

BIRDWALK NOVEMBER 21ST 2009
ILLINBAH/TABLETOP ROAD – UPPER COOMERA RIVER

LEADER: SUSAN CANTRELL
BIRDLIST: DAWN HOOPER
DRIVERS: SUSAN CANTRELL AND DAVID SYKES
PHOTOGRAPHER: GAIL MOLSON

ATTENDEES:
SUSAN CANTRELL, DAVID SYKES, DAWN HOOPER,
GAIL MOLSON, DAVID NERADIL, TERRI TAYLOR.

Susan liaised with Doug Bray about walking up Tabletop Road. He leases the land from John Youngman. It being one-lane much of the way, Doug likes to know who will be driving it and when, in case he is taking cattle trucks along it.

We set off at 7.10 am from VIC. Arrived at Yandooya Farm, Tabletop Road, 7.45 am Birded for about 2 km up Tabletop Road until about 10am. Highlight was two Marbled Frogmouths in *Allocasuarina* about 6m from road.



(Also saw lovely *Cymbidium suave* in tree and Terrestrial orchid *Dipodium punctatum* (Hyacinth Orchid) growing on road embankment. This is bright pink and about 1m tall).



Plenty of *Allocasuarina torulosa* in fruit along road but **didn't** see the Glossy Blacks. On the way back down Tabletop at about 10am we were thrilled to see a family of four Brown Falcons playing around in the treetops about 50m below us. At first they were being chased by a pair of Pacific Bazas as well!



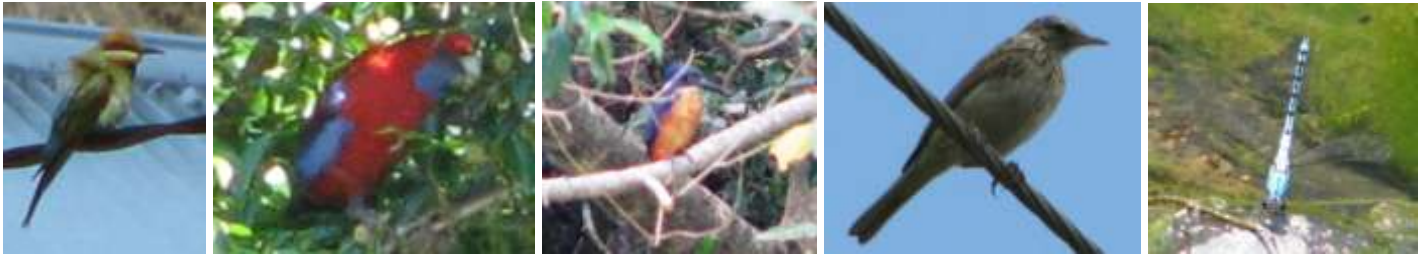
We watched them for 15 mins or so, it was hard to tear ourselves away.

We had morning tea at Sharp Park. On walking a hundred metres up the Coomera River on the western side we were pleased to find the Mannikins, Wrens and Finches in the long grass at the water's edge.





At about 11am we drove back up the valley then birded for about a kilometre along the road following the creek. It was very hot and we needed a break so about 1pm we drove to the end of the road, crossed the creek on foot and walked 100m up to the swimming hole to have a well-earned lunch.



Driving on our way to have lunch, just before the end of the road, we saw a bird on a nest, right out in a cleared paddock in the middle of a dead she-oak on the creek, about twenty metres away. It was very easily seen by us (and predators). There was much debate about whether it was a Willy Wagtail or a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike! It turned out to be both – in the one bare tree, both on their own nests!



Susan and David Sykes had a much enjoyed swim after lunch. We all kept a sharp lookout for platypus to show Dawn but no luck.



About half the birds were seen on Tabletop and half along the Valley floor near the creek. We all agreed it would be better to leave at least an hour earlier in summer.

Arrived back on Tamborine Mountain at 3pm. It was a lovely day, thank you everyone.

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|----|----------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Albert's Lyrebird (H) | 36 | Masked Lapwing |
| 2 | Australian Pipit | 37 | Noisy Miner |
| 3 | Australasian Grebe | 38 | Olive-backed Oriole |
| 4 | Azure Kingfisher | 39 | Pacific Baza |
| 5 | Bar-shouldered Dove | 40 | Pacific Black Duck |
| 6 | Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike | 41 | Pale-headed Rosella |
| 7 | Black-faced Monarch | 42 | Peaceful dove (H) |
| 8 | Black-shouldered Kite | 43 | Pheasant Coucal (H) |
| 9 | Brown Cuckoo-dove | 44 | Pied Butcherbird |
| 10 | Brown Falcon | 45 | Pied Currawong |
| 11 | Brown Honeyeater | 46 | Rainbow Bee-eater |
| 12 | Brush Cuckoo | 47 | Rainbow Lorikeet |
| 13 | Chestnut-breasted Manniken | 48 | Red-backed Wren |
| 14 | Cicadabird | 49 | Red-browed Finch |
| 15 | Common Koel | 50 | Satin Bowerbird |
| 16 | Crested Pigeon | 51 | Satin Flycatcher |
| 17 | Crimson Rosella | 52 | Scaly-breasted Lorikeet |
| 18 | Dollarbird | 53 | Silvereye |
| 19 | Double-barred Finch | 54 | Spangled Drongo |
| 20 | Eastern Whipbird | 55 | Straw-necked Ibis |
| 21 | Eastern Yellow Robin | 56 | Striated Pardalote |
| 22 | Eurasian Coot | 57 | Striated Thornbill |
| 23 | Fantailed Cuckoo (H) | 58 | Sulphur-crested Cockatoo |
| 24 | Figbird | 59 | Superb Blue Wren |
| 25 | Forest Kingfisher | 60 | Torresian Crow |
| 26 | Grey shrike-thrush | 61 | Variiegated Wren |
| 27 | Indian Myna | 62 | Wedge-tailed Eagle |
| 28 | Intermediate Egret | 63 | Welcome Swallow |
| 29 | Laughing Kookaburra | 64 | White-browed Scrubwren |
| 30 | Lewin's Honeyeater | 65 | White-faced Heron |
| 31 | Little Pied Cormorant | 66 | White-throated Gerygone |
| 32 | Little Wattlebird | 67 | Willy Wagtail |
| 33 | Magpie | 68 | Wonga Pigeon (H) |
| 34 | Magpie-lark | 69 | Yellow-faced Honeyeater |
| 35 | Marbled Frogmouth | | |