

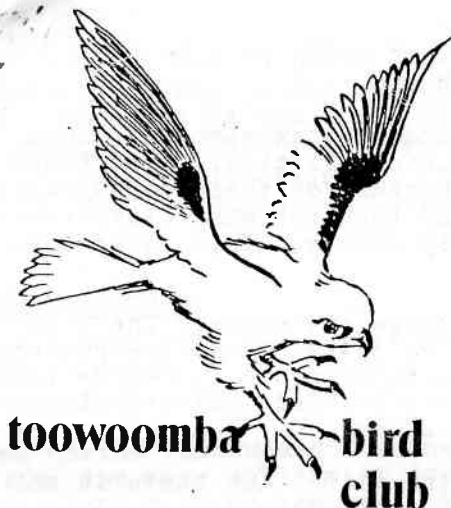
TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

POSTAL ADDRESS

P.O. Box 67
Darling Heights. Q. 4350

CLUB OFFICERS

President:	Lesley Beaton	Ph 32 6262
Secretary:	Ann Shore	Ph 30 3207
Treasurer:	Lyn Rowan	Ph 35 9118
Records:	Angela Kilmartin	Ph 38 2404
Librarian:	Nancy Belcher	Ph 38 4047
Editor:	Ron Hopkinson	Ph 35 4952



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

No. 141 - SEPTEMBER 1987

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

"Spring has sprung, the grass is riz,
I wonder where the flowers is ?
The boid is on the wing - but dat's absoid,
'Cos we all know, the wing is on the boid".

Spring is here and the old comic poem serves to remind us of the fact. Whether you judge the start of spring by the calendar or the vernal equinox, by the time you read this spring will surely be sprung.

In the world of birds springtime means increased activity, with mates to find and nests to build. In the world of a TBC member there is increased activity too. The summer migrants are beginning to arrive and we have to be out and about to record them (Bee-eaters have been seen already). Even if you are not yet participating in the monthly checklist scheme it would still be of value to record your first seasonal sighting of the migrants and pass the information on to the Records Officer. Can do ?

Another exciting activity coming up is the Bird-A-Thon. It offers us an opportunity to revive the annual count day and also raise funds for the "Habitat". A sponsorship form is included with this issue. The layout is straightforward, with a 'Donation' column for those folk who prefer to simply make a donation rather than sponsor you. There is also a request to return the form by Wednesday, October 21. This will help final arrangements. When the species figure is known the two 'Total' columns will be completed and you will be able to collect the amount from your sponsors. Extra forms are available.

Having participated in eight previous counts I can recommend them as great fun and good birding. Whether you attend for all, or only part of, the day I feel sure you will go home satisfied. Please try to 'be in it'.

And please, don't feel that you have to be able to singlehandedly identify every bird on the list. It is a TEAM effort, remember, and plenty of willing assistance will be available. We will all learn something from the day.

If you can make it, would you let us know by the end of September ?

Good Birding

Ron Hopkinson

FLIGHT -- THE MECHANICS

Dynamic soaring or gust flying is the name applied to the method which pelagic birds, such as albatrosses, employ to stay aloft for long periods at sea.

An albatross cannot fly in still air, but needs a constant wind to stay airborne. Thus they are found in the latitudes of the Roaring Forties, or Furious Fifties, where there is such a constant wind. They are capable of a fast glide, because of their aerodynamic qualities. Also important to their flight pattern is the fact that the wind close to the sea surface travels slower than at a level of about twenty metres. This is because of friction with the surface of the water.

We begin the cycle with a bird at a height of twenty metres above the water. The bird goes into a slanting glide downwind, which imparts increased velocity. Near the surface the bird turns into the wind and uses the velocity or "penetration" to rise upwards with the lift gained from the airflow. The bird thus climbs back to the original starting height, to begin the cycle again. All done without flapping a wing.

The distance flown upwind is slightly greater than the downwind glide. So there is a net gain to the bird of perhaps fifty metres against the wind, with each cycle. In this fashion these birds can roam over the ocean in their search for food.

