



"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.

CLUB BRIEFS.

On the evening of Tuesday, May 27th., Lesley Beaton, by invitation, addressed the meeting of the Toowoomba Branch of the Avicultural Society of Queensland. Lesley told of our Club's activities, with emphasis on our local study area and our involvement with the Bi-centennial Waterbird Park. This was coupled with a well chosen selection of colour slides of the various types of habitat encountered in our area, and some of the birds from our list. Several of the people present saw birds they had not seen before. As the meeting attracted in excess of fifty people and an enquiry was made about joining our Club, it was a very useful P.R. exercise for us.

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Two new birds have been added to the list being compiled for the Waterbird Park. Although they are already on the Club list from other parts of the area, they have not previously been recorded for the Park.

Black-fronted Plover (*Charadrius melanops*) was recorded on April 26th by Lesley Beaton and John Ball.

On May 24th Lesley, John and Mary Ann Law recorded a Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) present among a group of Straw-necked Ibis.

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The Black Swans which have been nesting at Hood's Lagoon have succeeded with a family of four cygnets.

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The Australian and Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Services are co-operating in a survey of the distribution and abundance of Ground Parrots in South Eastern Queensland. They would be very grateful for assistance in the way of records of this species anywhere in Queensland. If you have ever recorded Ground Parrots would you please contact the Records Officer with details of date, time, numbers and place.

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Seen any White-headed Pigeons lately? If you have, then again the Records Officer would like to know. Or conversely, if you are not seeing them now in places where once you did, that information would be of value, too.

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FILM EVENING REPORT. WEDNESDAY MAY 24th.

It was a great pleasure to once again be able to see some of the film making of Bob Dorricott. A group of fifteen members and friends gathered at the Toowoomba Education Centre on Wednesday 14th May to be shown his three prize-winning films, "In Search of Gold", "Gentle Invaders", and "Watch the Birdie".

The first was set in the Lamington National Park where the main object of the search was the splendid black and gold Regent Bowerbird. The camera followed the searcher through magnificent natural scenery with many stops to look at other birds, flora, fauna and things of scenic interest before eventually finding the Bowerbird busy at his bower which he had decorated with all manner of small blue objects, hoping to attract a suitable wife.

Cattle Egrets were featured in the second film. These beautiful birds, now well established in this country, in a profitable association with cattle, were seen in all the glory of their full breeding plumage at their rookery to the North-east of Gatton. Close-ups of hundreds of nests, almost dwarfing the Melaleucas- nest building, eggs and young in all stages of development; a cacophony of noise as the voracious youngsters grew ever more demanding of their hard-pressed parents; first efforts at flight and threats from marauders- all were filmed in superb detail.

FILM EVENING REPORT C/td.

The final film gave one a glimpse into the trials and tribulations of a young photographer's efforts at filming all kinds of wildlife. A break for refreshment then brought to a close an evening of much enjoyment. Our very sincere thanks to Bob Dorricott for giving his time to show us these fascinating films.

Members Present:

Laurie and Michael Atzeni  
Merv Baxter  
Ron Box  
Marilyn Jacobs  
Angela Kilmartin

Pat McConnell  
Cath McGrath  
Ann Shore  
Audrey and Ray Viljoen

Friends:

Jane and Jim Corbin  
Sandy Pottinger  
David Gleason

Ann Shore

EXECUTIVE NOTES.

The most exciting project in the pipeline at the moment is a booklet being published that explains the Club's study area. This has been compiled by Ron Hopkinson with assistance from a sub-committee. The booklet describes the sectors our study area covers, including sketch maps. It will be available for members who are keen to assist in our survey of the birds of the Toowoomba/Helidon region.

The talk I gave to the Toowoomba branch of the Avicultural Society of Queensland seemed to be well received by fifty-odd members at its meeting. Ron Hopkinson came along to give me much needed moral support. A number of members showed interest in the slides that I presented, and the Club's activities. Thank you to Marilyn for her part in helping me prepare the talk and the loan of the majority of the slides.

Lesley Beaton

FIELD DAY REPORT: MAY 25th. "PARKLANDS", MACLAGAN AREA.

