



"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. MAY 1986.

PLENTY MORE IN THE BUSH

With the Bi-centenary of this country's settlement by European races soon to be celebrated, it would seem to be appropriate to take stock of our environmental inventory. When the first settlers set out to "tame" the Australian wilderness they saw about them a land of apparent bounty. Whatever they needed they took with axe and gun, always knowing there was "plenty more in the bush".

The concept of "taming" the bush is well established. However, "taming" it suggests some wild creature which had to be subdued. Why?.

Before us, this land was populated for some 40,000 years by a people who did not feel the need to "tame" anything. In fact, recent research suggests that it may be 80,000 years since this country was first inhabited. Either way those people lived with, and off, the land, and it sustained them and they sustained it for their future needs, without greatly disturbing the environment.

Along comes white man (and woman, for the equal opportunity persons) with different needs and greed for trade and development. Down came the trees, to be sold or pushed aside for the plough. Down went the mine shafts for assorted minerals and slag heaps. Up went the high rise buildings to blot out the sunlight, and so it goes. Not that we could suddenly do without our cars or produce from farms, but we could, perhaps, have developed a lifestyle less dependent on white technology. A lifestyle more attuned to the fact that there is no longer "plenty more in the bush".

Australia is the driest continent on this little planet. Do we regard water as our most precious element?. No sir! Although we have built dams for storage, we drain wetlands as though they were our most useless feature. What about the other lifeforms that use wetlands?. Too bad; they can go somewhere else. If that somewhere else is already occupied, tough bikkies.

This is not to say we haven't accomplished some great things in our 200 years. We have, and we have learned much, but we have yet to learn that we must compromise our materialistic desires with the need to leave something in the bush for the next 200 years. If we could teach that to ourselves, our Governments, our big business, we would really have something to celebrate.

Why do Governments and business insist on "growth", when it has been so amply demonstrated that such growth consumes the three basics for life on this planet, land, water and unpolluted air?.

The late Julian Huxley, in his contemplation of the relationships between humans and Nature left us this last plea. It ought to be required reading for all politicians and managing directors.

"Life has been in existence over a thousand million years; modern man, perhaps a hundred thousand; and civilized man less than ten thousand. The astronomers give us at least a couple of thousand million years before conditions on this planet render existence impossible. Thus we can regard human history, with its wars, its famines, its miseries, and cruelties, as the merest fumbling beginnings of man's career. Only within the last hundred years has it been possible even to envisage our truest, most comprehensive task- that of introducing life to new experiences and new achievements, of continuing the rare upward progress of Evolution's past, in a richer, speedier and more conscious advance.

EDITORIAL C/td.

"We are surrounded by myriads of existence which are different from our own. That is the primary biological fact which the products of urban civilization are so apt to forget. Bee and spider, swallow and owl, koala and platypus-- they exist alongside of men and women, with their own distinctive lives to lead. Once we grasp this, we realize that their existence as well as our own contains something of intrinsic value.

But if it has intrinsic value, and value to its possessors, it also has value for us, in enlarging our experience, our understanding, and our sympathy. Every child for the first time discovering the queer creatures of the seashore, every student freshly introduced to the world of microscopic life, every boy or girl suddenly touched by the passion of natural history, is made aware of something new and exciting in the world. The life that thrusts itself upon him is different from himself; but by his interest he makes it in a sense part of himself. Waterskater and damselfly, sea weeds, and flowering rush, sundew, and red gum-- these are all alive, they have their own nature, they possess their own beauty or strangeness far beyond anything we could sit down and imagine for ourselves.

Those who concern themselves solely with man and his works are cut off from great territories of experience".

Ron Hopkinson.

WETLANDS--NOT JUST FOR THE BIRDS.

World Environment Day celebrations in Toowoomba will take place on Sunday June 1st. at Lake Annand.

Our Club is joining with Greenwatch to take part, with the theme of the project being, "Wetlands- Not just for the Birds". Organization of the stand is proceeding but we would welcome the presence of members on the day, perhaps to spend an hour or so chatting with visitors. Hope to see you there.

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We are indebted to Cath McGrath for this little gem, gleaned from the pages of "The New Idea", May 3rd.

An elderly lady was rummaging among the plastic-wrapped clothes pegs. "I'm just looking for the bright blue ones, dear. They're for the bower bird at the back of the garden". She really brightened my day.

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SPORT ? THAT'S FOR THE BIRDS.

A flock of pigeons once helped to score a Rugby League goal, worth two points. During a Public Service match in 1950 on the Sydney Domain, a player kicked for goal, but his kick was going wide of the uprights when a flock of pigeons crossed its path. The pigeons deflected the ball through the posts and referee M. Kilkeary correctly ruled a goal.

