



TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER  
CLUB OFFICERS

President	Pat McConnell	076 976141
Vice-P/Records	Rod Hobson	074 627364
Secretary	Ann Shore	076 303207
Treasurer	Nicki Thompson	076 343074
Editor	Don Gaydon	07 8221684
Librarian	Sharyn Frederiks	076 331169
Committee Member	Pat Cleary	076 303352

toowoomba bird club inc.

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

MEMBERSHIP : Adults/Families \$18.00 Students \$10.00

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

No.202 - NOVEMBER 1992

EDITORIAL:

As you will see from the list of club officers (above), the new executive committee for 1992/93 is now in place following our October A.G.M.. Most of last year's executive re-nominated and were duly elected. The departing committee members, past President Lesley Beaton and past Committee Member Barbara Weller, have been replaced by Pat McConnell and Pat Cleary respectively. See enclosed A.G.M. minutes. On behalf of the club, thanks to Lesley and Barbara for their service, and good luck to the two Pats in their new positions.

As continuing Editor, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to several people for their valuable roles in the production and dispatch of this newsletter during the past year. Rod and Betty Hobson for use of their computing facilities and their keen eyes and brains as proof-readers, Nicki Thompson for the time she spends over a photocopying machine, and last but not least Barbara Wilson for performing the tedious tasks of collation and mailing in such a professional manner. I'm particularly grateful to Nicki and Barbara for the way in which they've responded on those occasions when I've left the submission of the master-copy disastrously late. It's happened more than once; thankyou.

From now on, you may notice several small differences in the news-sheet. For example, more details on what to expect from upcoming outings will be provided, so that members may better judge outings suited to them. Also, from next month, the newsletter's front page will have a different format. I'll keep you in suspense until December rather than giving details now!

On a disciplinary note, Record's Officer Rod has mentioned to me that several people have submitted checklists indicating the sighting of a rare or unusual bird (those species with an asterisk), but have as yet failed to fill-out a "Rare or Unusual Bird Report Form" with regard to the particular sightings. Be warned, those concerned, that the big bearded fellow will be on your tails shortly if you do not submit in the near future. The "New or Unusual Bird Report Forms" were designed to supplement the club's records with detailed information on unusual sightings, rather than just species name, observer, and date. The system will be a great boost to the usefulness of our club records and Rod strongly urges members to start complying. If people's report forms do not come in by

the end of January 1993, their rare or unusual sightings will not appear in the 1992 Annual Species Summary. If you happen to be one of the culprits, you may find a blank report form with this news-sheet.

Subscriptions are due as from 1 November, at the rates shown on the cover.

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### TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB - Annual Species Count 24/25.10.92

Despite the fact that four of our regular counters, the "Non-plumbeous Pterodromas", were absent on the R.A.O.U./Q.O.S. Twitch on that weekend, the T.B.C. annual bird census must be accounted a success with 162 species being recorded. This compares with the 157 birds listed for this event last year. Four species viz. Painted and Red-chested Button-Quail, Buff-banded Rail (with chicks) and White-throated Nightjar were observed in the T.B.C. checklist area by the Unleaded Petrels twitch-team on the afternoon, the 24th. Accordingly, these birds were added to the 158 species recorded by T.B.C. participants and the final tally arrived at. I would like to thank the "U.P.'s" for their contribution and congratulate them on their efforts. The new format, midday to midday, appears to have worked well and it was agreed unanimously that this be adopted for all future such events.

The heat and drought conditions, compounded by the pall of smoke haze from bushfires in the ranges, made birdwatching onerous and one can but speculate on what might have been had conditions been more amenable. Still, all participants gathered at "Shorelands" to tabulate results, midday, 25.10.92, had some sighting or other to enthuse upon. Aside to Jim B.'s red and white beach shirt, for myself, it was the close, protracted views of a lone Spotless Crake\* feeding at the base of a Bulrush bed on Puzzling Gully on the first afternoon. All symptoms of Twitching Disease, *Delirium tremens aves*, were vanquished as I settled back for an half hour's spell to enjoy this rarely observed little wetland denizen.

