

# Bird Tourism Info for Kiambram Guests

Thirty years of regenerating our land at Kiambram Country Cottages has transformed it into a wonderful wildlife haven. The abundant birdlife around our garden is our ecological barometer of success. Members of Toowoomba Bird Observers (TBO) visited recently and found 43 species. They predict, based on the 150-odd species they've recorded in this district, that over 100 species could be seen here in any given year, including local rarities like the male Red-capped Robin gracing our garden this Autumn (2023).



## Spoilt for choice!

Bird tourism in Australia is a burgeoning, eco-friendly industry that we are keen to support and accommodate locally—and literally! Within an hour's drive of Kiambram over 300 species have been recorded. Kiambram Country Cottages is not just a 'birdy' place to stay; it's also central to the top birding spots around Toowoomba—and Southern Queensland, for that matter. We'd suggest we're a strategic base for birding this part of Australia.

TBO's president, Mick Atzeni, explained to us that many birders from coastal areas visit the region because it's the closest they can find 'western' or 'inland' species. For a non-coastal birding destination, the Toowoomba region is one of the most diverse, accessible and affordable in Australia. We're blessed with a diverse range of habitats including wet and dry rainforest, sclerophyll forest, woodlands, native grasslands, agricultural areas, dams and other wetlands. There are plenty of reasons why Kiambram Country Cottages is a good base for birders.

## What to bring

If you're new to birding, needless to say, bring a decent pair of binoculars, a field guide and a camera. If you're visiting the dams and wetlands, a spotting scope is recommended. We know many birders are independent and do their homework using on-line databases such as BirdData and eBird.

If required, we'll be able to provide you with a local check list and suggested bird routes to optimise your stay here. We'll even loan you a pair of binoculars for around the property.

Bird Tourism prospects are a bonus for Kiambram Country Cottages' accommodation business where guests are provided with everything they need for a comfortable, self contained stay. Kiambram is also close to renown foodie venues for those wanting to treat themselves to something special while staying.

## Where to go:

Cooby Dam is terrific for several wetland species including Musk Duck and Great Crested Grebe. It's also great for bush birds.

Around the Oakey/Jondaryan area, Black Falcon, Spotted Harrier, White-winged Fairy-wren, Ground Cuckoo-shrike and Bluebonnets are some of the target species. Jondaryan's the go-to place for Painted Honeyeater in the warmer months.

On the Toowoomba escarpment, Redwood Park and Highfields Falls, are two well-known birding spots. Redwood's extensive dry rainforest is home to specialty species including Powerful Owl, Black-breasted Button-quail, Regent Bowerbird and White-eared Monarch. Barred Cuckoo-shrike and Crested Shrike-tit are other local specialties in these parks.

Further afield, the Bunya Mountains, Lake Broadwater, Ravensbourne NP, Crows Nest NP, Durikai State Forest and the wetlands of the Lockyer Valley provide plenty of scope for a memorable birding trip based from here.

### **Bird-guiding and bird photography**

During your stay at Kiambram Country Cottages, we can organise a local bird-guide if you wish. Please let us know in advance and we'll facilitate that process.

July 2023 sees Kiambram Country Cottages becoming the host venue for a Bird Photography Workshop conducted by Photo Journalist Ann Alcock. Hoping the birds are performing for the students as this Grey Fantail did for Ann recently and a workshop for guests can follow.



Photo credits: Charles Dove & Ann Alcock - Info: Mick Atzeni & See "Bird List" PDF's