



toowoomba bird club

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

NEWSLETTER No. 131 NOVEMBER 1986

FIELD DAY for NOVEMBER

Date: Sunday late afternoon/evening, November 23
Place: Webb Park - birdwatch and BBQ
followed by Spotighting in Redwood Park
Assembly Point: Webb Park - eastern end of Campbell Street
Time: 4 p.m.
Leader: Lesley Beaton

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Lesley Beaton	Phone 32 6262
Secretary	Ann Shore	Phone 30 3207
Treasurer	Lyn Rowan	Phone 35 9118
Records Officer	Angela Kilmartin	Phone 38 2404
Librarian	Nancy Belcher	Phone 38 4047
Editor	Gloria Glass	Phone 30 7054

Activities Field Day and Monthly Meeting - 4th Sunday of each month.
Usually depart from McDonnell & East car park at 7.30 am.

Camping trips and film and slide evenings.

Newsletter Published monthly, prior to the Field Day. Contributions should be mailed to the P.O. Box. Deadline is the last day of the month.

Annual Subscription Ordinary Membership \$10.00
Family Membership \$12.00
Student Membership \$ 5.00

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

SPRING ANTIPHONAL CALLS

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("Antiphon": n. Verse of psalm intoned or sung responsively by alternating choirs during Divine Service. Concise Oxford Dictionary)

Ann Shore has reported excitedly to me hearing a new birdcall emanating from the direction of Redwood Park. It consisted of one note repeated three or four times, followed by another note, possibly three tones lower, also repeated three or four times. The call is particularly even, and most exciting to listen to.

As a birdo of some enthusiasm I could not restrain myself from relating how I heard this call while living at Caboolture. On the very first morning in my new surroundings (so very different from Toowoomba city) I heard this amazing call. I flew out of bed - noticing the time was 4.24 - grabbed my binoculars, and tore out into the rather jungle-like garden. I couldn't find the culprit anywhere. All I could see were a few Noisy Miners.

These antics went on for some weeks. It was always 24 minutes past four when the calls started, and all I could ever find in the garden were a few Noisy Miners.

Finally I satisfied myself that the call was actually made by the Miners! But to this day I cannot say whether one bird sings the whole song, or whether it is performed antiphonally by two.

You will be pleased to learn that the calls ceased by the end of November and I was able to sleep a little later!

Gloria Glass

(Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds, Noisy Miner "Song: Before sunrise at onset of or during nesting, pure whistles and antiphonal notes emitted in chorus.")

FIELD OUTING - 26 October 1986

to GLEN LOMOND & UPPER FLAGSTONE CK

Twentyone people turned out for a very enjoyable day of birding. A nice walk along the graded fire tracks through Glen Lomond gave us good sightings of Bar-shouldered Doves, Variegated and Superb Fairy-wrens, Spangled Drongos, Eastern Yellow Robin, Pale-headed Rosella, Grey Butcher-bird on nest, and one Koala.

Seven birdos travelled on to Flagstone Creek, where Superb Fairy-wren and Red-browed Firetail were the highlights.

Thanks to Ron and Nancy for taking us up the Gorman Gap road looking for Glossy Black Cockatoos. Our only sightings were of the Brown Cuckoo-dove, a goanna and a swamp wallaby.

Last bird for the outing was the Mistletoebird, near a beautiful spot on the lower Flagstone Creek road.

Members present: Angela Kilmartin, Ann and John Shaw, Anne & Bradley Dremman, Peggy and Roy Beaton, Ron & Nancy Gooding, Frank & Nancy Belcher, Gloria Glass, Diana Beal, Audrey Sorenson, Pat McConnell, Ray Viljoen, Lyn Rowan, Margaret & Kevin McPhee, Jane White and Matthew Williams.

Lyn Rowan

John and Ann Shore most sincerely thank all their friends in the Bird Club for their kind cards, messages and expressions of sympathy following the tragic death of John's son, David, recently in a road accident.

BIRD QUIZ from "QUIZZICAL"

(Our mystery quiz writer)

1. Name four carbohydrate-rich substances produced in eucalypt forests and relished by birds.
2. What does "Torresian" mean (as in "Torresian Crow")?
3. Name the endemic Australian bird groups that are the major - (a) nectar-feeders, (b) terrestrial predators, (c) foliage-feeding insectivores, (d) bark-foraging insectivores, (e) aerial insectivores.
4. Honeyeaters obtain their protein requirements from (a)... and their energy from (b)... and (c)....

Send in your answers before the end of November. There are prizes for ALL correct answers received. See December's Newsletter for Answers 2-4. However in the interest of readers who like myself "can't ever wait", A.1 is in this issue. (What are the prizes? Having your name printed in the December Newsletter as a winner!)

A.G.M. & ORDINARY MEETING of OCT 7, 1986

Fifteen people gathered at the President's home.

The President's Report covered all the activities undertaken by the Club in the last year as well as some of the behind-the-scenes business undertaken by the Executive.

The Bicentennial Waterbird Habitat and the mist-netting and banding of birds were projects given special mention, members being urged to support the former project in any way possible.

After thanking the Executive, and Marilyn Jacobs for organizing the film evening and our part in the 1985 Q.O.S. Bird Count; and John Ball for producing photographs and daily checking the Club's Post Box, the report ended with this thought ...

'I should like to look to the future, where I see the Bicentennial Waterbird Habitat and the production of the Birds of the Toowoomba District booklet as projects needing most support from our members. This can be done in one or more of several ways - by continuing your membership, encouraging friends to join our Club, by giving donations of money or time, or by helping with the valuable and enjoyable task of record-gathering which after all is the Club's main function - birdwatching.'

Treasurer's Report This has been printed in the October Newsletter.

