

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

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NEWS-SHEET No. 33 - SEPTEMBER, 1978.

It was very exciting to see so many members along on the August outing to the Flagstone Creek area. A very wide range of birds were seen and it is always pleasing to welcome new members on our outings.

Our next outing is to be a CAMPOUT to the Bunya Mountains (see outing details later in news-sheet). On this outing we hope to see a SOOTY OWL which roosts regularly in the Rocky Fall Caves. A ranger will be on hand to guide members to this area.

One of the most important days in our Club's year is the ANNUAL BIRD COUNT which will be held this year on SUNDAY, 22ND OCTOBER, following the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Friday, 20th October, 1978. This is one time when your club really needs YOU for one day. The Bird Count takes considerable organisation and it is important that we know the members available for the day. If you can't attend the A.G.M., or wish to know more about the Bird Count, please contact Bill Jolly either at home ph. 30.3206 or at the EDIAE ph. 30.1300.

This month a Bird & Stamp Spectacular is being held at Laidley and Dyer's Lagoon. Our club will be represented by the President, Bill Jolly who will be on hand at Dyers to help visitors and school parties in their identification of the water birds which inspired the recent set of stamps depicting Australian birds.

Nominations for office are required to be in the Secretary's hands by 7.30 p.m. on 20th October, the night of the A.G.M. Nomination forms and Agenda are included in this news-sheet.

Sue Elmes,
Editor.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF A SUMMER MIGRANT.

Having leafed through Peter Slater's field guide before leaving the near-freezing shores of England, I thought I knew what to expect....

Unfortunately the jumbo jet was leaving three months too early to accompany the Knot on its annual migration from Arctic to Antarctic seas, and equally late for the Arctic Tern. Nevertheless, on arrival I felt considerably more jaded, I am sure, than either of these incredible birds would. At least they wouldn't have to contend with jet lag!

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF A SUMMER MIGRANT. (cont/d.)

Birds at ten kilometres altitude are few and far between. Consequently the sight of my first Australian bird at Sydney Airport was most welcome: But was it really an Australian bird? If it were not for its yellow wattle the bird nonchalantly preening itself beside the runway could have been a lapwing (common plover). The Masked Plover was certainly a comforting sight in all its similarity to the very bird that bade me farewell on the other side of the globe. It was also reassuring to see it on the ground engaged in a less hazardous occupation than its British counterpart whose gregarious activities are a major cause of bird damage to air traffic in the vicinities of airports.

After sending postcards of Kookaburras to nieces and nephews at home, it was time to leave Sydney for the final lap of my journey. My arrival in Brisbane brought to an end twenty-eight hours of flying, and, were my eyes deceiving me, or was that an egret? Had I spotted a rare bird before even disembarking from the aeroplane? This is certainly a rare species in England; but I was beginning to get the picture. The crowd gathered at the international disembarking terminal were training their binoculars on the steadily growing line of passengers, viewing with each other for the first glimpse of friends and relatives. The egret was obviously a common enough sight.

After my experience of the first day in Queensland I concluded that Australian birds were either very large; even the rare ones could be spotted with ease, or extremely small, for, no matter how hard you scanned that eucalyptus no sightings to match that plucky chirp could be made.

My first night was spent in Toowoomba, and it was certainly an advantage that I had always considered myself more of a bird 'listener' than a bird 'watcher', for I found the town enveloped in a dense fog. It was mid-summer and not a bird was to be seen. It was pointed out to me that this was the norm for Toowoomba. To my mind, this, combined with early sunsets and the absence of any appreciable twilight hours, meant the prospects of bird watching would be somewhat remote.

At five the next morning my misgivings were removed. Kookaburras laughing, Magpie Larks pugnaciously screeching, and Butcherbirds whistling Beethoven's 'Fifth', brought me to rather an abrupt realisation of the richness of Australian bird life.

I must admit, however, it will be a long time before the Australian dawn chorus replaces the melodious subtleties of blackbirds, thrushes and wrens that have, until now, nurtured all the sunrises of my life.

Gordon King.

CAUGHT.

On Sunday morning July, 21st while driving across Oakey towards Schulze's Lagoon, a Black Falcon dived across in front of my car and hit a sparrow in mid-air with its talons. The stunned sparrow fell to the ground and was pounced on by the falcon only 2 metres from the car. The sparrow was then carried off to a nearby telephone post and eaten. As usual I'd left the camera at home but the picture is still clear in my mind.

