

2011 Twitch Report

The 2011 Twitch was from Thursday October 27 until midnight Sunday October 30. Entrants chose to do a 12-hour twitch within the above period beginning at either midnight or noon, or a twitch for any continuous period of 24 hours within the above period. Nine teams participated, down from ten last year.

The best result in the 12-hour category was obtained by Hugh Possingham's team (No Driving Petrel Bills), who saw or heard an incredible 103 species between 3:15am and noon on a walk at Oxley Common. If you get up that early you deserve success. Among the highlights for their walk were a Pale-vented Bush Hen (the first record for the Common), a Rufous Songlark (there since October), and Nutmeg Mannikin.

Mike West's team (Sanderlings) were also on the road by 3:30am to stake-out his favourite twitch area around Buckley's Hole on Bribie Island. They found 93 species on their twitch. Other totals for 12-hour walks were 58 for the Red Hot Koels led by Margaret MacNevin, and 58 for the Westlake Wanderers (myself and daughter).

Lyn McAndrew and Sandra Viney (Tablelands Tawnies) weren't content with a short walk and totalled 89 species in the 24-hour walk event.

Rae Clark and Margaret Francis-Cairns (Spotter Doves) were the only team in the 12-hour open twitch and found 83 species.

Three teams did the 24-hour open twitch: Peg Whiteoak and Pat and Graeme Deece (Coolum Kites) [89], Valda and Graham McLean & Geoff and Elizabeth Laidlaw (Free Range Chooks) [123], and Margaret Cameron, Sarah Beavis and Smathi Chong (Tallegalla Turkeys) [182]. All these teams did well but the last total is particularly impressive.

Collectively 216 species were recorded, compared with 200 species in the 2009 Winter Twitch which involved 13 teams. Apart from those mentioned above, some of the rarest sightings were of Brolga, Baillon's Crane, Spotless Crane, Pink-eared Duck, Blue-billed Duck, Little-bronze Cuckoo, Varied Sittella and Sooty Owl.

Thanks to all who participated and all who provided sponsorship.

Mel Stewart

Category	Rank	No. of species	Team name	Team members
24hr. Open	1st	182	Tallegalla Turkeys	Margaret Cameron Sarah Beavis Smathi Chong
	2nd	123	Free-range Chooks	Valda & Graham McLean Geoff. & Elizabeth Laidlaw
	3rd	89	Coolum Kites	Peg Whiteoak Pat & Graham Deece
12hr. Open	1st	83	Spotter Doves	Rae Clark Margaret Francis-Cairns
24hr. Walking	1st	89	Tablelands Tawnies	Lyn McAndrew Sandra Viney
12hr. Walking	1st	102	No Driving Petrel Bills	High Possingham Karen Mustin Mat Gilfedder Richard Fuller
	2nd	93	Sanderlings	Mike West Lindy West Wayne & Colleen Lock
	3rd	58	Red Hot Koels	Margaret MacNevin Robyn Stewart
	3rd	58	Westlake Wanderers	Mel & Kimberley Stewart