



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS

NEWSLETTER

TO ENCOURAGE THE OBSERVATION AND STUDY OF THE BIRDS IN THE TOOWOOMBA AREA

FEBRUARY 2021

EDITION 465

BIRD OF THE MONTH

IN THIS ISSUE



White-throated Nightjar
Image courtesy of Ann Alcock

Helidon Spa - 2021

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OUTINGS FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 2021

Sunday 21 February	Lake Apex – 7.30am top carpark RSVP Sandy Robertson sandy.robertson6@gmail.com - Mob. 0415 277 145
Change of date Saturday 20 March	To have the best high tide time. We will meet at Toorbul Roost at 12.00 for high tide at 1.25pm. https://www.visitmoretonbayregion.com.au/natural-attractions/toorbul-bird-roost-toorbul More information provided as we get closer to the time. Ann Alcock 0418 159 760
Sunday 2 May	Prince Henry Drive, Toowoomba
Sat-Sun 29/30 May	Durikai/Coolmunda Dam, possible overnight
Sat-Sun 26/27 June	Raptor Census



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB INC.

WEB FORUM ONLY

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Treasurer	Ann Alcock
Records Officer	Pat McConnell
Newsletter Editor	Charles Dove
Media Officer	S Dyson-Holland
Facebook Admin	Sandy Robertson, Mick Atzeni & Ann Alcock
Outings coordinator	Martin Clark

The Toowoomba Bird Observers Newsletter will now be published monthly a week before the last weekend of each Month with the deadline being 5 days prior to this.

The deadline for the March Newsletter will be the 18th March.

Any members can submit photos, stories etc to the TBO newsletter.

Charles powerart@bigpond.net.au

CLUB REPORTS & NOTICES

OUTING REPORT RAVENSBOURNE NATIONAL PARK, 30 JANUARY 2021

BY MICHAEL ATZENI

The unexpected fog that greeted us at Gus Beutel's Lookout made this Beginners' Outing a tad challenging initially, but fortunately it eventually cleared and we were firing on all cylinders. Probably, the most curious sighting of the morning was a Horsfield's Bushlark perched on the fence bordering the top of the paddock below the lookout. I'd be very interested to know if this species has been recorded there before.

In the top section, Regent Bowerbirds, White-headed Pigeons, Black-faced Monarchs, Rufous Fantails and Brown Gerygones showed well on the forest edge. A single Topknot Pigeon flew over and, after we completed the circuit, a male Cicadabird posed obligingly for photos to the delight of those who'd not seen one before.

The picnic area in the lower section of the park provided some odd photographic subjects in the form of two recently fledged Regent Bowerbirds whose downy head feathers made them look quite comical. It was the first time I'd seen fledglings of this species. In the same area was a female Satin Bowerbird and a pair of Brown Gerygones, the latter providing uninterrupted, eye-level views as they tended to their nest.

A short walk along the bottom trail turned up an unexpected sighting of a Koala. Well done, Dakota, for spotting it at quite a distance. Everyone finally managed good looks at Black-faced Monarchs and Helen was lucky to see and photograph a Russet-tailed Thrush. The normally confiding Eastern Yellow Robins played hard to get this outing; I only saw one. And the begging calls of young Australian King-Parrots had me tossed until Jimsie set me straight.



Bowerbird Fledgling by Charles Dove

Other highlights were Green Catbird, Crimson Rosella and Little Shrike-thrush, three Ravensbourne specialties. Rose-crowned Fruit Doves taunted us relentlessly with their distinctive call but none could be seen.

An enjoyable time was had by all. A special thanks to the newbies for joining us. We look forward to seeing you again.

Attendees: Sandy Roberston; Marie Gittins; Mike McGoldrick; Helen Procter-Brown; Margie Murphy; Sacha Dyson-Holland; Dakota Dyson-Holland; Eduarda van Klinken; Peter Evorist; Jimsie Varghese; Richard Thomis; Jane Butler; Janina Dove; Mick Atzeni; Debbie Neubauer; Noel Neubauer; Suzanne Combes; Pam Heemskerck; Sue Uhlmann; Barbara Collyer.

