

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

President: Ron Hopkinson,  
50 Bass St., Toowoomba, 4350.  
Ph: 35 4952

Secretary/Treasurer: Ann Shore,  
"Shorelands", Withcott. M.S. 224,  
Toowoomba 4352.  
Ph: 30 3207

Records Officer: Michael Atzeni,  
2 Memory St., Toowoomba 4350.  
Ph: 35 1933

Please address all correspondence to:  
The Secretary, Toowoomba Bird Club,  
"Shorelands", Withcott, M.S. 224,  
Toowoomba 4352.



NEWS-SHEET No. 67-JULY 1981

Field days for the remainder of this year should be of extra interest to members. With only six months remaining for the R.A.O.U. Atlas scheme it is planned to devote some time to the sectors north-west of Toowoomba which haven't had coverage in depth. So this month's trip will be to those areas. The greater the number of members taking part, the greater will be the coverage we can give. Hope to see you there.

August Field day will bring members of the Q.O.S. to our area, so here is a chance to meet other birders. Come along.

September, hopefully, will see the campers of the club out in force for the week-end camp-out at Goomburra.

October, of course, is the big one--Annual Bird Census. This will take place on the week-end of 23/24th.

So there you go. Don't let 'em tell you Toowoomba Bird Club doesn't offer variety. All it needs is your participation. Bird life, be in it.

This month's issue carries the details of three new members. This is very encouraging as we are still only a small club and the continuing interest in our pastime that this addition denotes is good for our group. Let's hear it for the new members.

Ron Hopkinson.

NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRD.

- ✓ 220. Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*). 2/7/81. Hood's Lagoon, Helidon. Michael Atzeni, Shane Brady..

A single bird in breeding plumage. Duck-sized with two distinct 'horns'--long, straight, pointed bill--white face fringed with black-tipped, orange-brown ruff---white underparts.

FINAL STAGES OF THE ATLAS SCHEME.

It is now over half-way through the final year of collecting data for the R.A.O.U. Atlas of Australian Birds Scheme, whose aims are to determine the distribution of all Australian bird species and to publish this information in the form of an atlas of distribution maps.

Our Club contributes to the scheme by sending in record sheets seasonally. These list the species indicated on the monthly yellow checklist sent to me by local T.B.C. members. In fact, the original club study area was adjusted to suit Atlas requirements.

X

ATLAS SCHEME c/td.

The scheme has been a tremendous undertaking and has given every bird-watcher, amateur or professional, an incentive and a means to further the knowledge of ornithology in Australia.

As Records Officer, my two greatest needs are records, from you, of as many species as possible as often as possible, especially within these closing six months of the scheme.

To put you in the picture as to progress so far this year, five new species have been added to our official club checklist (now 220 species) but as yet the following 49 species have not been recorded on members' checklists for 1981. Have you seen them?

✓ Great Cormorant	Pallid Cuckoo
Pied Cormorant	Brush Cuckoo
Rufous Night-heron	Horsefield's Bronze-cuckoo
Little Bittern	Shining Bronze-cuckoo
Black Bittern	Powerful Owl
Black-necked Stork	Barking Owl
Mallard	Australian Owlet-nightjar
Whistling Kite	White-throated nightjar
Brown Goshawk	✓ Red-backed Kingfisher
Red Goshawk	Noisy Pitta
Spotted Harrier	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Stubble Quail	White's Thrush
Brown Quail	Scarlet Robin
Little Button-quail	Red-capped Robin
Red-chested Button-quail	Crested Shrike-tit
Buff-banded Rail	Satin Flycatcher
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Spotted Quail-thrush
Sooty Tern	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Rose-crowned Fruit-dove	Fuscous Honeyeater
Top-knot Pigeon	White-winged Chough
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo	White-breasted Woodswallow
Crimson Rosella	Masked Woodswallow
Turquoise Parrot	White-browed Woodswallow
Oriental Cuckoo	Black-faced Woodswallow

In closing, I urge members to make a last ditch effort in recording the above species before the year is out. If members are birding outside the club area, they may fill out their own record sheets. These record sheets may be obtained from me.

