

NEWS-SHEET No. 108

December 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 outings and Monthly Meeting - 4th Sunday of each month, usually leaving 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

Here we are at the close of another year. Where has it gone? This year has been a good birding one for me with lots of 'new' birds, in new places, with memories to last a lifetime... Waking at dawn to hear the Woodies calling as they flew along the Severn River on their way to feed; or watching two Little Lorikeets investigating a nesting hole for so long that we left; seeing the White-headed Pigeons flying over my home, morning and night for so long that they became part of my day; the pair of Eastern Spinebills that adopted my garden last winter, and made the winter so much brighter by their presence... So many memories that make the fabric of life so rich and meaningful.

The Club has added to my life and birdwatching with encouragement, help and camaraderie, and the willingness to share with all members any bird sightings and knowledge of all aspects of birding has made our Club outstanding.

I hope all Club members have had a good birding year, and have received as much pleasure and satisfaction as I have from the Club and the Club outings over the past year.

Please remember that January is S.S.S. month, and that subscriptions are now due.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Newsletter over the last year, and I ask those who have been too shy to put pen to paper to share with us please some of your birding experiences.

In closing, I wish all a Happy Christmas, and a prosperous birding New Year.

Angela Kilmartin

Michael's notes on backyard birding prompted me to write a few lines, I planted Callistamons, Banksias and Grevellias in my yard hoping various species of birds would visit and have added a bird bath (pot plant saucer) in the back yard. Now the shrubs have started to flower and it is surprising to see all the birds come in to feed and I wonder how they know the flowers are there.

Much of my birding is done from my bathroom now and as I wait for the hot water to run I watch the birds bathing below and note that most bathing seems to be done in the cold early morning; some species bathe later in the day as well.

In June I noticed 4 Eastern Spinebills flitting in and out of the water and on July 8th I noticed 5. Bath time seems to be the only time they all come together.

I have seen the Brown Honeyeaters, Lewin Honeyeater, Silvereyes, and a lone Wren all come in to bathe, and although the Rufous Whistler is a frequent visitor he prefers to stay in the taller trees and appears too shy to bathe in public.

The Scaly-Breasted Lorikeets fly high over head all year till the apples ripen then somehow they know and fly in to have more than their share, and they are not afraid of me as I walk under the tree. I have proved the birds will come if there is food, even if it is only the figs or grapes or other carefully tended fruits I have planted for my own enjoyment.

JANE CORBIN

LIBRARY NOTES

The Bird Observer. November 1984. No. 634.

The Darling Downs Naturalist. November & December 1984.

Newsletters Nos. 366 & 367

Journal Vol. 7, No. 2.

Out of the Nest... November 1984. No. 2. (B.O.C. Young Members Newsletter)

Queensland Ornithological Society Newsletter. November & December 1984. Vol. 15, Nos. 10 & 11.

Urimbirra. October & November 1984 Vol 18, Nos. 10 & 11.

World Wildlife Fund Australia Newsletter. October-December 1984 No. 21.

Once again some great articles in the above publications. Particularly one about "The Responsible Pet Ownership" Campaign being run in Victoria in order to protect Eastern Barred Bandicoots. No, they're not a strange species of bird, but worth reading about, all the same.

Members of the Executive really enjoy reading these newsletters and journals. Other members, I feel you miss out on some of these informative and often amusing articles. All you have to do is phone me (32 6262) and I shall deliver a selection to you. From 6th - 29th January I shall be on holiday, however Angela will have some of the library's publications at the January outing.

Lesley Beaton

SATIN BOWER-BIRD - NOT THE GARDENER'S FRIEND!

During my recent holiday in Sydney, I paid a visit to an Exhibition Garden at Mt Wilson in the Blue Mountains, and I noticed several Satin Bower-birds in the extensive garden. Speaking to the head gardener about the birds, I drew some very uncomplimentary remarks. He said, "They will eat anything," apparently taking a liking to a shrub or young tree at bud-burst, when they will peck off the young buds until the tree is almost completely defoliated.

He later drew my attention to a male Satin in a white cherry-blossom tree, and I was amazed to see that the bird was feeding on the white petals of the cherry-blossom. I counted up to twelve mouthfuls taken and the bird was still eating when I turned away.

I also have a gardener friend at Dural where Satins abound. Since none were present when I visited him, I enquired if they were still around. His reply was, "They don't appear until my tomatoes are ripe." He has five acres of garden, and it is not unusual for him to find a bower, but he told me that every year or two the bird will shift the whole bower piece by piece to a new location, in this instance across the road to a neighbour's property, but he said probably next year the bird would move the bower back to his garden.

I remember several years ago Michael and I were watching a Regent Bower-bird eat leaves from a tall tree in Redwood Park.

Many gardeners endeavour to encourage birds to come to their garden with feeding stations and fountains, but evidently Bower-birds are not on the welcome list, particularly Satins!

Joe Deuble

NOVEMBER OUTING - LAMINGTON NATIONAL PARK (O'REILLY'S)

Those that made it to O'Reilly's would agree their effort was duly rewarded with some good birding.

