

BIRD OF THE MONTH	IN THIS ISSUE
-------------------	---------------

Blue-faced Honeyeater



Photo by Tim Bowly

Coming Events	P2-3
Outing Reports	P3-6
Out and About at Wooroolin	
Wetlands	P6-7
Drawing & Poetry Competition	P8-10
Wildlife Rescue at Wooroolin	P10-11
Bird of the Month	P11-12
Links of Interest	P13



OUTINGS & EVENTS 2025

The Toowoomba Bird Observers Newsletter
is published monthly.

**The deadline for the next Newsletter
is 25th September 2025**

Kathy Bowly kathryn.bowly@gmail.com

Website: www.tboc.org.au

Email: tboc4350@gmail.com

Postal address:

P.O. Box 4730
Toowoomba East 4350

Management Committee:

Wednesday 17 th September	Wildlife Rescue Charles Dove 0417 422 302
13 th , 21 st & 27 th September	Toowoomba Bird Festival (see poster below)
Sunday 28 th September	Jondaryan Ann Alcock 0418 189 760

President	Mick Atzeni 0499 395 485
Vice-president	Dan Bishop 0401 235 156
Secretary	Joe Scanlan 0400 709 446
Treasurer	Ann Alcock 0418 189 760
Newsletter Editor	Kathy Bowly
Committee	Jennie and Tony Bond. Peter Everist Jarrod Kath
Records Officer	Pat McConnell 0457 422 082
Facebook Admin	Mick Atzeni, Ann Alcock Dan Bishop
Website	Dan Bishop

PLEASE CONTACT THE LEADER IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS
Tuesday 21st October at 6pm
St Anthony's Parish Centre
Guest Speaker Chris MacColl

"Shedding Light on the Elusive Red Goshawk"

--	--

MID-WEEK WALK **Note this is the 3rd Wednesday of September**

Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation and Education Association Inc.

Date: Wednesday 17th September 2025

Leader: Charles Dove with Trish Lee Hong (CEO and founder)

Time: 8:00 am

Meet location: 392 Steven's Rd, Murphys Creek QLD 4352
<https://www.wildliferescueeducation.org/>

Required - BYO morning tea

Other details: Very Moderate walking. ***Closed footwear required.***
In the event of inclement weather contact the leader.
Facilities at this location.

RSVP: To Charles Dove by 12:00 noon Tuesday 16th September 2025
Txt 0417 422 302 or email powerart@bigpond.net.au

MONTHLY WALK – SEPTEMBER 2025

Jondaryan

Date: Sunday 28TH September 2025

Co-ordinator: Ann Alcock

Meeting Location: Oakey Railway Station car park

Time: 7.30am

Other Details: Moderate walk. Closed footwear required.
In the event of inclement weather contact the leader.
BYO morning tea.

RSVP: Saturday 27th September. Ann Alcock 0418 189 760

2025 Toowoomba Birding Festival

Part of the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

Featuring:

Guided bird walks

Talks on birds

Activities for children

Bird photographic display

September 13th, 21st and 27th

Various locations around Toowoomba

birdingfestival.com.au



Proudly supported by: Birdlife Southern Queensland Darling Downs, Toowoomba Bird Observers Club, Queensland Museum Cobb and Co, and the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

Photo credit: Michael Roberts

MID WEEK WALK AUGUST 2025

Lake Clarendon and Lake Galletly, Lockyer Valley

Text by Sonya Little and Kathy Bowly



Australian Pelican

by Ed Crago

also skimming the water surface. A lot of Australasian Grebes were bobbing on the water. Several different species of cormorants were swimming and diving in the lake along with a small number of pelicans. A few terns were seen flying up and down the lake edge, later identified as Australian Gull-billed Tern. It is always great to have a few photographers on hand to help with this.

As we proceeded along the shoreline towards the wall, two Black-fronted Dotterels were

On Wednesday 13th August we met at Lake Clarendon Campground for our mid-week bird walk. The campgrounds were quite busy with campers, but we had a sunny morning with a chilly breeze though. There were 9 birders.