Michael Atzeni.

BIRDS---FROM A CANOE POINT OF VIEW.

Having never been canoeing before, it was with a little hesitation that I accepted an invitation to participate in a 4 day canoe/camping trip with six friends from the D.D.I.A.E during our mid-semester break. As the day of departure drew nearer my attitude towards the trip became much more enthusiastic as I weighed out all the good aspects against the probability that four days of my treasured holidays spent paddling a canoe down the Nymboida River might be a bit too much for a novice. Now that it's over, I can confidently say, "Count me in on the next one, fellas."

The first leg of the forty mile stint began at Buccarumbi, between Glen Innes and Grafton. The final leg began at Jackadgery and ended at Cangai near Gibraltar Range National Park.

CANOE TRIP c/td.

The 'fleet' consisted of three 2-man Canadians and a single man kayak. The canoeing aspect of the trip is a story in itself but for the sake of brevity, let's just say, that in between falls, rapids, races, fall-outs, bail-outs and portages, I managed to identify a few of the birds along what I consider to be a beautiful stretch of river. To make things better, I had a willing pupil at the other end of our Canadian in the form of a fellow biology student. Together we identified a total of 65 species for the trip although we were constantly abused for lagging behind. But that's what separates we biologists from the five engineers downstream, a discerning eye for the finer points of life.

Probably, the highlight of the trip was the second day when we were forced to camp on exposed rock worn smooth by the river. While setting up camp, the distinctive calls of two Glossy Black Cockatoos caught our attention as they flew off into the gorge where the Mann River enters. Black Swans in flight were also a spectacle and even caught the attention of the others. The majesty of the white-bellied Sea Eagle was witnessed on three occasions.

The disadvantage on such a trip, is in not being able to safely use binoculars from the canoe. But for any person with some knowledge of bird calls and flight patterns, quite a large number of species can be picked up while on the move.

Canoeing adds a certain atmosphere to birdwatching that can't be matched if done on foot. I guess it is the old formula of sunny skies, clear placid waters and virgin greenery equals tranquility.

Those who are prepared to put the emphasis on canoeing, as I had to do, will find birdwatching is a good timefiller on the calm stretches. When you reach the rough spots, it is the last thing on your mind.

Your sole thoughts are to miss those rocks and to stay in the canoe!

By travelling in a party we were able to shuttle a movie camera and film each canoe attempting some of the more spectacular rapids. It was 'tip-out' more often than 'success' but despite the drenchings you can grin from the lounge chair as you watch those moments of mayhem that would otherwise have been only distorted recollections.

For the non-adventurous birder I suggest a day on the calm lower reaches of a river, or a lake, as good way to introduce canoeing, something I hope to try in the near future.

Birdwise, Cormorants, Masked Lapwings, Pacific Black Duck, Welcome Swallows, Grey Fantails were very common. Some of the species seen less frequently were Black Swan, Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Eurasian Coot, Black-fronted Plover, Glossy Black Cockatoos, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Bell Miner, Scarlet Honeyeater and White-breasted Woodswallow.

Michael Atzeni.

FIELD DAY REPORT--PERSERVERANCE STATE FOREST.

The June Field Day was different in every respect from that of May and from what we had expected. Going prepared for chill conditions we enjoyed a perfect mid-winter's day with almost cloudless skies and scarcely even a breeze. Hoping to see many birds of interest in the wattle and gum State forest, we saw, in fact, remarkably few and therefore changed our plans to include the Dam, later finishing the trip by driving south by back road to Ravensbourne National Park where the superb view from the high look-out point was completed with the sighting of a great wedge-tailed Eagle gliding effortlessly around the hill top, sometimes at eye level, where it could clearly be seen from both above and below.

In the State forest walking some way along the easement below the power line to the Dam, we heard and saw a few small birds such as Red-browed Firetails and Striated Thornbills with honeyeaters and others in the background, our fancy was taken by a Banksia bush with splendid deep golden flower spikes.

