

Brolga

Vol 14 Number 3 September 2025



Red-capped Plover (Kate Lacy)

BirdLife Capricornia

We all know that when the first Eastern Koel arrives that spring is in the air and winter is done. There is a report about Channel-billed Cuckoo and Eastern Koel arrivals which shows some earlier arrivals for the Koel. Several very interesting trip reports from Africa, Papua New Guinea as well as from local areas.

The trip on the LARC at 1770 was very successful with local participation as well as a dinner night that included a showing of the movie "Flyways".

Conservation activities have included the annual fox control project where only nine active dens were located and fumigated. This is well down on previous years and indicates that the project is having a significant impact on fox numbers.

As usual there is a smorgasbord of fantastic photos in the DSLR, non-DSLR and Artistic categories.

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Bird and urban friendly trees and shrubs

Allan Briggs was invited by Tegan Gargett, Curator at Rockhampton Zoo to give a talk about attracting birds to urban gardens. This was one of the events to celebrate 100 years of the zoo. Numbers were limited to 30 and the event was held in the new Education Room that is part of the zoo entrance.

Allan used the publication 'Bird and urban friendly trees, shrubs, grasses and lilies' to highlight the local native plant species that can be used to attract birds to a garden.



PowerPoint presentation (Flynn O'Hallahan)

After the talk the group had a walk down to Murray Lagoon to view and identify the birds. Large numbers of White Ibis, Little Black Cormorant, Purple Swamphen and Pacific Black Duck were seen with the highlight being a pair of Great Crested Grebe.

The zoo gave out some tube stock of Purple Pea Bush to the attendees.



Birdwatching at Murray Lagoon (Flynn O'Hallahan)

Channel-billed Cuckoo and Eastern Koel arrivals

Eastern Koel

Number of reports: 24
Earliest arrival in 2025: 15th August at The Caves.
Earliest historical arrival: 16th August at Miekleville in Yeppoon in 2020.
Number of arrivals in August 2025: 7.
Number of arrivals in August 2020: 4
Number of arrivals in August 2015: 1

While the earliest arrival is around the same date the number of arrivals in August is increasing.

Channel-bill Cuckoo

Number of reports: 18
Earliest arrival in 2025: 29th August at Rocky View.
Earliest historical arrival: 21st August at Byfield in 2013.
Number of arrivals in August 2025: 1
Number of arrivals in August 2020: 2
Number of arrivals in August 2015: 2

Not much change with regards to Channel-billed Cuckoo arrivals.

Field trip: Barlow's Sand Quarry

On a cool Sunday morning in mid July 14 members attended the field trip to Barlow's Sand Quarry. Dave Mitchell, who knows that location very well, was the leader. First of all there was a circuit walk around the wetland with many waterbirds to be seen as well as bush birds such as the Leaden Flycatcher and the Olive-backed Sunbird.



Leaden Flycatcher (Kate Lacy)

Then we car-pooled to drive out to one of the creeks that flow into the Causeway Lake. Several egrets, darter and pelican were seen. Then a drive to a swampy area on the North West side of the property. Here there were Top-knot Pigeons, Black-fronted Dotterel, White-faced Heron and Australasian Pipit and Rainbow Bee-eater among others.

On the drive back we came across a large group of White-breasted Woodswallow roosting high in a tree. A bonus was a Shining Bronze-cuckoo foraging nearby.



Olive-backed Sunbird feeding on Honeysuckle flowers (Kate Lacy)



Group on the wetlands circuit walk (Allan Briggs)

It is amazing how many bird species can be seen in an industrial site such as this. However, Barlow's have left large tracts of forest undisturbed and the mixture of different habitats from wetlands, to forest to creeks and flooded swampy areas attract a wide range of species.



Rainbow Bee-eater (Kate Lacy)

Back at the car parking area we had morning tea and we were surprised to see a Buff-banded Rail foraging only a few metres away.



Buff-banded Rail (Sheryl Davey)

Above our head a Galah was sitting in the entrance to a tree hollow, and we saw it carrying nesting material.

At the end of the morning we had recorded 76 species in four hours, a significant total.



Birding at the creek (Sheryl Davey)



Galah in a tree hollow (Kate Lacy)



Forest Kingfisher (Sheryl Davey)

Talk to U3A garden group

Rod Elder reports on a talk to the U3A garden group about attracting birds to gardens

Allan Briggs from Birdlife Capricornia gave a talk on what plants to use to attract birds to your garden. There is a need to have a variation of plants species to provide for the different food choices/needs of birds. Some birds are nectar /pollen feeders while others eat seeds, fruits and insects. He showed us several bird pictures of such species as Rainbow Lorikeets, Figbirds, and Finches. We should look at bird bills to help identify them and also get a clue as to what they feed on. Finches have short stout beaks which they use to crack seeds while honey eaters tend to have elongated bills to extract nectar from deep inside a flower.