References: Bird Behaviour. Burton. Granada Publishing.
How Birds Work. Freethy. Blandford Press. Ron Hopkinson
Birds. Readers Digest Assoc.

*** **

FAIRY-WRENS WITH FLOWERS

Ann Shore, in her "Birding Notes from Withcott", (TBC. Newsletter 139, July 1987), made note of a male Superb Fairy-wren, in new breeding plumage, carrying a yellow flower in its beak.

A similar occurrence was reported in this journal by Angela Kilmartin (TBC. News-sheet 109, January 1985). Angela saw a male Superb Fairy-wren in her garden flying around with a yellow cassia petal in its bill.

In News-sheet No. 111 (March 1985) Joe Deuble told of seeing a male Red-backed Fairy-wren with a red nasturtium petal in its beak.

Perhaps this is part of breeding activity by Fairy-wrens. Has any other member seen similar behaviour, or has any thoughts to offer on this interesting information?

Ron Hopkinson

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

- Maggie Goose (9). 1.9.87. Lockyer Valley Abattoir lagoon. REH.
- Plumed Whistling-duck (300+). 1.9.87. Lockyer Valley Abattoir lagoon. REH.
- Brown Goshawk. 2.7.87. Airborne over city. AK.
- " " 11.8.87. 15 Dunmore Street. LB. PB. RRB.
- Australian Brush-turkey. 1.8.87. Silver Pinch Road. LB. JB.
- Red-necked Avocet (38). 7.8.87. Helidon Spa. WHJ. EVJ.
- " " " (41). 12.8.87. " " WHJ. EVJ.
- " " " (30). 1.9.87. " " REH.
- White-headed Pigeon (3). 9.8.87. Queens Park. JD.
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. 21.8.87. Commonwealth Athletic Oval. LB.
- Little Lorikeet (2). 20.8.87. "Ringmere", Withcott. WHJ. EVJ.
- Rainbow Bee-eater. 25.8.87. "Ringmere", Withcott-- first sighting for this Spring. WHJ. EVJ.
- " " " (5). 30.8.87. Gowrie Junction. EB.
- Scarlet Honeyeater (calling). 23.8.87. 40 Mabel Street. AK.
- " " " 26.8.87. "Tara Park", Gowrie Junction. Flew into kitchen at dusk. Captured and released. EB.

JB: John Ball. EB: Enid Beal. LB: Lesley Beaton. PB: Peggie Beaton. RRB: Roy Beaton
JD: Joe Deuble. REH: Ron Hopkinson. EVJ: Eileen Jolly. WHJ: Bill Jolly. AK: Angela Kilmartin

Y.T.B.C. SURVEY

The Records Officer has requested that members participating in the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo survey complete and return any outstanding forms they may have.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Club is very pleased to welcome as a new member:- Mrs. Barbara Weller,
Unit 2, No. 4 Muir Street
Toowoomba.

And welcome back to Don Gaydon, 216 West Street, Toowoomba.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Every club needs public relations, or "P.R." as the men in grey flannel suits like to say. Our club is too small to appoint a member to this task solely. However, our Secretary, Ann Shore, on two occasions recently was able to wave the Club flag. Ann visited, by invitation, the State Schools at Withcott and Bowenville, to talk to pupils about the Club and birding, and was well received. Nice one, Ann.

*** **

OOPS DEPARTMENT

If you read "The Chronicle" and the "Downs Star" coming events notices recently of a TBC field day on August 26 (a Wednesday), or heard the radio stations trying to make sense of "Sunday August 26th", then wonder no more.

Some unkind folk would say the fault lay with your Editor (part of whose task it is to advise the news outlets of such events). The mystery was solved, however, by exhaustive tests conducted on the pen. Whenever I write 23rd it comes out as 26th. I now have a new pen.

Sorry about that, chief !!

*** **

NOTES FROM THE FASSIFERN VALLEY

I have not contributed to the TBC Newsletter for some time as I have been helping to form a Field Naturalist Club in our own area of the Boonah Shire. We are now the Fassifern Field Naturalists Club with our own newsletter, of which I am editor. We have monthly outings which are well attended and interesting.

