

September 2017 Birdwatch report

Spring had arrived and so had the bird breeding season, when we surveyed our regular nine sites in September.

New Holland Honeyeater, Pied Currawong, Blackbird, Little Raven, Noisy Miner, Magpie-lark were all recorded as nesting. Spring-summer migrants such as the Reed Warbler, Brown and Rufous Songlarks were recorded, but no Sacred Kingfishers (yet). Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoos were at three sites, and Pallid Cuckoos at two sites. There were plenty of raptors: Black-shouldered Kite, Collared Sparrowhawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Nankeen Kestrel, Brown Falcon and Australian Hobby were all recorded at various sites.

Frogs were vocal at several locations.

A total of 82 bird species was seen across the nine sites surveyed. Rainbow Lorikeets, White-browed Scrubwren, Red Wattlebird, Magpie and Little Raven (all native species) were recorded at all nine sites. The Rainbow Lorikeet won the 'most numerous species' award with a total count of 180. Galgi Ngarrk was the site with the highest diversity, (38 species), followed by Edwardes Lake and Bababi Marning with 36.

All our survey results are uploaded to eBird, a global repository for bird observations. There is an amazing amount of information freely available from the eBird website: go to <http://ebird.org/ebird/australia/explore> to start exploring the data. If you click on the 'Explore Hotspots' link, you can then enter a hotspot name that corresponds to one of our survey locations. Four locations start with Merri Creek in the name; the others are site names like Bababi marning/Cooper St Grasslands Reserve, or Coburg Lake Reserve. From there you can see how many species have been reported for that hotspot, a bar chart for each species showing which months they have been reported, and every checklist submitted. (Friends of Merri Creek are the 'top eBirders' in terms of number of checklists submitted for each of our sites, although other observers submit many checklists as well.)

Ann McGregor
BirdWatch Co-ordinator

[Photo caption:] Red-browed Finches are grass seed-eaters, regularly recorded at five of our survey locations. Photo: Peter Mollison