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You Yangs regional Park. August 3rd,

Taken on a book "Where to Find Birds in Victoria" edited by Tim Dolby, a Birds Australia publication. "You Yangs Regional Park" was written by Russell Woodford.

The You Yangs are a series of Granite Hills rising out the basalts plains between Melbourne and Geelong. They are the most conspicuous natural feature on the western shore of Port Phillip. There have been significant changes to the landscape, flora and fauna since European settlement, with gravel extraction, logging and grazing all taking their toll. Commercial plantations of exotic timber were established as early as 1870's. Environmental groups from the late 1953's replanted many areas but unfortunately non-indigenous species were favoured for several decades, and included a number of species now considered pests.

The You Yangs Regional Park was declared in 1992. Today a quarter of 1 million visitors use the park each year and about 200 bird species have been recorded here. The granite peaks draw birds from a range of location; migrants from Bass Strait, the

Otway Ranges or the north, vagrants from Gippsland in the east and the dry country birds that have followed remnant woodlands and mallee from the north-west. These, added with the resident species demonstrated surprising diversity of birdlife."

Our visit to the You Yangs was most rewarding, there had been rain consequentially there were many flowering eucalypt for the birds to forage in, particular the Purple-crowned lorikeets and many Swift Parrots, who will soon make the journey across Bass Strait back to Tasmania where they breed.

We went around the Great Circle Drive and out onto the seed-bed area and were rewarded with beautiful Diamond Firetails which John Barkla was able to call up. We had a very enjoyable day even though the bird account was very low at 38. There were many kangaroos and a huge koala high in a gum tree. I would think that the most photographed birds would be the Tawny-frog mouth. Thanks to Peter Gibbons for organising the day, it was most enjoyable. 📷 *Virginia* 📷 Photos Peter O'Connell

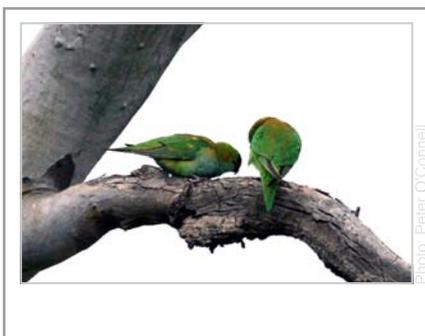


Photo: Peter O'Connell



Photo: Peter O'Connell



Photo: Peter O'Connell

Australian Wood Duck
Pacific Black Duck
Common Bronze-wing
Tawny Frogmouth
Whistling kite
Wedge-tailed Eagle
Masked Lapwing
Galah
Sulphur-crested cockatoo

Musk Lorikeet
Purple-crowned Lorikeet
Crimson Rosella
Eastern rosella
Swift Parrot
Red-rumped parrot
Superb Fairy-wren
Yellow-rumped thornbill
Spotted Pardalote

Striated Pardalote
Yellow-faced Honeyeater
White plumed honeyeater
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Red Wattle bird
New Holland Honeyeater
Black-chinned honeyeater
Brown-headed honeyeater
White-naped honeyeater

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Grey Shrike Thrush
Australian Magpie
Willie Wagtail
Little Raven
Magpie-lark
White-winged Chough
Welcome Swallow
Diamond Firetail
House Sparrow





Cape Barren Goose
 Chestnut Teal
 Pacific Black Duck
 Australasian Grebe
 Spotted Dove
 Crested pigeon
 Australasian Darter
 Little Pied Cormorant
 Little Black Cormorant
 Australian Pelican
 Eastern Great Egret
 White Faced Heron
 Australian white Ibis
 Royal spoonbill
 Whistling kite
 Brown Falcon

Australian Hobby
 Purple Swamphen
 Dusky Moorhen
 Australian Pied
 Oystercatcher
 Masked Lapwing
 Pacific Gull
 Silver Gull
 Galah
 Cape Barren Goose
 Chestnut Teal
 Pacific Black Duck
 Australasian Grebe
 Spotted Dove
 Crested pigeon
 Australasian Darter
 Little Pied Cormorant
 Little Black Cormorant
 Australian Pelican
 Eastern Great Egret
 White Faced Heron

Rainbow lorikeet
 Crimson Rosella
 Red-rumped parrot
 Superb Fairywren
 Yellow-rumped thornbill
 White plumed honeyeater
 Red Wattle bird
 New Holland Honeyeater
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
 Australian Magpie
 Grey fantail
 Willie Wagtail
 Little Raven
 Magpie-lark
 Flame Robin
 Eurasian Skylark
 Silvereye
 Welcome Swallow
 Common Blackbird
 Common Starling
 Common Myna
 House Sparrow
 European Goldfinch
 Common Greenfinch

Bob Burt took the photo of the palm tree, Joyce Burt took the other four.

http://www.visitwerribee.com.au/calendar_events/bird-week-in-wyndham

Sat, 23rd, Oct., Wyndham Council Library,

*Werribee Plaza Shopping Centre,
 Cnr Heaths and Derrimut Road,
 Hoppers Crossing*



Between 23 and 30 October 2010, BOCA are holding Australia wide events as part of ' Bird Week 2010 '. Wyndham BOCA members will present a static display at the Wyndham City Library, Plaza branch. Members will also be on hand at times during the week.

BOCA Bird Week 2010 is an education and information exercise and, the Messages for Bird Week 2010 are:-

Appreciation - BOCA members enjoy bird watching.

Education - BOCA members love sharing what they know about birds.

Conservation - BOCA members care about birds and their habitat.

The display will comprise posters, photographs and various forms of information about BOCA and birdwatching, including the interesting locations in and around Wyndham for bird watching.

