



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS inc.

(An Affiliated Group of the Bird Observers Club of Australia)

p.o. box 67 - darling heights - 4350

MEMBERSHIP: Adults/Families \$20 Students \$10

CLUB OFFICERS :

President -	Michael Atzeni	076 392761	Editor -	Ken McKeown	076 303774
Vice-President.	Jack Lund	076 976390	Records Officer -	Pat McConnell	076 976141
Secretary -	Ann Shore	076 303207	Librarian -	Sharyn Frederiks	076 331169
Treasurer -	Gloria Glass	076 307054	Committee Member -	Michael Hirst	076 325564

'To encourage the observations and study of the birds of the Toowoomba area'

NEWSLETTER No. 257 - July 1997

EDITORIAL:

It has been a sad time for the TBO with the recent passing of two of our members, Joe Deuble and Mary Cameron. The club passes on its condolences to their respective families.

As usual, we have a mixed bag for you, the **Braemar State Forest Outing** by **Malcolm Wilson**, **Nicci Thompson** writes of her recent **Rocky recce**, **Members' Bird Notes**, a **Powerful Owl Outing in Brisbane** and as a timely reminder for this year's census and to whet your appetite for a challenge, a **report on last October's annual species count**.

Of the coming events, note that the **August Outing** venue has been changed to **White Rock** south of Redbank. It looks very interesting and will be led by Pat Solomon whom many members met at Coal Creek. Also note the date of this year's **AGM is Monday, 13 October**. We would like to see some new faces on the Executive so please seriously consider the opportunity to do so.

BRAEMAR STATE FORESTRY OUTING, 29 JUNE 1997

Ten members and eight visitors arrived at Thomas Jack Park, Dalby, on a frosty morning, but the day turned into a sunny and rewarding one. A brief stop was made at Wilkie Creek where a Pheasant Coucal and White-plumed Honeyeaters were observed.

On the dirt road to the Braemar State Forest, several Common Bronzewing were flushed from the road side. I think the party wondered where we would end up as we followed a winding track through the forest.

Braemar State Forest is 14 400 ha in size, and the area consists principally of Cypress Pine, Bull Oak and Spotted Gum with an understorey of numerous Acacias. Our first stop was a stand of Spotted Gum where the predominant species was the Fuscous Honeyeater. Then through the Dingo Barrier Fence to our second stop at an area of thick Belah, Brigalow and Wilga Scrub. Birds were numerous, and the highlight was when Nicci Thompson discovered three Glossy Black Cockatoos. I had sighted them here

n November 1996. The birds, as is their custom, didn't take the slightest notice of us as they crunched the Belah *Casuarina cristata* seedpods. We noted their brown heads and that one a was female with her wide red tail panel barred black.

The next stop at the creek crossing wasn't as productive, but Grey-crowned Babblers, Jacky Winters and Restless Flycatchers were added. As a cold breeze had sprung up, we headed to the track to the now dismantled fire tower and had lunch in the forest. On the way, we passed two surprised motor cyclists who had leased this area for grazing. Over the past twenty years, I have found Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters at the old fire tower and I bravely said that I could nearly guarantee their presence today. After a long walk, we arrived at the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater country. We waited and waited and finally I gave up, disappointed. However, as we were leaving, Ken Wells and Gloria Glass spotted two birds. Honour was satisfied!

As members had a long haul for home, we called it a day. Unfortunately, there was no sign of the Osprey on Myall Creek at Dalby, but at the time of writing (14 July), the bird has been seen on the creek. I have given the Bird List of our trip to the Forester, Mr Martin Ambrose, and explained that the Belah-Brigalow-Wilga area is a high priority conservation area for the Glossy Black Cockatoos. His department is considering setting aside conservation areas in Braemar for the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater and also the Squatter Pigeon. He said that the information on the Glossies and the areas in which they are found was of real importance, which made our outing doubly worthwhile. Entries to State Forests are by permit only, and one's Driver's Licence and the number plates of all cars have to be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources before entering.

Malcolm Wilson, Dalby.

