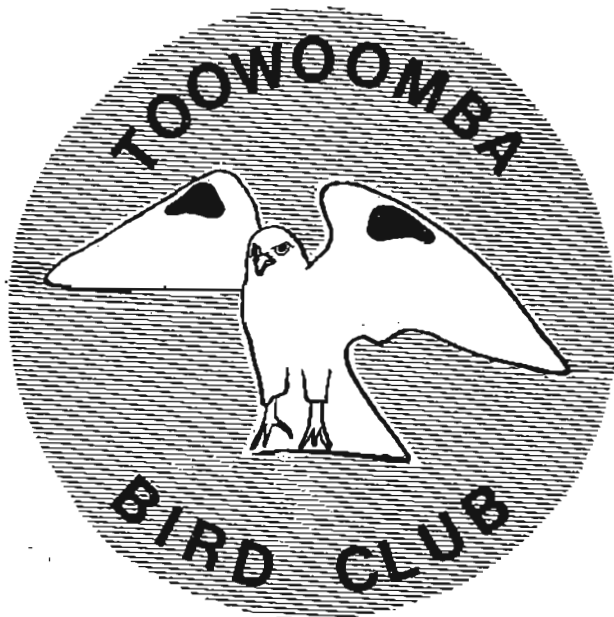


"To encourage the observation and study of the birds of the Toowoomba area."

President: Bill Jolly,
Ringmere, Withcott, 4344.
Ph: 30.3206

Secretary/Treasurer: Robert Shaw,
c/- Post Office, Darling Heights,
Toowoomba, 4350.

Editor/Librarian: Ron Hopkinson,
50, Bass Street, Toowoomba.
Ph: 35.4952



NEWS-SHEET No. 22 - OCTOBER, 1977.

Members will be interested to learn I have received a letter from Alan and Sylvia Graham. They have settled in Cairns and already have reported birds such as Jabiru, Metallic Starling and Dusky Honeyeaters.

Alan and Sylvia have extended an invitation to members to call and visit them if you are venturing up that way. Their home address is 8, Sexton St., Aeroglen, Cairns 4870. Another Club member they met up there is Ian Cowan.

At this time of year it would be of value if members noted on their gold check-lists the date of their first sighting of seasonal migrants arriving in our local study area. Over a period of time this would provide useful comparative statistics. Birds such as Rainbow Bee-eater, Indian Koel, Dollarbirds, Swifts, Channel-billed Cuckoo and Monarch Flycatcher come to mind. Notation of the date against the bird name on the gold list would serve.

I hope you are planning to take part in the camp-out at Burya Mountains in November. If you are I would be glad to hear from you. It would help with planning to have an indication of numbers attending. Details of meeting place and time appear in the usual spot in this News-sheet. Because it will be a Saturday our regular meeting place might be inconvenient. Some extra equipment is available so if you need assistance in this way let me know and we can arrange something for you. It is hoped to arrange a camp fire for the Saturday night so all in all it should be an interesting week-end. Come along.

Plans for the second Annual Bird Census are well advanced. Fuller details appear in this issue and final arrangements will be advised on the night of the Annual General Meeting. If circumstance prevents you attending the meeting please get in touch with one of the Executive who can advise you of your part in the day.

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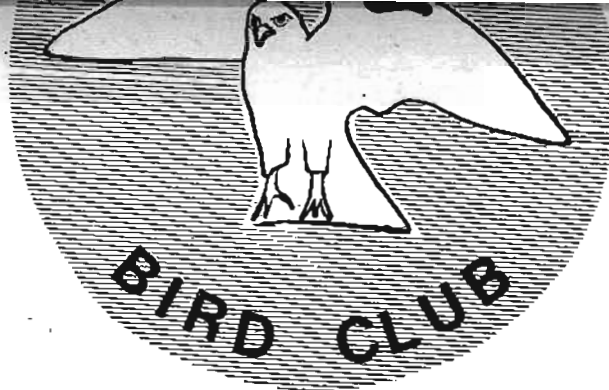
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Silver Gull, 18.9.77. Pittsworth. Ruth W. JW.
Gull-billed Tern, 10/11.9.77. Mudjimba. EJ. WJ.
Torres Strait Pigeon, 28.8.77. Cairns. RGH. RW.
Shining Bronze Cuckoo, 27.9.77. Esther St., Toowoomba. IN.
Indian Koel, 12.9.77. Webb Park. CR.

