



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

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

No. 451
August '17

Editorial

Sandy Robertson

Hi all,
As much as I don't like the cold weather (not that that is relevant this week) I have to say I love the bird life in my garden at this time of year. It is just buzzing with activity with superb fairywrens, yellow faced honeyeaters, restless flycatchers, gerygones, brown honeyeaters, olive-backed orioles, the raucous squawk of the wattlebird AND I saw a scarlet honeyeater again the other day, flitting around in the casuarina. There are so many others plus the ones that I don't recognise or may not even know are there.

Speaking of fairywrens, most of them are in their full breeding plumage at the moment but how do you go identifying them when they are not, or identifying the juveniles and females? Well Al Young has written a great article and provided photos to help you with this. See page 10 for his article.

I hope you enjoy reading this bumper edition there are a number of outing reports and a number of great articles contributed by Al Young.

Apologies once again for the delay in getting it to you.

Happy reading
Sandy Robertson

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Date Claimers 2017

Outings calendar

August Sun 27th
Lake Broadwater, Dalby

September 30th/1st Campout
Duraki and Coolmunda

October 29th /29th
Census weekend

November 25th
Lockyer Valley and Wetlands

December TBA



Variegated Fairywren,
Highfields Falls 6/07/17

Photo: Kev Williams



TOOWOOMBA
BIRD OBSERVERS

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

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

April Outing Report

TBO Ravensbourne National Park Outing 29th April 2017

By Marie Gittins

We were a small but great group of 8 including Joe. It was wonderful to welcome Joe back and we appreciated his birding knowledge and insights.

On the Black Bean walk we had several opportunities to see the Fan-Tail Cuckoo who had been serenading us with his characteristic downward trill. Dakota sighted the Green Catbird, which many also got to see. Some members got to see the White-headed Pigeons, which others just heard. Wendy and Marie and one or two others heard the Wompoo, several of which had been sighted on our recce, but were hiding during the outing. The Brown Gerygones were abundant, but the Large-Billed Scrubwrens were more elusive, Nicci got good sighting here while most of the rest of us had good sightings on the Cedar Walk. Others birds seen or heard were Striated and Spotted Pardalote, Eastern Yellow Robin, Eastern Whipbird, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Galah, Lewin's Honeyeater, Pied Butcherbird, White-throated Treecreeper, Australian Brush-turkey, Crimson Rosella (both male and immature), White-browed Scrubwren, Satin Bowerbird, Fig bird, Pied Currawong, Rainbow Lorikeet, Grey Fantail, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Grey Shrike-thrush, Pale-headed Rosella, Brown Thornbill. During morning tea break we added Red-browed Finch, Golden Whistler, 11 Topknot Pigeons, White-naped Honeyeater, King Parrot. Possible Brush Cuckoo heard.

The special extras seen/heard on the Cedar Walk were the Crested Shrike-tit, Scarlet Honeyeater (sorry for those we only know it as Myzomela), and Superb Fairy-wren.

Marie got home without getting lost! Thanks Mike!

HENNY PENNY...“THE SKY IS FALLING”.

By Al Young

But it was neither the sky nor an acorn but a poor Lewin's Honeyeater.

Recently while birding in Highfields Falls Park with Kev Williams an adult Lewin's Honeyeater fell from a tree onto the walking track about ½ a metre in front of us. The poor bird had several last gasps then died. (See photo).

There were no signs of external injuries and the bird's plumage look very good, so without an autopsy the cause of death won't be known. Considering the large number of birds inhabiting areas where TBO members go birding very few recently dead birds are found because they probably quickly scavenged.

Now with a slightly different story but on a similar theme. Many years ago when I first came to Australia from Canada I was spotlighting in the Bunya Mountains National Park when I disturbed a large owl. It flew across the track and then I was

thumped on the head and shoulder by a fairly large solid object which turned out to be a headless Common Ringtail Possum. It was most certainly dropped by the owl. After regaining my senses (Some would doubt this has yet to occur!) I spotted a magnificent Sooty Owl perched in a nearby tree. After arriving in Australia I was told to beware of Drop Bears but never Drop Possums!



