



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

NEWSLETTER

TO ENCOURAGE THE OBSERVATION AND STUDY OF THE BIRDS IN THE TOOWOOMBA AREA

APRIL 2021

EDITION 467

BIRD OF THE MONTH

IN THIS ISSUE



Crested Shrike-tit

Redwood Park - 2020

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OUTINGS FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 2021

Sunday 2 May	Prince Henry Drive , meet 7.30am at the start of the one-way section, at the Camp Toowoomba end - contact Mick Atzeni tiddalac@gmail.com if attending
Saturday 29 th May	Durikai - meet 8.30am at Karara Tavern, Karara. Contact Mick Atzeni tiddalac@gmail.com if attending
Saturday/Sunday 26 th /27 th June	Raptor Census Contact Pat McConnell for details Pat.McConnell@usq.edu.au ph 4631 5573
Saturday 12 th June	Raptor talk by Chris MacColl 6pm venue to announced later.

The Toowoomba Bird Observers Newsletter will now be published monthly.

The deadline for the May Newsletter will be the 22nd May
Charles powerart@bigpond.net.au

2021 CHALLENGE

178 as of 16/04/2021

WEB FORUM ONLY

www.toowoombabirdobservers.org.

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Facebook Admin	Sandy Robertson
	Mick Atzeni
	Ann Alcock

Outings	
Co-Ordinator	Martin Clark

TBOC OUTINGS REPORT

TBOC Photographic Workshop

On 17 and 18 April, we held a photographic workshop for members. The idea behind it was to help to engage members and to support them in their birding activities. On the first day a two-hour workshop was held at Preston with afternoon tea provided.

Ten members attended with professional photographers Ann Alcock, Julie Ramsey and Lucy RC as facilitators. Topics covered included equipment needed, the best settings to isolate birds and to capture sharp shots. We also looked at ways to handle difficult lighting situations. On the second day we held a practical shoot, firstly at the Toowoomba Waterbird Habitat and then at West Creek. We were hoping to find larger birds, which were habituated to people, to practice our new camera settings.

The workshop was free to members.

Joe Scanlan and Tony Bond have kindly provided some of their images from the practical session.

Thank you to all who participated in this event.

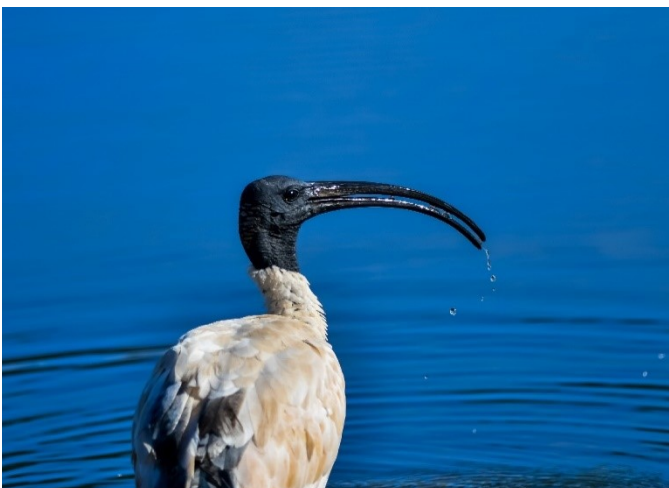
Ann Alcock
Facilitator.



Dusky Moorhen by Joe Scanlan



Little Pied Cormorant by Joe Scanlan



Australian White Ibis by Joe Scanlan



Australian Pelican by Tony Bond



Purple Swamphen by Tony Bond



Cattle Egret by Tony Bond

MEMBERS PROFILES

By Ann Alcock

Name: Charles Dove

Position in TBO?
Newsletter Editor

How long have you been a member of TBO?
One Year and a bit.

How did you first get involved with TBO?
Visiting our Family in 2012 by contacting the TBO club and continued from then on, going out with many TBO members, ie: Olive, Kevin n' Kay, Mick and club outings on many of our visits to Toowoomba over the past years.

What do you enjoy about being a member of TBO?
I enjoy going on the outings, meeting and talking to fellow birders by sharing stories, sightings and the general friendship of members

How long have you been interested in birding?
When I was very young I used to photograph the birds and wildlife, then it lapsed for many, many years until the last 20yrs when it merged back into my life by accident and I became involved in a number of Birding Clubs etc, a real-life change for the better.

