

TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS



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

No. 456
Aug' 18

Editorial Sandy Robertson

Hi all,

October is a big month for the club and is fast approaching.

First up is the AGM.

This will take place on Tuesday 9th October at 7pm.

Venue is the Uniting Church Hall on the corner of Tor and North Street.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Patrick Webster who will make a presentation on his Black-breasted Button-quail project.

All positions on the committee will be declared vacant, so please give serious consideration to whether you are able to assist by taking on one of the positions. Nomination forms are contained in this newsletter, Please forward completed nominations to current secretary Col Hughes

colinhughes646@gmail.com

The end of October is the clubs annual census.

All sectors need to be surveyed, so if you would like to be involved please

contact Olive and let her know.
Ph, 4633 0553
email: o.booth@bigpond.com

In This Issue

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Coming Events

August Myall Park Botanic Gardens (weekend Campout)

September – Ravensbourne

October 9th (Tuesday) **AGM**
7pm Uniting Church Hall. Cnr of Tor and North Street

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

May Outing Report

OUTING TO HIGHFIELDS FALLS BUSHLAND PARK 27TH MAY 2018

Thirteen keen birdwatchers including visitors Shaun and Wendy, Faye and Ram met at the Barber Rd. entrance to the park at 7.30am on a fine and cool Sunday morning. Some earlier arrivals heard a **Wonga Pigeon** calling from the gully while **White-naped Honeyeater** and **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** were very active foraging in the eucalypt canopy overhead. As we moved slowly along the track we sighted **Pale-headed Rosella**, **Silvereye**, **Brown Thornbill** as well as the ubiquitous **Lewin's Honeyeater**. We stopped at the big old eucalypt to check out if the resident **Owlet-nightjar** was sunning itself at the mouth of its hollow but it must have been having a Sunday morning sleep-in on this occasion!

The leader then spotted a group of 3 **Bar-shouldered Doves** perched high up on a dead tree preening themselves in the early morning sun. Around the bend in the track, **Little Lorikeets** greeted us with their high-pitched screeches and one posed momentarily on a branch in the sunlight showing off its emerald green plumage and crimson face before zooming off.

The birds seemed unusually flighty today, not waiting around for the photographers in the party to get good shots but we managed to tick off **Golden Whistler**, **Grey Fantail**, **Little Corella**, **Rainbow Lorikeet**, **Brown Cuckoo-Dove**, **White-browed Scrubwren**, and **Grey Shrike-thrush** on the western track to the falls. We also heard **Musk Lorikeet** calling in the eucalypt canopy but were unable to sight them. At the falls we looked for the **Powerful Owls** at their favoured roosting site but there was no sign of them unfortunately. However Kevin managed to get a good shot of a **Little Eagle** soaring over the canopy so that was some compensation! On the way back to the cars, we ticked off **Variegated Fairy-wren**, **Mistletoebird**, **Red-browed Finch**, **Eastern Yellow Robin** and **Figbird**.

As we headed off to Peacehaven Park in Highfields for morning tea and bird call, all agreed it had been a pleasant and relaxing Sunday amble in the warm sunshine.

Bird List: 40 species were seen or heard H= heard

Straw-necked Ibis, Cattle Egret, Little Eagle, Masked Lapwing, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Crested Pigeon, Wonga Pigeon (H), Peaceful Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Galah, Little Corella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, King Parrot, Pale-headed Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Musk Lorikeet (H), Little Lorikeet, Variegated Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren, Brown Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Spotted Pardalote (H), White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Thornbill, Eastern Whipbird (H), Australian Magpie, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Figbird, Grey Fantail, Torresian Crow, Eastern Yellow Robin, Silvereye, Mistletoebird (H), Red-browed Finch, Double-barred Finch.

