



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	Treasurer -	Gloria Glass	07 4630 7054
Vice-President -	Jack Lund	07 4697 6390	Records Officer -	Pat McConnell	07 4697 6141
Secretary -	Nicci Thompson	07 4634 3074	Committee Members-	Olive Booth	07 4633 0553
Editor -	Michael Atzeni	07 4639 2761		Helen Wilson	07 4636 4362

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

NEWSLETTER No. 272 – November/December 1998

Editorial

It's good to see more of our local members getting involved with club outings. Twenty people helped out with the **October Species Census** and recorded a collective total of **154 species**, an excellent result considering the lack of waterbirds around SE Queensland at present.

A few members also took part in the **QOSI Annual Twitchathon** held 7/8 November. The club's regular team, the **Unleaded Petrels**, overcame a slow start on the Sunday to power to the line and win, recording **197 species** in the 24 hours. Not their highest ever tally, but a good one all the same given the dearth of waterbirds. The new twitchers on the block, Nicci Thompson and Judy Caughley, aka the **Grey-crowned Babblers**, did very well in their baptism of fire, netting 156 species. They're already fine-tuning their act for next year, such is the infectious nature of "twitchathoning".

With the various teams state-wide having done their part, the best way you can acknowledge their efforts is by sponsorship, and it's never too late to **make a donation**. It's **tax-deductible** and it all goes towards **research into endangered species**. Please send any donations to the Treasurer and they will be forwarded on to QOSI.

The minutes of the **October Annual General Meeting** appear in this issue and the **October Species Census** report. Helen Wilson writes about her birding experience at **Hervey Bay** and we continue our **African safari** with Gloria and Diana. Also included is some information on the **Nest Record Scheme** run by Bird Australia.

I know you've heard it all before but **I NEED ARTICLES FROM YOU**. If every member was committed to providing **just one contribution** a year, then my job would be much easier and the newsletter would be truly a **club effort**. A short anecdote about some observation that interested you is all that's required. If you need guidance or advice, then by all means contact me.

Due to on-going work commitments out of town, Diane Seeney sensibly decided the **library** was best left with **President Ken** for now. Thanks Diane for having your heart in the right place anyway and congratulations on setting a new record for the shortest term on the TBO Executive! We'll sound you out again next AGM, so don't leave town.

There will be **no newsletter next month** so I look forward to keeping you briefed next year and on behalf of the Executive, wish you a safe and happy festive season.

Minutes of AGM of Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc. held on Monday, October 12, 1998 at Toowoomba East State School, Mary St.

1. **Opening of Meeting:** The President, Ken McKeown, opened the meeting at 7.40 p.m. and welcomed all those present.
2. **Attendance:** 20 members and visitors as per attendance book
3. **Apologies:** Rosalie Rudduck, Julie O'Connor, G.M.Stevenson, James Booth and Terry Pacey
4. **Minutes of AGM of 13th October 1997** (Published in October, 1997 Newsletter). Pat McConnell moved, and seconded Michael Atzeni, that they be accepted as a correct record. All in favour. Carried.
5. **Business Arising:** Nil
6. **Correspondence:** Nil
7. **President's Report:** Ken McKeown delivered his report (attached) and moved that it be adopted, seconded Ken Wells. All in favour. Carried
- **Treasurer's Report:** Gloria Glass delivered her report and financial statement (attached) and moved that they be adopted, seconded Jack Lund. All in favour. Carried.
- Gloria drew the attention of the membership to the small operating surplus, which is too small for the comfortable operation of the club's finances. She suggested that the membership give consideration to ways of increasing income or decreasing expenditure.
- Michael Atzeni reported that the cost of printing the newsletter would be reduced by using a cheaper photocopying firm and by not sending out so many checklists.
- Gloria asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to the auditor, Mr. Thomas Delaney, who audits our books for free.
8. **Election of Officers:** Ken McKeown vacated the chair. Jack Lund assumed the chair and called for nominations

▪ President:	Ken McKeown	Nominated: Michael Atzeni Seconded: Fiona Wells
▪ Vice-President:	Jack Lund	Nominated: Olive Bull Seconded: Michael Atzeni
▪ Treasurer:	Gloria Glass	Nominated: Michael Atzeni Seconded: Fiona Wells
▪ Secretary:	Nicci Thompson	Nominated: Gloria Glass Seconded: Helen Wilson
▪ Editor:	Michael Atzeni	Nominated: Gloria Glass Seconded: Derek Wilson
▪ Records Officer:	Pat McConnell	Nominated: Michael Atzeni Seconded: Ken Wells
▪ Committee:	Olive Booth	Nominated: Michael Atzeni Seconded: Sharon Fredericks
	Helen Wilson	Nominated: Michael Atzeni Seconded: Adele Warburton
▪ Librarian:	Diane Seeney	Nominated: Fiona Wells Seconded: Helen Wilson
▪ Auditor:	Thomas Delaney	Nominated: Gloria Glass Seconded: Nicci Thompson

The above officer bearers were elected unopposed.

