

The Drongo

Number 157 February 2020



Painted Snipe

Rainforest

Banded Lapwings

PIPs

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Birdlife Townsville has certainly not slowed the pace during 2019. Our membership stays rather steady at between 125 and 127 which is considered very good for any community group in the Townsville area.

Wal has been working hard to create our new website. It is still a work in progress but is much easier to navigate and will look pretty smart when finished. Mark Horvath will manage a new page for the Photography Group so that everyone can enjoy some of the excellent photography from our members. And remember, you don't need to be a photographer to attend the Photography Group meetings. Everyone is welcome to come along to see some really spectacular photos.

Mark continues working on the Library Photos. We will have a set of photos from each habitat which have the relevant information about the bird on the photo. Feedback from people who have seen the new photos during Bird Week was very positive.

We are now collecting statistics on volunteer hours. The 2019 numbers are pretty impressive.

Surveys 51 = 1129.5 hrs; Community Activities 14 = 240 hrs; Educational Activities 12 = 140.5 hrs

Total = 1510 hrs. Note that we are not recording the hours put in on administration, for example the huge number of hours that: Nina dedicates to managing our Finances and maintaining the complicated records that are required; Wal puts into managing the website, emails, calendar of events, mail and much, much more; Mark with the library photos. I could go on and on, but I'm sure you get the message that a lot of members contribute lots of hours of work that has not been captured in these numbers.

The committee worked with the Townsville City Council (TCC) to update the 'Birdwatching in Townsville' brochure. We have received about 200 brochures and the TCC had distributed the other 2000 to Tourist Information Centres. Annette Sibson got the unenviable job of up-dating the bird list.

Jill and Peter Staunton took on the job of developing a simple bookmark-size handout to raise awareness of BirdLife Townsville and encourages people to go to the website to learn more.

Julie Goldsbury's persistence in applying for grants finally paid off. We were successful in getting an

Australian Bird Environment Foundation grant for eight Educational roll-up banners. Julie, Mark and Annette Sibson are working on the development of the banners. You will get a sneak peek at the banners at a club meeting as soon as they are ready.

We have had one school complete the Birds In School program. The final component of this program is the planting of a bird friendly garden in the School Yard. TCC provided the plants and several staff attended on the day to help the kids with the planting. A lot of fun was had by all - and not just the kids.

We visited twelve schools throughout the year. Wal, Leta and I headed way out west to St Francis School in Hughenden. On the way, we dropped in on Prairie State School. The kids out there were very knowledgeable about birds and really interested in learning more. Of course, as at all the schools the session using binoculars and telescopes to identify birds is very popular.

Sadly, BirdLife Townsville lost another much loved member during 2019. Malcolm Calvert was on the committee for several years. He and Lenore conducted the Bush Garden monthly survey for several years as well as leading many outings and campouts. He will be remembered for his dry sense of humour and huge smile.

If you go to the Activities Page on the website, you will see all the outings, surveys and education sessions - in schools and community - that have been completed in the last year.

A big thank you to all the members who do so much to keep the club going strong.

Janet Robino

Newsletter Editor Annette Sutton amsgreat@gmail.com

[Deadline for next Drongo is April 30th. Please send articles as Word documents, photos as attachments.](#)

[The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Birdlife Townsville.](#)

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

Over the week of 18th January **Fork-tailed Swifts** (AKA Pacific Swifts), by the hundreds, are now common sightings at various altitudes in our airspace. Seasonal summer-time visitors to Australia, these amazing birds live and feed mostly on the wing, which is generally how we always see them. However, they do sometimes roost, and of course when they breed in the Northern Hemisphere. **White-throated Needletails** sometimes mix with the flocks.



