



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

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

No. 447
Oct '16

Editorial Sandy Robertson

Hi all,

Welcome to the October edition.

Please note the important notice regarding the AGM.

We also need willing members to put their hand up for committee positions at the upcoming AGM. It is not a hugely demanding workload and as they say, many hands make light work, so please make the effort to assist your association.

We once again have had some wonderful photos sent to us by Charles Dove, and not just of the many birds he is experiencing down there in Ulladulla, but also some of the other fascinating wildlife that he has been able to capture on film so beautifully.

There will be one more newsletter before Christmas, so please send in any contributions, stories, photos or anything else of interest by the 25th November.

Email them to
sandy.robertston6@gmail.com

Regards

Sandy Robertson

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to unforeseen circumstances the AGM has been postponed. Originally scheduled for Wed 19th Oct, it will now be held on **Wed 2nd November** and will be held in the Uniting Church corner of Tor Street and North Street

6:30pm for a 7:00pm start.

Your membership will need to be paid up to nominate or vote at the AGM.

Please bring a plate of supper to share.

No recent update sorry

2016 Challenge

127 as at Feb 22, 2016

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Calendar

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th October. Census outing

AGM 2nd November.

Sunday 6th November. Dwyers Scrub outing jointly with Toowoomba Field Naturalists

November 26th—Christmas breakup. *Breakfast with the Birds* - Lions Park Picnic Point



TOOWOOMBA
BIRD OBSERVERS

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

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

Raptor Census Report

By Pat McConnell

Northern Section

Pat McConnell and Kath O'Donnell surveyed the northern section on Sunday 26 June. This section was divided into four sub-sections as in previous years. These were Highfields to Cooby Dam, Cooby Dam to Goombungee, Goombungee to Cooyar and Cooyar to Highfields. The survey was completed between 10.45am and 3.30pm. Six species and 51 individual birds of prey were recorded which was one less species than in 2015 and 21 more individual birds. (See table below for summarised results). The weather during the survey was cool, overcast with a light breeze. One hundred and seventy kilometres were travelled. The highlight was an adult White-bellied Sea-Eagle. Also of interest were a pair of Red-winged Parrots and a pair of Red-capped Robins.

Southern Section

The southern section was surveyed by Ross and Margaret Easton on Sunday 26 June. They saw five species and 61 individual birds of prey which was two more species than in 2015 and 26 more individual birds of prey. The route they surveyed was the Pilton Valley loop and the Cambooya/Felton loop. The survey was completed between 9.00am and 1.45pm. The weather was cold, windy and clear. The highlights were two Spotted Harriers.

Eastern Section

The eastern section was surveyed by Mick Atzeni, Col Hughes, Olive Booth and Elsie Dallinger on Saturday 25 June from 9.00am until 2.30pm. They saw 6 species and 48 individual birds of prey which was six fewer species than in 2015 and 68 fewer individual birds of prey. The route they surveyed was Lockyer – Helidon – Grantham - Placid Hills – Gatton north – Adare – Jankhe's Lagoon – Lake Clarendon – Lake Galletly – Lake Apex – Helidon Spa – Postman's Ridge – Murphy's Creek. The highlights were four White-bellied Sea-Eagles.

Western Section

The western section was surveyed by Michael McGoldrick, Al Young and Nicci Thompson on Sunday 26 June. They saw eight species and 146 individual birds of prey which was one more species than in 2015 and 79 more individual birds of prey. The route they surveyed was Toowoomba – Oakey – Jondaryan – Bowenville – Formartin – Norwin – Cecil Plains – Dalby – Quinalow – Oakey - Toowoomba. The weather was cold and clear with strong south-west winds. Highlights were a Spotted Harrier and two Black Falcons.

Continued on next page...

Raptor Census Report continued

Table of Sightings for 25 - 26 June 2016

Species	N	S	E	W	Total
Black-shouldered Kite	17	22	3	15	57
Black Kite			16	15	31
Whistling Kite	3		12	24	39
Spotted Harrier		2		1	3
White-bellied Sea- Eagle	1		4		5
Brown Goshawk	3				3
Wedge-tailed Eagle	3	1	3		7
Brown Falcon		2		25	27
Black Falcon				2	2
Nankeen Kestrel	24	34	10	64	132
Total number of raptors	51	61	48	146	306

The above table shows that 10 species were seen in 2016 which was four less species than in 2015. There were 306 individual birds of prey seen which was 58 more than in 2015.

