

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

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It is good to be able to report that our expedition to Ravensbourne State Forest, led by Graham Corbin (See later in this News-Sheet) more than came up to expectations with not only a good turn-out of members but also splendid birdwatching with excellent views of the hoped-for Noisy Pitta at close quarters plus other sightings of interest, some new to several of the party. Add to this the superb rain-forest surroundings, absolute peace and quiet and pleasant company to complete the occasion. It has been suggested that there may be some members of the Club temporarily without transport and therefore unable to join in the Field Day trips. If so please would they contact me or another of the officers who might be able to put them in touch with a member who has spare seats in his car.

We much regret the omission of the Straw-necked Ibis from the Annual Bird Summary (See News-Sheet 62) due to a clerical error and thank Marilyn Jacobs for pointing this out. It was recorded in every month.

Members were sad to read of the death of the Black Swan from Lake Annand due to Limberneck, associated with the toxic effects of rotting vegetation, probably contracted while away from the lake for a short period. (See The Chronicle 10-3-81.) She had become a familiar sight over the last few months and we hope that before too long others of her kind may again grace Toowoomba's parks.

Our Records Officer Michael Atzeni has asked me to remind those members filling in the Monthly yellow check-lists that it would be helpful if they could remember to return them as we haven't been receiving many lately.

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

New Toowoomba Birds.

219. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) 14/3/81 Hood's Lagoon.  
Michael Atzeni, Simon Atzeni and Shane Brady.

One bird observed on a dead tree. Black hood extending to cheeks; dark upperparts; whitish upper breast; belly finely and horizontally barred black; yellow legs.

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Invitation from the Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club.

An invitation to all interested members of the T.B.C. to join the Toowoomba Field Naturalists on their camp-out at Easter has been received through Mr Neil McKilligan. We very much appreciate the kind offer and hope that members can attend. Details are as follows:-

Friday 17th. April to Monday 20th. April at Dalmoak, a sheep property near Thulimbah.

How to get there:- Proceed South along the New England Highway to Thulimbah. At Thulimbah, cross the railway line and follow the signs to "The Ridge". (You will go through a border gate.) T.F.N.C. signs to lead you to the campsite.

More Information if required from Neil McKilligan, phone 358815.

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The One that Soaked Away.

Driving South along Kearney St. and viewing the land on the right-hand side 100 metres over Nelson St. won't look like anything out of the ordinary now-merely a timbered piece of land with no outstanding bird-life. This is the very antithesis of what it was for about a month up until about the 23rd. March when the remnants of what was a substantial shallow body of water had soaked into oblivion and ended an extremely uncommon event in our area; namely a significant congregation of waterbirds in the Uprange block.

My attention was initially drawn to it by a fellow Biology student at the D.D.I.A.E. on the 3rd. March during my lunch hour. Without a moment's hesitation we were heading for a place I found hard to believe existed in this area, but indeed, it was a reality and a most enjoyable way to finish the lunch hour. Spoonbills, cormorants, herons and ducks were in fair numbers, but the highlight of this first visit was a solitary Glossy Ibis feeding with the larger Straw-necked Ibis.

I told Graham Corbin about it and next day he saw 4 Plumed Whistle Ducks (Something I saw later that day.) but unfortunately no Glossy Ibis. These ducks stayed one day too.

As the pool receded it was interesting to see the order in which the species left. Apart from the couple of species that stayed for a day or two, the cormorants went first followed by most of the ducks. Ibis, herons and spoonbills battled for last place and Graham informs me that on the 22nd. there was only one Royal Spoonbill in a puddle.

We visited the place intermittently over the period and below is a list of species seen by Graham and myself.

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Australasian Grebe.     | Royal Spoonbill.         |
| Little Black Cormorant. | Yellow-billed Spoonbill. |
| " Pied "                | Plumed Whistling-duck.   |
| Pacific Heron.          | Pacific Black Duck.      |
| White-faced Heron.      | Grey Teal.               |
| Glossy Ibis.            | Manded Duck.             |
| Sacred "                | Eurasian Coot.           |
| Straw-necked Ibis.      | Red-rumped Parrot.       |

Michael Atzeni.

Field Day Report-Ravensbourne State Forestry, 22-3-81.

The March field trip to Ravensbourne forestry started on an encouraging note with a larger-than-usual group of birdwatchers. We were not to be disappointed as at our first stop at a dam at the foot of the range on the Esk/Hampton road we were greeted with a Great Cormorant. Then two magnificent Wedge-tailed Eagles slowly soared towards us and circled overhead giving us a perfect view. We then proceeded with a rather dusty trip to the forestry. On arriving we climbed a nearby hill in search of a Noisy Pitta which I had seen there previously. It proved easy to locate the Pitta and everyone got a good look at it. It was however, a very bedraggled specimen, having lost a lot of its feathers and the ones it retained were very faded. Further investigation of the hill produced a glimpse of a second Pitta, this one being much brighter than the first. A Crested Shrike-tit and a Yellow-throated Scrubwren also revealed themselves for our inspection, the former showing his skill at removing bark from trees. On descending the hill, we heard a call which I recognised as that of a Paradise Riflebird—a species I had previously taped at Goomburra. Having had success previously with attracting the bird with its taped call, I played the recording and to our delight, the Riflebird flew about through the trees calling to the elusive intruder giving us all a good view. The bird, a female, seemed upset by the call at first but gradually grew tired of it and moved away through the trees calling occasionally. The more energetic of us hiked in the opposite direction and were rewarded with sightings of Crimson Rosellas, Brown Cuckoo-Doves and a Green Catbird which unfortunately would not demonstrate its catlike call. On arriving back at the cars a few had already departed and the others were ready to do so after lunch. This left my mother and I alone to return in search of the Paradise Riflebird. My attention was soon distracted by a group of White-headed pigeons feeding in the trees. These birds were easily disturbed and took flight. A lone pigeon returned and a closer examination was found to be a Rose-crowned fruit dove. It fed noisily, continuously dropping fruit to the ground. I soon had to give up watching the bird as anyone will know if they have tried to look vertically for any length of time. I returned home satisfied with a good day's birdwatching.

