



"To encourage the observation and study of birds in 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 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 a birder it is with ever-increasing disappointment and bewilderment that I look around Toowoomba and its neighbouring localities and see the destruction of our greatest resource, the natural environment.

It is with disappointment that I watch the removal of the stately Camphor Laurels in West Street and recall with sadness the hollow promises made of new plantings when the Silky Oaks went from Bridge Street. It is with disbelief that I see the Tree Ordinance passed over by the City Council so that mature eucalypts are felled on rangeside residential blocks because "they don't fit into the proposed landscaping". It is with anger that I read of vulnerable pockets of open land being rezoned in south-east Toowoomba with disregard to the Council's town planning policy.

But it is with bewilderment that I view a City Council that has not the fore-sight to appreciate the value of our environment, especially mature trees. Is it possible that they have not the business acumen to see Toowoomba's garden image and tourist industry being eroded by their actions?

As Toowoomba grows it becomes increasingly important that green belts throughout our city are pre-planned and that those plans are irreversible. Just drive out to one of the newer residential estates on the western side of the city. The tallest things around are the power poles, and virtually the only vegetation is paspalum coming up through the scraped dirt.

Our newer suburbs must be developed in accordance with our established areas. Let the skyline be gentle on the eye and the parks be gracious. It is possible for new developments to be environmentally pleasant places to live.

Let us demand that our City Council stop paying lip-service to environmental issues and start taking positive action towards Toowoomba's greatest asset - its trees.

Lesley Beaton, Acting Editor

--ooOoo--

NEW MEMBERS

Betty and Les Porter of Yandilla St, enjoyed our July outing so much they became members. We hope to see them at many more of our activities.

--ooOoo--

BLANCHVIEW/IREDALE OUTING CONT'D

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

Lesley Beaton
Gloria Glass
Joe Deuble
Jane White
Betty & Les Porter
John Shore
Ann Shore

VISITORS:-

Enid Beal
Diana Beal
Craig Shore

JOINED BY:-

Maggie Drabsch for
morning tea at Shorelands.

Species List Australasian Grebe, Little Pied Cormorant, White-faced Heron, Cattle Egret, Straw-necked Ibis, Black Duck, Grey Teal, Wood Duck, Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Goshawk, Brown Falcon, Aust. Kestrel, Dusky Moorhen, Masked Lapwing, Black Fronted Plover, Pied Stilt, Feral Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Crested Pigeon, Galah, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Cockatiel, Azure Kingfisher, Kookaburra, Singing Bushlark, White-backed Swallow, Pipit, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, Rose Robin, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Eastern Whipbird, Grey-crowned Babbler, Tawny Grassbird, Cisticola, Superb Fairy-wren, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Speckled Warbler, Brown Warbler, White-throated Warbler, Brown Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill, White-throated Treecreeper, Striped Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Scarlet Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, Zebra Finch, Red-browed Firetail, Starling, Mynah, Olive-backed Oriole, Figbird, Australian Magpie-lark, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Torresian Crow. (70 species)



A WAYWARD WHIPBIRD

It is always interesting to hear of people's unusual garden sightings. Over the years, several species, including Cicadabird, Red-capped and Rose Robin, Satin Flycatcher and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, have appeared in our Harristown garden quite surprisingly. However, none of these is secretive or skulking in nature and their appearance is quite credible.

In January, a neighbour with a well-established garden of native shrubs and trees came over to have me identify a 'stranger' in his garden. I wasn't home, but Dad did the honours and identified it as a Whipbird, probably an immature.

Upon hearing the news, I was astounded, mainly because there are houses all around our neighbourhood, and no likely habitat for this skulking species within two or three kilometres. I imagine wherever it came from, it certainly had a traumatic time trying to remain under cover reaching the 'big smoke' and the same trouble heading out.

The bird wasn't seen again. It is probably now perching in a lantana bush somewhere thinking 'There's no place like home!'

