



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

NEWSLETTER

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

EDITION 483

BIRD OF THE MONTH



Spectacled Monarch

Redwood Park, Toowoomba QLD 2022

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OUTINGS & EVENTS 2022

Wed. 12 th October	West Creek – Toowoomba Charles Dove 0417 422 302
Sun. 16 th October	The Falls, via Killarney 1217 Spring Creek Rd,
Tues. 25 th October	AGM Guest Speaker Scot McPhie
28 th – 31 st October	Species Census

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PLEASE CONTACT THE LEADER IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND

The Toowoomba Bird Observers Newsletter
is published monthly.

**The deadline for the next Newsletter
is 28th October**

Charles powerart@bigpond.net.au

2022 CHALLENGE

182 species as of the end of August 2022.

Management Committee:

President	Mick Atzeni
Vice-president	Sandy Robertson
Secretary	Suzanne Combes
Treasurer	Ann Alcock
Media officer	Ann Alcock
Editor	Charles Dove
Outings Coordinator	Peter Everist
Records Officer	Pat McConnell
Facebook Admin	Sandy Robertson
	Mick Atzeni
	Ann Alcock

UPCOMING OUTINGS

MIDWEEK WALK

West Creek Kearneys Spring

Date: Wednesday 12th October

Meet location: Corner of Creedon Drive and Horrocks Crescent., Kearneys Spring

Time: 8:00am.

Approx 4km - Please bring morning tea

RSVP: To Charles Dove by 12:00 midday Tuesday 11th October 2022
Txt 0417 422 302 or email powerart@bigond.net.au

Outing details:

This will be the first of a once-a-Month midweek walk to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month

In the event of inclement weather contact Charles Dove on 0417 422 302 by 7.30am
Closed footwear required.

The Falls Outing Details

Date: 16 October 2022

Venue: "Carabeen", 1217 Spring Creek Rd, The Falls

Owner/Leader: Anna Fearnley

Contact/Coordinator: Michael Atzeni 0499 395 485

There is a pull off area at the front gate where we will meet. Cars can park there safely.
Nearest toilets are at the Killarney Falls National Park about 4km away.

Start time: Early birds 7am. Day-trippers 8:30am.

Attendees might like to consider staying somewhere nearby the night before, or driving out that morning.

Anna has kindly invited the club to their property, which has a rainforest with resident Albert's Lyrebirds. However, they are hard to find this time of year. As a side business, Anna leads tours during winter breeding season to view them:

<https://www.carabeenbeef.com.au/lyrebirds/lyrebird-viewing/4-lyrebird-viewing>

AGM Meeting 2022

Date: Tues 25th October

Venue: St Anthony's Community Centre, Memory Street, Toowoomba, 3 Memory Street, Harristown 4350

Time: 6pm

Guest Speaker: Scott McPhie – talking on Redwood Park

Members are requested to bring a plate

Club Reports

Redwood Park Open Day – Bird walks report

The Redwood Park Open Day was held on Saturday 24 September, with around 100 people attending. It featured a number of displays and guided tours. The event kicked off with guided bird walks led by members of TBO and BirdLife Darling Downs member. These were well-supported and it was good to have some enthusiastic children among them. Collectively, we compiled a list of 26 ‘seen’ species that at least some in our respective groups managed to see well enough to identify to their own satisfaction. My group kicked off with a high up and under look at a Pale-headed Rosella. All we could see clearly was the red vent. A challenging introduction to the birds of Redwood! Thankfully, it soon got easier. At the causeway, we saw the first of several Lewin’s Honeyeaters; by the end of our walk, everyone knew its ‘machine-gun’ call. Those who were quick enough managed to see a Black-faced Monarch fleetingly and everyone had great views of Eastern Yellow Robin. We tried hard to point out the Scarlet and White-naped Honeyeaters with limited success—they were too high and too agile. A Brown Cuckoo-Dove was very cooperative feeding in low vegetation, and most managed a clear look at a beautiful Grey Goshawk circling overhead. The other leaders had success with other species like Variegated Fairy-wren, Regent Bowerbird and Varied Triller.

The occasion was a chance to talk about Redwood Park’s significance as a wildlife sanctuary. I explained the threat the downhill mountain-biking trails posed to birds, birders, and bird tourism in the park. Birdwatching on-site helped them appreciate the threats and incompatibility of this sort of adventure tourism

Thanks to Friends of the Escarpment Parks for organising this event and to all those who helped showcase this wonderful natural asset on Toowoomba’s doorstep.

