



# TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

No. 386  
August 2009

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

## Editorial

By Plaxy Barratt and Mick Atzeni

So much for spring! Wonder what the birds are making of this winter swelter? Will the migrants return and breed earlier than expected? Don't forget to note and report their arrival dates for Mick for inclusion under the forum topic "They're back".

The Loquat trees in my yard are heavy with fruit and have been frequented for several weeks now by contented King Parrots, gammer than usual as they fill their bellies on the sweet fruits, affording great views from my deck.

Our AGM is on 21 October. Always an enjoyable event so do yourself a favour and come along. Pat McConnell will be our guest speaker on the birds of Christmas Island. Don't forget there's also the caption competition with a \$50 dollar book voucher for the best one overall. The photos to apply your wit to are reproduced in this newsletter for your convenience.

Would you like to be more involved with the club? Are there skills you'd like to put to good use? Not sure? Then please have a chat about it. All Executive positions are open and we are calling for nominations (Use the form on page 9). You may nominate yourself for a position or, with their consent, another member.

**Subs are now due.** Please use the renewal slip on page 7.

Our recent meeting with Toowoomba Regional Council regarding birding trails was encouraging. The Lockyer Valley RC is also interested in meeting with us.

The club has been actively supporting the objection to the proposed Tipton to Laidley gas pipeline, which amongst other impacts, could potentially destroy habitat used by vulnerable species like the Glossy Black-Cockatoos in the Rockmount Stockyard area.

Only **Stubble Quail** has been added for the Challenge. With four months left, we still need another 23 species to beat the record. A big effort needed this spring.

**2009  
Challenge**  
205 spp as of 27/08/09

## This Issue

**Lockyer Outing Report**  
By John Hadley

**Margaret River trip**  
By Barb Learmonth

**Members' bird notes**  
By Pat McConnell

## Correspondence

## Photo caption competition

## COMING EVENTS

**29-30 August 2009.**  
**Durikai/Lake Coolmunda**  
Contact: Kay Williams

**Sunday 6 September 2009**  
**Wader ID day, Toorbul**  
Contact: Kay Williams  
0429 465 954 or  
07 4659 5475  
For further details see  
article within.

**Wed 21 October 2009**  
**AGM**



TOOWOOMBA  
BIRD OBSERVERS

(An affiliated member of Bird Observation and Conservation Australia)

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

MEMBERSHIP: Adults/Families \$22, Students \$11  
(Subscriptions due 31 August)

## Lockyer Valley Outing - 25 July 2009

By John Hadley

Fourteen members and one new birder met at Lake Apex, Gatton, and so began an enjoyable day in good company.

We proceeded to Adare where on arrival we had a reception of seven **Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos** feeding on pine cones and calling. Then down to the creek area in perfect weather conditions. Numerous honeyeaters and other bush birds were heard and seen after three hours of great birding we made our way to Lake Clarendon for lunch, stopping at Jahnke's Lagoon on the way where we picked up nesting **Whistling Kite**. An unexpected luncheon treat near Lake Clarendon itself was the **Blue-winged Kookaburra**.

### Species recorded:

Australasian Grebe, Australian Pelican, Little Black Cormorant, Little Pied Cormorant, Australasian Darter, Eastern Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, White-faced Heron, Cattle Egret, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Magpie Goose, Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Hardhead, Black-shouldered Kite, Black Kite, Whistling Kite, Swamp Harrier, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Nankeen Kestrel, Brown Falcon, Grey Falcon, Brown Quail, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Black-winged Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Gull-billed Tern, Rock Dove, Spotted Dove, Crested Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Galah, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, Australian King-Parrot, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Laughing Kookaburra, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Rainbow Bee-eater, Fairy Martin, Welcome Swallow, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Golden-headed Cisticola, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Restless Flycatcher, Jacky Winter, Rose Robin, Eastern Yellow Robin, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Grey-crowned Babbler, Eastern Whipbird, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Weebill, White-throated Gerygone, Varied Sittella, Mistletoebird, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, Brown Honeyeater, Scarlet Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Fuscous Honeyeater, White-throated Honeyeater, Little Friarbird, Noisy Friarbird, Striped Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Magpie-lark, White-breasted Woodswallow, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Australasian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Torresian Crow, Common Myna, Common Starling



