

Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc.

Bird Observers' Group

Outing – 99a Beerburrum-Donnybrook Road, Donnybrook – 26th June, 2016

Robyn Howard

One of our famous East Coast Lows forced a week's postponement of our visit to this working cattle property. It is a really beautiful property, with owners who really care for their beasts and the environment and manage to keep a wonderful balance. The property has plenty of open grasslands which are mostly improved pasture, several natural forest areas, and two dams, one of which is of considerable size. After so much rain, the ducks which are usually resident had dispersed so that we had very few on the water. There were fair numbers of Australian Wood Duck, and we could hear them clucking in their tree-hollow nests. We love to see Peaceful Doves but generally see none or just one or two, but 14 watched us from a sun-drenched dead tree. The sighting of seven species of raptor was quite exciting as was the viewing of 2 Bush Stone-Curlews which are the masters of camouflage. A pair of Brolgas flew right across the property, but failed to land but it was still great to see their majestic flight. Unfortunately, only six participants were there to identify the 95 species – 86 seen and 9 heard only – and enjoy the lovely morning tea provided by our hostess.



Forest Kingfishers sunning on a cold morning

Bird List: Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, Rock Dove, White-headed Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove (H), Crested Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Top-knot Pigeon, Australasian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Australian Pelican, White-necked Heron, Intermediate Egret, Cattle Egret, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Black-shouldered Kite, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brown Goshawk, Spotted Harrier, Little Eagle, Nankeen Kestrel, Brolga, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Bush Stone-Curlew, Masked Lapwing, Comb-crested Jacana, Caspian Tern, Galah, Little Corella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Australian King Parrot, Pale-headed Rosella, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Fantail Cuckoo, Laughing Kookaburra, Forest Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, White-throated Treecreeper, Red-backed Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrubwren, Large-billed Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone (H), Mangrove Gerygone, Striated Pardalote, Lewin's Honeyeater (H), Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Scarlet Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, White-throated Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, Striped Honeyeater (H), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Varied Triller (H), Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Little Shrike-thrush, Grey Shrike-thrush, Australasian Figbird, White-breasted Woodswallow, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Spangled Drongo, Rufous Fantail, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Magpie-lark, Rose Robin, Eastern Yellow Robin, Golden-headed Cisticola, Tawny Grassbird, Silvereye, Welcome Swallow, Tree Martin, Mistletoebird (H), Red-browed Finch (H), Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Australasian Pipit

BUTTERFLIES: Scarlet Jezebel, Black Jezebel, Monarch