

January 2026

EDITION 520

BIRD OF THE MONTH	IN THIS ISSUE
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Crested Pigeon



Photo by Kathy Bowly

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OUTINGS & EVENTS 2026

The Toowoomba Bird Observers Newsletter
is published monthly.

**The deadline for the next Newsletter
is 25th February 2026**

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:

President Mick Atzeni 0499 395 485

Vice-president Dan Bishop 0401 235 156

Secretary Joe Scanlan 0400 709 446

Treasurer Ann Alcock 0418 159 760

Newsletter Editor Kathy Bowly

Committee Jennie and Tony Bond.

Lareina Hagan

Records Officer Pat McConnell 0457 422 082

Facebook Admin Mick Atzeni, Ann Alcock

Dan Bishop

Website Dan Bishop

Wednesday 11 th February	Back Plains & Passmore Reserve Charles Dove
Sunday 28 th February	Applegum Walk, Crows Nest Dan Bishop

PLEASE CONTACT THE LEADER IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND

MID WEEK WALK – February 2026

LOCATION: **Back Plains & Passmore Reserve**

Date: Wednesday 11th February 2026

Leader: Charles Dove 0417 422 302
powerart@bigpond.net.au

Meet location: 949 **Clifton Pittsworth Rd** Back Plains
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/2oZ51cmsKMNyu87YA>

Clifton Golf Club <https://maps.app.goo.gl/AhG4pWEDUkEBRUvi8>

Passmore Reserve <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ijZEn6OGS2oz5d8s8>

Time: 8am

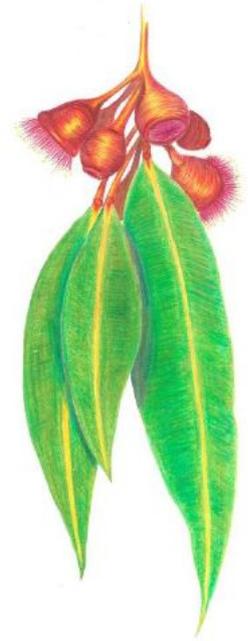
Other Please bring morning tea – and maybe lunch if we take too long.

RSVP: by the 10th February 2026

Outing details: Sunscreen and insect repellent might be needed.
Facilities available.

In the event of inclement weather contact Charles Dove

Closed footwear required.



MONTHLY WALK - February 2026

Applegum Walk, Crows Nest

Date: Saturday 28th February 2026

Leader: Dan Bishop

Time: 7.00 am

Meet location: [Bullocky's Rest Car Park](#)

Required: Closed shoes, plenty of water, sun protection.

Other details: Mild to moderate walk, approximately 4 km return trip, uneven surfaces in parts. Facilities nearby. Morning tea optional. Wear appropriate sun protection, hiking gear, and footwear.

RSVP: Dan Bishop by 27/02 on 0401 135 156 or danbishop@internode.on.net.



Proposed Toowoomba Bird Observers Outings 2026

Date 2026	Destination	Contact/Leader
Wed Jan 14	Goombungee	Charles Dove
Sat Jan 31	Ravensbourne NP	Mick Atzeni
Wed Feb 11	Back Plains	Charles Dove
Sat Feb 28	Applegum Walk, Crows Nest	Dan Bishop
Wed Mar 11	West Creek	Charles Dove
Sat Mar 27	Redwood Park	Dan Bishop
Wed Apr 8	Cooby Dam	Charles Dove
Sun Apr 26	Lockyer wetlands	TBA
Wed May 13	Pittsworth	Charles Dove
May 30 or 31	Stevenson St, Picnic Point	Lareina Hagan
Wed Jun 10	Bullockys Rest / Dingo Mountain	Charles Dove
Jun 27/28	Raptor Census	Pat McConnell
Wed Jul 8	Cambooya	Charles Dove
Jul 25 or 26	Swift Parrot Search	Mick Atzeni
Wed Aug 12	Arthur Shooter Memorial Park, Oakey	Charles Dove
Sat Aug 29	Ravensbourne area	TBA
Wed Sep 9	Gatton	Charles Dove
Sep 27	Oakey / Jondaryan	TBA
Wed Oct 14	Lion's Park, Hodgsonvale	Charles Dove
Oct 24–30	Species census	Pat McConnell
Wed Nov 11	Jondaryan	Charles Dove
Nov 28	Loveday Cove, Cooby Dam	Dan Bishop
Dec 9	Duggan Park	Charles Dove
Dec ?	Christmas brekky with the birds	

