



Objective

The purpose of this work is to count the number of Tooth-billed Bowerbirds heard along repeatable 1km transects, then compare counts over time to determine any changes that might be attributed to climate change.

Information for surveyors

The Tooth-billed Bowerbird is the number one best indicator species for measuring changes of upland bird populations. Its courts remain at the same positions for decades making easily measurable reference points. It is loud, calls for much of the time from near its court and is easy to detect. It is locally abundant and widespread across the Wet Tropics. It occurs at a number of sites that are easy to access.

Firstly, familiarise yourself with the calls of the Tooth-billed Bowerbird. TBBs make a variety of raucous squawks and whistles, they often give a loud 'chop' and imitate a variety of other birds especially Drongos. During the breeding season, roughly Oct to Dec, the birds will call from their courts for hours. On a given transect you may not hear every single bird, but repeatable results should be possible. They do call all day but, as ever, mornings are the best time to survey as they may become quiet in the middle of the day.

Walk quietly for the 1km length of the transect. Record every TBB you can hear. All we actually need is a figure for the total number heard along the transect, but info such as the gps position on the path, side of the path and approx distance from the path is also useful.

Also record other species seen or heard.

When finished photograph the form with your phone then text or email to Dominic Chaplin 0419 028 077 dominic@pinecreekpictures.com.au

Sites

1. Mt Misery - Cooktown
2. Mt Spurgeon
3. Mt Lewis clearing to Dam
4. Mt Lewis access rd to clearing
5. KahlpahlmTrack
6. Gilles Lookout Rd 800m
7. School For Field Studies Access Rd
8. Lake Barrine Top Circuit
9. Lake Barrine Full Circuit
10. Lake Eacham partial or full circuit
11. Curtain Fig Tree Rd
12. Wongabel Circuit
13. Mt Baldy
14. Fig Tree Close Malanda
15. Seamark Rd Malanda
16. Bartle Frere first 1km of trail
17. Mt Fisher
18. Tully Falls Rd Koobooloomba
19. Tully Falls Rd Charmillan
20. Sutties Gap to Hinson Ck Trailhead

21. Hinson Ck
22. Kirrama Range
23. Wallaman Falls
24. Paluma Clapham Jnct to Toothbill Hill track
25. Kuranda - Control with no bowerbirds

Site information - 1km walks *(Details on some transects still to be finalised)*

#1 Mt Misery Cooktown

Contact Kath Shurcliff crabplover@westnet.com.au
or Lewis & Charlie Roberts 07 40 603 960

Approx 50km South of Cooktown Shiptons Flat Rd. Fairly tough walk up to radio tower. 3km+ each way.

Divide this into 3 sections of 1km. We haven't yet determined the exact start/end points.

Approx 14 TBB along here. 1 Winter record of GBB. Look out for them in summer.

1st court (2017) 15.87661 145.20599 Altitude 571m
Highest Court near top 15.87988 145.22548 Altitude 832m

#2 Mt Spurgeon

Private property. Difficult to access. Arrange via Dominic Chaplin

#3 Mt Lewis clearing to the Dam

Flat walk approx 1km from Mt Lewis Parrotfinch clearing along the track to the dam.

No. of birds calling along here not yet counted.

Start - Parrotfinch clearing - 16.59289 145.27532 Altitude 990m
End - Dam - 16.60133 145.27256 Altitude 1021m

#4 Mt Lewis Access Road

1km section on the lower part of the entrance road starts 6.3km from the Bushey Creek bridge. Fairly flat walk. 5-6 Toothbills along here.

Start 6.3km from bridge at 16.58613 145.29798 Altitude 865m
End 1km from start in direct line at 16.58593 145.29798 Altitude 878m

#5 KahlpahlmTrack

Tough uphill walk with large numbers of Bowerbirds. Start from the car park right at the end of the Davies Creek Rd. This car park is around 15km from the Kennedy Highway.

It is a long uphill walk to Kahpahlim Rock. But the Toothbill courts start lower down around 1km along the track. There is a 1.5km long uphill ridge with at least 25 courts. Walk up this ridge until you reach the grass/schlerophyll area.

Divide this into three sections to count:

1 - This is a curve along the 1st km from the carpark. This part always has lots of birds including Fernwrens but probably no Toothbills.

Start - Car Park 17.03675 145.61358 Altitude 720m.

End - 2nd Creek Crossing (no bridge) 17.03352 Altitude 145.62008 830m

2 - Long 1km uphill ridge with lots of Toothbills. Divide into 1st km and 2nd 500m.

Start - 2nd Creek Crossing (no bridge) 17.03352 Altitude 145.62008 830m

End - Flat section 17.02493 145.62311 Altitude 1003m

3 - 500m to Schlerophyll Lots of Toothbills

Start Flat section 17.02493 145.62311 Altitude 1003m

End Start of sclerophyll forest 17.02028 145.62334 Altitude 1035m

#6 Gillies Lookout Road

This 4WD only road to the lookout starts from just south of the Cathedral Fig Tree along Boar Pocket Rd. It is signposted and you have to open two gates to reach the start. Some uphill sections.

This road is approx 2km long. Exact 1km transect not yet determined. Drive the length of the track and choose a 1km stretch where there are the most bowerbirds calling.

#7 School for Field Studies Access Rd

Walk 1km each way. Fairly flat. Perhaps 8 courts along here. Listen carefully for the high pitched whistle of Fernwren along the track.