When everyone arrived, we walked along the shore of a very full Lake Clarendon. There were numerous birds in the water and flying around. There were lots of Welcome Swallows flying around catching insects on the wing and



Gull-billed Tern

by Tony Bond

spotted feeding along the water's edge. While watching them, a Golden-headed Cisticola came and sat on the fence right beside some of our group. The Golden-headed Cisticola made several appearances in the grassy fields below the track also, which was a delight. It was my first sighting of one. This was the first of a number of this little bird that we saw throughout the morning.



Black Swans with cygnet

by Charles Dove

After walking along the shoreline, we walked around the lake along the wall with the lake on one side while on the other side was some grassy fields and wetlands. Suddenly there were birds everywhere, including Black Swans and cygnets painted on the wall of the Lake Clarendon School (spied from a distance through the binoculars). Firstly a Nankeen Kestrel was spotted perched at the top of a dead tree. Then a small dam had many Grey Teal and Pacific Black Ducks on it and around it.

As we approached the wetlands, we saw Royal Spoonbill, White-headed Stilt,



Australian Shoveller Ducks

by Ed Crago



Red-backed Fairywren

by Charles Dove

White-necked Heron, Intermediate Egrets and Glossy Ibis. There were also some Black Swans with their cygnets. Australasian Shovelers were also spotted in the wetlands area, a first for a few of us. There was even a turtle sunning itself on a fence.

On the return to the picnic area to have some morning tea, the photographers were clicking away hoping for a good photo of some fairy wren, mainly the Red-Backed Fairy-wren male.



Little Pied Cormorant

by Ed Crago



Great Crested Grebe

by Tony Bond

After morning tea, we then drove to Lake Galletly. Firstly, we went to the bird hides to watch the multiple Magpie Geese and White Ibis along with a small flock of Plumed Whistling duck, congregated on the island in the middle of the lake. In the surrounding trees were lots of Brown Honeyeaters.

Walking around the lake some saw an Olive-backed Oriole sitting quietly preening itself. The Restless Flycatcher was flitting around on some low branches on the side of the path and a Double-barred Finch flew down onto



Olive-backed Oriole

by Tony Bond



Double-barred Finch

By Kathy Bowly

the ground for a brief bit of browsing.

Hardheads, Australasian Grebes, Australasian Swamphens and Intermediate Egrets were spotted out on the back section of the lake.

A quick hop across the road to Lake Lenor where the birdlife on the water was pretty much replicated.

A large turtle, probably a Murray River turtle, sitting on a large log added a little variety to the scene.

Thank you, Charles, for choosing another great location giving us another great birding outing



Black-fronted Dotterel

by Charles Dove



Australasian Grebe

by Tony Bond



Restless Flycatcher

by Tim Bowly



Magpie Geese

by Tim Bowly

From the Editor: thank you to our great photographers who make it very hard for me to choose which photos to use because I would love to include them all.

Lake Clarendon & Lake Galletly		July 9th 2025		57 species
Australian Brush-turkey	Australian White Ibis	Australian Gull-billed Tern	Olive-backed Oriole	
Magpie Goose	Straw-necked Ibis	Collared Sparrowhawk	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Plumed Whistling Duck	Glossy Ibis	Black Kite	Australian Magpie	
Black Swan	Cattle Egret	Whistling Kite	Pied Butcherbird	
Australian Wood Duck	White-necked Heron	Nankeen Kestrel	Willie Wagtail	
Hardhead	Intermediate Egret	Australian Hobby	Grey Fantail	
Australasian Shoveller	White-faced Heron	Galah	Restless Flycatcher	
Pacific Black Duck	Australian Pelican	Little Corella	Magpie Lark	
Grey Teal	Little Pied Cormorant	Pale-headed Rosella	Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australasian Grebe	Great Cormorant	Superb Fairywren	Tawny Grassbird	
Great Crested Grebe	Little Black Cormorant	Red-backed Fairywren	Welcome Swallow	
Crested Pigeon	Australian Darter	Brown Honeyeater	Double-barred Finch	
Dusky Moorhen	Black-fronted Dotterel	Striped Honeyeater		
Australian Swamphen	White-headed Stilt	Noisy Miner		
Royal Spoonbill	Masked Lapwing	Striated Pardalote		

OUT AND ABOUT AT WOOROOLIN WETLANDS

By Tony Bond

We recently spent some time at the small locality of Wooroolin which is just north of Kingaroy. We were there for other reasons (cycling on the rail trail - that's another story...) but we also wanted to visit the Wooroolin Wetlands which we had discovered on previous trips to the area. It is classified as a fauna sanctuary with a small bird hide and walking trail.

