; max 30 **Aust King-Parrot** at Comerang, dependent young at MYA (JC/JL); single **Fan-tailed Cuckoo** or call at ERBG, BP, Broulee, PDD and Gulaga; **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** call at BP (JW); 1 **Southern Boobook** at Pedro (JS); 1 **Aust Owllet-nightjar** at Comerang and NA, call at Pedro Swamp (EA/JC/JM); 5 groups of 5 **Kookaburra** at Pedro; 2 **Sacred Kingfisher** at Cullendulla Ck, 1 at MHS and NA (DB/JM/MA); 6 **Azure Kingfisher** at Coila, 2 at TS and Comerang.

**PASSERINES.** Max 6 **Superb Lyrebird** at Gulaga (BA); up to 6 **White-throated Treecreeper** at Gulaga; 2 **Red-browed** at Broulee, 1 at Pedro Swamp (JW/JM); up to 10 **Variiegated Fairy-wren** at BP and Pedro Swamp; up to 30 **Superb** at Pedro Swamp and Comerang; max 15 **Spotted Pardalote**; 1-2 **Striated** at Pedro Swamp; 20 **White-browed Scrub-wren** at Gulaga; 20 **Brown Gerygone** at ERBG; thornbills widespread; **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** migrating in May; max 4 **White-eared** at BP; one **Yellow-tufted** at Mystery Bay (MA); 1-5 **Fuscous** at Pedro Swamp, 3 at TS and call at CO (JM/JH); **Lewin's** widespread; no more than 10 **Brown-headed**; 50 **White-naped** at Gulaga, no more than 20 elsewhere; **Little and Red Wattlebird** widespread; 1 **Crescent Honeyeater** at Gulaga; max 30 **New Holland**, dependent young at PDD; 1 **White-cheeked** at BP; **Eastern Spinebill** widespread; 8 **White-fronted Chat** at TS in June (GR/WN); up to 10 **Eastern Yellow Robin**; max 8 **Jacky Winter** at Comerang (JC); single **Rose Robin** at Cullendulla Ck, ERBG, PDD, CO, Comerang and Mystery Bay; max 6 **Eastern Whipbird** at NA and Mystery Bay, no more than 4 elsewhere, immature at BP; 5 **Spotted Quail-thrush** at MYA SF, 1 at Clyde Mtn (JH/EA); max 6 **Golden Whistler**; 1-2 **Grey Shrike-thrush** widespread; 2 **Crested Shrike-tit** at Gulaga, singles at ERBG and PDD (BA/FM); up to 30 **Grey Fantail** at Pedro Swamp; max 12 **Willie Wagtail** at Comerang, no more than 5 elsewhere; up to 20 **Magpie-lark**; 1 **Leaden Flycatcher** at Bergalia and Mystery Bay, call at Pedro Swamp in May (DHK/MA/JM); single **Restless Flycatcher** at Bergalia and Comerang; max 6 **Grey Butcherbird**; up to 40 **Aust Magpie** at Comerang in May (JC); **Pied Currawong** widespread; max 3 **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** at Pedro (JS); 1-4 **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** at Pedro Swamp, 1-2 at MYA, 1 at Comerang (JM/JL/JC); **Aust Figbird** overwintering at BB (DB); 2 **Olive-backed Oriole** at Comerang including 1 dependent young, singles at ERBG, Pedro Swamp and Mystery Bay, call at Box Cutting; max 20 **Little Raven** at Comerang, 4 at Clyde Mountain (JC/EA); max 30 **Australian Raven** at Comerang; 12 **White-winged Chough** at Comerang, 6 at Pedro Swamp and Mystery Bay, 5 at Pedro; **Satin Bowerbird** widespread; 1 or 2 **Common Blackbird** at MYA, 1 at Cullendulla Ck and TS (JL/DB/GR/WN); groups of up to 60 **Common Starling**; no more than 5 **Common Myna** reported (encouraging); **Welcome Swallow** widespread; 6 **Fairy Martin** at Coila, 3 at NA (RMcK/MA); max 15 **Tree Martin** at Comerang, 2 at BBWG; migrating flocks of **Silvereye** both months; 1 or 2 **Mistletoebird** at Pedro Swamp, calls at Comerang and Box Cutting; max 14 **Aust Pipit** at Comerang, 1 at Coila (JC/JH); up to 26 **Red-browed Finch** at TS (CM).

**MAMMALS.** **Short-beaked Echidna** signs and **Spotted-tailed Quoll** scats at Pedro Swamp; 3 **Sugar Glider** at Pedro Swamp, call at Mossy Point and Comerang (JM/HR/JC); 1 **Common Ringtail Possum** at Mystery Bay in May; 2 **Feathertail Glider** at BP (JW); 4 **Brushtail Possum** at Comerang, 2 at BP, 1 at Mossy Point and Pedro Swamp; max 20 **Eastern Grey Kangaroo**; 5-9 **Red-necked Wallaby** at Mossy Point (HR); max 8 **Swamp Wallaby** at Pedro Swamp; single, dead **Little Red Flying Fox** at MYA (JL); **Microbat sp** at Mossy Pt, Pedro Swamp and Pedro (HR/JM/JS); **Dingo** calling at Comerang; single **Fox** and calls; an **Aust Fur Seal** in the MYA river near the bridge in June (JM); 12 **Bottle-nosed Dolphin** at Durras, 6 at TS (FM/JH); groups of **Humpback Whales** moving north throughout June.

**REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS.** **Dark-flecked** and **Pale Sunskink**; 1 **Jacky Lizard** in May; **Red-bellied Black Snake** at Pedro Swamp and Pedro. Frogs seen or calling: **Common Eastern Froglet**; **Brown-striped**

**Frog:** Haswell's Froglet; Brown, Dendy's and Tyler's Toadlet; Keferstein's, Brown, Jervis Bay, Peron's, Tyler's and Verreaux's Tree Frogs.

**INSECTS.** Spiders: Huntsman, White-tailed, Leaf-curling, Little Striped Wolf, Water, Red-back, Daddy Longlegs, Jumping, Black House. A male Funnel Web found dead in Malua Bay. Beetles: Ladybirds. Dragonflies: a few still flying in May. Others: Hover Fly, Crane Fly, Blue-banded Bees.

**MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES.** Moths: Ghost, Saunder's Case larva, Clara Satin, the Emeralds, Cream Wave, Black-lined Carpet, Sodaliata, Subidaria, Native Cranberry, Gum Snout, White-stemmed Wattle, Lichen-eating, Magpie, Green-blotched, Bogong, Variable Cutworm. Butterflies: Splendid Ochre, Small Grass Yellow, Black Jezebel, Cabbage White, Brown Ringlet, Varied Sword-grass Brown, Common Brown, Meadow Argus, Aust Painted Lady, Yellow Admiral, Monarch, Cycad Blue, Wattle Blue, Plumbago Blue and Common Grass Blue.

**Blossom.** *Eucalyptus paniculata*, *E. saligna*, *E. sieberi*, *E. tricarpa*, *Acacia falcata*, *A. terminalis*, *A. suaveolens*, *Banksia integrifolia*, *B. spinulosa*, *Allocasuarina littoralis* male flowers, *Howittia trilocularis*, *Leucopogon juniperinus*, *Correa reflexa*, *Myoporum acuminatum*, *Dodonaea triquetra*, *Macrozamia communis* female cones.

**Weather.** Winds turned south-westerly, cooler nights and days. **Rainfall: May:** 28.5mm at BP, 4.5mm at MYA, 17mm at Pedro Swamp, 5mm at Comerang, 20mm at Mystery Bay. **June:** 37mm at BP, 39mm at Pedro Swamp, 22mm at Comerang, 42.5mm at Mystery Bay.

#### Contributors

#### Abbreviations

BA	B Allan, PDD	RMcK	R Mackay, ACT	BB	Batemans Bay
MA	M Anderson, Mystery Bay	GM	G Macnamara, TS	BBWG	Batemans Bay Water Gardens
EA	E Andrew, SB	JM	J Morgan, Pedro Swamp	BI	Bermagui
DB	D Bertzeletos, BB	CM	C Morrison, TS	BP	Burrawarra Point
AC	A Christiansen, Mystery Bay	WN	W Nelson, TS	CO	Congo
JC	J&P Collett, Comerang	HR	H Ransom, Mossy Point	ERBG	Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens
ACr	A Cram, MYA	GR	G Rayner, TS	MKS	Maulbrooks Rd S, MYA
MC	M Crowley, MHS	JS	J Sagar, Pedro	MO	Meringo
JH	J&J Houghton, TS	BS	B Scales, NA	MYA	Moruya
B J	B Jones, Pambula	JW	J Whiter, BP	MH	Moruya Heads, N&S
WJ	W Jones, MYA	FM	Field Meeting	NA	Narooma
DHK	D&H Kay, Bergalia			PDD	Percy Davis Drive, Broulee
JL	J&J Liney, MYA			SB	Surf Beach
				SF	State Forest
				TS	Tuross
				WL	Wallaga Lake

#### ENHS Committee and Contact Details

Chair	Mike Crowley	4474 2677	crowleymnc@aapt.net.au
Secretary/Recorder	Julie Morgan	4474 5888	juliettamorgan@gmail.com
Treasurer	Gillian Macnamara	4473 9412	gillmac@tpg.net.au
Committee	Mandy Anderson, Eric Andrew, Heather Haughton, Peter Haughton, David Kay, George Rayner		
Public Officer and Membership	Peter Haughton	4471 3271	pje@haughton.id.au
Editorial Team	Mandy Anderson, Lucy Gibson, Gillian Macnamara, Julie Morgan		
Editorial enquiries	Mandy Anderson	4473 7651	mandy-anderson@bigpond.com
Website Team	David White, David Num, Julie Morgan		

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

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