

## Some Interesting Results from the 2016 Western NSW Trip

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Michael Moody has reported on recent Western NSW travels by a group of NSWBA members who embarked on a mission to try to locate Eyrean Grasswrens and Banded Whiteface in NSW. These birds are significant because the grasswrens had never been recorded in NSW before and there are very few valid, published reports of the Banded Whiteface.

During our wanderings in western NSW, we collected records and prepared Atlas sheets in 212 blocks and, though the countryside was quite dry, we recorded 193 species overall. Some records were especially impressive. These include

- \* a pair of Glossy Black-Cockatoos actively searching for nest hollows along the Bogan River were at the species western limit;
- \* an unexpected find here were Painted Honeyeaters - presumably birds migrating north for the winter;
- \* numerous observations of Redthroat through the far west from Broken Hill to the Queensland border;
- \* Brown Honeyeaters in the Pine View HSD grid - a new 1-degree grid for this species, and as these birds were next to the SA border they are significant because they are unknown from NE South Australia;
- \* Brown Honeyeaters in the Yantabangee grid were also significant because they were not far from the Pine View birds - as birds fly. This species could be expanding its' range in the north west and maybe elsewhere.
- \* Brown Honeyeaters were also seen at Merriwa on the way west and they have only previously been reported there once or twice;
- \* where we found the Eyrean Grasswren along the South Australian border is also of interest because this species does not appear to have been recorded that far south in SA before;
- \* a single Yellow-plumed HE just south of Louth;
- \* and White-browed Treecreepers in the same area;
- \* in the Tundulya grid, 8 Bourke's Parrots were seen. This appears to be a new 1-degree grid for this parrot; and
- \* a White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike at Wonnaminta was recorded in a new 1-degree grid.