John Coman.

THIRD ANNUAL BIRD CENSUS.

Plans are well advanced for the organisation of our third bird census, the second to be conducted over the two adjacent 10 minute blocks which we adopted as our enlarged local study area a year ago.

The two blocks, lying on either side of the line of 152° longitude, which approximates to the range escarpment, are as before divided into 13 uprange and 7 downrange sectors which are designated below. Participants, in teams of two or more, are allocated responsibility for counting in one or more sectors and will return a summary sheet in respect of each sector investigated. These pro-forma Summary Sheets

(cont/d.)

ANNUAL BIRD CENSUS (cont/d.)

Other with checklists designed to be used in the actual counting process and detailed maps of the area will be available at the Annual General Meeting on Friday, 20th October at "Ringmere", Withcott, at which time suggestions as to the actual operation of the count will be discussed.

A number of teams have already been assigned to some sectors. If you are able to help in whatever capacity, including that of driver, ticker-off or moral-supporter, I would be very pleased to hear from you at 30.1300 during the day, or 30.3206 evenings and weekends. We will welcome all offers of assistance.

Definition of Sectors.

These definitions are based upon the boundaries of the two ten minute blocks which represent the club's local study area. Those boundaries are well defined on maps which will be available at the A.G.M.

Uprange:

Sector 1. Toowoomba City East, bounded by Stenner, Ruthven and North Streets, eastwards to the escarpment but excluding Jubilee Park, Prince Henry Drive, Webb Park, area east of East Street, Redwood Park and Picnic Point area.

Sector 2. Toowoomba City West, bounded by Stenner, Ruthven and North Streets, Tor Street and Anzac Avenue.

Sector 3. Balance of uprange 10 minute block lying north of Bridge Street (west of Tor Street) and north of North Street (east of Tor Street).

Sector 4. Western Sector. That part of the uprange 10 minute block to the west of Pittsworth Road, Anzac Avenue and Tor Street and south of Bridge Street.

Sector 5. South-western Sector. That part of the uprange 10 minute block to the east of Pittsworth Road, west of Ruthven Street and south of Stenner Street.

Sector 6. South-eastern Sector. That part of the uprange 10 minute block south of Stenner Street and east of Ruthven Street, excluding Flagstone Creek Road.

Sector 7. Flagstone Creek Road. That part of Flagstone Creek Road lying in the uprange 10 minute block, from its junction with Rowbotham Street.

Sector 8. Redwood Park.

Sector 9. Prince Henry Drive, Webb Park, and bushland adjacent to East Street.

Sector 10. Jubilee Park.

Sector 11. Picnic Point and Memorial Drive.

Sector 12. Bob Weis's property - Rifle Range Road.

Sector 13. Lealie Boyce's property - 6, Range Street.

Downrange:

Sector 14. Table Top and its western approach.

Sector 15. Withcott North. Withcott north of the Warrego Highway - those areas approached along Jones Road.

Sector 16. Withcott South. Withcott south of the Warrego Highway and west of Blanchview Road.

Sector 17. Blanchview, Iredale, Helidon Spa. South of Warrego Highway, east of Blanchview Road, north and west of Flagstone Creek Road.

Sector 18. Flagstone Creek Road. Flagstone Creek/Helidon Road and all areas south and east thereof, i.e. that part of the downrange 10 minute block lying south of the Warrego Highway and not included in Sectors 14, 16 or 17.

Sector 19. Postman's Ridge. That part of the downrange 10 minute block to the north of the Warrego Highway and approached along the Postman's Ridge/Murphy's Creek Road, i.e. west of the railway line.

Sector 20. Helidon, North and East. That part of the downrange 10 minute block lying to the north and east of Helidon township and the railway line.

Bill Jolly.

FIELD TRIP REPORT - 27.8.78.

We regret that the report on this outing is not to hand but we are however able to issue the following list of bird sightings for the day.

Species List - Flagstone Ck. Area & Hood's Property, Helidon - 27.8.78.

