



CLUB OFFICERS:

President:	Lesley Beaton	(ph. 326262)
Secretary:	Ann Shore	(ph. 303207)
Treasurer:		
Records:	Angela Kilmartin	(ph. 382404)
Librarian:	Nancy Belcher	(ph. 384047)
Editor:	Pat McConnell	(ph. 352980)

p.o. box 67 · darling heights · qld 4350

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

No. 152 - August 1988

Field Outing. Upper Flagstone Creek. Sunday 24th July

It was a short and sweet outing this time. We all arrived at the habitat punctually where we spent a little time watching the Red Wattlebirds. However, the wind was bitter and we decided the sooner we went below the range the better.

This turned out to be a good idea, because it was calmer and warmer. Some good birding was done in one or two areas. It was a delight to see Flagstone Creek flowing so well.

Birds of the morning would have to be the Little Lorikeets which had been screeching overhead all the time. Eventually a pair settled to check out a hollow in a branch and we had good views.

Another delightful interlude was when we discovered all three Fairy-Wrens in a lantana bush. The Variegated Wren males in particular, just shone like jewels.

Members present: Lesley Beaton, Joe Deuble, Alison Evans, Don Gaydon, David Hill, Ann and John Shore, Norma Thomas, Keith Treschman and Barbara Weller.

Lesley Beaton

Starting From Scratch

Over the past few weekends I have had the pleasure of taking an American birder around the Toowoomba area. It is interesting to compare their style of birding with ours and to learn what birds are of special interest to him. After all, nearly everything is new and with some exceptions he doesn't know what is rare or common or what birds would be expected to be seen here at this time of year. So like most people in that situation it is birding at its most basic.

I asked him as we set out for the first time what birds he hoped to see. Like myself he had a special interest in Hawks and Owls and was hoping to see as many of these as possible in his four and a half month stay. It is a bit ironical in that the first Owl he will probably see will be a Sooty, as he has already got a good site for this. I look back and think how many years it took me to track down my first Sooty Owl. Times are changing. Many birds have become easier to get over the past few years.

Also of special interest are some of the, for him, new families of birds e.g. the Parrots, Honeyeaters and Lyrebirds. North America has none of these and the brightly coloured Parrots must be something most birding tourists look forward to seeing. He is becoming slightly frustrated at the moment by the Lorikeets which flash past at one thousand miles per hour affording only quick glimpses. I told him things would improve. The Honeyeaters though are proving more cooperative with many to be seen in the local area.

Of course any brightly coloured new bird is a treat and so far he has seen some gems like the Rufous and Golden Whistlers, the Scarlet Honeyeater and the Azure Kingfisher.

Redwood Park also provided him with an interesting day's birding. He desperately wanted to see the bird making the whip-crack call and it wasn't long before an Eastern Whipbird appeared on the edge of the track, sitting and calling long enough for good views to be had.

There are also some noticeable differences in some of our birds' habits. He was pleasantly surprised to see Pigeons in the thick scrub of Redwood. The Pigeons in North America tend to be more open country birds like our Bronzewing, and Redwood came to the fore here with White-headed, Brown and Wonga Pigeons.

Club-wise, Americans also do a few things differently. For a new bird to be added to their list of definites it has to first be photographed. Hence the reason for Tod shooting off three rolls of film on our first morning out. Other birds seen but not photographed may be added to the list but not regarded as definites. If this were the case in Toowoomba our list at the moment would be about twenty. Another difference, and this would arise as a result of the number of birders, is the Rare Bird Tape. When planning his weekends Tod rings the Rare Bird Tape numbers in the three capital cities nearest to him. The idea is simple. If you want to see something rare check out these tapes and if you see something rare add it to them. Sites of nesting birds aren't given because of the danger of egg collectors.

Despite the difference in our styles of birding the similarities far out weigh them. The basic one being - it is hard not to enjoy a days birding no matter what is seen, be it rare or common.

Pat McConnell

Monarch Wildlife Tours

For anyone interested in Australia's flora, fauna, geology as well as getting to know more about the people and places visited Monarch Wildlife Tours have just the trips. Environments visited include open grasslands, desert, semi-arid, rainforest, mangroves and coral reefs. The tour leaders are very experienced in different aspects of Australiana.

Various itineraries are available covering all aspects of natural history with some specialising in certain interests such as the fourteen day "Birding and Wildlife Bonanza Tour". There are various departure times throughout the year.

For more information contact Pat McConnell.

Well Done Ann

Ann Shore has been writing about birds and the club in the Lockyer Journal practically since that newspaper has been in print.

This is great publicity for us and there are many responses to her articles. Because of this effort on her part, the editor of the Journal is placing an advertisement for the Club in every issue of the newspaper. Thanks Ann.

Club Incorporation

The Toowoomba Bird Club is now Toowoomba Bird Club Inc. We have our official Certificate of Incorporation. A few loose ends will be tidied up at the A.G.M. but otherwise it is completed. I believe this is a landmark in the Club's history.

Lesley Beaton

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday October 13.

The Harlaxton Neighbourhood Centre has kindly offered their premises for our meeting as it is no longer feasible to hold them in private homes.

Address - Cnr. Coonan and Dwyer Sts., Harlaxton.

Guest speaker: Pat McConnell

1989 subscriptions will be gratefully accepted at the meeting.

August Outing

To Redwood Park. The meeting place will be at the Bridge Street entrance on Sunday August 28th at 7.15am to leave at 7.30am. Visitors welcome. Leader Angela Kilmartin.

September Outing

Goomburra State Forest. Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th September. For those interested this will be a camping trip. However, there will be walks planned for those interested in a Sunday outing only. Activities will include spotlighting.

Goomburra is a beautiful area of varied habitats with many interesting walks. The road in ends in gravel with several creek crossings so it is advisable to keep a close eye on the weather.

For anyone wishing to camp it is best to make a booking or let me know so I can make a group booking. I would need about three weeks notice to do this so please contact me as soon as possible.

Pat McConnell

Bird-a-thon

The Club will be having its Bird-a-thon on the 23rd October. So please keep this day free so it will be a big success for the Club.

Executive Members Needed

This year a lot of the Club's executive will be retiring. The positions which will definitely be vacated are President, Treasurer, Editor and Librarian. Nominations for the other positions are also welcome. Everyone has something to offer the Club so please consider nominating for one of these positions. Remember the A.G.M. is not far away.

Library Notes

Members are reminded that the Club receives many publications each month and these are available for loan. Anyone wishing to make use of this material can contact Nancy Belcher.

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:- Members \$10.00. Families \$12.00. Students \$5.00.

ACTIVITIES:- Field day and monthly meeting - fourth Sunday of each month. Camping trips and film and slide evenings.

NEWSLETTER:- Published monthly, prior to the field day. Contributions are invited and should reach the Editor by the end of the month.