At our last outing, to a very interesting and untouched patch of scrub on a stony hillside, our guest of honour, a very well known figure in the naturalists' world was entering a discussion on club newsletters. I overheard him remark, "I'll tell you who put out a really good and interesting newsletter - the Toowoomba Bird Club". I might add that he did not know that I had any connection with the club.

Congratulations to all Editors of the TBC Newsletter and all who have contributed to it!

Our resident Grey-crowned Babblers have been affected by the approach of Spring and give us a great deal of amusement -- but first I must set the scene. The windows of our house are of the old-fashioned sash type. As only the lower half opens, we have put insect screens on this lower half only, the edge of the aluminium frame coming to the cross bar of the window on the outer side.

One morning this week I awoke with a start, thinking a flock of domestic ducks had invaded the front verandah, near my bedroom window. Investigation showed that the babblers were conducting a noisy courtship on this narrow ledge of aluminium. They continually stroked each other's beak, intertwining them and stroking each other's head. The female sidled down the strip, the male pressing her closely, until she was stopped by the window frame. 'My chance', thought the male - but as he tried to mount her they overbalanced and fell off their scanty perch.

They flew on to the lawn, had a snack, then the female returned to her aluminium perch. The male followed and the process was repeated and once more they fell off. This continued for twenty minutes or more, varied only by the male trying to entice the female on to the verandah rail - or into the cypress pine on the lawn. To no avail, the female was adamant; obviously the aluminium strip was her ideal setting for any romantic scene.

The noisy activity continued at intervals all day and part of the next. All three front verandah windows were tried as were two side ones - all having the same type of screens - before they gave up their attempts. However they have not deserted us as a result of their disappointment and we still hear their chuckling calls around the garden and watch them in their hunt for food.

Peggie Beaton

*** **

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of this club will take place on Tuesday, October 13, 1987.

John and Lesley have kindly allowed the use of their home at 15 Dunmore Street as the venue. The meeting will begin at 7.30pm.

The Executive extends an invitation to all members to attend.

*** **

FIELD DAY FOR SEPTEMBER

Date: Sunday, September 27. Place: Ravensbourne N.P.

New meeting place: At the Park. The top picnic area. Time: 7.30am.

*** **

FIELD DAY REPORT -- WITHCOTT AREA -- 23 AUGUST.

Birding early on a winter's morning can be a decidedly chilly occupation - as many enthusiasts will know ! With fingers fumbling to focus and gusty Antarctic winds madly blowing the leaves it can be hard to see birds, let alone identify them. So when it's time for an August outing we keep our fingers crossed.

However, no worries this time. A calm, mild and overcast day - so, what birds should we find just below and east of the Range ? First stop, Puzzling Gully on the Iredale Road, cool and damp after an overnight shower, to look and listen for one of our small and most elusive birds, the Spotless Crake. One quick glimpse for Lesley then nothing but a few tantalising whirring calls. No sun and little else about so on to "Lacewood", the Derrymore hill-top farm of members, Greg and Heather Zirbel, who were keen to show us their birds.

Large Moreton Bay Fig, and Pepperina, trees surround the house, providing both a nesting haven and a harvest for various species. Heather drew our attention to two Tawny Frogmouths, blending in so perfectly against the trunk of an old fig that newer birders among us found them scarcely believable. Above, in the branches were dozens of Fig-birds in splendid new plumage, feasting greedily and noisily while nearby a party of Grey-crowned Babblers were constructing another of their large communal nests. There was sudden consternation when four Pale-headed Rosellas tried to sneak off with some of the nesting material, much to our amusement.

By then the sun had appeared and the temperature risen and as we dropped down into a gully with its scrub trees and thickets, there were small birds everywhere. Whistlers, Wrens, Thornbills, Honeyeaters, Pardalotes and Finches; Mistletoebirds, a female Rose Robin and Olive-backed Orioles guzzling berries. Yellow-rumped Thornbills were nesting and we saw Blue Wrens carrying nesting material. Everywhere was a feeling of Spring in the air. We finished our very enjoyable visit to Derrymore by sitting down to morning tea with our hospitable hosts; their promise of good birding more than made good.

