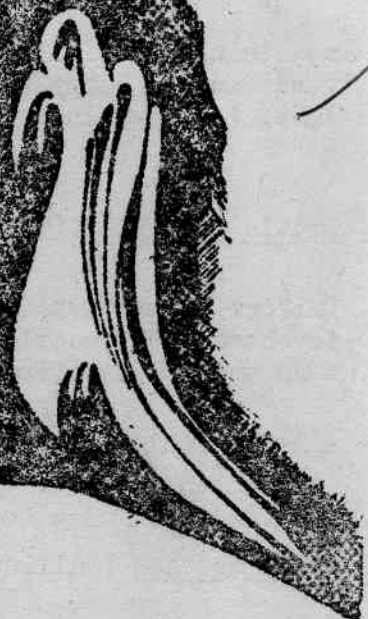


Marilyn J.

Toowoomba bird club



NEWS-SHEET No. 2 - NOVEMBER, 1975.

It has been suggested that the club adopt the black-shouldered kite as its emblem; a bird that is very common on the Darling Downs, certainly a beautiful sight as it hovers motionless in the air, and extremely handsome when sitting on the top of the tallest vantage point of any area. Hence the temporary heading for the moment - till we see if all members are in favour?

Our News-sheet No. 1 has been circulated to all the clubs interested in birds in our region, and to the D.D.I.A.E. library and the Chronicle. From this we have had various invitations to visit good bird areas, including one to visit Trail Park at Flagstone, where we could see brush turkeys inside the 10 km area of Toowoomba.

Five club members participated on Sunday, 12th October, 1975 in the Annual Bird Count organised by the Queensland Ornithological Society. The area covered each year is that within an 80 km radius of Darra, the Western arc of the circle running from Ravensbourne down to Helidon and thence to Spicer's Gap. Club members Dianne Hayden, Rod Hobson, Marilyn Jacobs, Vera Simon and Bill Jolly counted from Lake Clarendon to Tent Hill and from Dyer's Lagoon to Townson and the Mistake Mts., (while John and Ruth Walter from the Toowoomba Field Naturalists covered Ravensbourne down to Heifer Creek).

Highlights of the day from Marilyn, Dianne and Vera were squatter pigeons and leaden flycatchers (possibly breeding) while Rod and Bill were most excited to find pink-eared duck at Dyer's Lagoon and yellow-tailed black cockatoos at Mt. Mistake. Toowoomba-based participants in the count recorded 124 species in our sector, but the cover a handful of bird-watchers was able to achieve in so large an area was of course less than adequate. Let us look forward to the prospect of our club making a significant contribution to next year's count with perhaps five or six teams in the field.

Well, the combined efforts of club members have already added four new species to our Toowoomba Bird List during the month of October (details below)! In addition to the basic list as adopted at our inaugural meeting there are 13 species which have been sighted in our area by Rod Hobson and which members might well keep a watch for. They are: crested hawk, spotted harrier, brush turkey, brown quail, white-headed stilt, wonga pigeon, common bronzewing, yellow-tailed black cockatoo, Eastern rosella, channel-billed cuckoo, white-throated nightjar, azure kingfisher, restless flycatcher.

Please don't forget to ring your Editor on 911616 (a local call) to tell of any new or unusual birds - or just any sighting you especially enjoyed, so these notes can be included in your News-sheet. We want to hear of every interesting observation.

Editor.

NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRDS.

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NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRDS.

132 Little lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*). 14.10.75. Swenson Street. Eileen Jolly and David Blackburn.

For ages I've suspected that there have been little lorikeets flashing by overhead at home but they have never been still long enough for me to get a proper look at them. But today when I heard lorikeets in one of our flowering gums, I saw not only the usual scaly-breasted lorikeets but to my delight picked out the pretty red faces of some little lorikeets which were considerably smaller and lacked the red patch under the wing and the yellow-mottled front of the scaly-breasted. There is

something especially exciting about seeing a bird for the first time in ones own yard and I'm happy to say they are now daily visitors for as long as our flowers last. I always know when they are around by their round, trilling little call.

Eileen Jolly.

133 Little thornbill (*Acanthiza mana*). 19.10.75. Redwood Park. Bill Jolly & Steve Temple-Watts.

Uniform upper parts - including the forehead and rump (brown thornbill has rufous forehead with speckles and rufous rump) and unstreaked underparts with a yellowish wash and a repetitive "zitt" call.

Steve Temple-Watts.

134 Yellow-billed spoonbill (*Platelea flavipes*) 26.10.75. Withcott. Alan & Sylvia Graham. Rod & Kerrie Hobson.

Feeding in a swamp East of Withcott.

135 Dusky moorhen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*) 26.10.75. Flagstone Creek. Eileen & Bill Jolly.

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES.

