



NEWS-SHEET No. 107

November 1984

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

Postal Address

P.O. Box 67
DARLING HEIGHTS, Q, 4350

toowoomba bird club

Club Officers

President

Marilyn Jacobs
21 Sylvan Court
Toowoomba, 4350
Phone 35 8594

Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Shore
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Phone 30 3257

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Don Gaydon
216 West Street
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Editor

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Toowoomba, 4350
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Librarian

Lesley Beaton
15 Dunmore Street
Toowoomba, 4350
Phone 32 6262

Annual Subscription

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

Activities

Field Outings and Monthly Meeting - 4th Sunday of each month usually leave from Pigotts' car park at 7.30 am

Camping trips, film and slide evenings.

News-Sheet

Published monthly, before the outing. Articles have a deadline of the last day of the month, and should be mailed to the Editor.

EDITORIAL

It was Easter of 1983 when I first found out that Toowoomba had a bird club. I was at my niece's engagement party when someone ran in and said, "Dad, there's an owl out here." "Dad" was Ron Hopkinson, known to most members via this news sheet. My next contact with the club was Len Harvey's slide night which was very inspiring. Then there was the beginners outing from which I remember the Azure Kingfisher and the Scarlet Honeyeaters; after this I was hooked. Gone were the weekend sleep-ins! In the early morning I left, armed with Pizzey and binoculars. My life had changed, for good or ill, depending on which of my family you were speaking to, but changed it had.

I have come to realise that I no longer have the privilege of just receiving my monthly news sheet; rather I find myself preparing it for printing. I do not find this task a tedious one, instead I am sincerely grateful to all who have seen fit to trust me with this important task, after such a short time in the club. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael for the time and hard work he has given so willingly. Also to our three on-going officers, Marilyn, Ann and Lesley, we thank you for accepting nomination again and for all the hard work in the past years.

At the executive meeting on Tuesday 23 October, it was decided to appoint Lesley Beaton as Librarian (subject to meeting confirmation). Anyone wishing to borrow books may do so by contacting Lesley at 15 Dunmore Street, phone 32 6262.

The November outing is an over-night camp-out, on the 24th and 25th, at O'Reilly's. Spot-lighting of the Sooty Owl on Saturday night is a must, not to mention the Albert's Lyre-bird, both of which Michael is hoping to show us. As this is our last outing for the year, we are hoping to have a good roll-up, so please let Michael know as soon as possible if you intend going, so he can book camping space.

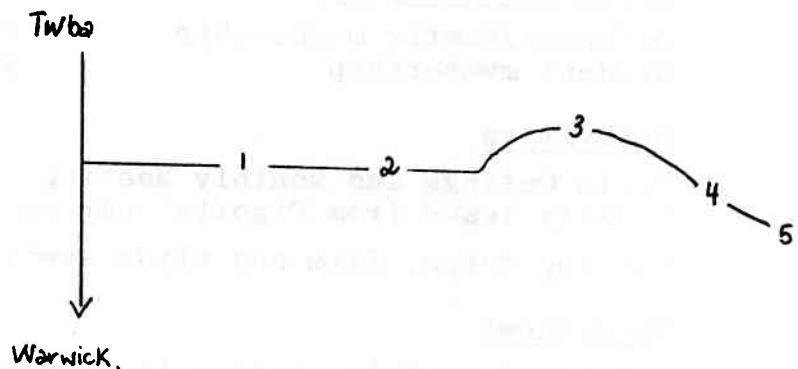
Angela Kilmartin, Editor

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Michael's mud map to O'Reilly's

Time = T'mba to O'Reilly's is $3\frac{1}{2}$ approx

- 1. Cunninghams Gap .
- 2. Boonah
- 3. Beaudesert.
- 4. Cunungra
- 5. O'Reilly'S



OUTBACK HOLIDAY

My husband, John, and I were fortunate enough to have an outback holiday being away all of July. Our aim was to travel down the Birdsville Track to Lyndhurst and back via the Strzelecki Track to Innamincka and home via Thargominda and Dynevor Lakes. We travelled with another keen birdwatching couple from Sydney.

Needless to say we have sighted birds too numerous to mention but our first sightings of lots of birds were thrilling so I have listed those.

White-browed Woodswallow.	Langlo Crossing.
Hooded Robin.	"Thylungra."
Red-backed Kingfisher.	Birdsville Track, north.
Crimson Chat.	" " " , south.
Avocet.	" " " , south.
Cinnamon Quail Thrush.	South of Maree.
White-winged Wren.	Strzelecki Track, south.
White-browed Babbler.	" " "
Singing Honeyeater.	" " "
Chirruping Wedgebill.	" " "
Orange Chat.	" " "
Yellow-throated Miner.	" " "
Black Kite.	" " "
Blue Bonnet Parrot.	" " "
Ground Cuckoo-shrike.	Dig Tree area.
Great Crested Grebe.	Dynevor Lakes.
Chestnut-tailed Thornbill.	" "
Yellow-tailed Thornbill.	" "

I think my favourite was the White-winged Wren.