May Outing Report

Peach Trees Campout Outing 27th May 2017

By Mike McGoldrick

Photos by Kev Williams

For our first campout outing of the year, the Coordinator decided to go further afield in a bid to encourage members to be more adventurous in their birding outings. Thus at 8 am on Saturday 27th May, ten keen members assembled at the idyllic Peach Trees Campground in the Jimna SF on a fine cool morning which promised a rewarding day of birding ahead.

On arrival we were greeted with a cacophony of bird calls from **Figbirds**, **Lewin's Honeyeaters**, **Blue-faced Honeyeaters** and the omnipresent **Bell Miners**. Moving on to the short Yabba Creek circuit which traversed both sides of the creek, we crossed over the suspension bridge whilst admiring the reflection of a **Little Pied Cormorant** in the crystal clear waters which provided a great photo opportunity. The leader first spied a **White-cheeked Honeyeater** in the shrubbery along the creek bank then a **Fantail Cuckoo** posed for a few minutes. A lovely male **Rose Robin** proved a little elusive for the group while male and female **Golden Whistler** hopped amongst the creekside foliage. A mixed foraging party of LBJ's caused some consternation until a definitive identification of **Striated Thornbill**, **Brown Thornbill** and **Large-billed Scrubwren** was made. **King Parrot**, **Rainbow Lorikeet** and **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** screeched overhead in the tall eucalypt trees. Some members were lucky enough to spy **Eastern Spinebill** in the creekside Callistemon on the return journey to the campground.



After morning tea, we tackled the longer 2.5km Eugenia Track along the Yabba Creek so named for the prolific Lilly-pilly trees growing along its bank. Sightings here were a little disappointing with the highlight being a striking male Varied Triller in a White Cedar Tree. **Olive-backed Orioles** were calling in addition to **Figbird**, **Bell Miner**, **Eastern Whipbird** and **Spotted Pardalote**. Both **Scrubwrens**, **White-browed** and **Large-billed**, were present along with **Brown Gerygone**. On our return we were pleasantly surprised to add female **Regent Bowerbird** and **Brown Falcon** to the list which were seen by Nicci when she explored the short track up the hill to the campground rubbish tip!

Following a leisurely lunch to restore our strength, the group ventured along the 3.5km Araucaria Track which took us through open eucalypt forest. As the leaders passed, a quail exploded in a whirr from the Blady Grass at the side of the track but which gave Nicci and Joe enough of a brief glimpse to confirm **Painted Button-quail**, a great sighting for the day. Further along we were treated to excellent views of a party of **Variegated Fairy-wren** with the male resplendent in his electric-blue livery. The group then took a side track back to the campground and spied a party of

what appeared to be **White-cheeked Honeyeater** feeding high in the blossom of the eucalypts. Penny noticed some birds may have been **New Holland Honeyeater** which proved to be correct once Kevin scanned his photos the next day. This was a surprising sighting in view of the fact that Peach Trees is a long way from its usual coastal haunts.

After returning to the campground, those members who had commuted from Toowoomba for the day returned home while the remainder returned to the excellent camping facilities at the Jimna Base Camp after a tiring but very rewarding day of birding.