Ravensbourne National Park, 30 January 2021			46 species
Australian Brush-turkey	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Brown Thornbill	Rufous Fantail
Brown Quail	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail
White-headed Pigeon	Laughing Kookaburra	Lewin's Honeyeater	Torresian Crow
Wonga Pigeon	Sacred Kingfisher	Noisy Friarbird	Black-faced Monarch
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	White-throated Treecreeper	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Eastern Yellow Robin
Topknot Pigeon	Green Catbird	Cicadabird	Horsfield's Bushlark
Whistling Kite	Regent Bowerbird	Varied Triller	Silvereye
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Satin Bowerbird	Golden Whistler	Russet-tailed Thrush
Rainbow Lorikeet	Superb Fairy-wren	Little Shrike-thrush	Mistletoebird
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush	Red-browed Finch
Australian King-Parrot	Large-billed Scrubwren	Pied Currawong	
Crimson Rosella	Brown Gerygone	Spangled Drongo	



Koala at Ravensbourne



Black-faced Monarch at Ravensbourne

Toowoomba Bird Observers Annual Species Census 2020

The Club's Annual Census was conducted from Friday 30 October to Monday 2 November 2020. A total of 171 species were recorded which is a great total for the four days, and one that all the participants should be very pleased with. Members also surveyed all 20 sectors which is quite amazing. Some of the standout species included – Little Egret, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Black Falcon, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Banded Lapwing (22), Red-winged Parrot (at four locations), Eastern Rosella, White-throated Nightjar, Australian Owlet-nightjar, White-winged Fairy-wren, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Yellow-throated Miner, Satin Flycatcher, Barred Cuckoo-shrike, Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Australian Raven, White-winged Chough, Plum-headed Finch and Brown Songlark. Sightings of Banded Lapwings in the local area have been very rare in recent years and to see 22 birds in one group is very rare indeed.



Eastern Yellow Robin by Pat McConnell

Australian Raven sightings locally are extremely rare and members turned up birds in two locations during this census.

Despite the fact that the census has been running for many years members still managed to record 30 new sector records. This is a real credit to the effort that members put in during this census. These new sector records are shown in red in the attached table.

A big thank you to the following participants who participated in one of the best surveys ever – Michael Atzeni, Olive Booth, Brian & Shirley Challoner, Sacha & Dakota Dyson-Holland Charles & Janina Dove, Ross & Margaret Easton, Michael Hare, Bill & Eileen Jolly, John McAlpine, Pat McConnell, Mike McGoldrick, Kath O'Donnell, Joe & Sue Scanlan, Wes & Norma Sturdee, Marion Sturdee, Richard Thomis, Jimsie Varghese, Peter & Shelly Watts and Al Young.

Pat McConnell
Records Officer

Grid ID (map reference)	W	N1	N2	N3	N4	W	C1	C3	C5	C7	W	C2	C4	C6	C8	W	S1	S2	S3	S4	
<i>Grid No.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	
Australian Brush-turkey			3							10			13	14						19	20
Brown Quail		2							9					14	15						
Plumed Whistling-Duck				4			7			10			13	14	15	16		18			
Australian Wood Duck	1	2	3	4			7			10			13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
Pacific Black Duck			3				7	8		10			13	14	15	16	17	18			20
Grey Teal							7		9	10			13		15		17				
Hardhead													13				17				
Australasian Grebe	1						7	8		10			13				17				20
Darter							7						13					18			
Little Pied Cormorant		2						8		10			13								
Little Black Cormorant							7	8		10			13								
Australian Pelican										10			13		15						
White-faced Heron			3	4			7		9	10			13	14							
Little Egret										10											
White-necked Heron										10				14	15						
Great Egret										10			13								
Intermediate Egret													13								
Cattle Egret							7	8					13	14	15						
Australian White Ibis		2		4			7	8	9				13	14	15						
Straw-necked Ibis	1	2	3			6			9	10	11		13		15	16		18			
Royal Spoonbill										10											
Pacific Baza			3							10											
Black-shouldered Kite		2				6				10						16					
Black Kite	1	2	3				7	8		10					15						
Whistling Kite										10				14	15						
White-bellied Sea-Eagle									9	10											
Brown Goshawk										10											
Grey Goshawk			3																		
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	2		4						10			13	14							
Brown Falcon								8						14	15	16					
Black Falcon	1									10					15						
Peregrine Falcon	1		3																	19	
Nankeen Kestrel	1	2	3			6	7	8		10					15	16	17	18			
Buff-banded Rail													13								
Purple Swamphen						7			9	10			13								

