



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS inc.

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

P.O. Box 4730, Toowoomba East 4350

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

CLUB OFFICERS:

President -	Ken McKeown	07 4630 3774	Records Officer -	Pat McConnell	07 4697 6141
Vice-President -	Jack Lund	07 4697 6390	Librarian	Diane Seeney	07 4634 3973
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Editor -	Michael Atzeni	07 4639 2761		Helen Wilson	07 4636 4362
Treasurer -	Gloria Glass	07 4630 7054			

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

NEWSLETTER No. 271 - October 1998

Editorial

The **Annual General Meeting** was held on Monday evening, 12th October and the **President's and Treasurer's reports** are in this newsletter. Thanks to those who attended and we are pleased to welcome some new blood on the executive, viz, **Helen Wilson as another Committee Member and Diane Seeney as Librarian**. The rest of the executive remains the same.

It was one of the more interesting AGM's in recent times thanks to our guest speakers, **Rachel McFadyen and Judy McCaughley**, from **Department of Natural Resources**. They presented their case for proposing that a **Darling Downs Owl Action Group** be formed to promote the placement of owl nesting boxes on farms on the Darling Downs. The aim is to increase the number of owls to achieve a greater control of mice.

We were fortunate also to have **Ray Smith** from Maleny attend. Ray's company is marketing John Young's new **"Wings of Silence"** video, which is about Australian owls. It includes footage on the use of owl nest boxes to increase the owl population in controlling Cane Rats in north Queensland. Ray has kindly offered to donate some of the money from sales of the video back to the club. Simply mention TBO when purchasing it from him. Further details about the video, the project and our involvement will be detailed at a later date.

Birding news includes **Little Button-quails** seen near the bottom of TableTop. There are only a handful of records of this species for the area. I saw my first **Black-necked Stork** in ages at Gatton (Lake Apex) last Saturday and another two were seen at at Karrasch's Lagoon nearby. **Eastern Golden Plovers** have also been seen recently at these two waterbodies.

Also included in the newsletter is a report on the **Sundown NP** outing from Richard Thomis, and the **1997 October species census report** to whet your appetite for this weekend's census.

The other great news is that the club was **bequeathed \$250** by our late Secretary, **Ann Shore**. The club will ensure it is put to good use, probably towards that long-awaited publication!

Don't forget your annual subscription.

Outing Report - Sundown National Park, 28/29 August 1998.

With much anticipation, Pat Solomon and I got off to a headstart by driving down to Sundown NP early Friday afternoon. We stopped to watch a flock of Little Woodswallows en route and saw Diamond Firetails just outside the park.

The drive through the park was very rewarding with good views of Turquoise Parrots feeding beside the road, Brown Treecreepers often on the road, Yellow-rumped Thornbill and a departing Little Eagle. We met Peter Haselgrove, our guide for the next day, at his house while multiple honeyeaters, mainly White-plumed and Spiny-cheeked, fed in his garden. White-winged Choughs frolicked nearby.

We spent the rest of the daylight exploring the camp-site surrounds before quickly putting up our tents. The Thompsons then arrived at the adjacent site and spent the next several hours mooring down their caravan and attaching the various annexes. Dinner and port were consumed as the evening's entertainment went on. Eventually, and exhausted by their efforts, the Thompsons staggered over to join us around the camp fire. Later though, we had supper in their luxurious home away from home, before reluctantly returning to our tents.

Our early morning walk produced Red-winged Parrot, Leaden Flycatcher and Speckled Warbler. We then met up with an excited Nicci who had found a roosting owl. At various times, and angles, we were almost persuaded that it was a Barking Owl, but after getting the photos back we had to agree that it was just a Boobook.

We then caught up with Peter and his family and Ken and Fiona Wells to start the outing proper. Disappointed at not getting a new species with the owl, Nicci had to be restrained from joining a Bible-reading group as they furtively headed into the bush. Crested Shrike-tit and Fan-tailed Cuckoo were soon seen and several Wedge-tailed Eagles soared overhead.

Peter was also able to track down a White-browed Babbler, just before Nicci, her enthusiasm for birding rekindled, heard a Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo. As this was a bird that had been eluding me for some time, I took off with Nicci. She duly found the cuckoo, as well as the Hooded Robin, and I was in the envious position of seeing two new birds at once. We were also treated to a delightful male Red-capped Robin, Dusky and Little Woodswallows, Brown Goshawk and several more Hooded Robins.

It was a terrific trip and we were very lucky to have Peter guide us around. It was spoilt only by one member struggling to locate Sundown NP in time, especially after she had laughed at her work-mates for camping there.

Richard Thomis.

