



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

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

No. 453
December '17

Editorial

Sandy Robertson

Festive season's greetings to everyone!
I trust you have all had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to bright New year

Thanks to Pat MC Connell and Olive Booth for the Census report contained herein. Apologies for the small print on the census report table...it was the only way to fit it in. Please note this is a presence absence survey. Sectors are numbered from 1 to 20 and where a bird was sighted in a sector it is noted by the sector number so that you don't need to keep scrolling back to the top to see which sector the bird was sighted in.

Very popular photographed bird this month the Baillon's Crake and Spotted Crake plenty of pics provided by members of these two birds, the Baillon's Crake being normally quite secretive and not easily spotted.

The executive committee would like to acknowledge Margie Easton for her role as librarian in the club and for her work organizing digitization of the club newsletters with QMDC.

We would also like to thank Kev and Kay Williams for their wonderful presentation of their recent birding trip to the N.T. at the AGM

And also thank Nicci Thompson for her work as Records Officer and previous to that Outings Coordinator.

The club cannot function without people like this willing to give of their time and expertise. Their contributions are much appreciated

Happy reading
Sandy Robertson

This Issue

October Census Report

November Outing Report

Bird Notes

Bits and Pieces

Members Photo Page

Nomenclature

Outings take place on the last weekend of the month and usually alternate between the Saturday or the Sunday but this will generally be determined by the availability of the outing leader and/or the venue of the outing. If you would like to lead any of the outings or have any alternative suggestions, please get in touch asap with the outings coordinator Mike McGoldrick

Proposed Outing Calendar for 2018

Jan – Prince Henry Drive – Beginners outing

Feb – Collingwood Road/Fifteen Mile Road/White Mountain Road

Mid Feb Social outing – Lunch at Wilsonton Hotel

March – Toorbul (Overnight) – Waders

April – Glen Lomond Park/Escarpment Parks

May – Highfields Fall Park

June – Raptor Census Weekend

July – Rogers Reserve/Charmaine Court Reserve

August Myall Park Botanic Gardens (weekend Campout)

September – Kingsthorpe – private property

October – Species census weekend

November – Christmas breakup – venue TBA



TOOWOOMBA
BIRD OBSERVERS

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

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

October Census Report

Toowoomba Bird Census 28–29 October 2017.

Twenty two people participated in this year's Annual census that took place over the weekend of 28-29 October. An impressive total of 171 species was seen, and despite the census now running for many years 38 new sector records were recorded. These are shown in red in the below table. All sectors except W1 were surveyed.

Highlights included Mallard, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Spotted Harrier, Swamp Harrier (rarely reported in October), Baillons Crake, Black-tailed Native-hen (very rarely recorded locally), Little Bronze-Cuckoo (one of eight cuckoo species recorded over the weekend), Sooty Owl, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, White-browed Woodswallow, White-winged Chough and Plum-headed Finch.

It is interesting to note that Little Corella was recorded in nine sectors. It is certainly a species that has become more numerous since it was first reported locally in the early 1990s. The earliest record I can find in the Club newsletters is a small flock seen at Helidon on 1/10/1990. It was officially recorded (i.e. seen by two Club members) as a new Club species on 12/08/1996.

A big thank you to all who participated. It was a very successful weekend indeed.

Pat McConnell and Olive Booth

Species	W1	N1	N2	N3	N4	W2	C1	C3	C5	C7	W3	C2	C4	C6	C8	W4	S1	S2	S3	S4	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Australian Brush-turkey			3					8					13	14						19	20
Brown Quail			3																		
Plumed Whistling-Duck				4						10					15		17				
Black Swan										10											
Australian Wood Duck		2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Mallard				4																	
Pacific Black Duck			3	4			7		9	10	11		13		15	16	17	18	19		
Grey Teal							7			10						16	17				
Pink-eared Duck										10							17				
Hardhead			3				7			10			13		15			18			
Australasian Grebe			3				7			10					15	16					20
Darter							7			10											
Little Pied Cormorant			3				7		9	10			13								
Little Black Cormorant										10			13			16					
Australian Pelican									9	10					15						
White-faced Heron				4			7			10						16		18			
Little Egret										10											
White-necked									9	10											