Moving to the dam itself our first stop was at the quarry to look for the Peregrine Falcon which we had seen there the previous year and believed to be resident. It quickly made its appearance, flying along the face of the cliff but, to our disappointment, then settled in a tree and seemed prepared to sit it out until we left. So other than admire it, sitting there where the sun caught its plumage, there was little we could do. However, shortly afterwards, we watched a Wedge-tailed Eagle in the distance and a Black Kite overhead while at our feet the tame picnic place scavengers, Australian Magpie, Grey Butcherbirds and Noisy Miners competed for any crumbs.

At the Ravensbourne look-out not only did we see the Wedge-tailed Eagle but shortly afterwards had an excellent view of a Spotted Harrier overhead, bringing our tally of birds of prey to four. Most of the party then proceeded home but those that took the time to walk through the park were rewarded with a Noisy Pitta, Large-billed Scrubwren and three species of rainforest pigeon.

Ann Shore

Species list--Field Day to Perverserance/Ravensbourne. Nat'l. Park

Little Pied Cormorant	Willie Wagtail
Black Kite	Eastern Whipbird
wedge-tailed Eagle	Superb Fairy-wren
Spotted Harrier	Large-billed Scrubwren
Peregrine Falcon	White-billed Scrubwren
Australian Kestrel	Brown Gerygone
Dusky Moorhen	Brown Thornbill
Eurasian Coot	Striated Thornbill
White-headed Pigeon	White-throated Treecreeper
Brown Cuckoo-dove	Noisy Miner
Crested Pigeon	Lewin's Honeyeater
Wonga Pigeon	Yellow-fcd. Honeyeater
Galah	Scarlet Honeyeater
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Mistletoebird
Australian King Parrot	Spotted Pardalote
Cockatiel	Striated Pardalote
Crimson Rosella	Silvereye
Pale-headed Rosella	Red-browed Firetail
Laughing Kookaburra	Common Mynah
Noisy Pitta	Olive-backed Oriole
Welcome Swallow	Green Catbird
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Apostlebird
White's Thrush	Aust. Magpie-lark
Rose Robin	Grey Butcherbird
Eastern Yellow Robin	Pied Butcherbird
Jacky Winter	Aust. Magpie
Golden Whistler	Pied Currawong
Grey Shrike-thrush	Torresian Crow
Grey Fantail	

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Q.C.S. Newsletter. March, April, May 1981.  
The Bird Observer. April, May, June, 1981.  
Urimbirra. April, May, June, 1981  
ECOS. May, 1981  
Darling Downs Naturalist, June 1981.

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES.

Australasian Shoveller. 26/6/81- 2/7/81. Hood's Lagoon. MA. SB.  
Pink-eared Duck. 2/7/81. Grantham and Hood's. MA. SB.  
Black Kite. 28/6/81. Perserverance Dam. AHS.  
Spotted Harrier. 28/6/81. Ravensbourne. AHS.  
2/7/81. Grantham. MA. SB.  
Marsh Harrier. 2/7/81. Grantham. MA. SB.  
Peregrine Falcon. 28/6/81. Bridge St. (East) JD.  
Silver Gull. 2/7/81. Grantham MA. SB.  
Varied Triller. 26/6/81. Redwood. MA.  
White-winged Chough. 20/6/81. Highfields. JD.  
MA: Michael Atzeni. SB: Shane Brady. JD: Joe Deuble. AHS: Ann Shore.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Club is very pleased to welcome the following new members:  
Mrs. Lesley Ball, 15 Dunmore St. Toowoomba.  
Mrs. Maggie Drabsch, Mango Vale, Withcott, MS. 224.  
Mrs. J.G. Frizzell, 18 Allan St. Toowoomba.

FIELD DAY FOR JULY.

Date: Sunday, July 26th. Place: Atlas trip to Acland-Quinalow area.  
Assembly Point: Pigott's car park. Time: 7:15am for departure 7:30 sharp.

Membership:

adults = \$ 6.00  
students = 3.00

Bird Club Area (200 sightings)

Gourie Junction  
Hodgson Vale Road  
Just Past Helidon. (1/2 way between  
Helidon & Grantham)