



"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 another year draws to a close it is , perhaps, appropriate to cast a brief look at the year's News-sheets. This issue is the twelfth for 1985. Twelve issues containing new birds on the list, new members, Field Day reports and items and articles contributed by members and for members. So it is pretty much a members' co-operative effort.

The News-sheet, for some, forms the only, or main, contact with the Club. For a variety of reasons not everyone can get along to the Field Days where discussion on Club activities takes place. Those people in that situation may have questions to ask or statements to make on what the Club is about, and it is through the News-sheet that questions can be aired and answered. Please feel free to do this in 1986.

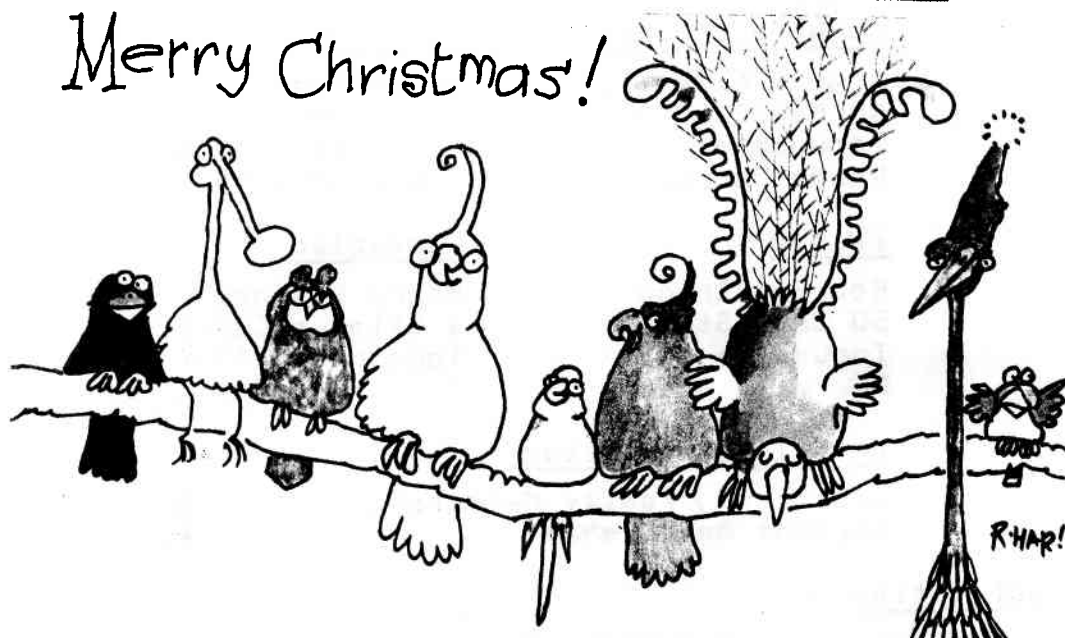
We endeavour to maintain a forum through which you can share your birding experiences. We are always happy to receive contributions on any aspect of birding. It may be that you have witnessed some trait of bird behaviour that you would like to pass along. It doesn't have to be of cosmic significance; it doesn't have to be the re-discovery of the Paradise Parrot. It need only be a paragraph or two.

The idea is to share. The sheet is read in a larger circle than just our Club, so it may well be that your observation can fill a gap in someone else's knowledge. We hope that the New Year will maintain or even increase the flow of items.

A regular feature henceforth will be an Executive Report. This will be prepared by the President and will pass on to you news of the various things that have happened or are going to happen. As the Club grows there seems to be more pies to put fingers in and through the Report we will keep you posted on which pie is which.

Finally, this month, on behalf of the Executive, I should like to wish all members a very Merry Christmas. May there be lots of bird books under your Christmas tree and may 1986 be a healthy, Happy New Year.

Ron Hopkinson



Thank you to Lorraine for this. I think it is based as much on birders as birds (Editor).

COLLOQUIAL NAMES

(The following is a reprint of an article that appeared in the Club newsletter of May 1977 which present Club members may find interesting.)