MONTHLY OUTING JANUARY 2026

Goombungee 14th January 2026

Text by Howard Ward



Nankeen Kestrel by Lareina Hagan

The first mid-week outing for the New Year 2026 was a very memorable start to the year. 12 members lead by Charles Dove met at a private property at Goombungee, owned for 21 years by our generous host Sonya Nicols.

As members arrived at the property for the 7am start, sightings of several species of birds were reported on entering the gate. Charles had noted some Zebra Finches on the way in, a Black-shouldered Kite and Nankeen Kestrel were also seen. Early indications were promising.

As we were greeted by Sonya, a pair of King Parrots was seen in the tree in the garden of the home. Sonya pointed out that they were regular visitors. Rock Doves could be seen on the roof of an outhouse and two Sacred Kingfishers perched on the power line were busy surveying the ground below, before dropping down from their vantage point, catching grasshoppers in the grass which were numerous around the property.

Finally organised, we set off along a fenced corridor dividing the paddocks towards a



Australian King Parrot

by Charles Dove



Galah

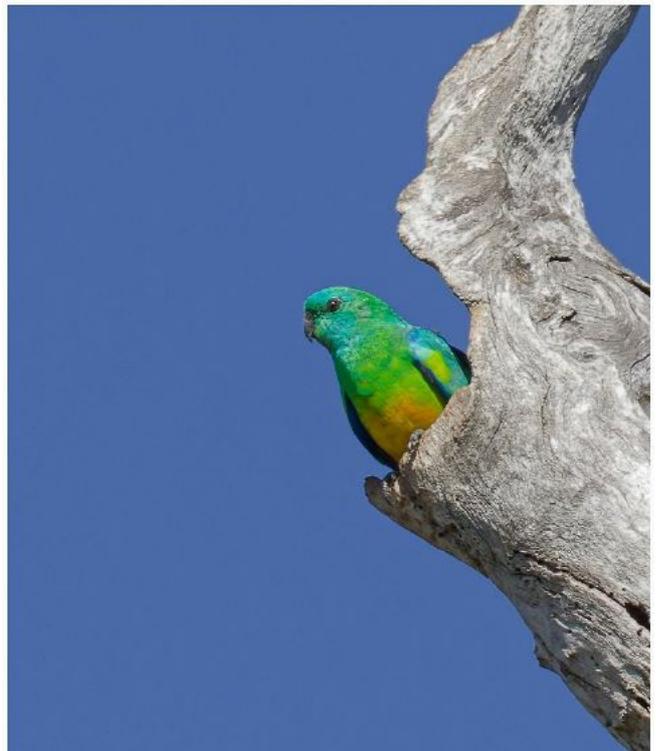
by Howard Ward

small dam, beyond which was a stand of trees with numerous nesting holes, perfect habitat for small birds and animals. On each side of the corridor were paddocks some of which had been harvested and short stubble remained.

Torresian Crows were seen throughout these paddocks working singularly and in pairs collecting whatever was left over. To the right a flock of Galahs on the ground just inside the fence line rose noisily and settled in a tree to the left. As we got closer the Galahs started to leave the tree mainly in pairs and flew towards us into the wind giving the photographers among our group the perfect opportunity to capture some shots.

In the distance the keen eyes of one of our members spotted a raptor that was identified as a Nankeen Kestrel. A few minutes later another was spotted a little closer, working its way methodically hovering over the stubble in the paddock to the right.

Nearing the dam, a flock of Little Corellas noisily flew over us and moments later a single white bird flying left to right was seen and turned its head momentarily to reveal its bill, a spoon bill. A few rapid pictures had been taken and later it was confirmed as a Yellow-billed Spoonbill. This made the day for one of the newer members who had never seen one before.