Bird List: Australian Brush-turkey, Little Pied Cormorant, **Painted Button-quail**, Bar-shouldered Dove, Wonga Pigeon, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Australian King Parrot, Little Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Laughing Kookaburra, White-throated Treecreeper, Variegated Fairy-wren, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, White-browed Scrubwren, Large-billed Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone, Brown Thornbill, **Striated Thornbill**, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Bell Miner, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, **White-cheeked Honeyeater**, **New Holland Honeyeater**, Rose Robin, Eastern Yellow Robin, Eastern Whipbird, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Restless Flycatcher, Magpie-lark, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, **Varied Triller**, Olive-backed Oriole, Figbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Torresian Crow, Regent Bowerbird, Satin Bowerbird, Red-browed Finch, Welcome Swallow, Silvereve



MALLARDS AT LOVEDAY COVE, COOBY CREEK RESERVOIR By Al Young

The Northern Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) or just Mallard is a widespread dabbling duck in the Northern Hemisphere and was introduced into Australia from the UK in the 1860's and is now widespread in eastern, south-eastern Australia and south-western WA. It also occurs in New Zealand.

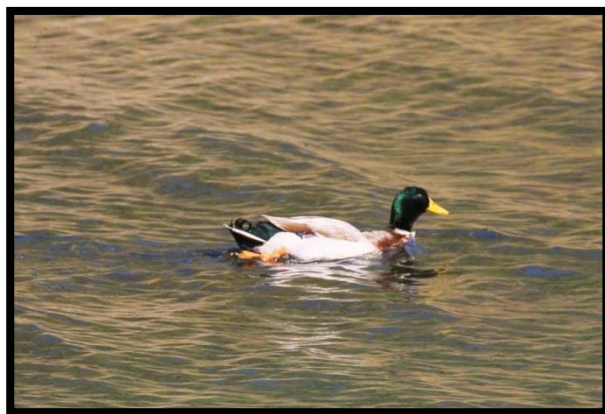
The adult male or drake Mallard is a very handsome duck with a bright green head and neck, chestnut breast and black up-curved central feathers in the tail. Mallards will hybridize with other species of domestic ducks and unfortunately also with our wild native Pacific Black Ducks. Female Mallards are superficially similar to Pacific Black Ducks but they only have a single dark streak on the face which runs through the eye. Mallard - Pacific Black Duck hybrids often can be difficult to identify.

Apparently pure bred wild Mallards are quite rare in Australia (Menkhorst, et al., 2017), however there seems to be plenty of birds in the wild that are the result of domestication, cross-breeding with other domestic and/or wild ducks (e.g. Pacific Black Duck). These birds often frequent waterbodies in towns and cities and have become habituated to the presence of people.

Between August, 1986 and December, 2000 there have been about eight sightings of Mallards in the TBO Club recording area. (Pat McConnell).

So, if you see a drake Mallard how do you know whether it is a wild bird that is part of a wild breeding population or a non-cross-bred domesticated bird that has recently escaped from captivity? I guess the short answer to this question is you can't be sure.

Recently (23/06/17) while birding at Loveday Cove, Cooby Dam I saw a drake Mallard that looked like a wild, non-crossbred bird. With fingers 'twitching' I was sure I had a new tick or 'lifer'. So over the next few weeks I observed one or two drakes in the same area on five occasions and on one occasion a single drake was interacting with four Pacific Black Ducks.



However, although keen to add a new bird to my Australian life list I noticed these mallards were apparently not afraid of people. On 26/06/17 I saw two drakes following about three to four metres behind a tinnie trawling for fish along the edge of the weed bank. They were regularly dipping their heads into the water, presumably gobbling up aquatic invertebrates stirred-up by the boat's propeller. I have never seen this behaviour before in any waterfowl. Most of the common waterfowl at Cooby Dam fly off when you get too close to the water's edge but not these Mallards.

Then on 09/07/17 I saw a single Mallard swimming very close (2-3 m) to the shore where several fishermen were trying their luck. This bird swam back and forth very close to bank as if looking for a handout.



Although these drake Mallards look like wild, non-hybrids their behaviour suggests they may have either been bred in captivity and escaped or wild birds that have been habituated to people. There are quite a few wild native ducks/waterbirds (e.g. Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Hardhead, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot.) in local wetlands that are rather tame and will readily accept the junk food we toss to them, so why not Mallards?

