



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

No. 436
December '14

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

Editorial

Sandy Robertson

Hi all,

Welcome to and I hope you enjoy this final edition for 2014.

In it you will find an outing report on the Christmas breakup activity – *Breakfast with the Birds* at Mick Atzeni's "new place". There is also a lovely article and photos from Jocelyn and Rob Wilson during their travels to the beautiful Capertee Valley. Pat has provided the usual update on member's bird notes and there is a list of wanted birds for the 2014 Challenge. If you have recorded any of these species in the Clubs area, please send in your records so that the list can be updated.

You will also find an executive committee update and a list of the proposed outings for the coming year. If you would like to volunteer to lead any of the proposed outings, or have suggestions for

alternative outings, please let one of the executive committee members know.

From the archives....



Photo by Ramona Dallapozza Nov 2008

I hope you all get to enjoy some R&R over this Christmas break, be it at the beach or in the bush.

Have a safe and merry festive season and an exciting and happy New Year.

Cheers
Sandy

2014 Challenge

223 spp as at 2nd December

Membership Fees for 2014/2015 were due at the end of August and are now overdue

Annual subscription remains at:
\$45 for adults and families.

\$40 for pensioners and students

Fees can be paid by cheque or money order payable to

Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc

Fees can also be paid by direct transfer to Heritage Bank to:

BSB 638-070 A/c 4312503

The PO Box is 4730 Toowoomba East



TOOWOOMBA
BIRD OBSERVERS

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Date Claimers 2015

Proposed outings calendar

Jan 31st (Sat) Ravensbourne NP

Feb 22nd (Sun) Prince Henry Drive

March Toorbul Waders

April 26th (Sun) Lockyer Valley – Lake Apex, Adare Rd

May 30/31 (Sat/Sun) Bunya Mountains

June 27/28 Raptors

July 25 (Sat) Stevenson Street

Aug TBA Saw Pit Gully

Sept 26th (Sat) Lockyer Wetlands

Oct 23-26th Census

Nov Christmas breakup TBA

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

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

November Outing Report

Breakfast with the birds, 7 Woden St, Murphys Creek, 29th November 2014.

By Michael Atzeni

Well, it wasn't your typical breakfast with the birds—more like a property inspection with breakfast and birds on the side—but whatever it was, it was a very enjoyable morning for the 22 attendees and was great to catch up with old friends, including Helen and Derek Wilson who were over from England

After the 'thumbs up' for our new home, and some spirited debate on who's moving into the self-contained guest room, some birding was in order before brekky. Making our way down to the creek behind the Murphys Creek school, a **Peregrine Falcon**—a first for my new patch—was a good opportunity to point out the features (broader tail, deeper wings), even at distance, that rules out Australian Hobby.

Along the creek, nesting **Double-barred Finches** had the cameras clicking, a pair of **Wedge-tailed Eagles** graced the heavens above, and a **Dollarbird** looked a million bucks, perched in perfect light. Back at home the usual suspects were present including the resident **Grey-crowned Babblers**, and **Sacred Kingfishers** and **Tawny Frogmouths** were nesting in the same ironbark tree. Bit embarrassed about the frogmouths as I hadn't noticed them before and it was new for the yard. Thanks to my lucky charm, Kev Williams—again! (Kev also found a Tawny Grassbird at "Tiddalac" for my 50th birthday, which I hadn't recorded in the three years I'd been living there). We notched up 40 species for the morning, the majority on our property.

Jenny and I loved having you all and look forward to seeing you again.

Species list: White-faced Heron, Straw-necked Ibis, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Masked Lapwing, Spotted Dove, Crested Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Galah, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Rainbow Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, Australian King-Parrot, Pale-headed Rosella, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Tawny Frogmouth, Laughing Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Dollarbird, Superb Fairy-wren, Striated Pardalote, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, White-throated Honeyeater, Grey-crowned Babbler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Magpie-lark, Willie Wagtail, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Olive-backed Oriole, Figbird, Australian Magpie, Torresian Crow, Double-barred Finch, Red-browed Finch, Mistletoebird, Common Myna.