Oriental cuckoo *Len Ezzy*

Oriental Cuckoos: Yes, they are expected this time of year, but Townsville's local birders have never seen so many **Oriental Cuckoos** in the region. From December 2019 to today, these birds have become a regular, if not, common sighting, not just individually, but by the hand-fuls. They are being found in most of our premier birding haunts... Town Common, Palmetum, Anderson Gardens, Ross River Bush Gardens, Bohle Wetlands Revegetation Site, Riverside Gardens, and even further afield, like Groper Creek at the mouth of the Burdekin River.



Banded Lapwing *Len Ezzy*

Groper Creek is really turning up some beauties. Besides the Cuckoos, how about a **Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher**? Yes... And a **Black Falcon** on 20 Jan. A little further south, eight **Banded Lapwings** were found, feeding right beside the road to Wunjunga. Since the flooding rains of the past week in the Home Hill – Inkerman region, the Banded Lapwings have departed. The **Little Ringed Plover** has returned and is hanging with Red-capped Plovers in the same, now flooded, paddock as it was during 2019.

Banded Lapwings x 2 and **Wood Sandpipers** x2 were seen out at John Road, Woodstock, where a landowner has been flood-irrigating part of his property for green cattle pasture. It's amazing how a bit of water will attract birds, especially in the current dry. This includes the hot and thirsty birds at our own backyard bird baths.



Wood Sandpiper *Len Ezzy*

One of Australia's most elusive birds, the **Australian Painted Snipe**, a solitary female, was found in Mid-December 2019, living and feeding comfortably at a flood-irrigated horse-paddock adjacent to Black River Road, only a couple of kilometres from the Bruce Highway. That little bird brought much attention from the birding world with birders coming from near and far for a "twitch". By 8th January 2020, the bird had departed, but not before a **Black-tailed Native-hen** added to the excitement there.



Australian Painted Snipe *Len Ezzy*

This Black River Road site has also reported three **Spotted Whistling Ducks** (SWD) in mid-December 2019. This species seems to be marching ever southward. In the last 12 months they have been seen and well documented locally at: Bohle Wetlands Revegetation Site, Toomulla (on restricted property), the Fairfield Waters Wetlands in the suburb of Idalia, as well as the now local 3 (now 4) SWDs at the Town Common Conservation Park (New Borrow Pits – middle lagoon). They were reportedly still there at 31st January. An **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** was reported there on 24th November and has been reported almost daily as it appears to move around a bit at either Payet Tower, Melaleuca or Pandanus viewing areas, which also saw variable numbers of **Little Curlews**.

Orange-footed Scrubfowls are appearing more regularly around town. A **Large-tailed Nightjar** was seen at the Riverside Gardens, Douglas. **Black Bitterns** and **Pale-vented Bush-hens** are being reported frequently around the Ross River Bush Gardens, Palmetum, Bohle Wetlands, and one at a private residence in the suburbs.



Orange-footed Scrubfowl

Len Ezzy

Down the road a bit at "Duckworld" (a locally named birding hotspot) on Toll Road, Brandon, we have had 9x **Black-tailed Native-hens** and one **Pied Heron**, in addition to the huge gatherings of common waterbirds. "Duckworld" is Private Property, however, by requesting prior permission from the landowner, local birders are able to get relatively close to 'scope view the now quickly- evaporating waterbody. Big numbers of **Red-necked Avocets** have been recorded there since November, along with 15x **Australasian Shovelers**. A telescope is essential for views at this site as the evaporating waters are receding rapidly from the Toll Road vantage points.

The Town Common Conservation Park, with its 283 bird species reported over time, is Townsville's most-surveyed birding site and has, over the last 3 months, supported many interesting birds species; **Little Curlew**, **Eastern Yellow Wagtail**, **Australian Pratincoles**, **Stubble Quail**, and **Grey Goshawk**, to name just a few.

Now, let's see what the Wet Season brings?

Len and Chris Ezzy

Postscript

29th January a Pied Heron was seen at Melaleuca viewing point and later that day two were seen at the Pandanus viewing point.

Ed Pierce found a Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher at the Ross River Bush Gardens on 2nd February. He put it on Birdline NQ with a picture .