We visited the bird hide several times during our stay. On our first approach to the area, we were welcomed by White-bellied Sea Eagle



Galahs

which came from a line of trees and flew along the dirt road straight over us before disappearing to our rear. By the time we stopped the car for a better look it was way too late of course - we were hopeful we might see it again when we had camera and binoculars in hand.



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater

For the remainder of our visits the bird life was a little disappointing. A solitary Purple Swamphen waited for us under the hide and noisily took fright as soon as we arrived each time, no matter how quietly we approached.



Grey Teal

headed Rosellas flew past on one occasion. Pied Butcherbirds and a couple of Laughing Kookaburras were also seen, as was a single Black Swan, several Little Corellas, an Intermediate Egret, and a pair of Grey Teal. "Spots" from around our accommodation were Black-shouldered Kite, Glossy Ibis, Brown Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Little Friarbird, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Brown Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, and Masked Lapwing (Plover).

We also were lucky to have come across an Eastern Barn Owl, albeit injured, described in the other story. Despite our hopes, the Sea Eagle did not return to the wetlands, at least not while we were there.

To be honest I wouldn't rush back to the Wooroolin Wetlands for itself, but we do visit the area regularly for the rail-trail so we will probably drop in again for another look - watch this space for a future update.



Little Friarbird



Brown Honeyeater

The Pencil Drawing and Poetry Competition 2025.

By Charles Dove

2025 had arrived and I did not think about doing the Drawing Competition again, until I started getting inquiries from various people including MP Trevor Watts who stood up and mentioned his support for the competition and was very keen in assisting.

Oh well! here we go. So, I started getting myself organised, which takes a bit of time as I needed to organise dates, funding, judges, assistance, conditions and entry forms layout and design, prizes, sponsors and supporting groups and finally a presentation location.

Learning from last year where I had the competition overlapping with the end of year exams, I decided on new dates of 15th May 2025 till 17th July 2025 with the awards Presentation on the 2nd August. This would give the competitors plenty of time, and the opportunity of completing their entry over the school holidays. It was now time to confirm the Hall, Judges, and Sponsors agreeing to the dates. Organising the final dates with the Judges and presentation time at the St. Lukes Church Hall, as well as having a display in Church entrance, was confirmed.

I still needed to confirm the costs and list of prizes for the competition. Fortunately I was given a budget and not to exceed this it will be fine. This year I decided to add more to the competition so instead of just Birds - it would include Mammal and Reptiles drawings as well as special awards for Indigenous style drawings.

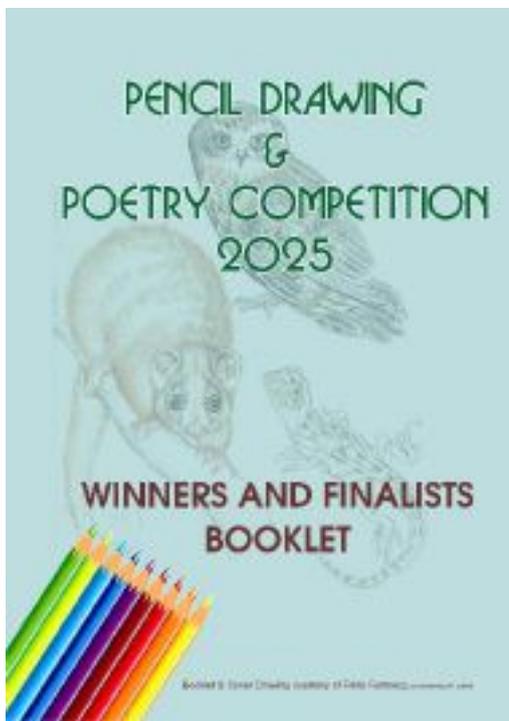
Prizes were to include gift vouchers, Winners and Finalists Booklets and four copies of my Redwood Park books and one copy of my *It's Been a Long Walk*. The cost of the hall was paid for by Trevor Watts' office which just left the conditions and entry forms to be completed and emailed to out to the 51 Schools in the region.

