



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

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

No. 441
Oct '15

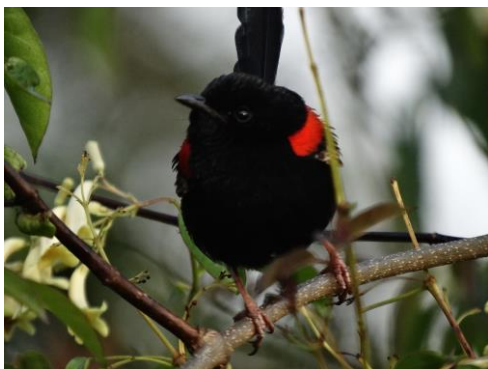
Editorial

Sandy Robertson

Hi all,

A couple of months ago I saw a red backed fairy wren in the gully behind my house. First one I had seen on the property ever! (I have been there 21 years now). Now he and his girl(s) are regular visitors to the garden just off my verandah.

Notably the superb fairy wrens seem to have disappeared. The red-backed seems to be quite strongly territorial and is present most mornings, as well as on and off through the day, "having a go" at his own reflection in the verandah windows.



Enjoy this edition. Please get any stories or photos for the next edition to me by the end of November

Sandy Robertson

Membership Fees for 2015/2016 were due at the end of August. 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 S21
The PO Box is 4730
Toowoomba East



2015 Challenge

181 species as at 1st Sept
See full list at:

<http://toowoombabirdobservers.org.au>

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Outings calendar

Oct 23-26th Census

Oct 28th AGM

Nov 28th TBO 40th Anniversary celebration and Christmas breakup



TOOWOOMBA
BIRD OBSERVERS

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

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

September Outing Report

TRIP REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 26th 2015

By Al Young

A hearty band of 13 TBO members met at Lake Apex at 7:30 am for a birding trip in the Lockyer Valley. The weather was nearly perfect for birding with mild temperatures, slight breeze and only patchy light cloud.

During the outing we recorded a total of 78 species of birds which included 8 species of honeyeaters and 27 waterbird species. Two different species of mammals were also seen – Koala and Red Deer. (A complete summary of all species recorded from each site is in the table below).

The first site we stopped at was at the end of Millers Road which is several kilometres west of the Gatton-Esk Rd. Here we found a honeyeater hotspot with six species foraging in bottlebrush (*Callistemon sp*) trees along a creek line which crossed the track. Honeyeater species recorded were **Noisy Friarbird**, **Noisy Miner**, **Lewin's**, **Yellow-faced**, **White-throated** and **Brown Honeyeaters**. The latter species was the most abundant with a least 10 to 12 individuals present. It is not often you can see so many Brown Honeyeaters in the same spot. Some other species seen near Millers Road and in Lockyer National Park were **Silvereye**, **Whistling Kite**, **Red-backed Fairy-wren**, **Variegated Fairy-wren**, **Rainbow Bee-eater** and **Grey-crowned Babbler**.



White-throated Honey-eater

On the way to other sites we stopped at a small farm dam on the northern side of Millers Road. The only waterbirds present were – a single **Grey Teal** with young chicks, several **Hardhead** and **Purple Swamphens**. A surprise sighting was eight **Red Deer** (*Cervus elephas*). They were all about the same size and none had antlers which suggests they were females (hinds).

From Millers Road we travelled to several wetland sites, namely Coles Road dam, Adare Road dam and Redbank Creek at Adare.

At the dam on Coles Road we recorded very few waterbirds –**Black Swan** with four or five large signets, a few **Australian Wood Duck**, **Pacific Black Duck**, two **Comb-crested Jacanas** and several **Black-winged Stilts**. Also of note were **Little & Scaly-breasted Lorikeets**, **Superb** and **Variegated Fairy-wrens**, **Golden & Rufous Whistlers**.

The numbers and diversity of waterbirds at the dam on Adare Road was greater than at Coles Road dam. Ten species of waterbirds were noted here – **Australian Wood Duck (Maned Duck), Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Hardhead, Australasian Grebe, Australasian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Great Cormorant** and **Eurasian Coot**. The **Great Cormorant** was an interesting sighting because they are much more common in coastal habitats but the odd individuals turn up at various wetlands in the Lockyer Valley. One TBO Member spotted **Sacred Kingfishers** active near a probable nest site in a termite mound located in a tree. Another treat at Adare Road dam was a **Koala** (*Phascolarctos cinereus*).