Mick Atzeni

Combined bird list (alphabetical order) – 26 species

Australian White Ibis	Eastern Yellow Robin	Rainbow Lorikeet	Varied Triller
Bar-shouldered Dove	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Regent Bowerbird	Variegated Fairy-wren
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Grey Fantail	Rufous Fantail	White-browed Scrubwren
Black-faced Monarch	Grey Goshawk	Rufous Whistler	White-naped Honeyeater
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Lewin’s Honeyeater	Scarlet Honeyeater	White-throated Gerygone
Brown Thornbill	Olive-backed Oriole	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
Eastern Whipbird	Pale-headed Rosella	Varied Sittella	



Grey Goshawk



White-throated Gerygone

ARTICLES

Defending One's patch, and food!

By Chris Cameron from 2021

This one took place over a space of a few minutes, starting when a Noisy Friarbird tried to take over a feeding tree, a flowering Callistemon just outside my office window, where a pair of Musk Lorikeets were feeding happily and quietly....

The Friarbird was much larger, very much more aggressive, and wasted no time in telling the Lorikeets to find somewhere else:



Not surprisingly, as they were there first, the Lorikeets first reaction was not very polite:



This did not appear to impress the Friarbird, whose language got much worse...



The Lorikeets showed no sign of giving way in the face of the abuse



And then did something I had never seen before gave the Friarbird "the proverbial finger".... While it seemed a quite unequal contest, in the end the Lorikeets held on, the Friarbird went to find something easier, and the Lorikeets calmly went on feeding!!

It all took maybe 5 minutes, but a very interesting interlude, all the better for being very close by, and little more than head height.

Links

Southern cassowary population discovered in northern Cape York for first time in 40 years - ABC News <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-09-27/southern-cassowary-population-sighting-cape-york-endangered-bird/101477184>

Widespread exposure of powerful owls to second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in Australia spans an urban to agricultural and forest landscape – ScienceDirect <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969722001139>

The Aussie Bird Count is back - 17-23 October 2022!
[Head to the website and register today.](#)

SPECTACLED MONARCH

Scientific Name: *Symphoricarthus trivirgatus*
Atlas Number: 375

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

DESCRIPTION:

The Spectacled Monarch is blue-grey above, with a black face mask that extends across both eyes in a 'clover-leaf' pattern, rufous (red-orange) breast, white underparts and a black tail with white outer tips. Immature birds lack the black face and have a grey throat. The north Queensland subspecies *albiventris* has a rufous upper breast sharply defined from more extensive white underparts.



SIMILAR SPECIES:

The Spectacled Monarch resembles the Black-faced Monarch, *M. melanopsis*, and the Black-winged Monarch, *M. frater*, but these species differ in having a black face mask that does not extend across the eyes, and both lack the white underparts and white outer tail tips.

DISTRIBUTION:

The Black-shouldered Kite is found across mainland Australia.

HABITAT:

The Spectacled Monarch is found in coastal north-eastern and eastern Australia, including coastal islands, from Cape York, Queensland to Port Stephens, New South Wales. It is much less common in the south. It is also found in Papua New Guinea, the Moluccas and Timor.

SEASONAL MOVEMENTS:

Resident in Queensland to Rockhampton, summer breeding migrant further south.

FEEDING:

The Spectacled Monarch feeds on insects, foraging mostly below the canopy in foliage and on tree trunks or vines.

BREEDING:

The Spectacled Monarch builds a small cup nest of fine bark, plant fibres, moss and spider web in a tree fork or in hanging vines, 1 m - 6 m above the ground, often near water.

GUESS WHO?

by Tony Bond

We saw this bird at Highfields Falls last weekend near the furthest entrance on James Byrne Road. It flew in and posed on the dead tree for only a couple of seconds before disappearing off behind some trees and out of sight. I was very lucky to get this shot. Everyone agrees it was either a Collared Sparrowhawk -or- a Brown Goshawk. We didn't see it again.



Bellthorpe

by Eduarda van Klinken

I stayed at Bellthorpe Stays (between Woodford and Maleny) for a few nights recently. On arrival my host pointed out two dollarbirds perched on a high branch. As we stood there they appeared to grab each other by the beak, spinning down quite a distance before separating. I believe this is a courtship ritual? My host also played me the call of the Paradise Riflebird, which I heard regularly during my stay. Despite searching I wasn't able to find the bird, until quite suddenly, as I was enjoying an evening drink on the back deck, a male alighted on the same spot I had earlier seen the dollarbirds! It spent around a minute attacking the bark acrobatically. Minutes after this two catbirds alighted in the same tree. I had heard these since childhood camping trips, but never seen one. I also enjoyed good sightings of the little shrike thrush – another first for me. Definitely a holiday to remember!