You may be able to attract water birds to your garden if you have a water feature or even a dam. Water is a very important attraction for birds as not only do they get a drink but also a bath. Birds are constantly cleaning their feathers and zipping the individual feather parts together so they can fly as efficiently as possible.

Allan went on to mention the importance of raptors such as kites and eagles which clean up road kills and carcasses elsewhere. Crows while somewhat disliked are even more important as general Garbo's. They will even clean up dead toads. Like many birds they are very intelligent with their brain having twice the brain cell density as mammals.

Allan said if you must feed birds do not use bread, as the contents are deleterious. Seeds are fine and can be bought at your supermarket or at a Stock and Station agent in larger quantities. Meat is fine if it does not contain additives. You can provide calcium for their bones with dusting crushed eggshells or shell grit.

Allan has provided a list of plants with the birds they attract and the times of year the birds may appear. Some such as Scarlet Honeyeaters are only there for their winter migration.

The U3A garden group were invited us to join Birdlife Australia of which some of us are members. They have various events including fantastic field trips. U3A has a bird group which has outings every second Wednesday of every second month aimed at less mobile people



*Talk in the annexe of a house in Frenchville
(Bev Meredith)*

Trip report: Papua New Guinea

Richard Holroyd reports on a birding trip to PNG in July 2025

I have never been to PNG, our closet neighbour. New Guinea which includes PNG in the eastern half and the Indonesian provinces of West Papua and Papua in the western half has 621 breeding land and freshwater species of birds of which 365 are endemic to New Guinea.

With some trepidation I joined a group of 5 others plus a guide in Port Moresby. The trip was organised by Sicklebill Safaris from Malanda. We had 3 days of birding mainly in the Varirata National Park in the hinterland of Port Moresby. The climate was pleasant being cool in the morning with day temperatures in the low thirties. We then flew to Mt Hagen in the central highlands for 5 days staying at 2 different lodges. Both lodges were at an elevation of greater than 2000 m. It was cold at night with temperatures down to 4⁰ C.



Orange-fronted Fruit-dove (Richard Holroyd)

I found it quite difficult birding and photographing at times because of the elevation and the gloom and dankness of the cloud forest. Nevertheless, we saw some magnificent birds.

In all I saw 78 new birds with the group seeing 165 species. Some of the highlights for me were the lekking displays of the Raggiana Bird of Paradise, the Yellow-billed Kingfisher and Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher in Varirata NP and the Orange-fronted Fruit-dove and Papuan Frogmouth in the grounds of the Pacific Adventist University in Port Moresby.



Yellow-billed Kingfisher (Richard Holroyd)

Both lodges in the Mt Hagen region had feeding stations of fresh pawpaw and pineapple attracting Birds of Paradise such as the Ribbon-tailed Astrapia and the Short-tailed Paradigalla, as well as Brehm's Tiger Parrot, Belford's Melidectes and Fan-tailed Berrypecker. We also had good views in the surrounding areas of the King of Saxony and Blue Birds of Paradise and other members of the *Paradisaeidae* family including Brown Sicklebill, Superb Lophorina and Princess Stephanie's Astrapia.

It was a great trip. The organisation, accommodation and company were good and at no time did I feel unsafe although none of us ventured out on our own. I would thoroughly recommend it.



Male Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (Richard Holroyd)



Raggiana Bird of Paradise (Richard Holroyd)



Female Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (Richard Holroyd)



Short-tailed Paradigalla (Richard Holroyd)



Brehm's Tiger Parrot male left female right (Richard Holroyd)



Belford's Melidectes (Richard Holroyd)

Livingstone Shire Disaster Readiness Exercise

As a member of the Environment Taskforce Allan Briggs was invited to take part in a disaster scenario exercise that focused on recovery actions four days after a disaster. The scenario was a cyclone that crossed the coast at Corio Bay and tracked south west across the shire.

The four recovery and resilience taskforces that participated were Human and Social, Economic, Environment and Built Environment. Other participants included police, SES, Main Roads, various Qld Govt department representatives and Livingstone Shire employees in various roles with around 55 participants from 19 agencies in total.

Participants worked in their respective Recovery Taskforce's to coordinate and document recovery priorities and actions following the simulated impact of a severe tropical cyclone. This included the progressive development of a Recovery Action Plan that addresses short, medium, and longer term recovery activities.

Allan focussed on the impacts to wildlife and the need for a register of wildlife carers who could look after wildlife injured as a result of the cyclone. Allan also highlighted the need for funding to support wildlife carers during this period until wildlife could be released back to the wild.

Attendees also visited The Station which will be used as a community recovery hub following a disaster. The Station is the old railway station on James Street which is now a family dining location. Disaster recovery personnel will provide advice and assistance with things like accessing relief payments, making an insurance claim and so on.



