



FAR SOUTH COAST BIRDWATCHERS Inc.

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

NEWSLETTER JAN/FEB 2021

It Calls its Name

David Merrick

Members of the Far South Coast Birdwatchers group who regularly go on club outings will be familiar with the sight and “orri-olly-oriole” call of the Olive-backed Oriole.

The Olive-backed Oriole is one of two orioles resident in Australia, but the only one that we see in eastern Australia as far south as Victoria each summer. The Yellow Oriole remains in the north of Qld, the NT and the north of WA. The Olive-backed Oriole returns to the north of Australia and southern parts of New Guinea each winter.

If you thought, as I did, that the Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus* was named for its call, you would be wrong.

There are 38 species in the family Oriolidae, 31 of which are in the genus Oriolus. The Olive-backed Oriole is the only one that calls “oriole”. The nominate species, *Oriolus oriolus* or Eurasian Golden Oriole is, as its name suggests, a northern hemisphere species. The name oriole is derived via the Mediaeval Latin “oryolus” from the Latin “auriolus” meaning golden. Gold is aurum, (Chemical symbol Au).



Olive-backed Oriole

image: Leo Berzins

The fact that our Olive-backed Oriole appears to call its name is purely coincidental.

Ref. 1 *The Australian Bird Guide*, Menkhorst et al.

Ref. 2 *All The Birds of the World*, Lynx Edicions.

Ref. 3 *Australian Bird Names*. Ian Fraser & Jeannie Grey.

AGM and Evening Meeting Report

Thursday December 10, 2020

Barbara Jones

After a long break due to Covid-19 restrictions, members were pleased to return to the Evening Meeting with 33 members and two visitors present.

The evening began with the Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers. All current holders were returned to their current positions with the exception of Club Secretary remaining vacant. Business discussed was the proposal by the Committee that the club arrangements be

EVENING MEETING Thursday Feb 11, 2021

Meet in the Uniting Church Hall, Henwood St, Merimbula, for a 7:30 pm start.

Our Guest Speaker will be club member, Sam Nerrie, presenting “The Family Life of a Gang-gang Cockatoo at Red Hill.”.

IN THIS ISSUE

Meeting Report (Dec)	1
President’s Report	2
New Member	3
Activity Reports	3
Fledglings, juv, imm	4
Scarlet Honeyeaters	4
Naming Names	4
FSCB Directory	6
Sightings Dec/Jan	7
Beach-nesting birds	9
Coming Events	10

changed from six to four Evening Meetings per year, four newsletters and four committee meetings. With lively discussion from the floor as to the reasons and solutions for this proposal, it was agreed to leave the current arrangements and work through some of the proposed solutions.

Then followed a change of pace with interesting sightings including a Latham's Snipe in the front pond at Oaklands, Pambula; a Great Egret in breeding plumage sitting on the roof at 'Watery Fowls'; 16 Little Tern chicks counted at Mogareeka that morning; a Southern Boobook at Glebe Park; two Channel-billed Cuckoos at Black Range, Bega; a Square-tailed Kite regularly over Tura Golf Course; Scarlet Honeyeater nestlings at a water dish at Frogs Hollow; a male Barking Owl persisting with calls at Merimbula; and news that the leucistic Superb Fairy-wren seen about a year ago was seen again at Tanja. Alan Scrymgeour brought a dead White-throated Needletail found roadside in Fishpen, Merimbula and allowed everyone to view the spines projecting beyond the tip of the tail.

Rohan Bilney then gave an overview of his White-bellied Sea-Eagle nesting study begun last year as a result of so few nesting records on the Far South Coast. He had advertised locally and had a good response from the public, resulting in reports of about 50 nests. On visiting selected nests over some months, only twelve were found to be active. Next year he hopes to liaise with oyster growers in particular, and will again request input from the public.

Then followed an auction of books kindly donated by Sylvia Hibberd. With David Merrick making his 'auctioneering' debut he generated animated bidding with the five books returning \$270 to the coffers. .

Kim Armstrong presented a selection of photos, mostly from around the waterways of Bega in recent months, showing the variety of species with young and the value of the wetlands close to town.

Neill Hayes took us on another visit to Costa Rica where he and Alison saw dozens of magnificently coloured birds. He impressed us by remembering all the species' names! Then back to a NSW trip where the highlight for him was the number of Flock Bronzewing in Sturt NP near Tibooburra, estimated to be at least 1,000 birds. A short video taken beside a small pond showed constant groups coming in to drink briefly, followed by more and more for over an hour.

Roger Heffernan showed his photo of an Australian Hobby on a branch dismembering its recent catch – a ring-tailed possum.



Southern Boobook Owl image: Kim Armstrong

The raffle was well supplied with six prizes; first drawn had first choice. Thanks to the donors.

