

toowoomba bird  
club  
inc.

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

No. 160 - May 1989.

From the Editor

Will you Sponsor a Wild Duck?

As dawn broke recently over the serene Lake Buloke in Victoria two battles erupted. The flying pellets of the hunters against the ducks - and the battle of the conservationists against the hunters. 7 000 shooters were dotted around the lake 300 km. N.W. of Melbourne for the opening day of the duck season. The protest against the Victorian and N.S.W. annual duck hunt has been raging for five years. There are 150 000 licensed shooters in Victoria and each has a bag limit of 10 birds. Hunters are supposed to be able to identify species, particularly protected birds but Victorian Department of Conservation and Lands estimate that since 1979 over 5 000 protected birds have been shot. The ones that die quickly are in fact the lucky ones!

These birds ingest grit to help digest their food. If they pick up lead shot by mistake they develop lead poisoning and die a slow, agonising death. The lead also pollutes the wetlands. Cruelty is a major issue in the duck hunting battle. A scatter gun cannot hit a small duck in the brain or heart but it can hit a wing or rump leaving a wounded or crippled duck. The final count of protected birds in Victoria which were killed on opening day amounted to 450. Of these 87 were freckled duck, a highly endangered species whose numbers and breeding sites have been dwindling over recent years. More than 100 birds were wounded. In N.S.W. more than 50 dead protected species were picked up by conservationists and over 100 wounded birds were treated. Other protected species that are shot each year include swan, ibis, spoonbill, pelican, heron, cormorants, blue-billed and musk duck. A high percentage of native waterbirds are wounded and crippled each season. Between 1957 and 1975, the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands X-rayed 45 000 living game birds at Serendip Wildlife Reserve. 9.2% had been wounded and survived. This does not take into account the birds who have died from their injuries.

Will you sponsor a wild duck or give a donation to help the fight against duck shooting? By sponsoring a wild duck, your money will enable the duck rescue team to retrieve all species of wounded waterbirds. Funds may also be used to mount a legal challenge to duck shooting through the courts. Please use the form on the back page for donations. Donations are tax deductible.

Animal Liberation displays evidence of protected waterbirds being shot during the opening of the 1987 duck season

**SPONSOR A WILD DUCK  
CAMPAIGN OFFICE**

C/- Animal Liberation Victoria  
Room 17, Floor 5,  
37 Swanston Street  
Melbourne  
AUSTRALIA 3000  
(03) 650 9174 (03) 650 4554

Photo courtesy Herald and Weekly Times



Report on the Field Outing held on 23rd April to Redwood Park:

I must say I was impressed with the extraordinarily large group of birders gathered at the top of Redwood Park despite the threat of rain. Fortunately, we only struck intermittent drizzle and were able to complete the walk (interspersed with slips!) to the bottom in about 3 hours listing 41 species in all.

A male Regent Bowerbird dazzled everyone at the top end and with such a good start, hopes were high for sighting the Powerful Owl which had been seen in recent times along the creek. However, such birds are never to be found when you want them! Spectacled Flycatchers and Rufous fantails were still present and a Crested Shrike-tit co-operated for everyone. A flock of King Parrots at the bottom end provided a colourful ending to the walk.

Michael Atzeni.

Members Present: Keith Treschman, Barbara Wilson, Marion Buchanan, Barbara Weller, Alison Evans, Michael Atzeni, Richard Thomis, Julie O'Connor, Angela Kilmartin, Gwenyth Chappell, John Chappell, Shaun O'Brien, Ann Shore.

Visitors: Tom Tarrant, Nita Shipway, Michelle Thompson, Nina Thompson, Kendall Shore, Adam O'Donoghue, Margaret Krimmer.

Reed Warbler Project:

The purpose of this project is to record the presence of Reed Warblers when they arrive in spring and when they leave in autumn, and if any birds over-winter etc. This can be done by observation or by identifying their song. The project also hopes to recruit as many banders as possible to work in all areas of Australia and hopefully try to track some of the paths used by the Reed Warblers in their migration. The Reed Warbler is a poorly studied species and this is an ideal opportunity for interested people to contribute to a major bird study.

Write to Bob Reed - Warbler Project,  
Shortland Wetlands Project,  
P.O. Box 130, Wallsend.  
N.S.W. 2287.