Heron																				
Great Egret			3					9	10											
Intermediate Egret									10					16						
Cattle Egret				4			7	9	10	11		13		15		17	18			
Australian White Ibis			3				7	8	9	10			13		15					
Straw-necked Ibis			3	4			6	7		9	10	11	12	13	14	15			18	
Royal Spoonbill									9											
Yellow-billed Spoonbill									9	10								17		
Pacific Baza				4					9				13					18	19	
Black-shouldered Kite		2								10	11					16	17			
Black Kite		2	3				6	7	8		10				15	16				
Whistling Kite		2									10				15					
White-bellied Sea-Eagle										10										
Spotted Harrier												11						17		
Swamp Harrier										10										
Brown Goshawk										10										
Grey Goshawk			3																	
Wedge-tailed Eagle				4					8		10	11							19	
Brown Falcon														14		16	17			
Australian Hobby										10										
Nankeen Kestrel			3				6	7			10	11	12			15	16	17	18	
Baillon's Crake										10										
Purple Swampphen										10				13						
Dusky Moorhen								7		9	10			13						
Black-tailed Native-hen								7												
Eurasian Coot			3					7			10			13						
Black-winged Stilt									9	10										
Red-necked Avocet										10										
Black-fronted Dotterel			3	4						9										
Red-kneed Dotterel									9	10										
Masked Lapwing		2	3	4				7	8	9	10			13	14	15		17	18	19

Rock Dove			3				7			10		12				16	17				
Spotted Turtle-Dove			3	4			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		16	17	18		20	
Brown Cuckoo-Dove			3																	20	
Common Bronzewing			3	4						10											
Crested Pigeon		2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
Peaceful Dove			3	4	5		7		9	10		12	13		15						
Bar-shouldered Dove		2	3	4				8	9	10		12	13	14	15				18	19	20
Wonga Pigeon																				19	20
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo			3					8												18	
Galah		2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				17	18	19	
Little Corella		2	3	4			7			10		12	13		15				18		
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo		2	3				7	8	9	10		12	13			16			18	19	
Cockatiel			3				7	8		10		12				16	17				
Rainbow Lorikeet		2	3				7	8	9	10		12	13				17	18			
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet		2	3	4				8		10			13	14						18	
Musk Lorikeet			3																		
Little Lorikeet			3	4				8													
Australian King-Parrot			3	4				8		10		12	13	14						19	20
Pale-headed Rosella		2	3	4	5		7			10	11	12	13	14	15				18		20
Red-rumped Parrot			3			6	7					12					17	18			
Pallid Cuckoo								9													
Brush Cuckoo			3	4	5			8													19
Fan-tailed Cuckoo			3	4																	
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo				4				8													
Little Bronze-Cuckoo			3	4																	
Common Koel		2	3	4	5			8	9	10			13								19
Channel-billed Cuckoo			3					8	9				13								19
Pheasant Coucal			3	4			7		9	10			13					17	18	19	20

Southern Boobook			3					8				13								
Sooty Owl			3																	
Barn Owl														16						
Tawny Frogmouth		2	3						10			13								
Azure Kingfisher									10											
Laughing Kookaburra		2	3		5	6	7	8	9	10		13	14	15		17	18	19	20	
Sacred Kingfisher			3	4					9	10		12	13	14	15			18		
Rainbow Bee-eater			3	4					9	10		13	14	15						
Dollarbird			3	4			7		9	10		12	13		15			18		
White-throated Treecreeper			3	4	5			8				12							19	
Superb Fairy-wren		2	3	4		6		8	9	10		12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
Variegated Fairy-wren					5			8		10		12	13					18		
Red-backed Fairy-wren		2		4					9	10		12	13		15				19	
Spotted Pardalote			3				7	8						14					20	
Striated Pardalote				4				8	9	10		13	14					18		
White-browed Scrubwren			3	4	5			8		10		12	13						19	20
Large-billed Scrubwren								8											19	
Speckled Warbler		2		4						10		13								
Weebill		2		4	5			8						15						
Brown Gerygone																			19	
White-throated Gerygone		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		11		13		15		17	18	19	20
Brown Thornbill			3					8				12	13					18	19	20
Buff-rumped Thornbill					5					10										
Yellow-rumped Thornbill		2	3							10	11	12					17			
Yellow Thornbill										10										
Striated Thornbill				4																
Red Wattlebird								8					13							
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater			3																	
Striped Honeyeater				4					9	10				15						
Noisy Friarbird		2		4	5			8	9	10		13	14	15				18	19	20