An enormous selection of Christmas fare on a loaded table kept everyone eating and chatting later into the night than usual.

President's Report

Lizzie Simkus

Welcome back for another year of enjoyable outings as we look forward to returning to some of our favourite birdwatching spots and visiting some new sites in the Bega Valley. The committee will arrange six evening meetings throughout the year, in February, April, June, August, October and December. Please maintain social distancing at the meetings while Covid restrictions are in place. Avoid congestion at the entrance and please take a seat while having supper.

Thank you to Leo, Andrew, Max and Kim who allowed us to use their wonderful bird photos in the 2021 calendar and to everyone who bought a copy, especially the members who took some extra copies to distribute: Barbara, Hayden, Sue and Geoff. Also, thanks to Hayden, Jan and Barbara for arranging printing and delivery.

The calendar sales and other funds raised have allowed the club to make generous donations to Panboola Wetlands to assist with maintenance, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to help support their many conservation projects and to BirdLife Australia to help fund on-going research and conservation projects. Thank you to all our members who support the club so that we can help other worthy groups.

The committee is very pleased to welcome Jill Burridge who has joined us as Minutes Secretary. Thank you, Jill, for taking on this important task and we look forward to your company and assistance this year.

New Member

We welcome the following new member and look forward to her participation:

Olivia Williams from Bega.

Activity Reports

BROGO

Saturday, December 12, 2020

Jenny Morrison

With different habitats and being in the breeding season there are always interesting bird sightings on the Brogo trip. At the Fire Shed the early arrivals, people not birds, already had binoculars out scanning the expanse over the paddocks below and the thicker bush across the road before all 15 of our group gathered. Dollarbird, Black-faced Monarch, Grey Butcherbird and Rufous Whistler were seen but we didn't need the binoculars to know there was an Eastern Koel and a Wonga Pigeon around.

Further along Warrigal Range Rd towards Brogo Dam, a roadside stop gave an excellent view down the western slope to Australian Wood Duck and Eurasian Coot on a farm dam and a Wedge-tailed Eagle above. Then attention was drawn to a Leaden Flycatcher nest with young on the other side of the road. Even with about 20 other species around, the Leaden Flycatcher's nest held most of the interest.

There was more breeding activity when we reached Brogo Dam. Black-faced Monarchs on the nest, Leaden Flycatchers nest building, Noisy Friarbirds at their nest and Buff-rumped Thornbills with young give an idea of the activity in the area.

We weren't the only visitors crossing the dam wall; an Eastern Brown Snake passed us, trying to give us a wide berth, as wary of us as we were of it. Last year Brogo Dam was very low but this year there was plenty of water down the spillway.

Lunch at the picnic area with socially distancing birdwatching friends, including visitors Jane and David, was a very pleasant way to end a not-so-wonderful year. David recorded 56 species. Of course there were Golden Whistlers as Lizzie was leading.

PANBOOLA SUMMER SURVEY

Wednesday January 13, 2021

Robyn Kesby

We met at 7.30 am on a beautiful summer morning for this seasonal survey. Water levels are high and growth is lush thanks to the warm, wet weather. Our experienced surveyors identified the calls of an Eastern Koel, Gang-gang Cockatoos, Australian Reed-Warblers, Golden-headed Cisticola and Stubble Quail near the start at Watsons. A highlight was the sight of a Peregrine Falcon eating its prey in the centre of the old racecourse. A Latham's Snipe was recorded by the smaller group who walked back along the road from the racecourse to the beginning of Olwyns Link. Scarlet Honeyeaters and a pair of European Goldfinches provided flashes of colour. The Grey-headed Flying-fox camp is active again in the Waterbird Sanctuary with approximately 18,000 counted in December.

Eleven of us recorded 51 species.



Grey Goshawk

image: Max Sutcliffe

PANBOOLA START-UP
Sunday January 24, 2021
Barbara Jones

'Start-up of the year' at Panboola usually attracts a large group of members with lots of chatter in the cool of the evening. Not this time! A heat wave took over and limited the numbers to eight walkers with two more arriving to eat. Yes it was hot.

The short route took us along the former racecourse access track through the cooling stand of melaleucas - returning via Olwyns Link and through the southern end of the Waterbird Sanctuary, avoiding the flying fox colony and back to base in Tips Billabong.

Birds were scarce. Gang-gang Cockatoos were still eating Hawthorn berries; Golden-headed Cisticolas were calling from the pasture; a Little Grassbird called mournfully with a response from another; Grey Butcherbirds sang regularly and finally about 20 Common Starlings flew towards the old sheds to roost. A count of 22 species was considered OK for such a hot afternoon. Hopefully the year ahead produces many good birdwatching experiences in more favourable conditions.