9. **General Business:**
 - > Ken McKeown asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the Principal of Toowoomba East State School, who so generously permitted us to use the administration block for our meeting.
 - > Nicci Thompson outlined the area to be covered and called for members to become involved as volunteers in the Birds Australia Atlas Project.
10. **Close of Meeting:** The President, closed the meeting at 8.10 p.m. He then invited members and guests to stay for the talk by guest speakers, Rachel McFadyen and Judy Caughley, followed by supper and fellowship.

Auditor Acknowledgement

The Treasurer's report published in the October N/L was audited by Thomas Delaney free of charge. We are most grateful for his service.

Botswana Birdwatching, 22 June to 14 July 1998 (Part 2).

(This is a shortened version of the article. Paragraphs about animals have generally been shortened to, e.g., "... elephants ...". Please e-mail us (g.glass@bigpond.com) if you would like the full version of 10 pages. If you would prefer the 21-page version, say so. Also if you would like the full bird list.)

The first morning we were again mokoro-ed across the stream to go on a walk. It took most of the morning. ... On the water our poler had identified blacksmith plovers for us. These we saw on almost every patch of water we visited throughout our trip. They were very defensive of their territories and flew at intruders, uttering their brass-hammering tink-tink-tink call, which no doubt was the origin of their name.

On the walk everyone had a lovely view of a Black-headed Oriole, mostly yellow except for its head and red bill, saw a perched Bataleur, and Diana and I also identified a distant Bearded Woodpecker, pecking away. Many tracks were pointed out to us. We saw ... our first Hamerkop, a weird short-legged brown heron. ... giraffe, antelopes ... There was also a Crested Barbet, a mostly yellow and black bird with red spots on the yellow and white spots on the black, and with a stiff black tuft on the back of its head. The colours are brilliant, as are those of the Black-collared Barbet we

saw a few times later. *This* barbet looks as if its head and upper body were dipped in black, then just its head in red. Diana also saw the first of the small brown birds we identified ourselves, a Blue Waxbill. This is a lovely soft powder-blue except for its sandy-brown crown, back and wings. ... elephant damage ...

In the afternoon, our poler took us upstream, poling against the quite strong current. From the mokoro we viewed a Saddle-billed Stork, our first Jacana and Fish Eagle and a pair of Egyptian Geese, and our poler identified another plover as the Long-toed. I think this unappealingly-named plover was my favourite Botswana bird. In flight it seemed just a pair of gleaming, bowed white wings with black tips, while on land the white disappeared under grey-brown wing-coverts.

After grounding the mokoro, we then walked around a rise covered with trees and shrubs. ... We had good view of Meyer's Parrots as in the morning, but here saw their gold shoulder patches better, Green pigeons and other hard-to-differentiate small doves, and the first of many Grey Louries (the Go-away Bird, so-called because it gives the game away for scouting hunters).... warthogs ... A most enjoyable day altogether, with the afternoon jaunt one of the highlights so far.

We flew out of Semetsi and rejoined the *Wilderness Dawning* group. Brodie took us past a large and beautiful pool, with green edges, the only one with green edges we saw during our whole trip. Perhaps it was a permanent pool. There were a lot of herons and storks there, and we quickly added many to our list, along with some spoonbills (Africa, the southern part anyway, has only one spoonbill, but many herons and storks). There were also some crocodiles, as there had been at Semetsi.

... mating lions ...

We were to move camp, after a long game drive which went on and on. We stopped for a stretch-the-legs along the way. I heard small birds calling and on investigating found the tree they were in had flowering mistletoe. Surely the birds I was looking at were sunbirds. Then four different birds flew out swiftly in formation, with high-pitched calls as they made for another group of trees. They had long pointed-looking tails and similar-looking wings. The same thing happened on another day when we were near another flowering mistletoe. After that, I asked Brodie to consider what they might be. We eventually settled on Red-faced Mousebirds. Towards the end of our holiday (at Thorntree Lodge) I watched three of them bathing and preening in a small sprinkler on the lawn. I had taken careful note of the marks of the sunbirds I'd seen to look them up in Brodie's SASOL bird book, and decided they were Scarlet-chested and Marico Sunbirds.