Wendy Kaus came across a Buff-breasted Paradise kingfisher at the picnic area at Lower Crystal creek and apparently a fourth Freckled Duck has arrived at the Common.

See the gallery of more interesting sightings at the end of the Drongo.

HERCULES MOTH

ON Sunday 19 January 2020, Barbara, Anne and I were searching around in Lennox Crescent, Paluma for the birds that were not being very cooperative. It was a hot, steamy day so the birds were hiding out somewhere in the relative coolness of the forest. I noticed something waving in the slight breeze way up on a power pole. At first glance it could be easily dismissed as a large dead leaf caught up on the pole.

To our surprise it turned out to be a Hercules Moth. As we stood there with binos and cameras trained upwards, we attracted the attention of a couple of locals. We were not the only ones excited by the sight of this amazing moth.

Janet Robino

The following from the website, 'Paluma – our village in the mist' is reprinted by permission from Jamie Oliver. This is a great website. Check it out on paluma.org.



World's biggest insect makes a long awaited appearance in Paluma

This afternoon I was wandering down my driveway, coffee in hand, to feed the fish in my pond when I noticed a small group of birdwatchers at the end of the driveway excitedly pointing up and raising their binoculars to look at what I thought must be one of Paluma's many special birds. The ladies who, judging from their T-shirts, were all members of Birdlife Townsville, beckoned to me and pointed to the nearby telephone pole where, halfway up, was a magnificent male Hercules Moth. This is one of Paluma's truly iconic wildlife species and while it has been seen around the village in previous years it is not very common and has been on my wish list to

see for the last 30 years. I quickly went back up to the house and came down with my camera and telephoto lens and was able to capture some quite decent shots.

The Hercules Moth (*Coscinocera hercules*) is the largest moth in Australia (and possibly the world) with a wingspan of around 27cm in females. In terms of wing area (300cm²) it ranks as the world's largest insect. The largest recorded specimen, from Innisfail, had a wing span of 36cm! The species occurs only in tropical Queensland and New Guinea.

The larvae of this moth are voracious eaters, preferring the leaves of the Bleeding Heart tree (*Homalanthus*) and the Cheese Tree (*Glochidion*), both of which are common around Paluma. The larvae get pretty big too (12cm) after gorging themselves for about 3 months. They then retreat into a cocoon where they can stay for up to 2 years before emerging.



The adult moths do not have functional mouth parts and thus cannot feed, spending their short adult lives (2-8 days) searching out mates and laying eggs. The males are remarkably adept at finding females. Like other moths, the male has very large feathery antennae that are incredibly sensitive receptors for the very specific chemical (pheromone) released by the female. While I doubt that any experiments have been done on the Hercules moth, male silk moths are able to find a female up to 4.5km away and others species are said to be able to detect a single molecule of pheromone.

All told, it is a pretty impressive animal. My thanks to the ladies from Birdlife Townsville for showing it to me. They made my day!

Text and photos by Jamie Olive

OUTBACK TO OCEAN

Over the Christmas New year period my husband and I decided to hit the road. We went west as far as Cloncurry, then South as far as Charleville, then across to Lamington, and then worked our way up the coast toward home. He needed an escape, and I needed to find some new birds!



Regent Bowerbird

We covered 5300 kilometres in total, experienced extremes of temperature from 47 degrees in Longreach, to the delightful 23 degrees in Lamington the following day! We saw amazing sights, ate fabulous food, stayed in some dreadful dives and wonderful resorts, and never had enough time in each day. We came close to some of the fire zones, but managed to stay ahead of it for most of our trip, though smoke was evident everywhere.

I really didn't see enough wild birds and I was very disappointed that so many places with free-flying aviaries concentrated on exotic parrots, rather than our beautiful Australian native species. My highlights bird-wise were certainly Lamington National park and The Great Barrier Reef. Knowing I would be seeing a lot of birds and some absolutely starving, I made sure I took along appropriate bird food. Of course, places I read where there would be heaps of birds; there weren't any and places I didn't expect birds, I saw some.



