



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

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

No. 450
May '17

Editorial

Sandy Robertson

Hi all,
Apologies for the lateness of this newsletter. It has been a busy month+ for me with studying a sustainable housing course at Uni, doing a welding course at TAFE, participating in the Gatton Heavy Horse Field Days, my sisters 50th birthday, my daughters 21st birthday, the horse archery clubs first official competition weekend and my train carriage finally arriving which I am planning to convert into a B&B farmstay accommodation. All that along with the usual responsibilities of running a property, a family etc.

I haven't had much time for birding with all this, however I have at least been able to observe female satin bowerbirds in my front yard and keeping an eye/ear out for the spangled drongos which I am certain are still here. I'll try to get out this week to confirm if they are still hanging around.

Don't forget to send in your photos, stories, contributions however big or small.

Happy reading
Sandy Robertson

This Issue

[March Outing report](#)

[Updating Club Records](#)

[Bits and Pieces](#)

[A Drive to Cecil Plains](#)

[Members Photo Page](#)

[TBO Abbreviated Checklist](#)

[Coming events](#)

One of two female satin bowerbirds hanging around my front yard

Photo: Sandy Robertson



Date Claimers 2017

Proposed outings calendar

May 27/28 optional camp out
Peach Trees, Kilcoy

June 24/25th
Raptor survey weekend

July Sat 29th
Highfields Falls

August Sun 27th (Rain dependent)
Lake Broadwater, Dalby

September 30th/1st Campout
Duraki and Coolmunda

October 29th /29th
Census weekend

November 25th (rain dependent)
Lockyer Wetlands

December TBA



TOOWOOMBA
BIRD OBSERVERS

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

March Outing Report

Please note most of the accompanying photos in this article were taken by Al Young in Cairns in December, hence the absence of breeding plumage as was observed during the outing on birds that were too far away to be photographed.

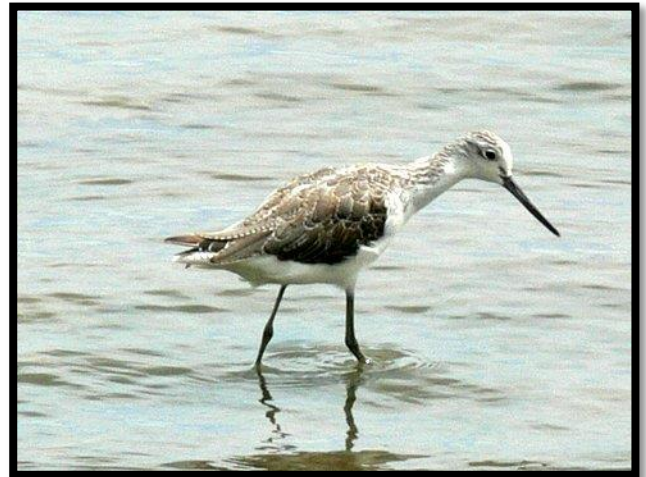
Outing to Wynnum Esplanade 18 March 2017

By Mike McGoldrick

Owing to prior advice from Arthur Keats, the coordinator of the south side Brisbane Wader Studies Group, the leader decided to bring the date of the outing forward so that members could have a better chance of viewing the migratory shorebirds before they left our shores on their annual migration to their breeding grounds in the Northern Hemisphere. Shorebirds tend to be notoriously difficult to identify especially in their non-breeding plumage so it makes it a little easier to identify them when they acquire their more colourful breeding plumage.

We went to the Wynnum Esplanade to meet up with Arthur and Cheryl Keats who were doing their regular monthly shorebird monitoring and, with their expert guidance and assistance, members scopes were soon trained on Pacific Golden Plover and Lesser Sand Plover resplendent in their breeding livery. Also present at the high tide roost we observed a good diversity of other species viz. Great Knot, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Bar-tailed Godwit, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Australian Pied Oystercatcher.

While we were busy with our binoculars and scopes, Arthur and Cheryl were meticulously recording the details of the colour-coded leg flags attached to the legs of individual shorebirds which indicate their country of origin. We noticed a strange protuberance on the tail of a Grey-tailed Tattler which Arthur informed us was a satellite tracker with aerial used to track the bird on its annual migration route along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Following morning tea after thanking Arthur and Cheryl for their expert help and guidance in identifying the shorebirds present, at the suggestion of Rob and Barbara we moved on to the bird hide at Wynnum North.



Common Greenshank
Photo: Al Young (Cairns, Dec 2016)



Grey-tailed Tattler
Photo: Al Young (Cairns Dec 2016)

Just as we arrived at the lagoon prolific with waterfowl, we witnessed a Brown Goshawk flying off with what appeared to be one of the Eurasian Coots in its talons until we later discovered on the shore of the lake the feathers and head of a dismembered White-headed Stilt! Other species sighted from the hide were Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey-tailed Tattler and Chestnut Teal. A few waders on the sandbank puzzled us until they were definitely identified as immature White-headed Stilt.