Some time ago I was talking with a friend from Flagstone Creek. He happened to mention that he had recently heard a Banshee Owl in the deep, timbered gullies behind his home. I was intrigued by his name for this bird and after some discussion ascertained that the owl in question was the Barking Owl. It was the conspicuous mating call of this bird that he had heard and it was this call, no doubt, which gave the bird the richly descriptive, local name of Banshee Owl. I questioned the origin of the name and was informed that he had known the bird as such all his life, as had his parents and all the other locals of the Flagstone-Stockyard Creek area. I found it all the more puzzling as I had not heard the name before despite having spent a good part of my life in this picturesque area.

This incident prompted me to list the vernacular names of many of the common species of birds found now, or in times past, around Toowoomba within a 30 km radius of the city. Alongside this, I listed their colloquial name/s. I hope this list may be of use to anyone encountering these unusual and sometimes misleading names.

Several of the smaller passerines such as the Maluridae or Hirundinidae families are simply and collectively known as wrens or swallows. Members of other families are singled out, based on the fact that they are the most common member in the area, and given a colloquial name, eg White-faced Heron (Blue Crane). Some names have Australian-wide adoption, eg Australian Magpie Lark (Peewee), whilst others are unique to our area, eg Straw-necked Ibis (Middle Ridge Turkey). Some are wonderfully descriptive, eg Grey-crowned Babbler (Chatter Box) and others hopelessly misleading, eg Little Grebe (Diving Duck). Many colloquial names, especially those of parrot and finch have been adopted from the aviary trade name, eg Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (Green Leek) and Zebra Finch (Shellies).

Many of the colloquial names are now fast disappearing along with the bush, the birds and the bushmen who gave them these names. Perhaps this is better for the cause of ornithology but the colloquial names smacked of a oneness with the bush and to many associated with Peewee and Jackass, the passing is with deep regret.

The vernacular names I have taken from "Checklist of the Birds of Australia - Part 1, Non-Passerines" by H.T. Condon - R.A.O.U. 1975 and "Interim List of Australian Songbirds - Passerines" by R. Schodde - R.A.O.U. 1975. The colloquial names I have taken from Murphy's Creek, Stockyard Creek and places like that.

<u>VERNACULAR NAME (RAOU)</u>	<u>COLLOQUIAL NAME/S</u>
Little Grebe	Diving Duck, Deb Dab, Dabchick
Darter	Shag, Snake Bird
Pied Cormorant	Shag
Little Pied Cormorant	Shag
Black Cormorant	Black Shag
Little Black Cormorant	Black Shag
White-faced Heron	Blue Crane, Crane
Straw-necked Ibis	Middle Ridge Turkey
Plumed Tree-duck	Whistle Duck, Whistler
Black-shouldered Kite	Australian Kite
Whistling Kite	Fish Hawk
Brown Goshawk	Chicken Hawk
Collared Sparrowhawk	Chicken Hawk