Species List: Little Pied Cormorant, Pacific Heron, Black-shouldered Kite, Common Bronzewing, Bar-shouldered Dove, Crested Pigeon, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Galah, King Parrot, Cockatiel, Pale-headed Rosella, Pheasant Coucal, Laughing Kookaburra, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike, Eastern Yellow Robin, Jacky Winter, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Restless Flycatcher, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Grey-crowned Babbler, Superb Fairy-wren, Weebill, Inland Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill, White-throated Treecreeper, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Striped Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Fuscous Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Striated Pardalote, Silveryeye, Double-barred Finch, Apostlebird, Magpie-lark, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Torresian Crow.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BIRD OBSERVER

TBOI members have been invited to submit articles for publication in the BOCA newsletter, The Bird Observer, preferably accompanied by photographs (prints or slides) or drawings. Please forward them to The Editor, BOCA, PO Box 185, Nunawading 3131. Those of you with particularly good photographs might like to submit them for inclusion on the front cover.

ANNUAL SPECIES CENSUS, 26/27 OCTOBER 1996

The 1996 census was undertaken in fine conditions and supported by 18 members, some venturing out over both days. One hundred and fifty-one species were recorded, bettering last years total by six. As in 1995, waterbirds were scarce, both in numbers and species. However, in stark contrast to the drought's adverse impact on the previous year's waterbird population, the poor showing last October can be put down to unsuitably high water levels in the key wetlands. Hood's Lagoon, usually the most rewarding waterbird habitat in the area, was exceptionally unproductive.

Cuckoos and birds of prey were other groups conspicuous only by their absence.

All sectors were visited with the predominantly rural and/or urban western sectors (1-4) being covered more thoroughly than the eastern sectors (4-8). In previous years, the reverse usually holds and consequently, sectors 6 and 8 in the southeast were only briefly surveyed. This was somewhat unfortunate as they contain much more suitable habitat and many more species. For the next count, I would like to see a more even distribution of effort and if anything, a bias towards the eastern sectors.

Table 1 summarises the number of species seen in each sector and the highlights.

Table 1. Summary of 1996 Species Census, October 26/27.

Sector	Key areas visited	Number of Species	Highlights
1	Gowrie Mtn, Gowrie Junction,	46	Rufous Fantail
2	Spring Ck, Drayton, Wellcamp	55	Black Kite
3	Prince Henry Drive, Redwood Park, Jubilee Park,	88	White-headed Pigeon, Emerald Dove, Black-faced Monarch, Spectacled Monarch, Regent Bowerbird
4	Toowoomba Waterbird Habitat, Glen Lomond Park	77	Powerful Owl, Satin Bowerbird
5	Withcott north, Lockyer Siding	79	Spotted Quail-thrush
6	Flagstone Ck	6	White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Tawny Grassbird
7	Helidon Dip, Hood's Lagoon, Gatton Ck, Back Flagstone Ck Road, Spa Iredale Rd, Connors Rd,	105	Pacific Baza, Little Egret, Comb-crested Jacana, Marsh Sandpiper, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, White-backed Swallow, Satin Flycatcher, White-winged Chough
8	Lower Flagstone Creek	36	Black Swan, Brown Songlark

Thanks to all who participated. I trust you enjoyed it and look forward to your continued support this year. I am also inviting new ideas on how we might better utilise the weekend effort. It has already been suggested we count the birds. You are welcome to do so but the problem with this is the value of the data.

It is dicey drawing conclusions from one-off counts (or comparisons thereof) that have not been conducted in a rigorous scientific manner. However, I see benefits in targeting certain groups in specific areas e.g. waterfowl on the local wetlands, or individual species e.g. Pied Currawongs in Sector 3, particularly if members are willing to do so on a more frequent basis e.g. seasonally.

Michael Atzeni

Species List (Sectors where recorded in parentheses)

