

Bird Observers outing, Hervey Bay.

A perfect Spring morning for the beginning of our short stay ay Hervey Bay.

Our group met up at the Teddington Weir picnic area just south of Maryborough with morning tea our first activity. We then explored the bush area around the picnic ground and down to the weir. The weir is on Tinana Creek, an area of dry sclerophyll forest with a small area of remnant vine forest scrub. Weeping bottlebrush, *Callistemon viminalis*, were in brilliant blossom along the creek edge and were the site of much bird activity.

There is an odd monument of a green tree frog overlooking the playground which had us puzzled. It had apparently been part of the swimming pool that had once been in the area. The pool was demolished, and the existing playground developed in its place with the frog being returned to oversee the playground area.



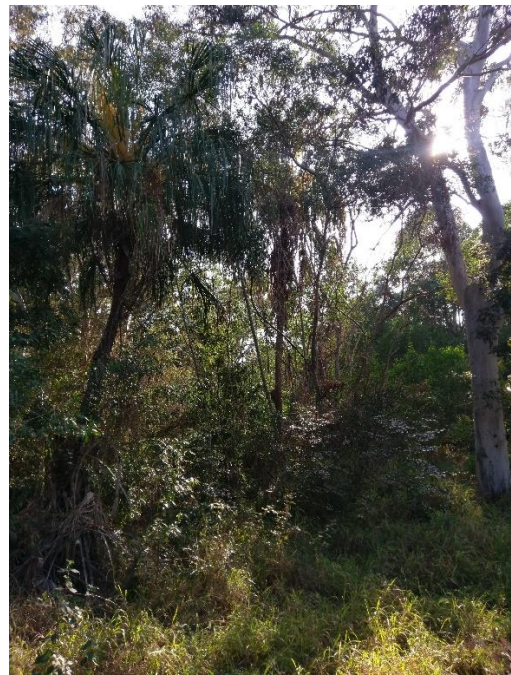
Teddington Weir

Photo: Uwe Simm

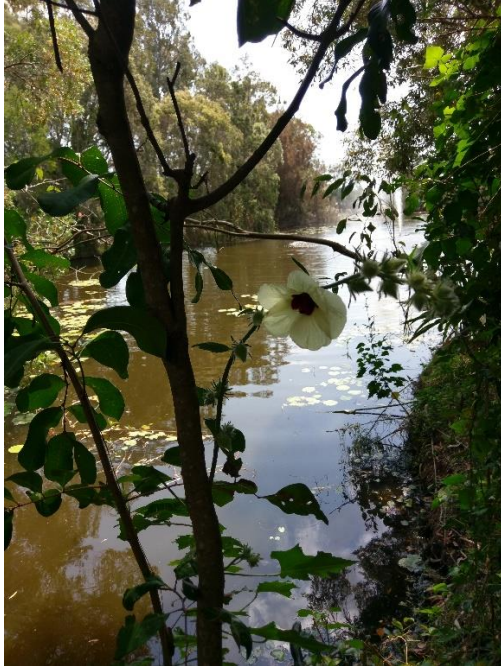


After lunch we travelled to Eli Creek Road Point Vernon. This is an area of housing development with flood mitigation channels. The other side of the road is dry sclerophyll forest. We were able to see a variety of water birds along with bush birds in this area. The whole country up there is very dry. Our first day concluded with our arrival at our accommodation sites.

We commenced our Tuesday outing at Edgewater and O'Regan Creek Conservation Park. This area has dry sclerophyll bushland, melaleuca and mangrove areas together with microphyll / notophyll vine forest on the beach ridge that has a biodiversity status of endangered. There was an abundance of Brown Ringlet butterflies here. It was also interesting to see the Cabbage Tree Palm in blossom.



Next, we visited Arkarra Lagoons, “place of many ducks”, an area of diverse habitats that are generally man made. It is part of an extensive east – west melaleuca swamp line. The present-day lagoons are the result of sand extraction in the 1960’s. We visited here quite some years ago. The area has matured and is much more interesting now. Extensive boardwalks and tracks wind through the littoral vine forest. Here we were able to see nesting Magpie Geese together with chicks. We also had excellent views of Reed Warblers.