<u>VERNACULAR NAME (RAOU)</u>	<u>COLLOQUIAL NAME/S</u>
Peregrine Falcon	Duck Hawk
Little Falcon	Duck Hawk, Chicken Hawk
Nankeen Kestrel	Chicken Hawk, Mouse Hawk
Brush Turkey	Scrub Turkey
Land Rail	Flicker
Dusky Moorhen	Swamphen, Waterhen
Bustard	Plain Turkey
Masked Plover	Spur-winged Plover
Black-fronted Dotterel	Sandpiper
Topknot Pigeon	Flock Pigeon
Spotted Dove	Lace-neck, Turtle Dove
Brown Pigeon	Partridge Pigeon
Peaceful Dove	Turtle Dove
Bar-shouldered Dove	Bronze-wing, Dove Pigeon
Crested Pigeon	Topknot Pigeon
Squatter Pigeon	Bronze-wing
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White Cockatoo
Rainbow Lorikeet	Blue Mountain Lowrie
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Greenie, Green Leek
King Parrot	Spud Parrot, Mountain Lowrie
Red-winged Parrot	Crimson Wing
Crimson Rosella	Mountain Lowrie
Eastern Rosella	Red-headed Rosella
Pale-headed Rosella	Yellow-headed Rosella
Red-rumped Parrot	Grassie, Grass Parrot
Indian Koel (Common)	Storm Bird
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Storm Bird, Fig Hawk
Pheasant Coucal	Swamp Pheasant
Barking Owl	Banshee Owl, Screech Owl
Spotted Owl (Boobook)	Mopoke
Tawny Frogmouth	Mopoke, Night Owl
White-throated Nightjar	Night Hawk
Family Apodidae	Swift, Swallow
Azure Kingfisher	Kingfisher
Kookaburra	Jackie, Jackass
Sacred Kingfisher	Kingfisher
Family Hirundinidae	Swallow
Richard's Pipit	Lark, Ground Lark
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Blue Jay
Restless Flycatcher	Scissors Grinder
Grey Fantail	Cranky Fan
Grey-crowned Babbler	Chatter Box, Happy Family
Golden-headed Cisticola	Grassbird, Tailor Bird, Tom Tit
Family Maluridae	Wren, Jenny Wren
White-throated Warbler	Bush Canary
Noisy Friarbird	Leatherhead
Noisy Miner	Micky Bird, Soldier Bird
Lewin's Honeyeater	Lug Bird
Striated Pardalote	Chip Chip, Chippee, Chook Chook
Red-browed Firetail	Snip, Red-snip
Diamond Firetail	Diamond Sparrow
Zebra Finch	Shellie
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	Bull Finch, Nun
House Sparrow	Sprag
Common Mynah	Dollar Bird
White-winged Chough	Mud Magpie, Bush Magpie
Apostle Bird	Happy Family, Lousy Jack
Australian Magpie Lark	Peewee
Black-faced Wood-swallow	Summer Bird
Dusky Wood-swallow	Summer Bird
Pied Currawong	Tullawong, Chillawong
Torresian Crow	Crow

TO FEED OR NOT TO FEED

There are times when I question the wisdom of feeding some birds. At present our regular mealtime (sunrise, sunset and anywhere between) visitors number 8 kookaburras, 5 magpies, 2 pied butcherbirds and 1 grey butcherbird. In fact the meat consumed by these hungry critters these days is almost equal to our large dog's daily intake.

The reason for my second thoughts, not being the cost of food, but the treatment the butcherbirds hand out to their offspring once they are matured, (haven't yet observed magpie behaviour at such a time) - maybe another Club member has?

Since moving to Withcott we did have a pet pied butcherbird who fed from hand, even flew nearby as we walked through the bush, seemed to enjoy our company. Sadly, this tame little bird just disappeared (and I thought perhaps a cat may have caught him because he was so trusting of humans). It was then I decided not to feed the birds by hand, just in case of such an event, but continued to throw their food onto the lawn.

The parent pied butcherbirds still come to feed and had another chick since our first pet disappeared. Although this bird has never eaten from hand, it is still extremely friendly - comes onto verandah for shelter during storms, sits on the arm of a verandah chair near the glass doors and peers inside, this his favourite verandah "perch".

Seems like the whole of July passed and we didn't see "young Butch", then August 6th he returned (dirty and scrawny looking) and very hungry. He ate fast and plenty but the parent birds were not at all pleased, made a terrible commotion, territorial calls and chased young Butch who immediately flew onto the verandah for protection (still holding food in his beak) - and went straight to his chair/perch and hid on the cross-bar beneath the seat (where he carefully placed the meat out of sight). Much later he came out of hiding and sat on the verandah rail, but parent birds arrived alongside and once again began territorial calls. One parent bird flew close-by young Butch and lifted it's beak skywards, then with tremendous force the beak came down hard on the chick's head. Must have hurt terribly, that hook on beak tip!!

I was astounded at the treatment handed out, the parents were previously so gentle and playful to their chick and for so long it seemed. They used to playfully chase each other around and around a particular bush with monotonous regularity, roll and tumble over the lawn and chase each other in flight, obviously always having lots of fun. Certainly is amazing how they changed once the immature became mature (that's the only explanation I can imagine).

The chick remained on the rail until eventually knocked off balance by one of the birds and then - the chase was on! The young bird did not return that day but 7.15am the next day he was back for food. Parent birds not far away either, but not so angry, fortunately - was a rainy day, bleak and cold.

