

November Birdwatch report

The raucous calls of Red Wattlebirds were heard at every bird survey site in November, and they were the most common bird, with an estimated total of 199. Other common species were Rainbow Lorikeet (175), Pacific Black Duck (116) and Common Myna (109). Our bird surveys recorded a total of 78 species across 10 sites; this was the same number as in November last year.

Three species of cormorant were seen, with more Little Black than Little Pied, but the latter being more widespread. Spring-summer migrants have arrived: the Australian Reed-Warbler (at seven sites), Brown Songlark (Galgi Ngarrk), Rufous Songlark (Bababi Djinanang in Fawkner), and a Sacred Kingfisher downstream of Blyth Street between Brunswick and Northcote in time for the Return of the Kingfisher Festival at CERES.

As usual, the site with the greatest diversity was Galgi Ngarrk with 41 species. Both Bababi Djinanang and East Brunswick between Blyth St and Moreland Rd recorded 35 species, closely followed by Edwardes and Coburg Lakes with 34 each. Coburg Lake had by far the highest number of individual birds with an estimated total of 448 – boosted by large numbers of Pacific Black Duck, Rock Dove, Dusky Moorhen, Coot and Silver Gull.

The aggressive native Noisy Miner was recorded at six sites, being most numerous at Edwardes Lake and Hall Reserve, Clifton Hill.

The breeding season was still underway for many species, with nesting of Goldfinch, Magpie-lark (6 nests in NE Brunswick alone), Willie Wagtail, Noisy Miner and Common Myna; nest building by Red-browed Finches; display flights by Cisticolas, Skylarks and Pipits; Black Duck, Moorhen and Swamphen chicks at Edwardes Lake and Chestnut Teal ducklings in the Creek near CERES; Red Wattlebird, Fairy Martins and White-browed Scrubwren feeding young; and juvenile Tawny Frogmouths. One of the three Wedge-tailed Eagles at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands) was likely to be a juvenile.

Golden Sun Moths were spotted at Galgi Ngarrk. Over 200 Eastern Grey Kangaroos were seen there too. Unwelcome sightings were two foxes, a feral goat and a cat at Galada Tamboore, and a fox at Galgi Ngarrk.

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