The unmarked turning is at 2710 Gillies Highway. Approx 27.1km from the Bruce Highway in Gordonvale or 3.0km from the wooden Gillies Hwy sign at the top. 17.21504 - 145.68535 810m With care, turn north off the Gillies Highway at this point. Park in the middle of triangle close to the road. Walk 1 km from the nearby National Park metal gate down to the SFS metal gate. This road is State Forest so public access is permitted.

Start - 17.21451 - 145.6852 Altitude 775m

End - 17.20604 145.68025 Altitude 772m

#8 Lake Barrine Top Circuit

A short, approx 700m circuit runs from the Lake Barrine access road round and down past the twin Kauri Pines and back to the Tea House. This is only 700m so also walk past the tea house and 300m along the track anti clockwise round the lake.

2-5 Toothbill courts along the higher section. A couple more on the anticlockwise track.

Start 17.24475 145.63966 Altitude 760m

End 17.24606 145.63955 Altitude 740m

#9 Lake Barrine Circuit

Approx 3km circular walk all around Lake Barrine. Not yet surveyed. Altitude 760m

Divide into three 1km sections

#10 Lake Eacham Circuit

Approx 3km circular walk all around Lake Eacham. Exact gps not yet surveyed. Altitude 780m

Either walk the whole circuit and divide into three 1km sections. Or just walk 1km clockwise from the carpark to the '3km' sign.

A few courts very close to the track along a ridge on the south side.

#11 Curtain Fig Tree Rd

1km Flat walk along the whole road through the Curtain Fig Tree National Park.

Approx 4 Toothbill courts along here. But they are all a long way in from the road. Listen carefully. One about 60m NW in from a small parking area at 17.28211 145.57424, another close to the end of the forest on the N side. 1-2 more on the south side?

Start Edge of forest to south 17.28831 145.57001 Altitude 707m
End Agricultural Fields to north 17.27853 145.57626 Altitude 715m

#12 Wongabel Circuit

Short Circular flat 750m walk around Wongabel Mabi forest Heritage Walk. 780m altitude. Start and finish from the carpark.

Start/End 17.33220 145.50045

#13 Mt Baldy

4WD only access is via Rifle Creek Rd, Atherton. Drive past the Rifle Range and up the hill turning south at the T junction past the '40 Area' sign. Drive up to the highest point along the road. For the count walk 1km back down north downhill towards Atherton. Stop 1km from the top. Several courts close to the start. Steep hill.

1100-1070m Drive

Start Highest Point on road
End 1km north of highest point

#14 Fig Tree Close Malanda

Walk the road along the length of rainforest along Fig Tree Close, plus Whiting Close. Flat 1km. 730m altitude.

Start 17.3418 145.62319
End 17.34185 145.63153

#15 Seamark Rd Malanda

Drive as far as you can comfortably in 2WD car along Seamark Rd. Then walk 1km west. Rough road. Lots of courts. 900-1000m Altitude. Slight uphill walk.

Exact 1km transect still to be determined.

#16 Bartle Frere Lower Access Track

Walk 1km along flat access track from carpark. Western Side. Flat 700m altitude.

Start 17.37926 145.76273

End 17.37826 145.77209

#17 Mount Fisher

Private property. Arrange via Dominic Chaplin

#18 Ravenshoe Tully Falls Rd Koobooloomba

Walk 1km along the flat road. Start at Tully Falls Lookout Rd and walk 1km back towards Ravenshoe. 760-780m altitude.

Start 17.77519 145.54983

End 17.76614 145.54508

#19 Tully Falls Rd Charmillan

Walk 1km from Charmillan Creek Trailhead on Tully Falls Rd to waterfall lookout.

1010-1050m Altitude

Start

End

#20 Sutties Gap Rd to Hinson Creek Trailhead

Drive 3km each way. Fairly flat. 12+ courts along here.

Sutties Gap Rd is part of the Misty Mtns Trails off Malaan Rd which is off the Old Palmerstone Highway linking Ravenshoe and Millaa Millaa. This is a good low altitude site. 2WD is ok along the first 3km. After the 3km drive you could also do a walk survey from Hinson Creek Trailhead 1km towards the Hinson Creek Campground.

Start - 1 km along from National Park Gate at 17.63489 145.63673 Altitude 736m

End - 1km further along road at 17.64995 145.63842 Altitude 700m

#21 Hinson Creek Trail

Walk 1km down the walking trail from the trailhead sign

No yet checked

Start Hinson Creek Trailhead sign 17.65642 145.64108 684m
End 1km later

#22 Kirrama Range Rd

Walk 1km along the flat road back towards Cardwell at the highest area. A few distant Toothbills in this cyclone ravaged area. Hopefully numbers might build up. 770m altitude.

Start 18.21455 145.78876
End 18.20871 145.79509

#23 Wallaman Falls

Drive very slowly approx 5-10km the length of the rainforest to the falls carpark. Try to determine the 1km with the most Toothbills calling. erasure and walk this transect.
Area not yet visited so exact transect uncertain, but there are Toothbill records here. Still need to determine a useful transect here. Altitude 600m

#24 Paluma. Clapham Junction Trail.

1km walk each way. Flat. Lots of Toothbills along here. Nice easy track.

Within site of Friths studies 1978-1997

Drive 3.3km north on the Paluma Dam Rd from the junction with the Paluma-Hidden Valley Rd.
Park in the area on the left.

Start - Parking area 18.99292 146.16599
End - Steel Pipe under track 18.99691 146.15746

#25 Kuranda

Low altitude 450m control site near Speech. No Toothbills. 2 x 1km transects. Contact Ray Pierce
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