- White-breasted sea-eagle. (2 birds). 27.9.75. Rod Hobson, Bill Jolly.
- Spotted harrier. Oakey. 5.10.75. Alan Graham, Bill Jolly.
- Banded plover. Oakey. 5.10.75. Alan Graham, Bill Jolly.
- Great crested grebe. Cooby Creek. 12.10.75. Alan Graham, Sylvia Graham.
- Glossy black cockatoo. Goombungee. 23.10.75. Steve Temple-Watts.
- White-winged black tern. L. Clarendon. 26.10.75. Rod Hobson, Kerrie Hobson.
- Cattle egret. L. Clarendon. 26.10.75. Rod Hobson, Kerrie Hobson.
- Black-fronted dotterel. Nr. Haden. 27.10.75. Steve Temple-Watts.

Common bird names.

I should like to explain to members how it comes about that the names used on our green check-lists do not always agree with those to be found in Slater's field guide.

The checklists (and references to birds in this News-sheet) follow the nomenclature and the order of classification as set out in the C.S.I.R.O. publication An Index of Australian Bird Names (1969).

As Slater's field guide does not conform in all respects to the C.S.I.R.O. Index it might be of value to list the variations of usage between the two publications in so far as they relate to birds likely to be encountered in our region.

<u>C.S.I.R.O.</u>	<u>Slater.</u>	<u>Scientific name.</u>
Grass whistling duck	Grass whistle duck	<i>Dendrocygna eytoni</i>
White-quilled pigmy goose	White pigmy goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
a) Red-backed sea-eagle	Brahminy kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
Whistling eagle	Whistling kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>
Australian goshawk	Brown goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>
Australian little eagle	Little eagle	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>
Brown hawk	Brown falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>
Spur-winged plover	Masked plover	<i>Vanellus novaehollandiae</i>
White-headed stilt	Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Yellow-tailed black cockatoo	Yellow-tailed cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>
Glossy black cockatoo	Glossy cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathamii</i>
Red-tailed black cockatoo	Red-tailed cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii</i>
Rainbow bee-eater	Rainbow bird	<i>Merops ornatus</i>
Golden-headed fantail warbler	Golden-headed cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>
Buff-rumped thornbill	Buff-tailed thornbill	<i>Acanthiza reguloides</i>
Yellow-rumped thornbill	Yellow-tailed thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>
b) White-browed scrub-wren	(White-browed scrub-wren	<i>Sericornis frontalis</i>
	(Buff-breasted scrub-wren	
	(Spotted scrub-wren	
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	(Brown flycatcher	<i>Microeca leucophaea</i>

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	(Brown scrub-wren	
Jacky winter	Brown flycatcher	<i>Microeca leucophaea</i>
c) Southern yellow robin	(Southern yellow robin	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>
	(Northern yellow robin	
Shrike-tit	Eastern shrike-tit	<i>Falcunculus frontatus</i>
Banded finch	Double-bar finch	<i>Poephila cincta</i>
Starling	English starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>

(See notes a), b) & c) overleaf).

Bill Jolly.

- a) Not normally found inland
- b) Slater illustrates and details these four sub-species of the white-browed scrub-wren, our local bird being the buff-breasted variety.
- c) Slater considers the Northern and the Southern yellow robins as separate species whereas the C.S.I.R.O. Index acknowledges only one, which it terms Southern yellow robin. The yellow robin occurring hereabouts shows the distinctive yellow rump of the Northern sub-species.

Some October sightings.

In the past month I have had two bird sightings in the Toowoomba area which gave particular enjoyment.

The first was of three little corellas which were sighted in the company of several galahs at Gabbinbar State School at 8.50 a.m. on 10th October. All three corellas most graciously perched on the power lines making identification easy from the road below. This sighting came during a period of others reported by Colin Kent and Bill Jolly in the vicinity of Gabbinbar School and the Ruthven/Stenner St. intersection. Verification of this as a new bird to our list seems to be somewhat in doubt until the possibility of escapees has been investigated.

The second was of an adult dollar-bird near the Toowoomba Golf Club area in Mackenzie St. at 9.05 a.m. on 17th October. These lovely migrants have recently returned to the Toowoomba area and are most commonly seen rolling around the sky. However, this lone bird was also power-cable "squatting" just above the road and I was able to approach very close. It really was a beautiful sight - if only I had had a camera with a telephoto lens!!

Whilst on a trip out to Brookvale Park, Oakey, on 5th October, Bill Jolly and I investigated an area South of the highway and between Oakey and the Brookvale Park turn-off. In this area is a large expanse of water which appears to be a "large puddle" (!!!) in several hundred acres of cultivation. Beside the usual sightings of straw-necked ibis, spur-winged plovers and several ducks there was a single black swan, a pair of banded plovers and approximately 50 pairs of white-headed stilts. It seemed certain from their numbers and the high proportion of birds in pairs that this particular area is a breeding area for these stilts.