Fledgling, Juvenile and Immature. What Do We Call It?

Barbara Jones

During the latest Panboola survey the terminology of young birds was under discussion. On consulting various Field Guides and glossaries here is the best guidance I can provide. We casually refer to 'young' birds when recording them. Perhaps we should be more specific.

Fledgling: a young bird partly or wholly feathered, before flight.

Juvenile: fledgling to free-flying birds with feathers that first replaced the natal down. They may still be under parent care.

Immature: stage of a bird's life from the time it fledges (flies) until adulthood; all plumages that follow the first moult until full breeding capacity/or plumage is reached. Birds are usually independent of adults.

A Memorable Moment with Scarlet Honeyeaters along Wallagoot Lane

Kylie Waldon

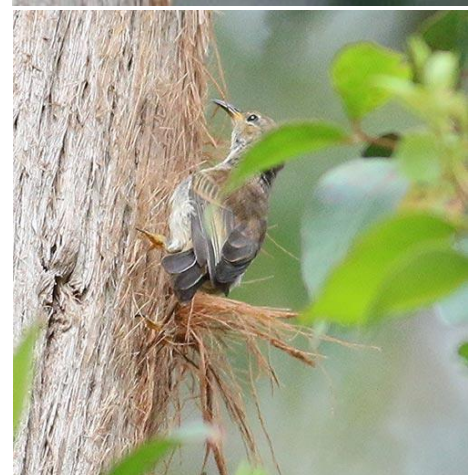
This Scarlet Honeyeater incident with Mum on January 2, 2021 was the best one from my holiday. Her keen eyes saw them on a tree trunk about six metres from the ground (the tree trunk went up about ten metres before the canopy) at Bird Route No 1 down the track opposite the cattle yards.

The tree was a Yellow Stringybark, the only one we could see. In the patch where the birds were, and just about on the north and south side of the trunk, all these threads of bark were poking out; orangey in colour. Female Scarlet Honeyeaters flew in to this area with two (and in some cases three) very young birds and left them on the western side, and then they hovered and picked up a new string of bark and with great effort and several attempts, ripped it down but didn't tear it off. Then they landed near the bottom of the thread and seemed to get something out of the tree, and stuffed it into one of the fledglings' open gapes... It appeared to be something very small as I can't even see it in my photos. This was repeated again and again by at least six different females.

There is a photo of a young bird on its own in the middle of a ripped section. It seemed as if he was trying to find the food for himself, but though he looked all around, he failed. In the meantime the males were on the other side of the track in the she-oaks, singing, finding their own food, and being inquisitive about us birders.

The effort it took for the females to feed their young was amazing. I think that memory will stay with me for life.

*Right: **Scarlet Honeyeaters.** Images by Kylie Waldon.*



Naming Names

Colin Scouler

If you ever wondered why we use capital letters for some birds and not for others you are not alone. The following appeared in The Bird Observer Nov 2010 and was reprinted with the author's permission in FSCB Vol 16 #1, February 2011.

Bird watchers have long been in the habit of calling birds by familiar names. The drawback is that not everyone uses the same vernacular name. The 'familiar name' of a bird in one place or to one person might be completely unfamiliar to someone from a different place or with a different background. The potential for misunderstanding and confusion is obvious, hence the decision to adopt a standardized name for each species for use in surveys and in birding literature.

People often ask about the style on the common names. Why are some names hyphenated and others not? Why are some parts of names spelt with capitals and others without? It may seem completely arbitrary but, believe it or not, there is a system to it.

The first thing to notice is that the great majority of birds' names consist of two parts. One part, let's call it the 'group-name', denotes the types of bird or the group of birds to which it belongs. The second part, which is actually placed ahead of the 'group-name', I'll call the 'descriptor'. It describes something about the bird (its appearance, habits, etc) which goes to define it as a species. So, take a simple example, 'Crested Pigeon'. 'Pigeon' is the group-name and 'Crested' is the descriptor, modifying the group-name to tell you what species of pigeon is being referred to. In this very common type of name, where both the descriptor and the group-name consist of single words, both are capitalised, ie spelled with an initial capital letter.

But note that in many cases the group-name actually consists of two nouns which are amalgamated to form a single compound noun. Thus 'treecreeper' actually consists of two nouns, 'tree' and 'creeper'. This tendency to make a compound noun out of two nouns is particularly pronounced where the second noun is 'bird' or refers to a type of bird. So we get 'Mistletoebird', 'Scrubwren', 'Sparrowhawk', 'Swamphen', 'Rockwarbler' and 'Woodswallow'. It is also often applied where the second noun refers to a part of the bird's body (e.g. 'Bronzewing', 'Thornbill' and 'Fantail'), or to its activities ('Flycatcher'). Again, the rule is that the compound noun which forms the group-name is always capitalised. However, the two nouns in the group-name are not always joined to form a single word. In some cases they are retained as two separate words, usually, though not always, linked by a hyphen e.g. 'Black-Cockatoo'. And this is where the rules about using capitals and lower case get tricky.

