

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

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toowoomba bird
club
inc.

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"To Encourage the Observation and Study of the Birds of the Toowoomba Area"

No. 158 - March 1989.

FIELD OUTINGS

Over the years I have heard some wonderful reasons for not going on Field Outings. The one that always makes me as a Bird Club member think I have failed in my efforts to promote the study of birds is:-

"I don't really know my birds, and others might laugh at me."

Some of you will remember my first outing, after years of Cayley and Readers' Digest and six weeks by myself trying to identify brown honeyeaters, I was the leader of the beginners' outing over Auntie A.B.C.

Sunday morning 7.15 saw me at Piggot's in fear and trepidation. "What would the experts think?" "Would they laugh at me?"

Well that outing opened up a whole new world for me!

Marilyn was the leader and we went to Upper Flagstone Creek that day and the birds I saw still stand out in memory. Pacific Baza; Red Backed Wren; Superb Wren; Azure Kingfisher; and joy oh joy Scarlet Honeyeater.

What I am trying to say is no one laughed at me and I gained so much knowledge from that outing - bird calls; habitat type; and best of all, FRIENDSHIP!!

Over the years my knowledge has increased in leaps and bounds and I still learn more on each outing I attend.

Well, over the last few months birding in the outing sense for me has not been possible, but I can still bird watch. The feeling of exhilaration as you watch a Hobby fly past the hospital window or the call of a Wren when you are house bound are still birding; and had I not gone on that first Bird Outing, would I have been able to recognize the Hobby or the call of the Wren?

So come and join us on the next Beginners Outing - I promise no one will laugh and you just could find a new world and maybe even a new friend is out there waiting for you - but as in all things, you must take the first step and we all have to begin somewhere.

Angela Kilmartin

NOTICE OF NEXT OUTING

Please note the Beginners' Outing set down for Sunday, 12th March will now be held on Sunday 19th March. Please meet at the northern end of Mackenzie Street at 7.30 a.m. Leader Keith Treschman Ph 352894.

We apologize for any inconvenience that may have caused you. Old members are most welcome to assist new beginners.

HOBBY 'N' CRAFT SPECTACULAR 1989.

Although on a modest scale compared to some of the stands, the Toowoomba Bird Club's Display of books, photos, information and slides attracted a considerable amount of attention during the annual Hobby'n'Craft Spectacular staged by the South Toowoomba Rotary Club over the Weekend of 17-19th February.

It was gratifying to see the number of young visitors who tested their knowledge of birds in the quiz on the "Birds of Redwood Park" and to note the remarkable interest shown in conservation matters generally. A number of people queried why many of the common birds were now absent from their old haunts and regretted the continuing loss or diminishing of once substantial areas of habitat due to a variety of reasons.

Bird Club members did their best to answer all the enquiries over identification of birds and met many interesting people, quite a few of whom had recently moved to the area. We are looking forward to renewing acquaintances in the future, to hearing more of their observations and stories and to introducing new members to some of our special locations and passing on our enthusiasm and enjoyment of Toowoomba birds.

Ann Shore

HEALESVILLE FAUNA SANCTUARY, MELBOURNE JANUARY 1989.

To anyone who is going to Melbourne, a place that is a "must" to see for any birdwatcher is Healesville Fauna Sanctuary, situated approximately 50 km outside Melbourne. It is easily reached by roads which pass through the delightful and often varying Victorian countryside. These days, of course, nothing is free and the \$5.60 entry fee is certainly well worthwhile.

The Sanctuary is situated on well landscaped grounds of Badger Creek, named after the wombats often seen in the area at the time of the area's settlement. The usual menagerie of kangaroos, wallabies, dingoes and koalas were present but of the most interest to the bird watcher are the well set out bird aviaries. The aviaries are large and well lit with a wide variety of species present. The best presentations seen were of two pair of Superb Lyrebirds that were less than five metres from the viewer. Bush Stone Curlews could be seen, with chicks, at quite close quarters. As well as many different types of water birds present, there is a parrot breeding aviary, which contained all of the Rosellas except the Western Rosella and in all, there were 22 varieties of Parrots and Rosellas.

