



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

NEWSLETTER

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

AUGUST 2021

EDITION 471

BIRD OF THE MONTH



Eastern Spinebill

Jack Duggan Park - 2021

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OUTINGS 2021

Saturday 28 th August	131 Hendon-Victoria Hill Road Meet 7:45 for 8am start. Sandy tboc4350@gmail.com Takes about 1 hr to get there from the centre of Toowoomba
Saturday September 25 th	Girraween National Park
Oct 29 - 1/11	October Species Census
Saturday Nov 27 th	Lockyer Valley M. Atzeni

The Toowoomba Bird Observers Newsletter
will now be published monthly.

**The deadline for the September Newsletter
will be the 27th September**

Charles powerart@bigpond.net.au

2021 CHALLENGE

202 as of 25/08/2021

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www.tboc.org.au

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OUTINGS REPORTS

Toowoomba Bird Observers Club

Club Outing to Redwood Park 31 July

Peter Everist

On Saturday 31 July, seventeen birders from the Toowoomba Bird Observers Club led by Mick Atzeni visited Redwood Park, an escarpment park on the range on the eastern outskirts of Toowoomba. The Park has diverse vegetation including grey ironbark, brush box, river ash, Moreton Bay fig, broomstick wattle and blue gum.

Many of the trees were in flower so we were greeted by the calls of several honeyeaters including **Lewin's, Yellow-faced, Scarlet, White-throated** and **White-naped** as well as **Little, Rainbow** and **Scaly-breasted Lorikeets**; **Pale-headed Rosella, Galah**, and the occasional **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**. Charles had walked up the track a little further and reported sighting **Red-backed Fairywren**.

Wonga Pigeons called as we walked along as well as **Bar-shouldered Doves** and **Brown Cuckoo-Doves** and a little flock of **White-headed Pigeons** graced us with their presence. A **Fan-tailed Cuckoo** called and we all had a chance to observe it as it flew down for a grub and back to its perch. Mick who knows the park like the back of his hand spotted some platelets left by **Painted Button-quail**, then took us to a place where **Black-breasted Button-quail** had been foraging. Above us **Australasian Figbirds** and **Olive-backed Orioles** were spotted. **Torresian Crows** made their presence felt and a **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** shuffled its wings.



Along the track towards the creek, we spied a male **Golden Whistler** and heard, then saw, a **Rose Robin** and after that a **Crested Shrike-tit** followed by a **White-throated Gerygone**. Further along we caught sight of both **Large-billed** and **White-browed Scrubwrens** as well as a **Brown Thornbill** and a **Varied Triller**. **Eastern Whipbirds** were calling all along the trail as we saw a **Grey Shrike thrush** and a **Rufous Whistler**. Mick told us to look for a **White-eared Monarch** and on cue one appeared. Earlier we had seen a **Striated Pardalote** but now a pair of **Spotted Pardalote** came very close. I suspect that their nest was in the bank just below us.

Back to the shed for morning tea and the bird count, and as if invited for a command performance, birds appeared. First a **Weebill**, then a pair of **Eastern Yellow Robin**, a pair of **White-throated Treecreeper**, a **Grey Fantail** and some **Red-browed** and **Double-barred Finches** feeding on the grass seeds.

A great morning's birding in a great birding hotspot accompanied by a group of enthusiastic, knowledgeable birders, with a total of forty-two species.

Redwood Park 31 st July Bird List		Species 45	Attendance 17
White-headed Pigeon	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Olive-backed Oriole
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Laughing Kookaburra	Scarlet Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Crested Pigeon	White-throated Treecreeper	White-throated Honeyeater	Torresian Crow
Peaceful Dove	Regent Bowerbird	White-naped Honeyeater	White-eared Monarch
Bar-shouldered Dove	Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Whipbird	Rose Robin
Wonga Pigeon	White-browed Scrubwren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Eastern Yellow Robin
Galah	Large-billed Scrubwren	Varied Triller	Mistletoebird
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Weebill	Crested Shrike-tit	Double-barred Finch
Rainbow Lorikeet	White-throated Gerygone	Golden Whistler	Red-browed Finch
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	Rufous Whistler	
Little Lorikeet	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Pale-headed Rosella	Lewin's Honeyeater	Australasian Figbird	

A few more images from Redwood Park outing by Ann Alcock



Eastern Yellow Robin



Fantail Cuckoo



Double Barred Finch



Golden Whistler *female*

[A few links of interest](#)

We are going to lose these birds': the quiet fight to save the golden-shouldered parrot | *Birds* | *The Guardian*
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/08/we-are-going-to-lose-these-birds-the-quiet-fight-to-save-the-golden-shouldered-parrot>

News | Latham's snipe project
<https://lathamssnipeproject.wordpress.com/news/>

Home | Hoot Detective
<https://hootdetective.net.au/>

MEMBERS PROFILES

By Ann Alcock

Name: Barbara Collyer

Position in TBO:

Current member and former Editor

How long have you been a member of TBO:

In January 1999, when Rob, my husband and I lived in Toowoomba, I saw a picture in The Chronicle of Mick Atzeni and Nicci Thompson at the Waterbird Habitat. It was attached to an article encouraging bird lovers to become involved in the Australian Bird Atlas project. It was an opportunity for us to join TBO and the project and experience a whole new level of sharing a love of birdwatching with so many other friendly enthusiasts.

