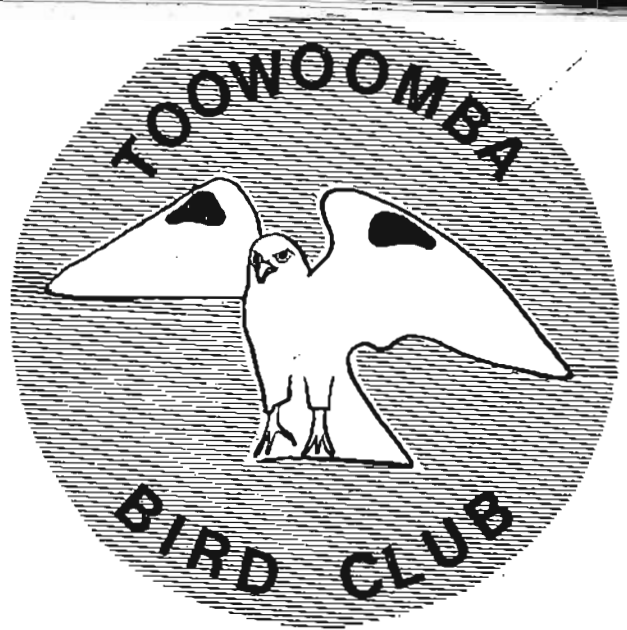


"To encourage the observation and study
of the birds of the Toowoomba area."

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. 25 - JANUARY, 1978.

The Executive and Members of this Club extend sincere thanks to Mr. Don Vernon, Curator of Birds Queensland Museum, for a most interesting and informative evening on Friday, 16th December. Don journeyed from Brisbane for the evening to talk to us on endangered species.

If one phrase could sum up Don's message it would be "Save the Habitat". And save it we must if endangered species are to have any chance of surviving. At local level, Don said, areas such as Redwood Park need the vigilance of Clubs such as ours to aid in their preservation. Don also showed some slides taken on his recent visit overseas. These included the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge as well as various museums. All in all we were treated to a well rounded and entertaining evening and the many people present join with me in saying "Thank you, Don".

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The Annual Summary of the Local Study Area will appear with next month's issue. Throughout the year Members submit their gold checklist and see no more of it. But the tangible evidence of their submissions will take the form of the Annual Summary which is the end product of their observations. This Club performs several valuable functions not least of which is the maintenance of the system of monthly Checklists. So thank you for your efforts last year and keep them coming this year.

Our Local Study Area now embraces the wider block as previously defined. All of the Helidon-Flagstone Creek Road is now included and it is possibly in this area that the greatest new interest lies. Certainly it is an area which needs extensive investigation and the opportunity will be taken to conduct a Field Day there in the near future.

Members on the last Field Day agreed that the Club should subscribe to the English magazine "Birds". This is the bi-monthly journal of The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and will be an interesting addition to this Club's library. As advised each month through this News-sheet we are the recipients of several journals on an exchange basis with other societies. These are always available to Members and in future your records officer will bring them along on Field Days where they may be borrowed.

Annual subscriptions are now due and may be posted or delivered to any member of the Executive. We regret that it will not be possible to continue delivery of News-sheets to non-subscribers after the March issue.

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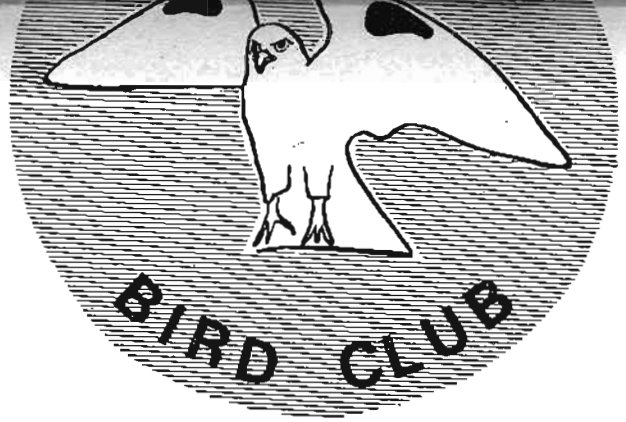
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Ron Hopkinson,
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MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES.