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Dusky Moorhen								8	9	10			13								
Eurasian Coot							7			10			13	15	17						
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper										10											
Black-winged Stilt									9	10											
Black-fronted Dotterel									9	10											
Banded Lapwing																			18		
Masked Lapwing	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10			13	14	15	16		18			
Rock Dove	1	2	3			6		8		10	11		13			16	17				
White-headed Pigeon		2																			
Spotted Dove	1	2	3	4			7	8		10			13	14							
Brown Cuckoo-Dove			3						9				14								
Common Bronzewing			3	4						10									19		
Crested Pigeon	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		13			16	17	18	19	20	
Peaceful Dove		2	3	4	5				9	10			13						19	20	
Bar-shouldered Dove		2	3	4					9	10			13					18	19	20	
Wonga Pigeon																			19		
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo			3							10											
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo			3																		
Galah	1	2	3	4		6	7	8		10	11		13	14		16	17	18	19		
Little Corella		2	3	4		6	7			10			13			16	17	18			
Long-billed Corella										10											
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	1	2	3	4			7	8	9	10			13	14		16	17		19		
Cockatiel	1	2	3			6										16	17				
Rainbow Lorikeet	1		3	4	5		7	8	9	10		12	13						18		
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	1	2	3	4				8	9	10			13	14							
Musk Lorikeet	1		3										13								
Little Lorikeet			3	4						10											
Australian King-Parrot			3	4				8		10			13						19		
Red-winged Parrot		2	3										13						18		
Eastern Rosella													13								
Pale-headed Rosella	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			13	14	15	16	17	18		20	
Red-rumped Parrot	1	2	3			6	7			10			13			16		18	19		
Brush Cuckoo				4				8												19	
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo								8													
Common Koel	1		3	4			7	8	9	10			13	14					18	19	20
Channel-billed Cuckoo			3	4				8	9	10			13						18	19	20
Pheasant Coucal			3	4						10			13	14						19	20
Southern Boobook			3	4				8		10											
Barn Owl						6							13								
Tawny Frogmouth	1		3	4						10			13	14				17		19	
White-throated Nightjar																				19	
Australian Owlet-nightjar			3																	19	
Azure Kingfisher										10											
Laughing Kookaburra	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10			13	14						19	20
Sacred Kingfisher		2	3	4			7		9	10			13		15						
Rainbow Bee-eater				4					9	10				14	15	16				19	
Dollarbird	1	2	3	4			7		9	10			13	14						18	19
White-throated Treecreeper			3	4	5			8													20
Superb Fairy-wren	1	2	3	4			7		9	10			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Variiegated Fairy-wren			3	4																	
Red-backed Fairy-wren				4			7			10				15							
White-winged Fairy-wren	1																				
Spotted Pardalote			3	4																	
Striated Pardalote	1		3	4			7	8	9	10			13	14	15				18	19	
White-browed Scrubwren			3	4				8		10			14								19
Large-billed Scrubwren								8													
Speckled Warbler				4			7	8		10											
Weebill			3	4	5		7	8	9												
White-throated Gerygone	1		3	4	5		7	8	9	10			13						18	19	20
Brown Thornbill					5		7	8	9				13								
Buff-rumped Thornbill				4	5																
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	1	2	3	4			7			10			13			16			18	19	
Yellow Thornbill										10											
Red Wattlebird								8					13								