A big thank you to all involved especially the leaders.

October Census Outing Information

The October outing is the Annual Census of the Toowoomba Bird Club's area of interest. It will take place over the weekend of the 29th and 30th. As the AGM has been postponed until November the usual discussion of this outing which has traditionally occurred at the AGM is not possible.

At the October meeting of the executive we decided to inform members via the Newsletter. It was also decided to ask members to put most effort into the Central 1-8 grids, but this does not exclude surveying the other grids if you have the inclination to do so and the time.

As the Census is a part of the club's Outing Calendar those of us who are in the area will meet in the Helidon Park next to the Post Office in Turner Street at approximately 10 am for morning tea and to discuss progress.

If you would like to do the census with others contact Olive who may know who else is wishing for company on either day. If you need record forms for the week-end please contact me after the 24th October and I can send you an electronic version. My email is thompson.nicolette8@gmail.com

August Outing Report

Report for TBO Outing – Moogerah, 28 Aug 2016 – Lesley Beaton

What a brilliant morning for a birding outing! The sun was shining, the gums were flowering and the birds were singing. Eleven TBO members met me in the carpark of the Aratula Hotel where we checked out all the honeyeaters before moving onto “The Gorge”. This privately owned camp-ground winds along Reynolds Creek.

Here again the birds were singing but unlike the preliminary survey a couple of days before, they were not very visible. Most of the Scarlet and White-throated Honeyeaters stayed in the high canopy, however a Little Shrike-thrush was a good sighting.

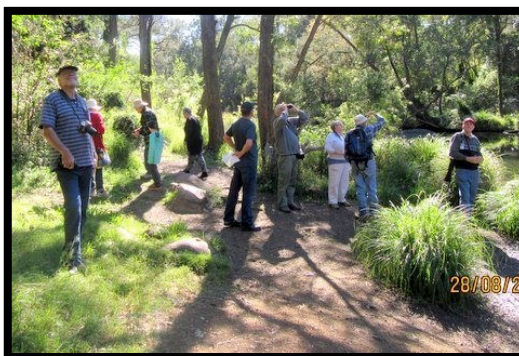
After an early morning tea we continued to the lower picnic ground below the dam wall of Lake Moogerah and at the other end of the gorge. The birds were still shy, but we had great views of an Azure Kingfisher fishing and Wood Duck ducklings as well as the usual bush birds.

We then moved to the upper picnic ground which was very busy with picnickers. A couple of good sightings here was a pair of Tawny Frogmouths and a Pied Cormorant in the dam. The sighting of the day was from the dam wall but it was not a bird. It was a platypus searching for food in Reynolds Creek 38 metres below. We had an excellent view.

Lunch was eaten overlooking the wonderful views around Lake Moogerah then we meandered around the lake shore stopping to look at the Caspian Tern, Silver Gull, Black Swan, Little Egrets, pelicans, and spoonbills. When it was time to start back for home there were still some eager members wanting more so we had a little tour of the area finishing at Farmer’s Swamp where we saw Jacana, Black-winged Stilt, Purple Swamphens, and other water birds.

Birds:

Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, Crested Pigeon, Spotted Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Tawny Frogmouth, Australasian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Cattle Egret, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Whistling Kite, Nankeen Kestrel, Brown Falcon, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Black-winged Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Comb-crested Jacana, Caspian Tern, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Pheasant Coucal, Azure Kingfisher, Laughing Kookaburra, Superb Fairy-wren, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced



From top:
Breaking our necks to see the
honeyeaters
Azure kingfisher
Tawny frogmouths
Lesley and TBO members on the
dam wall
Photo: KK Williams

August Outing Report cont'

Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Scarlet Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, White-throated Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Striped Honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Golden Whistler, Little Shrike-thrush, Grey Shrike-thrush, Australasian Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Magpie-lark, Welcome Swallow, Fairy Martin, Common Starling, Australasian Pipit.

Mammals:

Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*, Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*.