White-headed (Black-winged) Stilt in flight and severed head
Photos: Al Young, March 2017

After a tasty lunch of fish and chips on the foreshore at the Wynnum Esplanade with a welcome seabreeze off Moreton Bay cooling us down, we all agreed that we had acquired somewhat better identification skills when viewing migratory shorebirds in future before departing for home.

Bird List: Chestnut Teal, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Little Egret, Little Pied Cormorant, Brown Goshawk, White-headed Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Striated Heron, Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Greenshank, Great Knot, Grey-tailed Tattler, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper, Pacific Golden Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Great Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Red-necked Stint, Rock Dove, Little Corella, Noisy Miner, Australian Magpie, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Willie Wagtail, Magpie-lark, Welcome Swallow



Clockwise from top left:
Whimbrel,
Great Knot,
Bar-tailed Godwit,
Lesser Sand Plover
Photos: Al Young Dec 2016



Updating Club Records

When I accepted the position of Records Officer I asked Pat for a copy of the records to date. To my surprise the club records consist of one table listing all the species recorded in the TBO's 20 sectors during the past 40 years. They show in which sector or sectors each species has been recorded. That is it, except for trawling through forty years of newsletters for reports and sightings.

I am hoping that with the help of members we can update and expand these records as our area is currently undergoing rapid change with an unprecedented rate of new and large housing developments and changes to our weather patterns. It would be most helpful if members would again be prepared to list their monthly sightings for their sector and other sectors they visit during the month.

Included in this newsletter is a single page (front and back) check list of the most common birds recorded in the area. I can send you a 7-page list of all recorded species with space to record all 20 sectors if you wish. I know you see the same species regularly but that is important information in building up a picture of the area, particularly the arrival dates of summer migrants. Departure dates are harder to gauge accurately.

For the benefit of other members, it would be helpful if you could send in your sightings for the newsletter – unusual species; returning summer migrants with dates; species in unusual places or habitat or any sighting you wish to share with other members.

MEMBERS BIRD NOTES

January 17	Square-tailed Kite	Murphys Creek	Michael Atzeni
January 17	Magpie Goose	Murphys Creek	Elsie Caudel
06 February 17	Eastern Bluebonnet	Tilgonda	Gloria Glass

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

Your sightings can be sent to me at thompson.nicolette8@gmail.com; or phone: 0427 343 074; or via the club's mailing address.



Chestnut Teal Lions Park, Burrill Lake
Photo Charles Dove May 2017

Bits and Pieces

TBO Online

Forum: toowoombabirdobservers.org.au

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

TBO Library

Don't forget the TBO library is now housed at the Landcare Discovery Centre located at 127b Campbell Street. This is on the western side of the railway line opposite the Mill Street Tavern. Not only is the TBO library there and available for borrowing, but so is a whole range of other books and resources on all sorts of environment and natural resource management related topics. The library can usually be accessed between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:15pm.

Club Checklist

An abbreviated version of the clubs checklist has been included in this newsletter. If you would like the full version or the excel file please contact Records Officer Nikki Thompson on:

46343074 or 0427 343 074

thompson.nicolette8@gmail.com

May Outing – Optional Campout

TBO weekend campout at Peachtrees on Saturday and Sunday 27th -28th May.

Location: Meet at Peachtrees Camping Area at 8 am on Saturday morning 27th May. Located 50 km north of Kilcoy off the Kilcoy-Murgon Rd. Travel 40km to the turnoff to Jimna Village on the right then continue on to the turnoff on the right to Peachtrees. Travel approx. 5km on gravel through hoop pine forest to the campground on Yabba Creek in the Jimna S.F.

What to bring: Wear closed walking shoes, a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, drinking water (no potable water available at the campground) ,folding chair, morning tea and lunch. Mobile phone coverage is intermittent but there is a payphone located outside the amenities block.

Accommodation: For those participants who wish to stay overnight, accommodation is available in Kilcoy at:

Kilcoy Motel 9 William St. Kilcoy Ph. 54220092

Kilcoy Gardens Motel 62 Hope

St.Kilcoy Ph.54971100

Exchange Hotel 13 William St.

Kilcoy Ph.54971331

Note that participants need to be self-sufficient on this campout weekend for their own supply of drinking water, other drinks and food as there is no general store at Jimna. There are no fuel supplies at Jimna so please remember to fuel up in Kilcoy. Allow 50 minutes travel time from Kilcoy to Peachtrees. Travel time from Toowoomba-Kilcoy via Gatton-Esk Rd. is approximately 1.75 hours.

