

## CLUB OFFICERS

President	Lesley Beaton	308481
Vice-P/Records	Rod Hobson	074 661379
Secretary	Ann Shore	303207
Treasurer	Nicki Thompson	343074
Editor	Don Gaydon	356161
Librarian	Sharyn Frederiks	331169
Committee Member	Barbara Weller	329821

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NO. 190 - NOVEMBER 1991

EDITORIAL: November in Toowoomba is synonymous in my mind with the flowering of the Jacarandas. Street upon street of their glorious purple blossoms, often mixed with the golden-orange blooms of the native Silky Oaks, herald the arrival of another spring and contribute, in no small way, to Toowoomba's own charm and character. Even this particularly dry spring has done little to dampen their vigour, as indeed it has done little to halt the growth of our Toowoomba Bird Club area check-list. Yet another two previously unrecorded species have been sighted during this spring, bringing our total to 270 species. These are detailed in this month's newsletter along with proceedings from the recently held AGM and address by the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

The purpose of the club executive, in addition to performing an administrative function, is to charter the club's direction and "encourage the observation and study of the birds of the Toowoomba area". The executive elected at the recent AGM has a very healthy mix of experience and new blood and I suppose my first duty as the new editor should be to introduce myself and the rest of the 1991/92 executive committee. At the helm is new president Lesley, keen to guide the club to another successful year and starting her second term as club President. Original member Rod will again fill the spot of Vice President/Records Officer and I'm sure we can expect another year of sterling service from the big bearded fellow. Secretary Ann, the "backbone" of the club, continues the role in which she has excelled over the years, while Sharyn Frederiks takes over as our friendly Librarian. Nicki Thompson makes her debut as Treasurer, and on behalf of the committee it is my pleasure to warmly welcome both her and Sharyn to the fray and trust that their first term on the executive will be both rewarding and enjoyable. Last and probably least is Editor Don (me), who slots into his first term in this position.

Presented above, members, is your club executive: Ready, willing, and able to serve the club's interests during 1991/92 and looking to your support for the club's prosperity. Cheers!

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NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRD

: No. 269  
: WHITE-WINGED TERN, *Sterna leucoptera*

Time / Date : 10:30 a.m.(E.S.T.) / 22.09.91  
Place : Spa Park, Helidon. 152/06'E ; 27/33'S  
Observers : P.McConnell, R.Hobson  
Optics : " Zeiss " 10 X 40B Binoculars  
" Zeiss " 8 X 32 Binoculars  
" Carton " 20 X 60 Telescope  
Weather Conditions : Mild, Slight Breeze. Good visibility.  
Distance to Subject : Bird in flight. Variable 20-60 metres.  
Comments : A small tern, single bird non-breeding. Generally grey above, white below. Bill - red/black. Throat, lores, forehead white. Grey crown onto lighter nape. Mantle black. Rump, upper tail - light grey, darker edging to

primaries. Breast, belly, undertail - white. Underwings - white, darker edging to primaries. Tail slightly forked. Flight buoyant. Did not break surface when feeding. Bird in residence 1 week +.

: WHISKERED TERN, *Sterna hybrida* - non breeding. Darker nape, lacks dark ear covert. More typical tern flight. Breaks surface often when feeding.

Similar Species

Pat McConnell

The breeding season for the White-winged Terns is May-June, by which time the matures have attained full-breeding plumage. This bird, a non-breeding summer migrant to Australia, is rarely seen here in full breeding colour. Whiskered Terns are resident spring-summer breeders, and in breeding plumage at that time. Local populations of the Whiskered Tern were in partial to full breeding at the time of the above sighting. The plumage of the bird in question would accord with the White-winged Terns breeding cycle. This applies to mature birds only.

Records Officer

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NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRD : No.270  
 : BLACK-TAILED GODWIT, *Limosa limosa*.

Time / Date : 7.05 a.m.(E.S.T.) / 02.11.91.  
 Place : Hood's Dam via Helidon, Q.  
 \* A.T.S.: Ref.9342 124539.

Observers : E. & R.Hobson.  
 Optics : " Zeiss " 10 x 40B Binoculars.  
 " Carton " 20 x 60 Telescope.