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Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater		2																					
Striped Honeyeater	1	2	3	4			7		9	10													
Noisy Friarbird	1		3	4	5					10			13	14				18	19	20			
Little Friarbird	1	2	3	4					8	10			13	14	15								
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	2	3	4					8	10			13	14									
Bell Miner													13	14									
Noisy Miner	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
Yellow-throated Miner	1																						
Lewin's Honeyeater			3	4					8	9	10			13	14				18				
Yellow-faced Honeyeater			3	4	5				8	9				13	14								
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater				4																			
Fuscous Honeyeater				4						10													
Brown-headed Honeyeater				4																			
White-throated Honeyeater			3	4					8	10													
White-naped Honeyeater			3						9														
Brown Honeyeater	1	2	3	4					8	9	10	11		13	14	15				19	20		
Eastern Spinebill			3																				
Scarlet Honeyeater			3						8	9	10			13	14								
Jacky Winter				4																			
Eastern Yellow Robin			3	4	5				8	9				13						18			
Grey-crowned Babbler	1			4					9	10				14	15								
Eastern Whipbird			3						9	10				13	14	15				18	19		
Varied Sittella			3							10													
Crested Shrike-tit				4																			
Rufous Whistler			3	4	5		7	8	9	10				13		15					20		
Grey Shrike-thrush			3	4	5				8	9	10			13	14								
Black-faced Monarch									8	9													
Spectacled Monarch			3						8														
Leaden Flycatcher			3	4	5				9	10					15								
Satin Flycatcher														13							20		
Magpie-lark	1	2	3	4			7	8	9	10	11		13	14	15	16	17	18	19				
Rufous Fantail			3	4					8	9				13									
Grey Fantail			3		5									13	14								
Willie Wagtail	1	2	3	4			7	8	9	10				13	14	15				18	19	20	
Spangled Drongo			3	4										14							19	20	
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
Barred Cuckoo-shrike									9														
Cicadabird			3	4	5				8	9	10												
Ground Cuckoo-shrike										10													
White-winged Triller										10												20	
Varied Triller														14									
Olive-backed Oriole	1	2	3	4			7	8	9	10				13	14	15					19		
Australian Figbird	1		3	4			7	8	9	10				13	14	15					19	20	
Grey Butcherbird	1		3	4	5		7			10	11			13	14	15	16			18	19		
Pied Butcherbird	1	2	3	4	5			8	9	10				13	14	15	16				19		
Australian Magpie	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
Pied Currawong	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10				13	14						18	19	20
Australian Raven	1																					19	
Torresian Crow	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			13	14	15	16			18	19	20	
White-winged Chough			3																				
Apostlebird		2	3	4			7				11					16							
Regent Bowerbird								8	9														
Satin Bowerbird			3					8						13								19	20
Horsfield's Bushlark	1					6				10													
Richard's Pipit	1									10					15	16				18	19		
House Sparrow	1	2	3				7	8			11			13						17			
Zebra Finch	1	2				6				10	11				15					17		20	
Double-barred Finch	1	2	3	4			7	8	9	10				13	14	15					19	20	
Plum-headed Finch										10													
Red-browed Finch			3	4			7	8		10				13								20	
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin										10						16							
Mistletoebird			3	4										13		15							
Welcome Swallow	1	2	3	4				8	9	10				13	14	15	16			18		20	
Tree Martin	1																					18	

Fairy Martin					6				10			13	15	16	17			
Australian Reed-Warbler						7						13		16				
Tawny Grassbird									10				15	16				
Brown Songlark	1																	
Golden-headed Cisticola		2				7	8		10				15	16				
Silvereye		2	3	4			8	9	10			13	14					
Common Starling	1	2				6	7	8				13	15	16	17	18		
Common Myna	1	2	3			6	7	8	9	10		13		16	17			

ORIENTAL CUCKOO IN TOOWOOMBA - February, 2021.