Red-rumped Parrot

by Howard Ward



Yellow Spoonbill

by Howard Ward

Reaching the small dam, around nine Wood Ducks and two Grey Teal were resting at the edge of the water. In the trees behind the dam movement could be seen and as we got closer Red-rumped Parrots were flitting around the branches and the birds were also checking the numerous hollows. In the utmost highest hollow of a dead tree a tinge of green appeared and a Red-rump Parrot posed for a picture. Meanwhile below a scurry made our members jump as a Little Button-quail made a hasty retreat.

Time to turn around and retrace our steps and several other birds were sighted and recorded. Butcherbirds (Grey and Pied), Cisticola, Willie Wagtail, Little Grassbird, Yellow-rumped Thornbill and Australian Figbird to name a few.

Passing the house, we continued on and walked up to another much larger dam. This walk was through timbered country, mainly Ironbark. Approaching the trees, we passed the power line we saw when we first arrived. The Kingfishers were still hunting from the power line. In amongst the old Ironbark trees, you could see orchids from small to large. The track to the dam was interesting in itself, the fine soil and dust showed the markings and tracks of many animals; it was a veritable highway. As it was now later in the morning, fewer birds were observed amongst the trees. A family of Apostlebirds were doing what Apostlebirds do, chattering to each other and pretending to be very busy!



Yellow-rumped Thornbill

by Tim Bowly



Australian Wood Ducks

by Howard Ward

When we got to the dam a large flock of Wood Ducks and Grey Teal took off and did a couple of loops before relocating on a dam on a neighbouring property. These loops did offer some photographic opportunities. The trees at the edge of the dam also had a large flock of Little Corellas in them; they also departed only showing their rear ends, not a flattering picture.

This larger dam was also home to a few Australasian Grebes doing their thing, now you see me, now you don't, guess where I'll resurface. Dragon flies were also very active across the water and I think Charles was in his element. A Little Pied Cormorant, Black-

facéd Cuckoo-shrike, Pale-headed Rosella and Babbler were added to the list. In all 45 species for the morning walk.

Returning to the home we were treated to a splendid morning tea on the veranda. Tuna quiches, muffins, cheese platter crackers, honey from Sonya's bees, Yorkshire tea, coffee and more. What a spread. After doing justice to the delights on offer we were invited into the garden where Sonya showed us the bee hives and explained how the honey is collected. There was an interesting water feature where



Pale-headed Rosella

by Charles Dove

the bees safely drink. We also looked at the various trees and shrubs around her home.

May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Sonya for her hospitality in not only allowing us to visit her property but also opening her home and receiving us with such kindness.



TBO members enjoying Sonya's hospitality following a great morning of birding on her property.

Goombungee		January 14th 2026		45 species
Australian Wood Duck	Sacred Kingfisher	Straited Pardalote	Magpie-lark	
Grey Teal	Laughing Kookaburra	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Torresian Crow	
Australasian Grebe	Nankeen Kestrel	Grey-crowned Babbler	Apostlebird	
Rock Dove	Galah	Australian Figbird	Little Grassbird	
Crested Pigeon	Little Corella	Olive-backed Oriole	Tree Martin	
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Red-rumped Parrot	Rufous Whistler	Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian White Ibis	Blue Bonnet	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Common Starling	
Straw-necked Ibis	Pale-headed Rosella	Pied Currawong	Common Myna	
Australian Pelican	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Australian Magpie	Zebra Finch	
Little Pied Cormorant	Australian King Parrot	Pied Butcherbird		
Little Button-quail	Superb Fairywren	Grey Butcherbird		
Black-shouldered Kite	Noisy Miner	Willie Wagtail		

Twitcheer in Tenterfield

By Lareina Hagan

A few weeks ago, I found myself with a free morning on the outskirts of Tenterfield. The New England area is not somewhere I've birded much before, mainly because my university days in Armidale had been spent trying to get the highest scores in Dan Murphy's class.