Spotted Harriers are still about this late in the year and two separate sightings of that magnificent raptor were reported. Both were from the Carpendale area and were most probably of the same bird. The gaggle of Magpie Geese which has been in residence on the Grantham abattoir ponds these three months past presented themselves this day. Spa Park's annual, and regular visitor, the Common Sandpiper and its attendant flock of Red-necked Avocets were great additions to the weekend's list. Lorraine Wilson recorded Australian Owlet-Nightjar on her property at Withcott but nocturnal birds were scarce on the day (night). The only owl recorded was a Southern Boobook heard calling near the Helidon Rest Area, up along moon-shadowed Lockyer Creek, where the Grey-headed Flying Foxes drink. Charms of Plum-headed Finches were about in numbers as has been the case of late. Several teams sighted this special little bird in the Iredale, Helidon area.

Other species of particular note included Pacific Baza, Grey Goshawk, Latham's Snipe, Emerald Dove, Wonga Pigeon, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Pallid Cuckoo, Horsfield's and Shining Bronze-Cuckoos, White-backed Swallow, Cicadabird, both trillers, Satin Flycatcher, two songlarks, Red Wattlebird, Brown-headed Honeyeater and Satin and Regent Bowerbirds. All factors considered, a successful two days. Bye the bye, participants recorded five non-avian critters which may be of interest to readers. Two microchiropterids, the Yellow-bellied Sheathtail Bat, *Saccolaimus flaviventris*, and

Gould's Wattled Bat, *Chalinolobus gouldii*, were reported from Anderson's Road, Helidon (courtesy of Al Young's bat detector); Yellow-footed Antechinus, *Antechinus flavipes*, and Major's Skink, *Egernia frerei*, from Redwood Park and a large, molten coppered Eastern Brown Snake, *Pseudonaja textilis*, which melted into the Blanchview landscape, just by my feet. A magnificent creature to any herptophile. Tham thar dang cicadas wah just a-commencin' to a-jawin' 'n' a-caterwaulin' as well.

As Record's Officer, I would like to thank all persons who participated in the census and look forward to your continued support next year. Hopefully the present grisly weather will be but an unpleasant memory. Such is birdwatching Australia. Ah! Birders - the Eternal Optimists, but hist! to The Call, up from the moss gullies, out of the blue ranges.

\* Crakes appear to be common about the Lockyer Valley at present. Baillon's Crakes arrived in numbers in early Spring and have been recorded regularly since on Freeman's Waterhole, Gatton and on the dams behind the Uni. Look around the Smartweed, *Polygonum* sp. beds. On the 09.10.92, I had good views of a Australian Crake working the muddy verges of Janke's Dam with additional sightings to date. On Oct. 1st, a small party of Spotless Crakes were heard to set up a din, out of all proportion to their diminutive size, from the rush bed perimeter of Puzzling Gully. This culminated in the sighting as detailed above.

R. Hobson  
WOODLANDS  
29.10.92

An article on the TBC twitch team's effort (24-25.10.92) will appear next newsletter.  
Editor.

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**Minutes of the A.G.M. of the Toowoomba Bird Club Inc.**  
**held on 5 October 1992 at the Q.C.W.A. Hall, Withcott**

1. **Opening of Meeting:** The President, Lesley Beaton, opened the meeting at 7.40 pm, welcoming all those present; 12 members and 2 prospective members, see Attendance Book.
2. **Apologies:** Received from Barbara Wilson, Julie O'Connor, Nola Caffin, Terry Pacey, Ken and Fiona Wells, Frank and Nancy Belcher, David Cleary, Janice Lyons, Don Gaydon, Roy and Peggie Beaton, Lorraine Wilson, and Jack and Clifford Lund.
3. **Minutes of the 1991 A.G.M.:** These had been printed in full in the November 1991 issue of the newsletter and had been confirmed and signed by the President at the meeting of the Executive on 27 October 1991. They were now tabled for members to view if required.
4. **Business Arising:** Nil
5. **Correspondence and Business Arising:** Nil
6. **President's Report:** Lesley reported on the club's doings during the past year (see separate report). She moved that her report be accepted and it was seconded by Barbara Weller. All in favour and carried.

