

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

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News-Sheet No.63-March 1981.

Once again it falls to me to apologise for the very late printing and delivery of the February News-Sheet. We are extremely sorry about this but as explained in the last editorial we have had our problems and these have been compounded by our editorial assistant and typist Ron Colpus being tied up by his other activities more than he had expected. However your editorial team are hoping for better luck shortly.

As reported elsewhere in this issue, you will see that 1981 has got off to a good start with the addition of two new birds to the Toowoomba list, the Pink-Eared Duck and the Little Egret, both seen during the last Field Trip. This shows how important it is to maintain keen observation in the area which may bring welcome surprises at any time.

It is hoped that the next Field Trip will also give members interesting and rewarding bird-watching as we are due to go to parts of Ravensbourne State Forest, much less known than the National Park and where we hope that the Noisy Pitts, recently seen by Ron Colpus and Graham Corbin, will again be in evidence. DO come, it should be a good outing.

Ann Shore,
Secretary/Treasurer-cum-Acting Editor.

NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRDS.

217. Little Egret (*Egretta garzella*.) 22.2.81 Hood's Lagoon by members on the February club outing.

A single bird in breeding plumage. Similar in size to Cattle Egret - white plumage - plumes on back of head - black bill - black legs - yellow facial skin.

218. Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*.) 22.2.81. Hood's Lagoon; members on the February club outing. Two birds - flaps on end of bill - dark eye patch - whitish underparts with fine dark bars - white margin on hindwing when flying.

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB.

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF REDWOOD PARK, TOOWOOMBA.

This list of 115 species has been recorded by the Toowoomba Bird Club in or over Redwood Park up to 22/11/80. Nomenclature used is that of R.A.O.U. English Names for Australian Birds. Supplement to the Emu 77.

....Pacific Heron	....Golden Whistler
....Rufous Night Heron	....Rufous Whistler
....Straw-necked Ibis	....Grey Shrike-thrush
....Royal Spoonbill	....Black-faced Monarch
....Pacific Baza	....Spectacled Monarch
....Black Kite	....Leaden Flycatcher
....Square-tailed Kite	....Satin Flycatcher
....Brown Goshawk	....Restless Flycatcher
....Collared Sparrowhawk	....Rufous Fantail
....Grey Goshawk	....Grey Fantail
....Wedge-tailed Eagle	....Willie Wagtail
....Little Eagle	....Eastern Whipbird
....Australian Kestrel	....Superb Fairy-wren
....Australian Brush-turkey	....Variegated Fairy-wren
....Topknot Pigeon	....Red-backed Fairy-wren
....White-headed Pigeon	....Large-billed Scrubwren
....Feral Pigeon	....White-browed Scrubwren
....Spotted Turtle-Dove	....Speckled Warbler
....Brown Cuckoo-Dove	....Weebill
....Bar-shouldered Dove	....Brown Gerygone
....Emerald Dove	....White-throated Gerygone
....Common Bronzewing	....Brown Thornbill
....Crested Pigeon	....Yellow-rumped Thornbill
....Wonga Pigeon	....Yellow Thornbill
....Glossy Black-Cockatoo	....Striated Thornbill
....Galah	....Varied Sitella
....Rainbow Lorikeet	....White-throated Treecreeper
....Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	....Noisy Friarbird
....Little Lorikeet	....Little Friarbird
....Australian King Parrot	....Noisy Miner
....Pale-headed Rosella	....Lewin's Honeyeater
....Pallid Cuckoo	....Yellow-faced Honeyeater
....Fan-tailed Cuckoo	....White-naped Honeyeater
....Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoo	....Brown Honeyeater
....Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	....Eastern Spinebill
....Common Koel	....Scarlet Honeyeater
....Channel-billed Cuckoo	....Mistletoebird
....Pheasant Coucal	....Spotted Pardalote
....Powerful Owl	....Striated Pardalote
....Southern Boobook	....Silvereye
....Barking Owl	....Red-browed Firetail
....White-throated Needletail	....Double-barred Finch
....Fork-tailed Swift	....Common Mynah
....Azure Kingfisher	....Olive-backed Oriole
....Laughing Kookaburra	....Figbird
....Sacred Kingfisher	....Spangled Drongo
....Rainbow Bee-eater	....Satin Bowerbird
....Dollarbird	....Regent Bowerbird
	....Australian Magpie-lark
....Noisy Pitta	....Dusky Woodswallow
....Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	....Grey Butcherbird
....Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike	....Pied Butcherbird
....Cicadabird	....Australian Magpie
....White-winged Triller	....Pied Currawong
....Varied Triller	....Australian Raven
....White's Thrush	....Torresian Crow
....Rose Robin	
....Eastern Yellow Robin	
....Jacky Winter	
....Crested Shrike-tit	

Redwood Park. Since the origins of our club, Redwood Park has been of prime importance as a unique local habitat housing a number of species of birds either permanently or seasonally, which are rarely (if at all) seen elsewhere in the club area. For this reason—and because of its proximity—it has been appropriate to have members visit it monthly, generally on the first Sunday of the month at 7 a.m., thus producing an informal club meeting.

Redwood Park is a fauna sanctuary and its uniqueness lies in the substantial pocket of vine-scrub bordering the creek running through it. This habitat is an excellent drawcard for rain-forest inhabiting species.

