



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

No. 430
October 2013

To encourage the observation and study of the birds of the Toowoomba area.

Editorial Kylie Grose

This will be my last newsletter for now. Thank you for all your beautiful photos and interesting articles. I've enjoyed compiling them all into a colourful and hopefully good read each month. Time to hand the baton on to another editor who will hopefully take over after the AGM....

This month we have an interesting observation/ article by Pat and this month's Member Photos were all contributed by Rob Wilson, thanks Rob ☺

Hopefully see you all on plenty of TBO outings... as long as I wake up early enough ☺ Maybe some more evening spotlight outings next year?!?



White-faced Heron
Photo: Rob Wilson
Lake Freeman
Gatton 09/13

2013 Challenge

Tally: 237 spp as of 30/10/13



TOOWOOMBA
BIRD OBSERVERS

This Issue

We should follow their example and recycle

By Pat McConnell

Members' Bird Notes

By Pat McConnell

Members' Photo Page

Member in Focus...

Rob Wilson!

AND MORE...

OUTINGS (Final one this year)

"Breakfast with the Birds"
Sat 23rd November 2013
Venue: "Tiddalac", 68 Thomas Rd,
Upper Lockyer 4352
Meet: On-site from 6:30am

Details: Enjoy some early morning birding followed by breakfast on the deck. BYO brekkie. Gas BBQ available.

Contact: Mick Atzeni
0458 948 955

OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subs were due in August. Please renew by 15 Nov if you wish to remain on the mailing list.

P.O. Box 4730, Toowoomba East 4350
www.toowoombabirdobservers.org

MEMBERSHIP: Adult/family \$45
Pensioner/student \$40

Feature

We should follow their example and recycle. Photos and article by Pat McConnell

Recently when cleaning out some cupboards at work I discovered two old nests that I had put aside many years ago. I remember keeping them because of the unusual materials they contained.

I can't exactly remember now what species of bird made the first nest but I seem to recall it was an Australian Magpie or a Torresian Crow. I was surprised to see how much man-made material was present in this nest. It contained at least three different gauges of wire, red and blue electrical wire, green nylon twine and fishing line.

The second, and in my opinion the more beautifully constructed nest belonged to a Noisy Friarbird. This nest contained old computer printer paper, tissues and yellow twine.

Birds are obviously great recyclers and it is a good idea for us to follow their example, but on the other hand it is disgraceful to see how much rubbish we leave lying around, polluting our environment.

Pat McConnell



Recycling at its best #1



Recycling at its best #2

History in the making?

Will 2013 be the first time we record 250 species in a year within our local survey area?

In 2006, we put the idea out there and coined it the **Annual Challenge**. This year we are well positioned to give it a real shake if we are enthusiastic and dedicated enough. With 237 species so far and two months to go, we need six more species to beat the record of 242 set last year, and 13 more to crack 250. In the “Wanted List” below, the bolded species are those I consider the most likely prospects to get us over the line. If you need tips on where to look, please contact Records Officer Pat McConnell or myself. Non-members are welcome to contribute. I will continue posting the progress on the website forum.

Best of luck! Mick Atzeni

Wanted List: King Quail, Blue-billed Duck, Mallard, Striated Heron, Little Bittern, **Black Bittern**, Black-necked Stork, Brahminy Kite, Red Goshawk, Grey Falcon, Brolga, Lewin's Rail, **Spotless Crake**, Red-backed Button-quail, Little Button-quail, **Black-breasted Button-quail**, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Marsh Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Common Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, **Banded Lapwing**, Australian Pratincole, Silver Gull, **Whiskered Tern**, White-winged Black Tern, Squatter Pigeon, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Superb Fruit-Dove, **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove**, **Topknot Pigeon**, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, Swift Parrot, Turquoise Parrot, **Oriental Cuckoo**, Black-eared Cuckoo, **Powerful Owl**, Barking Owl, Sooty Owl, Spotted Nightjar, Forest Kingfisher, **Yellow-throated Miner**, **Noisy Pitta**, White-plumed Honeyeater, Painted Honeyeater, Scarlet Robin, Black Honeyeater, **White-breasted Woodswallow**, Black-faced Woodswallow, Little Woodswallow, Australian Raven, Diamond Firetail, **Brown Songlark**.

Members' Bird Notes

All sightings seen by, or reported to members of the Toowoomba Bird Observers. Accuracy not vouched for by the TBO. Please check with observer before citing.

Species	Date	Location	Observers
Pied Cormorant *	07/10/13	Toowoomba Range	MA
Pacific Baza **	28/09/13	Niddrie Drive, Toowoomba	BL
Black Falcon (2)	23/09/13	Forest Hill-Blenheim Road	MA
Australian Spotted Crake	28/09/13	Helidon Spa	MA
Latham's Snipe	12/10/13	Cooby Dam	WS, NS
Australian Painted Snipe	19/09/13	Woodgate Lagoon	WS, NS
Banded Lapwing (2)	25/09/13	Formartin	SB
Diamond Dove	11/10/13	Lockyer Ck Road, Helidon	BJ, MW
Diamond Dove	13/10/13	"Tiddalac", Upper Lockyer	MA
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	19/09/13	Mooloolah	RL
Red-winged Parrot ***	18/09/13	Highfields	AB
Red-backed Kingfisher ****	30/09/13	Lockyer Ck Road, Helidon	BJ, MW
Satin Flycatcher	06/10/13	Prince Henry Drive, T'mba	MA
White-browed Woodswallow	27/09/13	Highfields	PM
White-winged Chough	25/09/13	Helidon	BJ
Plum-headed Finch	19/09/13	Yarramalong Weir	AS

* Seen on access road just west of the saddle

** Nesting in yard

*** Also seen on exact date last year

**** Still present 11/10/13

MA, M. Atzeni; **AB**, A. Blokland; **SB**, S. Burke; **BJ**, B. Jolly; **RL**, R. Lamb; **BL**, B. Learmonth; **PM**, P. McConnell; **AS**, A. Silcock; **NS**, N. Sturdee; **WS**, W. Sturdee; **MW**, M. Wood.

If anyone wishes to submit bird notes they can do this directly to me at mconnel@usq.edu.au or via the Club's mailing address.

Thanks
Pat McConnell

Members' Photo Page

For all bird photographers... amateur, professional and anywhere in between, please send your favourite photos in to be published in our monthly newsletter.

Member in Focus this month.....Rob Wilson!



**Plumed Whistling-Duck
Lake Apex, Gatton 02/13**



**Common Koel using birdbath
in our garden
Gatton 02/13**



**Australian Pelican
Lake Freeman
Gatton 02/13**



**Little Friarbird feeding in Grevillea
Honey Gem in our backyard
Gatton 06/13**

Coming Events

End of Year Outing

“Breakfast with the Birds”
Sat 30th November 2013

Venue: “Tiddalac”, 68 Thomas Rd, Upper Lockyer 4352.

Details: Optional birding from 6:30am, followed by breakfast on the deck from 8:00am-ish. BBQ facilities available. BYO chair, food, appropriate footwear (if walking along the creek), hat and sunscreen.

Contact: Mick Atzeni 0458 9489 55.
Directions available on request by email.

There is no December outing.

Committee Members

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Deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is 15th November 2013
Please e-mail or post articles and photos to the President.

If undeliverable return to
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Surface Mail