Peregrine Falcon

**From the Toowoomba Bird Observers
Raptor Quick Guide, 2007**



Australian Hobby

Visiting Capertee Valley

By Jocelyn Wilson

When Rob read about Capertee Valley in the Birdlife Magazine, we decided to incorporate a visit there on our annual trip to Canberra. Capertee Valley is located on the western edge of the Blue Mountains and is the widest enclosed valley in the world – wider and longer than the Grand Canyon. The scenery is spectacular!



Coorongooba camping area



Oskas Cottage – Glen Davis

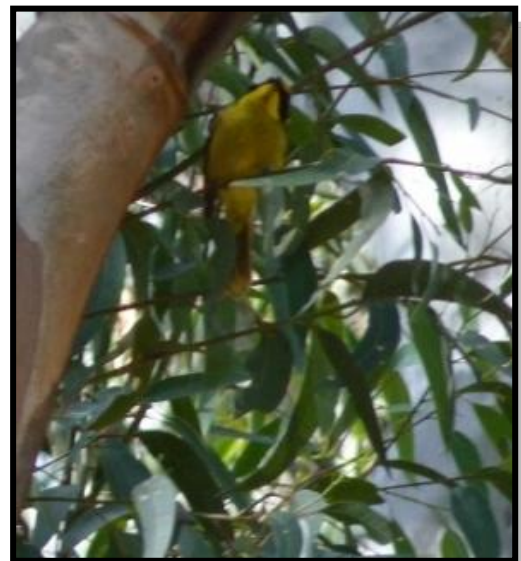


Firetrail behind Oskas Cottage

Further information on the area was obtained from www.bmbirding.com.au (an excellent website) and Mudgee National Parks office. We booked 3 nights' accommodation at Oskas Cottage (fully self-contained), near Glen Davis. There is a fire trail behind the cottage which we walked each morning. We had been told the Regent Honeyeater nests in this area and although we think we had a glimpse of this rare and endangered bird high in the tree tops, we were not confident enough to report our sighting. We did see the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, a first for us. Such a brilliant yellow! It was wonderful to sit and watch Diamond Firetail Finches busily building nests.



Diamond Firetail Finch



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater

There was also some interesting vegetation, with some plants flowering. Just around the cottage, there was an abundance of Red-browed Finch, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Double-barred Finch and Superb Fairy Wren. We also had both male and female Satin Bowerbird, Eastern Spinebill, Red-rumped Parrot and another first for us, the Turquoise Parrot. We spent hours late into the afternoons, walking along Capertee River and in the Coorongooba camping area in Wollemi National Park. We were rewarded with a good look at Spotted Pardalote, White-browed Scrubwren, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo and on the last afternoon, a Superb Lyrebird strolled across the track as we were driving out. There were numerous Wombat burrows in this camping area. Other than composting toilets, there are no facilities for campers, but there is an excellent camping area at Glen Davis. The nearest shops are at Rylestone (a lovely town with well-preserved historic buildings) or Capertee. Three days wasn't nearly long enough to explore the valley, but we did enjoy our visit.



White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike



Red-browed Finch



Female Spotted Pardalote



Male Spotted Pardalote



Female Satin Bowerbird



Shining Bronze Cuckoo

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.

**Freckled Duck – Toowoomba Waterbird
Habitat on the middle pond – a first for
Toowoomba records.
Listed as not Present in Queensland
Photo: Glenda Fitzpatrick Oct 2014**



