

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER



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"TO ENCOURAGE THE OBSERVATION AND STUDY OF THE BIRDS OF THE TOOWOOMBA AREA"

No. 146 - February 1988

Still a long way to go.

New birds for our Local Birding Area are, for obvious reasons, getting harder to find. But don't be daunted by this. After consulting various books on distribution, talking to friends birding near our local area, and taking into account birds seen in the area, but only by one person, I have estimated that there are at least 49 more species which we can hope to get. Several are long overdue while others are very rare indeed. This doesn't take into account birds which could wander out of their normal range, of which several have found their way onto our list e.g. Sooty Tern and Mountain Shelduck. These 49 species would take us past the magical 300. This is being optimistic and would take many years of birding, but 275 is well within our scope. So besides enjoying birding for what it is - great fun, keep looking for those new ones. Good birding.

Pat McConnell

Sounds of Summer.

As John and I have been quietly working at trimming, packing and selling our grape crop this past month, we have had the chance to listen to the bird sounds around the house. Not only the squeaky calls of the Figbird and the chatter of the small flock of Common Mynahs as they watch from a vantage point before swooping down to raid yet more grapes, but among many others, we have heard the gentle coo-cooing of the spotted Turtle Dove, 'coo-croo-cu, coo-croo-cu'.

Although an introduced species from S. Asia and possibly competing with native species for food, for me their soft calls represent one of the most evocative of the seasonal sounds. In England as with the Cuckoo for the welcoming of spring, so the Swallow and particularly the Turtle Dove meant balmy days in high summer. (There seemed to be more of those in childhood! Or was it just imagination?)

So it has been with pleasure that we have again been listening to and sometimes watching the seemingly lone bird that has been calling from the tall trees around Shorelands recently - the first we have heard here for some five or six years.

Ann Shore

New Toowoomba Birds

The checklist Committee has added the following birds to the club checklist:-

256. Lesser Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*)

November 15th, 1987. Hood's Lagoon. Pat McConnell, Lesley Beaton.

One bird seen, intermediate in size between a Pied stilt and a Sharp-tailed sandpiper which were nearby. Standing - basically grey-brown, paler below, back and wings darker with lighter spotting. Faint pale eyebrow. Basically brown in flight lacking the pale rump of the Grey plover. Legs dark.

257. Lewin's Rail (*Rallus pectoralis*)

December 14th, 1987. Water Bird Habitat. Angela Kilmartin, Jane White.

First seen swimming from large centre island near south platform to southern shore, then proceeded to walk easterly along shore to reed beds. Smaller than Buff-banded rail. Grey neck and chest, very long bill with black tip and red base, red or chestnut down neck and eyebrow, legs flesh coloured, back mottled dark brown with some white markings on flank.

Members Bird Notes

- Black-shouldered Kite - 19.12.87 - Gilmour Court. FB. NB.
- Wedge-tailed Eagle - 27-12.87 - Gilmour Court. FB. NB.
- Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo - 8.12.87 - Gilmour Court. FB. NB.
- Pheasant Coucal - 13.12.87 - Gilmour Court. FB. NB.
- Channel-billed Cuckoo - 27.12.87 - Gilmour Court. FB. NB.
- Wedge-tailed Eagle - 23.8.87 - Derrymore. HZ.
- Rose Robin - 23.8.87 - Derrymore. HZ.
- Red-backed Wren - Dec./Jan. - Rutledge Street (near the corner of James and Ruthven Streets). MAL.
- Collared Sparrowhawk - 4.2.88 - Sylvan Court. MJ.
- Cotton Pygmy Goose - 23.1.88 - Hood's. LA.
- Lesser Golden Plover - 15.1.88 - Hood's. PM. LB.

LA - Laurie Atzeni; FB - Frank Belcher; NB - Nancy Belcher; LB - Lesley Beaton; MJ - Marilyn Jacobs; MAL - Mary-Ann Law; PM - Pat McConnell; HZ - Heather Zirbel.

Incorporation Meeting

7.30 pm, Tuesday, February 23rd. University Centre, Jellicoe Street.

February Outing

February 28th, Murphy's Creek. Leader - Lesley Beaton.

Meeting place - Murphy's Creek Railway Station at 7.30. Lesley hopes to see Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters on this outing.

March Outing

O'Reilly's National Parks Day. March 25-27th.

Alternative Outing

March 27th, Silver Pinch Road. Leader - Ann Shore.

Meeting place - Waterbird Habitat at 7.30 am.

Waterbird Habitat

Money raised for the Waterbird Habitat by the Toowoomba Bird Club totals \$509.34 plus a \$400 grant from A.B.E.F.

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* **Toowoomba Bird Club** *
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* Annual Subscription: Members - \$10.00; Families - \$12.00; Students - \$5.00 *
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* Activities: Field day and monthly meeting - fourth Sunday of each month. *
* Camping trips and film and slide evenings. *
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* Newsletter: Published monthly, prior to the field day. Contributions are *
* invited and should reach the Editor by the end of the month. *
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