Whilst continuing on, I needed to rewrite the conditions of entry etc as well as redesign all the entry forms with a list of prizes and invitation to the schools of the Toowoomba region. The conditions for the participants of entry did take a lot longer than envisaged, and with the help of many I managed to get it completed and all legal avenues were now covered. After a few weeks I had completed and organised the sponsorships and the many supporting groups. The Engine Room and the Full Circle Projects Inc. agreed on costs for the Gift vouchers. Trevor Watts' office covered The St Lukes Hall confirmation and paid for cost. Frida Forsberg, environment artist, would cover the cost of Booklet.

Entry Forms and Conditions along with an invitation to schools right to go. The Emails finally went out to all the schools on the 16th May with the help of MP Trevor Watts, Toowoomba Councillor Trevor Manteufel and myself. Collection boxes for the entries were placed at the DDEC office, Council Chambers, Trevor Watts' office and St. Lukes Church office, as well letting the schools know I would pick up if needed.

Entries arrived slowly and as it was now getting a lot closer to the presentation afternoon and still not enough entries, I started phoning schools. Many were ready to submit a large number of entries and some asked if I could pick them up which I did. One lot in particular I collected on the last day before the judging as one boy needed to finish his poem, so I did wait for it - lucky because he ended up the overall winner.





One judge was unable to attend judging day but it all went well with them completing their difficult task from all the entries. I collected all the winning entries to now complete and name the gift certificates and award certificates. All the images were scanned and poems typed up to create an A4 printout and assemble the booklet. With a few hiccups in the process and 3 days to presentation the books were finally completed. So, 4.30pm on the Friday before the presentation the books arrived, meanwhile I had printed and laminated the certificates along with the A4 pages.

Now with most things sorted for the presentation, the ladies from the church asked me what will they do for the refreshments. Well, this is something I had not taken into account and after a few thoughts I decided to ring Peter from the Engine Room as he might have a better idea on these matters. He managed to resolve this issue with a sausage sizzle and cakes, coffee and tea- thanks Peter.

Saturday - presentation day - I went down early to start setting up. Peter came early as well with a helper which was much appreciated. I set up the computer and screens to view the presentation on and Peter organised the chairs etc. All was working well with the electrics and Michael Kane helped check that the prizes were co-ordinated in order with what I was displaying on the big screen – all good.



king of the bush
by RHUNE HETHWEN overall 1st place

King of the bush

Wedgy is king of the bush
from his hooked beak to his claws
when he goes through the sky whoosh!
he'll take the kangaroo at it's paws.

All was going well – then the projector started having big issues with half the screen becoming scrambled. We tried swapping cables etc to no avail with numerous people trying to solve the issue and we realised the connection had become faulty. With a mission to find an alternative, Michael Kane who worked out of DDEC, tried to source another around town with no success, so we just had to put up with it. I still had the large television showing the images so all good.

Then everybody started to arrive along with torrential rain and hail, just like last year which I found very hard to believe. Anyway, onward we go regardless of all the issues. With the problems I was still having with my health I had asked Trevor Manteufel to take over as MC which he agreed to.

After everyone had settled in, we began the presentation and looking around at all the smiling kids and proud parents, this let me put aside all the issues of the last few months, making it all worthwhile.



Wildlife Rescue at Wooroolin

Text and Photos By Tony Bond

Recently we had a week of cycling on the Kingaroy to Kilkivan Rail Trail in the South Burnett region. We've done sections of this trail before and normally base ourselves at Wondai, but on this occasion our accommodation was at Wooroolin, which is only a few minutes from the Wooroolin Wetlands. The plan for the week was to have one "rest day" and spend the time birding around the wetlands. That rest day turned into a wildlife rescue exercise.

