



# TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS inc.

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

P.O. Box 4730, Toowoomba East 4350

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

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

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## NEWSLETTER No. 279 – July 1999

### Editorial

Lucky we took in Lake Clarendon for the **Freckled Ducks** on last month's outing because they were gone by the following weekend. What a terrific sight to see so many of them (I counted 36 in one quick scan!) being admired by an equally impressive number of birders. For many, it was a lifer. Makes you feel the club's doing something right.

Another rare event that only an Editor can appreciate: a **backlog** of contributions, and I'd like it to stay that way! **Thanks** and keep up the good work. If you're holding off, waiting for inspiration, then take a leaf out of **Terry Pacey's** book and indulge in some "**wreminiscing**" (written reminiscing) about your birding experiences. Get those fond memories published for the benefit of future generations. Don't save them for the grave.

Which brings me to another point. **Who is the newsletter for?** In my opinion, anyone interested enough to read it, whether they are members or not. Traditionally, we have exchanged copies of the newsletter with other clubs and provided copies to the municipal and USQ libraries. This provides generally short-term limited access by others and from my experience, has not been very effective in promoting the club, nor its charter.

The suggestion that we **develop a web site** on the Internet was raised again recently. I believe it IS time to consider this seriously, and **review how we promote the club**, which would involve making the **newsletter more accessible**. Nowadays, there is a world-wide network of birdwatchers at our fingertips. Through the likes of the **Birding-Aus** email list and various established web sites, many birders are kept updated about Australian birds and birding hotspots, including our own very special region.

So let's look ahead to the next 25 years and hear your **suggestions and opinions**.

In addition to Terry Pacey's **reminiscing**, this newsletter includes Ken's account of the **May Mt Clunie outing**, and we continue the tale of that most desirable perch in the creek below "Abberton" at Helidon. For a bit of humour, a **revamped Field Guide suggestion** is thrown in. We also catch up with our Secretary, **Nicci Thompson**, who's currently enjoying the trip we all want – a **birding holiday around Australia**.

Please note John Hadley has offered to lead an **extra August outing** (mid-week) to the Lockyer Valley. See the Coming Events.

## Dinkum Birds

The Toowoomba Regional Gallery Shop has just received the newest range of "**Dinkum Birds**", hand-crafted wood by Charles Smith, who has been refining the shapes and perfecting the finish. They are beautifully crafted and presented with gift bags and bubble wrap liners for presentation to that special person.

The Shop also has copies of Pat McConnell's booklet on the birds of **Redwood Park**.

Dana McCown

## Outing Report – Mt Clunie, 29-31 May 1999

Having visited Mt Clunie in January with Mt Clunie affectionados, Ken and Fiona Wells, I had no reservations about revisiting in May. This time, I was joined by Helen and Derek Wilson, and Mary Petr.

A phone call from our host Fran Standing the night before our visit had us in a panic as they had received 32ins or 800ml of rain for the year and we might have to walk to the cabins whilst Jim (Fran's husband) would bring the luggage up by quad bike. Luckily it dried out during the day and we could drive there.

Because Derek had a late meeting we arrived in the dark to find that Jim had thoughtfully lit the wood heater to warm our cabins for us. Both cabins were designed by Fran and Jim and are finished in local timbers with Hoop Pine interiors. Each is equipped with gas stove, refrigerator, hot water system and lighting. Everything is provided – all you need is your clothing and food. There is even a well-stocked library with self-guiding maps for the more adventurous.

The next morning Fran guided us up the forestry road which runs beside Mt Clunie and later joins the Condamine River Gorge Road. As we walked up the road we came to a **Bell Miner** colony. Fran by her own admission is not a great lover of Bellbirds as they destroy trees and chase most other birds away. Along this road we saw giant fig trees complete with huge Crows Nest and Staghorn Ferns.

Mary was suffering from a sore leg and decided to rest for awhile and we went on in our quest of the **Southern Emu-wren**. How lucky can you get? There they were flitting around a small depression in the track that Jim had slashed. We had great views of them zooming from small trees to the top wire of a fence and then settling. It was also a new bird for the Wilsons.