Species List:

Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Australasian Grebe, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Australian Pelican, White-faced Heron, Australian White Ibis, Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Goshawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Little Eagle, Nankeen Kestrel, Black-fronted Dotterel, Masked Lapwing, Common Bronzewing, Crested Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Galah, Red-winged Parrot, Eastern Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, Turquoise Parrot, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Southern Boobook, Laughing Kookaburra, White-throated Treecreeper, Brown Treecreeper, Superb Fairy-wren, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, White-browed Scrubwren, Speckled Warbler, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill, Weebill, White-throated Gerygone, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Striped Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Scarlet Honeyeater, Jacky Winter, Hooded Robin, Red-capped Robin, Eastern Yellow Robin, Crested Shrike-tit, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Restless Flycatcher, Magpie-lark, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Cicadabird, Dusky Woodswallow, Little Woodswallow, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Australian Raven, Torresian Crow, White-winged Chough, Apostlebird, Richard's Pipit, Double-barred Finch, Red-browed Finch, Diamond Firetail, Mistletoebird, Welcome Swallow, Tree Martin, Fairy Martin, Silveryeye, Common Starling.

1997 Species Census, held 25-26 October 1997

Last year's October census involved 20 members and they recorded a total of 150 species over the census weekend. It was a very hot weekend and most headed indoors around lunch, so it was a good effort for the timeframe and level of participation. Thanks to all those who contributed.

Obviously, with more participants we could have easily done better as evidenced by some of the noticeable absentees from the list such as Intermediate Egret, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Collared Sparrowhawk, Brown Falcon, Australian Hobby, Latham's Snipe, Brush Cuckoo, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Cicadabird, and Apostlebird.

Please join in this weekend's census

This year, to encourage more participation, I am providing local members with a more user-friendly list that I encourage you to complete and return to me after the census. Alternatively, you can ring through the results (ph 07 46 392761 A/H). It doesn't matter how many species you record or how common they might be. Just remember yours may be the only record for the weekend or within a sector, so send it in.

Sector descriptions and number of species recorded in each sector during the 1997 October census

Sector	Species recorded	Limits and Landmarks
1	34	bisects Gowrie Mtn to W; bisects Aerodrome & Drayton Cemetery to E; Euston Rd to S; Gowrie railway line to N
2	13	Westbrook Correctional Centre to W; Wyreema & Vale View to S; Euston Rd to N; Drayton township (inclusive) to E
3	88	Redwood Park (inclusive) to E; Mt Kynoch to N; Picnic Pt to S; Wetalla & Mt Kynoch to N; Clifford Park, and bisects Drayton Cemetery to W
4	73	Alderley St to N; Kearney Springs to W; Hodgson Vale turnoff to S; Lower & Upper Flagstone Ck Rd junction to E
5	77	4 km up Murphy's Ck Rd to N; bisects Mt Tabletop to S; Lockyer Siding & 1km W of Helidon Spa to E; E. limit Redwood Pk to W
6	68	Bisects Tabletop to N; Upper and Lower Flagstone Ck Rd junction to E; Mt Campbell, Rockmount (Kennedy's Rd) to S; Stockyard to E
7	100	4km E of Helidon (railway underpass) to E; 1 km W of Helidon Spa to W; 4km S of Helidon to S; 7 km along 17 mile Rd to N
8	50	Mt Ma Ma & Carpendale to E; Mt Whitestone to S; 2km E of Stockyard/ Lower Flagstone Ck Rd to W; 4km S of Helidon to N

Species recorded (Sectors in which recorded are underlined. Some of the more interesting records are highlighted. Total: 150 spp):

Australian Brush-turkey (12345678), Brown Quail (12345678), Plumed Whistling-Duck (12345678), Black Swan (12345678), Australian Wood Duck (12345678), Pacific Black Duck (12345678), Australasian Shoveler (12345678), Grey Teal (12345678), Hardhead (12345678), Australasian Grebe (12345678), **Hoary-headed Grebe** (12345678), Darter (12345678), Little Pied Cormorant (12345678), Little Black Cormorant (12345678), Great Cormorant (12345678), Australian Pelican (12345678), White-faced Heron (12345678), White-necked Heron (12345678), Great Egret (12345678), Cattle Egret (12345678), **Nankeen Night Heron** (12345678), **Black Bittern** (12345678), Australian White Ibis (12345678), Straw-necked Ibis (12345678), Royal Spoonbill (12345678), **Pacific Baza** (12345678), Black-shouldered Kite (12345678), Brown Goshawk (12345678), **Grey Goshawk** (12345678), Wedge-tailed Eagle (12345678), **Black Falcon** (12345678), Nankeen Kestrel (12345678), Purple Swamphen (12345678), Dusky Moorhen (12345678), Eurasian Coot (12345678), Black-winged Stilt (12345678), **Red-necked Avocet** (12345678), Black-fronted Dotterel (12345678), **Banded Lapwing** (12345678), Masked Lapwing (12345678), Rock Dove (12345678), White-headed Pigeon (12345678), Spotted Turtle-Dove (12345678), Brown Cuckoo-Dove (12345678), Common Bronzewing (12345678), Crested Pigeon (12345678), Peaceful Dove (12345678), Bar-shouldered Dove (12345678), Wonga Pigeon (12345678), Galah (12345678), Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (12345678), Cockatiel (12345678), Rainbow Lorikeet (12345678), Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (12345678), **Musk Lorikeet** (12345678), Little Lorikeet (12345678), Australian King-Parrot (12345678), Pale-headed Rosella (12345678), Red-rumped Parrot (12345678), Pallid Cuckoo (12345678), Fan-tailed Cuckoo (12345678), Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (12345678), Common Koel (12345678), Channel-billed Cuckoo (12345678), Pheasant Coucal (12345678), Southern Boobook (12345678), Tawny Frogmouth (12345678),