Mike McGoldrick

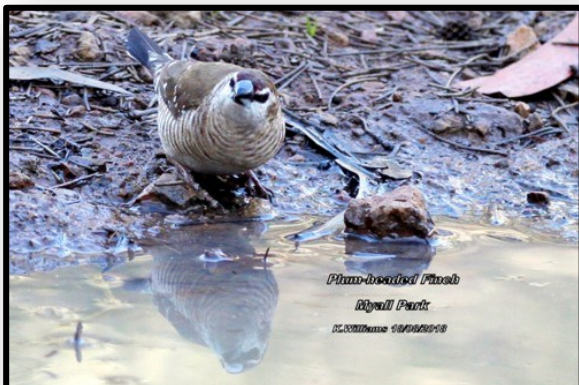
Myall Park Botanic Garden Campout

18/19 August 2018

Chilly temperatures, strong winds, dry and dust did not deter a small group from enjoying and sharing with one another a happy and quite productive weekend of birdwatching.

The bird search areas included the garden itself, the lagoon adjacent to the garden and Eringibba National park. MPBG was established by Dave Gordon to encourage an interest in Australian native plants of the arid and semi arid regions. These wonderful plants, including eucalypts, acacias, cypress pine, casuarinas, grevilleas and eremophyllas, attract many bird species with their nectar full flowers. The Lagoon was established by the Gordons as a place principally for water lilies with the added bonus as a habitat for waterbirds. Eringibba NP was given to National Parks QLD by Dave Gordon many years ago. The vegetation is dry woodland made up of Brigalow and a number of other acacias, sandalwoods, wilga, poplar box and yapunyahs, (eucalyptus ochrophloia).

Early Saturday morning it was great to see a goodly number of **Pelicans**, **Black Swans**, both **Royal** and **Yellow Spoonbills** and a count of forty **Australasian Grebes** along with the expected ducks, herons, egrets etc. Two **Sea Eagles** were seen above the lagoon by the early arrivals on Friday evening. The garden itself, which includes a bird hide overlooking a small waterhole, and a number of easy walks resulted in a number of dry land birds, especially pleasing was the sighting of **Plum-headed Finches** at the bird hide. The morning at the National Park was quiet but a **Brown Falcon** and **Wedge-tail Eagle** gave a lovely display of their earthy colours and grace in the sky. **Cockatiels**, **Thornbills** etc and one only **Diamond Dove** were also sighted.



Plum-headed Finch, Myall Park
Photo: Kev Williams

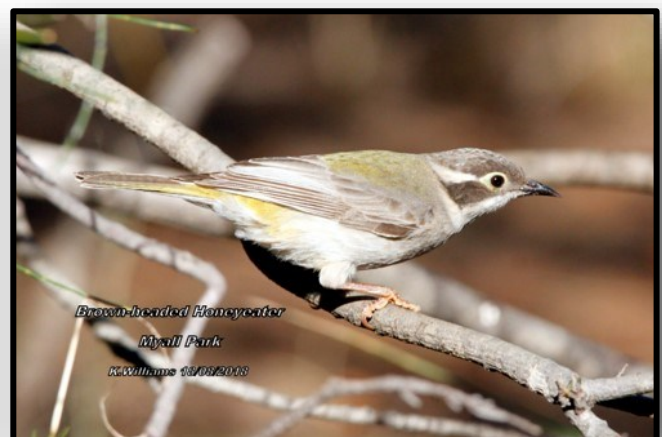
An unexpected privilege for us all was the surprise arrival at the garden of Graeme and Pam Chapman. Graeme is one of Australia's very best bird photographers, with Pam doing many of the hard yards with him. They both joined us for smokos and Sunday nights bird count, this led to a large exchange of amazing information between us all. Our count = 99, not too bad taking into account the weather.

Thank you all for coming and Kevin Williams has taken a number of superb photographs for us.

Acknowledging the gardens caretakers, Ken and Sheena, for their helpful and friendly assistance, this was so much appreciated by all of us.



Apostlebirds, Myall Park
Photo Kev Williams



Brown-headed Honeyeater, Myall Park
Photo Kev Williams

Myall Park continued...

