



NEWS-SHEET No. 102

JUNE 1984

"To encourage the observation
and study of birds of the
Toowoomba area"

toowoomba bird club

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Annual Subscription

Ordinary/Family membership \$8.00
Student membership \$4.00

Activities

Field Outing and Monthly Meeting - 4th Sunday of each
month - usually leave from Pigott's Car Park at 7.30 am.

Camping trips, film and slide evenings.

News-sheet

Published monthly, before the outing. Articles have a dead-
line of the last day of the month and should be mailed to
the editor.

EDITORIAL

If this issue is late in arriving, I apologize. I feel badly about it as in my 2½ years as editor, this is the first time an issue has not been delivered to all members before our monthly outing.

There is a reason for this delay, and it is me. At the last Annual General Meeting, I declined to re-nominate as Editor because of work commitments in 1984. I was persuaded to carry on, and my workload has got the better of me. Another problem that has arisen this year is that I get excruciating backaches from typing. I'm not a typist by profession and I find that part of the job difficult and time consuming.

Marilyn very kindly typed the issue this month. She really doesn't have the time either. It has been suggested that if someone was willing to type the articles and other items, then I could cut and paste these to make up the issue. This, I am quite happy to do. However, we need at least three (3) people to do the typing so that the task can be shared and does not become too onerous. We are calling for volunteers! Please??

Onto a lighter note - our Club Binocular Bags have been selling well. We have only five bags left. More bags have been made and only need the silk-screen motif.

Lesley Beaton, Editor

--ooOoo--

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ACTIVITIES - June 3, 1984

Bird Club members outnumbered visitors on the special Birdwatching Walk organized as the initial activity for this year's World Environment Day. On a perfect morning it was disappointing to have only 5 visitors turn up for the 8:00 am walk around the Picnic Point area. It was a colorful outing with numerous King Parrots, a male Mistletoebird and a pair of Variegated Wrens being the highlights, and an enjoyable time was had by Ron and Elaine Box, Jim and Jane Corbin, Michael Atzeni, Lesley Beaton, Ann Shore and myself. Species seen were: Straw-necked Ibis, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, King Parrot, Pale-headed Rosella, Kookaburra, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Whipbird, Variegated Wren, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Spotted and Striated Pardalote, Olive-backed Oriole, Satin Bowerbird, Grey and Pied Butcherbird, Magpie, Pied Currawong and Crow.

From 10:00am to 4:00pm, four members manned a small display and answered queries on birds of the Toowoomba area. Many thanks to Michael Atzeni, Angela Kilmartin and Sandy Pottinger for helping to make the day a reasonable success even though the turnout for the day was fairly small.

Marilyn Jacobs

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FILM EVENING

Due to venue problems, the film evening will now be held on Monday, 20th August (instead of July 17 as previously indicated), at 7:30 in the Main Room of the Toowoomba Education Centre, Baker Street. Bob Dorricott of the Toowoomba Ciné Society will be showing two of his own films. "Island Invaders" is about Noddy Terns on Heron Island, while "Hide and Seek" shows how Bob films birds and other wildlife. Both these films are short; approximately 16 - 18 minutes each. Member please bring a plate.

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A BIRDER'S EARLY MORNING DILEMMA

The bed has never been more comfortable as you lie there revelling in the warmth you've generated during a blissful slumber. Your eider down is snug around your neck while your head is in intimate unity with your best friend - your pillow! Outside your room, a new day is heralded by unpleasant noises - the dishwasher being unloaded, mobile cars, a chatter in the silky oaks. They fall on non-comprehending ears. There's that chatter again. A split second later you're out of bed, screwing your knuckles into your heavy eyelids and groping for binoculars simultaneously. Those faithful neurones have finally relayed the message to your brain that there's a strange bird outside. Perhaps a yard 'first'!

A quick, blurred glance out the window reveals the leopard tree is in your way so it's a sprint down the hallway and out the back door in your 'jarmies' and bare feet onto a freezing lawn, all the while praying the blighter hasn't gone. You hear the call. 'Glass it.' Nothing! Your lenses have fogged up. A mad rub with your singlet and the bird is eventually identified as a Yellow Thornbill. Not a very common bird in town, but was it worth the effort?

Well, I believe many readers have had similiar experiences and will agree with me that it is worth the effort. In fact, your yard and local neighborhood can churn out quite a few species of birds and this list is an interesting one to maintain.