*Attendees at the Station Recovery Hub
(Livingstone Shire)*



Participants in session (Livingstone Shire)

Field trip: Lake Mary swamp and Hedlow Creek

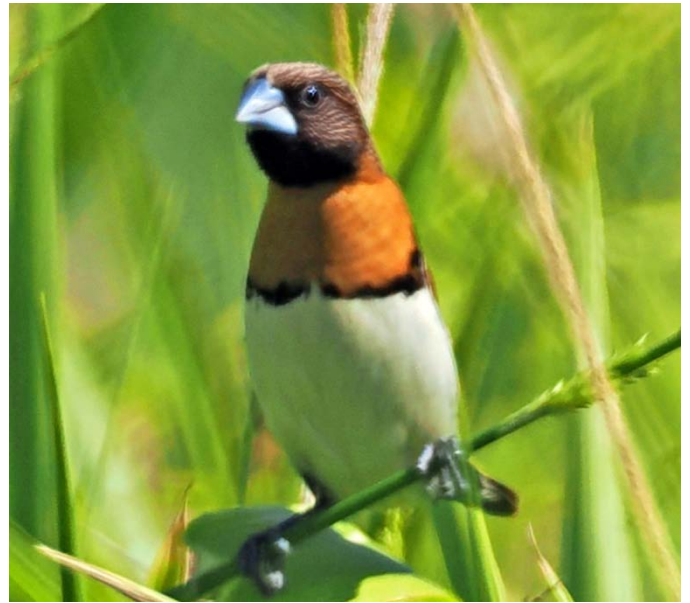
A group of fourteen members went to Lake Mary swamp and Hedlow Creek in late August. On arrival there was a thick fog over the swamp which was very atmospheric. It gradually lifted as the sun got higher in the sky to reveal a wonderful variety of waterbirds.

Cotton Pygmy-geese were swimming around and large numbers of Comb-crested Jacana were hopping around on the water lily pads. Large numbers of Black Swans were feeding with one floating nest. Pelicans were forming a circle to move the fish into a tight ball before plunging their bill in to catch them.

One highlight was a Brown Falcon that came in to sit on the branch of a tree above our heads. It sat there above a nest for quite some time allowing everyone to get some good photos.

From there we went up to the camping reserve on Hedlow Creek and continued birdwatching while having morning tea. Large numbers of Chestnut-breasted Mannikin were feeding in the grass behind us with Bar-breasted and White-throated Honeyeaters moving through the trees along the creek.

It was a magical morning with a cloudless sky, no wind and many bird species to see. All told the species count for the morning was 79. .



Chestnut-breasted Mannikin (Steve Kerr)



Brown Falcon (Steve Kerr)



Black Kite (Kris Hewitt)

Bird Surveys on three Bush Heritage properties in western Qld

Report by Bob Black and Lorelle Campbell

In late April we headed to western Queensland for the first of three bird surveys on Bush Heritage Australia properties. Stopping at Barcardine we watched a Spotted Bowerbird adorning its bower in the park.



Spotted Bowerbird (Bob and Lorelle)

From there we drove north to the Edgbaston property for two weeks of bird surveys at fixed sites in the different habitats in the property. The Mitchell Grass plains were in prime condition with tall, lush grasses and many bird species. Little and Red-chested Button-quail and Brown and Stubble Quail were often flushed, sometimes all at one site. Spotted Harriers and Australian Bustards were seen often. Notable bird species included Black-breasted Buzzard, Black Falcon, Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Pictorella Mannikin, Orange Chat and Flock Bronzewing. Edgbaston protects a large number of springs from the Great Artesian Basin. These springs have two species of endemic fish, and a large number of endemic water snails.



Bustard displaying at Egbaston (Bob and Lorelle)



White-necked Heron at Western River (Bob and Lorelle)

The recent floods had left many roads damaged and some were still closed by flooding so we drove to Pullen Pullen via a camp near Lark Quarry. Notable species here were Hall's Babbler and Bourke's Parrot.



Bourke's Parrot near Lark Quarry (Bob and Lorelle)

The Diamantina River Road was still unrepaired and officially closed, but we were permitted to use it to access Pullen Pullen. This property lies adjacent to the Diamantina floodplain, and is mostly eroded mesas, sparse gibber plains, spinifex grasslands and Gidgee creek channels. Shane Hume, the land manager, had just got onto the property after the floods, and the internal tracks were not yet repaired from substantial damage. We did bird surveys at fourteen sites which were accessible despite road conditions.



Mitchell Grass Downs on the upper Diamantina Floodplain, with eroding mesas at Pullen Pullen (Bob and Lorelle)

While driving the tracks we saw many Australian Pratincoles, and one stood in the track with wings outstretched to stop us. Beside the track was a pair of newly hatched chicks.



Australian Pratincole (Bob and Lorelle)



Spinifex and Lancewood Plateau at Pullen Pullen (Bob and Lorelle)



*Australian Pratincole chicks at Pullen Pullen
(Bob and Lorelle)*

A pair of Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush was seen regularly at one site, and a newly fledged juvenile showed why.



Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush (Bob and Lorelle)

Flock Bronzewing were seen regularly at all three properties we surveyed, but usually only as one or two birds.