Members collected at 8.00am at Jondaryan and then drove North towards the Bunya Mountains and the property, "Parklands".

Hardy members present were: Les and Betty Porter, Merv. Baxter, Lesley Beaton, Gloria Glass, Angela Kilmartin, Ann and John Shore and Diana Beal.

Several good sightings were made at creek lines and wetter areas by the side of the road; these included Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Pacific Heron, Straw-necked Ibis and Maned Duck. In one remnant patch of Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*) and Poplar Box (*Eucalyptus populnea*), Grey-crowned Babblers, Superb Fairy-wrens, Yellow Thornbills, Striated Thornbills and Mistletoe-birds were seen. The male Superb Fairy-wren was just coming into breeding plumage and his usual cobalt blue appeared sky blue instead.

We were welcomed at the property by Nigel Park and taken to a high ridge, shown an old Australian Brush-turkey mound and then let loose on our own. After much needed light refreshments, we set off along the ridge and down into a delightful creek area, which in more bountiful times would be a lovely, running, high mountain stream. The softwood scrub growing around was ample evidence of the more usual micro-climate.

Mosses and lichens grew aplenty and *Elattostachys xylocarpa*, *Flindersia collina*, *Owenia* sp., *Elaeodendron australe* and *Acacia salicina* were much in evidence.

FIELD DAY REPORT C/td.

Birds seen on the property were:

Wedge-tailed Eagle (perfect, almost straight up views)	
Masked Lapwing	Yellow Thornbill
Banded Lapwing	Striated Thornbill
Bar-shouldered Dove	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Crested Pigeon	Striped Honeyeater
Galah	Noisy Miner
Cockatiel	Lewin's Honeyeater
Pale-headed Rosella	Brown Honeyeater
Laughing Kookaburra	Mistletoebird
Fairy Martin	Striated Pardalote
Eastern Yellow Robin	Silvereye
Golden Whistler	House Sparrow
Grey Fantail	Double-barred Finch
Willie Wagtail	Common Starling
Grey-crowned Babbler	Australian Magpie-lark
Superb Fairy-wren	Australian Magpie
White-browed Scrubwren	Pied Currawong
Brown Thornbill	Torresian Crow
Yellow-rmpd. Thornbill	

Other Birds seen on the way to the property were:

Black-shouldered Kite	Pheasant Coucal
Brown Falcon	Richard's Pipit
Australian Kestrel	Olive-backed Oriole
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Apostlebird
Rainbow Lorikeet	Grey Butcherbird
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Pied Butcherbird
Red-rumped Parrot	

Diana Beal

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES.

Australian Pelican. 17.5.86. Hood's Lagoon. MA. PM.

Cotton Pygmy-Goose. 17.5.86. Hood's Lagoon. MA. PM.

MA: Michael Atzeni. PM: Pat McConnell.

FIELD DAY FOR JUNE.

Date: Sunday, June 22nd. 1986

Place: Spicer's Gap.

Assembly Point: Lower picnic ground, below the dam wall at Moogerah Dam.

Birding and morning tea here--travelling on to Spicers  
for lunch and more birding.

Time: 8.45am

Leaders: Roy and Peggie Beaton.

This should be an enjoyable day in several ways. Quite apart from the birding, the area is full of scenic and historical interest. The Gap and Spicer's Peak are named for the overseer of convicts who built the first road through the gap. The view of the Fassifern Valley from Governors Chair is spectacular. Governors Chair is so named because in the very early days of settlement in this State, the Governor could see all of settled Queensland from this point.

FIELD DAY FOR JUNE C/td.

There is, or was, a theory held that it was actually this (Spicer's) Gap which was discovered by Alan Cunningham. Certainly the convict built road (over which you will travel), linking Brisbane with the Darling Downs, traversed this gap before the road was constructed over Cunningham's Gap.

Also of interest will be the site of the graves of the pioneers who died or were accidentally killed on journeys over the road. Not much remains now, but the last time I was there a large stone obelisk stood at the site.

For your guidance, I have taken the liberty of reproducing here the map provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, which controls the Main Range National Park, of which Spicer's Gap forms part. I feel sure the Service would not object.

Ron Hopkinson.