On we went, seeing our first (and only) Cheetah, as well as some Bushbucks and Waterbucks and many 'new' birds including a Hoopoe, a most attractive bird. We arrived at our campsite this time on grass. Though it was dry grass, at least it wasn't dusty sand. This was called Paradise Pools. ... hippos, fruit bats ...

(To be continued)

Gloria Glass & Diana Beal

Hervey Bay Memoirs

Earlier this month we were looking forward to a whale-watching weekend but as it turned out, this paled into insignificance by some beautiful bird sightings. It was raining heavily as we boarded the boat, which didn't bother the whales although it made it hard for us to see them. Eventually we came across a pod, which two juvenile Giant petrels had discovered earlier. Totally unperturbed by our small craft, they bobbed up and down like bathtub ducks, at times being in danger of being bumped. Binoculars were unnecessary as we eye-balled each other.

On returning to harbour the weather cleared and a watery sun came out. We drove towards Point Vernon along the esplanade, and almost there we came across an Osprey's nest, with two fledglings about to fly. The nest was perched on a kind of telegraph pole on the seaside of the road and as we watched the female came in with a large fish. All hell broke loose as she perched below it and began tearing up her catch. Eventually she took the remaining half up to her vocal young, before flying off. Barely had she left when in flew the male with a fish so large we didn't think he'd get enough lift to make the nest. He did, although he dropped it whole amongst the two youngsters before he left to fly off. Silence reigned and we left.

Early the following morning we made it to Ankarra Lagoon at the corner of Sempf's Rd and Panorama Drive, Dundowran. For those that know the area it is on the melaleuca wetlands. I read it was a birdwatcher's paradise, as indeed it turned out to be and if anyone has an odd half an hour or more free, whilst in Hervey Bay, it is well worth visiting. It is in 11 ha of parkland with three easy walks, short, medium and long, and some cater for wheel chairs. The Ankarra tea garden cafe have a bird list of 120 known birds that regularly visit and during the hour I was there I saw 24 of them without even trying.

A Nankeen Kestrel flew down onto a lizard and was mobbed by a Dollarbird as it tried to perch on the bough of a tree. Another kestrel flew in to successfully distract the Dollarbird. Whilst all this commotion was going on, two Clamorous Reed warblers were tirelessly feeding their clutch. It took me ages to find the nest, through the binoculars, although it was only a couple of metres from where I was sitting.

A pair of Rainbow Bee-eaters were inspecting a sandy bank and a large group of plumed Whistling-Duck sunned themselves on an island. A Black Swan and cygnets drifted in front of a darter and two Red-backed Fairy-wrens had a dispute. Overhead a White-bellied Sea-Eagle played the thermals and a Brahminy Kite turned, catching the sun on his rich chestnut back.

I shall certainly be returning to Ankarra next time I'm in the area. The coffees and cakes were good too but as gardens have grevilleas all around, the coffee's inclined to get cold whilst you watch the honeyeaters.

Helen Wilson

1998 October Species Census

Dates: 24/25 October

Participating members: Wes and Norma Sturdee, Jim & Olive Booth, Pat McConnell, Kath Watson, Adele Warburton, Rosalie Ruddock, John Hadley, Keith & Norma Kerr, David & Pat Cleary, Ken McKeown, Judy Caughley, Joanna, Frank & Jake Van Oostdam, Michael Atzeni, Jack & Lesley Lund, Michael Hirst, Marilyn Jacobs

The weekend was graced by fine weather, good company and unbridled enthusiasm, resulting in a magnificent total of 154 species being seen. This beat last year's total of 150.

As always, there were the usual surprises, both in terms of species seen and species missed. Highlights of the weekend were a pair of **Pacific Baza** in Redwood Park, five **Red-tailed Black Cockatoos**, a male and immature **Red-capped Robin**, and **Plum-headed Finches** at Helidon. The three **Australasian Shoveler** and a pair of **Chestnut Teal** on Hood's Lagoon were unexpected waterbirds.