We then travelled to Ethabuka Reserve, about 140 km northwest of Bedourie. This reserve is on the edge of the Simpson Desert dune systems, and runs west to the NT border. The surveys here were designed to detect Eyrean Grasswrens near their northern limits. We drove for up to one and a half hours to sites, then walked 2km down a dune crest, stopping every 200m to play calls and scan for Grasswrens. Searching for these elusive birds was made far harder by the extraordinary number of flies buzzing around our fly veils. We then crossed to the next dune and surveyed back to the vehicle.

Most notable birds seen were Eyrean Grasswren, Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Chirruping Wedgebill, Pied Honeyeater, Orange Chats and large numbers of Crimson Chats.



Orange Chat at Simpson Desert (Bob and Lorelle)



Male Crimson Chat (Bob and Lorelle)

After leaving Ethabuka we camped at Cuttaburra Crossing, where Eyre Creek turns west into the Simpson Desert. The creek was still full from the floods, with many waterbirds feeding on abundant fish. Pelicans, Four Cormorant species and Great-crested Grebes patrolled just off our camp.



Great Crested Grebe at Eyre Creek (Bob and Lorelle)

The surveys of these Bush Heritage were very different, but all were very rewarding. The Managers, BHA staff and other volunteers were all great to work with.

Trip report: South Australia

Kay and Barry Ellis provide a photographic report of a trip to South Australia

First destination was Murray Bridge where they boarded a paddle steamer for a trip down the Murray River. A number of water birds were seen here.



Australian Shelduck (Barry Ellis)



Australian Darter (Barry Ellis)



Australian Pelican (Barry Ellis)

Then they took the ferry across to Kangaroo Island and spent a few days there.



Singing Honeyeater (Barry Ellis)



Juvenile male Superb Fairy-wren (Barry Ellis)



Pacific Gull (Barry Ellis)



Female Superb fairy-wren (Barry Ellis)

Trip report: LARC at 1770

In early September 12 members of BirdLife Capricornia, 2 members of Native Plants Capricornia, 2 members of Gin Gin Landcare and 10 members of Gladstone Conservation Council went for a trip on the amphibious LARC at 1770.

The LARC is a vehicle that can travel on land and in water and was designed as a re-supply vessel in the USA during the second World War.

Members of Gladstone Conservation Council organised three pre-trip bird walks and a dinner on the Saturday night at the Drift and Wood restaurant. The first bird walk was on Friday afternoon and explored the bush and coast around the headland at 1770. The second walk was on Saturday morning and explored the bush and coast to the south of Agnes Water. The third bird walk highlighted the Rainbow Bee-eater nesting area at the SES grounds as well as Tom's Creek.

The Saturday night dinner featured the movie "Flyways" which tells the story of migratory shorebirds on the East Asian Australasian Flyway.

The trip on the LARC was on the Sunday. First of all we crossed Round Hill Creek to the sand spit at the mouth of the creek. Here there were a number of migratory shorebirds such as Bar-tailed Godwit, Eastern Curlew, Pacific Golden Plover and Greater Sand Plover. Also flying around the estuary was a pair of Brown Booby making spectacular dives into the water for fish.

We then travelled along Bustard Bay beach and crossed Eurimbula Creek, Middle Creek and Jenny Lind Creek to reach a covered area for morning tea. The birds seen were Red-capped Plovers, Brahminy Kites and several Pied Oystercatcher with some sitting on nests.



Birdwatching at Jenny Lind Creek (Allan Briggs)



Pied Oystercatcher (Allan Briggs)



Bar-tailed Godwit (Allan Briggs)

An additional bird walk was arranged on the Monday morning after the LARC trip with several attending. This walk was to Springs Creek south of Agnes Water.



Azure Kingfisher (Kris Hewitt)

The total bird count for the weekend including those recorded on the walks and the LARC was 82.

Trip report: South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana

David and Monica Deeth report on a trip to South Africa.

Monica and I have recently returned from our 18 day African tour where we spent our time in South Africa - Cape Town (4 days), the Garden Route (5 days), Kruger National Park (3 days) and Johannesburg (2 days), Zimbabwe – Victoria Falls (3 days) and Botswana – Chobe National Park (1 day). The tour company was 'My Cruises' and we were part of a 44 all Australian tour group.

The highlight of the trip for Monica and I were the animals – we attended a private reserve outside Cape Town, had 2 days at Kruger National Park and a day at Chobe National Park. We sighted the majority of the animals that we were hoping for with the exception of the Leopard.

On the birding front, I was busily photographing and sighting birds along the way and totalled around 115 species – by the end of the tour a few of the fellow travellers were also helping me with spotting the birdlife – Monica joked that I was the only one taking photos of birds when everyone else was looking at elephants and giraffes!

I was actually impressed that the Indian Myna bird was only sighted once during the trip. A recent trip to the Cook Islands was hugely disappointing 'birding wise' as the Indian Myna was the predominant bird that we saw.