So, if you see a Mallard that looks like a wild, non-crossbred bird then I can't see any reason why it can't be added to your life list, but then I'm no expert on the rather fluid ticking rules of 'twitchers'.

References:

Menkhorst, P., D. Rogers, and R. Clarke. (2017). *The Australian Bird Guide*. CSIRO Publ.

July Outing Report

Outing to Highfields Falls 29th July 2017

By Sacha Dyson-Holland

Photos Kev Williams

We all arrived at the meeting point on Barber Road at 7:45am with nothing but blue skies, cool air and still winds about. We set off at 8:00am with everyone in the group of 15 hoping that at some point we would see the Powerful Owls that had been seen over the past couple of months.

Early into the walk we came upon a whipbird rummaging in the bark of a tree for breakfast oblivious to our presence and the Peaceful Doves whose calls provided a background throughout the morning.

Kevin and Kay Williams pointed out where the owlet nightjars had been nesting but no heads appeared.

Musk and Little Lorikeets were observed and we received several opportunities to view Musk Lorikeets allowing the sun to capture their beautiful colours and Little Lorikeets going into and out of nesting holes.

As we came closer to the area where the Powerful Owls had been sighted it became quieter.....unfortunately we were unable to sight them. On the way back to the cars a pair of Spotted Pardalotes were observed setting up their nesting holes and perching perfectly for some photo opportunities.

As talk switched to morning tea at the cars a Grey Goshawk was spotted above on a mid-morning flight. Morning tea was at Peacehaven alongside which was a tree with multiple nesting holes where Rainbow and Scaly Breasted Lorikeets were going in and out of within 2 metres of the group. Al could be heard voicing frustration for having left his camera in the car. A good morning enjoyed by all.

Bird list: Grey Goshawk, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Crested Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Bar-Shouldered Dove, Fan-Tailed Cuckoo, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Australian King Parrot, Pale-headed Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Musk Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, White-throated Treecreeper, Variegated Fairywren, Superb Fairywren, Red-backed Fairywren, Scarlet Myzomela, White-naped Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Thornbill, Eastern Whipbird, Pied Butcherbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Australian Golden Whistler, Grey Shrikethrust, Australasian Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Grey Fantail, Eastern Yellow Robin, Silvereye, Mistletoebird, Red-browed Finch.



Little Eagle



Powerful owl

Members Bird Notes

01-Jan-17	Topknot Pigeon (30+)	Toowoomba Range near Redwood Park	Kath O'Donnell
18-Mar-17	Spectacled Monarch (2 imm)	Cabarlah	P McConnell & Kath O'Donnell
02-Apr-17	Inland Dotterel (12+)	Alice Springs/Yulara Rd	P McConnell & Kath O'Donnell
02-Apr-17	Banded Whiteface (2)	Alice Springs/Yulara Rd	P McConnell & Kath O'Donnell
03-Apr-17	Little Buttonquail (2)	Yulara	P McConnell & Kath O'Donnell
03-Apr-17	Sandhill Grasswren	Yulara	P McConnell & Kath O'Donnell
05-Apr-17	Rufous-crowned Emu-wren	Alice Springs/Santa Teresa Rd	P McConnell & Kath O'Donnell
04-Apr-17	Cinnamon Quail-thrush	Alice Springs/Yulara Rd	P McConnell & Kath O'Donnell
04-Apr-17	Chiming Wedgebill	Alice Springs/Yulara Rd	P McConnell & Kath O'Donnell
05-Apr-17	Slaty-backed Thornbill	Alice Springs	P McConnell & Kath O'Donnell
07-Apr-17	Dusky Grasswren	Ormiston Gorge Alice Springs	P McConnell & Kath O'Donnell
07-Apr-17	Painted Finch	Ormiston Gorge Alice Springs	P McConnell & Kath O'Donnell
11-May-17	Pacific Baza (7)	McEwen S F	Alastair Silcox
23-May-17	Hooded Robin (3)	Spring Creek Rd	Michael McGoldrick & Nicci Thompson
23-May-17	Diamond Firetail	Spring Creek Rd	Michael McGoldrick & Nicci Thompson
26-May-17	Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (50+)	Warrego Hwy at Helidon	Michael McGoldrick & Nicci Thompson

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;](mailto:thompson.nicolette8@gmail.com)

OR phone: 0427 343 074; or via the club's mailing address.