Michael Atzeni

"HEARD ON THE WING"

Good luck to Michael Atzeni on his transfer to Cairns. Let's hope his move to the never-ending summer of the north will mean some articles or bird notes for those left behind in cooler climes.

Cheer-up messages for Angela Kilmartin who's hospitalized for a few weeks in the General. We're thinking of you birding from your bed!

Glad to hear that Ron Box is starting to get up and about again.

It was beaut to see some of Vera Simon's work in the recent exhibition at the Downs Gallery.

Not satisfied with showing his slides just to the locals, Ray Viljoen will delight the RAOU Congress with "Birds of the Toowoomba Area" on Friday, September 27 at 8 pm.

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MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Australian Pelican 27.7.85 Lagoon near Condamine River, approx
17 km south of Dalby AHS
Black-browed Albatross (dead) 20.7.85 Wooyung Beach, NSW MJ, SP
Australian Shoveller (2 pairs, males in breeding plumage) 3.8.85
Hood's Lagoon, Helidon LB, JB
Grey Goshawk 26.7.85 Shorelands, Withcott AHS
Spotted Harrier 6.7.85 Postman's Ridge Road, LB, AHS
Australian Hobby (Little Falcon) 27.7.85 Lockyer Creek Bridge,
Helidon AHS
Brown Falcon 27.7.85 near Condamine River, south of Dalby AHS
Stubble Quail (7) 1.7.85 Highfields JD
Brolga 19.5.85 Wooyung Beach, NSW SP
Banded Lapwing 22.7.85 Glenvale State School LB
White-headed Pigeon (20) 19.5.85 West & Taylor Streets, GG
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo 21.5.85 Mackenzie St Waterbird Habitat GG
Budgerigar (approx 20) 10.7.85 Glenvale State School LB
Budgerigar 20.4.85 Wilson's Property, Withcott, LW
Pallid Cuckoo 11.5.85 Flagstone Creek Road GG
Singing Bushlark 28.7.85 Cnr Iredale Rd & Back Flagstone Creek
Road LB, GG, JW
Dusky Woodswallow (approx 20) 7.6.85 Wilson's Property, Withcott LW

JB. John Ball	GG Gloria Glass	AHS Ann Shore
LB Lesley Beaton	MJ Marilyn Jacobs	JW Jane White
JD Joe Deuble	SP Sandy Pottinger	LW Lorraine Wilson

ERRATA

- June notes - Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater credited to John Ball and Lesley Beaton should read Marilyn Jacobs and Sandy Pottinger.
- July notes - Black-shouldered Kite seen at Toombul Shopping Centre should read Toowong Shopping Centre

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LIBRARY NOTES - AUGUST

The Darling Downs Naturalist newsletter, No. 374, August 1985
Q.O.S. newsletter, July 1985, Vol.16, No.6
August 1985, Vol 16, No.7
Urimbirra, July 1985, Vol.19, No.7

FIELD OUTING TO IREDALE & BLANCHVIEW

28th JULY, 1985.

A field outing in July can be a bleak and chilly occasion affecting not only the number of sightings but the number and comfort of the watchers - so one wondered what was in store for our proposed morning in the Iredale and Blanchview areas just east of the Range. However, no worries, it was a perfect winter's day, though cool at first with frost in the gullies as we descended to the Lockyer.

The atmosphere was clear, the sun shone and scarcely a leaf stirred - ideal conditions for viewing small birds among foliage. But there were few small birds at our first stop at the bridge over the Lockyer. The best sighting was of an Azure Kingfisher patrolling up and down the creek showing vivid flashes of ultramarine as the sun caught his plumage. White-backed Swallows were seen on the power lines.

Turning up to the right towards Iredale we found small birds a-plenty; Wrens, Cisticolas, Pipits and a more exciting find - a Singing Bushlark. Coming to the salt swamp area at Guerke's spa we were pleased to see Black-shouldered Kites nesting in one of the many dead gums and a number of Zebra Finches building in the small thickly foliated trees nearby while one member's sharp eyes picked out a Tawny Grassbird, verified when it was repeatedly but reluctantly flushed from knee-high grass. Of note were the two Wood Ducks seen emerging from holes in other dead gum trees. Nesting also?