Text and Photos by Al Young

Oriental Cuckoos are summer migrants to Australia from northern Asia. They occur here from September to May but mainly recorded from November to March. They have been recorded from north-western WA across the Top End to Cape York and then down coastal Queensland and adjacent areas to mainly coastal areas in NSW as far south as Sydney. Apparently only the subspecies *Cuculus optatus optatus* has been confirmed here. Like many cuckoos it is an obligate brood parasite, but apparently, it's the only cuckoo recorded in Australian that doesn't breed here, presumably because the preferred host species don't occur here. It seems a long way to fly just for the cuisine!

On February 5th, 2021 an adult male Oriental Cuckoo (subspecies *optatus*) flew into our kitchen window and didn't survive the collision. There was significant trauma to the head – torn skin and swelling to the front of the skull. My wife, Helen heard the collision which occurred between 3 and 4 pm. I wasn't home at the time but noted the carcass at about 4:15 pm by which time ants had attacked the eyes and head wound.

According to our records officer, Pat McConnell, there have only been about 10 records of this species in the TBO Club reporting area since 1976, so a rare visitor indeed!

Location: Nardoo St., Darling Heights, Toowoomba, Qld 4350.

Date: 05/02/2012.

Measurements:

- Bill Length = 22 mm
- Total Length = 550 mm
- Tail Length = 165 mm

References:

- Menkhorst, P. et al. (2017). The Australian Bird Guide. CSIRO Publishing.

Oriental Cuckoo- Adult male. Toowoomba 05/02/2021.



Head trauma and ant damage to eyes.



Ventral surface of tail

Nankeen Night Heron

Michael Macgoldricks daughter was fortunate to come across a Nankeen Night Heron relaxing on the pathway

in the grounds of the hospital where she works in Melbourne.



MEMBERS PROFILES

By Ann Alcock



Name: Mardy Clark

Position in TBO: Outings Coordinator.

How long have you been a member of TBO?

Previously a few years, and I just re-joined a few months ago.

How did you first get involved with TBO?

Good question, I think I originally found TBO in a Google search.

What do you enjoy about being a member of TBO?

The outings with a great bunch of people, and of course spotting the birds.

How long have you been interested in birding?

I can remember when I was about 8 years old, a neighbour identified various birds for me, and it started from there, so around 50 years, (and I still can't identify many...!).

Your most memorable birding experiences:

There are two instances: Recently watching about 100 Rainbow Bee-eaters surface - foraging for insects on the Nymboida River, NSW.

Whilst returning from a TBO outing at Blackbutt a few years ago... Startling a Wedgetail Eagle sitting in a tree next to the Blackbutt/Crows Nest (dirt) Road whilst driving the truck, watching it launch itself down from a branch 5 or 6m off the ground in full flight down along the road, and literally 2 or 3 meters from the windscreen, wing tip to wing tip spread across the windscreen, desperately trying to gain height, whilst we were skidding to a stop, and watching it fly away.

Your favourite bird?

That's a difficult question. Any Raptor, Blue Wrens, Australian Finches, plus a whole lot of others...!

Is there anything else you would like to see the TBO doing?

I am not sure who suggested it but the TBO get together last weekend at Creedon Drive was a great idea. In addition to the regular outings, how about we have a similar outing every 3 or 4 months?

What are your other interests?

Cycling, woodwork, electronics, and steamboats.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

Being the TBO outings coordinator, any outing suggestions or comments would be appreciated, Thanks.

Woah, check out 'Sprinkles' over here

We've never seen a colour mutation like this before. This rainbow lorikeet really has the Aussie colours down pat.