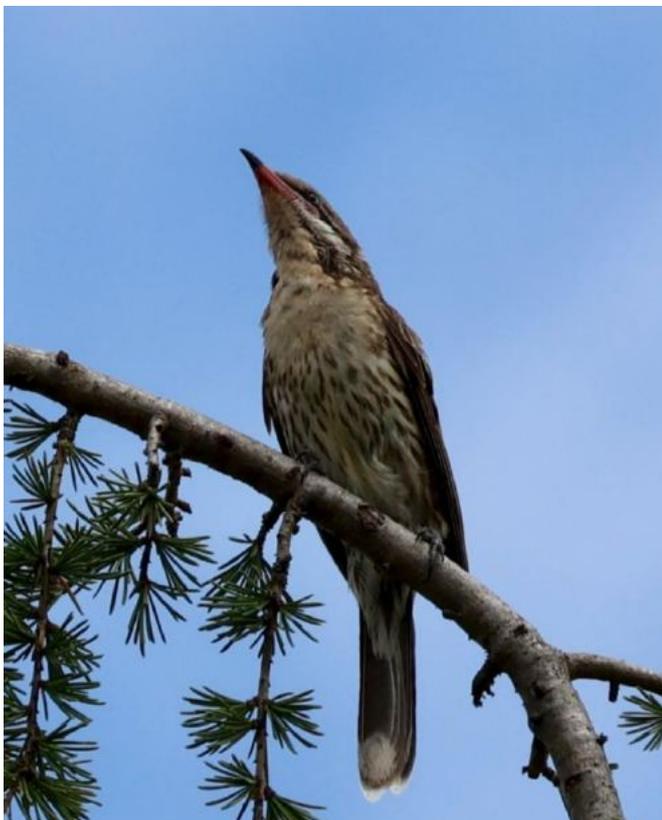
I started off down the dirt road, lured by the call of many nesting rosellas. Struggling a little with the lighting, due to the beating overhead sun, I lined up a beautiful crimson specimen just as my camera battery blinked its last blink.

I was a little discouraged by this mishap, so I decided I was keen to try out my recently purchased portrait lens instead. After a short hiatus back at the hermitage, replacement battery equipped, I strolled again outside.

It wasn't long before I was hunting for the source of some noisy wrens but was overjoyed to see two tiny Eastern Spinebills flitter onto the fence only a few metres away from me. Click, click. Two seconds and it was off. So excited! I'd only ever caught a brief glimpse of one through a car window before. But alas, upon immediate review, my pictures were as blurry as if the stationary Spinebill had the speed of a bee's wings.



My excitement was shattered. (Eastern Spinebill)



Success! Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater.

Now determined, I raced back to fiddle with the camera and replace my birding lens to try my luck with these Eastern Spinebills again. I made my way to the tree I'd seen them fly off to, and immediately, beautifully perched on a vertical tendril in the soft light under the tree, there it was. I lifted my camera... but alas! I had played around with the settings and couldn't get it to focus before it flew off yet again.

Between berating myself and bemoaning the missed opportunities, I was about to pack it in for the day when a smooth, earthy and mellow call tickled my ears. Right at the tip of a high pine, I snapped a few shots of something I didn't recognise. It wasn't until I was able to review (and Google) the photos, did I work out it was a Spiny-Cheeked Honeyeater - a new lifer for me! It turned out to be a great day of birding after all.

Below is the report for a new Toowoomba bird. Species number 309, a Green Catbird, was reported by Roger Jaensch. The bird was seen on 16/11/2021 and the report completed 26/11/2025.

Pat McConnell Records Officer.

TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

Observer's Name: Roger Jaensch

Telephone: 0488 201 008

E-mail: roger.jaensch.bne@gmail.com

Other Observers Present: None.

Species Name: Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

Date of Observation: 16 November 2021

Location (Be as precise as possible- latitude & longitude if possible): The bird was recorded on private property within the catchment of Sawpit Gully, Deverton. Access to the property for bird surveys was granted on the basis that bird records would not be disclosed to the public. Bird records for the applicable survey therefore were assigned the 'Private' label when lodged in Birdata. The bird was recorded within 2.0 km radius of the intersection of Rockmount Road, Stockyard Creek Road and Sawpit Gully Road, Deverton. Coordinates for the intersection are -27.678490°S, 152.050148°E.