Dell Proud

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SNIPPETS ON BIRD BEHAVIOUR Whilst in Toowoomba recently, Lesley, Roy and I did some bird-watching down one of our favourite spots - down Flagstone Creek Road where we were, as usual, rewarded by many sightings. A memorable one was that of a Mistletoe Bird which was busy amongst the lantana by the roadside and decided to rest and perch within 4 feet of me as I leant over the rail of the bridge.

Lesley had received information of a sighting of Long-billed Corellas flying with Galahs behind the Helidon Spa Caravan Park. As we arrived there the afternoon was darkening and the flock of Galahs were returning to roost and amongst them we saw the 2 Long-billed Corellas. By this time it was raining and we saw a most interesting sight: all the Galahs and the Corellas grasped branches or leaves in their claws and swung upside-down with their wings open. They stayed in this position for a minute or two and then, resuming normal perching, would preen themselves thoroughly and then repeat the performance. They were still doing it as we left.

Is this an Australian form of "anting"? - where crows, in England, grasp a beakful of ants which they release amongst their feathers to clear up parasites.

PEGGIE BEATON

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MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Rufous Night Heron 19.8.84 "Lemon Tree", via Millmerran, LB, JB
Black Bittern 6.10.84 Flagstone Ck Weir, via Helidon, MA, DG
Jabiru (40) 13.9.84 Cairns, GC
Magpie Goose (1) 14.10.84 Kilcoy, MA
Wandering Whistling-Duck 14.10.84, Kilcoy, MA
" " (15) Second Lagoon, Sandgate, 10.10.84, GG
Banded Plover (2) 20.10.84 DDIAE, DG
Marbled Frogmouth 13.10.84 Conondales, MA
Sooty Owl 20.10.84 O'Reilly's, Lamington N.P., MA, BF, PM, TR
Masked Owl 13.10.84 Conondale Ranges, MA
Albert's Lyrebird (male) 21.10.84, O'Reilly's, Lamington N.P., MA, TR
Eastern Bristlebird 13.10.84 Conondale Ranges, MA
Brown Songlark, 16.10.84 Spring Creek, West Toowoomba, MA, PM
Yellow-breasted Sunbird 13.9.84 Cairns, GC
Scarlet Honeyeater 8.9.84 15 Dunmore St, Toowoomba, LB
" " Sept-Oct, 40 Mabel St, Toowoomba, AK

MA: Michael Atzeni; JB: John Ball; LB: Lesley Beaton;
GC: Graham Corbin; BF: Brian Foulis; DG: Don Gaydon;
GG: Gloria Glass; AK: Angela Kilmartin; PM: Pat McConnell
TR: Terry Reis

LIBRARY NOTES

The Bird Observer. September & October 1984. Nos. 632 & 633.
The Darling Downs Naturalist. October 1984. No. 365
The Sunbird. September 1984. Vol. 14, No. 3. (Journal of Q.O.S.)
The Queensland Ornithological Newsletter. Vol. 15, No. 9.
Urimbirra. September 1984. Vol. 18, No. 9.
Birds. Summer 1984. (magazine for the Royal Society for the
Protection of Birds)

The last publication on the above list is an excellent magazine.
It is published by the British bird society and is a fund of
general knowledge as well as interesting articles about British
birds. It is a glossy magazine with superb colour pictures. The
recent issue has an article on bird photography.

It will be available for loan, with other material from the library,
at our November campout.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday, 9 October 1984

The meeting was opened by the President, Marilyn Jacobs, who welcomed sixteen members and one visitor to her home, 21 Sylvan Court, at 7.40 pm.

1. Apologies for Absence Joe Deuble, Lorraine Wilson, Mrs Drabsch, Craig Shore, Gloria Glass, Ron & Elaine Box, Roy & Peggie Beaton, Jane Corben, and Di & Bruce Muirhead.

2. Minutes of the last A.G.M. The President went over these briefly and they were then approved; moved by Leslie Beaton and seconded by Sandy Pottinger.

3. Business Arising a) Waterbird Habitat: No further action until the Clewleys' land has been purchased.

4. Correspondence a) A letter of thanks had been received from Dr Boyce thanking for the sympathy card sent on the death of his wife.

