

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

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NEWS-SHEET No. 54, JUNE, 1980.

There are a number of short announcements to be made this month, not the least of which is an apology to Mrs. Bartenstein, one of our newer members.

In the announcement last month of a new bird in the Toowoomba area we recorded the names of the members making the official sighting but failed to point out that this sighting was, in fact, made as a result of an earlier observation by Mrs. Bartenstein. The species in question was the Scarlet Robin (*Petroica multicolor*).

So far few replies have been received from members re last month's editorial topic-the monitoring of birds subject to an open season. If we, as a club, are to take any action on this issue we need to know whether individual members are interested or not--as soon as possible. So even if your reaction is negative, please drop a line to the Secretary saying so.

On Sunday July 13th 1980 the Lockyer Valley Stamp Club are holding a "Stamp Day" in the new Shire Hall at Gatton. Special Guest at this meet will be the Club Patron, Kay Breeden-Williams. This is the person responsible for the stamp series portraying Australian birds.

This next is only my personal opinion- not necessarily official Club opinion- but I would like to recommend an inexpensive but interesting book which I recently had given to me. It is entitled "Australian Native Gardens and Birds". This book, published in the "Summit Series" is packed full of good advice on what to plant in your garden and feeders which you can make if you wish to awaken to the sounds of birds every day of the week.

John Gregor, Editor.

NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRDS.

210. Fuscous Honeyeater. (*Lichenostomus fuscus*) 11/5/80. Echo Valley. Michael Atzeni, Shane Brady, Joe Deuble, David Newlands.

A dull brown coloured bird with a small yellow and black plume on the side of its head--underparts paler--bird characterized by greenish wings and bi-coloured bill.

TRAGEDY AT BOOL LAGOON, S.A.

The May 1980 issue of "The Bird Observer" carries the story of an event which took place at Bool Lagoon Game Reserve in South-East South Australia on March 1st 1980.

In February, confirmed reports of at least 700 Freckled Duck (*Stictonetta naevosa*) were made. This duck is generally regarded as an endangered species and a concentration of this size represented a very significant proportion of the total population, and certainly no one has ever recorded numbers like this on Bool Lagoon before.

With the approach of the open season on duck, due to begin on March 1st media publicity was given to the season but only a minimal amount to the fact of the presence of the Freckled Duck and that taking them could bring prosecution.

The South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service was informed of the numbers of Freckled Duck a fortnight before the opening of the season. The NPWS took what precautions it could under the circumstances (which involved the money to develop the Reserve coming from duck shooters). Every shooter entering the Reserve (about 1100 of them) was handed a pamphlet outlining the distinguishing characteristics of the Freckled Duck and instructing them to avoid shooting the species or face prosecution. They were also shown a mounted specimen.

Shooting began half an hour before first light and it was soon evident to Shane Parker (Curator of Birds, South Australian Museum) and distressed officers of the NPWS that an unmitigated disaster was occurring. Parker and Herman Bakker (NPWS Ranger) manned a small boat and ventured on to the lagoon amid a hail of shot. They spent the next five hours dragging carcass after carcass of Freckled Duck from the water and intercepting shooters making for the bank with their kills. Some hunters' bags consisted entirely of Freckled Duck. By day's end 177 Freckled Duck carcasses had been retrieved and Parker estimated that at least double that number had been left on the lagoon.

A further count conducted on March 15th revealed a maximum of 70 Freckled Duck on the lagoon, so probably 500 died on March 1st 1980, sacrificed to the God of sport shooting.

As an excellent example of contradiction in terms the "sporting shooter" stands out. How anyone can be considered sporting and a shooter at the same time is beyond me. But doubtless 1100 great and mighty white hunters returned home that day full of manly pride at their hunting prowess -- "ad a great day, luv, helped to knock off a heap of ducks-rip open a tinnie for us, darl, I've 'ad a tough day 'untin".

VALE STICTONETTA

Ron Hopkinson.

ECHO VALLEY

This year I have started my own survey of the birds seen on a piece of land in the Echo Valley region (Southern end of Ramsay St.) which my father rents for the purpose of grazing cattle. Having to check on the cattle regularly gives me the opportunity to make a fair account of the species present in each month.

The tally at present is 66 species. I have been amazed at the quality of many of the species and more often than not they have been "firsts" for me. As can be expected these "quality" birds are seen only once or twice and are not seen again - but that's the charm of bird watching-being at the right place at the right time.

Although the land is hilly and a test of your legs, I feel it is worth the effort and since I don't think I should be the only one enjoying its feathered treasures I am inviting any interested members to contact me if they would like to visit the place. Give me ring on 351933 and I will be most willing to arrange a date. A list of the species seen this year includes: Pacific Baza, Australian Owlet-nightjar, Musk Lorikeet, Australian King Parrot, Turquoise Parrot, Red-capped Robin, Buff-rumped Thornbill(*), Red Wattlebird, Fuscous Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater(*), Satin Bowerbird. (*) indicates birds yet to be confirmed to the Club list.