Thanks
Nicci

Raptor Census Report

By Nicci Thompson

Both days of the weekend, 24th-25th June, were pleasant days to be out driving while watching the skies for raptors. The table below deals with the overall who, when and where of the weekend.

	DATE	LEADER	WEATHER	DISTANCE IN KLMS	PARTICIPANTS
EASTERN	24-Jun-17	Mick Atzeni	Almost cloudless sky, warm day, light wind	105	Olive Booth, Elsie Dallinger, Colin Hughes
NORTHERN	25-Jun-17	Pat McConnell	Almost cloudless sky, warm day, light wind	166	Kath O'Donnell
SOUTHERN	24-Jun-17	Mike McGoldrick	Almost cloudless sky, warm day, light wind	134	Al Young, Marie Gittens
WESTERN	24-Jun-17	Nicci Thompson	Almost cloudless sky, warm day, light wind	310	Kevin & Kay Williams, Alastair Silcox, Malcom & Marj Willson, Bernice Seaton

TBO members prepping for Raptor Census

Photos: Kev Williams



I have decided to produce this **Comparison Table of Sightings** below to illustrate the very big differences in the total numbers and in each sector between 2016 and 2017. The increase in the total number of raptors sighted was basically the result of the large number of Black Kites seen in the Eastern Section ... 183 as opposed to 16 in 2016; and the large number of Nankeen Kestrels seen in the Western Section ... 196 being 132 more than in the previous year. Sightings of all other species declined apart from the 3 Black Falcons counted in the Eastern Section ... one more than those recorded in the Western Section in 2016, and the Swamp Harrier which wasn't seen in 2016. The most significant decline in numbers was the Black-shouldered Kites, Brown Falcons and Whistling Kites. Sightings of each of these species were less than half of those recorded the previous year.

Undoubtedly the team who surveyed the Eastern Sector saw the greatest variety of raptors - 11 species and 216 birds. The western team counted 224 birds but this was made up of only 4 different species. Both the Northern and Southern teams sighted 3 different species to give them respective totals of 19 and 40 individual birds.

Species		Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Black-shouldered Kite	2016	3	17	22	15	57
	2017	2	-	3	6	11
Black Kite	2016	16	-	-	15	31
	2017	183	-	-	12	195
Whistling Kite	2016	12	3	-	24	39
	2017	10	1	-	-	11
Spotted Harrier	2016	-	-	2	1	3
	2017	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Harrier	2016	-	-	-	-	-
	2017	1	-	-	-	1
White-bellied Sea Eagle	2016	4	1	-	-	5
	2017	2	-	-	-	2
Brown Goshawk	2016	-	3	-	-	3
	2017	1	-	-	-	1
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2016	3	3	1	-	7
	2017	2	2	1	-	5
Brown Falcon	2016	-	-	2	25	27
	2017	2	-	-	10	12
Black Falcon	2016	-	-	-	2	2
	2017	3	-	-	-	3
Nankeen Kestrel	2016	48	24	34	64	132
	2017	10	16	36	196	258
Total Number of Raptors	2016	51	61	48	146	306
	2017	216	19	40	224	499

The following page is included to give you the raw data behind the final results in the table above. It should give you a fairly accurate picture of where the raptors were on the last weekend in June. Sincere thanks to all those who took part ... there wouldn't be anything to report without you. Thank you especially to the leaders who planned the day and organised the recording of the data.

Fairywren Identification

SOME TIPS ON IDENTIFYING SUPERB, VARIEGATED AND RED-BACKED FAIRYWRENS.

