



Noosa Parks Association Inc.



BIRD OBSERVERS GROUP – 2019 PROGRAM

All Sunday outings commence at **8am**. Friday morning's guest speakers will form part of the Friday Environment Forum (on the given days). A quarterly meeting will be held at the Environment Centre to deal with bird-related matters. All members are welcome to attend.

An Interpretive Birding Walk takes place every Friday before the Friday Environment Forum. Meet in the Environment Centre car park at Wallace Park, Eumundi Road, Noosaville beside the Library at 8:30am.

Date	Event/Speaker	Details
Tuesday 5 th February	Bird Observers meeting	9am at the Environment Centre
Friday 15 th February	Speaker Dr. Rob Clemens	Powerful Owl Project in South-East Queensland
Sunday 17 th March	Outing Lake Macdonald	Meet at the Fish Hatchery carpark, Collwood Road Cooroy at 8am to survey the area before the spillway upgrade
Friday 12 th April	Speakers Lynn Scott	Birds of Paradise in West Papua New Guinea
Tuesday 7 th May	Bird Observers meeting	9am at the Environment Centre
Friday 3 rd May	Speaker Dr. Richard Noske	Nesting behaviour
Sunday 19 th May	Outing Ringtail State Forest	Noosa Bird Trail site 9 Cooloothin Creek. We will survey a section of the Noosa Koala Corridor
Friday 21 st June	Speaker Dr. Dominique Potvin	Australian Birdsong
Friday 5 th July	Speaker Wayne Ellis	'Educating Ibis'
Sunday 21 st July	Outing Moorindil Street Tewanin	Meet 8am at QPWS Great Sandy Information Centre carpark at 8am. We will walk the track from there
Tuesday 6 th August	Bird Observers meeting	9am at the Environment Centre
Friday 16 th August	Speaker Bob Linnane	'Feathery Friends...why I do what I do'
Sunday 15 th September	Outing - a day visit or camp Walli Creek Kenilworth	Cheryl Seabrook has invited us to her Gumnut Park property, a 50-acre Conservation Park and Nature Refuge
Friday 18 th October	Speaker Patrick Webster	Distribution of Black-breasted Button-quail in littoral forest of eastern coast of Fraser Island
Tuesday 12 th November	Bird Observers meeting	9am at the Environment Centre
Sunday 17 th November	Outing Cooroy Botanical Gardens	Meet 8am at the carpark to enjoy birding this special site and celebrate the end of the year in the cool surrounds

ALL ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO

Coordinator Valda McLean

Phone: 5476 2123 or **Email:** braelochen@bigpond.com



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Bird Observers Group
ANNUAL REPORT 2018**



The Friday Forum proved again to be a wonderful platform for Bird Observers. Greg Roberts started the year with an enthusiastic presentation about Pelagic Seabirds and encouraged members to add Pelagic trips off Mooloolaba to their birding agenda. Jessica Drake followed with a brilliant and entertaining anatomy lesson titled 'Amazing things birds have that we don't'. When Dr Angela Wardell-Johnson was unable to deliver her Flamingo presentation, her talented husband stepped in to speak on his favourite subject 'Venerable Trees'. In August, Lynn Scott arranged an excellent video where Birgita Hansen explained how her team is gathering information here and in Japan to understand the needs of the Latham's Snipe. Darryl Jones returned in October with his book 'The Birds at My Table' to educate and entertain the crowd about feeding birds. His book has been very popular with copies sold out on the day.

The average attendance of 16 observers at field outings was similar to the previous year but where 2017 outings were seriously affected by the weather, that was not the case in 2018. The average species count was 53. Highlights included 11 Latham's Snipe at Lynn Scott's property, Rose Robin at Cooran, nesting pardalote at Hamilton Road, several raptors at Kin Kin, and Wompoo Fruit-Dove at Maroochy Botanical Gardens.

Quarterly meetings continued through 2018 to update members and deal with 'house-keeping' issues. A quote to replace nest boxes around the Environment Centre has been received. A major threat to a very important Glossy Black-Cockatoo feeding site at Sunrise Beach was revealed during the latter part of 2018. Requirements for this vulnerable and fussy species is well known to locals, council, and the Glossy Black Conservancy, and yet Noosa Council saw fit to approve a huge nursing home development for Bluecare on a site that provides vital casuarina seeds for the birds close to a secluded water hole where they need to drink. A local group of residents has banded together to help find a solution to save this valuable habitat.

Wallace Park Interpretive Birding has enjoyed another successful year. Every Friday, there has been something to interest local and visiting observers. The mixed colony of Black and Grey-headed Flying Fox has been present for all but four of the surveyed days. There was at least one less, when a Grey Goshawk was seen carrying one away on our last walk of the year. Members also look for, and record butterflies and other wildlife observed. An average of 14 observers participated in 41 surveys in 2018, to record an average of 22 bird species. Interestingly, the average specie count for the previous, very dry 2017 year was also 22.

The list of unusual Sunshine Coast sightings for 2018 includes Red-necked Avocet at Noosa and Toorbul, Green Pygmy Goose, and Freckled Duck at Lake Macdonald, Regent Honeyeater at Rainbow Beach, Radjah Shelduck in several places, Asian Dowitcher at Toorbul, Broad-billed Sandpiper at Cooloola Cove and Australian Little Bittern at Cooloom. As the interest in Bird Observing and photographing increases, so does the chance of seeing species that only very briefly visit the Sunshine Coast.

The Sunshine Coast Birdlife group continues to monitor and survey Yandina Creek Wetland. This 'hidden sanctuary' is a haven for local and migratory birds now water has returned, but the area remains inaccessible to birders except for official surveys.

Although 2018 has been another successful year for Noosa Parks Bird Observers, we need to continually be aware of the needs of the birds and preserve habitat for all wildlife.

Valda McLean