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16.9.77. Esther St. IN.
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20.9.77. Ringmere, Withcott. EJ.

(Cont/a.)

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES (cont/d.)

Richard's Pipit. 24.9.77. Hume St.(South). GC.
White-winged Triller. (4 birds) 19.9.77. Ringmere, Withcott. EJ. WJ. RS. AW.
White-browed Robin. 4.9.77. Birthday Ck. RGH. RW.
Clamorous Reed Warbler. 1.10.77. Wynnum. JMC.
Macleays Honeyeater. 4.9.77. Paluma. RGH. RW.
Bridled Honeyeater. 4.9.77. Paluma. RGH. RW.
White-naped Honeyeater. 13.9.77. Ringmere, Withcott. EJ.
Little Woodswallow. 4.9.77. Prince Henry Drive. DN.

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BIRD SPECIMENS TO THE QUEENSLAND MUSEUM.

From time to time in the course of birding activities one comes across a dead bird. These specimens may still be of value to science and for this reason the Club has passed several on to the Queensland Museum. Through the courtesy of Chris Bianchi we have a courier service and Chris reports that of late Don Vernon has been pleased with birds we have sent him.

In particular an immature Spotted Dove was the first the Museum had received at that particular stage of development. So check out dead birds you see in your travels and if they are suitable put them in a plastic bag and store in the freezer. Contact either Bill Jolly or myself and we will pass them on to Chris.

Record the details of the find in your notebook. Your name, locality, date, map reference (if possible) and any other relevant details you feel would be of value.

Ron Hopkinson.

SOME NOTES ON THE BROAD-BILLED FLYCATCHER.

In my "Letter from the North" published in News-sheet No. 19 - July, 1977, I made mention of my sighting of a Broad-billed Flycatcher at Balgal Beach, which lies just north of Townsville.

According to Slater the Broad-billed Flycatcher is confined to "mangrove and contiguous vegetation" in "Northern Australia, from Derby, Western Australia, to Cape York, Queensland; southern New Guinea to Timor." MacDonalld extends its southerly range slightly, to Cooktown, whilst agreeing in all other aspects to Slater. My sighting of this bird at Balgal Beach, which lies just north of Townsville near Follingstone, extends its distribution approximately 450 km south of Cooktown.

I do not, however, claim that its distribution is continuous from Cooktown south along the eastern Queensland coast to Balgal Beach (or further?). I do not even claim this to be an isolated population as I only saw one bird on two occasions in April this year and a pair on one occasion in May this year. I have not seen them since May to this present date (6.8.77.). According to Slater however, the Broad-billed Flycatcher is sedentary so it is more likely that this is an isolated population than migratory or vagrant birds.

Upon my first sighting this bird I believed it to be a female Satin or Leaden Flycatcher. As I was without a field guide at the time I took particular notes so that I would be later better able to make an identification.

Among the field marks I definitely noted distinct white feathers in the tail. Later when checking my field guides I became aware that neither the female Leaden nor female Satin Flycatcher possessed these feathers. I was left with the unlikely possibility of the bird being the Broad-billed Flycatcher. I then returned to Balgal Beach this time with my field guide, on three occasions

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(Cont/d.)

SOME NOTES ON THE BROAD-BILLED FLYCATCHER (Cont/d..)

I have not written this in any way to vindicate myself as I am completely satisfied with my identification; however I do believe that in making any such claims that the reader be acquainted with the facts surrounding same so that he can judge the validity for himself.