As we were walking, Fran said that the **Glossy Black-Cockatoos** could be a possibility. That settled it, we then commenced a 7.5 km walk around the Knoll, a hill on the property. This was a very picturesque walk with great views across to the Condamine River Gorge. We didn't see the Glossies but near the cattle yards I saw a Dingo on his daily rounds.

That afternoon, we joined the Standings and checked out their impressive large native and vegetable gardens. A diverse array of bird attracting shrubs and trees, coupled with a large pond ensures that there are always avian visitors. This afternoon we were joined by a very tame magpie, which landed on Jim's arm to be fed.

Over coffee and wine, we learnt that Jim's sawmiller father had originally purchased the property to farm and log many years ago and there were still the remains of a case mill to be seen. Interestingly, Jim and Fran are trying to return the property to its original state and have deliberately not overstocked it.

That night after our incredible walk, none of us needed rocking as we dreamed of the elusive Glossies.

The next morning we woke to a day made to order. As the road had dried out, Mary and I drove up and luckily located the Emu-wrens again. New bird for Mary, and as a bonus we saw two **Yellow-tailed Black-Cocktoos** as we reached the cabins before she departed for the Toowoomba Home Show.

As Helen and Derek had gone on another track with Fran, I decided to tackle the Mt Clunie trail which was actually an old snigging track to bring the logs down the mountain. Jim who had just farewelled Mary, caught up to me and described the fascinating flora as we went higher and higher. We stopped where the track disappeared and the huge trees could not be logged. This was the base of Mt Clunie and it was certainly impressive. Here I could see the stands of ancient **Hoop Pine** which earned the mountain its World Heritage listing.

On descending the mountain, I caught up with Derek and Helen and enjoyed an improvised bar-b-cue, including scotch eggs, before making our farewells and promising to return. We were more than happy with a winter total of 53 species.

But wait, there's more!!

We decided to return home by travelling up from Old Grevilla to Killarney via Carrs's Lookout and on the way stumbled upon not one but two separate **Albert's Lyrebirds** out on the road. My apologies to Derek for yelling in his ear for him to stop but it was another new bird for the Wilsons.

Anyway, it was a grand way to end an idyllic weekend.

Ken Mc Keown

#### **Species list:**

Pacific Black Duck, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Masked Lapwing, Crested Pigeon, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Australian King Parrot, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Laughing Kookaburra, Albert's Lyrebird, White-throated Treecreeper, Superb Fairy-wren, Southern Emu-wren, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone, Brown Thornbill, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Bell Miner, Eastern Spinebill, Rose Robin, Eastern Yellow Robin, Eastern Whipbird, Varied Sittella, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Magpie Lark, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Paradise Riflebird, Torresian Crow, Satin Bowerbird, Regent Bowerbird, Red-browed Finch, Mistletoebird, Welcome Swallow, Silvereeye

### **The Cormorants**

This incident occurred on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1999 on the mid-stream limb referred to in last month's item concerning Azure Kingfishers.

Almost invariably cormorants approach this limb by direct flight to its peak, which is only a metre or so clear of the water. This day, a Little Pied Cormorant (LPC) was atop the limb, with his wings hanging out when another LPC swam up to the base of the log and clambered onto it from the water.

The new arrival made its way up the limb in a sort of sideways shuffle, until the two birds were within a beak's grasp of each other, when they did just that. Regrettably, I can't tell you which bird did what, but in an instant one had its beak clamped around the beak of the other, and they began to wrestle. Inevitably they both fell into the creek, at which point we assumed one or other would decamp, but to our surprise they remained tightly locked together, side by side, beaks still clamped.

With much flapping and head-wrestling they continued in the water as if they were joined together along their sides, each flapping its free wing furiously in a sort of three-legged race progression along and around the creek. This continued for maybe two minutes, which was a very long time for us and no doubt for them. It was impossible to say that either bird had the upper hand, as from time to time one wrestled the other under the water, only for them to emerge still joined. Eventually, after one such effort, they reappeared separately and took to the air low across the water, one in hot pursuit of the other.