White-throated Needletail (12345678), Azure Kingfisher (12345678), Laughing Kookaburra (12345678), Sacred Kingfisher (12345678), Rainbow Bee-eater (12345678), Dollarbird (12345678), White-throated Treecreeper (12345678), Superb Fairy-wren (12345678), Variegated Fairy-wren (12345678), Red-backed Fairy-wren (12345678), Spotted Pardalote (12345678), Striated Pardalote (12345678), White-browed Scrubwren (12345678), Large-billed Scrubwren (12345678), Speckled Warbler (12345678), Weebill (12345678), Brown Gerygone (12345678), White-throated Gerygone (12345678), Brown Thornbill (12345678), Yellow-rumped Thornbill (12345678), Yellow Thornbill (12345678), Red Wattlebird (12345678), Striped Honeyeater (12345678), Noisy Friarbird (12345678), Little Friarbird (12345678), Blue-faced Honeyeater (12345678), Noisy Miner (12345678), Lewin's Honeyeater (12345678), Yellow-faced Honeyeater (12345678), Fuscous Honeyeater (12345678), White-throated Honeyeater (12345678), White-naped Honeyeater (12345678), Brown Honeyeater (12345678), Scarlet Honeyeater (12345678), Jacky Winter (12345678), Eastern Yellow Robin (12345678), Grey-crowned Babbler (12345678), Eastern Whipbird (12345678), Varied Sitella (12345678), **Crested Shrike-tit** (12345678), Golden Whistler (12345678), Rufous Whistler (12345678), Grey Shrike-thrush (12345678), Black-faced Monarch (12345678), Spectacled Monarch (12345678), Leaden Flycatcher (12345678), Restless Flycatcher (12345678), Magpie-lark (12345678), Rufous Fantail (12345678), Grey Fantail (12345678), Willie Wagtail (12345678), Spangled Drongo (12345678), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (12345678), White-winged Triller (12345678), Varied Triller (12345678), Olive-backed Oriole (12345678), Figbird (12345678), Grey Butcherbird (12345678), Pied Butcherbird (12345678), Australian Magpie (12345678), Pied Currawong (12345678), Torresian Crow (12345678), White-winged Chough (12345678), **Regent Bowerbird** (12345678), Satin Bowerbird (12345678), **Singing Bushlark** (12345678), Richard's Pipit (12345678), House Sparrow (12345678), Zebra Finch (12345678), Double-barred Finch (12345678), Red-browed Finch (12345678), Chestnut-breasted Mannikin (12345678), Mistletoebird (12345678), White-backed Swallow (12345678), Welcome Swallow (12345678), Tree Martin (12345678), Fairy Martin (12345678), Clamorous Reed-Warbler (12345678), Golden-headed Cisticola (12345678), Silvereye (12345678), Common Starling (12345678), Common Myna (12345678)

Reports from Annual General Meeting, 12th October 1998

President's Report

This past year has seen change on several fronts. The secretary's position changed with the unfortunate illness of Michael Hirst's wife. I would like to thank Michael, the ultimate club member, for taking over Ann's position after her death a year ago. Firstly for his overall enthusiasm and secondly for the many new members he recruited via U3A. I would also like to thank Nicci Thompson for taking over Michael's executive position at short notice and for Keith Kerr similarly in U3A. Incidentally, Ann has bequeathed the club \$250.

On the weather front, I think we would agree that the drought is over, but finding our feathered friends locally has become just a little more difficult, given the amount of water around.

However club members did manage to see Osprey at Warwick, Grey Falcon, Musk Duck, Turquoise Parrot and Little Wattlebird in the Lockyer Valley, Swift Parrots in Toowoomba and surprise, surprise Bell Miners south of Toowoomba. Especially exciting in January was an injured Gould's Petrel, looked after by carer, Clare Gover, a TBO member.