Aust. Grebe (Little)	Golden Whistler
Aust. Pelican	Rufous Whistler
Little B. Cormorant	Grey Shrike-thrush
Little P. Cormorant	Grey Fantail
White-faced Heron	Willie Wagtail
Cattle Egret	Eastern Whipbird
Great Egret (White)	Grey-crowned Babbler
Sacred Ibis (White)	Golden-headed Cisticola
Straw-necked Ibis	Sup. Fairy-wren (Sup. Blue Wren)
Plumed Whist.-Duck (Grass)	Var. Fairy-wren (Var. Wren)
Pacific Black Duck	Red-b. Fairy-wren (R.-b. Wren)
Grey Teal	White-browed Scrubwren
Hardhead (Wh.-eyed Duck)	Wh.-th. Gerygone (Warbler)
Maned Duck (Wood)	Brown Thornbill
Bl.-sh. Kite	Y.-rumped Thornbill (Y.-tailed)
Black Falcon	Noisy Friarbird
Brown Falcon	Noisy Miner
Aust. Kestrel (Nankeen)	Lewin's Honeyeater
Dusky Moorhen	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Eurasian Coot	Fuscous Honeyeater
Masked Lapwing (Plover)	White-naped Honeyeater
Bl.-fr. Plover (Dott.)	Brown Honeyeater
Bl.-winged Stilt	Eastern Spinebill
Feral Pigeon (Domestic)	Spotted Pardalote
Br. Cuckoo-Dove (Pigeon)	Striated Pardalote (Bl.-headed)
Crested Pigeon	Silveryeye (Gr.-breasted)
Galah	House Sparrow
Cookatui	Red-browed Firetail (Finch)
Pale-headed Rosella	Double-barré Finch
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Common Starling (English)
Azure Kingfisher	Common Mynah (Indian)
Laughing Kookaburra	Olive-backed Oriole
Rainbow Bee-eater	Aust. Magpie-lark
White-backed Swallow	Dusky Woodswallow
Welcome Swallow	Grey Butcherbird
Tree Martin	Pied Butcherbird
Richard's Pipit (Aust.)	Australian Magpie
Bl.-f. Cuckoo-shrike	Pied Currawong
Rose Robin	Torresian Crow (Aust.)
Jacky Winter (Br. Flycatcher)	

BIRD NOTES.

- Black Baza. 15.8.78. Ocean St. GC. JEC.
- Black Kite. 2.8.78. Apex Lake. PG.
8.8.78. Goombungee. PG.
9.8.78. Bridge St., T'mba. PG.
17.8.78. 20 plus. Old Grantham Rd. SE. PE.
- Square-tailed Kite. 2.8.78. Helidon. PG.
- Brown Goshawk. 6.8.78. N. Toowoomba. DN.
- Wedge-tailed Eagle. 3.8.78. Coominya. PG.
- Little Eagle. 10.8.78. Apex Lake. PE.
14.8.78. "Ravenswood", Southbrook. BF. KF.
- Black Falcon. 21.8.78. Ocean St. GC.
22.8.78. "Ringmere", Withcott. EJ.
27.8.78. Helidon. Club outing.
- Peregrine Falcon. 14.8.78. Taylor & McDougall Sts. CB.
- Brown Falcon. 12.8.78. Harlaxton. DN.
- Spotted Harrier. 15.8.78. Helidon. SE.
16.8.78. Grantham. SE.
16.8.78. Gatton, Apex Lake area. SE.
- Black-breasted Button-quail. 17.8.78. Ravensbourne. MJ.
- Grey-crowned Babbler. 3.8.78. Coominya. PG.
- Musk Lorikeet. 14.8.78. Tabletop. GC.
- Dollarbird. 26.8.78. Range St. CB.
- Red Wattlebird. 5/6.8.78. Girraween. MW. BW.
- Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. 5/6.8.78. Girraween. MW. BW.
- New Holland Honeyeater. 5/6.8.78. " " MW. BW.
- Black-chinned Honeyeater. 25.8.78. Kallangur. PG.
- Scarlet Honeyeater. 9.8.78. Range St. LB.
9.8.78. Eymard St. MGW.
- Red-browed Firetail. 11.8.78. Eymard St. MGW.
- Plum-headed Finch. Throughout August. 200 plus. "Ringmere", Withcott. EJ. WJ.
- Chestnut-breasted Mannikin. 14.8.78. Rangeview. JEC.
- White-winged Chough. 24.8.78. Harford Farm. MGW.
- Apostlebird. Throughout August. "Ravenswood", Southbrook. BF. KF.

