

JULY 1985



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

## toowoomba bird club

### Postal Address

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

### President

Marilyn Jacobs  
21 Sylvan Court  
Toowoomba, 4350  
Phone 35 8594

### Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Shore  
"Shorelands", Withcott,  
M.S. 224, Toowoomba, 4350  
Phone 30 3207

### Records Officer

Don Gaydon  
216 West Street  
Toowoomba, 4350  
Phone 35 6161

### Editor

Angela Kilmartin  
40 Mabel Street  
Toowoomba, 4350  
Phone 32 1540

### 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

As you are aware, October is our TENTH ANNIVERSARY and we will be having a special issue of our Newsletter for this event.

To this aim, I would like to have some of the early members contribute some of their recollections for this issue. I am sure some of you must have interesting and amusing stories of things that may have happened in the Club in the first ten years.

So please let me know about them so we can share them with the newer members.

Angela Kilmartin, Editor

## OUTING REPORT JUNE = HOGARTH'S SWAMP

A group of hardy soles set out on a very cold day for a waterbird outing in the Pittsworth area. But were not to be rewarded with many birds as they must have found shelter from the cold and blustery winds at habitats other than those visited! Di Muirhead, in a 4-wheel drive truck, led the way through numerous gates, to the main destination of the day, Hogarth's swamp which is located some 10 miles south west of Pittsworth on the Clifton Road adjacent to Hodgson's Creek.

This marvelous 30 acre swamp, which in January of this year boasted large numbers of pelicans (approx 100) black swans (approx 200) in addition to 20 glossy ibis, 15+ whiskered terns, pied stilts, spoonbills, darters, little grebes and numerous ducks, was completely devoid of birds with the exception of one white-faced heron and 2 black swans.

We fared better at Hood's property where white eyed ducks, little grebes, black swans, spoonbills and cormorants were observed from the truck.

Everyone enjoyed a superb close up view of a small stubble quail who obligingly posed for some time beside the truck. This was the highlight of the outing.

A notable feature of the day was the large number of raptors, Black Kites Hogarth's Swamp, Black-shouldered Kites, Whistling Kites, Brown Falcons and Kestrels. In spite of the cold weather, everyone enjoyed the day's outing and the country hospitality of Di and Bruce Muirhead.

### Members Present:

Lesley Beaton, Frank and Nancy Belcher, Di Muirhead, John and Ruth Walter and Marilyn Jacobs.

### Species sighted :

Australasian Grebe, Darter, Little Black Cormorant, Little Pied Cormorant, Pacific Heron, White-faced Heron, Sacred Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Black Duck, White-eyed Duck, Mated Duck, Black-shouldered Kite, Black Kite, Whistling Kite, Brown Falcon, Kestrel, Stubble Quail, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Masked Lapwing, Feral Pigeon, Crested Pigeon, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Cockatiel, Pale-headed Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, Welcome Swallow, Richard's Pipit, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Restless Flycatcher, Willie Wagtail, Golden-headed Cisticola, Brown Songlark, Superb Fairy-wren, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Noisy Miner, House Sparrow, Common Starling, Common Mynah, Australian Magpie-lark, Black-faced Woodswallow, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Torresian Crow. 49 Species.

MARILYN JACOBS

### AFTERNOON DELIGHT

I was working at my kitchen table one February afternoon when I heard ... no, it couldn't be! Rainbow Bee-eaters?! Grabbing the binoculars, I went outside. Four birds were flying over; however there were Brown Honeyeaters. I was sure I had heard Bee-eaters.

Yes, there they were - two birds swooping over the back lawn and perching in the bare top branches of the neighbour's cherry-plum tree. They stayed for two or three minutes, then one left flying in a north-westerly direction. The remaining bird trilled mournfully. I thought it might be an immature as its colours were far duller than those of the other bird.

A short time later, two more birds appeared. Perhaps the first bird returning with a friend. The three of them hawked around my neighbour's garden and mine for another five or ten minutes. Their aerobatics were a marvel to watch. Diving and swooping, they navigated arboreal obstacles with ease. Taking a long shallow dive, they would come quite close to me as I stood on my back deck. So close that I could hear the wind in their wings. It was breathtaking.

Then the spell was broken, as suddenly as they had arrived they were gone. Another three birds had turned up, and the six were off. It had been fifteen minutes of delightful birdwatching and a first sighting for my garden.