From Coles Road we travelled to the Redbank Creek area at Adare. Some interesting sightings here were – **Australian Hobby, Spotted Turtle Dove, Peaceful** and **Bar-shouldered Dove, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Lewin's** and **Brown-headed Honeyeater, Jacky Winter, Eastern Yellow Robin** and **Eastern Whipbird**.



Now back to Lake Apex for morning tea and a summary of the species seen. As always Lake Apex has good numbers and diversity of waterbirds. Some waterbird species not seen at other wetland sites were **Magpie Goose, Plumed Whistling-Duck, Australian Pelican, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Royal** and **Yellow-billed Spoonbill**.

Many thanks to all club members who attended this pleasant morning of birding and hope to see you on the next outing.

Postscript: Several days (28/09/2015) after the outing I saw the following additional (new) species at the Millers Road site: **Striped & Scarlet Honeyeater** and a **Wedge-tailed Eagle** overhead. So that brings the total number of Honeyeater species to 10 over a period of several days. This is certainly a honeyeater 'hot spot' in a very small area!

Al Young



**SUMMARY OF BIRDS and MAMMALS RECORDED DURING THE TBO
OUTING TO THE LOCKYER VALLEY, SEPT. 26th 2015.**

Legend:	1	2	3	4	5	6
1= End of Millers Rd/Lockyer NP						
2= Dam on Millers Rd						
3= Dam on Coles Rd						
4= Dam on Adare Rd						
5= Adare (Redbank Cr area)						
6= Lake Apex						
Species (Birds)						
Magpie Goose						6
Plumed Whistling-Duck						6
Black Swan			3			
Australian Wood Duck (Maned Duck)	1		3	4		6
Pacific Black Duck			3	4		6
Grey Teal		2		4		
Hardhead		2		4		6
Australasian Grebe				4		6
Australasian Darter				4		6
Little Pied Cormorant				4		6
Little Black Cormorant				4		6
Great Cormorant				4		
Australian Pelican						6
White-faced Heron	1				5	
White-necked Heron					5	
Great Egret			3			6
Eastern Cattle Egret			3			6
Australian White Ibis						6
Straw-necked Ibis						6
Royal Spoonbill						6
Yellow-billed Spoonbill						6
Whistling Kite	1					6
Australian Hobby					5	
Purple Swamphen		2				6
Dusky Moorhen						6
Eurasian Coot				4		6
Comb-crested Jacana			3			
Black-winged Stilt (White-headed Stilt)			3			
Masked Lapwing			3			
Spotted Turtle Dove (Spotted Dove)					5	
Crested Pigeon	1					6
Peaceful Dove			3		5	
Bar-shouldered Dove					5	
Galah				4		
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet			3			

Little Lorikeet			3	4		
Pale-headed Rosella	1			4		6
Red-rumped Parrot				4		
Channel-billed Cuckoo					5	
Laughing Kookaburra	1	2				
Sacred Kingfisher			3	4		
Rainbow Bee-eater	1				5	
Superb Fairy-wren			3		5	
Variiegated Fairy-wren	1		3			
Red-backed Fairy-wren	1					
Striated Pardalote	1		3	4		6
White-throated Gerygone				4		
Yellow-rumped Thornbill					5	
Noisy Friarbird						6
Little Friarbird	1					6
Noisy Miner	1			4		6
Lewin's Honeyeater	1				5	
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	1		3			
Brown-headed Honeyeater					5	
White-throated Honeyeater	1		3			
Brown Honeyeater	1				5	6
Jacky Winter					5	
Eastern Yellow Robin					5	
Grey-crowned Babbler	1					
Eastern Whipbird					5	
Golden Whistler			3			
Rufous Whistler	1		3		5	
Grey Shrike-thrush	1		3			6
Leaden Flycatcher	1					
Magpie Lark			3			6
Grey Fantail	1				5	
Willie Wagtail	1	2	3	4		
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1					
Olive-backed Oriole	1					
Grey Butcherbird	1					6
Pied Butcherbird	1					6
Australian Magpie						6
Pied Currawong	1					
Toressian Crow	1			4	5	6
Red-browed Finch	1					
Welcome Swallow				4	5	6
Clamorous (Australian) Reed Warbler						6
Silvereye	1					
Species (Mammals)						
Koala				4		
Red Deer		2				

Al Young 04/10/15

Members' Photo Page



Kookaburra Tug-of-war
Allan Skerman



Rainbow Bee-eaters (below)
Sacred Kingfisher at nest (left)
Col Hughes



ABERDEEN UPDATE:

For our three local species of Fairy-wrens it seems to be non-stop courtship at present. Just a whirlwind of singing, posing, chasing after and chasing off, often overlapping between species – at any rate, appearing to overlap to our slower eyes and ears. Their paths frequently cross in seemingly complex ways, but I doubt they find it as confusing as we do.