Other species impressed various individuals, with the tremendous view of male Mistletoebird proving a winner for the Van Oostdam family who are new members. A couple of species recorded in odd locations were the **Buff-rumped Thornbills** and **Western Gerygone** on the south western outskirts of Toowoomba, a **Black-faced Monarch** north of Helidon and **Rufous Fantails** at Derrymore.

The big dips were mainly waterbird species including Straw-necked and White Ibis, Intermediate and Great Egret, Royal & Yellow-billed Spoonbill, White-necked Heron, Hardhead, and Great Cormorant. The lack of waterbirds can be attributed to the tremendous breeding season under way at various inland localities, particularly in NSW. Looks as though they all wanted to get in on the act, this season.

Other unexpected misses included Spectled Monarch, Brown-headed Honeyeater and White-headed Pigeon. I looked in vain for the latter Sunday afternoon. No prizes for guessing what I saw the next day in the Camphor Laurels along Herries St!

Thanks to all participants and I hope to see you again next year.

Michael Atzeni

Description of survey area and the number of species recorded in each.

Sector	Limits and Landmarks	No. Species Recorded
1	bisects Gowrie Mtn to W; bisects Aerodrome & Drayton Cemetery to E; Euston Rd to S; Gowrie railway line & Wetalla to N	26
2	Westbrook Correctional Centre to W; Wyreema & Vale View to S; Euston Rd to N; Drayton township to E	13
3	Redwood Park (inclusive) to E; Mt Kynoch to N; Picnic Pt to S; Wetalla, Clifford Park, bisects Drayton Cemetery to W	83
4	Alderley St to N; Kearney Springs to W; Hodgson Vale turnoff to S; Lower & Upper Flagstone Ck Rd junction to E	90
5	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.	72
6	Bisects Tabletop to N; Upper and Lower Flagstone Ck Rd junction to E; Mt Campbell, Rockmout (Kennedy's Rd) to S; Stockyard to E	69
7	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.	114
8	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	56

Species Recorded: (Sectors in which each species was recorded appear in bold, underlined print)

	SECTORS				
Australian Brush-turkey	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Brush Cuckoo	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Rufous Whistler	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Brown Quail	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Grey Shrike-thrush	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Magpie Goose	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Black-faced Monarch	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Plumed Whistling-Duck	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Common Koel	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Leaden Flycatcher	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Black Swan	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Magpie-lark	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Australian Wood Duck	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Pheasant Coucal	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Rufous Fantail	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Mallard	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Powerful Owl *	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Grey Fantail	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Pacific Black Duck	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Southern Boobook	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Willie Wagtail	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Australasian Shoveler	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Tawny Frogmouth	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Spangled Drongo	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Grey Teal	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	White-throated Nightjar	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Chestnut Teal	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Australian Owllet-nightjar	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Australasian Grebe	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	White-throated Needletail	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Cicadabird	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Little Pied Cormorant	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Azure Kingfisher	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	White-winged Triller	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Little Black Cormorant	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Laughing Kookaburra	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Varied Triller	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Australian Pelican	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Sacred Kingfisher	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Olive-backed Oriole	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
White-faced Heron	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Rainbow Bee-eater	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Figbird	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Cattle Egret	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Dollarbird	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Dusky Woodswallow	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Pacific Baza	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	White-throated Treecreeper	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Grey Butcherbird	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Black-shouldered Kite	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Superb Fairy-wren	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Pied Butcherbird	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Brown Goshawk	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Variegated Fairy-wren	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Australian Magpie	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Collared Sparrowhawk	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Red-backed Fairy-wren	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Pied Currawong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Spotted Pardalote	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Torresian Crow	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Brown Falcon	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Striated Pardalote	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Regent Bowerbird	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Australian Hobby	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	White-browed Scrubwren	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Satin Bowerbird	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Peregrine Falcon	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Large-billed Scrubwren	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Richard's Pipit	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Nankeen Kestrel	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Speckled Warbler	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	House Sparrow	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Purple Swamphen	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Weebill	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Zebra Finch	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Dusky Moorhen	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Brown Gerygone	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Double-barred Finch	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Eurasian Coot	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Western Gerygone	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Plum-headed Finch	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Comb-crested Jacana	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	White-throated Gerygone	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Red-browed Finch	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Black-winged Stilt	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Brown Thornbill	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Black-fronted Dotterel	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Buff-rumped Thornbill	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Mistletoebird	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Banded Lapwing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	White-backed Swallow	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Masked Lapwing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Yellow Thornbill	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Welcome Swallow	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Rock Dove	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Striated Thornbill	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Tree Martin	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
White-headed Pigeon	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Red Wattlebird	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Fairy Martin	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Spotted Turtle-Dove	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Striped Honeyeater	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Clamorous Reed-Warbler	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Noisy Friarbird	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Golden-headed Cisticola	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Emerald Dove	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Little Friarbird	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Silvereye	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Common Bronzewing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Blue-faced Honeyeater	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Common Starling	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Crested Pigeon	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Bell Miner	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Common Myna	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Peaceful Dove	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Noisy Miner	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Bar-shouldered Dove	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Lewin's Honeyeater	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Wonga Pigeon	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Fuscous Honeyeater	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Galah	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	White-throated Honeyeater	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Little Corella	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	White-naped Honeyeater	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Brown Honeyeater	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Cockatiel	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Eastern Spinebill	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Rainbow Lorikeet	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Black Honeyeater *	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Scarlet Honeyeater	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Musk Lorikeet	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Jacky Winter	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Little Lorikeet	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Red-capped Robin	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Australian King-Parrot	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Eastern Yellow Robin	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Pale-headed Rosella	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Grey-crowned Babbler	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Red-rumped Parrot	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Eastern Whipbird	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
Pallid Cuckoo	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Varied Sitella	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
		Golden Whistler	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		