The Fauna Sanctuary offers many close up views of a large variety of birds, including the Cheeky Sacred Ibis, who will snatch any unattended lunches!

David Hill

CORRECTION

A typing mistake occurred in February's Newsletter in the article 'Classification of Birds'. On page 2, paragraph 3 should read:-

So, the difference in temperature between when the D.N.A. strands of ostrich-ostrich and ostrich-rhea separate can be related to 80 million years.

NATIONAL PARKS DAY WEEKEND

This will be held at Freshwater Campground in Cooloola National Park on August 26-27th, 1989. Flora should be in full bloom.

A large group of birders gathered at Ravensbourne National Park in the hope of seeing some of the more unusual birds found in the area, such as the rare Black-breasted Button-Quail. We were soon birding but it was a slow start. The first half hour or so produced little else but large billed Scrub Wrens, Brown Gerygones and hundreds of leeches. Things, however, quickly improved when a male Black-breasted Button-Quail with two young was seen on the track ahead. Only brief glimpses were obtained as the birds quickly disappeared into thick vine scrub. A search of the area produced only their platlets.

Morning tea produced some of the best birding of the day. Eastern Spinebills were flying back and forth while Crested Shrike-tits, Varied Trillers, Variegated Wrens, Crimson Rosellas and Golden Whistlers were all seen with little effort. Another quick look for the Quail proved unsuccessful but did turn up a Noisy Pitta.

As is often the case with rainforest birding more is seen along the road edges than on the walking tracks. This was certainly true of Sunday's outing. Keeping to the roads not only avoided the leeches but also gave us good views of the Paradise Riflebird, Green Catbird, Eastern Whipbird and White Headed Pigeon.

The day ended with a quick walk along the track at the top picnic area. This area as it has been for the last few years was fairly quiet. However, Scaly Thrush and Eastern Whipbird proved very cooperative much to the delight of everyone. In all thirty-eight species were seen in the park.

Pat M^CConnell

Members Present:

Pat M^CConnell, Michael Atzeni, Ann & John Shore, Lesley Beaton, Angela Kilmartin, Jane White, Triona Kerin, Frank & Nancy Belcher, Barbara Wilson, Bob Weis, Richard Thomis.

Prospective Members

Shayne, Shaun & Chris O'Brien; Colin, Beryl & Heather Walker.

Visitor

Thora Carpenter

MEMBERS BIRD NOTES

Gull Billed Tern	24.12.88	Hood's Lagoon	M.A.	P.M.
Whiskered Tern	"	" "	"	"
Great Crested Grebe	"	" "	"	"
Pelicans(14)	27.11.88	"Big Hill", Hodgsonvale	L.A.	
Rose Crowned Fruit Dove	13.1.89	Redwood Park	M.A.	P.M.
Musk Duck	15.1.89	Helidon Spa	M.A.	P.M.
Powerful Owl	22.1.89	Redwood Park	M.A.	
	27.1.89	" "	M.A.	L.A.
Pheasant Coucal	all Jan	Nelson St.	J.D.	
Apostle Bird	30.1.89	Highfields	S.P.	
Whimbrel	10.9.88	Hood's Lagoon	P.M.	A.S.

M.A. Michael Atzeni, P.M. Pat M^CConnell, L.A. Laurie Atzeni, J.D. Joe Deuble, S.P. Sandy Pottinger, A.S. Ann Shore

Q.O.S. EASTER CAMP-OUT: This will be held at an Environmental Centre between Murgon and Jimna. Cost is very reasonable. For further information contact Angela Kilmartin. Ph 382404

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following new club members and wish them a very happy and long stay with the club.

Mrs. E.M. Enchelmaier, 129 Mackenzie St; Toowoomba.

Mrs. L.P. Johnston, 6 Clifton St; Booval.