Again, I regret that I couldn't identify which bird was the aggressor, or which the 'victor', particularly as only couple of minutes later, one has returned to the centre of the creek, and is peacefully hanging its wings out to dry, as if nothing had ever happened.

Only the previous day, an LPC (maybe one of the two involved in today's fracas) was on the same limb, when a Darter swam up to the log, and similarly clambered along it towards the peak. As soon as this much bigger bird thrust his much bigger beak in the direction of the LPC the cormorant took off, and the Darter claimed his prize. I'm sure this kind of conflict resolution is much more common.

This is the only time I have seen cormorants locked in such fierce and extended combat. It was comparable to the rather severe going over that I have seen drake Mallards give en masse to females, which I believe does sometimes cause drowning.

Bill Jolly

### **New Field Guide**

[This gem appeared last year on the Birding-Aus chatline: a tongue-in-cheek solution to dealing with some of those frustrating and elusive birds on your wish-list. Thanks to Pat O'Malley for kindly allowing me to share it. Ed.]

"I have been interested in the correspondence on the topic of rarest birds. The following are the ones I have not seen, plus explanations. I feel quite strongly about this:

1. Approx. 52 species of seabird. I don't count these on the grounds that they never touch base in Australia unless dead. Ha! Any bird you have to go to sea for clearly belongs on the list for "Oceans" - for which country I note

there is no simple field guide. (Field guide! See what I mean?) My field guide is all the more portable for excising these non-Australian birds.

2. All those other alleged parrots that are really indistinguishable from Blue-winged parrots. These obviously ARE Blue-winged Parrots but on 'Bad feather days'. And the recent Wingspan article only confirmed this. The exception is the OBP [Orange-bellied Parrot] which obviously exists - and I have seen it.
3. Purple-crowned Lorikeet. A hoax propagated by whoever runs the car park at Tullamarine Airport. My observations confirm these to be Indian Mynas.
4. Owls. Another series of bogus names for the Tawny Frogmouth. People get confused in the dark. Quite a few are probably bats (both the sightings and those who claim them as 'owls'). I have torn the relevant pages out of my field guide, as they cannot be read in the dark. This is when owls are alleged to be 'out' - how convenient! All instances I have come across regarding owl calls at night turn out to be "owlers" playing tape recordings. (Probably of Ocean birds for all I know).
5. All those alleged fairy wrens that look like Variegated Wrens. Obviously all ARE Variegated Wrens (I suppose that's why the original name was chosen). See entry above under Blue Winged parrot. I've torn these pages out too - useless lumber.
6. Waders. Don't make me laugh. Days spent at Werribee SF confirm that these are merely another single variable species, best subsumed under Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. People probably hallucinate from the fumes. Last time I was there some 'expert' pointed out a large and boisterous ST Sandpiper and called it a Rough. I dare say, but hardly grounds for naming a separate (and mis-spelt) species. Leg and bill colour variation, and quite possibly plumage, clearly depends on the mud (or worse) that the sandpipers are wading in. My revised guide has only one page for waders with several illustrations showing some of the major but still trivial local variations in plumage, size etc of Sharp Tails.

This is, of course only a start. I was pleased to see an honest emailer point out recently that the Lewin's Rail is 'probably extinct nowadays'. Of course it is. That's if it ever existed. My observations, incidentally, strongly suggest that the so-called 'Spotless Crake' is very likely an immature Dusky Moorhen, so maybe we should rethink those crakes and Rails pages. Most people I know are honest enough to admit to not actually seeing many 'close up'. Like 'owls' and a number of other fraudulent entries, these are said to be seen only under adverse conditions. They are said to 'skulk'. I bet. Let's tear those pages out of the guide as well, except of course for the Buff-banded Rail.

Perhaps we should produce a properly revised Field Guide that will be both more portable and more honest about the 362 species that actually exist in this country (all of which, incidentally, I have seen).

I think all sincere birders will join me in looking forward to hearing from someone more expert than I, who could lead the task of producing a more realistic field guide to Australian birds."

Pat O'Malley, Melbourne, 19/3/98

## Reminiscences of a Birdwatcher

The following is a collection of unrelated thoughts and memories of my years watching birds. It is not an attempt to provide any sort of list or chronological detail of my experiences. It dates back to the 1940's and visits tomorrow. I hope it may inspire some of you to put your memories on paper.