Habitat Description:

A tall stand of apparently mature and healthy, semi-evergreen vine thicket (SEVT, dry rainforest), contiguous with SEVT through much of the Sawpit Gully.

Sighting Conditions (weather, visibility etc):

Not noted as being unfavourable for bird surveying.

Optical Aids Used (Binoculars, telescope, camera):

(Leica 10x42 roof prism binoculars.)

Distance/Height from Bird:

The bird was heard only, not seen. Based on calls heard, the closest distance would have been around 50 m, with semi-open habitat between observer and bird.

Duration of Observation:

There were two episodes of detected calling. The first involved multiple calls within a 15-minute period; the second episode was shorter, involving multiple calls within about 10 minutes (these times are from memory, not recorded at the time).

Number of Birds Observed:

Only one bird was heard calling.

Description of Bird:

The bird survey started at 06:20 and the first episode of a calling Green Catbird occurred within the early part of the first hour; calls given were the typical cat-like 'meowing'. This was when the observer was located within a steeply-sloped section of Sawpit Gully and approximately 50 m from the bird.

The second episode was in the later part of the first hour, by which time the observer had relocated to plateau overlooking the Gully. At that time, the catbird could still be heard 'meowing' occasionally, the observer now approximately 300 m from its presumed location.

The following notes were included with the record in the Birddata entry on the day of the record:

Calling on and off in the early morning in a deep gully of softwood scrub (SEVT). Typical cat-like "meowww" calls, some of which were audible hundreds of metres away from up on the plateau.

How was it distinguished from similar species?

Green Catbird has a diagnostic cat-like call that is unlike that of any other locally occurring bird. Certainty of identification can be assured because the call was heard repeatedly over an extended period without audible variation, whereas any mimicry by another species would almost certainly have included other sounds.

What is the extent of your familiarity with this species?

The observer is highly familiar with Green Catbird and its calls from over 30 years of encounters, more than once each year (often many times), in NSW and QLD.

What was the activity of the bird under observation?

Apparently, calling from within SEVT tall scrub.

Reference material used:

None used.

Other comments:

Given the presumably suitable habitat of the record, and the location of the record between well-known haunts of Green Catbird in the Main Range and at Ravensbourne, and occasional occurrence of Paradise Riflebird in the Toowoomba area, occurrence (at least as a vagrant) of the catbird locally seems inevitable.

If required, are you able to provide other evidence e.g. photograph, video or taped call of the bird you saw or heard?

No other evidence was obtained. The observer recognises that additional evidence would normally strengthen a record but due to the distinctiveness of this species' principal call and distance from the observer, no call recording was made.

Thank you for submitting your record which will now be distributed to the Club's Rarities Committee. The committee will use various means to assess the record and may seek additional information where necessary.

Toowoomba Bird Observers Annual Summary 2025

Species wise 2025 was a standard year for the Toowoomba Bird Observers with 220 species seen. There were no rarities to report like the Regent Honeyeater seen in 2024 but none the less we did see some very good species. These included Magpie Goose, Stubble Quail, Hoary-headed Grebe, Little Bronze-Cuckoo (there has been an increase in reporting of this species in recent years), Pallid Cuckoo (reports of this species in recent years have been few and far between), Oriental Cuckoo (rarely reported), Australian Owlet-nightjar, Lewin's Rail (a very secretive species with few local records), Spotless Crake, Pale-vented Bush-hen, Bush Stone-curlew, Banded Lapwing, Red-backed Button-Quail, Black-breasted Button-Quail (probably always present in small numbers but difficult to see), Intermediate Egret, Little Egret, Glossy Ibis (very few records in recent years), Square-tailed Kite (it is good to see an increase in reporting rate of this species), Little Eagle, Swamp Harrier, Spotted Harrier, Sooty Owl, Powerful Owl, Black Falcon, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Red-winged Parrot (regularly sited in 2025), Blue Bonnet, Noisy Pitta, White-winged Fairy-wren, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Fuscous Honeyeater (a species whose reporting rate appears to be declining), White-plumed Honeyeater (very rarely reported locally), Bell Miner (sadly reports of this species are on the increase), Striated Thornbill (reporting rates have dropped in recent years which is a cause for concern), Satin Flycatcher, Plum-headed Finch, Little Grassbird and Common Blackbird (sightings increased this year with a very unusual report from the Helidon area). Of possible concern was the fact that no Jacky Winters were reported in 2025.