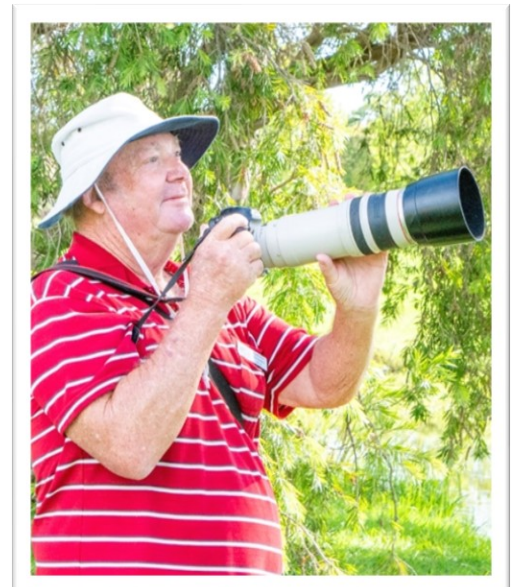
This was video was made a few years ago of me and endeavoured to encourage more people to help them find the life of birds. **Where it all began for me:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWJxBqo667I>

Your most memorable birding experience:
Too many to mention, but to encounter and photograph a bird I do not have on my list is always a moment of joy.

Your favourite bird?
All favourites.

Is there anything else you would like to see the TBO doing?
More outings, but this does require more participants to lead these. You might like to volunteer?

Are there any other comments you wish to make?
To help the community to see more of the birds and wildlife, it might awaken them to the beauty they have in the local area, maybe they might consider joining TBO or even help protect what they have around them in some other way.



MEMBERS PAGES – NOTICES – ARTICLES AND LINKS OF INTEREST

ONE LARGE AND ONE SMALL IN THE GARDEN

Here are a couple of representatives of two nearly world-wide genera which regularly turn up at our place.

The White-bellied Sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) is a magnificent bird which breeds locally, always close to a body of water that will provide good fishing. Not necessarily only by the sea, (which we are not) though are a common sight patrolling beaches and rivers all around Australia.

This bird photographed here at Abberton is in juvenile plumage, but North American friends will still recognise its similarity to the Bald Eagle which is the same genus - not *leucogaster* (white belly) but *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (white head). And so on, eight spp around the world, I believe.

Similarly, our Sacred Kingfisher (*Todiramphus sanctus*) is one of a large group which are sometimes termed 'tree kingfishers' – more than 30 species at last count, stretching from the Middle East across east Asia, Australasia and Polynesia. This little gem is currently nesting in our garden and continually pops up on to verandah rails or posts to spy out for small lizards or other prey which it can swoop down to capture.

Bill Jolly
Abberton, Helidon, Qld



White-bellied Sea-Eagle



Sacred Kingfisher

New study finds birds give people as much happiness as money

It's the little things — or animals, in this case.

By Anagha Srikanth | March 24, 2021

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/mental-health/544722-new-study-finds-birds-give-people-as-much-happiness>

Assessing multiple threats to seabird populations using flesh-footed shearwaters *Ardenna carneipes* on Lord Howe Island, Australia as case study | Scientific Reports

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-86702-4>

Lyrebirds: Repeat after me

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/lyrebird-one-repeat/13274764>

New study finds birds give people as much happiness as money | TheHill

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/mental-health/544722-new-study-finds-birds-give-people-as-much-happiness>

'Wanted, preferably alive': the \$10,000 search for New Zealand's 'ghost' bird | New Zealand | The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/mar/26/the-search-for-new-zealand-ghost-bird> aoe?CMP=Share iOSApp Other

A GOSHAWK TAKING A DIP

Here are some pics of a Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus*) having a thorough wash in one of the rock 'pools' in the garden.

I photographed this big beautiful bird from inside the house, necessarily through a window. Of course, I wanted to get outside and closer to try for optimum pics at ground level but I was worried about the risk of interrupting what was to develop into a very thorough 'wash and brush-up' over the next 20 minutes or so. So I'm glad I stayed where I was.

We are also visited from time to time by the smaller Collared Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*), the female of which can overlap in size with the male of the Brown Goshawk.

There are several ways to separate the similar sized large female Sparrowhawk from a male Brown Goshawk, some more objective than others. These pics show clearly the heavy brows of the Goshawk, which some say make it look "fierce". It's sometimes said to be a somewhat subjective distinction – but I think it shows up well on this bird.