I remember as a schoolboy, the **crows** around the hospital at Monto. I walked through the hospital grounds on my way to school and can still remember the large numbers. Could there really have been the hundreds I tend to recall? The **gulls, pelicans and swans** of the Southport Broadwater of the early and mid 1950's also come to mind. There were many more than today, I am sure.

Did any of you ever travel the Warwick-Stanthorpe road in the 1950's? I remember the **rosellas** in the early morning. The dead were everywhere and it was impossible to miss hitting the live ones as they flew across the road without fear. Mainly Crimson, but Eastern were there too. Where have they gone?

Then there were the **Budgerigars** near Dalby. The telephone and power lines east of Dalby used to be a mass of green and sagged dangerously with the weight of the birds. In the four years I lived in Jandowae in the 1990's, I never saw a one. Why such a change in 40 years?

Like everyone else in the 60's, I visited the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary. There was a difference, however, in that I lived on the coast and knew the Griffiths. This made me an expert. My parents also managed a motel at Tweed

Heads and this gave me an opportunity to meet and impress many a young lady with my superior knowledge during a visit to Currumbin. I shudder when I think of the mis-information that I helped spread around Australia.

The **whales** are another wonderful memory. Not birds but unforgettable. Whaling was still going on in Moreton Bay and Byron Bay in those days and I remember standing on Snapper Rocks at Coolangatta and actually hitting whales with stones (I know) they were so close. This was a regular occurrence in the 50's but by the mid-60's they had all disappeared.

My first real thoughts on birds come from the time I spent in far-western Queensland as a young teacher. **Brolgas, Bustards and Budgerigars ... Crows and Corellas ...** just part of the ABC of birding out west. I sometimes sit and try to remember the different birds I saw back then. I wonder did I ever see a Night Parrot. We often went shooting in the evenings and frequently flushed large flocks of .....(?). There must have been Grasswrens but which species? Living in Dajarra and Bedourie and travelling widely in the area, imagine the opportunities I must have had. Tourists were non-existent in those days. In one six-month period in Bedourie, only one car-load of tourists passed through. I could have had the area to myself.

I do remember some amazing sights. **Silver Gulls** in the middle of Boulia, my first **Rainbow Bee-eater** (Bedourie) and the lake (swamp?) just off the Bedourie-Birdsville road that was so full of nesting birds that you could hear the noise for miles. What were the nesting birds? I'm sorry! I don't know!

The things that I remember are more the quantities than the qualities. The **Emus, Brolgas and Bustards** were there in hundreds. I once walked into a flock of Bustards off the road. They allowed me to approach within centimetres and wouldn't even run when chased. I am sure I couldn't find anything like that now. I was very unhappy at the time because I had left my rifle at home and all I could see was Sunday lunch getting away.

Then there were the times the sky turned pink. Thousands of **Galahs** wheeling across the sky turning it pink then grey then pink. Or the **Corellas** wheeling in the setting sun turning the sky white and then orange.

More living on the Gold Coast followed. I remember the women but the birds are hazy (only another birdwatcher could accept that sentence). But a move to the Solomon Islands changed that.

Michael has already published my article on the Solomons but a number of highlights need recording. Huge flocks of **Lesser Frigatebirds** occasionally soared over the town. They sometimes were at roof level. It always stopped most people in their tracks and I was no exception. One day in 1978, I saw a large pod of dolphins out from the town. I mean a LARGE pod. My father and I counted more than two thousand before we gave up. Every trick that dolphins perform in captivity was being performed in the wild and I am convinced that the dolphins did these tricks just for FUN. One afternoon, my wife, children and I were relaxing on a beach just west of Honiara. Within a few feet of the shore we saw a number of turtles and the largest dugong you can imagine. This dugong was so close to shore that we were able to measure its length by marking the sand and then measuring it; more than twelve feet long!