The accompanying list has been compiled by Ron Hopkinson from past records of the club. However I am sure that this list will grow and that there are probably species that have been missed because they haven't been noted in Newsletters. If this is the case, I would appreciate information from members so that our list can be kept up to date.

Michael Atzeni.
Records Officer.

Field Trip Report 22.2.81. Helidon area.

February's Field Trip more than lived up to its early promise, starting warm but somewhat cloudy after good rain, for it brought the sightings of two new species to add to our local list. First stops below the Range at the small dams off the Postman's Ridge and Murphy's Creek Roads yielded some of the expected water birds, but on turning off to the Lockyer Creek we found a very different scene from the quiet stream we had last seen there. Now it had become a fast-flowing, wide creek with plenty of evidence of the past week's flood in the shape of debris suspended in the trees and no signs of bird life.

Turning back we saw Wedge-tailed eagles overhead and continued to Helidon via the old highway stopping to observe a large flock of Chestnut-breasted Manikins feeding near the roadside, and then made all speed for Hood's Lagoon. When last visited some two weeks earlier this large swampy area, usually so rich in bird life, was quite dry and devoid of interest. However, recent rains had altered all that and again there was a sight for sore eyes; water birds of many varieties including some Black Swans, Spoonbills, Grebes and Cormorants, many Egrets and Ibis, several species of duck, a few Swamphens and countless Coots and Dusky Moorhens.

However, the highlight of the morning began with the sighting of a number of Australasian Shovellers. Following this, two 'odd' ducks swimming close to the far side were jubilantly identified as Pink-eared Duck, an interesting species which has been seen a number of times not far out of the club area but never within it. The second surprise, was a lone Little Egret feeding apart from the myriads of Cattle Egrets and therefore drawing our attention upon itself. Better views were obtained of the Pink-Eared Duck as we completed our circuit of the lagoon, elated at picking up 2 new species in the one hit!

Generally water-birds are scarce in our area. It is therefore necessary to utilise Hood's Lagoon while it has water in it if we are to maintain a reliable monthly account of water-birds in our area, especially the less common species for we know of no other place in our area which can compare with Hood's. Directions to this property may be obtained through the Executive.

Ann Shore/Michael Atzeni.

Species List- Helidon Area 22-2-81

Hoary-headed Grebe.	Bar-shouldered Dove.
Australasian "	Crested Pigeon.
Little Black Cormorant.	Galah.
" Pied "	Little Lorriquet.
Pacific Heron.	Cockatiel.
White-faced Heron.	Pale-headed Rosella.
Cattle Egret.	White-throated Needle-tail.
Little "	Laughing Kookaburra.
Sacred Ibis.	Sacred Kingfisher.
Straw-necked Ibis.	Dollarbird.
Royal Spoonbill.	Welcome Swallow.
Yellow-billed Spoonbill.	Fairy Martin.
Plumed Whistling-Duck.	Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike.
Pacific Black "	Jacky Winter.
Black Swan.	Restless Flycatcher.
Grey Teal.	Willie Wagtail.
Hardhead.	Golden-headed Cisticola.
Australasian Shoveller.	Superb Fairy-Wren.
Pink-eared Duck.	Noisy Miner.
Maned Duck.	Brown Honeyeater.
Black-shouldered Kite.	Striated Pardalote.
Wedge-tailed Eagle.	House Sparrow.
Australian Kestrel.	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin.
Dusky Moorhen.	Common Starling.
Purple Swamphen.	" Mynah.
Eurasian Coot.	Aust. Magpie-Lark.
Masked Lapwing.	Grey Butcherbird.
Black-fronted Plover.	Pied "
Latham's Snipe.	Aus. Magpie.
Feral Pigeon.	Pied Currawong.
Spotted Turtle-dove.	Torresian Crow.
Peaceful Dove.	

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Members' Bird Notes.

<u>PLUMED WHISTLING-DUCK</u>	22-2-81.	Hood's Lagoon.	AHS.JAS.LM.AT.
<u>AUSTRALASIAN SHOVELLER.</u>	14-2-81	" "	SB. MA.
" "	22-2-81	" "	AHS.JAS.LM.AT.
<u>PACIFIC BAZA.(2)</u>	11-2-81	Echo Valley.	MA.
<u>RED-KNEED DOTTEREL.</u>	4-2-81	Helidon Spa.	AHS.MA.
<u>LATHAM'S SNIPE.</u>	4-2-81.	" "	" "
<u>CICADABIRD(Male.)</u>	4-1-81	Redwood Pk.	RC.DN.JD.
<u>MISTLETOEBIRD.(Pr.)</u>	22-1-81	Echo Valley.	JD.
<u>PLUM-HEADED FINCH.</u>	6-2-81.	Postman's Ridge.	MA.

MA Michael Atzeni. SB Shane Brady. RC Ron Colpus. JD Joe Deuble.
DN David Newlands. LM Lachlan MacDonald. AHS Ann Shore. JHS John Shore.

Field Day for March

Date: Sunday, March 22nd, 1981. Place Ravensbourne State Forest.
Assembly Point: Pigott's car Park. Time 7-15 a.m. for departure at 7-30.