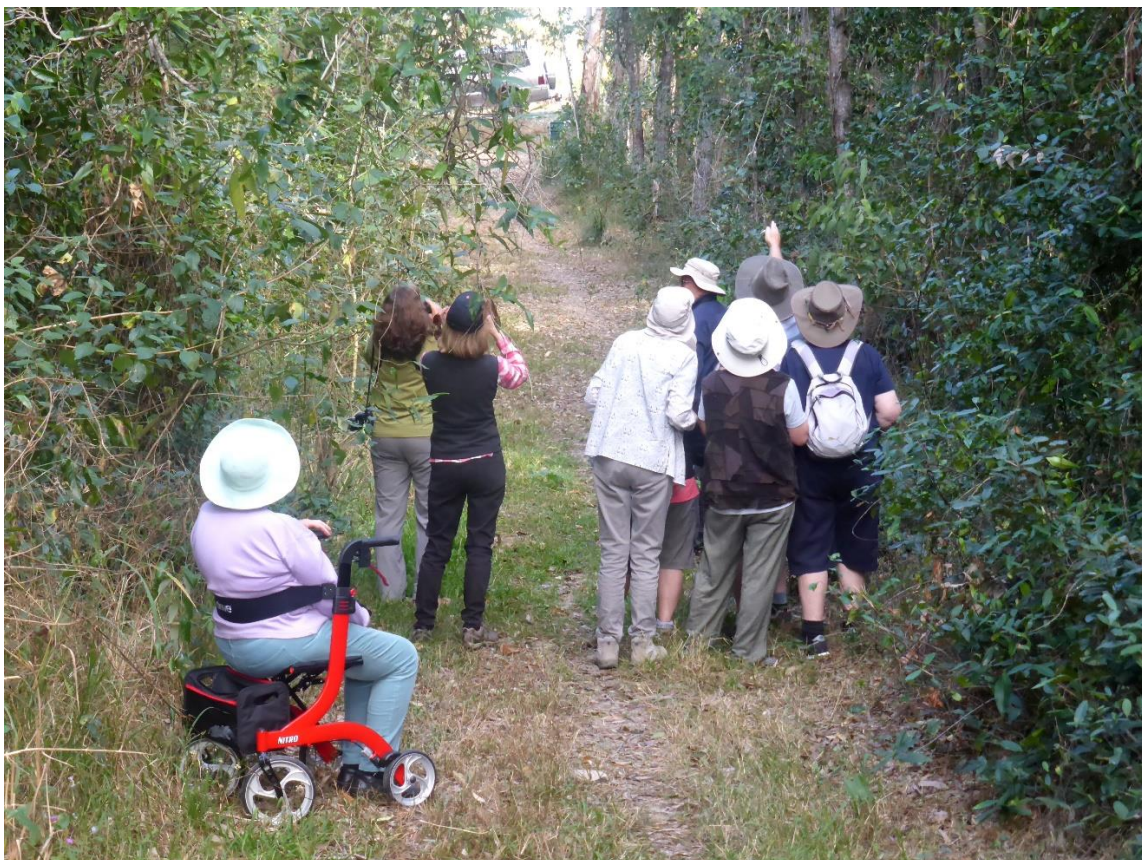
Our next stop was Mungomerery’s Vine Forest Reserve. This reserve, opened in 2004, is the last vine forest of its kind in the area. It is yet another ecosystem whose biodiversity is endangered and whose vegetation is under threat. It was quite dry, interesting but not at its best at present. We walked through to the beach.



Wednesday was another perfect day. This time we explored the River Heads area starting with yet another vine forest, Pir'ri Conservation area. Once again there were Brown Ringlet butterflies everywhere. This black-shouldered kite greeted us at our first stop for the day.



Photos: Uwe Sinn



Pir'ri Conservation Area River Heads

Our next stop was along Bingham Road. A Bandy-bandy snake, *Vermicella annulate* was an interesting find, dead by the roadside. They are generally active at night, sheltering by day in a burrow dug into loose soil, under rocks or logs or in termite mounds. It is shy and secretive. Its diet consists mainly of blind snakes and burrowing skinks.