Mount Perry, west of Bundaberg, has some wonderful memories. I was there during the original Atlas period and was able to contribute. Some of the highlights were my first **Ground Cuckoo-shrikes**. What a sight to see in your own yard! Then there were the **Scarlet Honeyeaters** in their hundreds along the creek. They engaged in feeding frenzies when the callistemon (*viminalis*?) was in bloom. Some of the trees, no taller than a metre, were covered in bloom and honeyeaters.

I had a special spot just outside of Mount Perry. It was no larger than three or four acres but consisted of rain forest around a permanent creek with crystal clear water and a little cascade. Sitting on the banks of the creek on a hot summer's day banished all the worries of the outside world. The birds were wonderful as it appeared to be part of a corridor between the rainforests further south and the heavy scrub of the Many Peaks area.

The Lockyer Valley and the Jandowae District were two other areas with special attractions. In six years at Gatton I saw over 80 species in my own suburban back yard. The Lockyer gave me my first **Blue-billed Duck** (Jahnke's Swamp) and the sight of hundreds of **Avocet** and **Pink-eared Ducks** on the old Lake Dyer (now Bill Gunn Dam). But the most pleasant place for me was always the Gatton Forestry Reserve. Every time I visited it there were more surprises. One day there were more than 20 **whipbirds** hopping over the track and in and out of the lantana just near the entrance. They were not concerned with my presence and I spent more than half an hour just watching their antics. Nowhere else have I seen three species of **fairy-wrens** in one very small area at the same time. This happened regularly.

Jandowae was another highlight. There seemed to be an unending list of species and Rod Hobson and I once sighted 104 species in just under six hours. The most memorable species were not necessarily the rare species. Who can forget the **Blue Bonnets** and their spreading further and further east during my time at Jandowae, or the large flocks of **White-browed Woodswallows**, or the numerous **Spotted Harriers** swooping over the grass

alongside the road? These are surely the most beautiful of all the raptors. The Town Dam at Jandowae was the source of many an exciting time – **Freckled Ducks** and **Black-tailed Native-hens** just a sample. However, the highlight of my time at Jandowae was the **Painted Honeyeater**. I feel privileged that I was able to see so many of these birds, almost at will, while so many birdwatchers throughout the country have so much trouble finding them.

The Central Highlands of New South Wales played host to the Pacey family for 18 months or so. The most vivid memory is the cold when the sun started setting in winter. I never realised how cold binoculars could become. Gloves became a necessary part of the birdwatching equipment. However, I was able to add 8 or 9 “lifers” during that time.

Unfortunately, my mobility is not what it was and my days of long walks through the bush are finished. That doesn't mean an end to birdwatching but it does mean that I have to be content with “watching” rather than “twitching”, which is probably what I have been doing for the last fifty years anyway.

What has been my **favourite bird in all that time**? Surprise, surprise! It was a **Southern Boobook**. This bird was special and built up a rapport with me that I cannot believe, even now. It was in Jandowae and the Boobook appeared on our clothes-line one evening. Over the next few months I talked quietly and moved a little closer each time. Eventually, I was allowed to touch and then gently scratch this wild creature. No one else was allowed to go anywhere near it but it allowed me to have this relationship. No food was ever given to the bird and after a few months it disappeared. I wonder whether it met with an accident or just moved on? Why did it choose me? It was, without a doubt, the highlight of my fifty years of birdwatching.

So there it is, the reminiscences (ramblings?) of one person. You may find the birds I named as rather surprising choices but that is the way I see it. Why don't you tell us your story?

Terry Pacey

## Thompsons on Tour - Email from Finch Hatton, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1999

As we have been travelling for two weeks, it seems an appropriate time to share some of the highlights of our trip so far. Leaving Toowoomba a day later than planned, we travelled west through Dalby, Miles etc to Roma before turning north for Injune and the Carnarvon Gorge NP. The country looked magnificent after the excellent summer rains. The birds along the way were basically what we expected and we didn't stop to bird specifically along the way. A **Little Eagle** between Miles and Chinchilla, **Red-winged Parrot**, **White-rumped Miner** and **Australian Bustard** between Miles and Injune were minor highlights.