A white cockatoo was a keen barracker for the Carlton Australian Rules club at all its Melbourne matches during the 1930's. The cocky was owned by Mr. Bob St. Marr, and it stood week after week behind the goalposts, greeting each Carlton goal with squawks and wildly flapping wings.

From "Birds of Paradox", Landsdowne.

APRIL FIELD DAY 27.04.86. WESTERN BOUNDARIES OF T.B.C. STUDY AREA

After dodging all the hazards of detours and ring-roads our outing got off to a good start by going straight to "Narrawa", the Blackburn property on Euston Road. David, Gilbert and especially Kathryn welcomed us and took us for a wander along Spring Creek which meandered through their paddocks and patch of scrub. Although it had been so dry the creek was fed by springs and so was running merrily which accounted for the many small birds that were visible, and the bird of the outing, the male Rose Robin, was seen here.

Having shared morning tea with the carrying-ons of a Restless Flycatcher, Mistletoebirds and Red-rumped Parrots we left the Blackburns and continued to where Spring Creek crosses Drews Road to be delighted with views of Chestnut-breasted Mannikins and Tree Martins, amongst others.

Our journey took us onto Wellcamp State School and then to Westbrook, always hoping to catch a sight of a Red-capped Robin but no luck. A decision was made at Westbrook to go straight to our lunch venue of Atherton Park in Drayton which brought an end to our birding day.

Members present: Merv Baxter, Lesley, Peggie & Roy Beaton, David, Gilbert & Kathryn Blackburn, Elaine & Ron Box, Joe Deuble, Angela Kilmartin, Cath McGrath, Rachel & Susan Muller, Lyn Rowan, Ann & John Shore.

Species list: "Narrawa" - Straw-necked Ibis, Black-shouldered Kite, Feral Pigeon, Spotted Turtledove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Galah, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Cockatiel, Pale-headed Rosella, Welcome Swallow, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Rose Robin, Golden & Rufous Whistler, Restless Flycatcher, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Superb Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrubwren, White-throated Gerygone, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Noisy Miner, Brown Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, House Sparrow, Double-barred Finch, Common Starling, Common Mynah, Pied Butcherbird, Aust. Magpie, Pied Currawong, Crow.

Others (not seen at Narrawa) - Little Pied Cormorant, Sacred Ibis, Aust. Kestrel, Dusky Moorhen, Crested Pigeon, Red-rumped Parrot, Laughing Kookaburra, Tree Martin, Zebra Finch, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Aust. Magpie-lark.

45 species

Lesley Beaton

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EXECUTIVE NOTES

This month among other business the Executive went over the details of the joint display that the Toowoomba Bird Club and Toowoomba Green Watch are going to have at World Environment Day. Once again we'll use the Bicentennial Waterbird Park model as a focal point as well as other displays. The theme this year is "Wetlands ... not just for the birds."

The Avicultural Society has asked me to give a talk on our Club and its activities at its next meeting. Ron Hopkinson is accompanying me to help with any knotty questions.

Anne informed us that a reporter from "Country Life" had requested information on the Club with the view of a future article. To all those that subscribe - look out for us.

Lesley Beaton, President

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Black Kite. 25.4.86. Toowoomba Abattoir. LB. PB. RRB.
Square-tailed Kite. 4.5.86. Hood's Lagoon. LB. JB. MA.
Powerful Owl. 6.4.86. Redwood Park. LB.
Rose Robin. 20.4.86. Jubilee Park. AK. LR.
Satin Bowerbird. 13.4.86. (female) Spring St. East. JD.

MA: Michael Atzeni. JB: John Ball. LB: Lesley Beaton. PB: Peggy Beaton
RRB: Roy Beaton. JD: Joe Deuble. AK: Angela Kilmartin. LR: Lyn Rowan.

FIELD DAY FOR MAY.

Date: Sunday, May 25th 1986.
Place: Maclagan.
Assembly Point: Meet at the Quinalow-Maclagan turn-off at Jondaryan.
Time: 8.00am.
Leader: Diana Beale.

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SEASONAL SPECIES SURVEY JANUARY 1986

This Supplement gives the results of the survey for January of this year. Yet to follow is the Annual Summary for 1985 which will be based on returns for every month of the year.

The figure refer to the sector in which the species was recorded, 1/2/3/4 being the Uprange(Western) block and 5/6/7/8 the Downrange(Eastern) block.