See table below for a full list of species reported in 2025 with the months in which they were seen. The Records Officer would like to thank all those who contributed sightings throughout the year. I very much appreciate your efforts.

Pat McConnell

Records Officer

Species	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Magpie Goose								8				
Plumed Whistling-Duck	1	2	3	4	5	6		8		10	11	12
Black Swan		2	3	4		6	7					
Hardhead	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pacific Black Duck	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Grey Teal	1		3	4				8		10	11	
Australian Wood Duck	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Australian Brush-turkey	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Stubble Quail	1											
Brown Quail		2	3	4		6			9	10	11	12
Australasian Grebe	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Hoary-headed Grebe			3									
Rock Dove	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
White-headed Pigeon	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Spotted Dove	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12
Wonga Pigeon	1	2	3	4		6	7		9		11	12
Common Bronzewing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Crested Pigeon	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Peaceful Dove	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Pacific Emerald-Dove								8				
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove				4								
Topknot Pigeon											11	
Pheasant Coucal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Eastern Koel	1	2	3						9	10	11	12
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	2		4					9	10	11	12
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1		3	4				8	9	10		12
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9		11	
Little Bronze-Cuckoo	1		3						9	10	11	12
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1		3	4	5	6	7			10		
Brush Cuckoo		2	3									12
Pallid Cuckoo											11	
Oriental Cuckoo			3									
Tawny Frogmouth	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
White-throated Nightjar			3									
Australian Owlet-nightjar		2	3	4		6	7					
White-throated Needletail	1	2	3								11	12
Pacific Swift			3									
Lewin's Rail			3									
Buff-banded Rail			3	4	5						11	
Spotless Crake										10		
Pale-vented Bush-hen											11	
Australian Swamphen	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Dusky Moorhen	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Eurasian Coot	1	2		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bush Stone-curlew							7					
White-headed Stilt											11	
Black-fronted Dotterel								8		10	11	
Banded Lapwing										10		
Masked Lapwing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red-backed Button-Quail			3									
Black-breasted Button-Quail			3									
Painted Button-Quail		2									11	
Australian Pelican	1	2		4	5		7	8	9			
Nankeen Night-Heron		2	3	4						10		
Eastern Cattle Egret	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
White-necked Heron	1		3					8		10	11	12
Great Egret	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Intermediate Egret										10		
White-faced Heron	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Little Egret	1									10		
Australian White Ibis	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Straw-necked Ibis	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Yellow-billed Spoonbill											11	
Royal Spoonbill				4							11	12
Glossy Ibis										10		
Little Pied Cormorant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Great Cormorant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Little Black Cormorant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pied Cormorant		2						8		10		

Australasian Darter	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Black-shouldered Kite	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Square-tailed Kite		2		4	5	6			9			12
Pacific Baza	1	2	3		5		7			10	11	12
Wedge-tailed Eagle		2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12
Little Eagle				4	5	6	7	8		10		
Swamp Harrier		2			5	6			9			
Spotted Harrier				4	5		7	8		10		
Grey Goshawk	1	2		4	5	6	7	8		10	11	
Brown Goshawk	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Collared Sparrowhawk	1			4	5		7	8		10	11	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle					5	6		8	9	10		
Whistling Kite	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12
Black Kite	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sooty Owl			3						9			
Eastern Barn Owl							7	8	9	10		
Powerful Owl			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12
Southern Boobook	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12
Rainbow Bee-eater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Dollarbird	1	2	3	4					9	10	11	12
Azure Kingfisher		2		4			7		9	10		12
Sacred Kingfisher	1	2	3		5			8	9	10	11	12
Laughing Kookaburra	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Nankeen Kestrel	1	2		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Australian Hobby				4			7	8	9	10		
Brown Falcon	1	2		4	5			8	9	10	11	12
Black Falcon	1			4	5		7	8		10		
Peregrine Falcon			3			6		8	9	10	11	
Cockatiel		2		4	5			8	9	10	11	12
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	1	2								10		
Glossy Black-Cockatoo											11	
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12
Galah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Long-billed Corella	1			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Little Corella	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Australian King-Parrot	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red-winged Parrot		2		4		6	7	8		10	11	
Red-rumped Parrot	1	2	3		5	6	7	8		10	11	
Blue Bonnet						6				10		
Pale-headed Rosella	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Musk Lorikeet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Little Lorikeet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			10	11	12
Rainbow Lorikeet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Noisy Pitta					5						11	
Regent Bowerbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Satin Bowerbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
White-throated Treecreeper	1	2	3	4		6	7	8		10	11	12
Variegated Fairy-wren	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12

