

February 2015 BirdWatch report

Fine, mild weather provided excellent birding conditions for the 45 people who joined our bird surveys at nine sites on two Sundays in February.

Zebra Finch was added to our list, recorded at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands).

There were good views of a small flock of White-fronted Chats at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands). The males are particularly dapper, with a white head and belly and broad black hood and breast-band. Chats are related to honeyeaters and are brush-tongued, but mostly eat insects taken on the ground. White-fronted Chats live in grasslands, samphire flats and low shrublands across southern Australia.

A total of 73 bird species was seen across the nine sites surveyed. Most widespread (occurring at every site) were Magpie, Magpie-lark and Common Myna. Not far behind were Pacific Black Duck, Rock Dove, Spotted Dove, Rainbow Lorikeet, Red Wattlebird, Willie Wagtail, and Little Raven, recorded at eight sites. On the other hand, 19 species were each recorded at only one site. The most numerous species were Rock Dove, Rainbow Lorikeet, Common Myna, Pacific Black Duck and Silver Gull.

The sites with the most diversity were Edwardes Lake (39 species), Galgi Ngarrk (34), Blyth Street-Moreland Road East Brunswick (32), and Coburg Lake (31). Coburg Lake Reserve again had the most individual birds, an estimate of 541.

There were 132 Eastern Grey Kangaroos at Galgi Ngarrk, 84 at Bababi Marning, and 32 at Galada Tamboore. Swamp Wallabies were also seen at these sites. A Giant Green Slantface Grasshopper, Plague Locusts, a Blue Skimmer Damselfly, two Water Skinks, about 30 Galaxias fish and a freshwater mussel were spotted at Galgi Ngarrk.

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