Later, on our return to the highway we were treated to a most breath-taking sight - that of an adult spotted harrier hawking along the fence lines. This particular bird was magnificent and it will be a long while before I forget this sighting. A few minutes later we saw a brown hawk and also a second, this time immature, spotted harrier being mobbed by butcher-birds.

For those who have yet to see a great-crested grebe a trip to Cooby Creek might prove rewarding. My wife Sylvia and I were there on 12th October. Amongst many little grebes, coots, wood duck and little pied cormorants, we were most excited to see a single winter plumaged great-crested grebe, undoubtedly one of the first to return to Cooby this year. Also on the water were several little black cormorants and a couple of darters.

In the picnic areas below the dam wall we also sighted several dusky moorhens, a pair of superb blue wrens, a fan-tailed cuckoo, several striped honeyeaters (plus the usual currawongs and Indian mynas) and the wonderful sight of four dollar birds tumbling through the sky after one another.

Alan Graham.

OCTOBER OUTING TO PERSEVERANCE DAM.

In certain ornithological circles there occurs a variety of bird-watcher known as a tick-hunter. He is the person who will rush from one side of the country to the other in order to add a tick to his personal check-list, staying just long enough to identify the bird and racing on to the next tick. Club members who braved the windy conditions at Perseverance and Ravensbourne on 25.10.75. know of course that tick hunting has quite a different meaning hereabouts!!

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Arachnids notwithstanding we enjoyed our bird-watching at both stops, although the windy conditions coupled with the recent heavy rain appeared to have brought about a dispersal of the water birds we were hoping to see and accounted for the sparsity of birds in general. The day's observing was concentrated at Ravensbourne where most members were fortunate enough to gain magnificent views of catbirds and a shrike-tit, together with many other rain forest birds, as listed overleaf.

Steve Temple-Watts.

Bird list - Perseverance. 25.10.75.

Little grebe	Willie wagtail
Pied cormorant	Grey shrike-thrush
Little p. cormorant	Wh.-thr. tree-creeper
Black swan	Scarlet honeyeater
Brush turkey	Y.-faced honeyeater
Dusky moorhen	Noisy friarbird
Coot	Noisy miner
Rainbow lorikeet	Magpie lark
Pale-h. rosella	Pied currawong
L. kookaburra	Black-backed magpie
Bl.-f. cuckoo-shrike	Australian crow
Striated thornbill	

Bird list - Ravensbourne. 25.10.75.

Scaly-br. lorikeet	Grey fantail
King parrot	Rufous fantail
Crimson rosella	Bl.-f. flycatcher
Hors. bronze cuckoo	Golden whistler
Sacred kingfisher	Grey shrike-thrush
Dollar bird	Eastern whipbird
Shrike-tit	Wh.-thr. tree-creeper
Bl.-f. cuckoo-shrike	Lewin honeyeater
Superb blue wren	Pied currawong
Striated thornbill	Grey butcher-bird
Little thornbill	Catbird
Wh.-br. scrub-wren	Australian crow
S. yellow robin	

OUTING FOR NOVEMBER, 1975.

Sunday, 23rd November, 1975. Redwood Park.

Meet at 9 a.m. at track opposite Log Cabin Service Station on down-section of Warrego Highway. (Scarlet and assorted honeyeaters, flycatchers, wrens, drongos etc.).

MEETING FOR DECEMBER, 1975.

Monday, 1st December, 1975. 7.30 p.m. at "Naliandrah", Stanley Park, Withcott.
(Alan & Sylvia Graham).

OUTING FOR DECEMBER, 1975.

Oakey area. Details to be advised, but Steve Temple-Watts promises spotted harriers and various quail.

NEW MEMBERS.

The club is pleased to welcome the following new members:-

- Chris Bianchi, M.S. 1436, Toowoomba.
- Paul & Hazel Green, P.O. Box 2, Oakey. (91.1238)
- ✓ Ron & Viv Wilson, 2, Phillip Street, Toowoomba. (32.7641)

A SUMMARY OF MEMBER'S SIGHTINGS IN TOOWOOMBA
DURING OCTOBER WILL BE APPENDED TO THE DECEMBER NEWS-SHEET.

CLUB OFFICERS:-

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Black swan	Scarlet honeyeater
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- Secretary/Treasurer - Alan Graham, "Naliandrah", Stanley Park, Withcott, (30.3138)
- Editor - Steve Temple-Watts, M.S. 918, Toowoomba. (91.1616)
- Records Officer/Librarian - Rod Hobson, c/- 67, Rowbotham St., Toowoomba.