I should also like to make an amendment to my article "Colloquial Names" News-sheet No. 17 - May, 1977. "Red-capped Dotterel - Sandpiper" should read "Black-fronted Dotterel - Sandpiper", sorry.

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As indicated in our September News-sheet, this year's census will be conducted over the two 10 minute blocks which are to be adopted as our enlarged local study area with effect from 1st January, 1978. This area has accordingly been subdivided into 13 uprange and 7 downrange sectors with participants being assigned responsibility for counting in one or more sectors. One Summary Sheet will be required in respect of each sector, and these together with checklists to aid the actual counting process will be available at the Annual Meeting on Friday, 21st October at "Ringmere", Withcott. Detailed maps will also be available at this meeting.

One point concerning identification of species with which you are not familiar. Forget it! "If in doubt - leave it out".

Robert Shaw.

Definition of Sectors.

Uprange:

Sector 1. Toowoomba City East, bounded by Stenner, Ruthven and North Streets, eastwards to the escarpment but excluding Jubilee Park, Prince Henry Drive, Webb Park, area east of East Street, Redwood Park and Picnic Point area.

Sector 2. Toowoomba City West, bounded by Stenner, Ruthven and North Streets, Tor Street and Anzac Avenue.

Sector 3. Balance of uprange 10 minute block lying north of Bridge Street (west of Tor Street) and north of North Street (east of Tor St.).

Sector 4. Western Sector. That part of the uprange 10 minute block to the west of Pittsworth Road, Anzac Avenue and Tor Street and south of Bridge St.

Sector 5. South-western Sector. That part of the uprange 10 minute block to the east of Pittsworth Road, west of Ruthven Street and south of Stenner St.

Sector 6. South-eastern Sector. That part of the uprange 10 minute block south of Stenner Street and east of Ruthven Street, excluding Flagstone Creek Road.

Sector 7. Flagstone Creek Road. That part of Flagstone Creek Rd. lying in the uprange 10 minute block, from its junction with Rowbotham Street.

Sector 8. Redwood Park.

Sector 9. Prince Henry Drive, Webb Park, and bushland adjacent to East St.

Sector 10. Jubilee Park.

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Sector 13. Leslie Boyce's property - 6, Range Street.

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Downrange:

Sector 14. Table Top and its western approach.

Sector 15. Withcott North. Withcott north of the Warrego Highway - those areas approached along Jones Road.

(Cont/d.)

Sector 16. Withcott South. Withcott south of the Warrego Highway and west of Blanchview Road.

Sector 17. Blanchview, Iredale, Helidon Spa. South of Warrego Highway, east of Blanchview Road, north and west of Flagstone Creek Road.

Sector 18. Flagstone Creek Road. Flagstone Creek/Helidon Road and all areas south and east thereof, i.e. that part of the downrange 10 minute block lying south of the Warrego Highway and not included in Sectors 14, 16 or 17.

Sector 19. Postman's Ridge. That part of the downrange 10 minute block to the north of the Warrego Highway and approached along the Postman's Ridge/Murphy's Creek Road, i.e. west of the railway line.

Sector 20. Helidon, North and East. That part of the downrange 10 minute block lying to the north and east of Helidon township and the railway line.

FIELD DAY REPORT - 25.9.77.

The prospects for an enjoyable day's birding did not look good at 8.30 a.m. The wind whistled through Pigott's car park chilling the brave collection and dousing them with misty rain. However, those of us who had ventured out of our warm beds were rewarded well for the effort.

We got under way and eventually arrived at the Old Toll Bar - which Bill Jolly will cheerfully inform you is NOT at the end of Perth Street. While observing the basalt flows on the bar we heard many birds calling (Striated and Spotted Pardalotes, Green Fig Bird, Pied Currawong, Torresian Crow, Silvereyes). We managed a good look at the Silvereyes (which to me at least are a beautiful bird) Crows and Currawongs. From here we moved to the "Welcome to Toowoomba" sign on the Range Highway.