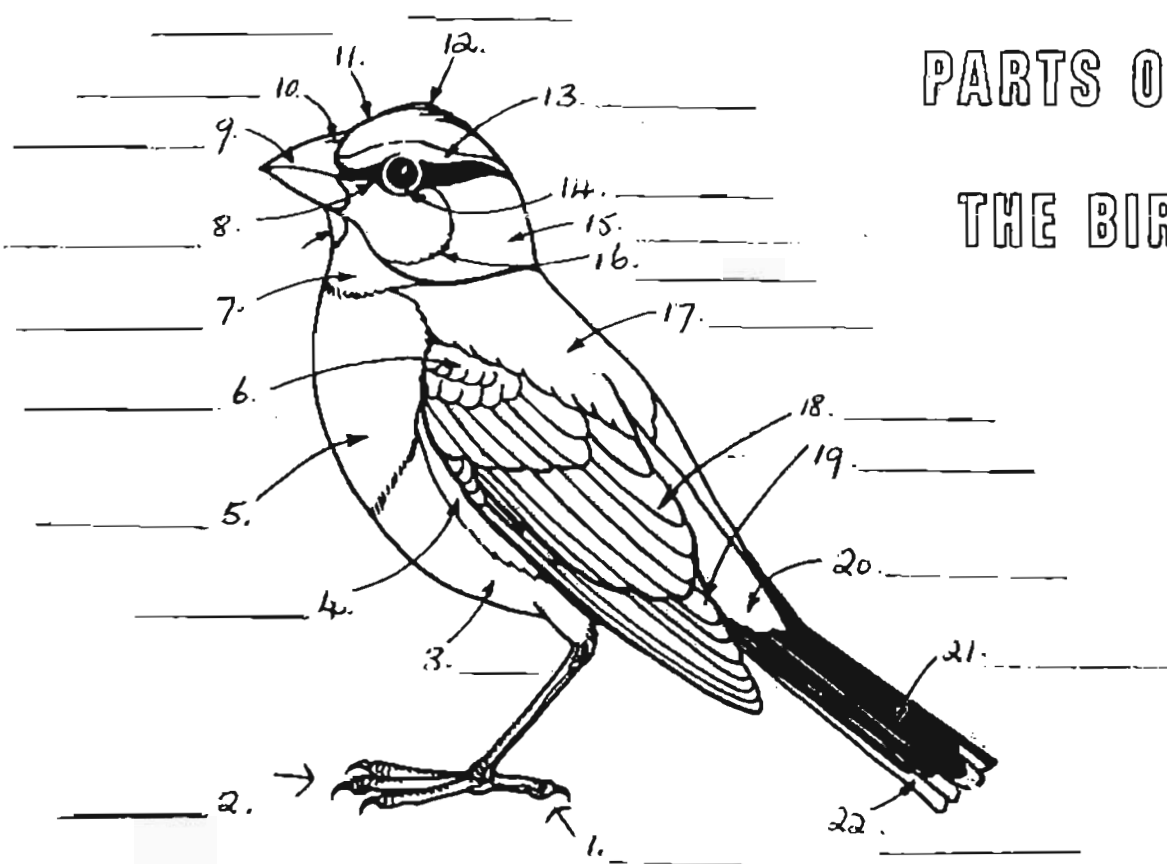
Mr. & Mrs. Chappell (John, Gwentyth & family), 26 Berghofer Drive, Table Top Estate, M.S. 224 Toowoomba.

EMU TOURS: The club has received a brochure from EMU TOURS containing information on their 1989 trips. A very brief summary is given below. If you require more information please contact Barbara Weller. Ph 329821

TOUR 1 - EMU GOES TO GIPPSLAND	24/3/89 - 2/4/89	\$580
TOUR 2 - EMU GOES TO LAMINGTON	15/4/89 - 30/4/89	\$820
TOUR 3 - EMU GOES EXPLORING	13/5/89 - 4/6/89	\$880
TOUR 4 - EMU GOES TO THE TOP END	15/6/89 - 16/7/89	\$1750
TOUR 5 - EMU GOES PARROTTING	29/7/89 - 20/8/89	\$1150

KIDS' KORNER: Can you match the names with the correct number?
Answers in next edition.

forehead, eye line, back, rump, belly, throat, nape, eyebrow, shoulder, breast, crest/crown, nostril, central tail feathers,, hind toe, eye ring, primary wing feathers, secondary wing feathers, cheek, chin, beak, front toes, outer tail feathers.



PARTS OF
THE BIRD