<u>NON-PASSERINE</u>	
Australasian Grebe	4.5.7.8
Darter	7
Little Blk. Cormorant	7
Little Pied Cormorant	5 7
Pacific Heron	4 7
White-fcd. Heron	3.4.5.6.7.8
Cattle Egret	5. 7.8
Great Egret	7
Little Egret	7
Intermediate Egret	7
Sacred Ibis	1.3.5
Straw-necked Ibis	1.2.3.4.5.7.8
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	5. 7
Plumed Whist-duck	5.7.8
Black Swan	7
Pacific blk. Duck	3 5 7
Grey Teal	7.8
Pink-eared Duck	7
Hardhead	7
Maned Duck	5 7
Black-shld. Kite	1.3.5.7.8
Collared Sparrowhawk	3
Wedge-tailed Eagle	3.5
Australian Hobby	4.7
Australian Kestrel	1.2.3.4.5.7.8
Brown Quail	5
Spotless Crake	5
Dusky Moorhen	5.7
Purple Swamphen	5
Eurasian Coot	7
Masked Lapwing	1.3.4.5.7.8
Red-kneed Dotterel	7
Black-fronted Plover	7
Black-winged Stilt	7
Silver Gull	7
Whiskered Tern	7
Feral Pigeon	1.3.4.5.7
Spotted Turtledove	3
Peaceful Dove	3. 5
Bar-shldrd Dove	1.3.4.5.6.7.8
Emerald Dove	3
Crested Pigeon	1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8
Wonga Pigeon	3
Galah	1.2.3.4.5.7
Sulphur-crstd Cockatoo	3
Rainbow Lorikeet	3
Scaly-brstd Lorikeet	3.4.5.7
Austn. King Parrot	4
Cockatiel	1.3.7.8
Pale-hd. Rosella	1.3.4.5.7.8
Red-rumped Parrot	1.2.3.4
Pallid Cuckoo	5
Brush Cuckoo	5
Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo	3
Common Koel	3.4.5.7
Channel-billed Cuckoo	4.5.7
Pheasant Coucal	3.4.5.6.7.8
Southern Boobook	3.4
Tawny Frogmouth	4
White-thrtd Needle-tail	3.4.5
Laughing Kookaburra	3.4.5.7.8
Sacred Kingfisher	4.5.7.8
Rainbow Bee-eater	4.5.7
Dollarbird	3.4.5.6.7.8

SEASONAL SPECIES SURVEY JANUARY 1986 C/td.

PASSERINE

Singing Bushlark	2	Yellow-rmpd Thornbill	3.4.5.7
White-bckd Swallow	6.7	Yellow Thornbill	2
Welcome Swallow	1.3.4.5.6.7	White-thrtd Treecreeper	4
Tree Martin	6.7	Striped Honeyeater	5
Fairy Martin	3.5.7.8	Noisy Friarbird	3.4.5.7.8
Richard's Pipit	4.6.7.8	Little Friarbird	4.5.7.8
Blk-fcd Cuckoo-shrike	3.4.5.6.7.8	Blue-fcd Honeyeater	3.5
Cicadabird	3.5	Noisy Miner	1.3.4.5.6.7.8
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	5	Lewin's Honeyeater	3.4.5
Eastern Yellow Robin	3.5	Yellow-fcd Honeyeater	3
Jacky Winter	7	White-naped Honeyeater	4
Rufous Whistler	5	Brown Honeyeater	3.4.5
Grey Shrike-thrush	3. 5	Mistletoebird	3.5.7.8
Blk-fcd Monarch	3	Spotted Pardalote	4
Spectacled Monarch	3.5	Striated Pardalote	3.4.7
Restless Flycatcher	5	Silvereye	3.4.5.7.8
Rufous Fantail	3.5	House Sparrow	1.2.3.4.5.7.8
Willie Wagtail	1.3.4.5.6.7.8	Red-brwd Firetail	3.4.5
Eastern Whipbird	3.4.5.7.8	Zebra Finch	1.2.7
Grey-crnd Babbler	5	Double-barred Finch	1.4.5.7.8
Clamorous Reed Warbler	1.4	Plum-headed Finch	1
Little Grassbird	2	Chestnut-brstd Mannikin	6.7
Golden-hd. Cisticola	1.2.3.4.5.7	Common Starling	1.2.3.4.5.6.7
Brown Songlark	1	Common Mynah	1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8
Superb Fairy-wren	3.4.5.6.7.8	Olive-backed Oriole	4.5.6.8
Variegated Fairy-wren	4.5	Figbird	5.8
Red-bkd Fairy-wren	5.6.7.8	Spangled Drongo	3.5
White-brwd Scrubwren	4.5. 8	Aust. Magpie-lark	1.3.4.5.6.7.8
Speckled Warbler	4	Grey Butcherbird	4.8
Brown Gerygone	3	Pied Butcherbird	1.3.4.5.6.8
White-thrtd Gerygone	5 .7	Aust. Magpie	3.4.5.7
Brown Thornbill	3.5	Pied Currawong	1.3.4.5.6.7.8
		Torresian Crow	1.3.4.5.6.7.8

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