Lesley Beaton

### LIBRARY NOTES - June/July

- The Bird Observer, May 1985, No. 640; June 1985, No. 641.  
The Darling Downs Naturalist, June 1985, No. 372; July 1985, No. 373.  
The Darling Downs Naturalist Journal, June 1985, Vol.8, No. 1.  
Farm Birds - Pamphlet included with B.O.C. newsletter & published by the Department Of Arts, Heritage and Environment.  
The Sunbird (Q.O.S. Journal), March 1985, Vol. 15, No. 1.  
Q.O.S. Newsletter, May 1985, Vol. 16, No.4; June 1985, Vol. 16, No. 5.  
Urimbirra, May 1985, Vol. 19, No. 5; June 1985, Vol. 19, No. 6.  
Wildlife Australia, Winter 1985, Vol. 22, No. 2.  
World Wildlife Fund Australia Newsletter, April-June 1985, No. 23.

Some good articles this month with Wildlife Australia heading the list. There is a photo essay by Clifford & Dawn Frith on tropical birds. The two articles about our northern environment, Rainforests and Reptiles of Cape York Peninsula & Daintree Reefs Wanted Dead or Alive? are particularly thought provoking.

Lesley Beaton, Librarian

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

- Squatter Pigeon 2.6.85 Gatton - Esk Road JB, LB  
White-headed Pigeon 4.6.85 Ruthven & Bridge Sts JD  
Red-browed Treecreeper 27.6.85 Goomburra State Forest DG  
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater 26.6.85 " DG  
Glossy Black Cockatoo 27.6.85 " DG  
Collared Sparrowhawk 21.5.85 DOIAE DG  
Budgerigar (15) 28.6.85 New England Highway, Allora DG  
Budgerigar (12) 4.5.85 Clifton Turnoff, New England H'way LB, JB  
Ground Cuckoo-shrike (3) 21.5.85 Boundary Rd, Glenvale, LB  
Grey Goshawk 3.3.85 Fourth Avenue, Harristown MA  
Glossy Black Cockatoo 28.2.85 Spa-Iredale Road MA  
Gang-gang Cockatoo 5.2.85 Canberra Botanic Gardens MA  
Burdekin Duck 23.3.85 Yeppoon PMcC, J & D. Sullivan  
Little Bronze Cuckoo 23.3.85 Rockhampton PMcC, J. & D. Sullivan  
Barking Owl 29.3.85 Dululu PMcC LB, PB, RB  
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos 30.6.85 Murphy's Ck-Hampton Rd /  
Golden Whistler (imm) 30.6.85 15 Dunmore St (first sighting for  
garden) LB, PB RB  
Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters 30.6.85 Murphy's Ck-Hampton Rd LB, PB, RB  
Black-shouldered Kite 21 & 24.6.85 Toombul Shopping Centre PB  
June's list from John & Ruth Walter at Pittsworth:  
1 Black Falcon Nindigully 1.5.85  
1 Fuscous Honeyeater Pittsworth 15.5.85 - (It is of interest  
Pair Red-capped Robin Pittsworth all of May- that these were seen in  
Pair White-plumed Honeyeater Mid-May - May for the first time  
since May 1980 which was also a year of no summer rain.)  
Flocks Wood Duck In streets and on footpaths and ovals etc,  
Mitchell 27.5.85  
1 Yellow Robin 20 km north of Charleville 29.5.85 This bird was in  
Melaleucas along a flood channel of the Warrego R. National  
Parks have recorded it on a property they are monitoring  
near Adavale (Don Seaton Pers. Comm.)  
2 Splendid Fairy-wren 20 km north of Charleville 29.5.85  
(sub-species Black-backed)  
2 pairs Hooded Robin Angelalla Ck, Charleville-Cunnamulla Rd 30.5.85  
1 pair Pink Cockatoo Wyandra 30.5.85  
4 Brolga "Mayvale", Cunnamulla-St George Rd 1.6.85  
The following are from "Bullomon Plains" where John hopes to  
see a number of Bird Club members at the RAOU Campout in October:  
Flock Red-tailed Black Cockatoo calling 1.6.85  
1 Barking Owl This bird was called up to the campsite after dark  
and remained in the area for two hours, at times 15 feet away.  
1 Wedge-tailed Eagle 1.6.85  
6 Hooded Robin 2.6.85  
12 Mallee Ringneck Parrot 2.6.85  
3 Crested Bellbird calling 2.6.85  
1 Black Falcon 2.6.85 ...  
4 Ground Parrot Cooloola 10.6.85  
2 Southern Emu-wren Cooloola 10.6.85  
60+ Magpie Goose Goomboorium (near Gympie) 10.6.85

M.A. Michael Atzeni  
L.B. Leslie Beaton  
J.B. John Ball  
P.B. Peggie Beaton

R.B. Roy Beaton  
J.D. Joe Deuble  
D.G. Don Gaydon  
P.McC Pat McConnell

SUPPLEMENT

1984 ANNUAL BIRD SUMMARY

On paper, 1984 was a relatively mediocre year for the Toowoomba Bird Club's records. One new species, the Spotless Crake, was added to our Club list taking the total number of species to 241.