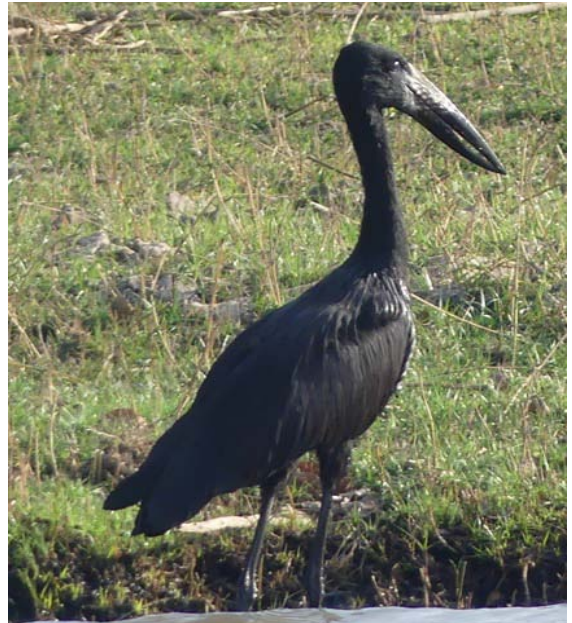
Below are a snippet of some of the birds from the African trip. All photos by David Deeth.



African Penguins



Masked Weaver



Black Stork



African Jacana



Yellow-Billed Hornbill



Southern Ground Hornbill



Lilac Breasted Roller

Fox control on the Capricorn Coast

Livingstone Shire Council engaged Tom Garret to conduct the annual fox control activity in September. BirdLife Capricornia has committed \$7000 towards this work to further protect bird species that are taken by foxes.

The results show a steady decline in the number of active dens fumigated over the years and indicates that the project is achieving its goal of controlling foxes and reducing the impact that they have on wildlife.

2017 - 24 Dens Fumigated over 4 days
2018 - 34 Dens Fumigated over 5 days
2019 - 24 Dens fumigated over 5 days
2020 - 15 Dens fumigated over 5 days
2021 - 10 Dens fumigated over 5 days
2022 – 22 Dens fumigated over 7 days
2023 – 28 Dens fumigated over 10 days
2024 – 24 Dens fumigated over 10 days
2025 – 9 Dens fumigated over 8 days



Yellow Billed Stork



*Fox den located by Cooper at Fisherman's Beach
(Allan Briggs)*

Conservation news

Allan Briggs reports on conservation happenings.

Livingstone Shire Council Environment Taskforce

Allan Briggs attended the Taskforce meeting in August.

Presentation by Claire Gronow from Lock the Gate about identifying natural assets that are vulnerable to climate change and disaster impacts.

The beach access to Lioness Park boardwalk will be completed by the end of December.

400 trees were planted at Mulambin on National Tree Day in July.

Pandanus die-back survey has shown that the situation has now stabilised and a report can be accessed at

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a114mKYx_TtCUsNCJGUGuxNYWvmlW-U/view?usp+sharing

Livingstone Shire Council provided information about environmental projects underway in the shire. These include the reduction of energy use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, solar street lights at the Causeway Lake, the Urban Rivers Project at Lex Semple Park and the Reef Guardian Project at Oxford Road to regenerate the bush and manage storm water. The state government is also proposing to commence a feral goat removal project on Great Keppel Island. Willy Newman gave an update on the project to identify heritage areas and old growth trees so that they can be protected. Seed collection training was provided by Greening Australia.

Funding has been applied for to construct a sea wall to protect Emu Park Surf Club, foreshore management at several beaches along the coast and roost management for flying foxes.

Technology to avoid bird strikes at wind farms

Technology being used at two Tasmanian wind farms to avoid bird deaths from turbine blade strikes has drastically reduced Wedge-tail Eagle fatalities at the project sites, while resulting in an average of just 1 per cent loss of generation from turbine shutdowns.

The technology being used is Identiflight which uses a high definition 3D camera to track bird movements through a wind farm and then shut down any turbines which may be on the birds flight path.

We will be advocating for this technology to be used at wind farms in our local area.

Rockhampton Lagoons

Allan Briggs had a meeting with Lauren Keliher and Karen Moody from Rockhampton Regional Council to discuss the infestation of many lagoons in the Rockhampton area with aquatic weeds. Council has done quite a lot of work spraying aquatic weeds and while the situation is improving there is still some work that needs to be done.

One real positive is that the large basin on Limestone Creek near the bridge on Alexandra Road is now virtually free of aquatic weeds. This means that cormorants will be able to nest there again this year which they have not done for the past two years.

Around the ridges

Wader surveys at Kinka Beach and Kinka Wetlands

We are now doing surveys at two locations, south Kinka Beach and Kinka Wetlands.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to the shorebird counts throughout the year.

At Kinka Beach, there were only Red-capped Plovers to be seen in July and one Double-banded Plover. In August some early migratory shorebirds arrived with eight Eastern Curlew and one Bar-tailed Godwit. In September there was a similar number with the addition of twelve Red-necked Stint.