Q.O.S. Inland Safari:

Q.O.S. Inc. is organising a Bird Trip to South West Queensland, Western New South Wales, and the Victorian Mallee, departing Brisbane on the 26th August 1989 and returning on 16th September. In particular they will be looking for rare and endemic birds of the areas, (eg. Plains Wanderers, Grass Wrens etc). The tour leader is specialist Ornithologist guide Rob Elvish from Field Biosearch, assisted by his wife, Jenny. Cost is \$1200, ex Brisbane, and includes all accomodation, meals and transport, camping gear, entrance fees, guide, cook, and driver etc. Please contact Sue Heussler on 071-467261, or at P.O.Box 52, Nambour 4560, for further details and a full itinerary.

World Environment Day:

The Toowoomba Bird Club will hold a display at World Environmental Day on Sunday 4th June at Lake Annand. Anyone willing to help on the stall phone Angela.

New Members: We welcome the following members to the club and hope their stay with us is a long and happy one.

Margaret Krimmer, 7 Bridge St; Toowoomba.

Michelle Thompson, 21 Welcombe Ave; Toowoomba.

Future Outings:

28th May - Hood's Lagoon. Meet at Helidon Picnic Grounds at 7.30 a.m. Leader Pat M<sup>C</sup>Connell.

25th June - Stockyard/Rockmount area. Meet at Helidon Picnic Grounds at 7.30 a.m.  
Leader Angela Kilmartin.

Strange Bird Behaviour:

As I have noted before one does not necessarily have to go far afield to do one's birding. Indeed, often the most interest and pleasure comes from observations from one's own kitchen window or backyard. Recently this has been very true at Shorelands where the temptation to spend ages quietly watching can lead to the neglect of many things!

On one afternoon in mid March it was the level of noise that drew my attention. Gathered along the wires edging our vineyard, in nearby trees and in close proximity to each other, were the biggest assembly and mixture of birds that I have ever seen before. All were "shouting" at the tops of their voices, jostling excitedly for position and creating an amazing commotion.

Chief rabble-rousers were certainly the Noisy Miners, ten of them, followed by a pair of Magpie Larks, four or more Blue-faced Honeyeaters and a pair of alarmed Willy Wagtails. There were a quieter pair of Striped Honeyeaters among the crowd, one or two Little Friarbirds, two Pale-headed Rosellas flying around overhead and at least twenty vociferous Magpies in close attendance while a few Starlings and a dozen Galahs viewed proceedings from the powerlines.

The cacophany continued for about five minutes while the birds moved agitatedly between the trees and back again. Then, suddenly complete silence and soon most had gone. Not a sign of an enemy or reason for such a disturbance could I see as I peered around the door - so what could have caused this explosion of noise and activity? A large snake perhaps?