As with 1983, conditions were too good out west for the Toowoomba area to receive a large quota of the nomads and wanderers which would have moved our way were there drought conditions throughout the State. Consequently, we missed out on such species as Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater and Red-capped Robin.

It is sometimes difficult to imagine dry weather meaning an increased bird species quota for the Toowoomba area, but really the explanation is simple. If dry weather reigns throughout the State, then as drought conditions get progressively worse out west, there is a tendency for nomads and wanderers to move to more plentiful areas. Hence we find that many species turn up in Toowoomba and surrounds, because you can bet your boots that no matter how dry it is here, it is drier out west! We can therefore say that as far as bird species recording in the Toowoomba area is concerned, a period of dry weather throughout the State would be a good thing.

Once again, as in 1983, Hood's Lagoon remained too full to be of great interest to many waterbirds, although I am pleased to say that things are looking up for Hood's Lagoon as the water level is going down slowly. As the water level drops, the amount of water in the lagoon obviously decreases, hence concentrating the lagoon's organisms and plant nutrients into a lesser volume. This accounts for the presence of the waterlily when the level is low, as does it account for the greater number of water birds feeding on the greater concentration of food.

Redwood Park turned out the most interesting record of the year with the re-emergence of the Powerful Owl which had not been seen since August 1982.

Other interesting species seen in the Toowoomba area during 1984 included: Black Bittern, Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, Silver Gull, Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-Shrike and Plum-headed Finch.

To all contributing members, thank you. The following summary would not have been possible without the wide range of checklists received. Our Club is not a large one, and I realise this, making this summary all the more worthy of acclamation.

Don Gaydon, Records Officer

N.B. This summary is not to be confused with the Seasonal Species Surveys (S.S.S.). The purpose of this summary is to indicate which species were recorded in the Toowoomba area during each of the twelve months of 1984.

Species not recorded in the Toowoomba area during 1984

(The month and previous year recorded is in brackets)

Great Crested Grebe (7.81)	Red Goshawk (4.77)
Australian Pelican (9.83)	Spotted Harrier (6.83)
Little Bittern (11.77)	Marsh Harrier (8.83)
Black-necked Stork (10.83)	Peregrine Falcon (12.83)
Magpie Goose (9.82)	Stubble Quail (2.83)
Mallard (12.75)	Painted Button-quail (11.83)
Wandering Whistling-duck (1.83)	Little Button-quail (3.82)
Freckled Duck (10.83)	Buff-banded Rail (11.83)
Black Kite (4.83)	Marsh Crake (2.83)
Square-tailed Kite (10.82)	Black-tailed Native Hen (11.82)
Whistling Kite (6.83)	Comb-crested Jacana (10.83)



Species recorded during 1984 (continued)

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Dusky Moorhen	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Purple Swamphen	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Eurasian Coot	1	2	3	4	5		7	8				12
Masked Lapwing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Banded Lapwing										10	11	
Red-kneed Dotterel						6	7					
Black-fronted Plover	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Black-winged Stilt	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Latham's Snipe		2								10		12
Silver Gull							7					
Rose-crowned Fruit-dove										10		12
Top-knot Pigeon				4			7		9			
White-headed Pigeon				4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Feral Pigeon	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Spotted Turtledove	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Brown Cuckoo-dove	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Peaceful Dove	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Emerald Dove	1	2	3				7	8				12
Common Bronzewing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Crested Pigeon	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Squatter Pigeon	1			4								
Wonga Pigeon	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Glossy Black Cockatoo		2										
Galah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	1	2						8	9	10		
Rainbow Lorikeet	1	2			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Musk Lorikeet									9	10	11	
Little Lorikeet	1	2	3	4			7	8	9	10	11	12
Australian King Parrot	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12
Cockatiel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12
Crimson Rosella									9			
Eastern Rosella							7					
Pale-headed Rosella	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red-rumped Parrot	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pallid Cuckoo	1	2										12
Brush Cuckoo												12
Fan-tailed Cuckoo				4	5	6	7		9	10	11	12
Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo	1	2	3									12
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	1	2	3		5		7		9	10		12
Common Koel	1	2	3						9	10	11	12
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	2	3						9	10	11	12
Pheasant Coucal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Powerful Owl								8				12
Southern Boobook	1		3			6		8	9	10	11	12
Barn Owl			3				7					
Tawny Frogmouth	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	
Australian Owlet-nightjar	1											
White-throated Nightjar	1											
White-throated Needletail	1	2	3							10	11	12
Fork-tailed Swift	1	2										
Azure Kingfisher	1	2		4	5			8		10		12
Laughing Kookaburra	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sacred Kingfisher	1	2	3	4	5			8	9	10	11	12
Rainbow Bee-eater	1	2	3		5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Dollarbird	1	2	3						9	10	11	12
Spotless Crake								8	9	10		
Noisy Pitta		2							9	10	11	12
Singing Bushlark	1									10		12
White-backed Swallow	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Welcome Swallow	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Species recorded during 1984 (continued)