How did you first get involved with TBO?

Before we even commenced our walk at an introductory outing to Redwood Park, led by Mick, I was so inspired by his ability to recognise bird calls that I decided it would become an ambition of mine too. Over our years of birding together, that ambition caused lots of good-hearted argument between Rob and I as I became more competent and Rob would usually respond with "Well, Show me!" The White-throated Gerygone was an oft case in point!

What do you enjoy about being a member of TBO?

I enjoy the sense of expectation and delight of discovery of seeing and hearing our wonderful Australian birdlife, both the familiar and the unfamiliar. Equally, I love learning from other watchers. After moving to Point Halloran, Rob and I enjoyed our continuing connection with TBO on outings where time and opportunity existed. Birdwatching is a wonderful reason to travel far and wide.

How long have you been interested in birding?

I have always loved nature and its inhabitants. We bought our first bird guide on our way through Jervis Bay National Park bookshop in 1996. Birdwatching became a focus in our relationship and during those couple of years while Rob was posted to Sydney and I remained with the family in our Canberra home. Since, we have acquired many more bird guides, joined many other groups and been thrilled by hours of watching around the world.

Your most memorable birding experiences:

Among many others, a memorable experience would have to be our trip to Yellow Waters, Northern Territory, where we saw many lifers, including the magnificent female Shining Flycatcher, in the carpark! Also, up there with the most memorable would be the sea birds on the far north-eastern coast of England, including the Fulmars, Puffins, Guillemots, Gulls and Terns.

Do you have a favourite bird?

The Australian Magpie would have to be up there as the most favourite bird – a local family share daily contact with me and I think they look so refined in their black and white suits – to say nothing of their so familiar calls!

Do you have other interests besides birding?

My other interests include gardening, sailing, amateur theatre, sewing and knitting, bike riding and volunteering at my local museum.



EASTERN SPINEBILL

text courtesy of <https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>
Image by Charles dove

Scientific Name: *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*
Atlas Number: 591

Description:

The Eastern Spinebill is most easily recognised by its very long, fine, down-curved beak and energetic flight, during which its white outer tail feathers are prominent. Males have a grey-black crown which extends in a black line on either side of the breast. The breast and throat are white, with a rufous patch in the centre of the throat. The wings and lower back are dark grey and the underparts and upper back are buff. Females are similar to males but have less distinct markings.



Similar species:

Crescent Honeyeater, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Western Spinebill (in Western Australia).

Distribution:

The Eastern Spinebill's range is generally east of the Great Dividing Range from Cooktown in Queensland to the Flinders Ranges in South Australia.

Habitat:

The Eastern Spinebill prefers heath, forest and woodland.

Seasonal movements:

Largely sedentary, but undergoes some local movements, especially away from higher elevations in autumn/winter.

Feeding:

The Eastern Spinebill feeds on insects and nectar while perched or while hovering. Nectar is obtained from a wide array of flowers, including grevilleas, but its beak is particularly well-suited to extracting nectar from tubular flowers.

Breeding:

The Eastern Spinebill's nest is a small cup of twigs, grass and bark, combined with hair and spider's web, built in a tree fork, generally between 1 and 5 metres from the ground. Only the female builds the nest and incubates the eggs, but both parents feed the young when they hatch.

Living with us:

The Eastern Spinebill sometimes visits urban gardens that are well-vegetated, and will feed from both native and exotic flowers, including fuchsias.

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Species	Date	Location	Observer
Stubble Quail - injured	12/08/2021	Lionel Dr. Helidon Spa	NS
Brown Quail	15/08/2021	Highfields Falls	MA
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove - female	24/08/2021	Redwood Park – Gatton Creek	RH
Pacific Baza (2) - courting	23/08/2021	Costellos Rd, Lockyer	MA
Swamp Harrier	18/08/2021	Pechey Swamp, Lower Tenthill	RH
Grey Goshawk	10/08/2021	Jack Duggan Park	MA
Red-winged Parrot	17/08/2021	Doctor Creek, Jondaryan	RH; MW
Rainbow Bee-eater *	7/08/2021	Highfields Falls	JS
Varied Triller - female	15/08/2021	Highfields Falls	MA
Spectacled Monarch (2) *	20/08/2021	Murphy's Creek Road, Ballard	MA
Satin Bowerbird (8+) **	23/08/2021	McStay St. Middle Ridge	MA
Plum-headed Finch ~ 20	18/08/2021	Philps Road, Grantham	RH
Chestnut-breasted Manikin ~ 20	21/08/2021	Duncan Bridge, Flagstone Creek	RH
White-winged Chough	11/08/2021	Doctor Creek, Jondaryan	RH

* Early return

** Feeding on privet

MA. M. Atzeni; RH. R. Hobson; JS. J. Scanlan; NS. N. Swart; MW. M. Weaver.

Please notify Pat McConnell Records Officer of your sightings each month to maintain a continued records database to enable the monitoring of species in the Toowoomba region.

Been out and about and capturing a few images? Please send Photos of what you have been seeing 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



**Just a reminder that
MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE**

TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

SUBMIT:

Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc

PRESIDENT: Sandy Robertson

EMAIL: TBOC4350@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$30.⁰⁰ single membership
\$35.⁰⁰ family membership

DIRECT DEPOSIT: Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc
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Thank you for your interest in the Toowoomba Bird Observers