On return to Withcott we stopped briefly to admire the brilliant colours of a pair of Rainbow Bee-eaters near the Lockyer and looked in at Helidon Spa to see the large group of Red-necked Avocets. The day recorded a total of 60 species in all; the Records Officer holds the full list.

Members present:- Lesley Beaton, Nancy and Frank Belcher, Kath Blackburn, Joe Deuble, Angela Kilmartin, Keith Treschman, Barbara Weller (visitor), Heather and Greg Zirbel, and John and Ann Shore.

Ann Shore

FAN-TAILED CUCKOO

OBSERVERS: New member, Grayson Edwards and Lorraine Wilson. 29.8.87

After observing and jotting down the names of many species recently we decided to solve a little mystery - what bird made this unusual call...a loud, quivering, down-scale peawhistle call... we patiently followed the sound and at last the bird was sighted, first, by Grayson - well done.

This species has been rather elusive for some time, the call loud and clear but no sighting until now. There it perched, low in a tree not far away. From the back we saw a grey head (and grey just below the beak area also), darker silver grey on the back and tail and lighter grey wings. The eyes were dark with yellow eye-rings. The chest was a definite mid to light caramel colour with light fawn feathers near the folded wing area and a mid-caramel colour on the underside near the tail. The tail had alternate dark and white bars and a white tip. Legs were yellowish and the beak small and slightly down at the tip. Yes indeed, it was the "Fan-tailed Cuckoo" - what a beautiful bird.

Lorraine Wilson

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

ACTIVITIES

NEWSLETTER

Members \$10.00
Families \$12.00
Students \$ 5.00

Field day and meeting -
Fourth Sunday each month.
Camping trips.
Film and slide evenings.

Published monthly prior to Field day.
Contributions are invited and should
be mailed to P.O. Box. Deadline is
the last day of the month.

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB

INDEX TO NEWS-SHEETS Nos.109-120

YEAR 1985

KEY:

- = New Toowoomba Bird
 * = Bird List (Club)
 + = Bird List (personal)
- HEADINGS:
 A. Bird Species
 B. Localities
 C. Other Topics
 D. Toowoomba Bird Club



<u>A. BIRD SPECIES</u>	<u>ISSUE:</u>		<u>ISSUE:</u>
Albatross, Black-browed	116	Figbird	109
Avocet, Red-necked	114	Finch, Black-throated	118
		, Plum-headed	110, 119
Bee-eater, Rainbow	110, 113, 115	Fruit-Dove, Rose-crowned	110
Bellbird, Crested	115		
Bowerbird, Regent	114	Goose, Magpie	110, 115, 119
Bristlebird, Rufous	119	, Cotton Pygmy	120
Brolga	115, 116	Goshawk, Grey	115, 116
Budgerigar	113, 114, 115, 116, 118	Grasswren, Eyrean	117
Bul-bul, Red-whiskered	114	, Grey	117
Bushlark, Singing	116	Grebe, Hoary-headed	109
Bustard	110		
Button-quail, Black-breasted	110	Harrier, Spotted	116
, Red-chested	110	Hawk, Crested	110
		Hen, Bush	118
Cicadabird	114	Heron, Rufous Night	110
Cockatoo, Red-tailed Black	115	Hobby, Australian	116
, Glossy Black	114, 115, 118	Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked	113, 114
, Yellow-tld. Black	115		115, 117
	119, 120	, Yellow-tufted	113, 115
, Gang-gang	115	, Grey-headed	117
, White-tld. Black	110, 111	, Fuscous	115
, Pink	115	, White-plumed	115
, Sulphur-crst	113, 114, 116	, Brown-headed	112
Corella, Long-billed	120	, White-throated	112
, Little	120	, White-naped	112
Cuckoo, Pallid	114, 116, 120	, Pied	110, 117
, Little Bronze	115		
, Channel-billed	114	Ibis, Straw-necked	119
Cuckoo-shrike, Ground	114, 115		
		Kite, Black-shouldered	115
Dove, Emerald	120	, Black	113
Drongo, Spangled	110	, Square-tailed	110
Duck, Wandering Whistle	114	, Whistling	114
, Burdekin	115, 118		
, Pink-eared	120	Lapwing, Banded	116
, Wood	109, 115	Lorikeet, Musk	114, 120
, Musk	109	, Purple-crowned	120
		, Little	114
Eagle, White-bellied Sea	120		
, Wedge-tailed	115	Magpie, White-backed	110
Egret, Little	110, 118	Malleefowl	120
Emu-wren, Southern	115		
		Needletail, White-throated	110
Fairy-wren, Splendid	115		
Falcon, Black	115, 120	Owl, Powerful	110
, Peregrine	110	, Barking	115, 118
, Little	110	, Barn	117
, Brown	116	, Masked	110

