



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

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

No. 452
October '17

Editorial

Sandy Robertson

Hi all,
Its census time!!!

If you would like to be involved in the census this weekend, anytime between and including this Friday through to Monday, to record bird sightings in the Toowoomba area, please contact President Olive Booth on 4633 0553.

This is essentially a presence absence survey, however if you are keen enough to record actual numbers, your recordings can then link in with the Birdlife Australia, Great Aussie Backyard Bird Count which also began this week.

Don't forget to send in photos and stories to share with other members.

Happy reading
Sandy Robertson

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Welcome to new members

Steven Doyle

And a belated welcome to

Janelle and Neville Foster

(who joined in March)

and

Helen Procter-Brown

(who joined last year and has already joined us on a few outings)

Date Claimers 2017

Outings calendar

October 28th /29th
Census weekend

November 25th
Lockyer Valley and Wetlands

Please send in your ideas or suggestions for outings for 2018.

If you would like to lead an outing to your favourite birding spot, please get in touch with the executive.

Also annual subscriptions were due in August. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership now.

New challenge coming soon



**TOOWOOMBA
BIRD OBSERVERS**

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www.toowoombabirdobservers.org

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

August Outing Report

LAKE BROADWATER CONSERVATION PARK OUTING 27TH AUGUST 2017

By Mike McGoldrick

Photos by Al Young

Lake Broadwater is the only naturally occurring freshwater inland lake found on the drier Western Darling Downs; the lake covers approximately 350 hectares and when full is up to 3m deep. Generally, vegetation cover ranges from small patches of Brigalow to fairly open treeless areas. Soil types range from heavy black soil to light loams over clays interspersed with sand and gravel ridges. About 240 species of birds have been recorded on the park; the number and variety is due to the wide range of habitat types.

A group of 10 keen birders assembled on a cool fine Sunday morning with some high overcast at The Wilgas Campground, a small camping area at the northern end of the lake called *The Overflow*. The tone of the outing was previously set on the way to the venue when the leader's car encountered the first of the western bush bird species to be sighted, a group of White-winged Trillers (male, female and immature) in the same tree on the road verge!

As we moved along the track we heard Weebill calling from the tall eucalypt trees while Grey Fantail fluttered about in their characteristic fussy way. A strange bird hopping in the branches of a casuarina tree was finally revealed as a female Golden Whistler. Silveryeye and Yellow Thornbill foraged amongst the foliage of the wilgas while a Rainbow Bee-eater recently returned from its northerly migration posed on a high tree branch showing off its lovely iridescent plumage in the morning sunlight. A little further along a mixed flock of White-browed Woodswallow and White-breasted Woodswallow soared overhead hawking for insects. An unfamiliar call caught our attention and some time elapsed before we could make a positive identification of an Inland Thornbill (another western bush bird) from its rufous rump and streaked breast and absence of the rufous forehead as occurs in the Brown Thornbill. The call is also quite different from the latter.

At The Overflow of the lake bounded here by mature river red-gum and blue gum, we observed quite a few species of waterbirds- Grey Teal, Pink-eared Duck, Eurasian Coot, Black Swan, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, White-headed Stilt- while white masses of Little Corella screeched overhead. We were intrigued to notice a Striated Pardalote disappearing into a small hollow in a dead tree trunk, presumably nesting inside. On the return trip to the campground, we added Sacred Kingfisher, Australian King Parrot, and another western species, a lovely Red-winged Parrot.

After a restorative morning tea, the group moved on to the bird hide at the southern end of the lake to observe the many waterbirds present. Numerous Pink-eared Duck, Grey Teal, Black Swan and Eurasian Coot were abundant together with Australian Pelican, Straw-necked Ibis, Dusky Moorhen, Purple Swamphen and Masked Lapwing. Closer inspection with the scope revealed a pair of Australasian Shoveler, male and female. An Australian Reed Warbler posed on top of some reeds while a flock of White-browed Woodswallow swooped to drink from their perch in a dead tree. The group then adjourned for lunch after which some of the party departed for home.



