

**From:** Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

**Date:** 14 March 2020

**Submission No 211: Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinereus*, submitted by Elliot Leach**

This submission details a sighting of a Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinereus*) at Birthday Creek Falls, Paluma. The wagtail was found feeding at the margin of a rockpool at the top of Birthday Creek Falls at approximately -18.975731, 146.158104 on the 17th February 2020 by Elliot Leach. The submission and several photographs left little doubt about the identity of the wagtail, by the characteristic grey head, back and tail, contrasting with yellow uppertail coverts, a long pale eyebrow extending behind the eye, blackish wings, white throat, rich yellow undertail coverts, and short pink legs. The combination of yellow uppertail covers, pink legs as habitat preference was used to eliminate various wagtails from the Yellow Wagtail complex.

The committee had no hesitation in unanimously accepting this record of Grey Wagtail. This is the first record of Grey Wagtail to be assessed by the Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee, however there are six (6) previous Grey Wagtail records from Queensland to be accepted by the Bird Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) records in Queensland between 1970 and 2006. For reference these BARC case are 19, 21, 157, 376, 383 and 511.

**Accepted**

## References

**Alstrom, P. and Mild, K., 2003.** *Pipits & Wagtails of Europe, Asia and North America*, Christopher Helm (Publishers), London.

**Menkhorst, P., Rogers, D., Clarke, R., Davies, J., Marsack, M. and Franklin, K. 2017.** *The Australian Bird Guide*. Collingwood, Victoria: CSIRO Publishing.