Story and Photos By Al Young

For many people adult male fairywrens are their favourite native bird because males in breeding plumage are very spectacular and are quite easy to identify. However, adult females, juveniles and males in non-breeding or 'eclipse' plumage are often difficult to sort out. They often just called LBJ's (Little Brown Jobs) and consigned to the too hard basket.

In our area (Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Regional Council Areas) adult male Variegated, Superb and Red-backed Fairywrens in breeding plumage are quite easy to tell apart. Red-backed males are black, including the tail with a crimson back. Both adult Variegated and Superb males are basically black and blue with Variegated males having a chestnut patch on the shoulders.

Identifying adult females and non-breeding males in 'eclipse' plumage is often very difficult especially when there is no adult male in breeding plumage with the females and also if they are on the move through the understory which is often the case.

Adult female Red-backed Fairywrens are the plainest fairywrens in our area with no brown/chestnut lores or eye-ring. Brown tail with no hint of blue.

Just when I thought I had sorted out the differences between females, juveniles and eclipse male Variegated and Superb Fairywrens an 'oddity' turned up at Highfields Falls recently. After viewing photos of a party of Variegated Fairywrens, consisting of an adult male in breeding plumage, an adult male in eclipse plumage, two adult females and one 'oddity' that I couldn't identify was in the photo. This 'odd' bird looked like a female but it had a black bill, a small area of chestnut-coloured lores and no obvious eye-ring. Initially I thought it might be a male in 'eclipse' plumage because it had a black bill but apparently no male fairywrens have chestnut lores. This bird had a very short tail which is indicative of juveniles. So, I think this 'oddity' was a juvenile female with a black bill that will become reddish-orange as the bird matures. The bill colour of adult female Variegated and Superb Fairywrens is reddish/tan orange, not black.

So, as a result of this experience a few id tips might be helpful.

What are the difference between adult female Variegated and Superb Fairywrens?

Adult females of both species have grey/brown plumage (LBJ's) with a blue wash on the tail, but the main differences are:

- Adult female Variegated Fairywrens have chestnut coloured lores and eye-ring which are darker than the reddish-orange bill. Also, the tail is light blue.
- Adult female Superb Fairywrens have lores and eye-ring that are orange-tan similar to the colour of the bill. Also, the tail tends to be darker – brownish with a slight blue tinge; often difficult to see the blue colour. So, compare the colour of the lores and eye-ring with the colour of the bill; darker lores and eye-ring compared to the bill equals Variegated females. Often difficult to see when they are sprinting through the undergrowth.

What are the differences between adult males in non-breeding or 'eclipse' plumage:

- Red-backed males in full 'eclipse' are virtually indistinguishable from adult females, but as the moult progresses their plumage becomes rather patchy.

- In both species of Variegated and Superb Fairywrens 'eclipse' males can look like females but tend to be greyer in body colour and have black bills and no chestnut lores or eye-ring. Sometimes the 'eclipse' male Variegated has a faint whitish eye-ring.
- While in transition from 'eclipse' to full breeding plumage both species take on a rather scruffy appearance with patches of blue and darker plumage.

These identification features are quite easy to see when the birds are perched nearby for a few moments but difficult to see when they are constantly on the move which is often the case. Take your camera because you will be surprised how it might help with difficult id's.

A very good reference to identifying Fairywrens is: Sean Dooley (2013). *Fifty Shades of Brown. Identifying female fairy-wrens*. Australian Birdlife. Vol. 2 No.2 June 2013.

Note: Fairy-wrens or Fairywrens? Take your pick.



