



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

NEWSLETTER

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

JUNE 2021

EDITION 469

BIRD OF THE MONTH



Tawny Frogmouth

Waterbird Habitat - 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Outings reports	P1
Articles and Links	P2
Members Species Notes	P3



WEB FORUM ONLY

www.toowoombabirdobservers.org

Address All Correspondences to:

POSTAL ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 4730
Toowoomba QLD Australia 4350

Email: tboc4350@gmail.com

Phone: 0415 277 145

Club Contacts:

President	Sandy Robertson
Vice President	Mick Atzeni
Secretary	Suzanne Combes
Treasurer	Anne Alcock
Editor	Charles Dove
Media Officer	S Dyson-Holland
Facebook Admin	Sandy Robertson
	Mick Atzeni
	Ann Alcock

Outings	
Co-Ordinator	Vacant

OUTINGS FROM JUNE 2021

Saturday 14 th July	Jack Duggan Park 8.45 Leslie St, Rangeville LEADER: Charles Dove. Contact details: Email: powerart@bigpond.net.au MOB: 0417 422 302 It is essential to advise Charles if you will be attending.
Saturday 31 st July	Redwood Park 8am info to be emailed closer to the date.

The Toowoomba Bird Observers Newsletter
will now be published monthly.
The deadline for the July Newsletter will be the 22nd July
Charles powerart@bigpond.net.au

2021 CHALLENGE

187 as of 21/05/2021

OUTINGS REPORTS

Durikai State Forest, 29/5/21

Blessed with glorious weather, we kick started the list at the Karara Tavern carpark with nine species including Little and Noisy Friarbird, White-plumed Honeyeater, Striated Pardalote and Whistling Kite, then proceeded along the Cunningham Highway to the first of several sites chosen during a reconnoitre three days earlier.

At the first site, near the Durikai Rd turnoff, a nice feeding party, including Yellow Thornbill, Inland Thornbill, Rose Robin, Spotted Pardalote, White-browed Treecreeper and Brown-headed Honeyeater, kept us entertained for several minutes. Grey-crowned Babbler, Brown Treecreeper, Golden Whistler, Mistletoebird and Striped Honeyeater were also recorded. Back at the cars, a Wedge-tailed Eagle cruised over, a distraction to most as it turned out, as only two of us saw the two White-backed Swallows tailing it at a distance, higher up. I was both chuffed and surprised, as I hadn't seen one for a few years, and never at Durikai. More about them later.

At the next stop, two obliging male Scarlet Honeyeaters enthralled beginners and veterans alike. Someone commented, "You won't find *that* red in a tin of paint". Totally agree! Weebill, Brown Honeyeater and Peaceful Dove were other additions. A little further down the road, Noisy Friarbirds were prolific, and Little and Musk Lorikeets kept the photographers busy and, dare I say, frustrated. The Mugga Ironbarks were in flower and, being late-May, we were mindful Swift Parrots were a genuine possibility, albeit a long shot. None had been reported there this year and we found none ourselves. But the very next day, two Brisbane birders photographed several on the south-eastern edge of Durikai SF. Missed by that much!

The well-known waterhole with the bullrushes was our next port of call. Usually, you can bank on a variety of honeyeaters and other bush birds around the waterhole, but evidently not this time of year. In fact, birds were hard to find. We eventually heard a Brown Treecreeper, and saw a couple of Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, a single Dusky Woodswallow overhead, and a Mistletoebird. As we were preparing to leave, I managed to get the bins on a couple of distant swallows before they dropped out of view. One was a Welcome Swallow, but the other turned out to be another White-backed Swallow, the second sighting of the day, so perhaps there's a resident colony in the area. It would be good news because those we knew of around Toowoomba, Helidon and Gatton have all gone.

At the Rockdale Rd turnoff, we added Pallid Cuckoo and Restless Flycatcher. After lunch at Karara, we returned to Durikai and birded around the railway and Scientific Site on the northern side of the highway. It proved quite productive with Fuscous Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Weebill and Yellow-rumped Thornbill being new for the list. An Australasian Darter overhead was an unexpected bonus and the final addition for a total of 66 species.

Excellent habitat, great birding, enjoyable company. Let's do it again in Spring!