Michael Atzeni

FIELD DAY REPORT, 25/5/80. BOODUA.

A quick glance through past News-sheets shows that the Club Field Day trip is usually made in the Range area or further East, with only an occasional foray Westwards onto the Downs.

For this reason the Boodua trip was a little unusual and at the outset participating members were not too sure what the day would bring. However in view of the long dry spell which the Downs has suffered recently it was felt that the permanent waterhole at Boodua would attract whatever birdlife there was and this proved to be the case.

Flocks of Pacific Black Duck and Hardheads rose from the water as we arrived, while Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants were also there in strength. A dash of colour was provided by a pair of Azure Kingfishers hunting up and down the length of the waterhole, with a background chatter coming from an unexpected flock of White-winged Choughs.

Further highlights of the day were a pair of Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters sharing a tree with a Koala and a flock of Chestnut-breasted Mannikins which miraculously managed to hide in a small clump of lantana.

John Gregor.

SPECIES LIST- BOODUA-25/5/80.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Australasian Grebe | Laughing Kookaburra |
| Little Black Cormorant | Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike |
| Little Pied Cormorant | Rufous Whistler |
| Pacific Heron | Willie Wagtail |
| White-faced Heron | Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater |
| Straw-necked Ibis | Little Friarbird |
| Royal Spoonbill | Noisy Miner |
| Black Swan | Yellow-faced Honeyeater |
| Pacific Black Duck | Silvereye |
| Hardhead | Double-barred Finch |
| Black-shouldered Kite | Chestnut-breasted Mannikin |
| Wedge-tailed Eagle | White-winged Chough |
| Australian Kestrel | Australian Magpie-lark |
| Crested Pigeon | Grey Butcherbird |
| Galah | Pied Butcherbird |
| Cockatiel | Australian Magpie |
| Pale-headed Rosella | Pied Currawong |
| Azure Kingfisher | Torresian Crow |

MEMBERS BIRD NOTES

- Wilson's Storm Petrel. 4.6.80. Caloundra. SB.
 Magpie Goose (3). 11.5.80. Rockhampton. JG.
 Australasian Shoveller. (4). 18.5.80. Apex Lake, Gatton. REH.
 Osprey. 4.6.80. Caloundra. SB.
 Brahminy Kite. 10.5.80. Yeppoon. JG.
 Spotted Harrier. 14.5.80. Helidon. MA.
 Brolga (huge flock). 12.5.80. North of Yeppoon. JG.
 Banded Lapwing. 15.5.80. Cnr. West and Nelson Sts. MA. SA. LA.
 Glossy Black Cockatoo. 15.5.80. Goomburra. MA.
 Musk Lorikeet. 11.5.80. Spring Ck. SB. MA.
 White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike. 23.5.80. MA.
 " " " " 25.5.80. Boodua-Meringandan Road. GC. JCC.
 Varied Triller. 4.5.80. Redwood Park. AHS.
 " " 10.5.80. Tabletop. GC.
 Red-whiskered Bulbul. 5.5.80. Richmond, NSW. REH.
 Red-capped Robin. 11.5.80. Ramsay St. MA. SB.
 Pale-yellow Robin. 15.5.80. Goomburra. MA.

Members' Bird Notes c'td.

Mangrove Gerygone. 4.6.80. Caloundra SB.

Lewin's Honeyeater. Through May, 1980. Home Garden, Bass St. REH.

Eastern Spinebill. " " " " " " REH.

" " 3.5.80. Ocean St. JCC.

" " 4.5.80. Redwood Park AHS. JAS.

Diamond Firetail. 22.5.80. Hodgson Vale. MA.

Satin Bowerbird. 21-22.5.80. Echo Valley MA.

" " 31.5.80. Ramsay St. MA. SB.

Australian Magpie (white-backed race) 21.5.80. Flinders St. REH.

LA:Laurie Atzeni. MA:Michael Atzeni. SA:Simon Atzeni. SB:Shane Bradey.

GC:Graham Corbin. JCC: Jane Corbin. JG:John Gregor. REH:Ron Hopkinson.

AHS:Ann Shore. JAS:John Shore.

FIELD DAY FOR JUNE.

Date: Sunday, June 22nd, 1980.

Place: Jubilee Park.

Assembly Point: Pigott's car park.

Time: 8.15am for departure at 8.30am sharp.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

QOS Newsletter, May 1980.

Urimbirra, May 1980.

Birds, Spring 1980.

Ecos, May 1980.

Darling Downs Naturalist, June 1980.

The Bird Observer, May 1980.

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