The water levels at Kinka Wetlands have been receding with the northern end having dried up. There were 28 Red-capped Plover in August and 12 Pied Stilt as well as 122 Black Swan. With the dry spell continuing the September count was even lower with only two Pied Stilt and five Black Swan. However, fifteen Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and ten Red-necked Stint turned up to feed on the exposed mud.



Royal Spoonbills at Kinka Wetlands (Kate Lacy)

Wader surveys at Gladstone

Tony Longson has taken over the shorebird counts at QAL and is being assisted by Ted Wnorowski, Margaret Worthington and Tara Ledingham. Tony would welcome any Gladstone member who has an interest in shorebirds and would like to assist with the counts.

Where does the count data go?

With regular monthly surveys in Mackay, Capricorn Coast and Gladstone we now have a good spread of wader surveys along our coastline. All of this data is submitted to QWSG and eventually finds its way into the BirdLife Australia Atlas.

Would you like to help?

The monthly surveys are a vitally important component of our coastal shorebird monitoring that is part of a nationwide effort to collect data about shorebird species. If anyone would like to help out with these surveys please contact Allan Briggs at abriggs@irock.com.au

Outstanding DSLR

Our photography section keeps getting better and we now have four categories, DSLR, non-DSLR, Artistic and Junior. Members are encouraged to send in their photographs to contribute to each section.



Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (Steve Kerr)

A female Red-tailed Black Cockatoo gorging on gum nuts at Kinka Wetlands.



Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (Steve Kerr)

When one tree has been stripped of gum nuts then it is time to fly over to another one. Taken at Kinka Wetlands.



Cattle Egret (Steve Kerr)

Strutting around a grassy paddock at Kinka Wetlands were several Cattle Egrets and this one had some remnant yellow on its neck from breeding plumage.



Double-banded Plover (Kate Lacy)

Double-banded Plovers migrate from New Zealand during the winter months but are in non-breeding plumage when they get here so there is only partial banding on the breast. Taken at Kinka Beach.



Australasian Pipit (Kate Lacy)

The Australasian Pipit is fairly common in the right habitat and will often fly in front of you as you walk along. Taken at Kinka Wetlands.



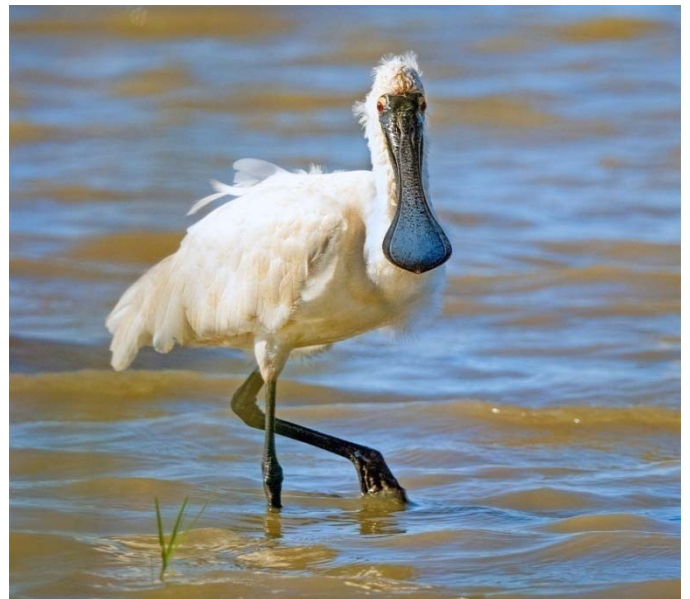
Australian Pelican (Kate Lacy)

Look carefully and you will see that the Pelican is relieving itself. When you need to go you just have to let it go. Taken at Bowlin Rd, Rockhampton.



White-faced Herons (Kate Lacy)

A pair of startled White-faced Herons scurried off as we walked along the road on the July wader survey at Kinka Wetlands.



Royal Spoonbill (Kate Lacy)

This was one of a large flock of Royal Spoonbills at Kinka Wetlands.



Great Egret (Steve Kerr)

The Great Egret has a graceful flight with quite slow flapping of the wings, neck tucked in and legs trailing behind. Taken at Kinka Wetlands.



Plumed Whistling Ducks (Kris Hewitt)

Many flocks of Plumed Whistling Ducks can be seen on wetlands around the area and these were seen at Lammermoor Native Gardens.



Black-shouldered Kite (Kris Hewitt)

The Black-shouldered Kite loves to sit high on a dead tree to get a good view of the landscape and any potential prey. Taken at Alton Downs.



Striated Pardalote (Kris Hewitt)

The incessant calls of the Striated Pardalote can be heard through the winter months when it breeds. Taken at Bluff Point.



White-throated Honeyeater (Kris Hewitt)

The White-throated Honeyeater is one of the more common species of honeyeater. Taken at Cooee Bay.



