



toowoomba bird
club
inc.

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Michael Atzeni	07	3969379
Vice-Pres./Records	Rod Hobson	075	661379
Secretary	Ann Shore		303207
Treasurer	Lesley Beaton		308481
Editor	Barbara Weller		329821
Librarian	Julie O'Connor		324594

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

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

No 182 - March 1991

FROM THE EDITOR.

An interesting outing has been planned for this month for the Brisbane southside area to see the waders which migrate south each year. We have heard that they are in breeding plumage with lots of bright red colours. A change from the usual greys. Our leader will be Michael Atzeni who now lives at Manly and will be familiar with the area. Congratulations go to Michael and his wife Karen on the birth of their daughter, Amelia, late early in February. An alternative outing has been planned for the Toowoomba area with Ann Shore as leader.

Heritage week will be held in Toowoomba from 7 - 14 April, and in conjunction with this Toowoomba City Council will hold a walk at Picnic Point on Sunday 7 April. We have been asked to help with the walk by acting as guides to groups of people. If you feel you can help please contact Ann. The theme of Heritage week this year will be "Save the Bush".

The male Ruddy Shelduck, which has been mentioned in past newsletters has been claimed by someone at Helidon. It was, in fact an aviary escapee and had not flown in from China.

HOBBY 'N' CRAFT SPECTACULAR 15, 16 & 17 February.

This annual event put on by Toowoomba South Rotary Club and drawing a crowd of more than 24 000 over the three days, certainly lived up to expectations. As usual, a superbly organized show with every sort of Hobby and Craft demonstrated or displayed to interest those already keen or tempt others with spare time on their hands.

The Toowoomba Bird club had a small but compact and colourful display in a good position and attracted much interest. Some sixteen members and their families gave up weekend time to man the stand and provide an excellent public relations team to pass on their enthusiasm and explain some of the benefits of belonging to the club.

I would particularly like to thank Pat Cleary and Lorraine Wilson who spent hours beforehand planning the display; Pat's husband David, for making and loaning to us the special bench and assisting in clearing the scene afterwards and to Pat's daughter, Janice, for much help behind the scenes. All the valuable contributions of help were responsible for making this a most successful weekend for the Bird Club.

Ann Shore

FIELD OUTING TO RAVENSBOURNE NATIONAL PARK 24 February 1991.

Following an almost washed-out visit to Cooby Dam in January, we hoped for more suitable conditions for the club's outing to Ravensbourne. The early morning was fine and cool but a strong easterly breeze blew later in the morning bringing thick misty drizzle and heavier rain for those who stayed on to lunch at the top picnic area and which precluded any more bird-watching walks afterwards.

However a splendid roll-up of 33 people arrived to take part in the outing; 26 members and 7 visitors of whom 3 were enrolled by the end of the morning.

After flurries of activity above by Brown Cuckoo-doves and Lorikeets as we arrived, few birds were sighted early on along the tracks below the picnic ground. Later, fanning out along the roadways some colourful and interesting species were seen and heard; the most spectacular being a male Regent Bowerbird, a Golden Whistler, Yellow Robins, Crimson Rosellas and King Parrots - quite a feast for the new birdos! In addition there were a number of "small brown birds" to be identified by those with keen eyesight and plenty of patience. 38 species in all were sighted.

Ann Shore

REPORT ON RECENT Q.O.S. TRIP TO TASMANIA:

The Q.O.S. trip to Tasmania started out from Devonport on Sunday 3 February. It was organized by and capably lead by Rob and Jenny Elvish of Field Biosearch. After early morning birding the banks of the Mersey River, sixteen eager participants boarded our coach and we set out via Latrobe and Elizabeth Town to Mole Creek and King Solomon's Cave. In no time we sighted our first endemic Tasmanian bird - the Tasmanian Native Hen. We entered King Solomon's Cave through rain forest abounding in tree ferns. Here we meet our first Green Rosellas, Tasmanias' White-browed Scrub Wrens, Tasmanian Thornbills, Black-headed and Strong-billed Honeyeaters, Olive Whistlers and Golden Whistlers. The caves which are of tremendous beauty are dry caves situated beneath dry sclerophyll forest. We were guided through by a National Park ranger.