Red-backed Fairywren Adult Male



Red-backed Fairywren Adult Female



Superb Fairywren Adult Female



Superb Fairywren Adult Male



Superb Fairywren Eclipse Male



Variegated Fairywren Adult Female



Variegated Fairywren Adult Female



Variegated Fairywren Eclipse Male



Variegated Fairywren. From left to right eclipse male, adult female, juvenile female "oddy"

Gypsy Travels

By Norma and Wes Sturdee

After a long period of being unable to "hit the road" due to circumstances, Wes and I finally found an opportunity to hitch up the van and head for destinations unknown. We had a month available and headed to Yarraman where we stayed at the local caravan park with friends for a few days.

Our birding highlights there were sightings of a Azure Kingfisher, Diamond Doves, White-naped Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Jacky Winter and Grey-crowned Babbler.

Moving on, we camped 2 nights at the Stuart River not far from Kingaroy and added King Parrot, Variegated Fairy-wren, White-throated Gerygone, White-throated Honeyeater and Mistletoe Bird to our list.

Our next destination was Mingo Crossing on the Burnett River, a scenic camp with powered and unpowered sites and a variety of habitats. Here we were disappointed that the usual water birds along the river were in short supply, but we were amply compensated with observations of Whistling Kite, wedge-tailed Eagle, Black-shouldered Kite, Red-backed Fairy-Wren, Australasian Pipit, Zebra Finch, Fairy-Martin and Golden-headed Cisticola. While there, we had a day's outing to Mt. Perry, north of Mingo Crossing, and on the dirt road spotted a small waterhole that looked interesting and worthy of a closer look. This proved to be the case with a sighting of a lone Jacana hiding amongst the lily-pads, and a Kestrel staking out the area from a tall gum tree.

A pair of Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos greeted us at Mt. Perry along with Blue-faced Honeyeaters and Figbirds.

Our plans to travel to Calliope Rest Area near Gladstone were thwarted by inclement weather and reports of flooding, so we made an executive decision and booked into the Burrum River Caravan Park at Howard. Over the years this park has always provided some worthwhile birding and we were delighted to see a Square-tailed Kite, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Little Shrike-Thrush and Eastern Whipbird while there. Using this park as our base, we drove to Burrum Heads on the coast where we noticed a White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Scarlet Honeyeaters, Pied Oystercatcher and a pair of Brahminy Kites.

Our final destination, Bjelke-Peterson Dam, yielded a Great-Crested Grebe, Restless Flycatcher, Grey Teal, Gull-billed Tern and a great flock of Chestnut-breasted Mannikins.

Sadly, our month of being gypsies drew to a close and we returned home exhilarated and renewed by our wanderings, and happy with our sightings of 106 species.



Members' Photo Page

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



Brown Falcon – Lockyer Siding
Photo: Mick Atzeni

Bits and Pieces

TBO Online

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

Forum: toowoombabirdobservers.org.au

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

If you would like the excel file to use for recording birds for club records please contact Records Officer Nikki Thompson on:

46343074 or 0427 343 074

thompson.nicolette8@gmail.com

Coming Events

AUGUST OUTING

Location: Lake Broadwater Conservation Park. Meet at The Wilgas Campground at 8:15am for 8:30am start on Sunday morning 27th August

Directions: From Dalby, travel 20 km on the Moonie Highway to the Lake Broadwater Rd. turnoff on the left. Proceed 8 km to The Wilgas Campground turnoff on the left.

We will bird along the track to The Overflow before returning to the Campground for morning tea (toilets and picnic tables available here). Following morning tea, we will proceed to the Recreation Area at the Lake to observe waterbirds from the shore and at the bird hide before having lunch (toilets and picnic tables available here)

What to bring: Hat, closed walking shoes, sunscreen, insect repellent, drinking water, morning tea and lunch, folding chair, binoculars and scope (if you have one)

The day should be a good opportunity to observe western bush bird species as well as waterbirds.

Note that you should allow 2 hours travel time in total owing to ongoing roadworks on the Warrego Highway on the Toowoomba to Dalby stretch.

Please contact the leader Mike McGoldrick if you plan to attend this outing:

Ph: 46357371

Mob: 0417802817

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