Graham Corbin.

Species List- Ravensbourne State Forestry.

Great Cormorant.	Varied Triller.
Little Pied Cormorant.	White's Thrush.
Pacific Heron.	Eastern Yellow Robin.
White-faced Heron.	Crested Shrike-tit.
Straw-necked Ibis.	Golden Whistler.
Pacific Black Duck.	Grey Shrike-thrush.
Maned Duck.	Black-faced Monarch.
Black-shouldered Kite.	Restless Flycatcher.
Wedge-tailed Eagle.	Grey Fantail.
Australian Kestrel.	Willie Wagtail.
Masked Lapwing.	Eastern Whipbird.
Rose-crowned Fruit-dove.	Golden-headed Cisticola.
White-headed Pigeon.	Superb Fairy-wren.
Spotted Turtle-dove.	White-browed Scrubwren.
Brown Cuckoo-dove.	Yellow-throated Scrubwren.
Crested Pigeon.	Brown Gerygone.
Galah.	White-throated Gerygone.
Rainbow Lorikeet.	Little Friarbird.
Australian King Parrot.	Lewin's Honeyeater.
Crimson Rosella.	Striated Pardalote.
Common Koel.	Red-browed Firetail.
White-throated Needletail.	Double-barred Finch.
Laughing Kookaburra.	Satin Bowerbird.
Noisy Pitta.	Regent Bowerbird.
White-backed Swallow.	Green Catbird.
Welcome Swallow.	Paradise Riflebird.
Tree Martin.	Pied Currawong.

Some New Zealand Birds observed by R.G.Hobson.

Yellow-eyed Penguin. (Megadyptes antipodes.) 20-1-81. Pipikaretu Beach.  
 Spotted Shag. (Strictocorho punctatus.) 20-1-81. Otago Peninsula.  
 Paradise Shelduck. (Tadorna variegata.) 16-1-81. Te Anau.  
 New Zealand Scaup. (Aythya novaeseelandiae.) 14-1-81. Queenstown.  
 " " Falcon. (Falco novaeseelandiae.) 3-1-81. Wairoa.  
 Weka. (Gallirallus australis.) 11-2-81. Gisborne.  
 Pukeko. (Porphyrio melanotus.) 3-1-81. Waikere.  
 South Island Pied Oystercatcher. (Haemotopus finschi.) 6-1-81. Napier.  
 Variable Oystercatcher. (Haemotopus unicolor.) 17-1-81. Stewart Island.

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Members' Bird Notes.

Great Crested Grebe. 1-3-81 Waterhole. Grantham/Gatton Road. RGH, REH.  
Darter. 14-3-81 Hood's Lagoon. MA, SA, SB.  
Great Egret. 14-3-81. Hood's Lagoon. MA, SA, SB.  
Intermediate Egret. 14-3-81. Hood's Lagoon. MA, SA, SB.  
Glossy Ibis. 3-3-81. Kearney Street. MA.  
Plumed Whistling-duck. 4-3-81. Kearney Street. MA, GC.  
Australasian Shoveller. 1-3-81. Waterhole. Grantham/Gatton Road. RGH, REH.  
Pink-eared Duck. 1-3-81 " " / " " RGH, REH.  
Black Kite. 1-3-81. Gatton. (Town area.) RGH, REH.  
Square-tailed Kite. 1-3-81. Rowbotham Street. RGH  
Collared Sparrowhawk. 21-2-81. Ocean Street. GC, JEC.  
 " " 2-3-81. Coronation Park. SB.  
Little Eagle. 15-3-81. Memory Street. MA, LA, SA.  
 " " 15-3-81. Lockhart Court. SB.  
Comb-crested Jacana. 14-3-81. Hood's Lagoon. MA, SA, SB.  
Silver Gull. (5 Overhead.) 3-2-81. Bridge Street. (East.) JD.  
 " " 11-3-81. East Creek Park. SB.  
Squatter Pigeon. 22-3-81. Hodgson Vale. SA, LA.  
Crimson Rosella. 22-3-81. Ravensbourne. AHS, JAS.  
Noisy Pitta. 22-3-81. " AHS, JAS, RHC.  
Crested Shrike-tit. 22-3-81. " AHS, JAS, RHC.  
Green Catbird. 22-3-81. " AHS, JAS.  
Paradise Riflebird. 22-3-81. " AHS, JAS, RHC.  
 " " 24-3-81. Deongwar State Forest. SA.

LA. Laurie Atzeni. SA. Simon Atzeni. SB. Shane Brady. GC. Graham Corbin.  
 MA. Micheal Atzeni. JEC. Jim Corbin. RHC. Ron Colpus. JD. Joe Deuble.  
 REH. Ron Hopkinson. RGH. Rod Hobson. AHS Ann Shore. JAS. John Shore.

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Field Day For April.Date: Sunday April 26th., 1981.Place: Flagstone Creek.Assembly Point: Pigotts Car Park.Time: 7.15 am. for departure 7.30 am. sharp.

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Publications Received.

Q.O.S. Newsletter. January, February 1981.

Urimbirra. Jan, Feb, March, 1981.

The Bird Observer. Jan/Feb 1981.

ECOS. February 1981.