**7. Treasurer's Report:** Nicki Thompson explained that, as shown in the Financial Report which had been circulated, the club's finances were in a very healthy state. She moved that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Rhonda Nobbs-Mohr. All in favour. Carried.

**8. Election of Officers:** The President was not seeking re-election and therefore remained in the chair to conduct the election, as follows :

- a. Secretary - Ann Shore  
nominated - Rod Hobson, seconded - Betty Hobson. A.I.F. carried.
- b. Treasurer - Nicki Thompson  
nominated - Rod Hobson, seconded - Betty Hobson. A.I.F. carried.
- c. Editor - Don Gaydon  
nominated - Rod Hobson, seconded - Betty Hobson. A.I.F. carried.
- d. Vice Pres./Records Officer - Rod Hobson  
nominated - Betty Hobson, seconded - Ann Shore. A.I.F. carried.
- e. Librarian - Sharyn Frederiks  
nominated - Ann Shore, seconded - Lesley Beaton. A.I.F. carried.

All the above nominations had been received in advance. Lesley then called for nominations from the floor for the positions of President and Committee Member.

- f. Committee Member - (i) Barbara Weller  
nominated - Ann Shore, seconded - Rod Hobson  
  
(ii) Pat Cleary  
nominated - Barbara Weller, seconded - Nicki Thompson

Following Pat's nomination, Barbara withdrew and Pat was duly elected.

- g. President - Pat McConnell  
nominated - Lesley Beaton, seconded - Nicki Thompson. A.I.F. carried.

Lesley then proposed that we again elect Betts and Dighton as

- h. Auditors, seconded - Pat McConnell. A.I.F. carried.

**9. Close of Meeting:** Lesley closed the A.G.M. at 8.05 pm. and moved straight on to an Ordinary General Meeting as recorded in the Minute Book.

Signed: Ann H. Shore, Secretary      7.10.92  
Pat McConnell, President      27.10.92

**President's Report** follows; please find **Statement of Receipts and Expenditure** as separate attachment.

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB INC  
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STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE  
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 1992  
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RECEIPTS  
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EXPENDITURE  
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Subscriptions	1039.00	Printing	266.62
Donations	113.00	Postage	336.45
Bird-a-Thon	121.00	Postal Box Rent	37.00
Raffles	16.00	Postal Registration	80.00
Bank Interest	10.70	Insurance	77.00
Book Sales	14.95	Justice Department	19.00
Pygmalion	833.20	Bank Charges	21.05
Grant/Dept Environ & Heritage	500.00	Accountancy Fees	60.00
		Petty Cash	49.25
		Stationery	41.41
		Hobby & Craft Show	50.00
		H L Wombat Appeal	10.00
		P Cleary (reimburse)	20.00
		Pygmalion	682.47
		RAOG Calenders	142.50
		TREC Membership	20.00
	-----		-----
			1912.75
		Surplus for Year	735.10
	-----		-----
	\$ 2647.85		\$ 2647.85
	=====		=====
Balance at 31.08.91	\$ 124.00	Balance at Heritage	
Surplus for Year	735.10	B Soc - 31.8.92	\$ 879.10
	-----	Less Outstanding Chqs	20.00
	\$ 859.10		-----
	=====		\$ 859.10
			=====

AUDITORS REPORT  
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We have audited the above Statement in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

In our opinion, the Statement present fairly, the financial position of the Association at 31st August, 1992, and the results derived from its operations for the year then ended.

