



Noosa Parks Association Inc. BIRD OBSERVERS GROUP – 2020 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 4 th February	Bird Observers meeting	9am at the Environment Centre
Friday 14 th February	Speaker Eric Anderson	'Bimblebox Nature Refuge - its natural assets'
Sunday 15 th March	Outing Kandanga	Private property 1650 Kandanga Creek Road Upper Kandanga
Friday 17 th April	Speaker Judith Hoyle	'Yandina Creek Wetlands - A Good News Story'
Tuesday 5 th May	Bird Observers meeting	9am at the Environment Centre
Sunday 17 th May	Outing Cooroibah	John's Landing John's Road Cooroibah
Friday 12 th June	Speaker Steve Popple	'Birding in the Zone of Happiness'
Sunday 19 th July	Outing Ringtail State Forest	Meet 8am Cooloothin Creek. We will re-survey a section of the Noosa Koala Corridor
Tuesday 4 th August	Bird Observers meeting	9am at the Environment Centre
Friday 14 th August	Speaker Tim Siggs	'Birds of Far North Queensland'
Sunday 20 th September	Outing Pomona	Private property. We will re-visit Doug Castledine to see what birds have been attracted to his plantings
Friday 9 th October	Speaker Jessica Drake	'Wild Things: Health issues of wild birds and how we can help them'
Tuesday 10 th November	Bird Observers meeting	9am at the Environment Centre
Sunday 15 th November	Outing	Meet 8am Lake Macdonald spillway. We will then move to 'Spencers track' which is part of Tewantin N.P.

ALL ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO

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Bird Observers Group
ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



This year started with an excellent presentation by Dr. Rob Clemens about the Powerful Owl Project. The Project has been running in Sydney for 10 years and has 350 volunteers. Many SEQ people are now signed up to look for and preserve this species. In April, Lynn Scot spoke of her fascinating trip to West Papua New Guinea to see Birds of Paradise – an energetic and dangerous mission which was rewarded with great sightings. Dr. Richard Noske spoke about aspects of nesting behaviour. He believes Little Bronze-Cuckoo parents sometimes make the mistake of throwing their own egg out. He asked the audience to help research by providing breeding records of any birds, but particularly the Blue-faced Honeyeater. A lively presentation by Dr. Dominique Potvin about Birdsong was enjoyed by all. She explained the difference between a song and a call. Songs are LEARNED and used to attract mates and to fend off intruders. Each city living species has developed a special song for city living. City birds are nesting and laying eggs but many chicks are dying in the eggs. More study is needed to learn why! Wayne Ellis told how he is 'Educating Ibis' while Bob Linnane could be accused of 'Educating Cats' as he related stories of his work defending birdlife. Patrick Webster was unable to speak about his Black-breasted Button-quail studies this year.

The Lake Macdonald upgrade will affect the Scout Campsite at Collwood Road Cooroy. This was the site of our first outing for 2019. In May, the group surveyed part of the Noosa Koala Corridor as part of 'before and after plantation' surveys. The Moorindil Street Tewantin track near the QPWS Centre was 'new' to some observers and provided some interesting sightings. A two-day camp at Gumnut Park at Kenilworth in September was a great birding experience. The final outing for 2019, to the Botanical Gardens at Cooroy, was also special as the group not only saw interesting birds such as the Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, and Barred Cuckoo-Shrike, but met other observers and a group from Gympie as well, all enjoying a birding day in the gardens. The average specie count for the six outings was 58, which was slightly higher than the previous year, while average attendance was down to 12.

Wallace Park Interpretive Birding walks continued through 2019. An average of 14 observers participated in 41 surveys to record an average of 24 species. The average specie count for the two previous years was 22. Maybe Wallace Park has become almost a haven for some species dislodged from nearby areas or affected by the dry conditions. The colony of Flying Fox has been present for most of the year. The pair of Tawny Frogmouth have again successfully raised two chicks, and a new species has been added to the list this year. Three or four Yellow Thornbill were seen several times with an active feeding party of small birds down the path near the creek area. Several unusual species, such as the Plum-headed Finch have caught the lens of Sunshine Coast Birdlife photographers this year. Three Oriental Cuckoo spent time at Lake Macdonald where the Black-necked Stork has successfully reared a 'chick'. A special thanks to Barry Abraham who built and installed two nest boxes at Wallace Park this year. Lyn McAndrew has continued to write the minutes for our quarterly meetings as well as provide interesting UpToDate information to the 'Bird Corner'. Thank you, Lyn. Bob Carey and his team have continued to monitor the Glossy Black-Cockatoo population, fight for their habitat, and report sightings to the Conservancy. I have continued a monthly newsletter to interested observers about bird related topics locally and elsewhere. The past year has had challenges for birds generally with drought fires and lack of insects. Noosa Parks Ass. Bird Observers have provided information and encouragement to people who are keen, to not only enjoy the hobby, but who seek to provide habitat shelter on their property and elsewhere, so birds continue to thrive on the Sunshine Coast.

Valda McLean