



Noosa Parks Association Inc.



BIRD OBSERVERS GROUP – 2024 PROGRAM

All Sunday outings commence at **8am**. I will send out details closer to the dates.

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 **second** and **fourth** Friday only, before each 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 6 th February	Bird Observers meeting	9am at the Environment Centre
Friday 9 th February	Speaker Adrian Caneris	'Living with Wildlife – The Good, The Bad and the Ugly'
Sunday 17 th March	Outing Shepperson's Park Kin Kin	Noosa Trail Network – a gentle walk to the lookout
Friday 12 th April	Speaker Gillian Mathew	'You decide: Galapagos of the south?'
Tuesday 7 th May	Bird Observers meeting	9am at the Environment Centre
Sunday 19 th May	Outing Imbil-Brooloo Rail Trail	This 2/3 km walk is on a wide, level track through bushland and farmland.
Friday 14 th June	Speaker Russell McGregor	'The Wild at Home: a history of bird feeding in Australia.'
Sunday 21 st July	Outing Woodland Drive	Noosa Bird Trail - Noosa National Park Woodland Drive section
Tuesday 6 th August	Bird Observers meeting	9am at the Environment Centre
Friday 9 th August	Speaker Jon Norling	'Raptor Identification in Flight'
Sunday 15 th September	Outing Cootharaba	This private 'Land for Wildlife' property promises great birding!
Friday 11 th October	Speaker Gary Quirk	'What makes a good bird photograph and how to find the bird using eBird'
Tuesday 12 th November	Bird Observers meeting	9am at the Environment Centre
Sunday 17 th November	Outing Black Mountain	This interesting walk is along an old forestry trail commencing at the western side of the Black Mountain Rural Fire Brigade Depot.

ALL ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO
Coordinator Valda McLean
Phone: 5476 2123 or **Email:** braeloch@bigpond.com



Noosa Parks Association Inc. Bird Observers Group ANNUAL REPORT 2023



The 2023 program was flexible enough to be able to cope with the ebb and flow of the busy year. The number of people interested in the birds continue to grow. Our Wallace Park Interpretive Birding walks and Friday Forum speakers have attracted new members to NPA. At Friday Forum in April, Robyn Coombes explained the 'Backyards for Biodiversity' program. The aim of the program is to educate and support property owners, because there is a global biodiversity crisis. She suggested that we 'Think globally and act.' There are around 2,800 local native plants to choose that provide food and flower for wildlife. Everyone can help by improving their backyard for nature. Gillian Matthew is a member of the Queensland Bird Research and Banding group. In May, she showed members in action at Bega in 2006 where 61 members attended. All are citizen scientists and work to a very high standard. They are taking on new research projects with project partners to study water birds, shorebirds, and land birds. In 2022 they banded 7473 birds. Andrew Thelander showed amazing bird photos from his four-month tour of the Amazon region. During his presentation, in June he also showed a darker side of the Amazon. Poverty disease, plastic pollution, and wildlife trafficking are just part of life there. August speaker, Alan Franks, spoke of how he and his team have provided nest boxes and monitoring from Mackay to south of the Queensland border for the 24 years of their business, providing 60,000 nest boxes for hollow dependent species. In October, Gary Quirk showed his excellent bird photos from five years travel through many parts of Australia, learning about the country, its birds and their habitats, whilst continuing to develop photography skills. Gary told us how he composes photographs to make them special – 'to have a bird doing something is an important element'.

The first outing to Tuchekeoi National Park was on a hot sunny day in March. Eleven members recorded 42 bird species. May's outing to Hamilton Road and Lake Macdonald had a cool 10deg. start. Nineteen people attended and recorded 62 species. Norri Eyster's welcome invitation to revisit her Cooloothin property attracted 24 observers. The day was overcast, but dry, and we recorded 46 bird species. Our visit to Lynn Scott's wildlife habitat at Eumundi was also special for the 13 people who were able to attend. The 62 species observed included one Latham's Snipe and 100 Plumed Whistling Ducks. The final outing was to visit a section of Noosa National Park at Peregrine. The group of 27 recorded 43 bird species including a flock of White-throated Needletail. The average attendance for the outings was 19 and the average species count 51, much like the previous year. Many members enjoyed learning to identify the butterflies encountered on outings.

Interpretive Birding walks around Wallace Park for 2023 were well attended. An average of 14 people attended the 20 surveys, recording an average of 26 species. During the year, members surveyed another 18 sites around the shire, including Ringtail Creek Koala Corridor, recording an average of 38 species. Angela has entered all that data to eBird.

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo feed trees of Grass Tree Court have been lost to the development of the Blue Care facility. Spencer and his parents fought a mammoth battle to save the habitat and should be proud of their effort. Valuable lessons learned from this, must ensure that nothing like it ever happens again! Meetings and newsletters to members have kept members informed, and I hope inspired, to learn more about our birds and their needs, so they can survive and thrive, and we can enjoy observing them.

Valda McLean