5. Officers' Reports

a) Marilyn Jacobs read her President's Report, as follows:

President's Report - Marilyn Jacobs

This year has been a successful one for the Toowoomba Bird Club with our membership growing to 54. Club members have helped out on two occasions, at the Hobby-'n-Craft Spectacular in February and World Environment Day in June, where we have been brought to the attention of the general public. This type of exposure is good as many people still do not know we exist.

Our Sunday outings have continued to be popular, with the joint outings in February with the Chinchilla Field Naturalists and in March with the Toowoomba Field Naturalists being two of the highlights of 1984. Several outings to Brisbane also proved popular. The special outing for beginning bird watchers in September was not as well attended as we had hoped due to a variety of circumstances. I would like to see the joint outings become a regular occurrence.

Several film evenings were held during the year including an evening with Bob Dorricott showing several of his own films. Special Toowoomba Bird Club carry bags were made by Peggy Beaton to be sold to aid club finances. Many thanks to Peggy for all her time and effort. The months of January, April, July and October were designated Seasonal Species Survey months in an attempt to obtain more complete records of our Toowoomba birds.

On a sad note, we lost two of our members this year with the deaths of Bert Pottinger and Ron Colpus. Ron's books have become a part of the club's library and are available to members.

Many thanks to the three fine officers who have worked so hard for the club this year: Lesley Beaton who is stepping down as editor, has worked very hard to produce a first class news-sheet for us; Michael Atzeni, who is also stepping down, has done an excellent job keeping the records of all sightings; and Ann Shore has done another fine job as secretary/treasurer. I would like to thank these three marvelous people for all their hard work and encourage other members to become involved in executive positions.

Moved that it be adopted by Angela Kilmartin, seconded by Michael Atzeni and passed unanimously.

b) Treasurer's Report, read by Ann Shore as follows:

T.B.C. TREASURER'S REPORT 1984.

It is good to be able to report that this year we have a rather more wealthy bank balance to carry forward and that all being well we should be able to keep our membership dues at the same level, that is \$8 ordinary/family and \$4 student. Also the current membership is now 54 and we hope to further increase this number soon.

We have received several small but welcome donations and have made various fund-raising efforts this year including raffles and the useful carry-bags made by member Peggie Beaton, bearing the Club's logo and which have proved quite popular. We have more of these available at \$4 each.

I would like to thank Laurie Atzeni for being a most kindly and patient auditor, sorting through my poor book-keeping, pointing out my errors and suggesting simple ways to improve the job.

And finally I would like to thank my fellow members of the Executive for travelling down the Range to meetings and to pay tribute especially to Lesley and Michael who will be leaving us as officers. Without all their willing work, expertise and time this Club would not have grown nor become recognised as it is. Thank you all and to Lesley and Michael - we shall miss you sorely.

ANN SHORE

T.B.C. ACCOUNTS 1983-84

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>DEBITS</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
Opening Balance as at 18.10.83		38.57
Membership subscriptions (46 @ \$8 and 8 @ \$4)		400.00
Donations		22.00
Proceeds from raffles		27.60
" " sale of carry-bags		40.00
" " " " booklets		4.80
Bank interest		4.34
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Printing etc.	187.55	
Postage and mail box	123.50	
Hobby'n Craft display fee	10.00	
Booklets "Care of injured birds etc".	7.20	
Materials for carry-bags	35.51	
Cash box	13.97	
Funeral flowers - R. Colpus	23.50	
Fed. Govt. Tax	2.40	
	<hr/>	
	403.63	
Less expenditure		537.31
		<hr/>
Balance as per statement		403.63
		<hr/>
		\$ 133.68

Moved for adoption by Don Gaydon, seconded by Margo Pottinger, and passed.

c) Editor: Lesley Beaton gave her report as follows:

EDITOR'S REPORT

Once again members have contributed to the success of the monthly news-sheet. 14 people have written 47 articles and reports since November 1983. That is over a quarter of our members and they are to be congratulated. Please continue with this enthusiastic support.

I believe that the Club can be proud of its news-sheet for the variety of interesting reading it provides.

Lorraine Wilson and Gloria Glass have my grateful thanks for making life easier for me in the last couple of months. Without their willing help I believe I could not have carried on.

Sadly I must relinquish my position as editor this year due to personal commitments in 1985. I hope the next editor gets as much satisfaction and enjoyment from the job as I did.

My thanks to Marilyn, Ann and Michael for their encouragement and advice throughout the year.

Lesley Beaton

Moved for adoption by Sandy Pottinger, seconded by Ann Shore, and approved unanimously.

d) Records Officer: This was read by Michael Atzeni as follows:

Records Officer's 1984 Report

Reflecting over the past twelve months, I couldn't help thinking what a quiet year it has been as far as the records were concerned.