Superb Fairy-wren	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red-backed Fairy-wren	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
White-winged Fairy-wren				4						10	11	
Scarlet Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		9	10		
Striped Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Noisy Friarbird	1	2	3	4	5			8	9	10	11	12
Little Friarbird	1	2		4				8	9	10	11	12
Brown Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Brown-headed Honeyeater			3			6		8				
White-throated Honeyeater	1	2	3		5	6	7	8	9	10		12
White-naped Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12
Eastern Spinebill	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10		
Lewin's Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater										10		
Red Wattlebird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Fuscous Honeyeater										10		
White-plumed Honeyeater						6						
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater			3							10		
Bell Miner		2		4				8	9	10	11	12
Noisy Miner	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Yellow-throated Miner	1			4						10	11	
Spotted Pardalote	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Striated Pardalote	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Brown Gerygone			3			6		8	9	10		
White-throated Gerygone	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Western Gerygone						6		8				
Weebill			3						9	10	11	
Speckled Warbler		2	3					8		10		12
White-browed Scrubwren	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Large-billed Scrubwren	1		3	4		6	7	8		10		12
Yellow-rumped Thornbill		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Yellow Thornbill	1			4	5		7	8	9	10		
Striated Thornbill				4								
Brown Thornbill	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12
Buff-rumped Thornbill			3									
Grey-crowned Babbler	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Varied Sittella	1		3				7	8		10		12
Barred Cuckoo-shrike	1											12
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike		2				6	7				11	
Cicadabird	1	2	3							10	11	12
White-winged Triller										10		
Varied Triller	1		3	4		6		8		10		
Rufous Whistler	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Golden Whistler	1		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Grey Shrike-thrush	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Crested Shrike-tit			3	4						10	11	
Eastern Whipbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Australasian Figbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Olive-backed Oriole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pied Currawong	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Australian Magpie	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pied Butcherbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Grey Butcherbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Masked Woodswallow											11	
White-browed Woodswallow										10	11	
Dusky Woodswallow	1							8		10		
White-breasted Woodswallow			3	4	5				9			12
Spangled Drongo	1	2	3	4						10	11	12
Willie Wagtail	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rufous Fantail	1	2	3	4				8	9	10	11	12
Grey Fantail	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Torresian Crow	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Leaden Flycatcher	1	2	3	4					9	10	11	12
Satin Flycatcher										10		
Restless Flycatcher			3	4	5	6		8	9	10		
Magpie-lark	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Spectacled Monarch			3							10		12
White-eared Monarch										10		
Black-faced Monarch	1	2	3							10	11	12
White-winged Chough	1			4						10		
Apostlebird	1		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rose Robin				4	5	6	7	8				
Eastern Yellow Robin	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mistletoebird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin				4				8		10		
Red-browed Finch	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Plum-headed Finch								8		10		12
Zebra Finch	1		3	4	5			8		10	11	
Double-barred Finch	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
House Sparrow	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Horsfield's Bushlark	1									10		
Australasian Pipit									9	10	11	
Golden-headed Cisticola		2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Brown Songlark										10		
Rufous Songlark	1									10		
Tawny Grassbird	1			4					9	10	11	
Little Grassbird										10		
Australian Reed-Warbler			3							10	11	
Fairy Martin	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Tree Martin				4	5	6		8		10		
Welcome Swallow	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Silvereye		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Common Starling	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Common Myna	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Russet-tailed Thrush										10		12
Common Blackbird				4				8		10	11	

BIRD OF THE MONTH

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

Crested Pigeon

Scientific Name: *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Atlas Number:

43

What does it look like?