Eastern Whipbird

On my life list, I was yet to see Regent and Satin bowerbirds in the wild and close up and I was rewarded day after day with both these species coming onto our verandah. At first to take a look at us, and then to have a snack and belt off. A highlight of my life most certainly has been to be sitting in a spa bath with a glass of wine on the private verandah overlooking the Lamington National park and mountains, with Satin Bowerbirds, Regent Bowerbirds, honeyeaters and parrots all flying in and out having a snack and checking us out. The early morning bird walks through the forest also had a lot of gorgeous birds.



Rufous Fantail

The Whitsundays was also on my bucket list as I had yet to see many ocean-going species of birds. While the focus was more on the scenery and wonder of the reef and diving, there were quite a number of new ocean birds I did get to see, close up. I was rather worried as I've suffered shocking motion sickness in my younger days, but I needn't have worried, I was fine, but the ocean was very choppy. One cannot control the weather! I'm keen for more pelagic adventures that is for sure.



Victoria's Riflebird female

All in all, we had an amazing holiday and I was delighted once I had done my stats. Over 21 days I saw 1602 birds. I photographed 154 species of birds (1048 birds in total). Of those 39 were new birds for me, and 31 of those were Australian natives.

Melissa BEE

BTF SURVEY

For those who may think sitting down on chairs for just over three hours counting birds in mid-October in North Queensland is easy, think again!

Firstly to gain access to your nominated waterhole, you may need to crawl under/through one, perhaps two, barbed wire fences, walk some distance through longish grass, carrying all your necessary "stuff".

Yes, it is nice & cool (less than 24 degrees) when you first arrive before 6am but once there you may/may not have shade from the sun after it rises, you may be the first meat that the

ants have seen/tasted for a while and in our case you may be visited by the local animals – much larger than us and weren't in the habit of taking "no" for an answer!

On Saturday morning we left our biodegradable banana skins on the ground for whatever might appreciate them.



LESSON – if doing this, remove them as far as possible from your spot that you have to come to the next morning! We didn't! And we were visited by 13 steers – one was extra friendly and knew what he was looking for, quickly scoffing the skins we dropped after breakfast. It was in no mood to share with his mates and thought we must have more, investigating and slobbering over Pat's camera bag.

If we do the survey this year (2020) we will be doing things as far as food waste goes, differently!

Warren Charlton

MAGPIES

Everyone, with the possible exception of a few narrow-minded cyclists, loves magpies. Many people also feed them. For instance, a neighbour who lives in the next block told me that "his" magpies (which are very likely also "my" magpies) are snobs, rejecting ordinary mince and only accepting the extra-lean variety.



In his recent books on feeding birds, particularly in Australia, Prof. Darryl Jones is highly critical of much of the food offered to Australian magpies, but particularly of mince. While convenient for the humans who do the feeding, he says mince should only be offered to birds if digestible calcium powder is added (and preferably lots of other stuff too). The general problem is that carnivores such as magpies don't eat just meat; they eat animals, which include bones, fur, scales, exoskeletons and, of course, gut contents. Mince is an incomplete diet, but can be consumed in large quantities.



Poor nutrition can lead to loss of condition and then disease, including "Gape worm" (nematodes that live in the birds' airways and can become so numerous that they restrict breathing – hence the gape). Mince is also sticky and can lodge in the concave inner surfaces of a magpie's bill, leading to the build up of bacteria and even rotting of the bill. All this was too much information: I have begun to culture mealworms (approved by Prof. Jones).

The young magpie in the photos was initially uncertain, but quickly overcame his suspicions!

Hugh Sweatman

FAMILY BUSINESS

I am worn out keeping up with all the revised common bird names but I think this is right – Pied Imperial Pigeon. For the time being. Anyway, you know the bird I mean.