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Species	Date	Location	Observer
Square-tailed Kite	6/05/2022	Highfields	PM
Square-tailed Kite	29/07/2022	Agnus Water	PM, KO
Black Falcon (pair)	30/08/2022	Purga Creek, Ipswich	PM, KO
Painted Button-quail	1/09/2022	Highfields	JS, SS
Sacred Kingfisher	19/09/2022	Cabarlah	JS, SS
Channel-billed Cuckoo	12/09/2022	Nichols Rd. Highfields	JS, SS
Channel-billed Cuckoo	22/09/2022	Abberton, Helidon	BJ
Rainbow Bee-eater (small flocks flying over)	6/09/2022	Highfields	PM
Rainbow Bee-eater (small flocks flying over)	24/09/2022	Highfields	PM
Satin Flycatcher (male)	3/10/2022	Duggan Park, Toowoomba	RJ
Powerful Owl (pair)	3/05/2022	Williams Park, Highfields	PM
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	3/07/2022	Paradise Creek Road, Murphy's Creek	PM, KO
White-eared Monarch	-/09/2022	Redwood Park, Toowoomba	CD

CD, C. Dove; RJ, R. Jaensch; BJ, B. Jolly; PM, P. McConnell; KO. K. O'Donnell; JS, J. Scanlan; SS, S. Scanlan.



White-eared Monarch



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater

SPECIES CENSUS

Time for our Annual Census is fast approaching.

This year it will run from Friday 28th October through to Monday 31st October 2022.

The following information is attached for your convenience a copy of the bird list.

a map to help you determine what grid cell you're in.

Any and all records are helpful! Team up or go solo, and record as many birds (or as few birds) as you can over the survey period. Please also feel free to survey **whichever grid cells you want**. There is no formal structure and no-one is required to participate, but all survey work is highly valued and everyone is encouraged to submit at least one list. All you need to do is record what birds you have seen and in what sectors (1 – 20) they were seen in. Even lists from your own yard are helpful.

Send all completed lists to me and I will collate them for the newsletter.

Regards
Pat McConnell
Records Officer

Bird List attached as separate document to complete.