Weather Conditions : Mild, 100% overcast, no breeze.  
 Visibility very good.

Distance to Subject : Variable. (see comments).

Comments : Single bird, initially observed feeding on eastern shoreline in company of Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Black-winged Stilt by R.H., 6.10 a.m.(E.S.T.) Observed through binoculars, telescope from approx. 30 mtrs. Bird seen to raise wing in minor fracas with Grey Teal, exposing white wing-bar. Contacted E.H. from Helidon P.O. Arrived and confirmed record, 7.05 a.m. (E.S.T.). Bird put to wing, circling to approx. 30 mtrs above dam surface. Flight swift, strong and direct. Shrill " ti ti ti " call in flight. Bird descended in a spiral, on set wings to about 10 mtrs from dam surface then plummeted into a sharp dive, levelling off just above water surface to complete a gentle landing on the shore in area whence it had risen. In clear view at all times.

Several local sightings this species of late viz.1 bird, Apex Lake, Gatton, 25/26.10.91, E.H.,R.H.; 5 birds, Karrasch's Dam, 27/28.10.91, E.H.,R.H. Bird in question not in evidence, 9.30 a.m. (E.S.T.) 03.11.91, R.H.

Field Marks : Observed in flight ; Conspicuous white wing-bar, white rump onto lower back, black sub-terminal tail band.  
 Observed on ground ; Straight bi-coloured bill.

Similar Species : BAR-TAILED GODWIT, *L. lapponica* ; bi-coloured bill slightly upturned, whitish rump and tail with dark barring. Lacks conspicuous wing bars of *limosa*.  
 HUDSONIAN GODWIT, *L.haemastica* ; upturned bill.  
 Rare vagrant to Australia. Highly unlikely.  
 ASIAN DOWITCHER, *Limnodromus semipalmatus* ; smaller, straight black bill swollen at tip.  
 Rare migrant to Australia. Unlikely.

R.Hobson,  
GRANTHAM.  
03.11.91

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MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB INC. - 15 October 1991

1. Opening of Meeting: The President, Micheal Atzeni, opened the Annual General Meeting Of the Toowoomba Bird Club Inc. at the Toowoomba Education Centre, Baker St., at 9.11 pm following refreshments and a most stimulating and absorbing slide show and talk on conservation matters in Queensland given by the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Pat Comben M.L.A., who finished by enlisting the willing support of members for the State Government's forthcoming programme, Nature Search 2001, an immense undertaking to record the birds, mammals, insects, reptiles and plants in S.E. Queensland and expected to take around two years starting from 1 January 1992 with the help of volunteers from groups such as ours. Twenty-five members present and two visitors including the guest speaker, as per Attendance Book. A vote of thanks to Mr Comben was made by Barbara Weller.
2. Apologies: Terry Pacey, Pat Fraser, Frank and Nancy Belcher, Margaret Krimmer, Pat Cleary, Lorraine Wilson, Peggie and Roy Beaton and Heather Zirbel.
3. Minutes of the last A.G.M., 23 October 1990: These minutes had been printed in full in the November 1990 issue of the newsletter, were taken as read and confirmed by the President who moved that they be accepted. Seconded by Barbara Wilson. All in favour. Carried.
4. Business Arising : Nil
5. Correspondence : Nil
6. President's Report: Micheal Atzeni reported on the club's doings in the past year. (See separate report). He then moved that his report be accepted. Seconded by Keith Treschman. All in favour. Carried.
7. Treasurer's Report: Lesley Beaton gave her financial report. The balance at the end of the club's financial report was \$124.00 (see separate report). She moved that it be accepted. Seconded by Barbara Weller. All in favour. Carried.
8. Election of Officers: The President, who was not seeking re-election, continued in the chair. Only one written nomination had been received beforehand, for a Committee Member, so Micheal called for nominations from the floor. These were as follows:-
  - a. President - Lesley Beaton  
Nominated - Micheal Atzeni, seconded - Marilyn Jacobs
  - b. Secretary - Ann Shore  
Nominated - Lesley Beaton, seconded - Julie O'Connor.  
All in favour. Carried.
  - c. Treasurer - Nicolette Thompson  
Nominated - Ann Shore, seconded - Laurie Atzeni
  - d. Vice Pres/Records Officer - Rod Hobson  
Nominated - Pat McConnell, seconded -  
Keith Treschman
  - e. Editor - Don Gaydon  
Nominated - Rod Hobson, seconded - Micheal Atzeni
  - f. Committee Member - Sharyn Frederiks  
Nominated - Lesley Beaton, seconded - Alex Frederiks

g. Committee Member - Barbara Weller

Nominated - Ann Shore, seconded - Barbara Wilson  
(Nomination received beforehand)