Australasian Grebe (12.45.7), Australian Pelican (.....7.), Great Cormorant (.....7.), Little Black Cormorant (...4....), Little Pied Cormorant (1234..7.), White-faced Heron (.2345.7.), Cattle Egret (...45.7.), Great Egret (...4..7.), Little Egret (.....7.), Intermediate Egret (.....7.), Australian White ibis (.345...), Straw-necked Ibis (.2.4..7.), Royal Spoonbill (....5...), Plumed Whistling-Duck (...5..8), Black Swan (.....8), Pacific Black Duck (12345.78), Grey Teal (...4..78), Hardhead (.....78), Australian Wood Duck (12345.78), Black-shouldered kite (12....7.), Pacific Baza (.....7.), Black Kite (1.3.....), White-bellied Sea-Eagle (....6..), Wedge-tailed Eagle (.2....7.), Australian Hobby (.23.....), Brown Falcon (.2.....), Australian Kestrel (123.5678), Australian Brush-turkey (...4....), Brown Quail (....5.7.), Dusky Moorhen (...4..78), Purple Swamphen (...4..7.), Eurasian Coot (...4....), Comb-crested Jacana (.....7.), Masked Lapwing (12345.78), Black-fronted Dotterel (....5.7.), Black-winged Stilt (.....7.), Marsh Sandpiper (.....7.), White-headed Pigeon (.3.....), Feral Pigeon (12345.7.), Spotted Turtle-Dove (1.345.7.), Brown Cuckoo-Dove (.3.5...), Peaceful Dove (.3.5.7.), Bar-shouldered Dove (.2345.7.), Emerald Dove (.3.....), Common Bronzewing (.....7.), Crested Pigeon (12345.78), Wonga Pigeon (.34....), Galah (12345.78), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (12.....), Rainbow Lorikeet (.345...), Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (.345.7.), Little Lorikeet (.....7.), Australian King-Parrot (.34..7.), Cockatiel (12.45.7.), Pale-headed Rosella (12345.78), Red-rumped Parrot (123.....), Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo (.....7.), Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (.3.....), Common Koel (.345.7.), Channel-billed Cuckoo (.2345.7.), Pheasant

Coucal (.2345.7.), Powerful Owl (...4....), Southern Boobook (.34....), Tawny Frogmouth (.23.....), Azure Kingfisher (.....7.), Laughing Kookaburra (12345.78), Sacred Kingfisher (12345.7.), Rainbow Bee-eater (....567.), Dollarbird (1234567.), White-backed Swallow (.....7.), Welcome Swallow (12345.78), Fairy Martin (123.5.78), Richard's Pipit (1.4..7.), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (12345.78), White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike (.....7.), Cicadabird (.34....), Eastern Yellow Robin (.345.7.), Jacky Winter (.....7.), Crested Shrike-tit (.....7.), Golden Whistler (1.3.5.7.), Rufous Whistler (123.5.78), Grey Shrike-thrush (.345...), Black-faced Monarch (.3.....), Spectacled Monarch (.3.....), Leaden Flycatcher (.3...7.), Satin Flycatcher (.....7.), Restless Flycatcher (...4....), Rufous Fantail (1234....), Grey Fantail (.3...7.), Willie Wagtail (12345.78), Eastern Whipbird (.345.7.), Spotted Quail-thrush (....5...), Grey-crowned Babbler (....5.7.), Clamorous Reed-Warbler (...45...), Tawny Grassbird (.....6...), Golden-headed Cisticola (123...78), Rufous Songlark (.....7.), Brown Songlark (.....8), Superb Fairy-wren (12345.78), Variegated Fairy-wren (.23.5...), Red-backed Fairy-wren (....5.7.), Large-billed Scrubwren (.3.....), Speckled Warbler (.3.5.7.), Weebill (.23...7.), Brown Gerygone (.3.....), White-throated Gerygone (12345.7.), Brown Thornbill (.345...), Buff-rumped Thornbill (.....7.), Yellow-rumped Thornbill (12345.78), Yellow Thornbill (...45...), Striated Thornbill (.....7.), Varied Sittella (....5.7.), White-throated Treecreeper (.3.5...), Red Wattlebird (.3.....), Striped Honeyeater (12.45.78), Noisy Friarbird (.2345.7.), Little Friarbird (.345.78), Blue-faced Honeyeater (...45.7.), Noisy Miner (12345.78), Lewin's Honeyeater (.345...), Yellow-faced Honeyeater (.345...), Fuscous Honeyeater (.....7.), Brown-headed Honeyeater (.....7.), White-throated Honeyeater (.3...7.), White-naped Honeyeater (.345.7.), Brown Honeyeater (12345.78), Scarlet Honeyeater (.3...7.), Mistletoebird (.3.5.78), Spotted Pardalote (.234....), Striated Pardalote (12345.78), Silvereye (12345.78), House Sparrow (12345.78), Red-browed Firetail (.3.5.7.), Zebra Finch (1.....78), Double-barred Finch (12345.78), Chestnut-breasted Mannikin (.....7.), Common Starling (12345.78), Common Myna (12345.78), Olive-backed Oriole (.345.7.), Figbird (.345.7.), Spangled Drongo (.345...), Satin Bowerbird (...4....), Regent Bowerbird (.3.....), White-winged Chough (.....7.), Australian Magpie-lark (12345.78), Dusky Woodswallow (.....7.), Grey Butcherbird (.2345.7.), Pied Butcherbird (12345.7.), Australian Magpie (12345.78), Pied Currawong (12345...), Torresian Crow (12345678)