Little Friarbird			3	4					9	10			13	14					19	
Blue-faced Honeyeater		2		4				8					13							
Bell Miner			3					8					13							
Noisy Miner		2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Lewin's Honeyeater			3	4				8	9	10		12	13	14				18	19	20
Yellow-faced Honeyeater		3		4	5			8	9										19	
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater				4																
Fuscous Honeyeater				4						10										
Brown-headed Honeyeater				4				8												
White-throated Honeyeater				4				8	9	10				15						
White-naped Honeyeater			3																	
Brown Honeyeater			3	4	5			8	9	10		12	13	14				18		20
Scarlet Honeyeater			3	4				8	9	10			13						19	
Eastern Yellow Robin			3	4	5			8					13					18	19	20
Grey-crowned Babbler		2	3	4			7		9	10									19	
Eastern Whipbird			3	4				8	9			12	13	14				18	19	20
Varied Sittella			3											15						
Crested Shrike-tit																		18		
Golden Whistler			3						9	10			13			16				
Rufous Whistler			3	4	5			8		10			13		15			18	19	
Grey Shrike-thrush			3	4	5			8	9	10		12	13	14				18	19	20
Black-faced Monarch								8												
Spectacled Monarch								8												
Leaden Flycatcher			3	4				8	9	10		12	13					18		
Restless Flycatcher									9				13							
Magpie-lark		2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Rufous Fantail			3					8				12						18		
Grey Fantail			3					8				12	13					18		
Willie Wagtail		2	3	4		6	7		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Spangled			3					8				12	13					18	19	20

Drongo																					
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike		2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike			3						9												
Cicadabird			3	4	5			8					13							20	
White-winged Triller				4		6		8	9	10			13		15	16	17	18		20	
Varied Triller								8													
Olive-backed Oriole		2	3	4	5			8	9	10		12	13				17	18	19	20	
Figbird			3	4				8	9	10			13		15		17		19		
White-browed Woodswallow								8													
Grey Butcherbird		2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10			13	14					18	19	20
Pied Butcherbird		2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		20	
Australian Magpie		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		20	
Pied Currawong		2	3	4	5			8		10		12	13	14		16	17	18	19	20	
Torresian Crow		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
White-winged Chough		2	3																		
Apostlebird		2	3																		
Regent Bowerbird								8													
Satin Bowerbird			3					8					13							19	
Richard's Pipit			3							10	11					16	17			20	
House Sparrow			3	4				8	9	10	11	12	13					17			
Zebra Finch										10	11	12						17			
Double-barred Finch				4						10			13		15		17	18	19		
Plum-headed Finch										10											
Red-browed Finch			3	4					9	10			13							19	
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin				4		6										16					
Mistletoebird				4				8	9	10					15						
Welcome Swallow			3	4			7		9	10	11		13		15					20	
Tree Martin																16					
Fairy Martin					5	6				10	11					16					
Clamorous			3				7		9	10	11					16	17				

Reed-Warbler																			
Tawny Grassbird			4		6					11						17			
Rufous Songlark			4					9	10					15	16	17			
Golden-headed Cisticola			3						10	11		13		15		17		19	20
Silvereye			3	4			7	8	9	10		12	13					19	
Common Starling		2	3			6	7			10	11	12			15	16	17		
Common Myna		2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		15	16	17	18	



Eastern Yellow Robin
Photo: Pat McConnell

November Outing Report

Breakfast with the birds, 24th November 2017.

We met bright and early at Lake Apex in Gatton for breakfast with the birds. There were 12 members present who were able to enjoy breakfast with lovely weather and pleasant facilities. After breakfast, the group moved to Lowes Road in Placid Hills where we saw some Spotted and Baillons Crakes, Red-kneed Dotterels and Black-fronted Dotterels, Stilts, and a number of other birds.

The Baillons Crake was a new bird for some of the members. The water was very low in the dam which allowed for good viewing of some of the shallow wading species.

All together at Lowes Road we saw about 38 species.

Pacific Black Duck, Maned Duck, Grey Teal, Hardhead, Grebe, White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Little Black Cormorant, Black Kite, Swamphe, Moorhen, Coot, Stilt, Plover, Black-fronted Dotterel, Red-kneed Dotterel, Baillon's Crake, Spotted Crake, Crested Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Dollarbird, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Bee-eater, Pale-headed Rosella, Red-backed Fairywren, Noisy Miner, Magpie, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Willy Wagtail, Rufus Whistler, Peewee, Crow, Fairy Martin, Cisticola, Common Myna and Double bar Finch. **Total 38 species.**

At Lake Apex we saw Magpie Geese, Plumed Whistling Duck, Maned Duck, Black Duck, Grey Teal, Hard Head, Grebe, White Ibis, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Intermediate, Little Egret, Little Pied Cormorant, Darter, Swamphe, Moorhen, Coot, Plover, Caspian Tern, Crested Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Pheasant Coucal, Koel, Sacred Kingfisher, Little Corella, Rainbows Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Brown Honeyeater, Striped Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Grey Butcherbird, Magpie, Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Willy Wagtail, Peewee, Crow, Reed Warbler. **Total 30 species.**



