

BIRDING NSW'S 10TH IMPORTANT BIRD AND BIODIVERSITY AREA SURVEY AROUND GRENFELL

March 19, 2016

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Twenty four surveyors from Grenfell, Birding NSW, Blue Mountains Bird Observers Club, Canberra Ornithologists Group, Dubbo Field Naturalists, Illawarra Birders and Illawarra Bird Observers' Club took part in the 10th Important Bird Area (IBA) survey on March 19th around Grenfell in the South West Slopes IBA. Once again we surveyed the 29 sites in seven groups and I would like to thank Allan Richards, David Winterbottom, Paul Johnstone, Graham Fry, Penny Drake Brockman and Russell Beardmore for leading groups and ensuring that the survey forms were completed; I led the seventh group. Of the four target species, we only saw Superb Parrots. A total of 45 Superb Parrots were seen on eight sites including six sites on private land. Other Superb Parrots were seen during the weekend. In particular on Saturday evening many of us saw several Superb Parrots flying over "Rosemont", Mikla and Wayne's place where we had our Saturday night barbecue again.



Figure 1 Superb Parrot

Photograph by Camila De Gregorio

During the weekend we saw 64 species on the 29 sites. Of other threatened woodland birds, we were pleased to see 17 Speckled Warblers on eight sites largely in the state forests, 15 Jacky Winters on six sites, eight Hooded Robins on three sites and 41 Grey-crowned Babblers on six sites. Also seen were Southern Whitefaces (one bird each on two sites), Brown Treecreepers (two birds on one site) and numerous Buff-rumped, Yellow-rumped and Yellow Thornbills. Unexpected sightings were three Glossy Black Cockatoos seen in Warraderry State Forest, two Rufous Fantails seen in Weddin State Forest and one Sacred Kingfisher, also in Weddin State Forest. Good numbers of species were recorded at many sites with site species numbers ranging from three to 18. Unfortunately Rainbow Lorikeets were recorded on two sites close to Grenfell and Noisy Miners were recorded deep within Weddin State Forest. Nine species of honeyeaters were seen on survey sites. Outside of the surveys, a pair of Chestnut-rumped Heathwrens was seen at Holy Camp in the Weddin Mountain National Park and Plumed Whistling Ducks were seen again at the Sewage Treatment ponds.



Figure 2 Red-capped Robin. Photograph by Camila De Gregorio

The full list of species seen on survey sites has been provided by Michael Edwards from the database of Grenfell sightings and is shown below. This list does not include incidental sightings seen outside the survey times or on non-survey sites.

Species	Number of birds seen	Number of sites at which seen	Species	Number of birds seen	Number of sites at which seen
Apostlebird	67	5	Peaceful Dove	10	4
Australian Magpie	32	12	Pied Butcherbird	7	6
Australian Raven	10	5	Pied Currawong	6	5
Australian Ringneck	2	1	Rainbow Lorikeet	4	2
Australian White Ibis	6	2	Red Wattlebird	2	2
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	1	Red-capped Robin	17	9
Bluebonnet	9	2	Red-rumped Parrot	51	9
Brown Treecreeper	2	1	<i>Rufous Fantail</i>	2	1
Brown-headed Honeyeater	10	1	Rufous Whistler	13	6
Buff-rumped Thornbill	29	3	Sacred Kingfisher	1	1
Common Bronzewing	10	6	Southern Whiteface	2	2
Common Starling	2	1	Speckled Warbler	17	8
Crested Pigeon	31	12	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	8	4
Double-barred Finch	2	2	Spotted Pardalote	1	1
Eastern Rosella	84	15	Striated Pardalote	4	2
Eastern Yellow Robin	13	9	Striped Honeyeater	8	3
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	1	Superb Fairy-wren	30	7
Galah	33	8	Superb Parrot	45	8
<i>Glossy Black Cockatoo</i>	3	1	Wedge-tailed Eagle	4	4
Grey Butcherbird	13	12	Weebill	3	3
Grey Fantail	5	4	Welcome Swallow	2	1
Grey Shrike-thrush	1	1	Western Gerygone	3	2
Grey-crowned Babbler	41	6	White-browed Babbler	20	3
Hooded Robin	8	3	White-eared Honeyeater	9	5
Inland Thornbill	8	2	White-faced Heron	1	1
Jacky Winter	15	6	White-plumed Honeyeater	31	5
Laughing Kookaburra	11	8	White-throated Treecreeper	3	3
Little Corella	3	2	White-winged Chough	78	8
Little Friarbird	8	1	Willie Wagtail	23	11
Little Raven	21	3	Yellow Thornbill	33	9
Magpie-Lark	23	7	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	1	1
Noisy Miner	121	18	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	38	6
Total number species seen	64		Total # birds seen	1102	
**** Species seen for the first time this survey are <i>italicised</i>					

During this survey weekend we recorded 66 species with 64 species seen on survey sites. Since commencing the Grenfell surveys in 2011, we have seen 135 bird species overall.

Survey Date:	24/09/2011	12/05/2012	3/11/2012	20/04/2013	12/10/2013	29/03/2014	27/09/2014	28/03/2015	26/09/2015	19/03/2016
Total # Sightings	674	609	1015	478	735	1336	860	1430	992	1102
Total # Species	67	61	72	55	68	67	73	70	74	64
Total # new species		12	12	9	6	6	5	8	8	2
Cum # Species	67	79	91	100	106	112	117	125	133	135

The next survey will take place on September 24th 2016. We hope that our existing volunteers and new volunteers will take part in the next survey. Everyone is encouraged to book accommodation as soon as possible as there are always events in Grenfell in Spring and I have learnt that already the caravan park has no cabins available and several camping sites are booked. Please contact Allan Richards (activities@birdingsw.org.au) or me (emhodson@exemail.com.au) if you are not already on our contact list and would like details of the next survey.



Juvenile Wedge-tailed Eagle

Photograph by Camila De Gregorio