	<u>ISSUE:</u>
Parrot, Australian King	120
, Ground	115
, Mallee Ringneck	115
, Port Lincoln	114
Pelican, Australian	116, 119
Pigeon, Topknot	118, 120
, White-headed	114, 115, 116
, Flock	117
, Squatter	115
Pitta, Noisy	110, 120
Prion, Fairy	118
Quail, Stubble	116
, Brown	113
Quail-thrush, Spotted	118
Rail, Buff-banded	113, 114
Robin, Red-capped	113, 114, 115
, Hooded	115
, White-breasted	110
, Yellow	115
Sanderling	110
Sandpiper, Marsh	120
, Sharp-tailed	120
Scrubwren, Yellow-throated	120
, White-browed	111
Shelduck, Australian	119
Shoveler, Australian	116
Shrike-tit, Crested	113
Sparrowhawk, Collared	114, 115
Spinebill, Eastern	114
, Western	111
Stilt, Banded	119
Stint, Red-necked	120
Swan, Black	111
Swift, Fork-tailed	113
Tern, Whiskered	120
Thornbill, Broad-tailed	111
Treecreeper, Red-browed	115
, Rufous	110
Tropicbird, Red-tailed	110
Warbler, Clamorous Reed	119
Wattlebird, Little	114
Whimbrel, Little	110
Whipbird	111, 115
Whistler, Golden	115
Winter, Jacky	114
Woodswallow, Dusky	116
Wren, Superb Blue	109
Wren, Red-backed	111
<u>B. LOCALITIES</u>	
Beachmere	109
Birdsville	117
Blanchview	116*
Brisbane River	113

<u>B. LOCALITIES</u>	<u>ISSUE:</u>
England	117
Exmouth	109
Flagstone Creek	113*
Goomburra	110*
Gowrie Junction	117*
Hogarth Swamp	115*
Hood's Lagoon	111*
Iredale	116*
Kalbarri	109
Laidley Valley	114*
Murphy's Creek	111*
Ramsay	119*
Ravensbourne	119*
Redcliffe	112*
Redwood	119*
South Africa	114
Western Queensland	119+
<u>C. OTHER TOPICS</u>	
Afternoon Delight	115
Alcohol and Parrot	117
American Birdwatchers	116
Bowyangs	120
Colloquial Names	120
Environment Park	110
Feeding Birds	120
Koala Society	110
Roving Report	109
Samaritan	117
Sorting them out	112
Waders	109, 112
Word Botching	120
<u>D. TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB</u>	
Annual General Meet.	116, 117 118, 119
Annual Reports	119
Bird Count	116, 117, 118
Executive Report	120
Film Evening	112, 119
First Ten Years	118
Guidelines for Outings	109
Hobby-N-Craft	109, 111, 120
Office Bearers	118
RAOU. Congress	113, 114, 116, 119
Seasonal Species Survey	120
Tenth Anniversary	116, 117
Ten Years On	118
Waterbird Habitat	119
*** *** *** *** ***	
Compiled by R.E. Hopkinson 19887	

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB

INDEX TO NEWSLETTERS Nos.121 - 132

KEY:- YEAR 1986

= New Toowoomba Bird
 * = Bird List (Club)
 + = Bird List (personal).