We spent three days at Carnarvon Gorge NP which was in peak condition after the rain and the gorges, their streams and waterholes were quite lovely. On the way in we encountered two families of **Squatter Pigeons** which was a good start and late in the afternoon we saw a third group just south of the camping area. The birding was quite good but there was nothing unexpected except perhaps the high numbers of **Fan-tailed Cuckoos** which were almost the first bird to call in the mornings. Gloria's Osprey appears to have moved on. The best birds were **Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters** and a group of at least 4 **Shining Bronze-Cuckoos** catching green caterpillars beside the Rock Pool. We called in at the Rock Pool in the early afternoon and it was alive with birds, but when we visited it again in the late afternoon it was very quiet.

After leaving Carnarvon Gorge NP we travelled to Rolleston via the Carnarvon Developmental Road which is now very good bitumen. In Rolleston there was a group of three **Squatter Pigeons** sunning themselves on the footpath and taking no notice of the passing foot or vehicular traffic. Feeling adventurous, we took the direct road from Rolleston to Blackwater, most of which is unsealed and the caravan handled it well apart from a generous covering of red dust. It is much drier north of Rolleston. Along this section we began to pick up more raptors – **Brown Falcon**, **Black Kite**, **Whistling Kite**, **Kestrel** and **Wedge-tailed Eagles**. We also saw a few small groups of **Brolgas** foraging in cultivation paddocks and open grassland beside the road.

We chose Blackwater as our base from which to visit the Blackdown Tableland NP, which I really enjoyed. It reminded me very much of the Helidon Hills around Mt Cross – the same sort of country and similar vegetation, but with some visually lovely spots. My favourite was the Rock Pool above Rainbow Falls. It is quite high country, the crest of the Expedition Range being 890 metres where the road crosses it and the air was very cool and crisp. The birding is very good especially along the walk to Two Mile Falls and around the Rock Pools. It was along the Two Mile Falls road that I finally saw **SPOTTED QUAIL-THRUSH** which have always eluded me in the past. Later in the day as I was admiring the Rock Pool when another flew in, almost collided with me and landed on the log in front of me. Other nice sightings were **White-eared Honeyeaters** along the Two Mile Falls road and at the Rock Pool and **White-checked Honeyeaters** around the Rock Pool. We heard **Glossy Black-Cockatoos** as we returned to the Rainbow Falls car park.

We spent some time in Emerald - chores and shopping - where I was able to collect my email, before travelling north through Capella, Clermont and Nebo to Mackay. It is a fairly long and not particularly interesting stretch of highway, except for the Peak Downs Range with some quite spectacular volcanic plugs. We saw a lone male **Cotton Pygmy-goose** on the Nogoa River in Emerald and not much else. **White-rumped Miners** and **White-plumed Honeyeaters** were common right through.

Mackay is over run with Masked Lapwings, Rainbow Lorikeets and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes as well as a lot of feral species. There are still a number of migratory waders present on the northern beaches around Mackay - **Terek Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler** and **Curlew Sandpiper**. We also saw our first **Yellow Honeyeaters** for the trip on the road to the port, along with a group of **Channel-billed Cuckoos** and a **Black-necked Stork**.

On Saturday we moved west 60 kms to Finch Hatton and this delightful Caravan Park. There are a lot birds in Finch Hatton itself, despite its being surrounded by miles of cane fields. A short afternoon stroll behind the Caravan park - less than 500 metres - netted : **Yellow-bellied Sunbird, Nutmeg Mannikin, White-rumped Swiftlet, Little Cuckoo-shrike, Yellow Honeyeater, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Pacific Baza, Dusky Honeyeater, Plum-headed Finch** and **Chestnut-breasted Mannikin**. Not bad! We visited Eungella Plateau and the National Park on Anzac Day and I wasn't very taken with the National Park - altogether too dense and wet, but then I'm not a big fan of rainforests. Before we went up, the proprietor of the Caravan Park, gave me a mud map of a Eungella Honeyeater site on the other side of the plateau drawn by a local. On the way to it, we found a **Grey Goshawk** perched in a tree at the side of the road and had to stop and wait for a Spectacled Hare Wallaby to finish its breakfast in the middle of the tracks - all very nice. Thirty minutes after reaching the site we were enjoying wonderful views of the **EUNGELLA HONEYEATER**. I was really happy as I had thought it would be very difficult to locate. I have made a faithful copy of the mud map before returning it to Jill. At the same spot we saw a good flock of female/immature **Regent Bowerbirds**. There were a lot more bird species on that side of the plateau than in the National Park.