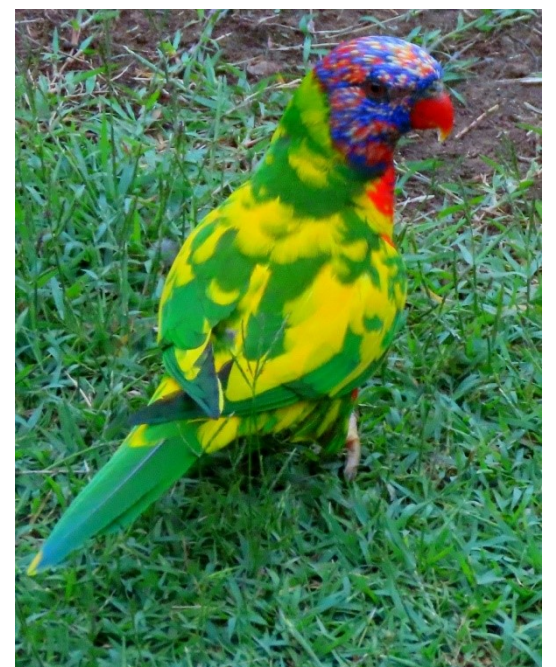
By AG staff • February 10, 2021

Colour mutation in a rainbow lorikeet. Image credit: Jayde Parrey

This shot was taken by Jayde Parrey at her home in North Rothbury, in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales. "In January I got a few photos of what I believe is a pied mutation rainbow lorikeet," Jayde says. "This particular [rainbow lorikeet](#) has visited me twice now. It has always been with other rainbow [lorikeets](#) and happily feeds, drinks, talks, plays and flies with them." According to avian expert Professor Bob Doneley from the School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland, all signs point to the bird being a pied mutation of a rainbow lorikeet.

"The colour of the beak indicates it's an adult," Bob says, "but I can't tell which sex." Bob says the most likely explanation for the pied mutation is that the bird has escaped from an aviary, or, far less likely, it's a fluke natural occurrence.

However it came to be, let's hope Sprinkles visits Jayde again.





An invitation to all birders
– experienced or otherwise

**VISIT King Island, GIVE US A HAND and ENJOY
SOME GREAT BIRDING**

‘Wings on King’ Autumn Bird Surveys 22nd-25th April, 2021

Coincides with the last weekend of direct Hobart - King Island flights by Sharp Airlines.

FIND the nine King Island subspecies including the critically endangered King Island Brown Thornbill and Scrubtit, 10 of the 12 Tasmanian endemics, the most southern population of Golden-headed Cisticola, Little Grassbird near wetlands or Sea Eagles at the nest in forest. King Island is a magical birding spot.

SURVEY WEEKEND:

The Wings on King program is gathering data to learn the story of the birds of King Island and 2021 is the 5th year of data collection. Hoping COVID won't stop us this year, we are planning another weekend event.

There are over 60 survey sites located across the island many on private land – hotspots not usually available to visitors. Small teams, all led by at least one experienced birder, undertake 20minute surveys on all sites over two days.

Social events include a Welcome and Registration gathering on Thursday 22nd April, a dinner with guest speaker/s on Saturday 24th April and a Threatened Species search on Sunday 25th a.m (TBC).

Note: Visitors arriving on Sharp direct Hobart-King Island morning flight on Friday 23rd, registration will take place at the airport.

PRIOR REGISTRATION is ESSENTIAL:

Cut-off date – Friday 16th April. <https://www.birdsofkingisland.com/register>

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE BIRDS OF KING ISLAND, SPECIAL ACCOMODATION DEALS FOR REGISTERED WINGS ON KING PARTICIPANTS AND HOW TO GET TO THE ISLAND visit:
<https://www.birdsofkingisland.com>

NOTE: Please check <https://www.birdsofkingisland.com> for updates or changes to the itinerary. Registered participants will be notified directly.

Photo: Golden-headed Cisticola on King Island x Paul Fraser