Blue-winged Kookaburra. Photo: Kevin Williams



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos. Photo: Kevin Williams



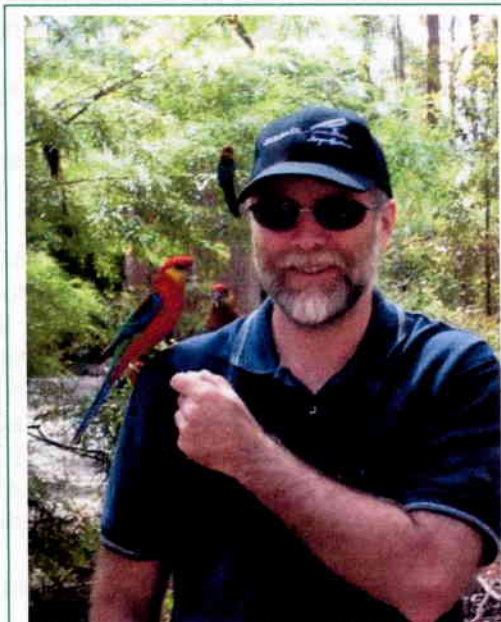
## Trip to Margaret River WA

By Barbara Learmonth

For 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations my husband Rob and I and some friends from Melbourne traveled to Perth and Margaret River in WA for two weeks in November 2007. It turned out to be a great experience not only for the good company, excellent wine and amazing scenery but also for a birding experience I had not expected.

We stayed at Cottesloe Beach outside Perth and visited Fremantle which was very beautiful due to all its historic buildings and vibrant with all its shops and cafes. Then we traveled down to Margaret River for a week of wine, cheese and chocolate tasting! We rented a house tucked away in bushland right on the creek that runs through the town. It had a large back balcony and obviously previous patrons had fed birds here as each day tame **kookaburras** and **maggies** (definitely more black than the ones here) would appear as well as **Wood Ducks** and, best of all, **Australian Ringnecks** (which I had only seen in aviaries before).

Each day we visited several wineries (such a chore!) and I was very impressed with the native gardens at most of the wineries - either planted, or the wineries were situated in bushland areas. Many different varieties of Western Australian Grevilleas and Eucalypts were present as well as numerous other species such as Lechanaultias and Dampieras, and these proved to be a haven for many native birds. After I had sampled some of the wines I disappeared outside to observe the birds at each winery while my serious wine companions enjoyed themselves inside! I managed to get a good photo of a **New Holland Honeyeater** and a **Splendid Fairy-wren**, both of which I hadn't seen before except in books.



Western Rosella. Photo: Barb Learmonth



Australian Ringneck. Photo: Barb Learmonth

We also visited Pemberton and saw the giant Karri and Jarrah eucalypts. In the carpark at the giant Karri tree, we were swamped with **Western Rosellas** (another first for me) and Australian Ringnecks as the birds hoped to be fed by the tourists. There were also lots of noisy **White-tailed Black-Cockatoos** and **Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos** on our travels. The south-west of WA has many limestone cave systems and we ventured into several of them to admire the amazing formations.

As I am only a beginner bird observer I hope that next time I visit there I will be more prepared with books and binoculars handy and that my photography skills will

have improved. The Southwest of WA is truly a great place to visit for both its natural and man-made sights.

## Members' Bird Notes

By Pat McConnell

**MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES:** All sightings seen by, or reported to members of the Toowoomba Bird Observers. Accuracy not vouched for by the TBO. Please check with observer before citing.

Grey Plover	01/03/2009	Toorbul*	ET
-------------	------------	----------	----

\* Corrected location; incorrectly reported in last month's newsletter.