Description:

The Crested Pigeon is a stocky pigeon with a conspicuous thin black crest. Most of the plumage is grey-brown, becoming more pink on the underparts. The wings are barred with black and are decorated with glossy green and purple patches. The head is grey, with a pinkish-red ring around the eye. If startled, this pigeon takes to the air with a characteristic whistling flight, and glides with down turned wings. The whistling sound is produced by the air passing over a modified primary feather on the wing. Upon landing, the pigeon swings its tail high in the air.



Similar species:

The Crested Pigeon is one of only two Australian pigeons that possess an erect crest. The Spinifex Pigeon, *Geophaps plumifera*, markedly smaller (20 cm - 24 cm) than the Crested Pigeon, has cinnamon coloured plumage and a bright red facial patch. The much larger (40 cm - 46 cm) Topknot Pigeon, *Lopholaimus antarcticus*, has a shaggy, reddish brown drooping topknot.

Where does it live?

Distribution:

The Crested Pigeon is native to Australia and is common throughout most of the mainland.

Habitat:

The Crested Pigeon is found in lightly wooded grasslands in both rural and urban areas. It is usually found in the vicinity of water, as it has to drink every day, and is absent from the denser forests.

What does it do?

Feeding:

The Crested Pigeon's diet consists mostly of native seeds, as well as those of introduced crops and weeds. Some leaves and insects are also eaten. Feeding is in small to large groups, which also congregate to drink at waterholes. Birds arrive in nearby trees and often sit for long periods before descending to drink. Drinking and feeding are most common in morning and evening but can occur at any time.

Breeding:

The Crested Pigeon builds a delicate nest of twigs, placed in a tree or dense bush. Both sexes share the incubation of the eggs, and both care for the young.

Did you know?

When flying, a whistling sound is produced by the air passing over a modified primary feather on the Crested Pigeon's wing.

Breeding season:

Usually September to March; can breed at any time

Clutch Size:

2

Incubation:

21 days

Nestling Period:

21 days

LINKS OF INTEREST

Bushfire threatens endangered Western Ground Parrot

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-01-24/endangered-parrot-habitat-destroyed-by-fire/106253522>

With 30% of the Western Ground Parrot's habitat on the West Australian south coast lost to recent bushfires, started by lightning, there is much concern for the safety of this critically endangered species. While they are strong fliers that spend much of their time on the ground and nest in low vegetation, at this time of year young fledglings may not be strong enough to fly away. Much monitoring of these elusive birds will be needed to determine the full impact of the fires.

One for the bucket list?

<https://esterobaynews.com/community/m-b-bird-festival-2026-exceeds-expectations/>

Moro Bay Bird Festival held each year is one of the USA's top 5 birding events. Located on the Central California coast on the Pacific Flyway, the festival draws birders from all over the US as well as international birders.

Why do birds sing?

<https://www.weekendbirder.com/podcast/133-why-do-birds-sing>

Dr Gráinne Cleary talks on this Weekendbirder episode about what birds are communicating when they sing.

Helping our feathered friends through summer heatwaves.

<https://birdlife.org.au/news/put-water-out-for-birds/>

Like us, birds need lots of water daily especially when the summer temperature soars. Here are a few tips for keeping the birds in your garden hydrated on hot days.

Queensland floodwaters bring life to North-west corner of NSW.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-01-11/floodwater-brings-narriearra-caryapundy-swamp-to-life/106136450>

As the Bulloo River, which rises in far South-west Qld, flooded and flowed into North-west NSW during last year it overflowed into the Narriearra Caryapunda Swamp. This area was made a Ramsar site in 2021. This ephemeral wetland only fills once every 10-20 years and 2025 was one of those events bringing between 200,000 and 300,000 birds to the area.

You have to leap..



before you can fly