

## May 2016 Birdwatch report

Fifty-nine people joined in our nine bird surveys on two Sunday mornings in May. A total of 75 species was seen.

A seasonal highlight is the Flame Robins which have retreated from the highlands to the plains for winter to feed in open grassy areas. Eight were seen at Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Road) and 5 at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands). Zebra Finches were again recorded at Galgi Ngarrk.

Native Noisy Miners were recorded at three sites: Edwardes Lake (28), East Brunswick (23) and Hall Reserve Clifton Hill (28). They are becoming more obvious in parts of the East Brunswick circuit, and may be reducing the numbers of small/medium sized birds. In Clifton Hill, the surveyors witnessed Noisy Miners driving off currawongs, Crested Pigeons, Willie Wagtails, and doves. They are blamed for the absence of New Holland Honeyeaters there over the past two years. Noisy Miners prefer areas with trees and grass or bare ground, rather than a shrubby understorey.

The most widespread species (occurring at every site) were natives: Magpie, Rainbow Lorikeet, Red Wattlebird and Little Raven. Not far behind were two non-natives: Spotted Dove and Common Myna, recorded at eight sites. On the other hand, 18 species were each recorded at only one site. The most numerous species were Rock Dove and Rainbow Lorikeet (both 205), followed by Red Wattlebird (202) then Eurasian Coot (154) and Silver Gull (105).

Galgi Ngarrk has a big kangaroo population, with an estimated 340 recorded. Another 23 were seen at Galada Tamboore, as well as a cat.

The sites with the most diversity were Edwardes Lake, Galgi Ngarrk and Blyth Street-Moreland Road East Brunswick (each with 36 species). Coburg Lake Reserve again had the most individual birds, an estimate of 558.

Ann McGregor  
BirdWatch co-ordinator