

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

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NEWS-SHEET No. 51 - MARCH, 1980.

The main item of interest this month is a change in presidency of the Club. Bill Jolly, who held the position since the inception of the Club has moved to Tasmania to take up a position in Launceston.

A keen ornithologist, Bill constantly did his utmost for the furtherance of the Club by actively promoting the stated aims of the Club. For this and his expert knowledge and advice on all things ornithological, Bill will be greatly missed.

Under the terms of the Club Constitution, the Executive has issued an invitation to Ron Hopkinson to fill the vacancy created by Bill's departure. Happily, Ron has accepted and henceforth will be acting as president of the Club.

Ron has a few words to say elsewhere in this news-sheet.

Also as noted elsewhere, the field trip for March is to Ravensbourne National Park. Partly because of the recent unexpected changes in the Executive it has been decided to hold a Club meeting after this outing. Members will have an opportunity to air views on the future direction and management of the Club, so anyone interested be sure to attend this field trip.

Barbeque facilities are available at the Park, so business can be combined with pleasure.

Some members of the Club regularly visit Redwood Park on the first Sunday of the month. For anyone interested they meet at seven a.m. every even month opposite the Yukana Vale camp entrance and every odd month opposite the Log Cabin service station. Feel free to join in if you want some good birding.

The Club currently has two copies of the Reader's Digest "Complete Book of Australian Birds." Any member wishing to purchase one (or both) of these at a bargain price, contact the Club secretary.

J. Gregor,
Editor.

A TIME OF CHANGE.

As announced in the editorial Bill and Eileen Jolly have left our district to take up residence in Tasmania (this makes them either Taswegians or Tasmaniacs). This Club owes a great deal to them for their very active contribution to our affairs. I would like to place on record, here, my personal thanks for the help I have received from them in the past. Their move leaves a gap. However, gaps have to be filled and this Club presently faces a possibly difficult period. No organisation can afford to remain static, however large or small we may be. This may be an appropriate time to take stock of ourselves and face any changes which confront us.

With these thoughts in mind the March Field Day assumes extra importance. In the past we have used our monthly outing as an opportunity to discuss Club affairs, rather than call an extra business meeting.

Therefore I call on all interested members to get along to the March Field Day (details elsewhere in this issue). Over the lunchtime session let's discuss the future of this Club. Between us there must be many ideas we can run up the flagpole.

I would appreciate hearing from any member who cannot make it on the day. Maybe you have something to put forward. This can be done for you.

The future of the Club is up to us.

Ron Hopkinson.

BLACK-CHINNED HONEYEATER.

Awakened by an unfamiliar call (harsh single note) at about 6 a.m. I traced the bird to an apple tree outside the bedroom window. Fleeting glimpses revealed it to be of the white naped variety and being not quite sure which one I quickly obtained the field guides. I did not get a good overall view of the bird but it did pose for a head and underparts view: - Thick white band on nape to back of eye. Eye patch pale olive and black head to beak level. Black triangle under chin and pale grey underparts.

David Newlands.

SPOTTED QUAIL THRUSH.

January 13 was our lucky day when we were on a birding trip some 5 km past the Crows Nest falls and made our second sighting of a pair of Spotted Quail Thrush (*Cinclosoma punctatum*). These elusive birds seem to live in dry, hilly, very short grassed, lightly timbered country, usually rocky where they can run quickly if disturbed.

The system for flushing these birds is simple, one person each side of a ridge walks quickly towards the top. If the birds are present they tend to go upwards onto higher rocks to see. Once

(cont/d.)

SPOTTED QUAIL THRUST (cont/d.)

the birds rise onto rocks stand perfectly still and use binoculars where many minutes viewing is usual. If the birds rise and fly to the next ridge, run below the landing area and again attempt to flush. This has proved successful wherever we have seen these birds.

Jim Corbin.

ON THE ROAD TO QUILPIE.

On my trip out west the best day would have had to have been on the road to Quilpie. On that drive (4½ hours from Cunnamulla) we (my father and I) were passing a recently filled waterhole from rain the day before.