Because there are two types of these hyphenated group-names, in the first type, the name signifies that the bird is a member of a closely related sub-group within the group of birds to which it actually belongs. The first word in the group-name is not actually a noun, but an adjective. So a 'Black-Cockatoo' is a type of cockatoo, a 'Bronze-Cuckoo' is a type of cuckoo. In these cases, both components of the group-name are capitalised.

The second type of hyphenated group-name consists of two nouns, the names of two other families of birds to neither of which the bird with the group-name belongs. 'Cuckoo-shrikes' are neither cuckoos nor shrikes; 'Shrike-tits' aren't either shrikes or tits; 'Quail-thrushes' are neither quails nor are they thrushes. Where the connection between the bird and those mentioned in its group-name is fanciful, only the first part of the group-name is capitalised. The second component is spelled with a lower case letter. A similar rule applies to Button-quails. Appearances to the contrary, they are not quails; they're not even closely related to them. Nor are Fairy-wrens real wrens. Needless to say there are exceptions to these basic rules regarding group-names. Sometimes the group-name consists of two words which are not linked by a hyphen. So we get 'Australian Wood Duck', 'Pacific Black Duck' 'Eastern Yellow Robin'. In the cases of the ducks, the names 'Wood Duck' and 'Black Duck' are applied in different parts of the world to birds which are not closely related to each other and hence don't form a cohesive sub-group. As far as the Eastern Yellow Robin goes, I suspect that the bird's name originally consisted of a single descriptor and the group-name ('Yellow Robin') on the usual pattern. As other species of Yellow Robin were found (Western Yellow Robin), it became necessary to add another descriptor, 'Eastern'. The old two word name was so well entrenched by tradition that it was not hyphenated.

There are also a few hyphenated group-names in which the hyphen is introduced into a compound noun because otherwise a conjunction of letters would make the name as written look incongruous. 'Bee-eater' falls into this category.

Fortunately the situation with descriptors is more straightforward. Descriptors often consist of two words, usually describing some feature of the bird's appearance. The rule here is that the two words are hyphenated (ie they are compound adjectives); the first word is capitalised and the second is lower case. The examples are legion: 'Wedge-tailed Eagle', 'White-naped Honeyeater', 'Double-barred Finch' and so on. Where there is more than one descriptor, as in the Eastern Yellow Robin example, all are capitalised. In 'New Holland Honeyeater' what looks like two descriptors actually form a single term, hallowed by historical usage. Where the descriptor is a single word, it is

always capitalized. It may describe a physical feature of the bird ('Tawny Frogmouth') or its behaviour ('Restless Flycatcher') or refer to its geographical range ('Australian Raven').

Occasionally, a species has only a single word name, a group-name without any descriptor ('Galah'). Unsurprisingly these names are always spelled with a capital letter. And finally, birds which include somebody's name as a descriptor have an apostrophe after the person's name, thus 'Lewin's Honeyeater'.

Budgies, buttonquails, and other inland birds booming

from ABC News

After coming through a tough phase marked by drought and bushfires, some inland Australian bird species are now thriving after a plentiful amount of rain. Birdlife Australia's NSW woodland bird program manager Mick Roderick said it was hugely encouraging.

"The rains really started in February [2020] and birds that would normally have bred by then — but hadn't because of the hot, dry summer with the bushfires — then started breeding from March, April right through to May and June. It really is a case of 'just add water'. We've had some really tough seasons for our breeding, endemic birds because of the dry. And now, with the very welcome rains, the birds have really gone ballistic and bred up."

Mr Roderick said one species that was noticeably increasing in numbers was the budgerigar. "In 2019 there were virtually no budgerigars recorded in the state. And in 2020, since the rain came, there were thousands of budgerigars reported right across the inland parts of NSW," he said.

"The birds have been breeding for many months and we know that some birds are having second clutches. It's really exciting. Budgerigars are one of those quintessential birds that will breed like crazy after lots of rain and we are certainly seeing that at the moment."

Mr Roderick said another species booming at the moment was the buttonquail. "We are currently seeing an irruption of buttonquails. Buttonquails are essentially grassland birds, and there were very few records of them over the past few years when conditions have been pretty poor," he said.

"But since the rain we have seen many, many buttonquails. Red-chested and little buttonquails, out west, and painted buttonquails on the coast that occur in the forests. All three of these species are breeding really well."