Australian Pelican. 19.11.77. Apex Lake, Gatton. JD. WM.
30.11.77. Meringandan. RW.
Nankeen Night-heron. 25.12.77. "Ringmere", Withcott. RGH. WJ.
White Pygmy-goose. 19.11.77. Apex Lake, Gatton. JD. WM.
Brush-turkey. 28.11.77. Harlaxton. GC.
Japanese Snipe. 25.12.77. "Ringmere", Withcott. EJ. WJ.
Rainbow Lorikeet. 13.11.77. Ocean Street. JEC.
Crimson Rosella. 19.11.77. Campbell Street. DN.
Satin Flycatcher. 13.11.77. Highfields. GC.
Golden-headed Cisticola. 25.12.77. "Ringmere", Withcott. CB. EJ. WJ.
Spangled Drongo. 20.11.77. Flagstone Creek Rd. DN.
Australian Regentbird. 29.11.77. Harlaxton. GC.
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LETTER FROM CAIRNS.

Birdwise in the garden not a great deal of change has occurred. All of the previously mentioned birds are still present but there have been a couple of newcomers viz. Fig-parrots (14.11.77.) and Grey Whistler (a pair on 1.12.77).

In a patch of thick scrub about 50 metres from the house we came across a Cassowary and two Brush-turkeys (13.11.77) - apparently they make frequent visits to our neighbour's garden but we have seen them only in that bit of scrub - they've not visited our garden yet!

On 6.11.77 we went out with the Naturalist Club here in Cairns and visited the Centenary Lakes and foreshore areas and Sylvia and I were particularly pleased to see the Brown-backed Honeyeaters (nesting), Mangrove Kingfisher and Cicadabird. Also I went off with one group and was thrilled to see Scrubfowl in one area and both Eastern Golden Plover and Black-fronted Dotterel in another.

Alan Graham.

LETTER FROM KENT.

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I have observed quite a few new species for me and on 25.11.77 I picked up a wounded gull, whose head came off when I despatched it. Then, along with the head, I collected a wing and leg to paint. It was when examining it when painting that I realised I had the first Audouin's Gull for not only the British Isles but also Northern Europe.

The next morning I was out before daylight to collect the body. Luckily a fox (?) had only lightly chewed the breast and carried it ten yards to a ditch. I then collected it and on December, 7th took it to the British Museum (Natural History) where Miss Barclay-Smith examined it and said it would have to be sent to the rare birds committee and they will notify me.

Reg Eley.

AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE LARK.

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A few weeks later I saw the female looking into the nest several times before

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A few weeks later I saw the female looking into the nest several times before sitting on it. When she sat it looked as if she was propped up as though to prevent suffocating the young. The male would come flying in and would stand beside the nest, whereupon she would stand up and take off in search of food. She would not be away long before she returned with a catch. The adults frequently came down to our fishpond for a drink on hot sunny days.

AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE LARK (cont/d.)

It was about a week later before I saw the young which I thought to be two males. One of them seemed to like exploring, so it wasn't long before they could fly about with their parents. When they all flew down for a drink I saw the young were greyish brown with white markings. As they get older they will look more like their parents.

I was able to observe the feeding of the young. They would cry out and squat down awaiting the arrival of the parents who would insert their beak, full of food, into that of the young. This action happened many times and is still happening up to this day but not as often.

John Duff.

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND.

Ann White has sent a newspaper cutting on a recent sighting of the Piopio (*Turnagra capensis*), the rare New Zealand thrush. The bird was seen by three people, including a police constable, in the remote northern area of the Urewera National Park. This park is on the central volcanic plateau of the North Island.

The thrush was last sighted in 1956. Ann writes that such events should spur the T.B.C. on to renewed efforts.

Robert Shaw.

PESTICIDES AND THE GARDENER.

Gardeners have a legitimate cause to be concerned about protecting what they grow, especially when this may involve months of preparation. It is nevertheless encouraging that a growing number of gardeners, while wishing to combat pests with chemicals, are anxious to reduce the risk to "innocent" wildlife.