TBOI also took part in many worthwhile activities.. Two surveys for **Regent Honeyeater** and **Swift Parrot** in the region between Stanthorpe and Karara as well as the on-going **Murray-Darling Project, Queensland Wader Study Group** and surveys of the three local dams for the **Toowoomba City Council** on a quarterly basis. Although we didn't find the Regents or Swifts around Karara, we did locate White-winged Fairy-wrens at Coolmunda Dam courtesy of Lorraine Welch a birder from that area. These birds were subsequently seen by several club members on the September Outing.

In May, several members participated in and enjoyed a **Wildlife Rehabilitation Workshop**. The club also helped celebrate **World Environment Day** in June represented by Olive and Jim Booth, Sharyn and Alex Fredriks, Jirik Haselgrove and myself on a very moist day at Lake Annand. Thanks to all.

In August, Birds Australia finally launched the new **Atlas Project** with Nicci Thompson as a Regional Organizer for southern, inland Queensland. I urge all members to participate in this worthwhile four-year project, as it has been twenty years with much habitat change since the last one. See Nicci in order to register.

Once again, the Unleaded Petrels urged on by Pat McConnell finished in the placings by coming third in the **QOSI Twitchathon**, accounting for 209 species in 24 hours. Congratulations must also go to Pat for being highly commended in **1997 Australian Wildlife Photographer of the Year** competition. Congratulations also to Don Gaydon on his recent engagement to Suzanne.

Over the year the club has travelled far and wide to Stradbroke Island, Moreton Bay, Bowenville, Peach Trees SF near Jimna, Sundown NP and Coolmunda Dam on **monthly excursions** as well as to several local venues. Thanks to all leaders including some newer members. This month, the **Annual Species Count** will be held and as always volunteers are needed. Contact Michael Atzeni if you can help.

To help community awareness regarding the TBOI, an **introductory kit** produced by editor Michael Atzeni will be available this month. The club will also promote itself courtesy of Klaus Uhlenhut's internet site **ausbirds.com.au**. Thanks to Nicci for allowing us to use her internet address. Currently several members have internet access and also utilize the user group **birding-aus.com.au**. as well as being prolific e-mailers.

This morning I sent a letter via Lloyd Nielsen to Rod Welford, Minister for the Environment regarding Mareeba Shire Council's decision to lop several old gum trees at the entrance to Kingfisher Park at Julatten. These trees contain at least 17 species including nesting Lesser Sooty Owls.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all club members who have helped in any way, executive members especially Michael Hirst and now Nicci as secretary, Michael Atzeni for the excellent newsletter, Gloria as treasurer, Pat our records officer as well as Olive and Jack who are always supportive.

Kem McKeown

Treasurer's Report

Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc

Statement of Receipts and Payments

Year ended 31 August 1998

Receipts	1998	1997	Expenditure	1998	1997
Bank Interest	1.84	5.16	Auditor		
Donations	92.50	20.00	Bank Charges	2.50	
Donations for Bird Book	5.00		Donation to Carer	25.00	
Other		55.00	Consumer Affairs	30.00	21.00
Raffle		60.00	Hall Hire	10.00	10.00
Subscriptions	882.00	850.00	Insurance		
Subs in Advance		38.00	Other	21.80	70.00
Theatre Night		108.88	Petty Cash		43.50
Twitchathon	40.00		Postage & Box	317.33	412.00
			Printing	498.95	423.40
			Subscriptions	68.00	107.00
			Twitchathon	40.00	
				1013.58	1086.90
			Operating Surplus	7.76	50.14
	\$1,021.34	\$1,137.04		\$1,021.34	\$1,137.04

Gloria Glass

COMING EVENTS

Annual Species Census

Dates: 24/25 October
Coordinator: Michael Atzeni

07 4639 2761

Info: A hectic but thoroughly enjoyable experience. It is essentially a local twitchathon, achieving a snapshot of the species in the region. It's a great way to see lots of species and to get to know the local sites for many of them. You can join in either day or both. Ring me if you're interested and I'll allocate you to a team. The more eyes, the better.

QOS Twitchathon

Date: 7/8 November

Info: Interested parties should organise a team and acquire the details and entry form from Fred Armbrust, 5/9 Huddart St, ALDERLEY 4051, or by ringing him on 07 3352 6450. Money raised this year will again go towards research on endangered and threatened bird species.

November Outing

Location: Bribe Island
Date: Saturday, 28 November
Leader: Nicci Thompson

07 4634 3074

Info: An excellent opportunity for catching up on waders and other coastal species. Those interested please ring Nicci to discuss a suitable meeting place. More details next newsletter.

December Outing

Location: Cooby Dam
Date: Sunday, 20 December

Reminder: 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.

Renewal of Membership

If applicable, please complete the renewal form sent to you with last month's newsletter and return it with your subscription. You were unfinancial at the time of posting if you're name is highlighted on this newsletter. Our budget this year is very tight, so this newsletter will be your last pending your subscription.

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