That is the last time we saw young Butch - looks like the adult birds took him far away and left him in another area - again - wonder will he try to return - the punishment is hardly worth it. As I previously said I'm beginning to question the wisdom of feeding them - obviously another chick will be arriving soon.

LORRAINE WILSON

WORD BOTCHING FOR THE BEGINNER

We all keep lists of birds. Lists of birds seen on trips, at home, State lists, Club lists, National lists and so on. Another kind of list is kept by the ardent word botcher. He (or she, in this equal opportunity world), has lists of slightly different, unusual birds that have got themselves a bit mixed.

WORD BOTCHING FOR THE BEGINNER C/td.

Some of them could have come from a list compiled by Dr. Spooner and others, if they don't exist, ought to.

Here are a few to get you started on your word botching list:

Pie-eyed Cormorant	Odd-tailed Barwit	Silent Pitta
Just So-so Egret	Reef Knot	Humming Bushlark
Once Bittern	Wungood Tern	Logwalker
Singing Kite	Spotted Evening Jar	Glamorous Reed Warbler
Harsh Marrier	Whingeing Kookaburra	Extroverted Hylacola
Grubby Crake	Centbird	Husky Doneyeater

Ron Hopkinson

CLUB BRIEFS

S.S.S. MONTH. Please remember that January is a Seasonal Species Survey Month. Simply jot down the birds you see in the Club's local study area. This area is divided into eight sectors as shown on your maps. If you're in doubt as to the sector, don't hesitate to ring the Records Officer, Angela Kilmartin, on 38 2404.

Incidentally, we are working on a simplification of the borders between sectors. Early in the new year we hope to clarify the sector boundaries with a sketch map and written directions.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY. 1986.

Here is the list of dates and venues for Field Days for next year.

January 26th. Redwood Park.	July 27th. Combine with Q.O.S. venue to be announced.
February 23rd. Beginners Outing. venue to be announced.	August 23/24th. Camp-out Coolmunda Dam.
March 28/29/30/31. Easter camp in combination with Chinchilla Field Nats.	September 28th. Helidon Hills.
April 27th. Welcamp Area.	October. Combine with Toowoomba Field Nats. Date and venue to be announced.
May 25th. Maclagan.	November 23rd. Ramsay area.
June 22nd. Spicer's Gap.	

HOBBY-N-CRAFT SPECTACULAR

Hobby-N-craft show will take place over February 14/15/16th. The Club will be there on the stand. Hope to see you. More details next month.

Two film evenings will be held in 1986. May (before the cold weather) and December (hopefully after) are the chosen months. Naturally we will have more details nearer the time.

The date for the Annual General Meeting has been set for October 7th. 1986.

BOWYANGS

During that wet, windy, foggy anniversary outing to Ravensbourne a discussion took place regarding the name and origin of the straps or strings worn around the trousers, just below the knee, by bush workers and swagmen of Australian folklore.

The name "Bowyangs" was established but the origin was unclear. However I have done a little research and one suggested explanation involves workers on the early Australian gold diggings. There were many Americans on the fields and a lot of them wore these straps and slipped in behind the straps were Bowie knives, used for various purposes. Because there was no known name for this, the diggers combined the words "Bowie" and "Yank" and arrived at the expression "Bowyangs".

However, as pointed out by Sidney J. Baker in his book "The Australian Language" (1945), this seems most unlikely because the term did not come into use until about 1900.

BOWYANGS C/td.

The more probable derivation is the provincial English expression, "Bowyankees", which are leather or other leggings worn by agricultural workers, reaching from just below the knee to the boot tops.

The character "Ben Bowyang" came later. He was invented by that great Australian author C.J. Dennis when he was writing for the Melbourne "Herald" from 1922 to 1938. No doubt the character's name was derived from the subjects of this piece. The syndicated comic strip cartoon was based on this character.

Reference: Dictionary of Australian Folklore. W. Fearn-Wannan. (Lansdowne)
Collins Dictionary of the English Language. (Collins).

Ron Hopkinson.

EXECUTIVE REPORT.