The informed gardener, capable of identifying pests and diseases, is concerned with the treatment of specific problems. Nevertheless, among many gardeners there is a demand for a "cure-all". DDT might seem to fill this requirement. Though there has been no evidence that acute DDT poisoning has occurred widely among birds, it has been shown experimentally that DDT can have sublethal effects in some species. In acting on hormonal systems of birds this chemical may affect reproductive success by (a) delaying sexual maturity, (b) delaying ovulation and (c) causing a reduction in eggshell thickness. Indeed, D.A. Ratcliffe has shown that eggshell thinning and an increased incidence of egg breakage in certain birds of prey and fish-eating species are both closely correlated with the widespread use of DDT since about 1947.

Although relatively small quantities of organochlorines are applied in gardens, their continued use must represent an unnecessary hazard. Moreover, as a result of their persistence, these chemicals can spread through food chains and drainage far beyond the site of application, and can accumulate in animal tissues.

Cautions for all Pesticides.

Pesticides should be used with considerable discretion.
Before buying, consider the following points.

1. If you are unable to identify what is affecting your plants, avoid using pesticides. The trouble may after all be a nutritional deficiency.
2. No pesticide is specific. It will therefore inevitably kill non-target organisms. These may include natural predators of pests and other beneficial species.
3. If active ingredients are not stated on the label, do not buy it.

If you must use a pesticide, remember that you are probably dealing with poison. The following precautions should, therefore be taken.

1. Obey the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Wash hands and utensils carefully after use.
3. Keep the chemicals out of reach of children and pets.
4. Avoid contaminating bird baths and particularly streams and ditches because fish are highly susceptible to a number of chemical preparations.
5. Avoid spraying when plants are in flower in view of the hazard to bees and

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5. Avoid spraying when plants are in flower in view of the hazard to bees and other pollinating insects.
6. Avoid spraying when there is a risk of the chemical drifting in the wind. This precaution is important for herbicides which are most effective when applied as a fine mist spray.
7. It is best to empty residues on to absorbent paper or rags which can then be

PESTICIDES AND THE GARDENER. (cont/d.)

burnt on an incinerator or bonfire. The container should then be washed out and disposed of in a garbage can.

Insecticides to be AVOIDED, are the persistent insecticides, notably:

1. The organochlorine compounds such as ALDRIN, DIELDRIN, BHC and DDT.
2. Those based on ARSENIC such as lead arsenate, a very poisonous compound.

Recommended alternatives.

These are relatively non-poisonous compounds to birds and mammals, and are not persistent.

1. Derris (or Rotenone) - but very toxic to fish.
2. Pyrethrum.
3. Malathion, Trichlophon and Fenithrothion are other organophosphates with low toxicity to mammals.
4. Carbaryl.
5. Tar oil with or without Petroleum oil on dormant fruit trees.

Herbicides (weed killers).

Cautions. Though the majority are unlikely to cause direct harm to animal wildlife, they may destroy food supplies and alter habitats. Herbicides should therefore not be used indiscriminately.

As with other pesticides the normal precautions should be taken. In particular, keep the concentrate away from children and pets and avoid spraying in a wind.

Extract from an article in
"BIRDS"
By James Cadbury.

It is not unusual to find a White-breasted Sea-eagle soaring above Lake Clarendon, but on the occasion of our December field trip, our newly arrived convoy was to encounter one such eagle, perhaps in anticipation of our arrival, resting on a post in the middle of the lake, distant enough to be undisturbed by our presence but close enough to allow us to fully enjoy his magnificence.

The adjacent fence-posts held their usual complement of Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants, with one of the not so frequent Black Cormorants (Phalacrocorax carbo) also in residence on the day, while the overall dark colouring and much slighter forms of six Glossy Ibis served easily to distinguish them from their larger and more common relatives, providing many present with a personal first.

As is often the case, many of the water-birds noted at Lake Clarendon were met with also at Dyer's Lagoon as the accompanying list will reveal, but Dyer's also held a variety of small waders, including Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Red-kneed Dotterels, Black-fronted Dotterels and Japanese Snipe, while by way of contrast a party of Australian Pelicans fished nearby.