MEMBER'S BIRD NOTES:..All sightings were seen by members of the Toowoomba Bird Observers. Accuracy not vouched for by the TBO. Please check with observer before citing.

Crimson Rosella (1)	15/07/97	Toowoomba CBD	T.P.
Brown Falcon	29/06/97	Mitchell	TC
Little Crow	29/06/97	"	TC
Stubble Quail	29/06/97	"	TC
Red-capped Robin	03/07/97	"	TC
White-winged Fairy-wren	04/07/97	"	TC
Crested Bellbird	04/07/97	"	TC
Spotted Bowerbird	04/07/97	"	TC
Powerful Owl (2)	30/06/97	J C Slaughter Falls	NT, MT, JH, DG, KMCK
Little Corella (1000 +)	13/07/97	Old Talgai	K & W McK
Wh-bellied Sea-Eagle (imm)	11/07/97	Jandowae	MW

TC	T Clark	JH	J.Harris	DG	D.Gaydon	K & W. McK	K.& W McKeown
TP	T.Pacey	NT	N.Thompson	MT	M.Thompson	MW	Malcolm Wilson

EASY BIRDING VENUES IN CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

Rockhampton Botanic Gardens

If you have an hour to spend in Rockhampton, do visit the Botanical Gardens. These very old gardens are quite beautiful and contain some magnificent trees reputed to have been planted in the last century. There is a small zoo and an aviary within the gardens. For birders, however, the chief attraction of the gardens is the bird life, both in the gardens and on Murray's Lagoon which forms the southern boundary of the gardens. The lagoon surface is partly covered by extensive rafts of waterlilies, which are quite spectacular when flowering.

The birdlife is prolific and good views of most species can be obtained without the use of a telescope, though it is always a bonus if you do have one. It is a good spot to view and compare all four white Egrets on the same stretch of water. Most of the more common waterfowl and shorebirds are usually present and fairly trusting. Jacanas can be seen feeding on the lily pads only a few metres from the

COMING EVENTS

July Outing:

Location: Helidon
Date: Sunday, 27 July
Leader: Jack Lund 076 976 390
Time: 7:30 a.m.

Info: Meet at the Helidon Rest Area. The focus will be on bushbirds. Red-capped Robin, Western Gerygone and Black-chinned Honeyeater are possibilities. BYO everything.

August Outing

Location: White Rock
Date: Sunday, 31 August
Leader: Pat Solomon 076 303 774 (McKeown)
Time: 7:30 a.m.

Info: Refidex 235. J 16. Follow Redbank Plains School Road 4 km south from Redbank to its end where there is a carpark. White Rock is the major feature of the recently declared White Rock Conservation Park. This park boasts impressive flora and fauna and requires a 50 min walk from the carpark. There are no facilities so BYO everything. Here's a few avian species to tempt you:- Peregrine Falcon, Grey Goshawk, Powerful Owl, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Black-chinned Honeyeater and Spotted Quail-thrush. For more details consult Wild Places of Greater Brisbane. Page 127.

Annual General Meeting:

Location: Withcott
Date: Monday, 13 October
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Annual Species Census:

Date: 25/26 October

Reminder to Leaders

Leaders should take the Attendance Book and First Aid Kit on all Outings. All attending members and visitors should sign the Attendance book for insurance purposes.

If undeliverable return to
 Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc
 PO Box 67
 DARLING HEIGHTS Q 4350

6. PM
 24
 11L
 1997

HAND
 ADDRESSED?
 USE POSTCODE
 SQUARES



**SURFACE
 MAIL**

P McConnell*
 17 George Street
 HELIDON 4344