Grey Goshawk	23/07/2009	Ballard	MA
Swamp Harrier	31/07/2009	Lake Clarendon	GG
Black Falcon	17/08/2009	DPI Toowoomba	MA
Grey Plover *	01/03/2009	Toorbul	ET
Bush Stone-Curlew	2/08/2009	Warrego Hwy (Near Airport)	K&KW
Banded Lapwing	28/07/2009	Middle Ridge Tmba	RH
Barn Owl *	31/07/2009	USQ Gatton	GG
Blue-winged Kookaburra	25/07/2009	Lake Clarendon	T.B.O.
White-breasted Woodswallow	5/07/2009	Lawler's Rd Grantham	WJ
Dusky Woodswallow	12/07/2009	Redwood Park Tmba	MA

\* Wrongly reported in last month's newsletter as Stratford (no such place!), Brisbane. Must have been delirium kicking in to get the newsletter out on time.

\* Flushed from eucalypt by other birds, flew across road and hid low in shrubs.

MA, M. Atzeni; GG, G. Glass; RH, R. Hobson; WJ, W. Jolly; T.B.O. – Club Outing; ET, E. Townsend; K&KW, Kevin & Kay Williams.

### Bird notes

Please submit bird notes by email to [mcconnel@usq.edu.au](mailto:mcconnel@usq.edu.au) or via the Club's mailing address.

### Monthly Checklists

Please post checklists to the Records Officer.

## BASQ Armchair Twitch™

Sunday 27 September 2009

**Armchair Twitch™.** Have you picked your site yet?

The Armchair Twitch is a competition to observe the most species of birds from a fixed location anywhere in Australia. It is designed to promote birdwatching as a relaxing pastime and to raise money for the conservation of wild birds. It is suitable for all ages and all members of the community including those with limited mobility. But most of all it's FUN!

You could also win a prize: \$100 for Most Species Seen; \$50 for Highest Sponsorship earned; \$50 for Best Average Number per person; \$50 for Random Draw.

The rules are simple - all you need is a good birding spot. Check them out and download a registration form from the BASQ website: [www.basq.org.au](http://www.basq.org.au)



## New Members

We warmly welcome the following new member:

- Lee McMichael, Prenzlau

May the birds be with you and your association with us a long and fruitful one.

## Correspondence

### Banded Lapwing in Middle Ridge

(From TBO forum; posted Wed Jul 29, 2009 11:07 am)

Folks,

Yesterday afternoon whilst mutt-walking near home I saw a single **Banded Lapwing** in the parkland adjacent Gabbinbar State School, Middle Ridge. Anyone contemplating a look for this bird should be aware of two pair of **Masked Lapwings** that are presently nesting in this same parkland. Be prepared to ward off dive-bombers; Tora! Tora! Tora!

On the subject of airborne head-hunters **Australian Magpies** are also nesting locally already. I saw the first bird carrying nesting material near Lake Annand a fortnight ago.

It's good to see Banded Lapwings back around Toowoomba, including in the Lockyer Valley, after an absence of several years. It seems that their reappearance has coincided with the return of the rains. Lovely birds to have about.

Regards, Rod Hobson

### Turquoise Parrots

About a year ago I told you I thought I saw what appeared to be Blue-winged Parrots here. It was a bit hard to tell as I only saw them in flight. You said they were more likely to be Turquoise Parrots. They are back and they are Turquoise Parrots. Not much evidence of the red wing patch on the males so I presume they are juveniles. Some showed the reddish central patch on the under parts.



Banded Lapwing. Photo: Trevor Quedstedt



Turquoise Parrots. Photo: Peter Jesser

The second pic is of a couple in flight [Not included here. Ed]. The blue wings are really quite striking. The photos don't do them justice.

Cheers, Peter Jesser  
['Ballancar', Inglewood]

**September Wader ID Day**  
*Sunday 6 September 2009 – at Toorbul*

This will be hosted by the Queensland Wader Study Group, so you'll be in good hands.

**Meet:** 9.30am. High tide is at 10.21am (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul) of 2.03m.

**Directions:** Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul exit. Turn off here and head east over the highway overpass. Continue on this road to Toorbul. Turn right at the T-junction then first left then right, which brings you on to the Esplanade. Follow this road to the end (approx. 2kms); we will be on the left.

**Bring:** water, food and a chair. It is a good idea to have a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. Most importantly bring your binoculars or telescopes. Hopefully we can provide the answers to all your questions.