TOTAL NO. SPECIES 154

Wings of Silence

I've had the opportunity to view John Young's "Wings of Silence" video and can thoroughly recommend it. It would make an excellent Christmas present for anybody with an interest in our Australian owls, providing a wonderful insight into their very private lives.

There is an order form with this newsletter and the **club will be reimbursed \$3.00 for any video sales it promotes**. When ordering, simply write on the form "**Sponsored by the Toowomba Bird Observers**".

I'd like to thank Ray Smith (Ray Smith Productions) for his kind offer and hope many of you take up his offer.

Michael Atzeni

The Nest Record Scheme

The Nest Record Scheme (NRS) has been running since 1964 to gather information and increase our understanding on the breeding biology of Australian birds. This is achieved by collecting information on nest building, clutch size, fledging success and the timing and location of breeding. The scheme now has close to 90,000 records from about 1500 contributors and at any one time there are about 100 people actively contributing. The last 2 years has seen the entering of most of these records into a database that is expected to be completed by the end of 1998. Analyses of data will be made easier by this database.

WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT BREEDING BIRDS?

Studies of the breeding biology of birds is of value to basic science as well as to wildlife managers who need such information in order to manage and to ensure the survival of bird populations. The NRS has already helped to identify a few sites in Australia where herons, egrets and ibis are still able to breed.

Answers are needed to such questions as:

Are birds breeding successfully?

- Are changes in environment affecting the timing and success of birds breeding?
- Have introduced predators affected the breeding success of birds?
- Is the breeding success of birds different in areas subject to different types of long term land management and will this lead to the disappearance of some species from some areas or invasion by others of new areas?

Such information is essential for rational land management in conservation reserves and is helpful to landowners who wish to preserve birds on their own land. It can be obtained only by analysing detailed records of breeding attempts by birds.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Participation in the scheme is very simple with easy to fill in data sheets for each nesting attempt. The amount of time and effort remains under your control and you can contribute records at any time. Valuable information is provided where nests are only visited once, but observers are encouraged to make follow up visits. Data on clutch size, incubation and fledging periods, and nesting success usually require two or more visits. A few well-planned visits can provide a great deal of information. Nesting periods vary enormously between species: some chicks take over three weeks to fledge, others fledge almost as soon as they hatch. Nestlings of small passerines are naked, blind and helpless when hatched and gradually acquire feather quills from which the feathers grow during the following few weeks. On a visit to a nest containing young, it is helpful to note whether they are blind, naked, eyes just open, quills only, quills sprouting, or feathered, as their age can be calculated from these details. In species such as waders and many waterfowl, the young hatch with their eyes open, leave the nest shortly after hatching and are able to run within hours. For these species it is helpful to record whether the chicks appear downy or feathered. Records of juveniles seen but no nest are also accepted and there are many such records in the scheme.

Nest recording can become a fascinating and absorbing part of your birdwatching which will increase your knowledge of the birds you are watching while contributing to the overall understanding of the breeding biology of Australian birds.

TO PARTICIPATE

If you want to participate in the Nest Record Scheme contact the Birds Australia office and leave your name and address and you will be sent some data sheets and instructions. Further inquiries can be made to the NRS Project Officer, Rory Poulter.