15th September, 1992

Betts & Dighton  
Certified Practising Accountants

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A W Hooper    B Bus    CPA

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Toowoomba Bird Club A.G.M. 5.10.92)

I have great pleasure in giving the President's Report tonight. We have had an extremely successful year in many ways. The club's financial year finished with a very healthy balance. This was for a number of reasons; firstly, the increase in subscription fees to a more realistic level; secondly, the fund-raising venture of an evening at the Repertory Theatre; and lastly, the \$500 State Government Grant we have received. On advice from the Treasurer, the Management Committee does not feel that a further increase in fees is necessary.

Of course, the whole reason for the club is birdwatching, and on this front we continue to go from strength to strength. Our membership steadily increases, and the number of people on outings is a pleasure to see. The more people with whom we can share the wonders of the bird world means more people caring about our wildlife and its habitat. Our field outings have ranged from Brisbane to Jandowae with two campouts. All well attended. It is rare that somebody doesn't see a new bird for their personal list. Once again, active members have scouted out new birds for our "list". Over the club's year, 5 new species have been sighted.

A number of our members are involved in keeping records for Naturesearch 2000 and Ann Shore is particularly enthusiastic in this area both in recruiting and assisting novice birders. Our Library has had some books donated to it this year from Marilyn Jacobs and the magazine collection is excellent. Librarian Sharyn always has a selection available at our outings and members should take advantage of this. I always love reading the magazines.

Lastly, I should like to comment on the Management Committee's work. The club is represented on other committees and at meetings both in the Gatton Shire and Toowoomba City; the Lockyer Resource Management Group, Special Environment Advisory Committee, meetings with Gatton Council on the future of Lake Apex, are just a few. Ann and I also were representatives at the recent handing-over of Spring Bluff Railway Station from the Department of Transport to a special trust.

As usual, Ann takes on the responsibility of a vast amount of correspondence, going above and beyond the call of duty ensuring the club maintains a reputation for friendliness and helpful information.

I should like to thank the out-going committee members for their valuable contribution to the running of the club in 1991/92. Many hands make light work is the saying and that is so with our committee. The sharing of chores and responsibilities has been the great strength of this committee which makes a President's position so much easier. Ann, particularly, gets my thanks as she keeps us all on track and up to date with any birding issues or other concerns relevant to our club. Barbara Wilson's help with the mailing of our newsletter also does not go unnoticed. My personal thanks to everyone.

As I am retiring from the committee this year, I should like to wish the incoming committee a smooth and successful year.

Lesley F. Beaton,  
President 1991/92

**\*\*\*\* NEW MEMBERS \*\*\*\***

We welcome the following new members to the club:

Ken and Wendy McKeown,  
9 Clive Crescent, Table Top Estate,  
WITHCOTT, M.S. 408, T'wmba, 4352.

Colin Dollery,  
P.O. Box 471,  
GATTON Q 4343.

May the birds follow you .....

**\*\*\*\* COMING EVENTS \*\*\*\***

**November 1992 Outing**

**Venue:** The Palms (via Cooyar)  
**Meet:** Jimmy Crow's Statue, Crows Nest  
**Date:** 29 November  
**Time:** 7.00 am for 7.15 am departure  
**Leader:** Rod Hobson, (074) 627 364

**Info:** The Palms is a small, scenic national park, dominated by sub-tropical rainforest/vine-scrub with substantial areas of Bangalow Palms. All walks are very flat, easy, and well-shaded. Good toilet facilities and picnic areas are available. 80 kms from T'wmba.

**December 1992 Outing/  
Christmas Break-up:**

**Location:** Lockyer Wetlands \ Hobson's place for BBQ  
**Date:** 20 December  
**Time:** 9.00 am Lake Apex, Gatton  
**Leader:** Rod Hobson (074) 627 364

**Info:** Although we normally have a Christmas Break-up BBQ, it's unusual for us to have a December outing, but this year anyone interested in a short, pre-BBQ birding jaunt is invited to assemble at the above time and place. If you'd just like to come to the BBQ, feel free. It will be at 12.30 pm, either at Lake Apex or Rod and Betty Hobson's place, depending on numbers. More info next news-sheet. Please phone Ann if you're interested in attending the BBQ.

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