All three species are here every day, Red-backed in the largest numbers – I'd guess at least half a dozen families spread out over the property. Superb run second in numbers, maybe half as many family units – and one or two families of Variegated. These are conservative estimates. I know I've counted 20 plus individual Red-backed Fairy-wrens some days, but I wouldn't be surprised if there are more than that at times.

Photos herewith of two gorgeous male Red-backed Fairy-wrens, a Superb Fairy-wren male bearing a yellow bouquet destined for his nearest lady friend, and an off the cuff snap of a male Variegated Fairy-wren who appeared right next to me, too close to photograph really. He is almost back in full plumage after just a few weeks of eclipse.

Plus a Striated Pardalote at the birdbath.

Bill Jolly



Travels with the Eastons

We set off, mid-March on a journey that was to be NSW, SA and Vic. for a few months birding and enjoying those states, however the freezing weather got the better of us and we turned north after a wonderful week at Gluepot.

There have been many magical spots en route with magical bird sightings. I am only mentioning the Extra Specials, the regulars, though as always beautiful and entertaining.

Barren Grounds rewarded us with the Eastern Bristlebird, Shoalhaven a double Banded Plover, Chiltern National Park a flock of beautifully coloured Gang Gangs and for us a first sighting of a Crested Shrike Tit!, throw in Brolga and young at Rutherglen, a spotted Crake at Fivebough Swamp, via Leeton, and Swift Parrots near Adelong. In Hattah Kulkyn National Park in Victoria, Blue Winged and Regent Parrots along with the Mallee Emu Wren, we were spellbound by these.

Gluepot needs to be on all birders Bucket List, an astonishing Reserve, being so well managed by Birdlife Australia. Many birds were here and for us the specials were Red Lored and Gilbert Whistlers, Black Eared Miner, Chestnut Quail Thrush and Chirruping Wedgebill.

On the way north to the Flinders Ranges NP. we spotted the Musk Lorrieket at Morgan and at the Park itself the Short Tailed Grasswren, no luck with the Thick Billed Grasswren though. This is a most beautiful area of SA.

Next, astonishingly is Coober Pedy. First though at the Australian Arid Lands Gardens, Port Augusta we saw the Purple Crowned Lorrieket, this garden is a Must Do!. The landscape at Cooper Pedy is extraordinary. Birds found in this area included the Chestnut Breasted Whiteface, Cinnamon Quail Thrush, Banded Lapwing and the **Gibberbird** (pictured top right).

Newhaven, another Bucket List must and probably the highlight of our journey. Namatjira Landscapes, wonderful wildflowers and native vegetation and many birds. A little family of Rufous Crowned Emu Wrens delighted us along with the Grey Falcon, Western Bowerbird, Banded Whiteface, **Orange Chat** (pictured second down on right) and Crimson Chats, Major Mitchells, Chiming Wedgebill, Spinifex Bird and Painted Finch.

The Dusky Grasswrens were in the rocks right next to us at Trepina Gorge in the East Macs, as was the Golden Backed Honeyeater and dozens of Zebra Finches. Scrambling down a gully, here, we came across an Owlet Nightjar, which I guess we had disturbed.

A week at the Longreach Water Hole, west of Elliot in the NT., resulted in 72 bird species, including the **Varied Lorrieket** (Pictured third down on right) Glossy Ibis and large flocks of all 5 Woodswallows just on dusk, each evening, over the wetlands.

At Porcupine Gorge our neighbours were Brown Quails, all 15 of them, very quiet and at home strolling through our spot.

Enough for everyone

Best Wishes

Ross and Margaret.