No sounds came from the reed beds where the Spotless Crake was heard and seen last year but at the top of the hill we heard various Honeyeaters and watched Spotted Pardalotes busily searching for food high in the canopy above.

Ann Shore

BLANCHVIEW 28 July 1985 (continued)

It was well into the morning by the time we left Shorelands after morning tea. Maggie and Ann came with us for about half an hour then turned back allowing us to meander up the Silver Ridge Road at our leisure.

Figbirds and Lewin's Honeyeaters were everywhere reaping the harvest of roadside berries. Otherwise there were the small bush birds such as Silvereye, Thornbills and Pardalotes.

Once we reached the top of the range, we lunched at Jack Duggan Park in Leslie Street where we saw Speckled Warbler, Golden Whistler, Yellow Thornbill among others.

With a final view of a splendid male Rose Robin we parted to go our separate ways.

Lesley Beaton

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

On October 27th, the normal T.B.C. Sunday outing, we are going to hold a Club Social at the top picnic ground of Ravensbourne National Park. This will consist of birding and a good gossip in the morning, and a b.y.o. BBQ lunch at 1.00 pm.

We urge all members to come along during the morning and spend some time, even if you're only able to spare about an hour.

There will be a birding group leave Pigott's Car Park at 7.30 am, otherwise members may make their own way to Ravensbourne at a time more suitable to them.

If transport is your problem, please contact Ann (30 3207) who'll help make arrangements.

* * *

Have you any photos of early outings? These would be most welcome to use as a display at our social.

* * *

There will also be a special anniversary issue of the Newsletter, and we are calling for articles from earlier members. Anecdotes from past outings or details of "first sighting" would be ideal. If you don't think you have a way with words, have a chat to Angela or Lesley who will help you spin a yarn. September 10, 1985 is the deadline.

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R.A.O.U. CONGRESS

The preparations for the Congress are now in full swing. Those people wishing for more information should contact:

D.D.A.A.E.
5 Bell Street
Toowoomba, Q, 4350
Phone 32 1422

The costs are \$35 for the Congress, 27 - 29 September
\$ 8 for BBQ dinner at D.D.I.A.E. - 28 September
\$ 5 camping fee for 5 day camp at
"Bullamon Plains", Thallon 30 Sept - 4 Oct.

* * *

Toowoomba Bird Club's effort towards the Congress is to take delegates on a choice of two-hour outings on the Sunday morning. There will be three venues available for delegates to choose from - Flagstone Creek, Redwood Park or Murphy's Creek. A Bird Club member will lead each outing.

Members are invited to participate even if they're not going to the Congress. The assembly point will be McGregor College Car Park Baker Street, at 7.30 am.

Any member willing to volunteer as stand-by transport, please let Marilyn know on 35 8594.

A VISIT BY AMERICAN BIRDWATCHERS

During July, a group of 35 American teachers from Las Cruces, New Mexico spent 2 weeks in Toowoomba on an international exchange visit arranged by the Toowoomba Education Centre. John Handley, director of the Centre, discovered that two members of the group, (Dr.) Bernie and Barbara Steinau were keen birdwatchers, and he informed Lesley Beaton that they were interested in making contact with any local bird groups. Because of the short notice of their visit and their brief stay (they were only in Toowoomba for 10 weekdays, their one weekend being spent in Brisbane), it was not possible to organize outings with many Club members. Three of us took the Steinaus to a variety of birding spots - Murphy's Creek (Don Gaydon), Hood's Lagoon and Flagstone Creek (myself) and Ravensbourne National Park (Gloria Glass). Bernie and Barbara were thrilled to receive one of our Toowoomba Bird Club bags, a gift suggested by Lesley, and promptly put it to good use carrying their Pizzev field guide.