Pink-eared Duck



White-browed Woodswallow

The rest of the group under co-leader Malcolm Wilson's expert guidance decided to explore the South-West track of the park through bull oak and cypress pine habitat over sandy loam. Although birds were pretty scarce here, Malcolm stopped the party at intervals to show us various points of interest. The leader then spied a flash of white wing bar from a bird crossing the track so we all alighted from the vehicles for everyone to get excellent views of a beautiful male Red-capped Robin in full breeding plumage, together with his rather nondescript female partner- this was definitely the highlight of the day! On the way back to the recreation area we sighted a group of White-winged Chough to top off what we all agreed had been a very rewarding day of birding. The final count was 76 species, thus illustrating the importance of observing birds in different habitats. My thanks go to Malcolm Wilson for acting as co-leader for the outing.

Bird list: Black Swan, Pink-eared Duck, Maned Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Shoveler, Grey Teal, Australasian Grebe, Straw-necked Ibis, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Australian Pelican, Little Pied Cormorant, Whistling Kite, Australasian Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, White-headed Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Banded Lapwing, Crested Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Laughing Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Cockatiel, Galah, Little Corella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Australian King Parrot, Pale-headed Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Red-winged Parrot, Scarlet Myzomela, Brown Honeyeater, Striped Honeyeater, Little Friarbird, Noisy Friarbird, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Yellow-throated Miner, Striated Pardalote, Weebill, Yellow Thornbill, Inland Thornbill, Grey-crowned Babbler, White-breasted Woodswallow, White-browed Woodswallow, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, White-winged Triller, Australian Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Magpie-lark, Torresian Crow, White-winged Chough, Apostlebird, Eastern Yellow Robin, Red-capped Robin, Welcome Swallow, Tree Martin, Australian Reed Warbler, Silvereye, Common Myna, Mistletoebird, Double-barred Finch, Australian Pipit



Banded Plover



Australasian Shoveller (Male and Female)



Red-capped Robin (Male)

September Outing Report

**2 day Club outing Durikai State Forest/Lake Coolmunda
30th September and 1st October, 2017.**

**By Kay Williams
Photos by Kev Williams**

Saturday saw 10 people meet at Karara Recreation area at 8am.

Lorraine Welsh a local lady and keen Birdwatcher etc. joined us to show us some of the better birding spots in her view.

First we went over the Railway line in a northerly direction and found a few birds in the very dry bush and farm land **Jacky Winter, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Rose Robin** to name a few. On our return to the rail Line we stopped to show some newer members the ancient rock formations and fern fossils. A lot harder to find these days.

Next we went to the reed dam. The **Honeyeaters** were out in force. **Spiny-cheeked, Striped, Brown-headed, Yellow-tufted, Blue-faced Honeyeaters** and more. At this point, the wind was getting a little stronger and harder for birding.

A little further down the road, Lorraine introduced us to the **Durikai Mallee** (*Eucalyptus ifera*) and the **Green Mallee** (*E. viridus*)

The green Mallee was in the area that the Black Honeyeater has been seen recently, but, alas, not today.

Next we ventured along Carbean Road as far as the gates, with a short stroll to a small dam. A few honeyeaters were taking advantage of the water. **Speckled warbler, Brown Treecreeper and Variegated fairy wrens** were birds of note down this road.

Back to the Karara Recreation area for lunch and a wander along the creek, before the committee had a meeting in the shade of the trees and out of the wind.

Bird total for the day 69 Species

Sunday found a smaller but enthusiastic group of 7 people. It had started to drizzle off and on but not enough to deter us.

Our first stop was at Gore, near the railway line in the trees was a **Turquoise Parrot**, unfortunately too quick for the photographers. What a great start to the day.

From Gore we proceeded to do the loop around the Coolmunda Dam from the easterly end. By the time we got to the Bracker Creek bridge we had seen, All three **Ibises, Brown Quail, both Butcher-birds**, and many more.

Bracker creek was very full so the little waders that we normally see there were not present. **Scaly-breasted Lorikeets and Fairy Martins** in large numbers. **Whiskered Terns** were very busy up and down the area.

Along the road we had many a stop to get a better view of more birds of interest. Morning tea was held in the dry of a covered table at the boat ramp. Out to the Coolmunda Conservation Park, to view the trees and birdlife, the little dam was bone dry.

Back to Omanama siding to look for White-winged Fairywren in Dr Owens Paddock. The rain was getting a little heavier by now so Olive, Elsie and Colin decided to call it a day and head for home

And then there were 4 of us, we spent quite a bit of time wandering around the paddock looking at the birds in around and on the water and also in the bushes. **White-winged Fairywrens, Pipits, Woodswallows, Cockatiels, Great Crested grebes** were some of the birds we saw.