Golden-headed Cisticola (Kris Hewitt)

This Golden-headed Cisticola was sitting behind a spiders web at Lake Mary swamp.



Channel-billed Cuckoo (Laura Lubans-bates)

One of many arrivals from Asia throughout the area in early September. This one was seen at Yeppoon.



Eastern Yellow Robin (Sheryl Davey)

A classic pose for the Eastern Yellow Robin where they hang off the side of a branch and wait for you to disturb some insects. Taken at Cawarral.



Silvereye (Sheryl Davey)

This Silvereye is enjoying some nectar from a Eucalyptus flower. Taken at Cawarral.



White-faced Heron (Sheryl Davey)

Strutting along the beach at Emu Park this White-faced Heron has a very haughty look about it.

Outstanding non-DSLR photographs

This section features photographs taken with bridge or compact cameras.



Collared Sparrowhawk (Dave Mitchell)

Dave heard a commotion in his neighbours chicken pen and when he investigated he found this Collared Sparrowhawk trapped there. He was going to help it to get out but it freed itself and flew off.



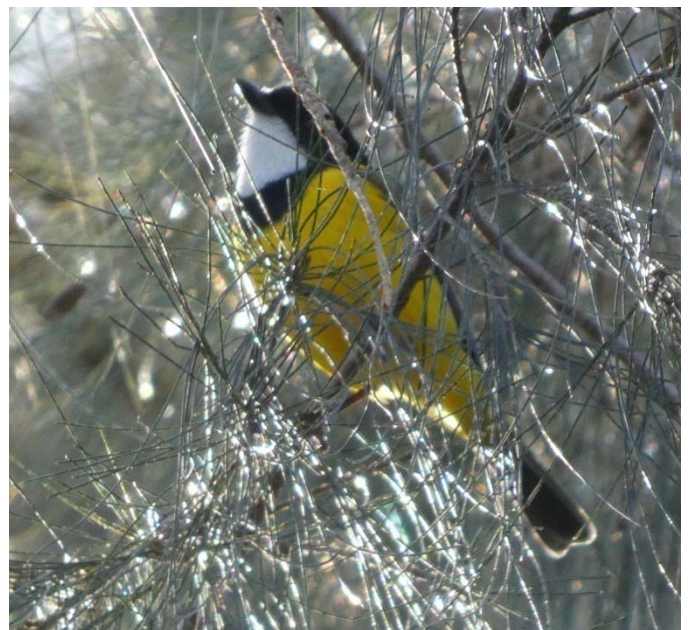
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (Allan Briggs)

There was a large flock of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos at Rosslyn Bay and this one settled down for some preening.



Brown Cuckoo-dove (Allan Briggs)

On a cold winters day this Brown Cuckoo-dove spread its wings for a sunbathe. Taken at Coowonga.



Golden Whistler (Allan Briggs)

This male Golden Whistler was foraging in Casuarina trees on a cold early morning in July. Taken at Coowonga.



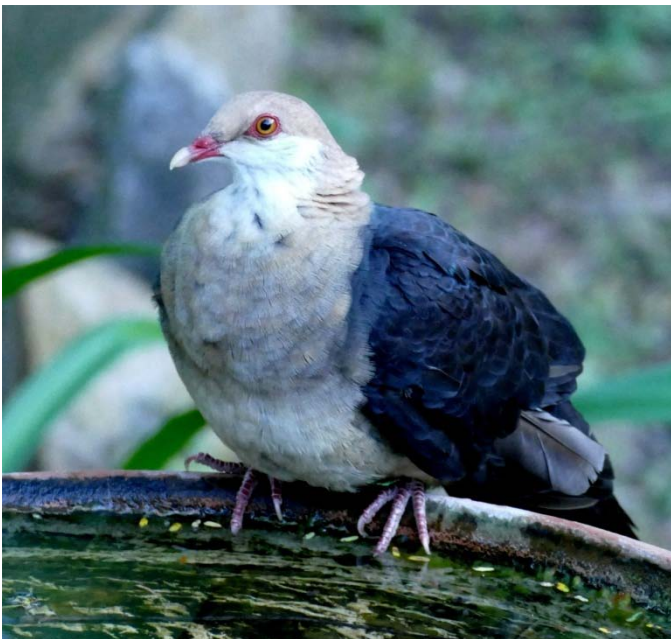
Fan-tailed Cuckoo (Allan Briggs)

This Fan-tailed Cuckoo spotted the photographer and was keeping an eye on him. Taken at Coowonga.



Bush Stone-curlew (Allan Briggs)

Sitting in the sun is a good way to warm up on a cold winters day. Taken at Coowonga.



White-headed Pigeon (Gillian Saunders)

Very rare to see a White-headed Pigeon outside rainforest but this female turned up at Bondoola near Yeppoon. The only local place where they are known is Byfield. Otherwise it is Blackdown Tablelands or Kroombit Tops.