Toowoomba Bird Observers Checklist

Observer Month & Year

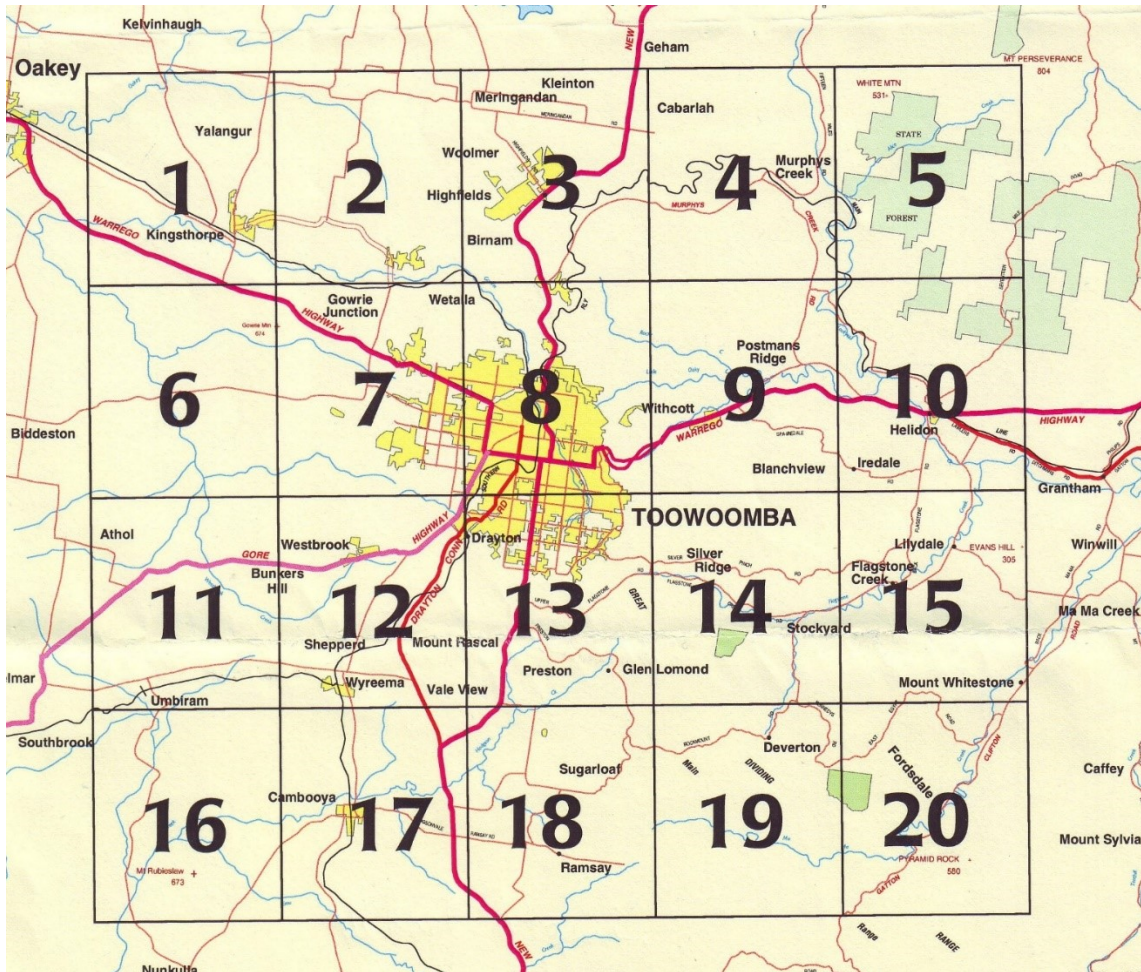
Magpie Goose	Australian Bustard	White-winged Black Tern
Plumed Whistling-Duck	Tawny Frogmouth	White-tailed Tropicbird
Wandering Whistling-Duck	Spotted Nightjar	Gould's Petrel
Blue-billed Duck	White-throated Nightjar	Wedge-tailed Shearwater
Pink-eared Duck	Australian Owlet-nightjar	Black-necked Stork
Black Swan	White-throated Needletail	Australian Pelican
Hardhead	Fork-tailed Swift	Australian Little Bittern
Australasian Shoveler	Lewin's Rail	Black Bittern
Pacific Black Duck	Buff-banded Rail	Nankeen Night-Heron
Mallard	Australian Spotted Crake	Striated Heron
Grey Teal	Baillon's Crake	Eastern Cattle Egret
Chestnut Teal	Spotless Crake	White-necked Heron
Freckled Duck	Pale-vented Bush-hen	Great Egret
Musk Duck	Australian Swamphen	Intermediate Egret
Australian Wood Duck	Dusky Moorhen	White-faced Heron
Cotton Pygmy-goose	Black-tailed Native-hen	Little Egret
Australian Brush-turkey	Eurasian Coot	Australian White Ibis
Stubble Quail	Brolga	Straw-necked Ibis
Brown Quail	Bush Stone-curlew	Yellow-billed Spoonbill
King Quail	Red-necked Avocet	Royal Spoonbill
Australasian Grebe	White-headed Stilt	Glossy Ibis
Hoary-headed Grebe	Pacific Golden Plover	Little Pied Cormorant
Great Crested Grebe	Red-capped Plover	Great Cormorant
Rock Dove	Black-fronted Dotterel	Little Black Cormorant
White-headed Pigeon	Banded Lapwing	Pied Cormorant
Spotted Dove	Masked Lapwing	Australasian Darter
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Red-kneed Dotterel	Eastern Osprey
Wonga Pigeon	Australian Painted-snipe	Black-shouldered Kite
Squatter Pigeon	Comb-crested Jacana	Square-tailed Kite
Common Bronzewing	Whimbrel	Pacific Baza
Crested Pigeon	Black-tailed Godwit	Wedge-tailed Eagle
Diamond Dove	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Little Eagle
Peaceful Dove	Curlew Sandpiper	Swamp Harrier
Bar-shouldered Dove	Red-necked Stint	Spotted Harrier