Why? Had I not been keeping them? Had there been fewer contributions? No, these were not the reasons.

The past year has been blessed with good seasons, resulting in a rather stable and unchanging seasonal species diversity. I believe this has been the reason for the "quiet" year - (nothing rare or unusual being turned up regularly makes for a sad Records Officer! His twisted "birdbrain" can't resist thinking of the birds that would appear should another major drought come upon us.)

In contrast to previous years, waterbird and wader watching has been rather abysmal, with Hood's Lagoon being far too full to attract the great variety of species it has in the past.

Furthermore, the brakes have been slammed on our new species list. Only Musk Duck, Red-necked Stint and Spotless Crake were added in the past year when I was sure we could do better.

However, out of the year has emerged a new dimension to the Club, namely the Seasonal Species Surveys (S.S.S.). As Records Officer for the first four of these, I have been able to judge their value at this early stage, and I assure you they are extremely interesting results. I urge members to continue their special efforts during S.S.S. months in trying to cover at least the subdivision they live in as thoroughly as possible, and others if able to.

As I am not standing for re-election I take the opportunity to sincerely thank all members who have contributed to the records in the past four years. Some I never or rarely see; nevertheless, like clockwork, their list comes in. And it has been a pleasure to work with Lesley, Marilyn and Ann, who, like me, are so keen to see the Toowoomba Bird Club prosper. Rest assured my position as Records Officer has been a thoroughly enjoyable and stimulating experience and it is with great misgivings that I relinquish the position.

Moved for adoption by Dean Collins, seconded by Lesley Beaton, and passed unopposed.

6. Election of Officers Marilyn Jacobs asked Lesley Beaton to take the chair. Agreed.

a) President Only one nomination had been received: Marilyn Jacobs, nominated by John Shore. She was therefore declared elected.

b) Secretary/Treasurer Only one nomination made: Ann Shore, nominated by Lesley Beaton. Elected unopposed.

c) Records Officer Don Gaydon was nominated by Michael Atzeni. No other nominations, so he was duly elected.

d) Editor No early nominations were received but after some explanations of the job involved, Angela Kilmartin was persuaded to stand; nominated by Michael Atzeni and elected with acclaim.

7. General Business

a) Seasonal Species Survey Michael Atzeni is planning a book based on the records of each species that have been gathered in the Club's study area. He explained more about the S.S.S. held every three months to note the seasonal changes in bird population, etc. He hoped to have the book completed by 1988. It should help people to know where and when to look for birds in the Toowoomba-Helidon area. Michael plans to continue with his interests in the T.B.C. even if living elsewhere. He felt it was important that the Club remain as a separate entity to keep the good records going.

b) Pelican Survey The Bird Observers Club is anxious to gather any information on Pelicans during the months of October and April for the next two years, anywhere in Australia. All observers are asked to note down any sightings with as many details as possible.

c) Membership List Lesley Beaton has started making an efficient master copy, listing and numbering all members from the foundation of the Club in 1975.

d) Lake Broadwater, Dalby An open day is to be held on Sunday 14 October. The President had received an invitation from John Walter to anyone interested.

e) David Bellamy The English botanist will speak on the Daintree Rainforest at Brisbane City Hall on Wednesday 31 October. Films will also be shown. The Toowoomba Field Naturalists will be taking a bus down, leaving 5.30 pm approx. and costing \$5 approx. For details and bookings phone Mary-Ann Law.

f) Change of Outing Day Gloria Glass sent a request that it might sometimes be possible to hold outings on days other than Sundays as some members have other commitments on those days. The President appreciated this point but said that for those who worked during the week, Saturday was the only chance for shopping, etc. She questioned those members present, and most were in favour of Sunday.

g) Q.O.S. Bird Count Any members able to do so were asked to participate in the Q.O.S. Survey (their area 10) to be held on Sunday 21 October, covering areas Ravensbourne and Mount Sylvia.

h) Dean Collins asked if the Club had or could get any maps of bush-walking tracks for birding. No, and it was thought that most maps existed only in people's heads; however Neil McKilligan was to bring out a book on bush-walks which might help in future.

i) Ray Viljoen asked if the Club wished to hold combined outings on future occasions with the Field Naturalists. Yes, an excellent idea. The Field Nats. would be going to a camp-out for Easter, some five hours' drive out west.

There being no further business the President brought the meeting to a close at 8.50 pm, and members re-grouped themselves for a short film

and later adjourned for supper with tea and coffee kindly provided by Marilyn and Sandy. Many grateful thanks to them both for their hospitality for the evening.