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tree Martin	1		3	4	5	6	7			10	11	12
Fairy Martin	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12
Richard's Pipit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
White-bellied C-shrike		2										
Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike												12
Cicadabird	1	2	3							10	11	12
Ground Cuckoo-shrike										10		
White-winged Triller							7					12
Varied Triller	1	2		4	5	6	7		9	10		12
White's Thrush												12
Rose Robin				4	5	6	7	8				
Eastern Yellow Robin	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Jacky Winter	1		3		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Crested Shrike-tit	1				5							
Golden Whistler	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rufous Whistler	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Grey Shrike-thrush	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Black-faced Monarch	1	2	3						9	10	11	12
Spectacled Monarch	1	2	3						9	10	11	12
Leaden Flycatcher	1	2	3	4				8	9	10	11	12
Satin Flycatcher	1	2	3							10		12
Restless Flycatcher	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rufous Fantail	1	2	3	4		6	7		9	10	11	12
Grey Fantail	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		11	12
Willie Wagtail	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Eastern Whipbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Grey-crowned Babbler	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Clamorous Reed Warbler	1							8	9	10		12
Tawny Grassbird	1	2							9			
Golden-headed Cisticola	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rufous Songlark									9	10	11	
Brown Songlark		2								10	11	12
Superb Fairy-wren	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Variegated Fairy-wren	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red-backed Fairy-wren	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12
Large-billed Scrubwren	1	2	3			6	7		9	10	11	
White-browed Scrubwren	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Speckled Warbler	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Weebill	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Brown Gerygone	1	2	3	4		6	7		9	10	11	12
White-throated Gerygone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Brown Thornbill	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Buff-rumped Thornbill	1	2		4			7		9			12
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Yellow Thornbill		2	3	4	5	6	7			10		12
Striated Thornbill	1			4		6	7	8	9	10		
Varied Sitella	1	2		4		6	7		9	10		12
White-thr Treecreeper	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red Wattlebird	1			4		6	7		9	10		
Striped Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Noisy Friarbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Little Friarbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Blue-faced Honeyeater		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Noisy Miner	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Lewin's Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12
Fuscous Honeyeater	1			4			7		9	10		
Brown-headed Honeyeater	1								9			12
White-throated Honeyeater	1		3	4	5		7			10		12
White-naped Honeyeater	1			4	5	6	7		9		11	
Brown Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12



Species recorded during 1984 (continued)

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Eastern Spinebill	1	2		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Scarlet Honeyeater	1	2	3	4		6	7		9	10	11	12
Mistletoebird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		9	10	11	12
Spotted Pardalote	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Striated Pardalote	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Silvereye	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
House Sparrow	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red-browed Firetail	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Zebra Finch	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Double-barred Finch	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Plum-headed Finch												12
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Common Starling	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Common Mynah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Olive-backed Oriole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Figbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Spangled Drongo	1	2	3	4					9	10	11	12
Satin Bowerbird			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Regent Bowerbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
White-winged Chough	1	2	3	4	5							
Australian Magpie-lark	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Dusky Woodswallow	1	2	3	4		6	7	8		10	11	12
Grey Butcherbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pied Butcherbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Australian Magpie	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pied Currawong	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Australian Raven		2	3			6		8	9		11	
Torresian Crow	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

FIELD DAY FOR JULY 1985

Date: Sunday July 28 1985                      Place: Blanchview and Irdale  
 Assembly Point: Pigotts' Car Park  
 Time:                      7.15 am for departure at 7.30 am SHARP

---oo0oo---

FIELD DAY FOR AUGUST 1985

Date: Sunday 25 August 1985                      Place: Ravensbourne National Park  
 Assembly Point: Pigotts' Car Park  
 Time:                      7.15 am for departure at 7.30 am SHARP

---oo0oo---