Please contact the leader Mike McGoldrick if you plan to attend this outing either just for the Saturday or both Saturday and Sunday.

Ph. 46357371

Mob. 0417802817

These **Welcome Swallows** were hanging around in this dead tree at the dam in my front yard. There were at least 30 or more roosting in the branches at any one point

Photo: Sandy Robertson



A drive to Cecil Plains

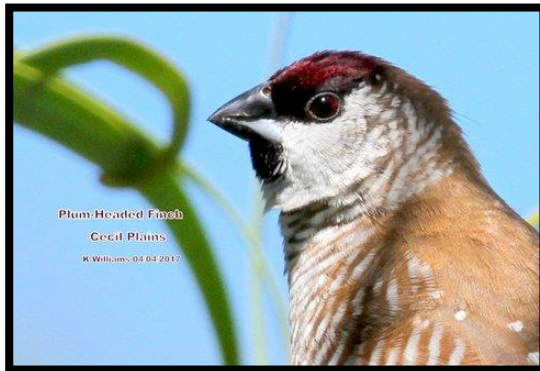
By Kevin and Kay Williams

On a recent drive out west to Cecil Plains we got some great shots of these birds of interest. We had lunch at the weir and found some great little birds enjoying the Flooded Condamine river and its weedy banks.

Some of the birds included Yellow Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Chestnut-breasted Mannikins, Plum-headed Finch, White-naped Honeyeaters and more.

Kevin and I have never seen plum headed finch so close before, it was a joy.

Here are some pictures of some of the birds seen (clockwise from top left): Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Plum-headed Finch, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Starling, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Tree Martin.



Members' Photo Page

For all bird photographers... amateur, professional and anywhere in between, please send your photos to sandy.robertson6@gmail.com



This beautiful **Southern Boobook** was photographed in a loquat tree Elsie Dallingers backyard in Gatton.
Photo: K Williams