After a brief stop to examine the basalt-sandstone contact we proceeded to the Murphy's Creek area. Just before Postman's Ridge we made a stop which was to make the day worthwhile. I stopped to look at some water birds on a large dam about 400 metres from the road and the place turned out to be alive with birds.

On alighting from the car I was greeted by a Richard's Pipit (which promptly departed) and a Brown Falcon which soared upgully pursued by a pair of Crows - later to return. For the next hour we enjoyed ourselves immensely. A pair of Rainbow Bee-eaters flashed and wheeled their kaleidoscope of colours past. Double-barred Finches flitted their way through the remains of burnt out Lantana while a Jacky Winter paraded his white striped tail. Three Little Grebes dabbled about the dam in their breeding regalia, easily recognised by their dark heads and the yellow-orange face spot. Black Duck floated lazily across the water and a Swamp-hen stalked out of the reeds before all had departed.

The Brown Falcon(s?) returned before the whole party had arrived and were the subject of an animated discussion. One of the birds was very dark and was observed perching in a dead tree near the dam. Jim Corbin suggested that the bird was wet and appeared darker because of this. Of the other two birds one was seen closely and the other not. Both birds were considerably paler in colour than the "dam" bird. Reader's Digest book suggests that most dark birds seen are immatures - an observation which I think would apply to our birds.

The empty Eagle's nest at Ballard was something of an anti-climax, although we obtained good views of Bar-shouldered Doves, Red-backed and Superb Blue Wrens. We were also treated to good views of Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) a pretty face or Whiptail Wallaby (*Macropus parryi*) and a family of Red-necked Wallabies (*Macropus rufogriseus*).

The lunch break at Mt. Kynoch was spoiled by the cold wind and drizzle which had been absent downrange and the group dispersed. But I can still picture the orange flash as those Rainbow Bee-eaters darted through the Spotted Gums -- beautiful.

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Species List - Field Day - 25.9.77.

Little Grebe	Willie Wagtail
Little Black Cormorant	Eastern Whipbird
White-necked Heron	Grey-crowned Babbler
White Ibis	Golden-headed Cisticola
Black Duck	Superb Blue Wren
Wood Duck	Red-backed Wren
Black-shouldered Kite	White-throated Warbler
Brown Falcon	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Nankeen Kestrel	Noisy Friarbird
Swamphen	Little Friarbird
Masked Plover	Noisy Miner
Bar-shouldered Dove	White-naped Honeyeater
Crested Pigeon	Spotted Pardalote
Galah	Striated Pardalote
Pale-headed Rosella	Silvereye
Red-rumped Parrot	Red-browed Firetail
Kookaburra	Double-barred Finch
Rainbow Bee-eater	Common Myna
White-backed Swallow	Green Pigbird
Welcome Swallow	Australian Magpie-lark
Richard's Pipit	Grey Butcher-bird
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Pied Butcher-bird
E. Yellow Robin	Australian Magpie
Jacky Winter	Pied Currawong
Rufous Whistler	Torresian Crow.

FIELD DAY FOR OCTOBER.

Second Annual Bird Census. Date: Sunday, 23rd, October, 1977.

FIELD TRIP FOR NOVEMBER.

Date: Saturday-Sunday, 19th/20th, November, 1977. Place: Bunya Mtns, Nat. Park.

Leader: Ron Hopkinson. Assembly Point: Queens Park Kiosk, Lindsay Street.

Time: 8.30 a.m., Saturday 19th.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Q.O.S. Newsletter. Vol. 8. No. 8. September, 1977.

Urimbirra. Vol. 11. No. 8. September, 1977.

Darling Downs Naturalist. September, 1977.

The Club has received a donation from Bill Jolly of a comprehensive set of The Darling Downs Naturalist. The set begins with the issue of July, 1961, and with only a few exceptions continues through to December, 1976.

Thanks Bill.

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