Please contact Kay Williams 0429 465 954 or 07 46595475 if you have any questions.

**Durikai / Lake Coolmunda Outing (optional camp-out)**  
*Sat 29 – Sun 30 August 2009*

**Meet:** rest stop at Leyburn 8:00am Saturday 29 August.

We will progress to Durikai State Forest via Leyburn-Karara Road and Back Creek Road. Then on to Lake Coolmunda, visiting local birding sites on the way. Lake Coolmunda has two entries to visit from Highway; we'll be using both. In between, we will have a short stop over at Caravan Park for those staying over to check in. A stroll along the creek bed below the dam wall is also likely.

For those wishing to camp over at Lake Coolmunda Caravan Park, the phone number is. 07 4652 4171.

**Bring:** You will need all the usual - Morning tea, Lunch, Dinner for those staying over etc. Don't forget your notebook, binoculars, scope, and camera plus sunscreen, hat and water.

**If anyone has a GPS, could they please bring it along too.**

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Kay William 07 46595475 / 0429 465 954

## COMING EVENTS

### 29-30 August 2009

Optional overnight camp.

Lake Coolmunda/Durikai SF

Meeting points

Leyburn Hotel 8am, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>

We will be doing the Karara, Durikai SF area before heading to camp o'nite at Lake Coolmunda Caravan Park.

Lake Coolmunda picnic area near dam wall 8am, Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>

Will be doing the lake area and Mosquito Creek Road

Contact: Kay Williams

0429 465 954 or 07 4659 5475

### Sunday, 6 September 2009

Wader ID day, Toorbul

Contact: Kay Williams

0429 465 954 or 07 4659 5475

*Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>*  
~~Saturday, 26~~ Saturday, 26 September 2009

Redwood Park

Leader: Al Young

### Wednesday, 21 October 2009

AGM 7.00pm start.

Guest speaker: Pat McConnell on the birds of Christmas Island

## Committee Members

<b>President</b>	Ross Begent	4697 7198 (H) 4696 7900 (Wk) <a href="mailto:begent@australiainmail.com">begent@australiainmail.com</a>
<b>Vice-President</b>	Mike McGoldrick	4635 7371 <a href="mailto:michael_mcgoldrick@westnet.com.au">michael_mcgoldrick@westnet.com.au</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Olive Booth	4633 0553 <a href="mailto:o.booth@bigpond.com">o.booth@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rosalie Rudduck	4697 6190
<b>Records Officer</b>	Pat McConnell	4631 5573 <a href="mailto:mccannel@usq.edu.au">mccannel@usq.edu.au</a>
<b>Newsletter Co-Editors</b>	Plaxy Barratt and Nicci Thompson	0427 462 932 / 4699 4369 <a href="mailto:plaxy.barratt@derm.qld.gov.au">plaxy.barratt@derm.qld.gov.au</a> 4634 3074/ 0427 343 074 <a href="mailto:niccithompson@bigpond.com">niccithompson@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Outings Co-ordinator</b>	Kay Williams	4659 5475/ 0429 465 954 <a href="mailto:kevkeywills@hotmail.com">kevkeywills@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Librarian</b>	Kay Williams	As above
<b>Media Officer</b>	Gayle Lee	4696 2727 <a href="mailto:szell0@bigpond.com">szell0@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Website</b>	Mick Atzeni and Joe Scanlan	0458 948 955 / 4688 1318 (Wk) <a href="mailto:michael.atzeni@deedi.qld.gov.au">michael.atzeni@deedi.qld.gov.au</a> 4688 1243 (Wk) <a href="mailto:suescanlan@bigpond.com">suescanlan@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Committee Members</b>	Rod Hobson  Sandra Wilson	4635 6270 <a href="mailto:rod.hobson@derm.qld.gov.au">rod.hobson@derm.qld.gov.au</a> 0412 065 221 <a href="mailto:zandru@iprimus.com.au">zandru@iprimus.com.au</a>

**Deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is 15th September 2009**

Please e-mail or snail-mail your articles to Plaxy Barratt or Nicci Thompson

If undeliverable return to  
Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc  
PO Box 4730, Toowoomba East Q 4350

Surface Mail