**Red-necked Avocet, Lake Freeman,
Photo: Rob Wilson Nov 2014**



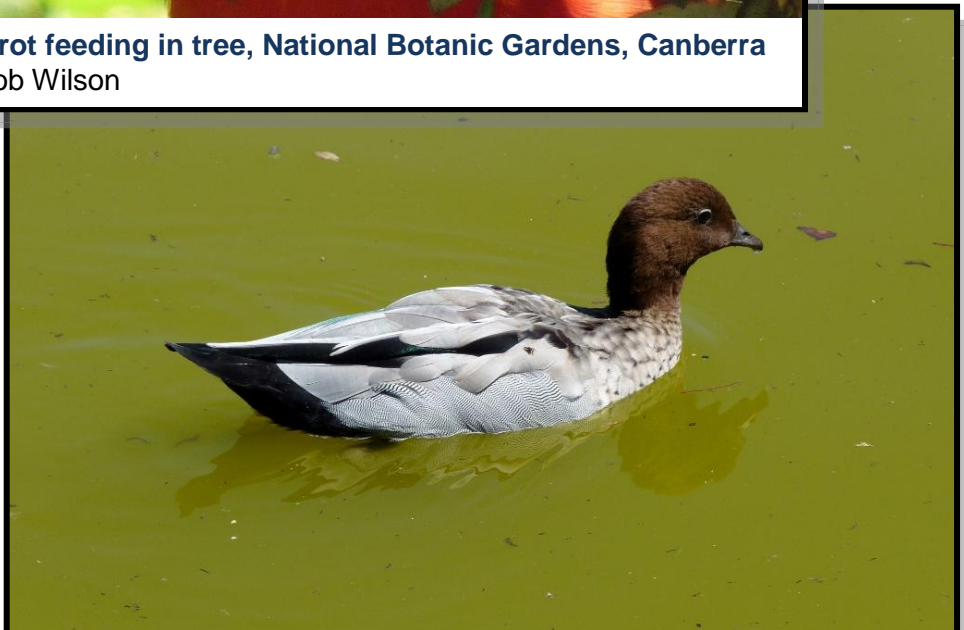
**White-throated Honeyeater (11 Nov) and
Grey Goshawk (23 Oct) in Rob and Jocelyn
Wilson's garden
Photo: Rob Wilson**



Tawny Frogmouth on nest, National Botanic Gardens, Canberra
Photo: Rob Wilson



King Parrot feeding in tree, National Botanic Gardens, Canberra
Photo: Rob Wilson



Australian Wood Duck, Cowra Japanese Garden
Photo: Rob Wilson

Bits and Pieces

Executive Committee update

Unfortunately Martin Clark has had to resign from the position of Treasurer for personal reasons, so we are looking for a willing member to take on this straightforward but important role on the clubs executive committee.

We are also looking for a Vice President and one further Executive Committee member. If you are interested in helping out, please contact one of the current Executive Committee members.

At the last Executive Committee meeting the idea of holding up to three general meetings with guest speakers on topics of interest was discussed. So we are hoping to hold the first of these, early in the New Year, with the first guest speaker being Dr Dave Berman from QMDC. Dave is working on an Indian Myna control program which has had huge success in Inglewood and QMDC is looking to expand the program across the QMDB region and engage with TBO members to assist in undertaking pre and post control survey work of the local bird populations. More details will be provided in the next newsletter regarding time and place of Dave's presentation, however if you are keen to assist with the survey work, please let Sandy know.

Subs due

Annual subscriptions are now overdue. Adults/families \$45 Pensioners/Students \$40.

Payments can be forwarded to the Treasurer at PO Box 4730 Toowoomba East 4350 or by direct deposit to the TBO Heritage account BSB 638-070 A/c 4312503.

If doing a direct deposit, please advise the Secretary on 13.jewells@gmail.com so that the membership records can be updated.