The variety of water-birds occupying Apex Park at Gatton was again similar to our two previous stops, with small waders present in small numbers. Much time and energy were expended by some of our younger members in stalking a Hoary-headed Grebe who had no desire to be stalked, while others of us sat on the opposite bank enjoying the antics of both the pursuers and the pursued.

A rakish shape describing a flashing arc through the light rain, from who knows where into the top of a grey gum tree, was to delay our departure from Apex Park, until having paused just sufficiently to permit confirmation of his identity, the Little Falcon responsible continued his hurried journey out of our range of vision, doubtless to burst briefly into and out of other scenes elsewhere in the Lockyer Valley.

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Species List - L. Clarendon, Dyer's Lagoon, Gatton Apex Lake - 18.12.77.

	<u>C.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>G.</u>		<u>C.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>G.</u>
Hoary-headed Grebe			X	Black-sh. Kite	X		
Little Grebe	X	X	X	Whistling Kite		X	
Aust. Pelican	X	X		White-br. Sea-eagle	X		
Darter	X	X		Little Falcon			X
Little P. Cormorant	X	X	X	Nankeen Kestrel	X	X	X
Black Cormorant	X		X	Dusky Moorhen		X	
Little B. Cormorant	X	X	X	Swamphen	X	X	
White-faced Heron	X			Coot		X	
Cattle Egret	X			Lotusbird	X	X	
Large Egret	X			Masked Plover	X	X	X
Plumed Egret	X			Red-kneed Dotterel		X	
Glossy Ibis	X			Black-fr. Dotterel		X	X
White Ibis	X			Pied Stilt	X	X	X
Straw-necked Ibis	X	X		Japanese Snipe		X	X
Royal Spoonbill	X	X		Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		X	X
Yellow-b. Spoonbill	X			Galah		X	
Plumed Tree-duck		X		Cockatiel	X		
Black Swan	X	X	X	Sacred Kingfisher			X
Black Duck	X	X	X	Rainbow Bee-eater	X	X	
Grey Teal	X	X	X	Dollar Bird	X	X	X
White-eyed Duck	X	X	X	Welcome Swallow		X	
Wood Duck	X	X	X	Fairy Martin		X	

FIELD DAY FOR JANUARY.

Date: Sunday, 22nd January, 1978. Place: Highfields Scrub.

Leader: Graham Corbin. Assembly Point: Pigott's car park. Time: 8.30 a.m.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Bird Observer, December 1977/January 1978.

Q.O.S. Newsletter. Vol. 8, No. 10.

Darling Downs Naturalist. December, 1977.

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To: The Secretary,
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P.O. Darling Heights,
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I am enclosing herewith the sum of \$3 being my membership subscription to the Toowoomba Bird Club for the calendar year 1978.

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Hoary-headed Grebe			X	Black-sh. Kite	X		
Little Grebe	X	X	X	Whistling Kite		X	
Aust. Pelican	X	X		White-br. Sea-eagle	X		
Darter	X	X		Little Falcon			X
Little P. Cormorant	X	X	X	Nankeen Kestrel	X	X	X
Black Cormorant	X		X	Dusky Moorhen		X	
Little B. Cormorant	X	X	X	Swamphen	X	X	
White-faced Heron	X			Coot		X	
Cattle Egret	X			Lotusbird	X	X	
Large Egret	X			Masked Plover	X	X	X
Plumed Egret	X			Red-kneed Dotterel		X	
Glossy Ibis	X			Black-fr. Dotterel		X	X
White Ibis	X			Pied Stilt	X	X	X
Straw-necked Ibis	X	X		Japanese Snipe		X	X
Royal Spoonbill	X	X		Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		X	X
Yellow-b. Spoonbill	X			Galah		X	
Plumed Tree-duck		X		Cockatiel	X		
Black Swan	X	X	X	Sacred Kingfisher			X
Black Duck	X	X	X	Rainbow Bee-eater	X	X	
Grey Teal	X	X	X	Dollar Bird	X	X	X
White-eyed Duck	X	X	X	Welcome Swallow		X	
Wood Duck	X	X	X	Fairy Martin		X	

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