Our place is situated on the western side of Toowoomba and is not unduly influenced by the presence of the escarpment. However, I have recorded the following: Cicadabird, Rose Robin, Satin Flycatcher, Scarlet Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater and Spangled Drongo which are all more typical birds of eastern and southern parts of Toowoomba. Without fail, Rufous Fantails, Grey Fantails, Rufous Whistlers, Leaden Flycatchers and White-throated Gerygones pass through each year. The drought a few years ago attracted species such as the Red-capped Robin and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater.

Since 1979, I have recorded 73 species in my yard and adjoining yards and I'm still hopeful I can make the century. Where would we 'tickers' be without lists such as these! Other interesting birds seen at home are: Little Eagle, Fuscous Honeyeater, Forest Kingfisher, Rufous Songlark, Shining Bronze-cuckoo, Brush Cuckoo, White-winged Triller and Golden Whistler.

Michael Atzeni

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FIELD DAY REPORT - LOCKYER VALLEY WETLANDS. May 27, 1984

Eleven members and one visitor were treated to a fine day of birdwatching with 72 species seen at 5 different water habitats. The first stop, Karrasch's Dam, was cool even for the birds and the usual prolific variety was not in evidence. Pink-eared Duck and Ground Cuckoo-shrikes were the highlights. An unexpected stop at Lockyer Creek under the Gatton railway bridge yielded numerous small birds plus a pair of azure kingfishers. The group then proceeded to Coles Road Swamp for a welcome cuppa and brisk sales of the stylish and practical shoulder bags made by Peggy Beaton. Because of the variety of swamp, open water, pasture and bush habitat at this location, many different birds can be seen.

Jahnke's Swamp proved to be too overgrown with water plants to warrent a serious birding stop, so we found our way back through Gatton to the Mt. Sylvia turnoff and two water habitats new to the club. Bryant's Lagoon and the Old Ropeley Rd. Swamp both proved to be peaceful and picturesque, with quite a good variety of water birds. The obvious highlight was the sighting of Blue-winged Shovellers at both locations.

Members present: Ron Colpus, Joe Deuble, Gloria Glass and friend, Marilyn Jacobs, Sandy and Margo Pottinger, Ann and Craig Shore, Martyn Sutcliffe, Aina and Christine Tuppurainen.

Species List: Lockyer Valley Wetlands. Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, White-faced Heron, Cattle, Great and Intermediate Egret, White and Straw-necked Ibis, Black Swan, Black Duck, Grey Teal, Blue-winged Shoveller, Pink-eared, White-eyed and Wood Duck, Black-shouldered Kite, Kestrel, Dusky Moorhen, Swamphen, Coot, Jacana, Masked Plover, Red-kneed Dotterel, Pied Stilt, Feral Pigeon, Spotted Turtledove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Crested Pigeon, Galah, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Cockatiel, Pale-headed Rosella, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Azure Kingfisher, Kookaburra, White-backed and Welcome Swallow, Pipit, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Jacky Winter, Rufous Whistler, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Grey-crowned Babbler, Cisticola, Suberb Blue Wren, White-browed Scrubwren, Weebill, White-throated Warbler, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Noisy and Little Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Brown Honeyeater, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, Sparrow, Zebra and Double-barred Finch, Starling, Mynah, Olive-backed Oriole, Figbird, Magpie-lark, Grey and Pied Butcherbird, Magpie, Currawong, Crow.

72 Species. Marilyn Jacobs

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MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Glossy Black Cockatoo (2)	26.5.84	Goomburra	M. Atzeni
Little Lorikeet	Easter '84	Sundown NPk.	G. Glass, A. Kilmartin
Turquoise Parrot	"	"	" "
Red-winged Parrot	"	"	" "
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	7.4.84	"Placid Hills" via Grantham	GG, AK
Hooded Robin	Easter '84	Sundown NPk	G. Glass, A Kilmartin
Southern Whiteface	"	"	" "
Brown Treecreeper	"	"	" "
Diamond Firetail	"	"	" "

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PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

The Bird Observer. May and June 1984

The Darling Downs Naturalist. May and June 1984 (newsletter of the Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club)

The Darling Downs Naturalist Journal. June 1984

Queensland Ornithological Society Newsletter. May and June 1984

The Sunbird. December 1983 (Q.O.S. Journal)

Urimbirra. April and May, 1984 (Chinchilla Field Naturalists' Club newsletter)

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JUNE FIELD OUTING

Date: Sunday, June 24th, 1984 Place: Cunningham's Gap/Moogerah Dam

Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park

Time: 7:15 am for departure at 7:30 sharp. ALSO,

9:00 am at Cunningham's Gap; the first left-hand picnic area on the Warwick side - for morning tea.

Michael Atzeni is the leader, and for those who wish to go further afield, he will continue on to Moogerah Dam for lunch.

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