The rain finally sent us back for cover, lunch, the final bird call, and home.

Birds seen over the weekend:

Black swan, Pink-eared Duck, Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Hardhead, Brown Quail, Australasian Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Cattle Egret, White-necked Heron, Great Egret, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Pelican, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Pied Cormorant, Great Cormorants, Darter, Black-shouldered Kite, Red-rumped Parrot, Eastern Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, White-throated Treecreeper, Brown Treecreeper, Variegated Fairywren, Superb Fairywren, White-winged Fairywren,

Striped Honeyeater, Little and Noisy Friarbirds, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Fuscous Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, Yellow-Tufted Honeyeater, and White-plumed Honeyeater.

Striated Pardalote, Spotted Pardalote, Speckled Warbler, Whistling Kite, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, White-headed Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterel, Silver gull, Whiskered, Caspian, and Gull-billed Tern, Crested Pigeon, Weebill, White – Throated Gerygone, Buff-rumped Thornbill; Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill, Grey Crowned Babbler, Masked Woodswallow, Dusky Woodswallow, Grey Butcherbird Pied Butcherbird, Magpie, Pied Currawong, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, White-winged Triller, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Olive-backed Oriole, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Pallid Cuckoo, Dollarbird, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Azure Kingfisher, Cockatiel, Galah, Little Corella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, King Parrot, Red-winged Parrot, Turquoise Parrot, Magpie Lark, Leaden Flycatcher, Restless Flycatcher, Torresian Crow, Australian Raven, White-winged Chough, Apostlebird, Eastern Robin, Yellow Robin, Rose Robin, Jacky Winter, Welcome Swallow, Fairy Martin, Tree Martin, Rufous Songlark, Silvereye, Common Myna, Starling, Mistletoebird, and Australasian Pipit.

What a lovely list .

Kevin and I would like to thank all who attended this weekend.





Members Bird Notes

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES:

Species	Date	Location	Observers
Red-winged Parrot x 2	29.07.17	Zimms Corner, Kingsthorpe	RH; TR
Banded Lapwing x 4;	29.07.17	Devon Park Road, Oakey	RH; TR
Turquoise Parrot x 3	01.08.17	McEwan State Forest, Stoneleigh	RH
Turquoise Parrot x 5	17.08.17	Wondul Range N.P.	RH
White-browed Babbler x 5	12.08.17	Hickling Lane, Wyberba	RH; D& HG
Masked Owl (adult female)	09.09.17	Bridle Trail, Picnic Point Toowoomba	RH
White-winged Black Tern	17.09.17	farm dam on Armstrong Street, Dalby	RH; PM
Square-tailed Kite	17.09.17	Eulo-Cunnamulla Road	RH; PM
Bourke Parrot x 5	19.09.17	Boorara section, Currawinya N.P.	RH; MA
Pectoral Sandpiper x 2	20.09.17	Lake Karatta, Currawinya N.P	RH; PM
Red-browed Treecreeper	27.09.17	Crows Nest N.P	RH; SJ

MA, M. Ambrose; **DG**, D. Gaydon; **HG**, H. Gaydon; **RH**, R. Hobson; **SJ**, S. Johnson; **PM**, P. Miller; **TR**, T. Reis.

TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

Observer's Name: Rod Hobson

Address: 33 Webb Street, Toowoomba Q4350

Telephone: (07) 46356270

E-mail: thehobsons@bigpond.com

Other Observers Present: Terry Reis

Species Name: White-winged Fairy-wren *Malurus leucopterus*

Date of Observation: 29th July 2017

Location (Be as precise as possible- latitude & longitude if possible): WGS84 – S27.410796 x E151.679530; +/- 200 metres

Habitat Description: Heavily grazed cattle paddock; birds seen on flat area abutting road flitting between rank tussock grass and chenopods (saltbush sp. – Ruby Saltbush?). Extensive bare areas between tussocks and saltbush – typical overgrazed pasture of the eastern Darling Downs. Also a habitat much preferred by this species.

Sighting Conditions (weather, visibility etc): A clear, warm winter's day; sunny; 3/8 cloud cover. No breeze/wind. Excellent viewing conditions.