Much to everyone's delight and my relief, I was able to spotlight the "promised" Sooty Owl over the dump near the guest lodges. This magnificent species obligingly perched on an exposed branch enabling a good view before disappearing into the rainforest. I hope everybody appreciated the sighting because it took yours truly a good three years of trying before seeing my first Sooty. As naturalist David Fleay would say, "A regular Scarlet Pimpernel".

Both normal and melanistic forms of the Mountain Possum plus Ringtail Possums were also spotlighted.

A Sunday morning trek to Mt Bathongabel yielded excellent views of a male Paradise Riflebird which we called in. His flashing irridescent crown, throat and rump are a stunning spectacle. Unfortunately, neither the Albert's Lyrebird nor Rufous Scrubbird were seen or heard.

Nevertheless, the Olive Whistler was located in the beech forest after hearing its unmistakable call.

All in all, a successful weekend with a total of fifty species for the park.

Others present: Lesley Beaton, John Ball, Will Cormack, Don Gaydon, Gloria Glass, Nancy & Ron Gooding, Angela Kilmartin.

Michael Atzeni

Species Recorded: Grey Goshawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Australian Hobby, Australian Brush-turkey, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Topknot and White-headed Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Wonga Pigeon, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Australian King Parrot, Crimson Rosella, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Shining Bronze-cuckoo, Sooty Owl, White-throated Needletail, Albert's Lyrebird, Noisy Pitta, Welcome Swallow, Cicada-bird, White's Thrush, Eastern Yellow Robin, Crested Shrike-tit, Golden and Olive Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Black-faced Monarch, Rufous and Grey Fantail, Southern Logrunner, Eastern Whipbird, Superb Fairy-wren, Large-billed, White-browed and Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone, Brown Thornbill, White-throated Treecreeper, Lewin's Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Silvereye, Red-browed Firetail, Satin and Regent Bowerbird, Green Catbird, Paradise Riflebird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Torresian Crow.

The Secretary
Toowoomba Bird Club
P.O. Box 67
DARLING HEIGHTS, Q, 4350

Please renew my membership of the Toowoomba Bird Club for the year 1985. I enclose the fee of \$8.00 (\$4.00 for students).

Signed
Name
Address

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Powerful Owl	5.12.84	Redwood Park	MA, PM
Barred Cuckoo-shrike	2.12.84	Redwood Park	DG
Barred Cuckoo-shrike	5.12.84	Redwood Park	MA, PM
Cattle Egret (20) in breeding plumage	17.11.84	Somerset Dam	AHS, JHS
Chiming Wedgebill	6.10.84	North-west Cape, WA,	RRB, PB
Black Cormorant (500+)	17.11.84	AK, GG	
Red-eared Firetail	27.11.84	Porongorup N.P. WA,	RRB, PB
Rock Parrot	24.11.84	Torndurup N.P. WA,	RRB, PB
Noisy Pitta (dead)	16.10.84	Queens Park, T'ba	LB
Rufous Fantail	11.11.84	Queens Park, T'ba	LB
Brush Turkey	Oct 84	Burleigh Heads	LW
Long-billed Corella	18.11.84	Bridge St, East	RV
Long-billed Corella	28.11.84	Mackenzie St, South	GG
Peregrine Falcon	29.10.84	Mt Sylvia Road	LB, SP
White-headed Pigeon	28.10.84	Bridge St, T'ba	Dean Collins
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	28.10.84	Helidon (Warrego H'way)	MA
Emerald Dove	6.12.84	Redwood Park, T'ba	DG
Little Falcon	30.11.84	Boonah	DG
Aust. Owlet Nightjar	21.11.84	Bridge St, East	RV
Crested Shrike-tit	1.12.84	Ravenbourne N.P.	GG

MA Michael Atzeni	DC Dean Collins	PM Pat McConnell
LB Lesley Beaton	DG Don Gaydon	SP Sandy Pottinger
PB Peggie Beaton	GG Gloria Glass	AHS Ann Shore
RRB Roy Beaton	AK Angela Kilmartin	JHS John Shore
	RV Ray Viljoen	LW Lorraine Wilson

What an ending to SSS month! October 31st I decided to do a final check around our property and began at the huge gum tree near the causeway. There I discovered a symphony of song and colour in the crisp morning light, 13 species in all, never before have I sighted so many birds in the one area (3 of which I heard only).

I was particularly delighted with the Red-Browed Firetail Finch who came very near, within 1 meter. It appeared completely unafraid of me and observed me at length, from all angles, before returning to the job of collecting nest-building material (pieces of dry grass which it tugged at continually until the section parted from the large clump). The finch returned many times as I stood there observing the different species. Here is a list of the birds sighted that morning:- Red-Browed Firetail Finch, Superb Blue Wrens, Silvereyes, Whipbird, Crow, Pale-Headed Rosellas, Eastern Yellow Robins, Little Friarbirds, Honeyeaters, Brown Quail, Speckled Warblers, Restless Flycatchers, Leaden Flycatchers.

Lorraine Wilson