CB: Chris Bianchi. LB: Leslie Boyce. GC: Graham Corbin. JEC: Jim Corbin.
 PE: Phillip Elmes. SE: Sue Elmes. BF: Brian Fowler. KF: Kath Fowler.
 PG: Paul Gredig. MJ: Marilyn Jacobs. EJ: Eileen Jolly. WJ: Bill Jolly.
 DN: David Newlands. BW: Brough Warren. MW: Margaret Warren. MGW: Max Wood.

Little Eagle.

This bird was first noticed over the lake area at Gatton when a pair of nesting magpies became extremely agitated. These were soon joined by magpie larks and crows who all bombarded the eagle. It appeared to be carrying a dead crow and landed among a strand of acacias where it proceeded to feed on the bird. On closer inspection the Little Eagle proved to be feeding on a Little Black Cormorant. (P. Elmes)

Straw-necked Ibis.

23.8.78. 10.30 a.m. 7, Eymard St. A splendid view of migrating Straw-necked Ibises. Two or three hundred birds in two flocks came over from the east, low down, and their wings made a great noise. They they began to circle above us on the edge of the range, getting higher and higher until at last, quite high up, they got into the easterly air current again, and went straight away westwards once more. [It was a most instructive insight into their use of the wind when on migration. (M.G. Wood)]

White-winged Chough.

24.8.78. Harford Farm, Cabarlah. There were about ten birds in the trees. About 40 feet up in one tree was the typical big mud cup nest, with a bird sitting on it at 2.30 p.m. Three others came to the nest, and all four were on it at once for a few moments, and I thought the original bird left. Then two more left and one settled again. I cannot say for sure if it was the original bird or not. According to Leach and also Macdonald more than one female can lay eggs in the same nest, so it could have been a change-over. (M.G. Wood)

FIELD TRIP FOR SEPTEMBER.

Date: Saturday, 30th September/Sunday, 1st October.

Locality: Burya Mountains National Park.

Leader: Bill Jolly.

Members will rendezvous at the camping ground at the Burya's on Saturday morning. This is an excellent, grassed campground, with an amenities block containing hot showers and laundry. A kiosk is open over weekends.

Two group walks are planned, one to the Rocky Fall Caves to see the Sooty Owl, and one on Sunday along the fringes of the forest.

A group campfire will be held at night.

NEW MEMBERS:

The Club is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Betty Carlisle, 89 Sinclair St., Kangaroo Point, 4169.

Gordon King & Pat Patten, c/- Q.A.C., Lawes.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Q.O.S. Newsletter, Vol. 9, No. 8, August, 1978.

ECOS. No. 17, August, 1978.

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TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB ANNUAL MEETING.

VENUE: "Ringmere", Withcott.

DATE: 20th. October, 1978.

TIME: 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA.

- 1) Minutes of previous meeting.
 - 2) President's Report.
 - 3) Editor's Report.
 - 4) Treasurer's Report.
 - 5) Business arising from minutes.
 - 6) Election of Officers.
 - 7) General business.
- Meeting closes.

Finalisation of arrangements for Third Annual Bird Count.

To be followed by screening of Bird & Nature slides by Marilyn Jacobs.

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB.

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE.

I nominate _____ for the office of _____
in the Toowoomba Bird Club for the year 1978/79. Date _____

(Nominator)

I accept nomination for the office of _____ in the
Toowoomba Bird Club for the year 1978/79. Date _____

(Nominee)

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB CHECKLIST

Observer:

Month:

Atlas No.		Local Study Area		Atlas No.		Local Study Area	
		Up range	Down			Up range	Down
061	Aust. Grebe (Little)	.....		027	Topknot Pigeon	.....
106	Aust. Pelican	.....		028	White-headed Pigeon	.....
101	Darter	.....		957	Feral Pigeon (Domestic)	.....
096	Gr. Cormorant (Black)	.....		989	Spotted Turtle-Dove	.....
099	Pied Cormorant	.....		029	Br. Cuckoo-Dove (Pigeon)	.....
097	Little B. Cormorant	.....		030	Peaceful Dove	.....
100	Little P. Cormorant	.....		032	Bar-shouldered Dove	.....
189	Pacific Heron (Wh. Necked)	.....		033	Emerald Dove (Gr.-w. Pigeon)	.....
188	White-faced Heron	.....		034	Common Bronzewing	.....
977	Cattle Egret	.....		043	Crested Pigeon	.....
187	Great Egret (White)	.....		044	Wonga Pigeon	.....
186	Intermediate Egret (Plumed)	.....		264	Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	.....
1	Ruf. Night Heron (Nank.)	.....		265	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	.....
195	Little Bittern	.....		273	Galah	.....
178	Glossy Ibis	.....		269	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	.....
179	Sacred Ibis (White)	.....		254	Rainbow Lorikeet	.....
180	Straw-necked Ibis	.....		256	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	.....
181	Royal Spoonbill	.....		258	Musk Lorikeet	.....
182	Yellow-b. Spoonbill	.....		260	Little Lorikeet	.....
205	Plumed Whist.-Duck (Grass)	.....		281	Australian King Parrot	.....
208	Pacific Black Duck	.....		274	Cockatiel	.....
211	Grey Teal	.....		282	Crimson Rosella	.....
215	Hardhead (Wh. eyed Duck)	.....		288	Eastern Rosella	.....
202	Maned Duck (Wood)	.....		286	Pale-headed Rosella	.....
232	Bl.-Sh. Kite	.....		295	Red-rumped Parrot	.....
234	Pacific Baza (Crest Hawk)	.....		336	Oriental Cuckoo	.....
229	Black Kite	.....		337	Pallid Cuckoo	.....
230	Squared-tailed Kite	.....		339	Brush Cuckoo	.....
228	Whistling Kite	.....		338	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	.....
221	Brown Goshawk	.....		342	Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoo	.....
220	Grey Goshawk	.....		344	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	.....
2	Red Goshawk	.....		347	Common Koel	.....
224	Wedge-tailed Eagle	.....		348	Channel-billed Cuckoo	.....
225	Little Eagle	.....		349	Pheasant Coucal	.....
218	Spotted Harrier	.....		248	Powerful Owl	.....
238	Black Falcon	.....		242	Southern Boobook (Owl)	.....
235	Aust. Hobby (Lit. Falcon)	.....		246	Barking Owl	.....
239	Brown Falcon	.....		249	Barn Owl	.....
240	Aust. Kestrel (Nankeen)	.....		313	Tawny Frogmouth	.....
006	Aust. Brush-turkey	.....		317	Australian Owlet-nightjar	.....
009	Stubble Quail	.....		330	White-throated Nightjar	.....
010	Brown Quail	.....		334	Wh.-thro. Needletail (Sp. t. swift)	.....
019	Red-ch. Button Quail	.....		335	Fork-tailed Swift	.....
056	Dusky Moorhen	.....		319	Azure Kingfisher	.....
058	Purple Swamphen	.....		322	Laughing Kookaburra	.....
059	Eurasian Coot	.....		326	Sacred Kingfisher	.....
171	Comb-cr. Jacana (Lotus-bird)	.....		329	Rainbow Bee-eater	.....
133	Masked Lapwing (Plover)	.....		318	Dollarbird	.....
135	Banded Lapwing (Plover)	.....				
144	Bl. fr. Plover (Dott)	.....				
145	Bl.-winged Stilt	.....				
168	Latham's Snipe (Jap.)	.....		352	Noisy Pitta	.....
125	Silver Gull	.....		358	White-backed Swallow	.....
120	Sooty Tern	.....		357	Welcome Swallow	.....
021	Rose-cr. Fr. Dove (Red-cr. Fr. Pig.)	.....		359	Tree Martin	.....
				360	Fairy Martin	.....