Optical Aids Used (Binoculars, telescope, camera): Leica 10x (R.H.); Swarovski 10x (T.R.)

Distance/Height from Bird: 5-8 metres

Duration of Observation: 3-5 minutes

Number of Birds Observed: 2

Description of Bird: Both birds either immature males/females or mature females. Nondescript; pale dove grey on head, back and wings; slight blueish cast to tail; pale throat and belly.

How was it distinguished from similar species? Habitat was very typical for this species; only likely other local species of *Malurus* likely to be found in this habitat is *melanocephalus* and these birds far too pale in all respects for this species. Ditto for other two local fairy-wrens viz. *lamberti* and *cyaneus*. Habitat atypical for these last birds, as well. Call of *leucopterus* also quite recognisable.

What is the extent of your familiarity with this species? Both observers have had extensive experience with the fairy-wrens of southern Queensland including this species

What was the activity of the bird under observation? Flitting between and through the chenopods restlessly. Stopping for short intervals within and on the chenopods and one bird, on a single occasion perching fleetingly on a barbed-wire barrier fence. Both birds calling sporadically.

Reference material used: HANZAB

Other comments: R.H. saw these birds in this same location on 24th July 2017. These particular birds observed in this general area on several occasions by other birdwatchers prior to these dates, as well. A well-coloured male has been photographed at this location, also.

If required, are you able to provide other evidence e.g. photograph, video or taped call of the bird you saw or heard? No

Thank you for submitting your record which will now be distributed to the Club's Rarities Committee. The committee will use various means to assess the record and may seek additional information where necessary.



"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Library



Bird identification & management

Highlighting resources available from QMDC's lending library

We would like to bring to your attention the wonderful resources that QMDC have on offer in our library. In particular, relating to identifying and managing birds. These resources are free to borrow and we would be happy to post your selection to you if you are unable to come into our office. For a more comprehensive list of resources and borrowing conditions please check out our website: <http://www.qmdc.org.au/resources/library-services.html>



These featured resources belong to the Toowoomba Bird Observers collection. We are in the process of helping TBO digitise their entire newsletter archive. For their latest news and events go to: <https://www.facebook.com/toowoombabirdobservers>

What bird call is that 1987, by T Lindsey
Features 2 CD's with birdcalls from the sound library of the CSIRO.

Wild birds and the land 1956, by FH Lancum MBE
First published 1948 and stressing the importance of birds even with post war economies.

Bush Walks in the Toowoomba Region
With notes on natural history (both new and old editions).

A field guide to Australian Birds – volumes 1 and 2 1970 by Peter Slater
Individual maps indicate the Australian range of each species.

Handbook of Australian, New Zealand & Antarctic Birds: volumes 1-7
Known as HANZAB, is the pre-eminent scientific reference on birds in the region. HANZAB is the largest project ever undertaken by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (RAOU), also known as Birds Australia. It was prepared over 20 years by teams of full and part-time writers, editors and artists, and published by Oxford University Press in seven volumes between 1990 and 2006

Similar resources can be found under these subjects:

- [Birds identification](#) and [birdwatching](#)
- [Wildlife conservation](#)
- [Natural Resource Management](#)
- [Sustainable Agriculture](#)

QMDC published books Birds of the Maranoa / of the Darling downs / on Cotton Farms available for \$23ea



Produced by: Roxane Blackley, March 2017

For further information, contact QMDC on (07) 4637 6200 or visit <http://www.qmdc.org.au/resources/library-services.html>. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, QMDC accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document. © Copyright Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Inc.



Members Photo Page

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

Haven't received any this month, so will share some of mine from the Durikai outing... Editor



Joanna Goanna



Silvereye



Durikai Mallee flowering

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 the Secretary Col Hughes

Coming Events

October Census – Please contact Olive Booth for details

November – Christmas breakup

Breakfast with the birds at Lake Apex.
Meet at the BBQ area between 6:30 and 7:00am
BYO breakfast items – BBQs available.
Itinerary will include Lake Apex and then other locations in the Lockyer Valley depending on the desires of the group present.

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Librarian	Vacant	
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Deadline for articles for the next edition is Friday 24th November 2017
Please e-mail or post articles and photos to the Editor.

**If undeliverable return to
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Surface Mail