I'll just include for good measure one more 'through the window snap', this time from my desk which looks out from the other side of the house. This is among the last pics of the Pacific Bazas which nested with us this summer before heading off with their young to the forests of the nearby Helidon Hills. The Baza is a slightly bigger bird than the Brown Goshawk, but as you can see it is not dissimilar in some ways.

I think I mentioned in a previous posting that Bazas nested here throughout the 1990s, so we are hopeful that they will resume that practice next Spring.

You'll hear about it very quickly if it happens!

Bill Jolly
Abberton, Helidon, Qld



BROWN GOSHAWK



BROWN GOSHAWK



BROWN GOSHAWK



PACIFIC BAZA

SWIFT PARROT & REGENT HONEYEATER SURVEY 2021

Rodney Appleby is helping the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot project by helping to coordinate surveys and developing the community in South-east Queensland. Whilst Swift Parrot and Regent Honey Eater sightings are more common in Victoria and New South Wales there have been a number of sightings in SEQ over the years. There are a number of historic sites where these endangered species have been seen previously, both in the Greater Brisbane Area and regional areas and we would love to continue to survey these and close by locations. The more eyes we have out there the more likely we are to spot the birds and help provide valuable insight into their habits and feeding locations.

This year the survey periods have been extended to 6 weeks from Sat 24 April to Sat 6 June 2021 and Sat 17 July to Sun 29 August 2021.

If you would like to be involved please contact Rodney (contact.rodneya@gmail.com).

And don't forget, even if you do not want to take part formally if you see any of these birds at any time please enter the observation into Birddata or contact me and I shall take care of it for you.

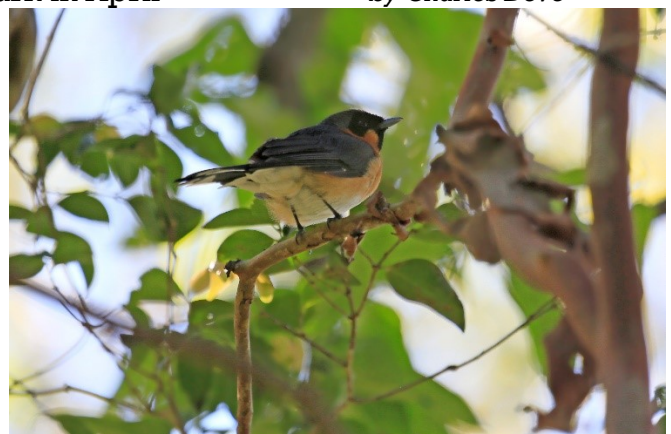


A couple of monarchs from Redwood Park in April

by Charles Dove



White-eared Monarch



Spectacled Monarch

MEMBERS SPECIES NOTES

Species	Date	Location	Observer
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	5/03/2021	Mary Cairnecross National Park	PM; KO
Pacific Emerald Dove	10/04/2021	Redwood Park	PM; KO
Black-eared Cuckoo (heard)	22/02/2021	Woden St. Murphys Creek	MA
Australian Owlet-nightjar	13/03/2021	Highfields Falls	PM; KO
Black-fronted Dotterel	2/02/2021	Postmans Ridge	MA
Square-tailed Kite	5/04/2021	Highfields	PM; KO
Pacific Baza (2)	10/04/2021	Redwood Park	PM, KO
Black Falcon	29/03/2021	Kingsthorpe	MA
Glossy Black-Cockatoo (2)	2/02/2021	Ashlands Drive	MA
Musk Lorikeet	10/04/2021	Woden St. Murphys Creek	MA
White-winged Fairy-wren	22/03/2021	Oakey-Cutella Rd. Kingsthorpe	MA
Black-faced Woodswallow	29/03/2021	Jondaryan	MA
Australian Raven	22/03/2021	Kingsthorpe-Silverleigh Rd	MA

MA. M. Atzeni; PM. P. McConnell; KO. K. O'Donnell.

THE ANNUAL CHALLENGE IS ON AGAIN

Please send in your sightings to Pat McConnell Pat.McConnell@usq.edu.au

General sightings can also be sent to Pat for the monthly members species notes.

Your Photos of what you have been seeing can be sent to the newsletter, this would be much appreciated.

General local stories and photos of what's around your backyard or a place you regularly visit would be great to post in the newsletter.

Photos to Charles Dove powerart@bigpond.net.au



Musk Lorikeet
West Creek Toowoomba
by Charles Dove



Olive-backed Oriole
Jack Duggan Park Toowoomba
by Charles Dove