Torresian Kingfisher (Dave Mitchell)

The Torresian Kingfisher was previously called the Collared Kingfisher but is now a separate species that is found in PNG and Australia hence the name Torresian. Taken at Coorooman Creek Boat Ramp.



White-eared Monarch (Andrew Colvill)

The White-eared Monarch is not common but can be seen in a range of different habitats. Taken at Nankin.

Artistic interpretation

A category in our photography section that features photographs “*that take you to another place, makes you reflect on your own experiences, definitely has a back story or gives you an insight that you hadn’t thought of before.*”



Eastern Osprey (Allan Briggs)

This Osprey flew down from the nesting platform at Rosslyn Bay to have a drink from a rainwater pool in the car park. Rare to see an Osprey on the ground.



White-faced Heron (Kate Lacy)

This shot of a White-faced Heron taking off shows the lovely graduation of colours on the underwing. Taken at Kinka Wetlands.



Black-shouldered Kite (Andrew McDougall)

This Black-shouldered Kite was resting on a dead tree branch near Bunnings in Rockhampton. Andrew wondered what it was after, maybe a sausage from the sausage sizzle.



Olive-backed Sunbird feeding on Honeysuckle flowers (Kate Lacy)

This male Olive-backed Sunbird could not resist the sweet nectar produced by these beautiful Honeysuckle flowers. Taken at Barlow's Sand Quarry.



Blue-faced Honeyeater (Allan Briggs)

Winter flowering Grevillea are a magnet for honeyeaters and this Blue-face visited many times each day. Taken at Coowonga.



Brolga (Kate Lacy)

This male Brolga was dancing quite vigorously to impress his mate at Kinka Wetlands. They breed from September onwards so a bit of dancing in mid August would help to get them in the mood for the big occasion. Taken at Kinka Wetlands.



Eastern Curlew (Kate Lacy)

The arrival of eight Eastern Curlew at Kinka Beach in mid August were the first migratory shorebirds to be seen on their return to Australia. Taken at Kinka Beach.



Great Egret (Kris Hewitt)

The long neck on a Great Egret is very distinctive. This one is still showing the fading pea green breeding colour around the eyes but has the orange/yellow bill and black tip typical of non-breeding. Taken at Lammermoor Native Gardens.

Calendar of Events for 2025

Set out below is a suggested calendar of field trips and other activities for 2025 that were agreed to at the end of year event at Coolwaters. The field trips are planned to provide a variety of activities that suit member's interests, locations that are interesting and have sufficient variety to suit local short distance day trips and more adventurous long distance weekend trips.

Month	Date	Event	Where
September	7	National Threatened Species Day	TBA
	27	Monthly shorebird survey	Cap Coast, Mackay and Gladstone
	7	Weekend field trip	1770/LARC
	22 Sep- 6 Oct	School holidays	
October	25	Monthly shorebird survey	Cap Coast, Mackay and Gladstone
	18-21	Annual shorebird survey	Broadsound - Carmila Beach, Clairview, Hoogly Point, Charon Point
	20-26	Aussie Backyard Bird Count	Backyards nationwide
November	16	Urban birding	Mt Morgan Dam
	22	Monthly shorebird survey	Cap Coast, Mackay and Gladstone
December	6	End of year activity	Coolwaters
	20	Monthly shorebird survey	Cap Coast, Mackay and Gladstone
Jan – Dec	1 st Sunday in month	Monthly Birds in Capricornia surveys	Livingstone SC, Rockhampton RC, Banana SC, Gladstone RC, Central Highlands RC

Welcome to new members

We would like to welcome the following new members and look forward to meeting them on future field trips.

Caryn Norris - Gladstone.
Kathy Rourke – Emu Park.

Membership info

If you have any friends or relatives who are interested in birds then please encourage them to join or why not buy them a membership for their birthday!

Subscriptions:

\$79 Single (print or digital magazine) and \$29 Concession (digital magazine only). This includes membership of the national organisation plus membership of our local branch.

Special interest groups:

BirdLife Australia Raptor Group \$30
Australasian Seabird Group \$22
Australasian Wader Studies Group \$40
BirdLife Photography \$15

BirdLife Capricornia members also receive four issues of the full-colour BirdLife Magazine (print or digital) and regular issues of Brolga, the BirdLife Capricornia newsletter.

Membership forms are available from the Secretary or send subscriptions directly to: BirdLife, Suite 2-05, 60 Leicester Street Carlton, VIC 3053.

You can now join directly through the BA web site at: [Membership - BirdLife Australia](#)

Your Committee

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Representatives on BA committees;

Important Bird Area Nominations and Review Committee
Allan Briggs

Queensland Conservation Committee
Marian Davies

BirdLife English Names Committee
Allan Briggs

Conservation issues consultants
John McCabe and Bob Black

Capricorn Yellow Chat Working Group
Chair: Allan Briggs

Newsletter Editor
Allan Briggs

Newsletter proof reading
Debra Corbet

STEAM Consortium Representative
Margaret Worthington