Town Common

On 22nd November we spotted a PIP sitting on a nest on the Town Common. We checked on her each time we went down. The nest looked fairly substantial. In fact, it is still there today. On December 27th, we saw the adult in the nest with a fully feathered chick. On the 29th, the adult was out on a branch but the chick was still sitting in the nest. By the first of January the chick was out of the nest and we counted seven TIPs in the tree. A family reunion?



Pallarenda

On 2nd January we spotted another PIP sitting on a nest on the Esplanade at Pallarenda. After all the rain on the Australia Day weekend we couldn't find her but on 31st we went back, and there she was, sitting in the tree about two metres from the nest with a well formed chick beside her.

I suppose they are nesting all over the place.

Annette Sutton

Pied Imperial Pigeons used to be shot in large numbers, at breeding sites, but they have been protected since 1902. Some populations have recovered to some extent. Nesting birds are easily disturbed by human activities.

BIRDING IN THE SOUTH

We spent Christmas and a few days before, with our family at Raymond Island which is in a picturesque part of the Gippsland Lakes, south of Bairnsdale and across the channel from Paynesville in East Gippsland, Victoria. Access was by ferry. We visited Bairnsdale for the main part of our shopping. We also visited Lakes Entrance which reminded us of Pt. Douglas, with crowds of people everywhere! We did a drive around Paynesville too. As there are no facilities on the island, Paynesville was the place to go for back-up shopping (IGA) or eating out.



Superb Lyrebird

The whole time we were in the area, we were aware that there were several out-of-control bushfires north-east of Bairnsdale and we were reminded of them by smoke seen, particularly on the day we left.

We saw many birds in the garden where we were staying, including Common Bronzewing, Red and Little Wattlebird, Eastern and Crimson Rosella, Musk Lorikeet; in the surrounding bush we saw Yellow-faced and Lewin's Honeyeater, Spotted Pardalote (Pat only, got a good view), White-browed Scrubwren, Superb Fairy-wren. We also heard Whipbirds, later seen at Lakes Entrance. Water birds included Chestnut Teal, Great Cormorant and Great Crested Terns. We also saw many Koalas in trees and on the ground or walking down the road – also quite a number of Echidnas going about their business of searching for a meal and lots of large kangaroos. Getting around on the island was by foot, car, bicycle or a kind of self-propelled rickshaw with two (the small unit) or four (the large one) sets of pedals – good if you didn't have long legs and family that wanted to race each other!

From there we headed east towards Mallacoota, a nice place that we hadn't visited since our honeymoon. We were able to get the last room at the hotel-motel so our son and his family headed home for Canberra. We had a good look around in the two days we were there, seeing most of the sights and some interesting birds including Pied Oystercatcher, Great Cormorant, Great Egret, one solitary Eastern Curlew,

Superb Fairy-wren, New Holland Honeyeater, Fairy Tern, White-headed and Wonga Pigeon, Eastern Spinebill, Rufous Whistler, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, White-naped, Yellow-faced and New Holland Honeyeater, Red and Little Wattlebird, Satin Bowerbird, Superb Fairy-wren. Our final point of call and highlight at Mallacoota was Double Creek Walking Track where we saw two male Superb Lyrebirds imitating Laughing Kookaburras and Currawongs. Also in this area was a flock of Bell Miners.

That afternoon we saw four fire trucks out. We assumed they were going to support other brigades in the area – this was not correct as we found the next day they were to be on duty at Mallacoota. We left the next morning (30th Dec) and the roads were closed later that day when the fires arrived. Campers who packed the campgrounds including around the lake were not moving seeming to be unaware of what was coming. We now wonder what happened to all the wildlife that we observed in the area. * Later* - Perhaps some of them knew what to do as Pat saw in a following news article that 20 Superb Lyrebirds took refuge down the sides of a dam near Lithgow (NSW). Bearing in mind that the birds are territorial and the fire burnt all around this dam, their survival skills kicked in in this scene of devastation.