Elections for all the above positions were carried unanimously.

h. Auditor - The President proposed that we ask Betts and Dighton to continue as auditors and moved a motion accordingly. Seconded by Laurie Atzeni. All in favour. Carried.

9. Close of Meeting: There being no further business the President closed the A.G.M. at 9.35 pm and immediately moved on to an Ordinary General Meeting, as reported in the Minute Book.

Ann H Shore                      Secretary                      16 October 1991

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 15 October 1991

The past year has been a steady and successful club year catering for a current membership of around 60 families. From an executive perspective, the year has been punctuated with numerous demands on time and protracted individual absences. I wish to praise my fellow executive members for their resilience and loyalty, particularly, for carrying my position after I moved to Brisbane in December. Fortunately, Don Gaydon volunteered to join the committee after Beryl Walker's departure. Don, Rod Hobson, and Pat McConnell willingly took on acting roles of Treasurer, President and Secretary, respectively.

Conservation and environmental matters continued to be prominent in the club. Lesley Beaton continues to represent us in the Special Environment Advisory Committee and Barbara Weller in the Toowoomba and Regional Environment Committee. The club participated in World Environment Day and the local council's Environmental Walk. Pat and Rod attended the July workshop in Brisbane on the Status and Conservation of Birds. Some members began an on-going survey of Dwyer's scrub, via Stockyard, at the request of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. In a fund-raiser for the Golden-shouldered Parrot, a club team, the "Unleaded Petrels", showed we were more than a bunch of pretty faces when we clocked up 172 species in 24 hours in the Queensland Twitch.

The club added three new species to its list (White-winged Tern, Black-chinned Honeyeater and Diamond Firetail); all from a very dry Helidon and perhaps as a direct result of the drought which tends to favour an influx of species from drier climates and concentrates the waterbirds. A concerted effort was made to inform interested members of unusual species by telephone and through the newsletter.

Our annual Hobby'n'Craft stand was both well-presented and well-manned. The fine efforts of Pat Cleary and Lorraine Wilson set a new yardstick for future presentations and we look forward to their continued enthusiasm and ideas. The perennial problem of too few members contributing articles for the newsletter still haunts us and I sincerely thank all those who did. Full credit to Barbara Weller for her innovative and interesting extracts which mitigated the problem. Sadly, Barbara is relinquishing the editorship, but can do so proudly and justifiably after three years of excellent work for which we are very grateful. Thanks also to Barbara Wilson for an excellent job of collating and mailing the newsletter each month. Our experienced campaigners, Ann Shore and Lesley Beaton saw that secretarial and treasury matters ran like clockwork, while Rod Hobson has the records in fine shape as already evidenced by his polished annual summary.

Outings in the past year have been well attended. Thanks to those who made the effort, particularly the regulars. Finally thanks to anyone whose support I have not acknowledged and we look forward to everyone's continued support this year.

Micheal Atzeni

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB - ANNUAL BIRD SPECIES COUNT. 27.10.91.

A fine Spring morning presaged a successful day's birdwatching for teams and individuals who took part in the club's annual species census. A departure from previous counts this year had been decided upon by the executive beforehand in that the survey area was to be confined to the Toowoomba Range escarpment and the areas adjoining onto the club's eastern survey perimeter. Results were correlated at the lunch venue at "Shorelands", Withcott and the tally, at that stage was 147 species. Most participants opted for an early day but a few hardier souls battled on into the night - "must have an owl on the list". We got one too, a Barn Owl near Lilydale.