Website: www.boca.org.au



Werribee River in Winter.

As you stood gazing over the K.Road cliffs did you spare a thought to wonder who surveyed this area? " In July 1835 John Helder Wedge, a member of the Port Phillip Association crossed Bass Strait to make a detailed survey and a plan to divide the land Batman had acquired. He divided the huge area of land into sections and lots were cast for it. Wedge was allocated Lot No. 13. Five of the seventeen lots were in the Werribee area.

In spite of the fact that the Governor of NSW made it clear they were trespassing, settlers from Van Diemens Land began arriving to take up the acquired land. Edward Wedge, brother to John bought out a flock of 400 merino sheep to the Werribee property. He built a house near the Werribee River but in 1852 the river flooded drowning Edward, his wife and daughter, Lucy.

The Werribee River begins as a small creek in the Wombat State Forest, it flows through Ballan and Bacchus Marsh, where it meets the Lerderderg River. The River continues until its waters are held back by the Exford Weir creating the Melton Reservoir. The River becomes tidal at the Werribee Park Mansion, to flow gently to Port Philip Bay. This completes a journey of some 110 kilometres."

Here are the comments of Dave, Carole, Ceri, Glenis and Susan about the Wagtails view of bird life on the Werribee River.

The highlight was the fact that we had a perfectly still and sunny day, which made for some great reflections in the water. A male Flame Robin (in the Rose Garden) was unfortunately not seen by everyone. Those of us who did the after lunch stroll were rewarded by a lovely male Darter (on the website at <http://boca.org.au/photogallery/picture/photoboca-images/499-australasian-darter>).

All were surprised by the variability of birdlife

along the Werribee River - not just in the number of species but in the quality of the sightings. It was just so great to be able to share our treasure trove with Margaret and Megan our visitors. The Flame Robin, photographed by Megan was identified by "the scarlet wears a scarf and the flame is fully red"

Guess whose day was made by a "Real" cup of Coffee at the Mansion?

My first bird watching excursion turned out to be much more than spotting birds and totally the number of species seen. Our first stop was the K. Rd Red Cliffs. Before I'd even seen a bird I was delighted with the panoramic reflection of the river bank in the river, in the wintry morning light. A stroll along the top of the cliffs was a chance to meet some friendly people and watch and listen for bird species. I enjoyed having time to observe the birds in their habitats without rushing onward. It was a challenge to spot a small bird atop a sprinkler in a vegetable patch. Our next stop was a stroll around the lake in the beautifully maintained garden of Werribee Park Mansion.

The third part of our day was a walk along the Werribee River behind the main street. Watching the darter as, it repeatedly swam underwater, emerging and moving further upstream until we caught up with it, drying its wings on a log over the river. What a wing span and what a delight to observe its elegance.

I enjoyed my day with a friendly, knowledgeable bunch of bird observers, sharing our open spaces and the birds that inhabit them. And I won some chocolates.  Susan Myers.



Where to 2011.?

Soon decisions will need to be made, below is the list of places we have visited. The Ring Road around Geelong does make more areas available, Bannockburn, Meridith etc.



Have your ideas ready

Altona , Beach, Jaw Bones
Anakie Gorge & Stony Creek
Anglesea (Bald Hills)
Bellarine Peninsula
Brimbank Park
Brisbane Ranges Steiglitz
Clarkesdale - Linton
Cobbledicks Ford
Daylesford
Earth Sanctuary
Eynesbury, Exford
Geelong & Beyond Botanic Gardens
Healsville Sanctuary
Hovel's Creek at Limeburner's Point
Hovel's creek North of the You Yangs
Iron Bark Anglesea
Kinglake & Whittlesea
Lerderderg Gorge
Long Forest Flora Reserve
Mt Macedon
Maribyrnong River Boat Trip
Newport & Cherry Lakes,
Open Range Zoo
Organ Pipe National Park
Pinkerton Forest
Point Cook
Point Edwards near Port Arlington
Point Lillias, Avalon , Kirk Point
Point Lonsdale
Queenscliffe via Belmont Common
Spectacle Lake & Point Cook
Wandering the Werribee River
Werribee Gorge
Western Treatment Plant
Williamstown, Westgate Park, Jawbones
Winchelsea
WyndhamVale & Lollypop Creek
You Yangs

Werribee Wagtails outing August 3rd 2010

It was cool, overcast and threatening rain again after a wet week, as we drove in convoy to the information centre at the You Yangs. The trip was organized by Peter Gibbons and a special ceremony was to take place during the morning, a not too well kept secret, in fact not a secret at all was that Shirley Cameron had been nominated for an achievement award for outstanding services to BOCA.

There was a lot of bird song but as usual on grey days the birds were a bit tricky to see and there was much flitting to and fro in the blossom. A pair of Tawny Frogmouths quietly posing as statues in the fork of a yellow box were spotted by an eagle eye in the group Andre, who also spotted two more in similar pose higher in the hills.

The bush was green and flourishing after the rain, a sight for our sore eyes.

We were joined by John Barkla, the Australian President of BOCA, who presented Shirley with a commemorative plaque and a badge and spoke about her many achievements especially at the Western Treatment Plant.

Shirley then reminisced about the late Mary and Phillip Richmond, great birdos she met at a difficult time in her life, and commenced walking regularly with them to observe birds in the local area and so Werribee Wagtails was formed, thank you Shirley.

John later walked with us after hearing Swift parrots calling, and the sighting of them in the blossom was a first for some of the group. It was wonderful to have an excellent interpreter of birdsong with the group, thank you John.

In all 37 species were sighted, and the regeneration of the bush was wonderful to see.  *Virginia Moylan*