Election of Officers The following were elected unopposed: **President**, Lesley Beaton; **Secretary** Ann Shore; **Records Officer**, Angela Kilmartin; **Librarian**, Nancy Belcher; **Editor**, Ron Hopkinson.

Two nominations were received for the position of **Treasurer** - Gloria Glass and Lyn Rowan. After votes were counted, Lyn Rowan was elected.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

The ordinary meeting immediately followed.

All the proposed Constitutional Changes published in the Newsletter were adopted.

The issue of subscription increases was discussed, the final outcome being: Family Membership \$12, Ordinary Membership \$10, Student Membership \$5, on the condition that the length of the newsletter was reduced in order to save costs.

The ex-Treasurer, Diana Beal, suggested that the Club's financial year be changed to commence at each **1st November**. This was seen as good sense and recommended to be published so that it could be discussed and voted on at the November outing/meeting as it involved a Constitutional change.

After a few notices, the meeting closed at 8.50 and was followed by an illustrated talk by Dr Adrian Allen on the Toowoomba Japanese Garden.

(If any member would like a full copy of the minutes of the A.G.M., please send a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary.)

CHANGE of EDITOR

We are extremely sorry to lose Ron Hopkinson as Editor of the Newsletter. His editorials were compulsive reading and the knowledge, writing ability and valued hard work that he brought to this often onerous monthly task will be greatly missed by all of us.

Gloria Glass has kindly agreed to take over at short notice and we wish her all success.

Ann Shore, Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to two new members this month: JOHN LEDEZ and OWEN JOLLY.

OUR NEWSLETTER

Due to space limitations imposed by financial constraints, the following items will not appear in the Newsletter in future.

Library Notes - the newsletters, journals and magazines will be received regularly and be available to members at the outings. Any new books will get a brief mention.

Executive Notes - any Executive activities of interest will be fully discussed during morning tea at our monthly outings.

Bird lists of outing reports - will be held by the Records Officer.

If any member has a particular objection, please come to the November outing and voice your opinion.

LAKE DYER

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As some members already know, many changes are taking place at Lake Dyer, near Laidley, a great haunt of waterbirds, and one which has been frequently monitored by our Club in the last ten years.

Construction work is taking place to transform the lake into a larger water storage to hold 9000 megalitres and cover 110 hectares. The dam is expected to be completed by June 1987.

In addition to the main deep water dam, with spillways, etc, boating facilities and picnic area, the design includes sloped inlets for wildlife reserves and a marshy sanctuary area with an island. There are trees in these sanctuaries, which when dead after being flooded, will be retained for nesting waterbirds. These reserves will be covered with the large amounts of black clay not suitable in the main dam, which are full of nutrients.

On Saturday, 25 October, five members of the Bird Club attended an explanatory meeting on the site, given by involved engineers and officials of the Water Resources Commission and the Lockyer Watershed Management Association.

Club members were happy to see that there was then some water in the remaining still recognisable part of the old lake, contrary to one member's last visit some six weeks earlier when the site appeared completely dry. There were a considerable number of waterbirds present despite the noisy construction work going on all around them. Unfortunately it was not possible to get close enough to identify all the species, except for Black-winged Stilts and Whiskered Terns.

Ann Shore

LOCKYER PEACE & FOLK FESTIVAL

21, 22, 23 November 1986 at HELLDON REST AREA

Lesley Beaton will be leading a Birdwalk for this festival, beginning at 7 a.m. on Saturday 22 November. Any other members who would like to take part are welcome.

DETAILS for NOVEMBER'S FIELD DAY - 23 November - See front page

This is to be our final outing for the year. At 4 p.m. we will be birdwatching in Webb Park, with the Barbecue (usual BYO food, etc) using the gas fires in the park, at about 5.30. Following this, at about 6.30 p.m., we will walk to the Bridge Street entrance of Redwood Park. Lesley hopes our spotlighting will reveal the Powerful Owl. Bring torches for walking.

MEMBERS'S BIRD NOTES

Regent Bowerbird, small flock, all "browns", 25.10.86, Laidley Valley, Southern Tip, AS
Regent Bowerbird, 2.10.86, Echo Valley, MA
Musk Duck, 5.10.86, Hood's Lagoon, MA, PM
Black-faced Woodswallow (4), 4.10.86, Wyreema, MA
White-winged Triller, 11.10.86, Harristown, MA
3.11.86, McIntyre St, LR
Crimson Rosella, Sylvan Court, MJ
White-winged Triller, 17.10.86, DDIAE, MJ
Topknot Pigeon (100+), 19.10.86, Log Cabin entr, Redwood Pk, LB, JB, LR, AK

MA Michael Atzeni	MJ Marilyn Jacobs
JB John Ball	PM Pat McConnell
LB Lesley Beaton	LR Lyn Rowan
AK Angela Kilmartin	AS Ann Shore

WESTBROOK NOTES

Just a note from Coupers Road. Flocks of **Straw-necked Ibis** (100-150), with a few **White Ibis** (5-9) and 2 **Glossy Ibis** feeding along flats. **Wood Ducks**, **Grey Teal** and **Black Ducks** near Westbrook Creek.

The **Nankeen Kestrel** and **Black-shouldered Kite** chased the little flock of **Superb Fairy-wrens** away. **Galahs**, **Pale-headed Rosellas** and **Red-rumped Parrots** nesting.

The **Crested Pigeons** have two small ones, after they have changed shifts every three hours for a couple of weeks. It was very interesting to watch as just on sunrise we would hear a call, and see a changeover; then about three hours later another call and changeover, and so on until dusk; now quite a few calls and the bird out will come in with feed.

Jane White

ANSWER to QUIZ Question 1

A.1 Carbohydrate-rich substances: nectar; manna (exuded by injured eucalypts); lerp (exuded by scale insects) and honeydew (exuded by aphids).