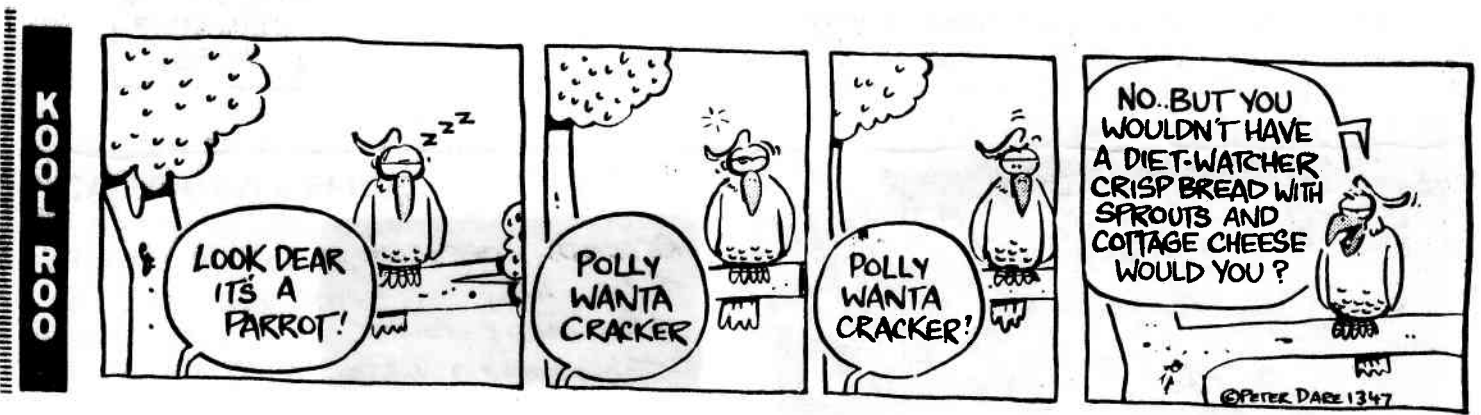
Ann Shore

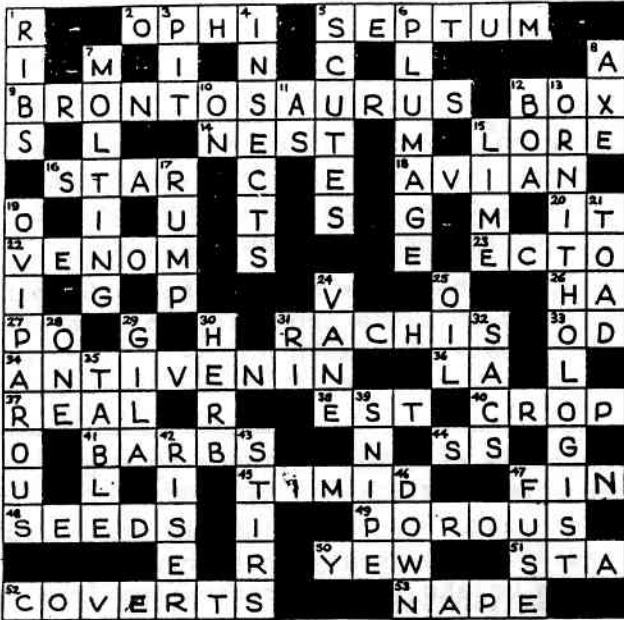
Thank you Ann for this interesting article. Any suggestions anyone???

Members Bird Notes:

Great-crested Grebe	11/3/89	Hood's Lagoon	M.A.	L.A.	P.M.
Chestnut Teal (Male)	27/3/89	Helidon Spa	M.A.	P.M.	
White Breasted Sea Eagle	27/3/89	Hood's Lagoon	M.A.	P.M.	
Red-capped Robin	27/3/89	Helidon Dip	M.A.	P.M.	
Australian Hobby	12/3/89	cnr. Hume & Jellicoe	L.B.	J.B.	
Whiskered Tern	12/3/89	Hood's Lagoon	L.B.	J.B.	
Eurasian Coot	16/3/89	Glendale Show Grounds	L.B.	J.B.	
Chestnut Teal	23/3/89	Helidon Spa	L.B.	A.H.S.	
Pacific Baza(5)	23/3/89	Helidon Dip Rd.	L.B.	A.H.S.	
Purple Swamphen	21/3/89	Waterbird Habitat	L.B.	J.B.	
Varied Sitella	30/4/89	Picnic Point	A.K.		

M.A. Michael Atzeni; L.A. Laurie Atzeni; P.M. Pat M<sup>C</sup>Connell; L.B. Lesley Beaton; J.B. John Ball; A.H.S. Ann Shore; A.K. Angela Kilmartin.





Solution  
to  
last  
month's  
puzzle

Annual Summary of Species

Included with this newsletter is the Annual Summary of species for the Toowoomba area. It is noteworthy that 219 of the total of 260 species recorded for the Toowoomba area were spotted last year. The Computer Recording system will be a big improvement and on behalf of the club I would like to thank Pat McConnell and Dave Gleeson for their work in this regard.

Editor

**SEND THIS COUPON TO:**

The Director  
Australian Conservation Foundation  
672B Glenferrie Rd  
HAWTHORN  
Victoria 3122

I attach a donation to the Australian Conservation Foundation. I prefer that this donation should be spent for the purpose of the *COALITION AGAINST DUCK SHOOTING*. I understand that this donation is TAX DEDUCTIBLE and therefore look forward to your receipt.

NAME (Block letters) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

\$1,000     \$500     \$250  
 \$100     \$50    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

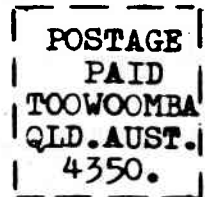
All cheques to be made out to Australian Conservation Foundation.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE 1 / 1989

Code - 29

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