A group of **mixed wader species**
Photo: Al Young, Cairns, Dec 2016



Magpie Goose

Magpie Goose

Ducks, Geese and Swans

Plumed Whistling Duck

Wandering Whistling Duck

Black Swan

Pink-eared Duck

Maned Duck

Pacific Black Duck

Australasian Shoveler

Grey Teal

Hardhead

Musk Duck

Megapodes

Australian Brushturkey

Quail

Brown Quail

Grebes

Australasian Grebe

Great Crested Grebe

Stork

Black-necked Stork

Ibises, Spoonbills

Australian White Ibis

Straw-necked Ibis

Glossy Ibis

Royal Spoonbill

Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Bitterns, Herons, Egrets

Nankeen Night Heron

Eastern Cattle Egret

White-necked Heron

Great Egret

Intermediate Egret

White-faced Heron

Little Egret

Pelican

Australian Pelican

Cormorants

Little Pied Cormorant

Little Black Cormorant

Australian Pied Cormorant

Great Cormorant

Darters

Australasian Darter

Kites, Hawks and Eagles

Black-shouldered Kite

Pacific Baza

Little Eagle

Wedge-tailed Eagle

Grey Goshawk

Brown Goshawk

Collared Sparrowhawk

Swamp Harrier

Spotted Harrier

Black Kite

Whistling Kite

White-bellied Sea Eagle

Rails, Crakes and Coots

Buff-banded Rail

Australasian Swamphen

Dusky Moorhen

Eurasian Coot

Buttonquail

Painted Buttonquail

Stilts, Avocets

White-headed Stilt

Red-necked Avocet

Plovers

Banded Lapwing

Masked Lapwing

Red-kneed Dotterel

Red-capped Plover

Black-fronted Dotterel

Painted-snipes

Australian Painted-snipe

Jacanas

Comb-crested Jacana

Sandpipers, Snipes

Latham's Snipe

Black-tailed Godwit

Marsh Sandpiper

Common Greenshank

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers

Silver Gull

Whiskered Tern

Pigeons, Doves

Rock Dove

White-headed Pigeon

Spotted Dove

Brown Cuckoo-Dove

Common Bronzewing

Crested Pigeon

Wonga Pigeon

Peaceful Dove

Bar-shouldered Dove

Wompoo Fruit Dove

Rose-crowned Fruit Dove

Topknot Pigeon

Cuckoos

Pheasant Coucal

Pacific Koel

Channel-billed Cuckoo

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo

Shining Bronze Cuckoo

Pallid Cuckoo

Fan-tailed Cuckoo

Brush Cuckoo

Barn Owls

Australian Masked Owl

Eastern Barn Owl

Owls

Powerful Owl

Southern Boobook

Frogmouths

Tawny Frogmouth

Nightjars

White-throated Nightjar

Owlet-nightjars

Australian Owlet-nightjar

Swifts

Fork-tailed Swift

White-throated Needletail

Rollers

Oriental Dollarbird

Kingfishers

Laughing Kookaburra

Sacred Kingfisher

Azure Kingfisher

Bee-eaters

Rainbow Bee-eater

Falcons

Nankeen Kestrel

Australian Hobby

Brown Falcon

Grey Falcon

Black Falcon

Peregrine Falcon

Cockatoos

Cockatiel

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

Glossy Black Cockatoo

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

Galah

Little Corella

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Old World Parrots

Australian King Parrot

Red-winged Parrot

Red-rumped Parrot
 Eastern Bluebonnet
 Crimson Rosella
 Pale-headed Rosella
 Eastern Rosella
 Rainbow Lorikeet
 Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
 Musk Lorikeet
 Little Lorikeet
Pittas
 Noisy Pitta
Bowerbirds
 Green Catbird
 Regent Bowerbird
 Satin Bowerbird
Australasian Treecreepers
 White-throated Treecreeper
 Brown Treecreeper
Australasian Wrens
 Variegated Fairywren
 Superb Fairywren
 Red-backed Fairywren
 White-winged Fairywren
Honeyeaters
 Scarlet Myzomela
 Eastern Spinebill
 Brown Honeyeater
 Striped Honeyeater
 Little Friarbird
 Noisy Friarbird
 Blue-faced Honeyeater
 Black-chinned Honeyeater
 Brown-headed Honeyeater
 White-throated Honeyeater
 White-naped Honeyeater
 Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
 Red Wattlebird
 Yellow-faced Honeyeater
 Bell Miner
 Noisy Miner
 Yellow-throated Miner
 Fuscous Honeyeater
 White-plumed Honeyeater
 Lewin's Honeyeater
Pardalotes
 Spotted Pardalote
 Striated Pardalote
Australian Warblers
 Speckled Warbler
 White-browed Scrubwren

Large-billed Scrubwren
 Weebill
 Brown Gerygone
 White-throated Gerygone
 Brown Thornbill
 Buff-rumped Thornbill
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill
 Yellow Thornbill
 Striated Thornbill
Australasian Babblers
 Grey-crowned Babbler
Whipbirds
 Eastern Whipbird
Woodswallows, butcherbirds
 White-breasted Woodswallow
 Masked Woodswallow
 White-browed Woodswallow
 Dusky Woodswallow
 Grey Butcherbird
 Pied Butcherbird
 Australian Magpie
 Pied Currawong
Cuckooshrikes
 Ground Cuckooshrike
 Black-faced Cuckooshrike
 Barred Cuckooshrike
 White-bellied Cuckooshrike
 Common Cicadabird
 White-winged Triller
 Varied Triller
Sittellas
 Varied Sittella
Whistlers and allies
 Crested Shriketit
 Australian Golden Whistler
 Rufous Whistler
 Little Shrikethrush
 Grey Shrikethrush
Figbirds, Orioles
 Australasian Figbird
 Olive-backed Oriole
Drongos
 Spangled Drongo
Fantails
 Willie Wagtail
 Grey Fantail
 Rufous Fantail
Monarchs & Flycatchers
 Spectacled Monarch
 Black-faced Monarch

Magpie-lark
 Leaden Flycatcher
 Restless Flycatcher
Crows, Jays
 Torresian Crow
 Australian Raven
Australian Mudnesters
 White-winged Chough
 Apostlebird
Australasian Robins
 Eastern Yellow Robin
 Hooded Robin
 Jacky Winter
 Rose Robin
 Red-capped Robin
Larks
 Singing Bush Lark
Swallows, Martins
 White-backed Swallow
 Welcome Swallow
 Fairy Martin
 Tree Martin
Reed Warblers and allies
 Australian Reed Warbler
Grassbirds and allies
 Rufous Songlark
 Brown Songlark
 Little Grassbird
 Tawny Grassbird
Cisticolas and allies
 Golden-headed Cisticola
White-eyes
 Silvereye
Starlings,
 Common Myna
 Common Starling
Flowerpeckers
 Mistletoebird
Old World Sparrows
 House Sparrow
Waxbills, Munias and allies
 Diamond Firetail
 Red-browed Finch
 Plum-headed Finch
 Zebra Finch
 Double-barred Finch
 Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Wagtails, Pipits
 Australian Pipit

Coming Events

May Outing

Date: Saturday 27th Sun 28th (Optional Camp out)

Where: Peachtrees (near Kilcoy)

Details: Meet at Peachtrees Camping Area at 8 am on Saturday morning 27th May.

Please see page 5 for more details

Leader: Mike McGoldrick. Please advise Mike if you plan on attending this outing either just on the Saturday or both the Saturday and the Sunday
Ph 46357371

Mob. 0417802817

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Deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is Friday 3rd February 2017
Please e-mail or post articles and photos to the Editor.

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Surface Mail