

1.1 Bird Blitz 2022 – Results

Biodiversity Monitoring Program

Council's Biodiversity Monitoring Program assesses how Council is tracking against the five objectives in the *Biodiversity Strategy 2018*. Four species are used as indicators of broader ecosystem health – the Brush-tailed Phascogale, Powerful Owl, Greater Glider and the Brown Treecreeper (as part of the temperate Woodland Bird Community).

To monitor these species, Council undertakes the following annual activities:

Table 5: Biodiversity Monitoring Program

Monitoring activity	No. sites	Target species
Nest box checks (x144)	48 sites	Brush-tailed Phascogale
Spotlight surveys	16 sites	Brush-tailed Phascogale, Greater Glider and Powerful Owl
Bird Blitz surveys	84 sites	Woodland birds

The monitoring sites have been selected based on a stratification of Council's six biolink areas plus two forest blocks (Wombat and Cobaw state forests). Additional monitoring activities occur on and ad hoc or as needs basis to monitor the presence and population health of specific species.

Birds

The 2022 Bird Blitz day on 16 October was cancelled due to severe weather and flooding – but the birds were still surveyed! Bird surveys were undertaken at 84 monitoring sites across the shire by 26 staff and volunteers. The event recorded 86 species with greater species diversity observed in the Mount William, Upper Coliban and Kyneton Biolinks, as shown in Figure 1.

Some notable findings were:

- The Grey Fantail and the Crimson Rosella were the two most observed species.
- Surprisingly, the Yellow-faced Honeyeater was observed more frequently than Australian Magpie.
- A Peregrine Falcon was recorded at Red Gap Road in the Mount William biolink.

The outcomes of Council's annual Bird Blitz will become more meaningful each year as annual data is able to be compared and trends are able to be observed.

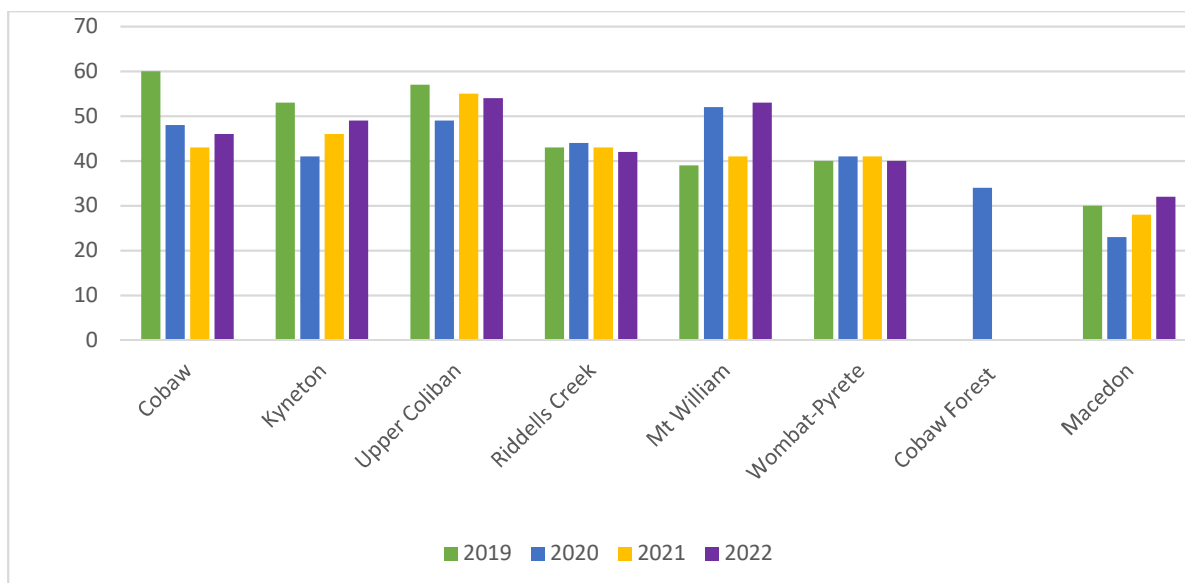


Figure 1: Number of bird species recorded during the annual Bird Blitz events by biolink

Brown-headed Honeyeater was the only member of the Threatened Woodland Bird Community observed in Kyneton Woodlands and Mount William and Cobaw biolinks. These biolinks contain woodland bird habitat, whereas Macedon and Riddell are forest bird habitat.

Low numbers of introduced bird species were recorded across all biolink areas.

Table 1: Threatened species and introduced birds recorded during 2022 Bird Blitz

Biolink	Threatened Species	Introduced birds
Cobaw	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Common Blackbird, European Starling
Kyneton Woodlands	Brown-headed Honeyeater	-
Macedon	-	Common Blackbird
Mount William	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Common Myna
Riddell	-	Common Blackbird, Common Myna
Upper Coliban	Gang-gang Cockatoo	Common Blackbird, Common Myna
Wombat Pyrete	-	European Starling
Total	2 species	3 species