Watching the platypus below the dam wall

Photo: KK Williams



BITS AND PIECES

TBO Website and Facebook:

Forum - temporary access due to unresolved hacker activity <http://173.254.28.75/~toowoomb7/phpBB3/>

Website - currently under construction <http://birdobservers.wix.com/tboc>

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



Echidna
Photo: Charles Dove



Humpback Whale
Photo: Charles Dove

MEMBERS PHOTO PAGE



**Brown Honeyeater and chicks, LfW property Merritts Creek.
Photo: Sandy Robertson**



**Rufous fantail, LfW property, Wengenville
Photo: Sandy Robertson**



White-bellied Sea-Eagle
Wentworth Reef - Ulirapalle NSW
Charles Dove 10/2011

**White-bellied sea-eagle
Photo: Charles Dove**



Curlew Sandpiper
Wentworth Reef - Ulirapalle NSW
Charles Dove 10/2011

**Curlew Sandpiper
Photo: Charles Dove**

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
Superb Parrot	16/08/2016	Euston, New South Wales	RH
Spotted Harrier	20/08/2016	Ooldea, South Australia	RH
Grey-headed Honeyeater	20/08/2016	Maralinga Tjarutja Admin. South Australia	RH
Splendid Fairy-wren	20/08/2016	Maralinga Tjarutja Admin. South Australia	RH
Scarlet-chested Parrot	20/08/2016	Maralinga Tjarutja Admin. South Australia	RH
Red-backed Kingfisher	20/08/2016	Maralinga Tjarutja Admin. South Australia	RH
Slender-billed Thornbill	29/08/2016	Maralinga Tjarutja Admin. South Australia	RH
White-fronted Honeyeater	29/08/2016	Maralinga Tjarutja Admin. South Australia	RH
Chestnut Quail-thrush	29/08/2016	Maralinga Tjarutja Admin. South Australia	RH
Pied Honeyeater	29/08/2016	Maralinga Tjarutja Admin. South Australia	RH
Mountain Shelduck	9/09/2016	Peterborough, Victoria	RH
Long-billed Corella	9/09/2016	Warnambool, Victoria	RH
Brush Bronzewing	9/09/2016	Great Otway National Park, Victoria	RH
Grey Currawong	9/09/2016	Apollo Bay, Victoria	RH
Forest Raven	9/09/2016	Great Otway National Park, Victoria	RH
Regent Parrot	10/09/2016	Wagga Wagga, New South Wales	RH
Mallard (drake)	19/09/2016	Lake Annand, Toowoomba	
Rainbow Bee-eater (5)	29/08/2016	Highfields	PM, KO
Rainbow Bee-eater	30/08/2106	Gowrie Junction	DB, GG
Little Bronze-cuckoo	7/10/2016	Sarina	PM, KO
Jabiru	30/09/2016	Tin Can Bay	PM, KO
Black Falcon	11/10/2016	USQ, Toowoomba	PM

DB, D. Beal; **GG**, G. Glass; **RH**, R. Hobson; **PM**, P. McConnell; **KO**, K. O'Donnell.

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

Thanks

Pat McConnell

COMING EVENTS

October Outing

Leader: Various

See details on page 3

Date: Saturday 29th Sunday 30th August

November Outing

Joint Outing with Toowoomba Field Nat's

Christmas Breakup

Breakfast with the birds

Lions Park at Picnic Point

If car pooling, please pay a fair and reasonable contribution to the drivers fuel costs.

For all 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).

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Olive Booth	4633 0553 o.booth@bigpond.com
Vice-President	Ross Easton	46358338 0419667432 rmeaston5@bigpond.com
Secretary	Col Hughes	0409 058 275 colandlyn_hughes@bigpond.com
Treasurer	Marie Gittins	0432960709 marie77gittins@gmail.com marie.gittins@aue.salvationarmy.org
Editor	Sandy Robertson	sandy.robertson6@gmail.com 4697 2133 (AH) 0428 710 690 (BH)
Records Officer	Pat McConnell	4631 5573 mccommel@usq.edu.au
Media Officer	Vacant	
Outings Coordinator	Nicci Thompson	thompson.nicolette8@gmail.com
Committee Member	Sacha Dyson Holland	00458551864 sachadysonholland@hotmail.com
Librarian	Margie Easton	46338338 0419667432 rmeaston5@bigpond.com

Deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is Friday 25th NOVEMBER 2016

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