OK now for the birds:- Black Swan, Australian Wood duck, Pink-eared Duck, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Hardhead, Australasian Grebe, Rock Dove, Crested Pigeon, Diamond Dove, Peaceful Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Australasian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, White-necked Heron, Eastern Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, White-faced Heron, Nankeen Night Heron, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Whistling Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Nankeen Kestrel, Brown Falcon, Dusky Moorhen, Black-fronted Dotterel, Masked Lapwing, Galah, Little Corella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Cockatiel, Red-winged Parrot, Pale-headed Rosella, Blue Bonnet, Laughing kookaburra, Spotted Bowerbird, Superb Fairy-wren, Purple-backed Fairy-wren, (previously the variegated), Weebill, Western Gerygone, White-throated Gerygone, Yellow Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Inland Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Striated Pardalote, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, Striped Honeyeater, Grey-crowned Babbler, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Australian Raven, Little Crow, Torresian Crow, Leaden Flycatcher, Restless Flycatcher, Magpie Lark, White-winged Chough, Apostlebird, Jacky Winter, Eastern Yellow Robin, Australian Reed-warbler, Silveryeye, Welcome Swallow, Fairy Martin, Tree Martin, Common Starling, Mistletoe Bird, Double-barred Finch, Plum-headed Finch, Australasian Pipit, Indian Myna.

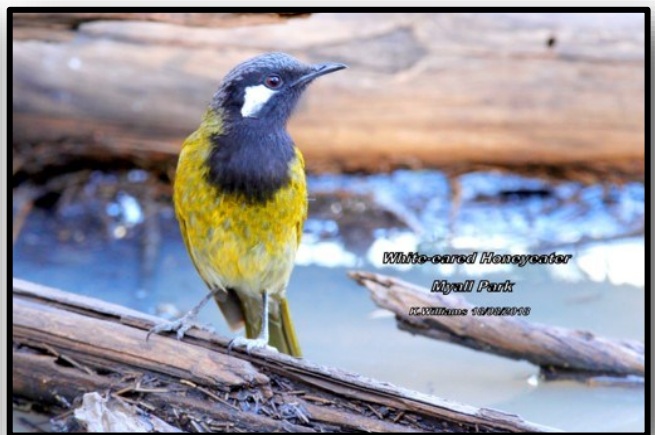
20/08/2018; Would you not believe it !! An Australian bustard seen thumbing a lift on the road in to Glenmorgan this morning !!

Ross and Margie.

Photos by Kev Williams



Ross , Micheal, Helen, Marie and Brian on the lagoon walk at Myall Park Outing



*White-eared Honeyeater
Myall Park
K.Williams 18/08/2018*

White-eared honeyeater



*Water Rat
Myall Park
K.Williams 18/08/2018*

Water Rat



*Inland Thornbill
Myall Park
K.Williams 18/08/2018*

Inland Thornbill

MEMBERS BIRD NOTES

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	30/03/2018	Bridle Trail, Picnic Point, Too-woomba	RH
Glossy Black Cockatoo	28/04/2018	Cawdor Road, Highfields	MW
Rose Robin	15/5/18	Fantail Walk, Picnic Point, T'ba	RH
Striped Honeyeater	21/5/18	Redwood Park, T'ba	RH
Red-chested Button-quail x3	23/5/18	Bridle Trail, Picnic Point, T'ba	RH
Topknot Pigeon (remains)	19/5/18	Webb Park, Toowoomba	RH
Swamp Harrier (overhead)	29/5/18	Redwood Park, T'ba	RH
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	12/08/2018	Redwood Park, Tmba	AY
Brown-headed Honeyeater	12/08/2018	Redwood Park, Tmba	AY
White-throated Honeyeater	12/08/2018	Redwood Park, Tmba	AY
White-naped Honeyeater	12/08/2018	Redwood Park, Tmba	AY
Brown Honeyeater	12/08/2018	Redwood Park, Tmba	AY
Scarlet Honeyeater (Myzomela)	12/08/2018	Redwood Park, Tmba	AY
Rose Robin	12/08/2018	Redwood Park, Tmba	AY
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike. Race (spp) <i>robusta</i> dark morph.	12/08/2018	Redwood Park, Tmba	AY

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES:

AY, Al Young; MG, Marie Gittins; RH, Rod Hobson; MW, Mark Weaver.

See the members photo page for some great photos by Al Young of some of the birds listed in the above bird notes

Raptor Census June 2018

Pat McConnell

Northern Section

Gloria Glass and Esther Townsend surveyed the northern section (N1) on Friday 29 June. In total they saw six species and 28 individual birds of prey. This was three more species than last year and nine less individual birds of prey. A Spotted Harrier was the highlight. See table below for summarised results.