Atlas No.		Local Study Area		Atlas No.		Local Study Area	
		Up range	Down			Up range	Down
647	Richard's Pipit (Aust.)	.....	.....	638	Red Wattlebird	.....	.....
424	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	.....	.....	640	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	.....	.....
425	Wh.-bellied Cuckoo-shr(Little)	.....	.....	585	Striped Honeyeater	.....	.....
428	Y.-eyed Cuckoo Shr. (Barred)	.....	.....	645	Noisy Friarbird	.....	.....
429	Cicadabird	.....	.....	646	Little Friarbird	.....	.....
423	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	.....	.....	641	Blue-faced Honeyeater	.....	.....
430	White-winged Triller	.....	.....	634	Noisy Miner	.....	.....
431	Variied Triller	.....	.....	605	Lewin's Honeyeater	.....	.....
384	Rose Robin	.....	.....	614	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	.....	.....
392	Eastern Yellow Robin	.....	.....	579	White-throated Honeyeater	.....	.....
377	Jacky Winter (Br.Flycatcher)	.....	.....	578	White-naped Honeyeater	.....	.....
416	Crested Shrike-tit	.....	.....	597	Brown Honeyeater	.....	.....
398	Golden Whistler	.....	.....	591	Eastern Spinebill	.....	.....
401	Rufous Whistler	.....	.....	586	Scarlet Honeyeater	.....	.....
408	Grey Shrike-thrush	.....	.....	564	Mistletoebird	.....	.....
373	Black-f.Monarch (Flycatcher)	.....	.....	565	Spotted Pardalote	.....	.....
375	Spec.Monarch (Flycatcher)	.....	.....	976	Striated Pardalote(Bl.head)	.....	.....
365	Leaden Flycatcher	.....	.....	574	Silvereye (Gr.-breasted)	.....	.....
366	Satin Flycatcher	.....	.....	995	House Sparrow	.....	.....
369	Restless Flycatcher	.....	.....	662	Red-browed Firetail (Finch)	.....	.....
362	Rufous Fantail	.....	.....	653	Zebra Finch	.....	.....
361	Grey Fantail	.....	.....	655	Double-barred Finch	.....	.....
364	Willie Wagtail	.....	.....	661	Plum-headed Finch	.....	.....
421	Eastern Whipbird	.....	.....	657	Chestnut-br.Mannikin(Finch)	.....	.....
443	Grey-crowned Babbler	.....	.....	999	Common Starling (English)	.....	.....
524	Clamorous Reed-Warbler	.....	.....	998	Common Mynah (Indian)	.....	.....
523	Tawny Grassbird	.....	.....	671	Olive-backed Oriole	.....	.....
525	Golden-headed Cisticola	.....	.....	432	Figbird (Southern)	.....	.....
509	Rufous Songlark	.....	.....	673	Spangled Drongo	.....	.....
508	Brown Songlark	.....	.....	679	Satin Bowerbird	.....	.....
529	Sup.Fairy-wren(Sup.Blue Wr.)	.....	.....	684	Regent Bowerbird	.....	.....
536	Var. Fairy-wren (Var.wren)	.....	.....	693	White-winged Chough	.....	.....
541	Red-b.Fairy-wren(R.-b. wren)	.....	.....	415	Aust. Magpie-lark	.....	.....
494	Large-billed Scrubwren	.....	.....	543	Wh.-br. Wood-swallow	.....	.....
488	White-browed Scrubwren	.....	.....	544	Masked Woodswallow	.....	.....
504	Speckled Warbler	.....	.....	545	Wh.-browed Wood-swallow	.....	.....
465	Weebill	.....	.....	546	Bl.-faced Wood-swallow	.....	.....
453	Wh.-th.Gerygone (Warbler)	.....	.....	547	Dusky Woodswallow	.....	.....
475	Brown Thornbill	.....	.....	702	Grey Butcherbird	.....	.....
486	Y.-rumped Thornbill(Y.tailed)	.....	.....	700	Pied Butcherbird	.....	.....
471	Yellow Thornbill (Little)	.....	.....	705	Australian Magpie	.....	.....
470	Straited Thornbill	.....	.....	694	Pied Currawong	.....	.....
549	Var.Sittella(Incl.all Sittella)	.....	.....	930	Australian Raven	.....	.....
558	White-throated Treecreeper	.....	.....	692	Torresian Crow (Aust.)	.....	.....

The above list comprises the 196 species of which the Toowoomba Bird Club has positive records up to 31st July, 1978. Nomenclature used is that of R.A.O.U. "English Names for Australian Birds" supplement to "Emu" Vol. 77 - May 1978 - Supplement. (Slater Guides usage in brackets).

MEMBER'S BIRD NOTES AND/OR NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRDS

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>

Please return this checklist as soon as possible after the end of the month to any club officer.