Mr Roderick said it was encouraging news for birdwatchers. "Normally we wouldn't expect to see red-chested or little buttonquails near the coast. Maybe the odd bird, but not in the numbers we are seeing now, and we are seeing buttonquails breeding in a number of sites. It's very exciting for birdwatchers because buttonquails are a very difficult bird to see normally, but right now is a great time because there are just so many of them," he said.

FSCB DIRECTORY

President:	Lizzie Simkus	ph 0407 930 223	esimkus@rocketmail.com
Vice President:	Roger Heffernan	ph 6493 2208	naldaheffernan@bigpond.com
Minutes Secretary:	Jill Burridge	ph 0434 354 027	snoplum@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer:	Jan Reed	ph 6495 6592	treasurer@fscb.org.au
Ass. Treasurer:	Hayden Kingston	ph 0417 227 467	
Website & Newsletter:	Leo Berzins	ph 6495 2189	web-admin@fscb.org.au
Sub-editor:	Sue Romane	ph 6495 9080	seromane@hotmail.com
Committee:	Liz Allen	ph 0434 375 568	
	Alison Hayes	ph 0429 954 551	
	Robyn Kesby	ph 0414 864 873	
	Jenny Morrison	ph 6494 0252	
	David Merrick	ph 6495 9866	
Conservation Officer:	Gayle Partridge	ph 0418 429 491	
Coming Events	Mike Healey	mikehealey@y7mail.com	
Supper Coordinator:	Jenny Morrison		
Sightings Records:	Barbara Jones	fscbirds@bigpond.com	
Data Entry:	David Merrick	davidmerrick@bigpond.com	

All mail to PO Box 180 Pambula NSW 2549.

Email: fscbirds@bigpond.com

Subscriptions due Jan 1 annually: Family \$20. Single \$15

Facebook: click here [Far South Coast Birdwatchers Inc.](#)

Deadline for April Newsletter: March 28, 2021 Articles and reports to be sent to Sub-editor: seromane@hotmail.com

A SELECTION of SIGHTINGS from Dec 2021/Jan 2021

Please report your sightings, especially threatened species

e-mail: fscbirds@bigpond.com

THREATENED SPECIES

29/12/20	Diamond Firetail	y in nest	Yurammie, Cowsnest	A Lindstrand	good they have bred
19/12/20	Gang-gang Cockatoo	4	Wallagoot, Watery Fowls	Wallis/Mihara	
20/12/20	Gang-gang Cockatoo	4	Panboola	K Waldon	
27/12/20	Gang-gang Cockatoo	7	Burragate	D & K Waldon	
20/1/21	Gang-gang Cockatoo	10	Panboola	D Waldon	
22/1/21	Gang-gang Cockatoo	6	Panboola	S Romane	
24/1/21	Gang-gang Cockatoo	6	Panboola	FSCB outing	
27/12/20	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	1	Eden, West St	B Kirby via S Romane	
6/1/21	Latham's Snipe	1	Wallagoot, Watery Fowls	Wallis/Mihara	
13/1/21	Latham's Snipe	1	Panboola	FSCB Survey	flew from Olwyns track
24/1/21	Latham's Snipe	3	Wallagoot, Watery Fowls	Wallis/Mihara	
2/12/20	Pied Oystercatcher	1 chick	Merimbula, Spencer Park	L Allen	in shallows of mangroves
1/12/20	Powerful Owl	1 dead	Merimbula, Cameron St	per S Romane	2nd loss this year
13/1/21	Southern Emu-wren	1	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
22/1/21	Southern Emu-wren	1 m 2 f	Panboola (rd to Banjos)	S Romane	
29/12/20	Square-tailed Kite	1	Bermagui, Strudwicks Rd	D Adams	
24/1/21	Square-tailed Kite	1	Wallagoot, Watery Fowls	Wallis/Mihara	
2/1/21	Square-tailed Kite	1	Mandeni	D & K Waldon	
11/12/20	White-throated N'detail	1 dead	Merimbula, Fishpen roadside	A & L Scrymgeour	
14/12/20	White-throated N'detail	30+	Tanja, Morrison	N & J Morrison	
21/12/20	White-throated N'detail	60+	Tanja, Morrison	N & J Morrison	
21/12/20	White-throated N'detail	10	Nelson Ck, Tathra Rd	N & J Morrison	
24/12/20	White-throated N'detail	15	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	H Kingston	
25/12/20	White-throated N'detail	1	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	H Kingston	
2/1/21	White-throated N'detail	3	Middle Lagoon	N Morrison	
5/1/21	White-throated N'detail	7	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Reed/Kingston	
9/1/21	White-throated N'detail	5	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Reed/Kingston	
15/1/21	White-throated N'detail	12+	Bournda Lagoon	Sa Romane	
16/1/21	White-throated N'detail	9	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Reed/Kingston	
17/1/21	White-throated N'detail	50+	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Reed/Kingston	very low
17/1/21	White-throated N'detail	2	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Reed/Kingston	
23/1/21	White-throated N'detail	1	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Reed/Kingston	
30/1/21	White-throated N'detail	25	Candelo, Kameruka St	R Heffernan	