Photo Robyn Howard

Next, we visited Osprey Park North on Great Sandy Strait. It is open bushland together with mangrove foreshore and grassed paddock areas. We spent time here before concluding the days' outing.



Osprey Park North, River Heads

Thursday and another perfect day. This time we headed north to Burrum Heads. The first stop for the morning was at Cheelii Lagoons. These lagoons are named after the rare Cheel's Paperbark, *Melaleuca cheelii*.



Cheelii Lagoons, Burrum Heads

We then proceeded to the Burrum Heads foreshore. With the tide out there were mudflats and sandbars providing views of both migratory and nonmigratory shore birds. Time was also spent walking along a bushland power easement. There was an abundance of Mistletoebirds in this area. The Rainbow Beeeaters gave a great aerobatic display from their perches on the power line.



Burrum Heads

Photo: Robyn Howard

Beelbi Creek Conservation area which surrounds Beelbi Creek was our next stop. This is an area with *Allocasuarina torulosa*, a favorite of Glossy Black Cockatoos. From time to time they are seen in this area, sadly not during our visit.



Beelbi Creek Conservation Area

Thursday's lunch stop was on the foreshore at Toogoom. We then went to Martins Creek Reserve which is an important link between riparian and foreshore vegetation areas. Once again it was extremely dry.



Martins Creek Reserve.

Thank you to all who attended and made the trip away very pleasant. I wish to especially thank Robyn Howard on behalf of all the attendees for her excellent programme and for all the behind the scenes work she did to make this outing the success that it was.

Bird Identifications – Hervey Bay Extended Outing – 10th – 13th September 2018

The following list is for birds identified at our various sites, plus a few not so common birds seen whilst travelling between sites. 138 Species were identified, and of these, 12 were

heard only. Where birds were heard only, this is indicated by (h). Sites are identified as follows:

TW	Teddington Weir
NR	North Road and Eli Creek Road, Point Vernon
E	Edgewater C.P. at Craignish
D	Dundowran Beach including Blue Lagoon, Arkarra Lagoons and Mungomery Vine Forest
B	Booral area including Pir'ri C.P., Bingham Road, Osprey Park North
BH	Burrum Heads area
BC	Beelbi Creek
MC	Martins Creek, Toogoom
T	Travelling between sites

Australian Brush Turkey	D, MC
Magpie Goose	D, B
Plumed Whistling-Duck	NR, D
Black Swan	NR, D
Australian Wood Duck	NR, D, B, BH
Cotton Pygmy-goose	T
Grey Teal	D, B
Pacific Black Duck	NR, D, B, BH, MC
Hardhead	NR, D, B, BH
Australasian Grebe	NR, B
Spotted Dove	NR, E, D, B
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	B
Crested Pigeon	NR, E, D, B, BH, MC
Peaceful Dove.	E, B, BH
Bar-shouldered Dove	TW, NR, E, D, B, BH
Wonga Pigeon	E
Topknot Pigeon	B
Tawny Frogmouth	TW
Australasian Darter	TW, NR, D, B, BH
Little Pied Cormorant	BH, T
Little Black Cormorant	NR, D, BH
Pied Cormorant	BH
Australian Pelican	D, BH, Toogoom
White-necked Heron	D, T
Eastern Great Egret	D, BH
Intermediate Egret	D
Cattle Egret	B, MC, T

Striated Heron	MC
White-faced Heron	D, B, BC
Little Egret	B
Australian White Ibis	NR, D, B, BH, MC
Straw-necked Ibis	B, BH, T
Royal Spoonbill	NR, D
Eastern Osprey	D, B, BH, MC
Black-shouldered Kite	B, T
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	TW, B, T
Whistling Kite	D (h), B (h)
Brahminy Kite	TW, D, B, BH, BC, MC
Brown Goshawk	MC
Wedge-tailed Eagle	B
Purple Swamphen	NR, D, BH
Dusky Moorhen	NR, D, B, BH
Eurasian Coot	NR, D
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	D, BH
Black-winged Stilt	BH
Black-fronted Dotterel	B
Masked Lapwing	D, B, BH
Comb-crested Jacana	D
Bar-tailed Godwit	D, BH
Whimbrel	D, BH
Eastern Curlew	D, BH
Little Tern	T
Gull-billed Tern	BH
Caspian Tern	T, BH
Crested Tern	T, BH
Silver Gull	T, BH
Galah	TW, NR, E, D, B, BH, MC
Little Corella	B
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	E, D, B, BH, MC
Cockatiel	T
Rainbow Lorikeet	TW, NR, E, D, B, BH, MC
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	TW, NR, D
Little Lorikeet	TW
Pale-headed Rosella	TW (h), MC
Pheasant Coucal	MC
Eastern Koel	B (h)
Channel-billed Cuckoo	E