Driving to the wetlands we came across an Eastern Barn Owl sitting beside the dirt road. It was in the full morning sun and could be seen plainly. We reversed up for a possible photo opportunity, crept around the back of the car and did get some pictures. Meanwhile the owl had obviously seen us but made no attempt to fly in spite of its very exposed location.



We wondered if it must have been injured because it variously tramped from one leg to the other, or tilted forward as though about to fall, or spread its wings on the ground for support. We decided to call for help - that's when the fun started.

After nearly an hour of calls and messages we eventually found a wildlife rescuer near Murgon, not too far away, who actually answered the phone. She gave us two

choices: Firstly, we could wait for her to come to us which would take at least an hour, meanwhile, in our estimation, the bird was distressed and getting weaker by the minute in its exposed position. Alternatively, we could capture it ourselves and take it to the Wooroolin vet for pickup later by the rescuer. We selected option #2 after being given instructions about how to use a towel to avoid talons and beak. A soft canvas shopping bag also proved invaluable.

However, just as we were about to make the final move it launched up straight into some bushes where it became entangled and could go no further. So... good that its wings worked,

but... bad that it flew straight into a bush, and... good again because that made it easier to capture. Looking at my photos afterwards, the right eye is almost closed and there is a head injury above, so it may actually have had trouble seeing through one eye.

By chance, after spending the rest of the morning birdwatching at the wetlands we headed back into Wooroolin for a coffee break and saw a lady in a ute carrying a large bird cage. You guessed it - this was the rescuer just arriving at the vet. She told us the owl had already been looked at by the vet and was structurally OK (i.e. wings and legs). But it definitely had a head injury, probably from a vehicle, and had been given a pain relief.



The latest we heard was that it was sitting upright and will remain at Murgon for observation and rest for the time being.

For us it was a real treat to be able to see a wild owl at such very close quarters with the magnificent colouration of its head and wings. We certainly hope it survives.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Text/photos courtesy of <https://www.birdsinbackyards.net>

Blue-faced Honeyeater **Scientific Name:** *Entomyzon cyanotis*

Atlas Number:

641

What does it look like?

Description:

The Blue-faced Honeyeater is a large black, white and golden olive-green honeyeater with striking blue skin around the yellow to white eye. The crown, face and neck are black, with a narrow white band across the back of the neck. The upperparts and wings are a golden olive green, and the underparts are white, with a grey-black throat and upper breast. The blue facial skin is two-toned, with the lower half a brilliant cobalt blue. Juvenile birds are similar to the adults but the facial skin is yellow-green and the bib is a lighter grey. This honeyeater is noisy and gregarious and is usually seen in pairs or small flocks. It is known as the Banana-bird in tropical areas, for its habit of feeding on banana fruit and flowers.

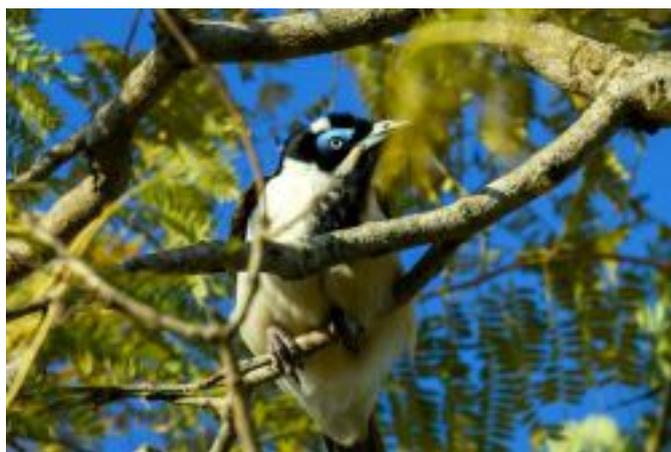


Photo by Tony Bond

Similar species:

The Blue-faced Honeyeater is not easily mistaken for any other bird. Its golden-green upperparts and pure white underbody distinguish it from similarly sized species with similar behaviour, such as friarbirds, wattlebirds and miners.