23/1/21	Australasian Darter	1 f	Bird Route No 1	S Romane	
28/1/21	Australasian Darter	2 m & f	Bird Route No 1	Jones/Sutcliffe	
8/1/21	Australasian Figbird	5	Merimbula, Ford Park	G Holden	
11/1/21	Australasian Figbird	7	Tathra, Bega St	S Romane	
28/1/21	Australian Hobby	1 f	Bird Route No 1	Jones/Sutcliffe	Max photos
29/1/21	Australian Hobby	1	Mogareeka	L Berzins	
20/1/21	Australian Owllet-nightjar	1	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton at bird bath	
14/12/20	Australian Reed-Warbler	1	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton	
13/1/21	Australian Reed-Warbler	2+	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
28/1/21	Australian Reed-Warbler	3	Bird Route No 1	Jones /Waldon	
1/1/21	Azure Kingfisher	1t	Merimbula, Munn St	K Waldon	
11/12/20	Barking Owl	1 m	Merimbula	R Bilney	calls around boardwalk
2/12/20	Bar-tailed Godwit	60	Merimbula	L Allen	
12/12/20	Black-faced Monarch	1	Brogo Fire Shed	FSCB outing	
12/12/20	Black-faced Monarch	2 on nest	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
22/12/20	Black-faced Monarch	3	Nethercote	B Jones	
8/1/21	Black-faced Monarch	1 imm	Millingandi	S Romane	
22/1/21	Black-faced Monarch	1	Bermagui	B Virtue	
1/12/20	Black-fronted Dotterel	8	Bird Route No 1	S Romane	
24/1/21	Black-fronted Dotterel	2	Wallagoot, Watery Fowls	Wallis/Mihara	
30/1/21	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Yurammie	R Heffernan	caught mouse
28/1/21	Black-winged Stilt	50	Bird Route No 1	Jones/Sutcliffe	
7/12/20	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	Merimbula, Main St	G Holden	
28/1/21	Brown Falcon	1	Bird Route No 1	B Jones	
15/12/20	Brown Quail	1	Panboola near shed	M Richmond	
13/1/21	Brown Quail	1	Panboola	FSCB Survey	
12/12/20	Brush Cuckoo	calling	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing	
22/12/20	Brush Cuckoo	1	Nethercote	B Jones	calling 20 hrs a day
2/1/21	Brush Cuckoo	1	Bird Route No 1	D & K Waldon	
13/1/21	Brush Cuckoo	2	Nethercote	B Jones	every day, noisy