TBO Online

Website and facebook:

toowoombabirdobservers.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Toowoomba-Bird-Observers/175472075881350>

Members' Bird Notes

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
Painted Button-quail	23/11/2014	Ashlands Dr Helidon Spa	MA
Peregrine Falcon *	2/12/2014	Highfields	PM
Grey Falcon (pair)	10/09/2014	Mungerannie	PM, KO
Black-eared Cuckoo	5/09/2014	Arid Lands Gardens S.A.	PM, KO
Masked Owl (roadkill)	18/10/2014	Tabletop Estate	HK, KK
Short-tailed Grasswren	6/09/2014	Stokes Hill S.A.	PM, KO
Thick-billed Grasswren	7/09/2014	Lyndhurst S.A.	PM, KO
Eyrean Grasswren	10/09/2014	Lyndhurst S.A.	PM, KO
Grey Grasswren	9/09/2014	Goyder's Lagoon S.A.	PM, KO
Western Grasswren	4/09/2014	Iron Knob S.A.	PM, KO
Banded Whiteface	10/09/2014	Mungerannie S.A.	PM, KO
Bell Miner	18/11/2014	Echo Valley South Park	MM
Western Yellow Robin	5/09/2014	Lake Gillies S.A.	PM, KO
Brown Gerygone	26/10/2014	Redwood Park	PM
Masked Woodswallow	26/10/2014	Redwood Park	PM
White-browed Woodswallow	26/10/2014	Redwood Park	PM
Common Blackbird	15/12/2014	Highfields	PM

* Had a large bird in its talons, possibly a Rock Dove.

MA, M. Atzeni; **HK**, H. Krenske; **KK**, K. Krenske; **PM**, P. McConnell; **MM**, M. McGoldrick; **KO**, K. O'Donnell.

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

Thanks
Pat McConnell

WANTED LIST !! - for 2014 challenge

Stubble Quail *
King Quail *
Blue-billed Duck *
Musk Duck *
Mallard *
Chestnut Teal *
Great Crested Grebe *
Striated Heron *
Little Bittern *
Black-necked Stork *
Red Goshawk *
Grey Falcon *
Brolga *
Lewin's Rail *
Baillon's Crake *
Spotless Crake *
Australian Bustard *
Red-backed Button-quail *
Little Button-quail *
Red-chested Button-quail *
Black-breasted Button-quail *
Latham's Snipe
Black-tailed Godwit *
Whimbrel *
Marsh Sandpiper
Common Greenshank *
Common Sandpiper *
Red-necked Stint *
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Curlew Sandpiper *
Red-necked Phalarope *
Australian Painted Snipe *
Comb-crested Jacana *
Pacific Golden Plover *
Red-capped Plover *
Banded Lapwing
Australian Pratincole *
Silver Gull *
Gull-billed Tern *

Caspian Tern *
Whiskered Tern
White-winged Black Tern *
Squatter Pigeon *
Diamond Dove *
Wompoo Fruit-Dove *
Superb Fruit-Dove *
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *
Red-winged Parrot *
Crimson Rosella *
Eastern Rosella *
Blue Bonnet *
Swift Parrot *
Turquoise Parrot *
Powerful Owl *
Barking Owl *
Sooty Owl *
White-throated Nightjar
Spotted Nightjar *
Forest Kingfisher *
Red-backed Kingfisher *
Western Gerygone
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
White-plumed Honeyeater *
Painted Honeyeater *
Scarlet Robin *
Red-capped Robin
Spotted Quail-thrush *
Barred Cuckoo-shrike
White-breasted Woodswallow *
Black-faced Woodswallow *
Little Woodswallow *
Australian Raven *
White-winged Chough
White-backed Swallow *

Michael Atzeni
H: (07) 4630 5737
Mob: 0408 155 528

Coming Events

January – Sat 31st. Ravensbourne National Park.

Meet at first picnic area at 7am.

Outing Leader: Gayle Lee 0404 443145

February – Sun 22nd. Beginners outing - Prince Henry Drive.

Meet at Katoomba Point at the gate 7:00am

Outing Leader: Pat McConnell 46315573 or
mccannel@usq.edu.au

Please advise the Outing Leader if you will be attending so that car pooling can be arranged where possible and Leaders can start the outing when all attendees have safely arrived.

Committee Members

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Deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is Friday 6th February 2015
Please e-mail or post articles and photos to the Editor.

**If undeliverable return to
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PO Box 4730, Toowoomba East Q 4350**

Surface Mail