Common Bronzewing

We headed east toward Eden, then up Brown Mountain toward Cooma as the Clyde Mountain road was already closed. There was not a lot of traffic on the road considering what was to happen in the following days but there was a lot of smoke. Both Cooma and Canberra were very smoky.

Warren Charlton

Birdlife Australia has information on the website about what people who are close to the fires can do and how others can donate and they outline what will be done with the money.



UNEXPECTED

I visited the day-use picnic area at the Alligator Creek section of the Bowling Green Bay National Park on the Sunday before the Australia Day public holiday to recce the place in preparation for the annual Bird-Life Townsville's outing due next day. Just under 60mm of rain had fallen in the previous week at my place about 8 km down the road, including in the night before, and I was concerned that the tracks in that area of the National Park may have been adversely affected, which luckily was not the case. As it was, more rain fell that Sunday night but that's another story.

It was just after 11am as I pulled into the day-use carpark. I noticed that there were only two other vehicles present and fortunately, as it turned out, no groups of noisy children bounding about as they tend to do when enjoying the freedom of open spaces. Although it had rained the night before, it was quite bright so I took my camera with me "just in case", and I'm glad I did, for as I commenced to negotiate the concrete steps leading down to the swimming hole I was astounded to hear a very loud call of a Noisy Pitta close by. It appeared to be somewhere toward the middle of the ramp that leads to the road crossing upstream in the little creek that flows into Alligator Creek at that point.



I cautiously moved along the down-sloping ramp until I spied the bird in question perched on one of the hand rails, telling me that I should "walk to work", repeatedly, every few seconds. If it hadn't been for its calling, I would not have seen it in the slight gloom of the thick vegetation in that area. I propped, raised the camera quickly and fired off a couple of shots

just in case the little blighter decamped before I had another opportunity. As it turned out it had no intention of doing so at that stage, and I had good opportunities to capture some reasonable images in the next few minutes.

This was a remarkable chance meeting because, although the bird moved around quite a bit in the immediate area of my first sighting, (it could fly very well), and while cautious, it appeared to be unafraid of human contact and was happy to engage with me from a respectful distance. I did notice at the time that the bird lacked the full black belly and also the electric blue shoulder patches seemed to be much reduced when compared to specimens I had seen previously. This was confirmed when I looked at the images closely on the computer later in the day. My engagement with this bird lasted a few magic minutes. However the spell was eventually broken when the bird decided he had had enough and flew off down the creek proper. A noisy family returning from the swimming hole on the concrete stairway was also unhelpful.

I identified the bird as a male because of the red under-tail coverts, whereas the females are pink in this area. It was therefore either a male bird in eclipse plumage after breeding or a sub-adult bird that had not reached its full colouring. Given that the bird tolerated my relatively close presence I am speculating that it could have been in the hands of a wildlife carer in the not too distant past and perhaps was recently released in this area. Whatever, I'm sure we all wish it well and a safe return one day.

Norm Rains

Post Script. The BirdLife Townsville outing occurred next day as planned and although the bird was not sighted, it was heard many times calling in the vegetation further downstream from the picnic area.

PRE CHRISTMAS VISIT

On the day before Christmas we had a visit from a gorgeous young Brown Goshawk. He chose the bird bath to perch on. His noisy entourage of Blue-faced Honeyeaters didn't accompany him to the bird bath, thankfully. I was lucky enough to spy him come in and land so I grabbed my camera, opened the screen door a tiny bit (enough to fit the camera lens and not disturb him) and sat down to photograph him.

He perched there for a bit, just sitting and contemplating the water, checking the level perhaps, or the cleanliness - who knows really. He had a few drinks of water first, testing the taste and eventually ducking his whole beak in, just to eye ball level.

After a time he obviously decided he'd have to

have a bath, his idea of a bath was very interesting. He stepped into the water, lifted his wings once while stepping across to the other side of the bird bath - voila bathed! I did have to laugh, so like a teenager to bath so quickly, less than a minute. (Well my teenager anyway!)