Also pictured (bottom on right) **Red-browed Pardalote**



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
Pied Cormorant	25/03/2105	"Abberton" Helidon	BJ
Australian Pelican	22/08/2015	Toowoomba Waterbird Habitat	NM
Wandering Whistling-Duck	28/02/2015	Helidon Dam	MW
Chestnut Teal	26/08/2015	Wyreema Sewage Treatment Plant	MA, RJ
Little Egret	15/02/2015	"Abberton" Helidon	BJ
Intermediate Egret	6/04/2015	Helidon Golf Course	MW
Nankeen Night-Heron	19/06/2015	Toowoomba Waterbird Habitat	CD
Black Bittern	21/02/2015	Upper Lockyer	MW
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	11/02/2015	"Abberton" Helidon	BJ
Swamp Harrier	10/04/2105	"Abberton" Helidon	BJ
Black Falcon (pair)	26/08/2015	Wyreema Sewage Treatment Plant	MA, RJ
Comb-crested Jacana	28/02/2015	Helidon Dam	MW
Red-kneed Dotterel	25/04/2015	Helidon Spa	MW
Latham's Snipe	16/08/2015	Lockyer Siding	MA, KW
Emerald Dove	15/07/2015	Redwood Park	MW
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	21/06/2015	Toowoomba Waterbird Habitat	K & KW
Budgerigar	4/06/2015	Upper Lockyer	MW
Australian Owlet-nightjar	14/02/2015	Tabletop Mountain	MW
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	19/07/2015	"Abberton" Helidon	BJ
Little Bronze-Cuckoo	26/01/2015	"Abberton" Helidon	BJ
Brush Cuckoo	15/03/2015	"Abberton" Helidon	BJ
Western Gerygone	10/05/2015	Upper Lockyer	MW
Yellow -throated Miner	26/08/2015	Wyreema-Cambooya Road	MA, RJ
Black-chinned Honeyeater	21/02/2015	Upper Lockyer	MW
Crested Shrike-tit	18/01/2015	Ballard	MW
Little Shrike-thrush	15/01/2015	Redwood Park	MW
Rose Robin	16/08/2015	Upper Lockyer	MA, KW
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	15/07/2015	"Abberton" Helidon	BJ
Barred Cuckoo-shrike	18/01/2015	Ballard	MW
White-breasted Woodswallow	26/05/2015	"Abberton" Helidon	BJ
Plum-headed Finch	17/02/2015	"Abberton" Helidon	BJ
Little Grassbird	26/08/2015	Wyreema Sewage Treatment Plant	MA, RJ
Russet-tailed Thrush	4/08/2015	Redwood Park	MW
Common Blackbird	15/02/2015	Redwood Park	MW

MA, M. Atzeni; **CD**, C. Dove; **RJ**, R. Jenkins; **BJ**, B. Jolly; **NM**, N. McKilligan; **K & K W**, Kev & Kay Williams; **KW**, Kev. Williams; **MW**, M. Wood.

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

Bits and Pieces

Subscriptions are due at the end of August

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The PO Box is 4730
Toowoomba East

AGM

The club AGM is on Wednesday 28/10/2015. All positions will be declared vacant and members are requested to consider nominating for positions. An email has been forwarded with nomination forms.

Please consider putting your hand up for one of the committee roles. Many hands make light work.

The meeting will be held at the Dr Price Meeting Rooms in Little Street Toowoomba commencing at 7pm. Please bring a plate to share for supper.

A list of the position descriptions for the 2015-2016 Executive is available. Please contact the Secretary, Sue Jewell if you require a copy or if you require a nomination form for the positions. It would be appreciated if these could be forwarded by the 21st October in preparation for the meeting, but nominations can be accepted through to the actual meeting. Please contact Olive or the current position holders if you would like any clarification with regard to any position. Sue Jewell will not be nominating for the position of Secretary for 2015/16 and is happy to discuss the position with anyone who is interested in taking on the position. Her contact details can be found at the end of the newsletter

There are two items in the Constitution which will be on the agenda for discussion at the AGM.

1. The Constitution requires that the Executive meet monthly. A proposal that the Executive meet at least two monthly will be raised for discussion.
2. The Constitution requires that the financial records are audited annually. There are new standards which indicate that clubs such as TBO Inc may not be required to be audited. The long standing auditor has advised that he will not be available after this year. This has prompted a review of the situation. We will consider whether there are other available auditors or alternatively, if there is no requirement for auditing, whether to remove this requirement.

Discussion is required on these points before we can make any decisions about whether to go through the necessary processes to effect change to the Constitution.

An agenda and notice of a guest speaker will be forwarded closer to the time. If there are any items which you wish to raise in General Business, please the Secretary me who will add the items to the agenda.

TBO Online

Website and facebook:

toowoombabirdobservers.org.au

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

Coming Events

October Census: 23rd – 26th October

Location: Grid reference of your choosing

Leader: Please advise Olive Booth which sector you would like to operate in.

AGM Wednesday 28th October, 7pm. Dr Price Rooms, Little Street. Please bring a plate of supper to share.

40th Anniversary Celebration and Christmas breakup
28th November

Where: Uniting Church, Cnr North & Tor Streets, Tmba
Please bring afternoon tea to share

For club outings, 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, (or advise every one of any last minute cancellations due to inclement weather).

Committee Members

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Deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is Monday 30th November 2015

Please e-mail or post articles and photos to the Editor.

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

Surface Mail