Mick Atzeni

Attendees: Ann Alcock, Suzanne Case, Margie Murphy, Eddy van Klinken, Pam Heemskerck, Janina Dove, Charles Dove, Jimsie Varghese, Richard Thomis, Sandy Robertson, Chris Cameron, Mick Atzeni

Species List: Australian Wood Duck*, Crested Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Pallid Cuckoo*, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Australian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant*, Straw-necked Ibis*, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Whistling Kite*, Nankeen Kestrel, Little Corella*, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Pale-headed Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot*, Musk Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet*, White-throated

GLOSSY BLACK-COCKATOO

Every year, the Glossy Black Conservancy calls on bird lovers to help count Glossy Black-Cockatoos. Knowing where the cockatoos are means we can do a better job of habitat protection. Volunteers provide important data but also learn how to identify this charismatic bird, identify feed trees, recognise signs of feeding and record bird behaviour.

Register for the Birding Day across Southeast Queensland and North-eastern NSW at <http://bit.ly/GBCvolunteer>.

The Glossy Black Conservancy coordinates the annual Birding Day and is an alliance of local councils, conservationists, scientists and community organisations who share a common goal of working towards securing the Glossy Black-Cockatoo's future in Southeast Queensland and North-eastern NSW.

While we're seeking volunteers to join us for our annual Birding Day, Glossy Black-Cockatoo sightings can be recorded anytime at glossyblack.org.au.

In the past 11 years, nearly 8000 Glossy Black-Cockatoos have been reported through our online portal. 688 birds have been sighted during our annual Birding Days and 1387 volunteers have contributed their time and expertise to our bird count efforts.

It is also possible to report their sightings in other states as part of the joint effort.

[NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service](#)



The striking glossy black-cockatoo has won the most votes as 2021's Saving our Species Threatened Species of the Year! Did you know this iconic bird favours using its left foot for eating? Find out how you can help the glossy black-cockatoo and other threatened species this World Environment Day by visiting:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/.../your-favourite-nsw...>

[#NSWParks](#)

[#SavingourSpecies](#)

Image courtesy of C. Dove/DPIE –

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/savingourspecies>

Further to the sighting of an all-white Grey Goshawk over Katoomba Lookout, Prince Henry Drive, on 19 March (see photo), an all-white bird was seen today in the company of a 'normal' grey bird farther around the PHD escarpment near the southern lookout. They perched and flew fairly close together. Although white can inflate the impression of size, and I was a long distance away, nevertheless I got the impression the white one was the larger bird.



Image and info Courtesy of

Roger Jaensch

Jaensch Ornithology & Conservation

LINKS FOR for YOUR CONVENIENCE:

The Effect of Bushfires - ABC Landline June 20th.

<https://www.abc.net.au/landline/green-shoots:-the-effect-of-bushfire-on-animal/13401516>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-06-12/western-ground-parrot-colony-albany/100208848>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/red-tailed-hawks/>

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/northern-mallards-hybrids-in-australia>

<https://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2013/10/25/3877290.htm>

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Species	Date	Location	Observer
Cotton Pygmy-goose X 3	6/06/2021	Villeneuve	RH
Great-crested Grebe X 3	6/06/2021	Villeneuve	RH
Brush Bronzewing	6/06/2021	Mount Billewillem, Cooloola	RH
Black-necked Stork	10/06/2021	Goos Rd. Gatton	RH
Square-tailed Kite	10/06/2021	Goos Rd. Gatton	RH
Square-tailed Kite	11 & 14/06/2021	USQ Campus Toowoomba	PM
Spotted Harrier X 2	6/06/2021	Cross Rd. Lower Tenthill	RH
Peregrine Falcon	21/06/2021	"Abberton" Helidon	BJ
White-winged Fairy-wren (<i>male in full colour</i>)	14/06/2021	Blackwell Rd Millmerran	MG
Ground Cuckoo-shrike (6)	27/06/2021	Nollers Rd. Highland Plains	PM, KO

MG, M. Gittins; RH. R. Hobson; BJ, B. Jolly; PM. P. McConnell; K. O'Donnell.

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 and stories to Charles Dove powerart@bigpond.net.au