Our picnic lunch was supplied by Jenny as in subsequent days and her splendid catering was nothing to be desired. Further walking revealed a point of interest - the antics of nesting Goldfinches which have become quite common in Tasmania. Perhaps the bird we meet most frequently was the Grey Fantail but I only saw one Willy Wagtail (in the Botanic Gardens in Hobart

On to Cradle Mount Lodge adjacent to Cradle Mountain Lake Saint Clair National Park where we stayed for four nights in very pleasant cabin accommodation with white Leptospermums surrounding us. A lovely setting to watch Superb Wrens, Scrub Wrens, Shrike Thrush, Tasmanian Thornbills and their brown cousins. Also Green Rosellas, Crescent Honeyeaters, Yellow Wattlebirds, Forest Ravens and pesty Currawongs. There were always Paddymelons and Bennets Wallaby around. Spotlighting at night we saw Brush and Ring Tailed possums, several Wombats and a Tasmanian devil.

We spent the daylight hours walking in Alpine Forest with Beech and Myrtle trees and beautiful Alpine wild flowers but not much bird life. We walked beside Lake Dove and had beautiful views to Cradle Mountain. We also walked through the forest at Waldheim. While eating lunch we were visited by a Quoll and had our lunch snatched from our hands by Currawongs. Other walks took us through pine forest and alpine heathlands along Cradle and Pinetrees Rivers. An excellent National Parks Information Centre was near the Lodge.

On to Strahan, a fishing village on Macquarie harbour via the desolate Queenstown where some restoration of plant life is evident. At Strahan we stayed at an old fashioned hotel "Fisher's Craypot Inn". Guess what we had for dinner? A delightful walk in the rainforest with its Sassafras, King Billy Pines and Leatherwood to Hogarth Falls and a cruise on Macquarie Harbour through Hell's Gate to the ocean beach where we saw Silver and Pacific Gulls and a Little Pied cormorant sheltered from the strong winds. The button-grass plains and heathlands yielded Calamanthus but not the Ground Parrots and Emu Wrens we had hoped for.

From Strahan along the Lyell highway through the Franklin Lower Gordon Wild River National Park to the southern tip of Lake St. Clair - the deepest lake in Australia. Here we lunched and tried to keep warm around an open fire in a shelter. It was too cold for the birds there.

On to Mount Field National Park where we stayed for two nights. We visited Russell falls and Horseshoe falls and went up to Lake Dobson (a famous ski resort) where we were surrounded by Crescent Honeyeaters. On the way down we had an excellent view of a Tasmanian Scrub Tit. At Mount Field we saw Pink Robins, Flame Robins, and Scarlet Robins.

On to Hobart down the Derwent Valley and between New Norfolk and Hobart an abundance of water birds - Swans, Pelicans, Pacific Black Ducks, Australian Shovellers, Chestnut Teals, Musk Ducks, Little Black and Little Pied Cormorants, Black-faced Shags, Kelp Gulls, Little Grebes as well as Blue-winged Parrots, Greenfinches and Goldfinches. We spent a perfect afternoon on the top of Mount Wellington - without wind but also without birds! Across to Bruny Island by ferry to Sophie's Guesthouse (delightful) at Dennes Point. We had been told where to look for a colony of Forty Spotted Pardalotes along with Spotted and Striated Pardalotes. We later saw them in the garden of our questhouse along with masses of New holland Honeyeaters. Further travelling on Bruny Island revealed Pacific and Kelp Gulls, Black-faced Cormorants, Sooty and Pied oystercatchers, Crested and Caspian Terns, Ruddy Turnstones and Gannets. After dusk we

ated the Little Penguin and Short-tailed shearwater colonies which were full of activity. we travelled towards Port Arthur we saw cape Barron Geese grazing near the highway. We travelled north via Rickford and Ross and were directed to Leakes Lagoon where apparently there had been a colony of Mute Swans at an earlier date - but we were out of luck.

We saw many more birds as we travelled north to Launceston such as Magpies which had been very scarce on the western trail but they were not the interesting species. From Launceston we went to the Asbestos Range National Park adjoining Bass Strait where at Baker's Bay we found Hooded Plovers, Red-capped Dotterel and Oystercatchers.

The journey conclude at Devonport on day 15 where Galahs brought the count to 99 species with only a couple of hours to go and only four persons left in Tasmania to find the hundredth species. We had found the endemic species we went to see!

Barbara Wilson

INTERESTING SNIPPETT.

Has anyone ever seen this behaviour reported to me by Mrs Jill Flagg of Spring Creek area?

