

**OUTING TO HUNTER REGION BOTANIC GARDENS—TUESDAY 2ND APRIL**

Amazingly, 22 hardy birdwatchers turned up on what looked like a miserable, rainy day in daylight saving time, so quite dark and cloudy. I'd done a bit of a recce on the Sunday and was able to advise participants to bring lots of mosquito repellent. At one stage I thought all 22 of them would be gently carried away by the hordes of those annoying insects.



However, happily we set off on the Wetland Track which later lived up to its name when we had to quickly beat a retreat back to the Visitors Centre along a firetrail. Now you might think we didn't see birds but we can claim 31 of them.



Scaly-breasted and Musk Lorikeet and Yellow-faced Honeyeater by Rob Palazzi

The Rainbow, Scaly-breasted and Musk Lorikeets met us first followed by a nice little collection of Silvereyes, Yellow Thornbills,



White-headed Pigeon by Bob Stuart

Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, an Eastern Spinebill, a Rufous Whistler, Scarlet Honeyeaters and of course the delightful Grey Fantails.



A Leaden Flycatcher was photographed by Rob Palazzi and Sue Hamonet heard a Rose Robin. Further along near the swampy area we saw White-cheeked Honeyeaters and Eastern Yellow Robins said hello from the tree trunks.



After morning tea some of us made off to catch sight of Bassian Thrushes. Apparently they had nested in this giant Bird's Nest Fern but they were not to be seen. However, along the way a lovely Rufous Fantail showed itself brightening up the dark greens of the track.



Rufous Fantail and Scarlet Honeyeater by Rob Palazzi

We were all wishing it had been a sunny day but the company was great - everyone in good spirits and we'll be back.

Di Johnson