Nest Record Scheme, Birds Australia, 415 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn East, Vic 3123
Tel (03) 9882 2622 Fax (03) 9882 2677

Members' Bird Notes

Members of the Toowoomba Bird Observers have submitted all sightings. Accuracy not vouched for by TBO. Please check with observer(s) before citing.

Swift Parrot (2 overhead)	05/09/98	Rockville	NT
Apostlebird (2 groups)	06/09/98	NW Toowoomba	NT
Red-tailed Blk Cockatoo (9)	16/09/98	Gowrie Junction	GG
Long-billed Corella	17/09/98	Old Ropely Rd Swamp, Ropely	JH
Red-tailed Blk Cockatoo (3)	18/09/98	Rockville	J&OB
Spangled Drongo*	23/09/98	East Toowoomba	MA, TP
Grey-crowned Babbler**	24/09/98	Gowrie Junction	GG
Royal Spoonbill (1)	24/09/98	Lake Annand, Toowoomba	MA
Osprey	25/09/98	Atkinson's Dam	JH
Little Corella (8)	27/09/98	Rockville	NT
White-throated Nightjar	29/09/98	Amos Rd, Withcott	P&DC
Cattle Egret (1)	10/10/98	Toowoomba Abattoir	GG
Black-necked Stork (1)	17/10/98	Apex Lake, Gatton	MA
Long-billed Corella (1)	17/10/98	Ipswich Rd, Wacol	MA
Pacific Baza	25/10/98	Redwood Park	MA, J&OB, RR
Red-capped Robin***	25/10/98	Connor's Rd, Helidon	MA, J&OB, DS
Red-tailed Blk Cockatoo (5)	25/10/98	Connor's Rd, Helidon	MA, J&OB, DS
Black-faced Monarch****	24/10/98	Lockyer Siding Rd, via Helidon	N&WS
Peregrine Falcon	24/10/98	Lower Flagstone Creek	MA
Chestnut Teal (pair)	25/10/98	Hood's Lagoon, Helidon	MA, J&OB, DS
Plum-headed Finch	25/10/98	Flagstone Ck, Helidon	JH et al
Regent Bowerbird	25/10/98	"Grevillea Robusta", Derrymore	RR
Rufous Fantail (pair)	25/10/98	"Grevillea Robusta", Derrymore	RR

* First report for the area this season.

** Nesting. Birds flying in with insects.

*** Adult male and juvenile. Very unusual breeding record. Usually just a winter visitor.

**** Rarely recorded around Helidon.

MA	M. Atzeni	P&DC	P & D Cleary	GG	G. Glass	PM	P. McConnell
D&EB	D & E Beal	J&OB	J & O. Booth	NT	N. Thompson	TP	T. Pacey
JH	J Hadley	RR	R. Rudduck				

New Members

The club extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Pat Solomon, Redbank Plains 4301

Joanna Van Oostdam & family, Toowoomba 4350

Judy Caughley, Toowoomba 4350

COMING EVENTS

November Outing

Location: Bribie Island
Date: Saturday, 28 November
Time: 8.00 am
Leader: Nicci Thompson 07 4634 3074

Info: An excellent opportunity to hone your wader ID skills and to catch up on other coastal species. Meet at the marina on the mainland to the left of the bridge to Bribie Island at 8.00 am. Allow a two and a half-hour drive from Toowoomba. Those going please notify Nicci in advance. The outing will take in various locations including Buckley's Hole and Duck's Creek. There has been an Asiatic Dowitcher reported at Toorbul recently, which is where Nicci plans to finish the outing. So start studying those wader pages and come along!

December Outing & BBQ

Location: Cooby Dam
Date: Sunday, 20 December
Time: 3.00 pm
Leader: Ken McKeown 07 4630 3774

Info: Meet at the dam wall. The afternoon's birdwatching will be followed by a BBQ to close what has been a good year. BYO everything.

January Beginners Outings

Location: Local waterbird habitats (to be advised)
Dates: Saturday & Sunday, 30 & 31 January

Info: Following the success of similar outings at the start of this year, we thought we'd try again.

February Outing

Location: Goomburra State Forest
Dates: Saturday, 27 February

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.*

If undeliverable return to
 Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc
 PO Box 4730
 TOOWOOMBA EAST Q 4350

**SURFACE
 MAIL**



M Jacobs*
 21 Sylvan Court
 TOOWOOMBA 4350