22/1/21	Brush Cuckoo	1	Bermagui	B Virtue
15/12/20	Buff-banded Rail	1	Panboola	J Dawson
12/12/20	Buff-rumped thornbill	2+young	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing
11/12/20	Channel-billed Cuckoo	2	Bega, Black Range	A McCutcheon
27/12/20	Channel-billed Cuckoo	3	Burragate	D & K Waldon
28/1/21	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Bird Route No 1	Jones/Waldon
22/12/20	Cicadabird	1	Nethercote	B Jones fairly regularly
12/12/20	Cicadabird	1 calling	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing
8/1/21	Collared Sparrowhawk	pair +2 juv	Nethercote	B Jones fledged near creek
22/1/21	Collared Sparrowhawk	1 juv	Panboola	S Romane attempting to catch Galahs
24/1/21	Common Myna	1 trapped	Yurammie	R Heffernan
1/2/21	Common Myna	4	Bermagui, Barragoot St	D Adams
14/12/20	Crested Shrike-tit	nesting	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	Middleton/Jones
20/1/21	Crested Shrike-tit	1	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton at bird bath motion camera
12/12/20	Crested Shrike-tit	1	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing
24/1/21	Dollarbird	2	Wallagoot, Watery Fowls	Wallis/Mihara
23/1/21	Dollarbird	6	Kanoona, Wyndham Lane	C Smith
30/1/21	Dollarbird	2	Candelo, Kameruka St	R Heffernan
12/12/20	Dollarbird	1	Brogo Fire Shed	FSCB outing
12/12/20	Dollarbird	1	Brogo Warrigal Range Rd	FSCB outing
14/12/20	Double-barred Finch	few	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton
20/1/21	Double-barred Finch	1	Bega, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton at bird bath motion camera
14/12/20	Dusky Woodswallow	nesting	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton
13/1/21	Eastern Great Egret	1	Panboola	FSCB Survey
13/1/21	European Goldfinch	2	Panboola	FSCB Survey
28/1/21	Fairy Martin	20	Bird Route No 1	Jones/Sutcliffe
30/1/21	Flame Robin	2 (1juv)	Tantawanglo Mtn Rd	R Heffernan near Postmans Track
12/1/21	Golden-headed Cisticola	1	Bird Route No 1	S Romane
13/1/21	Golden-headed Cisticola	2	Panboola	FSCB Survey
24/1/21	Golden-headed Cisticola	6	Panboola	FSCB outing
20/1/21	Grey Goshawk	1 white morph	Panboola	M Sutcliffe
28/1/21	Grey Teal	150	Bird Route No 1	B Jones
1/12/20	Leaden Flycatcher	pair + y	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton
12/12/20	Leaden Flycatcher	2 nest/young	Brogo Warrigal Range Rd	FSCB outing
12/12/20	Leaden Flycatcher	2 nest build	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing
29/12/20	Little Grassbird	2	Panboola	S Romane Tips Billabong
24/1/21	Little Grassbird	2	Panboola	FSCB outing
3/12/20	Little Tern	1 hatching	Mogareeka	L Allen photo
28/1/21	Mistletoebird	1	Wallagoot, Watery Fowls	Sutcliffe/Waldon
12/1/21	Musk Duck	pair	Bird Route No 1	S Romane
12/12/20	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Brogo Fire Shed	FSCB outing
12/12/20	Noisy Friarbird	2 at nest	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing
3/12/20	Pacific Golden Plover	3	Mogareeka	L Allen photo
13/1/21	Peregrine Falcon	1	Panboola	FSCB Survey
23/1/21	Royal Spoonbill	many	Bega, Glebe Park	S Romane
1/1/21	Rufous Fantail	1	Mandeni	S Romane
24/1/21	Rufous Fantail	1	Wallagoot, Watery Fowls	Wallis/Mihara
14/12/20	Rufous Whistler	nesting	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton
2/1/21	Rufous Whistler	1 on nest	Merimbula Boardwalk	D & K Waldon
14/12/20	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton
28/1/21	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Wallagoot, Watery Fowls	Jones/Sutcliffe
11/12/20	Scarlet Honeyeater	young	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	K Reed drinking at waterbowl
19/12/20	Scarlet Honeyeater	several	Wallagoot, Watery Fowls	Wallis/Mihara
2/1/21	Scarlet Honeyeater	f young	Bird Route No 1	D & K Waldon
13/1/21	Scarlet Honeyeater	1	Panboola	FSCB Survey
17/1/21	Scarlet Honeyeater	1	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	Reed/Kingston
30/1/21	Shearwater species	hundreds	Tura Reserve Headland	D and H Merrick
30/1/21	Shearwater species	hundreds	Green Cape	L and A Hepburn
23/1/21	Southern Boobook	1 ad 2 y	Tarraganda, Bega	T Jarman
25/12/20	Stubble Quail	calls	Panboola	S Romane
27/12/20	Stubble Quail	1	Candelo, Towridgee Lane	S Romane
13/1/21	Stubble Quail	4	Panboola	FSCB Survey
15/1/21	Stubble Quail	calls	Nethercote	B Jones
28/1/21	Stubble Quail	2+	Bird Route No 1	Jones/Waldon
12/1/21	Tawny Frogmouth	2	Tarraganda, Bega,	T Jarman 1 sounded unwell
1/12/20	Varied Sittella	pair + y	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton
12/12/20	Varied Sittella	3	Brogo Warrigal Range Rd	FSCB outing
12/12/20	Varied Sittella	8	Brogo Dam	FSCB outing
15/1/21	Variiegated Fairy-Wren	7+	Mandeni	S Romane rainforest area
4/1/21	Whistling Kite	1	Tura Beach on sand	L Allen
24/1/21	White-fronted Chat	many	Wallagoot, Watery Fowls	Wallis/Mihara
14/12/20	White-throated Gerygone	nesting	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton
18/12/20	White-throated Nightjar	1	Merimbula, Mirador	P Roberts 1st this season

24/12/20	White-throated Nightjar	1	Sth Pambula, Summerhill Rd	H Kingston	
14/12/20	Yellow Thornbill	2	Wolumla, Frogs Hollow	S Middleton	
24/1/21	Yellow Thornbill	6	Panboola	FSCB outing	
1/1/21	Yellow Thornbill	present	Merimbula, Munn St	K Waldon	
8/1/21	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	6	Millingandi	S Romane	
24/1/21	Yellow-tailed Black-C'katoo	5	Panboola	FSCB outing	
24/1/21	Yellow-tailed Black-C'katoo	lge group	Wallagoot, Watery Fowls	Wallis/Mihara	most days