Spotted Crake Photo: Al Young



Baillon's Crake Photo: Al Young



Red-kneed Dotterel Photo: Col Hughes



Little Egret Photo: Col Hughes

Members Bird Notes

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES:

Species	Date	Location	Observers
Baillon's Crake	21/09/2017	Lowes Rd, Placid Hills, Gatton	AY
Australian Spotted Crake	12/11/2017	Lowes Rd, Placid Hills Gatton	AY
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	15/11/2017	Collingwood Rd, via Hampton	AY, MMc

AY, A Young; MMC. Mike McGoldrick;

Unfortunately we once again find ourselves in need of a Records Officer. The Executive would like to thank Nicci Thompson for her efforts as Records Officer and previously as Outings Coordinator.

If you would like to contribute to the club and take on this important role, please get in touch with the Secretary, Col Hughes or President, Olive Booth.

In the meantime, please send your records to the secretary colinhughes646@gmail.com or directly to the newsletter editor sandy.robertson6@gmail.com

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

Members Photo Page

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

Very popular subject this month, has been the Baillon's and Spotted Crake in the Lockyer Valley



Baillon's Crake Photo: Rob Wilson



Australian Spotted Crake Photo: Rob Wilson



Common Koel Photo: Rob Wilson



**Spotted Crake out in the open in the rain
Photo: Bill Jolly**



Three recent photos taken up-range of birds we don't usually get to see in the valley.

An **Australian Raven**, showing off his voluminous throat hackles, and a splendid **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** – an occasional winter drop-in down here, but resident up-range.

Plus a great snap, taken by my son Owen when he visited recently, of a pair of **Galahs** feeding – pink-eyed female on the left, brown-eyed male on the right.

Given that Galahs pair for life, and that they are long-lived birds, these two could easily be an established 'married couple' working their way through life together, or maybe they're just on a first date!

To my eye, when looking up at a loose flock of Galahs passing overhead, they usually appear to be flying mostly in pairs.

Thursday, 23 November

Bill Jolly

Abberton, Helidon, Qld



And all in the last week or so (23rd Nov) around the valley: **Great Egret, Intermediate Egret and Royal Spoonbill**, all in breeding plumage.

Bill Jolly

Abberton, Helidon, Qld

Nomenclature

Nankeens and Kestrels

By Bill Jolly

For consistency of nomenclature, particularly if you bird in more than one country, you have to opt for one of the competing taxonomic models. Or make up your own!! - which sounds ridiculous, though I've known people attempt it when they don't like a species lumping, and want to keep their personal tally up!

I use the Clements/Cornell taxonomy and have recently modified my various lists to reflect the 2017 edition.

But, I am struggling with a couple of recent name changes to two Australian species, viz the replacement of the descriptor "Nankeen" in the common names of Nankeen Night-Heron and Nankeen Kestrel, in favour of 'Rufous' and 'Australian' respectively. Nankeen referred to the colour of the cloth that once was imported here from Nanking, and is the dominant colour, as well as the long-standing descriptor, of those two species - in the case of Nankeen Night-Heron, since 1789, and Nankeen Kestrel since 1827.

I guess I'll just have to get over it. But that although I might be able to retrain my fingers as they type, I doubt that I will ever drop that lovely descriptive word 'Nankeen' from my personal birding lexicon. After all, I write 'Red-browed Finch' when I'm listing those gorgeous little birds, but I still call them 'Red-snips' when I see them.

That said, on to the pics of some recent falcons, including Australian Hobby and ~~Nankeen~~ Australian Kestrel – and a couple of ~~Nankeen~~ Rufous Night-Herons in a friend's backyard tree.



Coming Events

Committee Members

President	Olive Booth	4633 0553 o.booth@bigpond.com
Vice-President	Sandy Robertson	sandy.robertson6@gmail.com 46972133/ 0415277145
Secretary	Col Hughes	0409 058 275 colinhughes646@gmail.com
Treasurer	Marie Gittins	0432960709 mjg77.gittins@gmail.com
Editor	Sandy Robertson	46972133 or 0415277145 sandy.robertson6@gmail.com
Records Officer	Vacant	
Media Officer	Sacha Dyson Holland	00458551864 sachadysonholland@hotmail.com
Outings Coordinator	Mike McGoldrick	46357371; 0417802817 michael.mcgoldrick@westnet.com.au
Committee Member	Vacant	
Librarian	Vacant	
Facebook coordinator	Sandy Robertson	https://www.facebook.com/toowoombabirdobservers/

Deadline for articles for the next edition is Friday 26th January 2018
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