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	D (h), B, BH (h)
Little Bronze-Cuckoo	BH (h)
Brush Cuckoo	D, B (h)
Southern Boobook	Heard at Pt Vernon Caravan Pk
Laughing Kookaburra	NR (h), E, D, B, BH
Forest Kingfisher	B, BH
Sacred Kingfisher	B, BH
Rainbow Bee-eater	TW, E, D, B, BH, BC, MC
White-throated Treecreeper	B (h)
Red-backed Fairy-wren	E, D (h), B
Variegated Fairy-wren	B
White-browed Scrubwren	E, D, B, BH, MC
Large-billed Scrubwren	B (h)
Mangrove Gerygone	E (h), B, BH, BC
Fairy Gerygone	E (h), B (h)
White-throated Gerygone	B (h), MC (h)
Spotted Pardalote	Heard at PVCP
Striated Pardalote	TW, E (h), D (h), B, BH, MC
Lewin's Honeyeater	E, D, B, BH
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	TW
Mangrove Honeyeater	B
Noisy Miner	TW, NR, E, D, B, BH, BC, MC
Little Wattlebird	TW, NR, D, BH, MC
Dusky Honeyeater	NR, B, MC
Scarlet Honeyeater	TW, NR, E (h), D (h), B
Brown Honeyeater	TW, NR, E, D, B, BH, BC, MC
White-throated Honeyeater	TW, E, D, B, BH, MC
Blue-faced Honeyeater	TW, NR, E, D, B, BH
Noisy Friarbird	TW, E, D, B, BH
Little Friarbird	TW, NR, B, BH, MC
Grey-crowned Babbler	B
Eastern Whipbird	TW (h), E (h), D (h), B (h), BH (h)
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	TW, E, D, B, BH, MC
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	MC (h)
Varied Triller	TW, E, D, B
Golden Whistler	B, MC
Rufous Whistler	E, D, B, BH, MC
Little Shrike-thrush	E, D, B
Grey Shrike-thrush	TW, E (h), D, B, BH (h), MC
Australasian Figbird	E, D, B, BH, MC

Olive-backed Oriole	B, BH (h)
White-breasted Woodswallow	TW, D, B
Masked Woodswallow	TW
White-browed Woodswallow	TW
Black-faced Woodswallow	BC
Dusky Woodswallow	TW
Grey Butcherbird	TW, NR, E, D, BH
Pied Butcherbird	B, MC
Australian Magpie	TW, NR, E, D, B, BH, MC
Pied Currawong	B (h)
Spangled Drongo	E, D, B (h)
Rufous Fantail	E, B
Grey Fantail	TW, E, D, B, MC
Willie Wagtail	NR, E, B, BH, MC
Torresian Crow	NR, E, D, B, BH, MC
Leaden Flycatcher	E, B, BH
Restless Flycatcher	E, B
Black-faced Monarch	E, B (h)
Spectacled Monarch	E, B (h), BH
Magpie-lark	TW, NR, D, B, BH, MC
Eastern Yellow Robin	E, B, BH, MC
Australian Reed-Warbler	NR, D
Silvereye	B
Welcome Swallow	TW, NR, E, D, B, BH, BC, MC
Fairy Martin	NR
Common Myna	NR
Mistletoebird	E (h), B, BH, MC
Double-barred Finch	E, D (h)
Red-browed Finch	E, D, B
House Sparrow	NR
Australasian Pipit	T