

## **BIRDING NSW'S KEY BIODIVERSITY AREA SURVEY AROUND GRENFELL**

The Club's thirteenth bird survey around Grenfell took place on Saturday March 24, 2018. Thirty people took part in the survey, including five surveyors who had not been on a Grenfell survey before. Ruth came from Queensland to join the survey and to see Superb Parrots – luckily Allan was able to show her about 60 Superb Parrots close to one private property. The surveyors included three people from Grenfell and one from Forbes. We had seven survey groups and surveyed on 30 sites; we have had to drop one site since the property has changed hands and I was unable to contact the new owners. I would like to thank Allan Richards, David Winterbottom, Russell Beardmore, Coleen Southall, Jill Molan and Graham Fry, who led survey groups. Superb Parrots were seen on six survey sites, including four sites on private properties, and were seen incidentally in six other places. About 200 Superb Parrots were seen on Dodds Lane but not during the survey time.



**Pair of Superb Parrots.**

**Photograph by Zik Teo**

Once again no one saw Diamond Firetails during the weekend. Of other threatened species seen on survey sites, six Turquoise Parrots and a single Hooded Robin were seen in Weddin State Forest, a single Dusky Woodswallow was seen on a private property, Speckled Warblers were seen on two sites and Grey-crowned Babblers were seen on eight sites. Raptors were seen on six sites, with a Peregrine Falcon recorded for the first time during our Grenfell surveys. Other raptors seen were Wedge-tailed Eagles (on three sites), an Australian Hobby and a Brown Falcon.



**Wedge-tailed Eagle.**

**Photograph by Zik Teo**

Numbers of small birds were lower than usual, reflecting the local drought conditions. Nevertheless we recorded 70 species (1171 birds) on survey sites. Though not recorded on survey sites, several Emus were seen during the weekend.





**Yellow-rumped Thornbill.**

**Photograph by Zik Teo**

As usual we met at the Railway Hotel for dinner on Friday night – the new cook, Shelley, provided a lovely roast dinner. Once again Mikla and Wayne welcomed us to “Rosemont” for a barbecue on Saturday night; everyone came early so we could bird first. Tom and I saw a pair of Speckled Warblers in the new plantings on “Rosemont”. On Sunday morning we met at Company Dam for a walk in fine weather around the tracks. We only recorded 18 species on our walk. We missed out on the usual Speckled Warblers and Black-fronted Dotterels.

The next survey will be held on the weekend of September 21-23, 2018. 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. Please contact Allan Richards ([activities@birdingsw.org.au](mailto:activities@birdingsw.org.au)) or me ([emhodson@exemail.com.au](mailto:emhodson@exemail.com.au)) if you are not already on our contact list and would like details of the next survey.



Female Superb Parrot.

Photograph by Gina McFarlane