

September 2015 BirdWatch report

Forty people enjoyed the sunshine and lots of vocal, springtime bird activity during seven surveys on 6 September, and seven observers came to the Bababi Marning survey on 13 September. Surveys at two of our regular sites (Coburg Lake and Galada Tamboore) were cancelled because leaders were not available.

The East Coburg birders reported that Collared Sparrowhawks have returned to nest up high in a pine next to the Creek near Fyffe Street, Thornbury. A pair of Magpies was building a nest in a Eucalypt adjacent to the survey meeting point in Kirkdale Street Park, East Brunswick. Another large stick nest was noted on the opposite side of the Creek, but the surveyors could not get a clear view of the occupants – either Little Ravens or Currawongs. Magpies were also nesting at Edwardes Lake, and two active Raven nests were noted at Bababi Djinanang. A Pipit that allowed a close approach at Bababi Marning (see photo) was likely to have a nest on the ground nearby. A Red Wattlebird was seen at a nest in a Eucalypt across the Creek from CERES in the East Brunswick survey.

A Golden Whistler recorded at Bababi Djinanang had been present for several months. Courting pairs of Horsfields Bronze-Cuckoos and Pipits were also observed. A Black-shouldered Kite was recorded at Bababi Djinanang during the survey; one was seen at Edwardes Lake a few days later (10 September).

One of the birders on the way to Galgi Ngarrk saw a Brown Falcon coming out of the Ford factory in Broadmeadows (*not a current model? – Ed.*) Another three were recorded at Galgi Ngarrk, as well as a Nankeen Kestrel and a nesting Australian Hobby. There was also a large flock of Straw-necked Ibis with a few White Ibis in the grasslands.

Several Pallid Cuckoos were feeding on hairy caterpillars on grasses at Bababi Marning.

A total of 74 bird species was seen across the eight sites surveyed in September. The Magpie and Little Raven were recorded at all eight sites. The Common Starling was the most numerous species with 190 individuals recorded but this was mainly due to 145 being recorded at Galgi Ngarrk. The Rainbow Lorikeet (157) and Red Wattlebird (134) were also numerous. The sites with the most diversity were Edwardes Lake and Blyth st - Moreland Rd (with 31 species each), and Bababi Djinanang (30 species). Galgi Ngarrk had the most individual birds, an estimate of 317 but this was mainly due to 145 Common Starlings being seen. Blyth st - Moreland Rd (263 recorded), Egans Reserve, Coburg (256 recorded) and Edwardes Lake, Reservoir (249 recorded) also had high numbers.

Ann McGregor
BirdWatch coordinator

[Image caption] Australasian Pipit at Bababi Marning

Photo: Keith Patford