HEADINGS:-

A. Bird Species.
 B. Localities.
 C. Other Topics
 D. Toowoomba Bird Club.



A. BIRD SPECIES

ISSUE:

ISSUE:

Apostlebird	130	Kingfisher, Forest	<u>123</u> ,132
Babbler, White-browed	121	Kite, Black	125,127
, Chestnut-crowned	121	, Square-tailed	125,130
Bee-eater, Rainbow	129	, Whistling	123,124
Bellbird, Crested	121	Lorikeet, Little	124
Bittern, Black	130	Mistletoebird	124
Blue Bonnet	128	Owl, Powerful	125
Bowerbird, Satin	125,128	, Eastern Grass	121
, Regent	131	Pelican, Australian	124,126,130
Brush-turkey, Australian	123,128	Pigeon, Topknot	131
utton-quail, Red-chested	128,132	Pipit, Richard's	128
Calamanthus	121	Plover, Red-capped	130
Chough, White-winged	128	Robin, Rose	125
Cockatoo, Red-tailed Black	123	, Red-capped	128
, Yellow-tailed Blk.	123,132	Rosella, Crimson	131
, Sulphur-crested	123,130	, Eastern	132
Condor, California	128	Sandpiper, Common	130
Crake, Baillon's	132	, Sharp-tailed	130
, Spotless	130	Shelduck, Australian	<u>122</u>
Cuckoo, Little Bronze	<u>122</u>	Shoveler, Australasian	<u>123</u>
, Channel-billed	123, <u>132</u>	Shrike-tit, Crested	124
Cuckoo-shrike, White-bellied	128	Songlark, Brown	130
Dollarbird	132	Sparrowhawk, Collared	124,127
Dove, Bar-shouldered	130	Spinebill, Eastern	129
Duck, Musk	131	Spoonbill, Royal	127
Eagle, White-bellied Sea	128, <u>129</u>	Tern, Whiskered	121
Osprey, Little	127, <u>128</u>	, Caspian	128, <u>129</u>
Egret, Cattle	121	Triller, White-winged	<u>131</u>
, Great	121	Warbler, Clamorous Reed	129
, Little	121	Wattlebird, Red	127,128
, Intermediate	121,127	Whistler, Golden	130
Gerygone, Western	128, <u>129</u>	, Rufous	127,130
Goose, Magpie	123,124	Woodswallow, Black-faced	131
, Cotton Pygmy	126		
Goshawk, Grey	124,128		
Grassbird, Little	121		
Gull, Silver	124		
Heron, Rufous Night	132		
Hobby, Australian	121,123		
Honeyeater, Yellow-faced	129		
, Scarlet	130		
Ibis, Glossy	124,130		
, Sacred	130,132		

B. LOCALITIESISSUE:

Clifton Beach	127
Glen Lomond	131
Helidon	128*, 130*, 132*
Hood's Lagoon	128*
Isla Gorge	124*
Kalbar	127, 130
Killarney District	121*
Lake Dyer	131
Maclagan Area	126*
Minden	129*
Moreton Island	128+
Palm Tree Creek	124*
Redwood Park	122*, 129*
Spicer's Gap	127*
Sundown N.P.	132
The Head	124
Tobruk Drive	123*
Two Peoples Bay	127
Upper Flagstone	131
Waterbird Park	123*, 129*
Webb Park	132
Westbrook	131
Western Boundaries	125*
Withcott	132

C. OTHER TOPICS

Antiphonal calls	131
Banding	123, 124
Binocular research	124
Birds in the garden	132
Book review	130
California Condor census	128
Flight	121
Gliders	123
Golf and birds	128
Nouns of assemblage	128
Passerine/Non-passerine	123
Quiz	131, 132
Sport and birds	125
Telepathy	122

D. TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUBISSUE:

Accounts statement	130
Annual General Meet.	129, 130, 131
Constitution	128, 130, 132
Executive report	121, 122, 124, 125 126, 127, 128, 129
Film evening	126
Seasonal Species Survey	123*, 124 125*, 127

*** **

Compiled by R.E.Hopkinson
26887