She has a magpie which flies up and grabs a branch of her pencil pine which it then drags to the ground and lies on its back with the branch between its legs. A Butcherbird then flies down at the Magpie at which time the Magpie lets go of the branch but continues to lie on its back for some time.

Playing games perhaps??

Editor

NEW MEMBERS.

We are happy to welcome the following new members to the club and hope they have many happy hours birdwatching.

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| David Fraser, M.S. 582, Meringindan, T.M.C. 4352 | Ph 076 697295 |
| Peter Gelding, 4 Steinarht Court, Toowoomba. 4350 | 355184 |
| Eric and Jess Taylor, 29 Clive Crescent, Toowoomba. 4350 | 357430 |
| Gwyn Roche, 6 Elliot Street, Toowoomba. 4350 | 352239 |
| E (Grace) Roberts, 51 Campbell street, Toowoomba. 4350 | 323247 |

THE QUEENSLAND TWITCH.

The Golden-shouldered Parrot, one of Queensland's most beautiful birds needs your help - and quickly.

As part of a campaign to raise funds for this tragically endangered species, Queensland is having its own bird watching competition - the queensland "Twitch" that will help fund the World Wide Fund for Nature's part of a three-year joint research and management project with the Department of Environment and Heritage, to ensure this birds survival.

Teams of between 2 and 5 people will compete state wide, the aim being to identify as many bird species as possible in 24 hours from mid-night March 16 to mid-night March 17.

The Toowoomba Bird Club have a team of five who will cover ground from Girraween National Park near Stanthorpe to Manly east of Brisbane. Sponserhip is needed for our team. Please complete the form below and return to the Treasurer if you wish to sponser them.

Name Address

Amount/species

Donation.....

Thank you for your support.

FUTURE OUTINGS.

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB.

- Sunday, 24 March 1991 - Wader's Outing - Brisbane Southside. Meet at Manly Boat Harbour (northern end near pool) at 9.00 am Leader Michael Atzeni phone 07 3969379.
- Sunday, 24 March 1991 - Alternative Toowoomba outing. Meet at Withcott hotel at 7.00 am Leader Ann Shore phone 303207.
- Sunday, 28 April 1991 - Gatton Forestry. Meet at Apex Lake, Gatton near the shelter shed for 8.00 am departure. Members can meet from 7.00 am onwards. This is a combined outing with Q.O.S. Leader Rod Hobson phone 075 661379.
- Sunday, 25 May 1991 - Jandowae area. Meet at the Lion's Park in the middle of town at 8.00 am (Jandowae is about 1½ hours from Toowoomba) Leader terry Pacey phone 076 685582.

GIpsy POINT LODGE. (Gipsy Point, Victoria 3891. Phone (051) 588 205)

Gipsy Point Lodge have a number of bird-watching weeks planned for 1991. A brief summary of these is given below; for more information phone Barbara on 329821.

Bird weeks with Graham Pizzey: Sunday 5 to Saturday 11 May and Sunday 12 to Saturday 18 May. Tarrif is \$695, limit of eighteen quests in each week.

Bird Week with Ken Simpson (Editor of "Simpson & Day, Field Guide to the Birds of Australia". Sunday 29 September to Saturday 5 October. Ken will lead the excursions and in the evenings, lead discussions on birding and other natural history subjects. The tariff for the week including all excursions is \$675. Limit of eighteen. Book early.

Bird Observers' Weeks: while bird observers are welcome at the lodge at any time, these weeks have been specially reserved so that single or small groups of bird observers can be confident of sufficient other participants to allow us to make excursions by boat or 4WD each day to areas of interest in Croanjangolong and Ben Boyd National Parks. The tariff for the five days/six nights is \$595 (\$510 to 31 August). Limit of fifteen quests in each week.

March 17 to 23	Sept 8 to 14	Nov 3 to 9
April 14 to 20	Sept 22 to 28	Nov 24 to Dec 1
May 19 to 25	Oct 20 to 26	

THE TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER
Registered by Australia Post
Publication Number QBG3973

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
TOOWOOMBA
QLD.AUST.
4350.

If undeliverable return to
Toowoomba Bird Club Inc.
P.O. Box 67
Darling Heights. Qld. 4350

The Record's Officer,
Toowoomba Bird Club,
c/- 8 Richard's Court,
TOOWOOMBA. 4350