Where does it live?

Distribution:

The Blue-faced Honeyeater is found in northern and eastern mainland Australia, from the Kimberley region, Western Australia to near Adelaide, South Australia, being more common in the north of its range. It is not found in central southern New South Wales or eastern Victoria. This species is also found in Papua New Guinea.

Habitat:

The Blue-faced Honeyeater is found in tropical, sub-tropical and wetter temperate or semi-arid zones. It is mostly found in open forests and woodlands close to water, as well as monsoon forests, mangroves and coastal heathlands. It is often seen in banana plantations, orchards, farm lands and in urban parks, gardens and golf courses.

Seasonal movements:

Considered sedentary in the north of its range, and locally nomadic in the south. Some regular seasonal movements observed in parts of New South Wales and southern Queensland.



What does it do?

Feeding:

The Blue-faced Honeyeater feeds mostly on insects and other invertebrates but also eats nectar and fruit from native and exotic plants. It forages in pairs or noisy flocks of up to seven birds (occasionally many more) on the bark and limbs of trees, as well as on flowers and foliage. These flocks tend to exclude other birds from the feeding area, but they do feed in association with other species such as Yellow-throated Miners and Little Friarbirds.

Breeding:

The Blue-faced Honeyeater forms breeding pairs, and may sometimes be a cooperative breeder, where immature birds help the main breeding pair to feed nestlings. Most nests are made on the abandoned nests of Grey-crowned Babblers, Noisy, Silver-crowned and Little Friarbirds, Noisy Miner, Red Wattlebird, Australian Magpie, Magpie-Lark and, rarely, butcherbirds or the Chestnut-crowned Babbler. Sometimes the nests are not modified, but often they are added to and relined. If a new nest is built, it is a neat round cup of rough bark, linked with finer bark and grass. Both the male and female tend the young birds, sometimes with the assistance of helpers. The fledglings remain with the parents for some time after fledging.

Living with us

The Blue-faced Honeyeater can sometimes be a pest in orchards.

Did you know?

The Blue-faced Honeyeater is one of the first birds heard calling in the morning, often calling 30 minutes before sunrise.

Calls

Noisy, varied calls. Repeated, penetrating 'woik'; 'weet weet weet' at daybreak; also squeaks uttered during flight and softer 'hwit hwit' calls.

LINKS OF INTEREST

Restoring grassland habitat to save an endangered parrot species.

<https://theconversation.com/from-grasslands-to-killing-fields-why-trees-are-bad-news-for-one-of-australias-most-stunning-birds-259898>

In far north Queensland the Golden-shouldered Parrot has seen its habitat reduced to just 5% of the original area. Overgrazing has seen degradation of termite mounds in which they nest disappear and the grasslands reduced and replaced by trees which provide cover for predators of this beautiful parrot as they lie in wait. Destocking and the use of indigenous fire programs is being used to help improve habitat and bring these birds back from the brink.

Seagulls making more noise than politicians at Parliament House in Canberra.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-08-26/hundreds-of-seagulls-harassing-people-outside/105696346>

Hundreds of seagulls have gathered in the forecourt area of Parliament House, looking for the ideal nesting place in the upcoming breeding season.

Melbourne's Peregrine Falcons are back.

<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/news/nest-flix-returns-melbournes-falcons-are-back>

Keep up to date with the livestream action of this growing family.

Sex reversal in birds.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/aug/14/sex-reversal-australian-birds-kookaburras-lorikeets>

Sex reversal is known in some fish, amphibians and reptiles occurring naturally or influenced by endocrine disrupting hormones. Recent studies on some bird species have found something similar happening. How may this affect future reproduction in our feathered friends?

Breeding site of Lesser Flamingos saved from mining project.

<https://www.birdlife.org/news/2025/08/22/controversial-mining-project-in-tanzanias-lake-natron-halted/>

The Ramsar site on Lake Natron in north Tanzania is the only regular breeding site for the endangered Lesser Flamingo. This population forms 75% of the global population. The lake would be seriously affected if mining was allowed and local communities protested strongly against its approval.