He had a bit of a scratch while still perched on the bird bath and then flew up to a nearby branch to continue his post bath preening.



In the end he visited us three times (that we saw) over the Christmas break, each time having a bath and preening afterwards in various trees. On two occasions he called throughout the time he was there, I have no idea why. But it certainly cleared our backyard of the regular small birds. I've not seen him since so guess he's found somewhere else for bathing. He was identified as a young (immature) male by members of Australian Bird Identification, a brilliant Face Book site with great bird experts.

Annette Sibson

The Brown Goshawk is very similar in plumage to the related raptor (bird of prey) species, the Collared Sparrowhawk, A. cirrhocephalus, which has a notched or square-tipped tail rather than rounded, and has thinner legs and toes and lacks the Brown Goshawk's heavy brow

ORIENTAL CUCKOO

The Oriental Cuckoo has a large breeding range in northern Eurasia. It breeds across much of Russia west to the Komi Republic with occasional records as far west as Saint Petersburg. It also breeds in northern Kazakhstan, Mongolia, northern China, Korea and Japan. There have been records of birds displaying in Finland in recent years.



Oriental Cuckoo Palmetum

Len Ezzy

The exact extent of its wintering range is uncertain due to its secretive habits and the difficulty of separating it from the Himalayan cuckoo and other similar species. It is believed to include the Malay Peninsula, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Guinea, western Micronesia, the Solomon Islands and northern and eastern Australia with occasional birds reaching New Zealand. It has occurred as a vagrant in Ukraine, Israel and Alaska.

It is 30-32 centimetres long with a wingspan of 51-57 centimetres and a weight of 73-156 grams. The adult male has a grey head, breast and upperparts. The belly is creamy-white with dark bars. The vent is frequently buff with few markings. The legs and feet are orange-yellow and there is a bare yellow ring around the eye. Adult females and [juveniles](#) occur in two [morphs](#). The grey morph is similar to the male but has a brownish wash on the breast. The rufous morph is reddish-brown above, paler on the underparts and with strong dark barring all over including the rump.

From Wikipedia



INTERESTING SIGHTINGS



Large-tailed Nightjar

Len Ezzy



Red-necked Avocet

Len Ezzy



Spotted Whistling-Duck

Tony Ashton



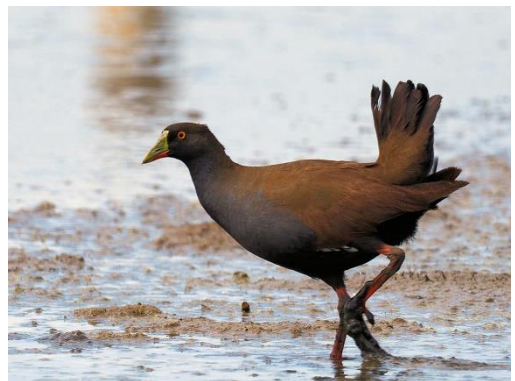
Pale-vented Bush-hen

Len Ezzy



Pied Heron

Len Ezzy



Black-tailed Native-Hen

Len Ezzy



Eastern Yellow Wagtail

Tony Ashton



Australian Painted Snipe

Len Ezzy

Quest

Name	Quest Number	Date
Janet Robino	210	28-07-20
Anne Lawrance	196	14-07-20
Barbara Reidy	189	07-07-20
Beth Snewin	178	26-06-20
Beth Snewin	178	26-06-20
Elna Kerswell	175	23-06-20
Marleen Acton	173	21-06-20
Wendy Kaus	168	16-06-20
Ian Leach	163	11-06-20
Wal Threlfall	137	16-05-20
Annette Sibson	105	14-04-20
Annette Sutton	87	27-03-20
Pat Charlton	38	07-02-20
Warren Charlton	34	03-02-20

MORE PHOTOS FROM "OUTBACK TO OCEAN" by Melissa Bee



Kina Parrot



Satin Bowerbird



Regent Bowerbird Female



Satin Bowerbird female