

Outing to Allyn River 16th Feb 19

Seven am on a bright morning, we met at Raymond Terrace McD with a plan to car pool as the Allyn River area is quite a long distance for people to travel. Several car loads set off hoping the dry, hot conditions wouldn't dampen the birding too much. The rainforest is beautiful at any time of year, although currently it is very dry like it is everywhere. A number of people had never been here or hadn't been here for 30 years.

When we arrived, there were many campers taking advantage of the forest and it's cooler conditions, so the birds were initially quite difficult to find as they may have gone to the edges of their territories to avoid disturbance. We managed to find a couple of places not so heavily populated and got to the serious birding we came for. As usual the group spread out along the trails, some managing to spot a couple of Logrunners, then as we ventured further, a few people not quite so energetic, were entertained by a Brown-capped Emerald Dove which sauntered out of the forest onto



the road. Sometimes it is best just to sit and wait for the birds to come to you. Our intrepid leader (Lorna) was out front showing us where we might find some more of interest, and like most of us missed the Emerald. A lone Brown Cuckoo-dove was spotted in the dense foliage and a Black-faced Monarch



watched as we wandered underneath his vantage point. Photos by Rob Palazzi



A couple of people noted the very numerous epiphytic orchids and ferns adorning the tree branches above - particularly in the large (and somewhat famous - by the signage) casuarinas along the watercourse. This Dendrobium species was very prominent.

The bird count around the picnic area saw a small list of birds - 28 species. Even the Lewins Honeyeater that often comes to the picnic table where we had lunch did not appear.



Photo: Peter Weinstock

As usual, the area held heaps of promise and WHEN it ever rains will be worth another visit.

Many thanks to Lorna for her leadership and patience with us all.