On Thursday, July 11, Don took our American visitors down the Murphy's Creek Road. He was interested in their excitement over some of our more common species - Crested Pigeon, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet and Pale-headed Rosella. This is understandable, however, when one realizes the lack of colorful and 'tropical' American birds. A male Variegated Wren and a male Rose Robin provided more delightful color, and a group of Grey-crowned Babblers amused the Steinaus with their unusual chatter calls. A total of 14 new birds were added to their list on the trip with Don.

The next day was beautiful and sunny and we decided to head for Hood's Lagoon. I detoured via Postman's Ridge Road hoping for a few good spots, and we spent several hours there with an abundance of bird life. The two best birds of the day were a male Scarlet Honeyeater and a party of 20+ Chestnut-breasted Mannikins. When we finally reached Hood's Lagoon, Darter, Black Swan and White-eyed Duck, among others, were added to their growing list of Australian sightings.

Tuesday, July 16 I took Barbara and Bernie for a short drive down Flagstone Creek where we had a perfect view of a Royal Spoonbill, flushed an immature Yellow-billed Spoonbill and finally found a male Red-backed Wren. Prior to this, we'd spotted King Parrots on the range.

Gloria Glass kindly offered to take the Steinaus to Ravensbourne National Park on Wednesday, July 17. They were very interested in the vegetation in the park and managed to see 8-10 new birds including Crimson Rosellas, Scaly Thrush and Mistletoebird. They also had a good view of a Whipbird.

Everyone who met Bernie and Barbara Steinau found them to be delightful and interesting people. They welcome any birdwatchers to Las Cruces with the promise of good birdwatching, as they often get unusual species (and migrating Mexican birds) on their small dam. Both were amazed to find out how few Australians were into birdwatching, given that there are so many birds in this country. We hope Bernie and Barbara enjoyed their outings with Toowoomba Bird Club members - because we enjoyed their company and their enthusiasm!

Marilyn Jacobs

CLUB NOTICES

1. AUGUST Field Day

Date: Sunday, August 25, 1985
Place: Beal Property, Gowrie Junction
Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park
Time: 7.15 am for departure at 7.30 am sharp
Leader: Gloria Glass with Diana Beal

2. SEPTEMBER Beginners' Outing

Date: Sunday, September 15, 1985

Place: Ramsay

Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park

Time: 7.15 am for departure at 7.30 am sharp

Leader: Lesley Beaton

* N.B. Date change due to Carnival of Flowers

R.A.O.U. Congress and Campout

September 27 to October 4, 1985

Bird Club Outings for R.A.O.U. Congress

Sunday, September 29, 1985

3. OCTOBER S.S.S. Month

B.O.C. Pelican Survey Month

Phone Lesley, 32 6262, with any sightings, anywhere.

Toowoomba Bird Club - Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 9, 1985

Place: Angela Kilmartin's, 40 Mabel Street

Time: 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start

Members, please bring a plate for supper.

Q.O.S. Bird Count

Date: Weekend of October 12 & 13, 1985

Details to be discussed at Annual General Meeting

TENTH ANNIVERSARY SOCIAL

Date: Sunday, October 27, 1985

Place: Top picnic ground of Ravensbourne National Park

Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park

Time: 7.15 am for departure 7.30 am sharp

OR at Ravensbourne any time during the morning

N.B. 7.00 pm b.y.o. BBQ lunch

4. NOVEMBER Final Outing for 1985

Date: Sunday, November 24, 1985

Place: Nancy & Ron Gooding's property, Killarney district

Assembly Point: Albion Street traffic lights (first set of traffic lights on New England Highway) in WARWICK

Time: 8.15 am

Leaders: Nancy & Ron Gooding (phone 644 231)

5. DECEMBER Film Evening & Break-up

Date: Tuesday, December 10, 1985

Place: Toowoomba Education Centre, Baker Street

Time: 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start

Films: Three short films -

"Migratory Birds in Korea"

"Fairy Penguins"

"Kingfisher"

and main feature -

"Great White Bird" (Canadian)