Southern Boobook Owls

image: Kim Armstrong Australian Hobby

image: Max Sutcliffe

Beach-nesting Birds, 2020-21 breeding season summary

Leo Berzins

It's been a good season for the beach-nesting birds in our region. We have fledged at least 16 Hooded Plovers in the Bega Valley Shire over spring and summer. Also about a dozen Australian Pied Oystercatchers have fledged so far, with a few more close to fledging at the time of writing. The Little Tern colony at Mogareeka had about 40 breeding pairs this summer and they managed to fledge over 50 chicks.



Hooded Plover fledgling

image: Leo Berzins



Little Terns

image: Leo Berzins

COMING EVENTS

*Held on second Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month and odd weekdays.
Evening Meetings on second Thursday of February, April, June, August, October and December.
Information about outings or help with transport contact anyone on committee (see FSCB Directory page 6).*

Thursday February 11, 2021 **EVENING MEETING**

Meet in the Uniting Church Hall, Henwood St, Merimbula, for a 7:30 pm start. Our Guest Speaker will be club member, Sam Nerrie, presenting "The Family Life of a Gang-gang Cockatoo at Red Hill." Sam and several other dedicated people connected over their love of wildlife and spent two parched hot summers watching and documenting the behaviour of Gang-gang Cockatoos as they successfully raised their chicks in the hollows of the Red Hill gums.

Saturday February 13, 2021 **HAYCOCK POINT and surrounds**

Meet at 9:00 am just 100m into Haycock Rd (signposted by NPWS) off the Princes Highway between Pambula and Eden. Once assembled we'll convoy, maybe stopping on the way, to Haycock Point car park. Here we have beach, headland, bush and scrub for a good variety of species. Lunch near cars. Even if not walking, come along for a chat.

Sunday February 28, 2021 **SCOTTS BAY & HOBART BEACH**

Meet at 9:00 am at Scotts Bay, on the south side of Wallagoot Lake, Bournda NP. (Park fees apply unless you have a ticket). Liz Allen will lead us to several areas in the national park. Bring lunch and chair.

Saturday March 13, 2021 **BERMAGUI plus Bermagui Sculptures**

Meet just north of the Bermagui Bridge at 9:00 am, on the corner beside the Bermagui Public School, opposite the group of small shops. Bush and water birds in a variety of spots and a look at the sculptures on the headland after lunch.

Sat/Sun March 13/14, 2021 **BIGNET MEETING IN SYDNEY**

Hosted by Cumberland Bird Observers Club, at a venue to be confirmed, representatives from many NSW bird groups gather to share common interests.

Sunday March 28, 2021 **TANTAWANGALO**

Meet Roger at the Candelo Park at 9:00 am to convoy to several spots at Tantawangalo, covering bushland and grassland, with lunch at the Tantawangalo Reserve picnic area.

Thursday April 8, 2021 **EVENING MEETING**

Meet in the Uniting Church Hall, Henwood St, Merimbula, for a 7:30 pm start. Guest speaker to be confirmed and our usual presentations, raffle and supper.

Saturday April 10, 2021 **'WATERY FOWLS' WALLAGOOT/BOURND A**

Meet at 8:45 am inside the gate of 'Watery Fowls'. Turn off Sapphire Coast Drive onto Bournda Road on the south side of Wallagoot Lake. Drive about 500m to just before Tickalara Close and turn left into the driveway to the home of Cliff Wallis and Sayaka Mihara. BYO snack and lunch and chair as usual, plus insect repellent. Always a good species count here and easy walking.

Wednesday April 14, 2021 **PANBOOLA SURVEY**

Meet at 8:00 am at Panboola Centre, Watsons Waterhole, next to Idlewilde Motel in Bullara St, Pambula for the autumn survey. Wear sturdy shoes and hat. Carry snack and drink, insect repellent. Takes about 3 hours.

FSCB GOOGLE GROUP and FACEBOOK

Go to the welcome page at <http://groups.google.com/group/fscb?hl=en> and follow the instructions. If you have trouble contact David on dpadams@gmail.com or Barbara. In the set up process you will be asked to give your email address and a password which will be yours just for the chat line (not your personal email password).

You won't be inundated with email. Maybe one or two a day, then nothing for a week/weeks, but the more people use the service the more useful it will become. Try it and see.

Have you seen our FACEBOOK page? Please like the page and share the link with your friends! Or you can view without signing up, by going to <https://www.facebook.com/Farsouthcoastbirdwatchers>.

We are also on Twitter: [@FSCBirds](https://twitter.com/FSCBirds)