As the Club does not hold general meetings other than the Field Days, the Executive felt there was a need to keep members in touch with the Executive business through the News-sheet. Hopefully, every month, there will be a short report.

Over the last two months the Executive has been very busy. Firstly, it was decided to purchase a copy of the "Atlas of Australian Birds" to commemorate the Club's tenth anniversary. This book is now in the hands of Angela, our Records Officer, but is available on loan to members. Meanwhile, Ann wrote to R.A.O.U. about the omission of the Club's name in the contribution list of the Atlas. In reply, R.A.O.U. assured us this would be rectified in the third printing.

The Australian Museum is in the process of producing a photographic index of Australian birds as a bicentennial project. It comprises several volumes and public sponsorship is being obtained for the reproduction of the colour plates. Ann wrote to the Museum asking if the Club could sponsor the Black-shouldered Kite, our emblem, to which they have agreed. It will cost approximately \$150.00 and we will be holding a fund-raising drive when the need arises.

Diana looked into the feasibility of having enamel Club badges made, but as yet this is beyond the reach of our funds.

The Club hopes to build up some resources in the way of posters and pictures, and perhaps a set of display boards, so that we are able to handle displays without depending on the kindness of others. Ron and Lesley are costing these items before a final decision is made.

Responding to an article in the "Gatton Star" about the increased water capacity for Lake Dyer, Lesley wrote a submission to the Laidley Shire Council requesting that suitable habitat for waterbirds, especially the Red-necked Avocets, be incorporated into the planned changes. Copies were sent to Q.O.S. and Toowoomba Field Naturalists asking them to join us in requesting the Laidley Shire Council to take steps in preserving the special habitat.

Lesley Beaton. President.

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Pink-eared Duck. 10.8.85 Pittsworth Golf Course (35+ on nearby dam) JW. RW.
Cotton Pygmy-Goose. 3.11.85 Lake Clarendon LB. AK.
White-bellied Sea-Eagle. 14.7.85 Deniliquin N.S.W. JW. RW.
Black Falcon. 3.8.85 MacQuarie Marshes. N.S.W.(2) JW. RW.
Malleefowl. July 1985 Central and Western Victoria. JW. RW.
Marsh Sandpiper. 13.10.85 Lake Dyer AS. REH.
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. 3.11.85 Lake Clarendon (100+) LB. AK.
Red-necked Stint. 21.11.85 Lake Dyer AS.

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES C/td.

Whiskered Tern. 3.11.85. Lake Clarendon (100+) LB. AK.
Topknot Pigeon. 5.10.85. 40 Mabel St. AK.
Emerald Dove. 30.10.85 Cooper St. LR.
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo. 17.11.85. Gilmour Crt. FB.NB.
Long-billed Corella. 16.7.85 Horsham Vic. (200+) JW. RW.
Little Corella. 19.6.85 Cecil Plains (200+) JW. RW.
Musk Lorikeet. 16.7.85 Horsham Vic. (2) JW.RW.
Purple-crowned Lorikeet. 19.7.85. Little Desert Vic. (small flocks) JW. RW.
Australian King-Parrot. 11.10.85 40 Mabel St. AK.
Pallid Cuckoo. 2.8.85 Condobolin N.S.W. JW. RW.
20.11.85 40 Mabel St. AK.
Noisy Pitta. 27.10.85 Ravensbourne Nat. Park. AS.
Yellow-throated Scrubwren. 12.11.85 Ravensbourne Nat. Park. AS.

LB: Lesley Beaton. FB: Frank Belcher. NB: Nancy Belcher. REH: Ron Hopkinson.
AK: Angela Kilmartin. LR: Lyn Rowan. AS: Ann Shore. JW: John Walter.
RW: Ruth Walter.

FIELD DAY FOR JANUARY 1986.

Date: Sunday, January 26th. 1986.
Place: Redwood Park.
Assembly Point: Pigotts Car Park.
Time: 7.15am for departure 7.30am SHARP.
Leader: Lesley Beaton.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Club is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Neville and Wanda Goodman,
"SANGEH",
Blanchview Road,
M.S. 224 Toowoomba, 4352.

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