I asked Dad to pull up and what should be there but two stately Brolga's having a drink. I grabbed my binoculars and had a look. While we were looking they calmly walked away and a few seconds later started doing their famous dance. They had to be the Birds of the trip.

Shane Brady.

FIELD DAY REPORT - 24.2.80. - FLAGSTONE CREEK.

This particular outing did not call for much stamina on the part of those participating. We simply drove down the flagstone Creek Road, stopping at "likely spots" and spending a short time to check them out.

Most would probably agree that the bird of the day was the P easant Coucal which was in full breeding plumage. Typically, this bird was reticent to fly so we were able to study it at our leisure.

Another interesting sighting was of a Pied Butcherbird in immature plumage.

The field trip ended with most participants having a picnic lunch at the rest area west of Helidon where a magnificent male Red Backed Fairy-wren in full breeding plumage was sighted.

John Gregor.

Species List - Flagstone Creek - 24.2.80.

Darter	Peaceful Dove
Great Cormorant	Bar-shouldered Dove
Little Pied Cormorant	Crested Pigeon
White-faced Heron	Galah
Sacred Ibis	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
Straw-necked Ibis	Pale-headed Rosella
Royal Spoonbill	Pheasant Coucal
Pacific Black Duck	Laughing Kookaburra
Australian Kestrel	Sacred Kingfisher
Dusky Moorhen	Dollarbird
Masked Lapwing	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

(cont/d.)

Special List - Flagstone Creek - 24.2.80. (cont/d.)

Grey Shrike-thrush
Willie Wagtail
Eastern Whipbird
Golden-headed Cisticola
Superb Fairy-wren
Red-backed Fairy-wren
Striped Honeyeater
Little Friarbird
Noisy Miner
Lewin's Honeyeater
Silvereye

House Sparrow
Double-barred Finch
Common Starling
Common Mynah
Figbird
Australian Magpie-lark
Dusky Woodswallow
Pied Butcherbird
Australian Magpie
Torresian Crow

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES.

Collared Sparrowhawk. 8.2.80. Ocean St. GC. JEC.
Peregrine Falcon. 3.3.80. Railway yards T'mba. RH.
Tasmanian Native Hen. 26.1.80. Launceston, Tas. EJ. WJ.
Arctic Jaeger. 25.1.80. Bass Strait. EJ. WJ.
Green Rosella. 27.1.80. Launceston, Tas. EJ. WJ.
Cicada bird. 8.2.80. Mango Vale, Withcott. AS.
Varied Triller. 2.12.79. Redwood Pk. SB. MA.
Yellow Wattlebird. 8.2.80. Gravelly Beach, Tas. EJ. WJ.
Satin Bowerbird. 9.3.80. Bunya Mtns. National Park. JG. SG.
Regent Bowerbird. 3.2.80. Redwood Pk. JG. SB. MA.
Dusky Woodswallow. 24.2.80. Flagstone Ck. AS. JS.

MA: Michael Atzeni. SB: Shane Bradey. GC: Graham Corbin.
JEC: Jim Corbin. JG: John Gregor. SG: Shirley Gregor.
RH: Ron Hopkinson. EJ: Eileen Jolly. WJ: Bill Jolly.
AS: Ann Shore. JS: John Shore.

FIELD DAY FOR MARCH.

Date: Sunday, March 23, 1980. Place: Ravensbourne National Park.

Assembly Point: Pigotts Car Park. Time: 8.15 am for departure
8.30 sharp.

If you have never seen a Noisy Pitta before, this is your chance.
Also remember the meeting and BBQ later.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

QOS Newsletter - February, 1980.

URIMBIRRA - February, 1980.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1980.

Any members who have not yet remitted their subscription for 1980 are requested to complete the slip below and forward it with their subscription to the Secretary/Treasurer at the earliest opportunity.

To: The Secretary,
Toowoomba Bird Club,
"Shorelands",
Withcott, 4344.

I am enclosing herewith the sum of \$5.00 (\$3.00 for students) being my membership subscription to the Toowoomba Bird Club for the calendar year 1980.

Signed _____.