Late results are now to hand and I can announce the final total of bird species recorded as being 157, a worthy effort. A complete list of sightings is probably superfluous, suffice that I shall mention some of the more interesting records. The two outstanding birds of the day were the White-breasted Woodswallow from

Redwood Park and Budgerigars recorded at "Lingalonga", Silver Pinch Road. Congratulations to Audrey Sorensen and Keith Treschman on these sightings. These last two birds were all the more significant as they were the first records of the species in the club survey area in 1991. The woodswallow was exciting indeed, especially in that it is the second longest outstanding species on the club checklist. It has not been recorded since its entry onto that list in October 1976. The Sooty Tern - January 1976 is the oldest but, being a cyclone assisted seabird, is somewhat anomalous in this context. The Budgerigar last appeared here in May, 1988. Two very good sightings.

Other records of interest on the day included Rufous Night-heron, Chestnut Teal, Pacific Baza, Painted Button-quail, Buff-banded Rail, Banded Lapwing - with chicks, Common and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Emerald Dove, Squatter Pigeon, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Pallid and Brush Cuckoo, Horsfield's and Shining Bronze-cuckoo, Australian Owlet-nightjar, Noisy Pitta, both trillers, \* Red-capped Robin, Spectacled Monarch, Rufous Songlark, Scarlet Honeyeater, Zebra Finch and both local bowerbirds. As readers will appreciate, a respectable list. A number of our more regular species were conspicuous by their absence on the day however; Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Brown Goshawk, White-headed Pigeon, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Leaden Flycatcher, Varied Sittella, Brown-headed Honeyeater, White-winged Chough and Dusky Woodswallow, to name a few.

Unfortunately our count coincided with similar events organized by the R.A.O.U. in Melbourne and the Q.O.S. in Brisbane. Several T.B.C. members were keen to attend one or other of these events but club loyalty prevailed. Good onya, Folks and to Kip and Joan from Canada, "Thanks for your help on the day and welcome to the club."

\* more on this interesting record in a future newsletter.

R.G.Hobson,  
GRANTHAM.  
31.10.91

NATURE SEARCH 2001

At the club's A.G.M. the Hon. Pat Comben, M.L.A., Minister for Environment and Heritage, spoke at length on the Government's new initiative, Nature Search 2001 - a design for habitat conservation and utilisation into the next century. The object of Nature Search 2001 is to survey the flora and fauna existing in the nineteen Local Authority Areas covered by the S.E.Q. 2001 planning area. This is in order that such authorities, working from an informed data base, will be able to assess and instigate developmental policies which will be sensitive to conservation issues.

Local interest groups have been invited to contribute and the Toowoomba Bird Club is therefore in a prime position to be instrumental in helping formulate informed policies for future habitat use in our area.

All interested persons should make themselves known to the Secretary, Ann Shore, as soon as possible in order that the appropriate response can be made to the Minister. Further information is available from the Secretary.

NEW MEMBERS

Nola Caffin House 8, Gatton College Campus, phone 074 623638

Kip and Joan Anastasiou, British Columbia, Toowoomba address :  
16 Jenifer Crescent, phone 076 359546

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due to increased costs associated with the production of the newsletter, it was decided at the October General Meeting to increase family/individual subscription to \$18 per annum. Student fees are to remain at \$10 per annum. Members are reminded that these fees are now due.

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COMING EVENTS

Hobby'n'Craft Spectacular 21-23 Feb 1992. Volunteers required, contact Ann.

November Outing : Lockyer Valley Wetlands 24 November 1991

Assembly Point: Apex Lake, Gatton 7.00 am

Lunch at Atkinson's Lagoon.

Leader: Rod Hobson

Note: Good numbers of terns and waders sighted in this area recently.

January Outing : Dwyer's Scrub

Leader: Lesley Beaton

February Outing : Wader Outing (Brisbane)

Leader: Don Gaydon

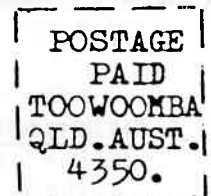
\* Note: there is no December outing.

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The winner of A.G.M. Wine raffle was Mr Robert Fuller, Toowoomba Field Naturalists.

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