

REPORT OF 14TH BIRD SURVEY AROUND GRENFELL IN THE SOUTH WEST SLOPES KEY BIODIVERSITY AREA SURVEY

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On Saturday September 22nd, 24 surveyors took part in the 14th survey around Grenfell, which is in the South West Slopes Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). This time five of the surveyors came from Grenfell and one came from Forbes while the rest came from Sydney and surrounds and from Canberra. Three people were new to the survey including Ron Broomham, who kindly led a group for the survey. The six survey groups each surveyed five sites for a total of 30 sites. Other survey leaders apart from myself were Allan Richards, Richard Webber, Chris Macaluso and Camila De Gregorio and Jill Molan. I thank all the survey leaders. I would like to thank Jill Molan particularly, as she undertook much of the organisation of this survey when I was overseas.



Figure 1: Superb Parrot

Photographer: Jodi Webber

During the survey 21 Superb Parrots were seen on four sites including on “Rosemont”, which is owned by Mikla Lewis, one of the Grenfell surveyors. We failed to see the other three target species. Once again no one saw Diamond Firetails on survey sites though Richard and Jodi Webber saw one in Warraderry State Forest on Sunday. Of other threatened species, one Brown Treecreeper, four Hooded Robins (two sites), two Speckled Warblers (two sites) and one Dusky Woodswallow were seen on survey sites. Grey-crowned Babblers were common, with 39 birds seen on seven sites. Once again Red-capped Robins were common, with 18 birds recorded on ten sites.



Figure 2: Speckled Warbler

Photographer: Jodi Webber

Of other interesting species, two Black-chinned Honeyeaters were seen on one survey site and a Black-eared Cuckoo was seen in Bimbi State Forest. The site with the most species was on “Rosemont” at a site of young trees and shrubs, where 21 species were recorded, an increase from the 16 species recorded there in March 2018. Although most sites seemed rather dry particularly in Weddin State Forest, over all we recorded 1,234 birds during this survey compared with 1,038 birds seen in September 2017. Of individual sites, 123 birds from 15 species were seen on one site on private land, including about 50 White-browed and 20 Masked Wood-swallows. In contrast only two species (14 birds) were recorded on another site, also on private land. The bird list is shown in the accompanying table.



Figure 3: Hooded Robin

Photographer: Jodi Webber

Table 1: Bird list

Species	N seen	N sites	Species	N seen	N sites
Apostlebird	119	10	Olive-backed Oriole	2	2
Australian Magpie	27	13	Pacific Black Duck	2	1
Australian Raven	21	16	Pallid Cuckoo	1	1
Australian Wood Duck	5	1	Peaceful Dove	9	4
Black-chinned Honeyeater	2	1	Pied Butcherbird	5	5
Black-eared Cuckoo	1	1	Pied Currawong	10	6
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	9	5	Rainbow Bee-eater	1	1
Blue-faced Honeyeater	2	2	Rainbow Lorikeet	4	2
Brown Falcon	1	1	Red Wattlebird	24	4
Brown Treecreeper	1	1	Red-capped Robin	18	10
Brown-headed Honeyeater	9	4	Red-rumped Parrot	17	2
Buff-rumped Thornbill	10	1	Restless Flycatcher	4	2
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	2	1	Rufous Whistler	17	12
Cockatiel	2	1	Southern Whiteface	1	1
Common Bronzewing	2	2	Speckled Warbler	2	2
Common Myna	2	1	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	8	6
Common Starling	32	2	Spotted Pardalote	4	4
Crested Pigeon	32	13	Striated Pardalote	5	5
Dusky Woodswallow	1	1	Striated Thornbill	7	1
Eastern Rosella	48	12	Striped Honeyeater	3	3
Eastern Yellow Robin	6	5	Superb Fairy-wren	12	5
Emu	3	1	Superb Parrot	21	4
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	3	2	Turquoise Parrot	4	1
Galah	31	11	Varied Sittella	1	1
Great Cormorant	1	1	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	1
Grey Butcherbird	10	7	Weebill	6	2
Grey Fantail	15	8	Welcome Swallow	3	2
Grey Shrike-thrush	4	4	Western Gerygone	6	3
Grey-crowned Babbler	39	7	White-browed Babbler	22	5
Hooded Robin	4	2	White-browed Wood-swallow	100	3
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	3	3	White-eared Honeyeater	9	2
Inland Thornbill	1	1	White-plumed Honeyeater	52	5
Jacky Winter	2	2	White-throated Gerygone	3	2
Laughing Kookaburra	9	6	White-winged Chough	61	10
Little Corella	14	1	White-winged Triller	1	1
Magpie-lark	23	10	Willie Wagtail	20	12
Masked Lapwing	2	1	Yellow Thornbill	38	8
Masked Wood-swallow	31	3	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	12	4
Mistletoebird	1	1	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	8	3
Noisy Miner	180	17			
Total N. Birds Seen	1234		Total N. Species	80	

We all arrived early for the barbecue on Saturday night at “Rosemont” so that we could look for Superb Parrots and other species. On Sunday morning we met at Company Dam for a walk in fine weather but cool weather around the tracks. I recorded 34 species including Speckled Warblers and the two resident Black-fronted Dotterels.

During this survey weekend we recorded 80 species. The next survey will be held on the weekend of March 22-24, 2019. This is the weekend of the NSW State Election, so surveyors can vote ahead of time or in Grenfell. 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. If you are not already on our contact list and would like details of the next survey, please contact Allan Richards (activities@birdingsw.org.au) or me (emhodson@exemail.com.au).



Ian Brothers (landowner) second from left, with surveyors Kim Larmour, Camila De Gregorio and Dick Dallimore. Photographer: Chris Macaluso