Southern Section

The southern section was surveyed by Marie Gittins and Nicci Thompson. They saw four species and 71 individual birds of prey. This is one more species than last year and 31 less individual birds of prey.

Eastern Section

The eastern section was surveyed by Steven Doyle, Olive Booth, Mick Atzeni, Elsie Dallinger and Louise Teese on Saturday 23 June. The area surveyed was from Toowoomba - Murphy's Creek - Helidon - Grantham - Gatton - Lake Clarendon - Gatton College and back to Gatton. They saw 10 species and 116 individual birds of prey. This was the same number of species as last year but 100 less individual birds of prey. Highlights being White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Little Eagle and Swamp Harrier.

Western Section

The western section was surveyed by Tyde Bands, Michael McGoldrick, Sandy Robertson and Al Young on Saturday 23 June. They saw nine species and 190 individual birds of prey. This was five more species than last year and 34 less individual birds of prey. The weather on the day was clear and fine with the breeze increasing in the afternoon. The route they surveyed was Toowoomba – Oakey – Jondaryn – Bowenville – Norwin – Cecil Plains – Dalby – Quinalow – Oakey - Toowoomba.

Table of Sightings for June 2018

Species	N	S	E	W	Total
Black-shouldered Kite	7	10	1	64	82
Black Kite	1		68	4	73
Whistling Kite	1		9	7	17
Spotted Harrier	1			2	3
Swamp Harrier			1		1
White-bellied Sea- Eagle			2	1	3
Wedge-tailed Eagle	3	1	2	5	11
Little Eagle			1		1
Brown Goshawk			1		1
Brown Falcon		8	6	11	25
Black Falcon				2	2
Nankeen Kestrel	15	52	25	94	186
Total number of raptors	28	71	116	190	405

The above table shows that 12 species were seen in 2018 and there were 405 individual birds of prey seen. This is two more species than in 2017 and 94 less individual birds of prey.

A big thank you to all involved especially the leaders.

Members Photo Page



BITS AND PIECES

AGM Nominations

Nomination form for TBO executive committee positions on the following page.

Turquoise Parrots in Redwood Park

From Hugh Krenske (friends of the Escarpment Parks) 14/8/2018

For the last 3 weeks, I have regularly found turquoise parrots feeding on the ground beside the Redwood Forest Walk on the eastern section of the track just after the Whipbird sign. They have been feeding on what was described to me as a type of salt bush, most of which is dry and looks dead. I have seen as many as 5 birds and as few as two.

Yesterday there were 3 birds



TBO Online

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

If you would like the excel file to use for recording birds for club records please contact the Secretary Col Hughes

Nomination form for the 2018-2019 Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc. Committee

I , (please print), _____

being a financial member of the Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc., hereby nominate

(please print) _____

for the position of (please print) _____

on the 2018-2019 Committee

Please sign and date the nomination here: _____

This nomination is seconded by (please print) _____

Signed and dated _____

I agree to being nominated for this position (please sign)

Dated _____

Please return this completed nomination form to the Secretary by 1st October 2018 on
colinhughes646@gmail.com or by post to TBO, PO Box 4730 Toowoomba East 4350

Nominations can still be submitted at the AGM.

COMING EVENTS

September Outing: Saturday 29th of September
Ravensbourne National Park
Meet at the Blackbean Day use area at 8am.
Bring Morning tea (and maybe lunch, just in case)
Hat, water, good walking shoes, and a chair etc

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).

Also if car pooling, please offer fair monetary compensation to the driver to be put towards fuel costs for the day.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Olive Booth	4633 0553 o.booth@bigpond.com
Vice President	Sandy Robertson	4697 2133 (AH) 0415277145 sandy.robertson6@gmail.com
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Librarian	vacant	
Facebook	Sandy Robertson Mick Atzeni Judi Gray	https://www.facebook.com/toowoombabirdobservers/

Deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is Friday 28th Sept 2018

Please e-mail or post articles and photos to the Editor.

If undeliverable return to

**Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc
Surface Mail**

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