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Pacific Emerald-Dove	Latham's Snipe	Grey Goshawk
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	Common Sandpiper	Brown Goshawk
Superb Fruit-Dove	Common Greenshank	Collared Sparrowhawk
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Marsh Sandpiper	Red Goshawk
Topknot Pigeon	Red-necked Phalarope	White-bellied Sea-Eagle
Pheasant Coucal	Red-backed Button-Quail	Whistling Kite
Eastern Koel	Black-breasted Button-Quail	Brahminy Kite
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Painted Button-Quail	Black Kite
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Red-chested Button-Quail	Sooty Owl
Black-eared Cuckoo	Little Button-Quail	Masked Owl
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Australian Pratincole	Eastern Barn Owl
Little Bronze-Cuckoo	Silver Gull	Powerful Owl
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Sooty Tern	Barking Owl
Brush Cuckoo	Gull-billed Tern	Southern Boobook
Pallid Cuckoo	Caspian Tern	Rainbow Bee-eater
Oriental Cuckoo	Whiskered Tern	Dollarbird
Azure Kingfisher	Eastern Spinebill	Spangled Drongo
Forest Kingfisher	Lewin's Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Sacred Kingfisher	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Rufous Fantail
Red-backed Kingfisher	Little Wattlebird	Grey Fantail
Laughing Kookaburra	Red Wattlebird	Torresian Crow
Nankeen Kestrel	Fuscous Honeyeater	Australian Raven
Australian Hobby	White-plumed Honeyeater	Leaden Flycatcher
Brown Falcon	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Satin Flycatcher
Grey Falcon	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Restless Flycatcher
Black Falcon	Bell Miner	Magpie-lark
Peregrine Falcon	Noisy Miner	Spectacled Monarch
Cockatiel	Yellow-throated Miner	White-eared Monarch
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Spotted Pardalote	Black-faced Monarch
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Striated Pardalote	White-winged Chough
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Brown Gerygone	Apostlebird
Galah	White-throated Gerygone	Rose Robin
Long-billed Corella	Western Gerygone	Scarlet Robin
Little Corella	Weebill	Red-capped Robin
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Speckled Warbler	Jacky Winter
Australian King-Parrot	White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Yellow Robin
Red-winged Parrot	Large-billed Scrubwren	Mistletoebird
Red-rumped Parrot	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Blue Bonnet	Yellow Thornbill	Diamond Firetail
Crimson Rosella	Striated Thornbill	Red-browed Finch
Pale-headed Rosella	Brown Thornbill	Plum-headed Finch
Eastern Rosella	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Zebra Finch
Swift Parrot	Grey-crowned Babbler	Double-barred Finch
Turquoise Parrot	Varied Sittella	House Sparrow
Musk Lorikeet	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	Horsfield's Bushlark
Little Lorikeet	Barred Cuckoo-shrike	Australasian Pipit
Rainbow Lorikeet	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Golden-headed Cisticola
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	Brown Songlark
Budgerigar	Cicadabird	Rufous Songlark
Noisy Pitta	White-winged Triller	Tawny Grassbird
Regent Bowerbird	Varied Triller	Little Grassbird
Satin Bowerbird	Spotted Quail-thrush	Australian Reed-Warbler
Spotted Bowerbird	Rufous Whistler	White-backed Swallow
White-throated Treecreeper	Golden Whistler	Fairy Martin
Variegated Fairy-wren	Little Shrike-thrush	Tree Martin
Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Shrike-thrush	Welcome Swallow
Red-backed Fairy-wren	Crested Shrike-tit	Silvereye
White-winged Fairy-wren	Eastern Whipbird	Common Starling

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Black Honeyeater	Australasian Figbird	Common Myna
Scarlet Honeyeater	Olive-backed Oriole	Russet-tailed Thrush
Painted Honeyeater	Pied Currawong	Common Blackbird
Striped Honeyeater	Australian Magpie	
Noisy Friarbird	Pied Butcherbird	
Little Friarbird	Grey Butcherbird	
Brown Honeyeater	Masked Woodswallow	
Blue-faced Honeyeater	White-browed Woodswallow	
Black-chinned Honeyeater	Dusky Woodswallow	
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Black-faced Woodswallow	
White-throated Honeyeater	Little Woodswallow	
White-naped Honeyeater	White-breasted Woodswallow	



Notes:.....

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Toowoomba Bird Observers Notice Annual General Meeting Tuesday 25 October 2022

The Toowoomba Bird Observers Club Inc. Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 October 2022 at St Anthony's Parish Centre Community Hall, 3 Memory Street. Toowoomba at 6.00pm

Business of the AGM:

- Confirmation of the minutes of the 2021 AGM
- President's Report for 2022
- Treasurer's Report 2022
- Election of office bearers and ordinary committee members for 2023
Ordinary Committee Members include Newsletter Editor, Records Officer, Outings Coordinator, Media Officer and Facebook Administrators.
- Guest speaker is Ornithologist, Scot McPhie, who will speak about *The Battle to Save Redwood Park*.

Nomination for the above positions should be lodged with the Secretary prior to the meeting. Please use the nomination form below.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please advise a committee member.



NOMINATION FORM FOR TBOC OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE – 2023

POSITIONS

President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and up to six (6) Ordinary Committee Members

Position nominated: _____

Members Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date _____

Nominated by: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Seconded by: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: Nomination forms are not required for the non-elected positions