Nicci Thompson

## 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.

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (6)	30/6/99	Table Top Estate	KM
Magpie Goose (37)*	11/07/99	Yandilla	KM
Yellow-throated Miner (2)	11/07/99	Millmerran Sewage Treatment Plant	KM
Glossy Black Cockatoo (8)	11/07/99	Bulli Ck, Millmerran	KM
Banded Lapwing (2)	10/06/99	Brigalow	GG
Banded Lapwing (2)	11/06/99	Myall Park, Glenmorgan	GG
Banded Lapwing (4)**	18/06/99	Toowoomba Airport	GG
White-winged Fairy-wren	24/06/99	Cunnamulla	GG
Black-chinned Honeyeater	24/06/99	Date Farm at Eulo, SW Qld	GG
White-fronted Honeyeater	25 & 27/06/99	Currawinya NP	GG
Red-necked Avocet	27/06/99	Currawinya NP	GG
Orange Chat	27/06/99	Currawinya NP	GG
White-winged Fairy-wren	27/06/99	Cunnamulla	GG
Major Mitchell Cockatoo	28/06/99	Currawinya NP	GG
Musk Duck (1)	04/07/99	Karrasch's Lagoon, via Grantham	TP
Blue-billed Duck (1M, 2F)	04/07/99	Jahnke's Lagoon, via Gatton	TP
Australian Shovellers (200+)	04/07/99	Lake Clarendon	TP
Pheasant Coucal	12/07/99	Gowrie Junction (flushed by dogs)	GG
Crimson Rosella (6)	12/07/99	Pechey Street, South Toowoomba	TP
Yellow Chat (12)	10/07/99	Astrebla NP	JC
Grey Goshawk	12/07/99	Mt Kynoch, N. Toowoomba	PM, KW
Painted Honeyeater (1)	13/07/99	Hunter's Gorge, Diamantina Lakes N.P	JC
Figbird (160+)	16/07/99	cnr Neil & James Sts, Toowoomba	TP

\* Westerly record.

\*\* Back at the Toowoomba airport, after being absent for a number of months. 4 on 18/6/99; also 4 on 12/7/99 (GG)

KM	K. McKeown	JC	J. Caughley	GG	G. Glass
PM	P. McConnell	TP	T. Pacey	KW	K. Watson

## COMING EVENTS

**July Outing**

**Location:** Gorman's Gap, Lower Flagstone Ck  
**Date:** Sunday, 25 July  
**Leader:** Michael Atzeni 07 4639 2761

**Info:** We will be visiting the property of Graham White on Rossells Road at the base of Gorman's Gap. Expect a good mix of bush birds. Meet at the junction of the Lower Flagstone Ck Rd and Stockyard Ck Rd at 7.30 a.m.

**Swift Parrot/Regent Honeyeater****Survey**

**Dates:** 7-8 August  
**Co-ordinator:** Ken McKeown 07 4630 3774

**Info:** Contact Ken for survey sheets and further information. **Don't forget** Swift Parrots were seen in Toowoomba around this time last year, so please be on the alert and report any sightings ASAP.

**Mid-week August Outing**

**Location:** Lockyer Valley  
**Date:** Wednesday, 11 August  
**Leader:** John Hadley 07 5465 4445

**Info:** A break from tradition! An open-ended affair to suit those that find it difficult to make the weekend outings. Meet near the kiosk at Lake Apex, Gatton at 7.30 a.m. BYO everything and a scope if you have one.

**August Outing**

**Location:** White Rock, Ipswich  
**Date:** Saturday, 28 August

**September Outing**

**Location:** Pikedale via Stanthorpe  
**Date:** Sunday, 19 September (tentative)

**Info:** Joint outing with the Stanthorpe Field Nats to a private property on the **third Sunday** of the month.

**October Species Census**

**Location:** TBOI Survey Area  
**Date:** 30-31 October

**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**

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