

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

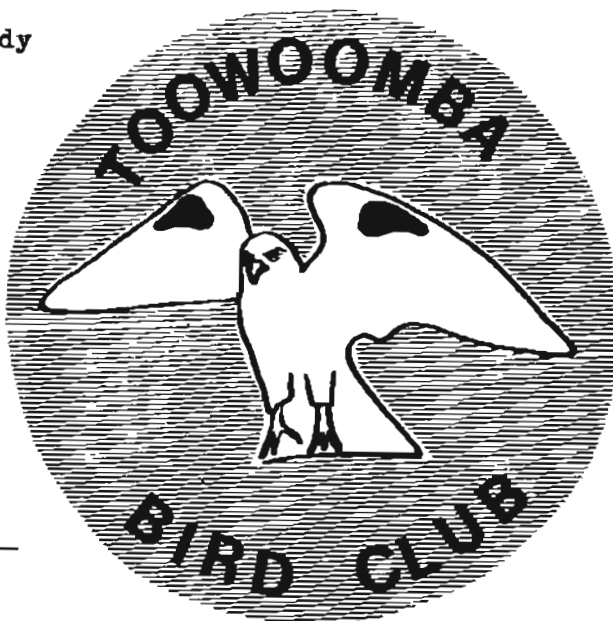
President: Ron Hopkinson,  
50 Bass St., Toowoomba, 4350.  
Ph: 35 4952

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

Acting Editor: Ron Hopkinson.

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



NEWS-SHEET No. 69-SEPTEMBER 1981

The August field day ranks as one of the most successful this club has conducted, in terms of members present. I think it might safely be said that all present enjoyed the get together with the Q.O.S. It is hoped to arrange a return visit later, perhaps to look at waders.

The camp out to Goomburra has had to be cancelled. Instead a regular one day trip will take place on the Sunday. Details are given in the usual place in this issue.

As mentioned last month the annual general meeting will be held on Saturday, October 17th. It will be conducted at the Toowoomba Education Centre, Baker Street, commencing at 7.30pm.

Supper arrangements will be as in previous years, in that ladies are asked to bring a plate. The agenda for the meeting is published with this issue. Also included is a nomination form for office bearers for the ensuing year. Nominations should be in the Secretary's hands prior to the meeting.

In response to our request for indication of participation in the bird census, we have received replies from four members. We have included another reply form this month, in the hope that BEFORE the annual meeting we will have an accurate idea of the numbers available for counting. It would make the job of organising the count simpler and more efficient if members could make their intentions known PRIOR to the meeting night.

Ron Hopkinson.

NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRD.

221. Buff-rumped Thornbill (*Acanthiza reguloides*). 9/8/81.  
Reid's road, Ballard. Michael Atzeni, Graham Corbin.  
Several birds--pale creamy yellow underparts--unstreaked throat--no distinct speckling--yellowish buff rump--similar call to Yellow-rumped Thornbill.

FIGBIRD.

After lunch today (17th August) my wife and I watched what appeared to be a migration of Figbirds (*Sphecotheres viridis*). There were many dozens of them and they flew into a big old eucalyptus tree in the garden next to our house in Simla street.

FIGBIRDS c/td.

They stayed there for up to half an hour, uttering their flute-like calls, with an occasional sharper note. There seemed to be many more of the streak-breasted females than the red-faced males. Finally they flew off at intervals in a southerly direction in parties of a dozen or so.

M.G.WOOD.

Secretary's note: Have other members seen these birds also? Mr. Wood saw them again on August 19th and wondered if two observations on their migration were a bit premature-- Also we saw, same day, some 20 or 30 White Ibis flying inland, with just one Straw-necked among them-- usually the other way round.

Ann Shore

BLUE-WINGED KOOKABURRA.

There are quite definitely Blue-winged kookaburras in the Lake Clarendon area. On Saturday August 29th I was sorting out waterfowl on the first lagoon on the left of the road approaching Lake Clarendon from Gatton. Three times in about half an hour I clearly heard the unmistakable call of the species. Some searching with binoculars eventually revealed two of these birds in a eucalypt near the bank. One of them, a male, then flew to a perch on the branch of a dead tree standing out in the water. From here it made several glides down to a raft of lily leaves, appearing to take something from the water, after which it alighted on the mud bank for a few minutes each time. Then it returned to the dead tree to repeat the performance.

Each time the bird flew, in the early morning slanting sunlight, it revealed the large blue patches in the wings and the brighter blue of the tail. At rest there was no dark brown crown or eye stripe. There have been several reports in the last few years, of soundings and possible sightings of *Dacelo leachii* in this vicinity. These are now confirmed.

Ron Hopkinson

LITTLE WOODSWALLOW

In mid-August I saw many Dusky woodswallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*) across the edge of the range area; then again on the 17th just past Harlaxton some hundreds of these birds were seen, mostly on a large dead tree, sitting in close groups of 8 to 12 almost covering every branch. This family type grouping with birds touching seems common to woodswallows.

The following day 14 little woodswallows (*Artamus minor*) were seen in similar groups on a small dead tree at Rangeview. The sun had gone off the tree, however they spent almost half an hour playing with Yellow-faced honeyeaters (*Meliphaga chrysops*) which are present in large numbers at the moment. Sometimes the honeyeaters chased, at other times they were chased, generally a happy time for all. Even a Pied currawong landing in the tree did not stop the game but a single magpie just appearing scattered the lot.

The dusky is easy to pick, as in flight the white wing feather clearly shows whereas the little is smaller and lacks this white wing mark. The little woodswallow is not on the club list but they are definitely in our area so it just remains for two members together to make the sighting.

Jim Corbin

BOUNDARIES OF THE LOCAL STUDY AREA.

In view of the approaching bird census and in response to requests from newer members it is appropriate here to restate the boundaries of the club's area of study.

The area consists of two blocks of 10' latitude and longitude East (downrange) and West (uprange) of the line of 152 degrees east longitude. This line passes a little east of Katoomba point and crosses the Range (Warrego) highway at the entrance to Yukana Vale camp.

LOCAL STUDY AREA c/td.

This means that all of Redwood park is included in the uprange block. On the Flagstone Creek road the line crosses at the junction with Blanchview road.

The northern boundary of the uprange block crosses the Crow's Nest road one kilometre north of the Murphy's Creek turnoff. Morris' road and Gowrie Junction are just within the boundary.

The western boundary of the uprange block crosses the following roads at the points given:

Warrego highway: immediately east of Gowrie mountain, (cuts the lower slopes). This excludes the bulk of Gowrie mountain.

Cecil Plains road: one kilometre west of the junction with O'Mara's road.

Pittsworth road: immediately west of Bunker's hill. That is, between the hill and Westbrook Training Centre.

Wyreema-Umbiram road: two kilometres west of Wyreema.

The southern boundary crosses these roads:

Wyreema-Cambooya road: one kilometre south of Wyreema.

Drayton connection road: one kilometre south of Vale View school.

New England highway: at the point where the Hodgson Vale road crosses, approximately two kilometres south of Lion's Park.

The only major road leaving the downrange block is the Warrego highway.

The eastern border (of the downrange block) crosses this highway approximately mid way between Helidon and Grantham. About three kilometres beyond Dinner Corner the highway and the rail line are closely parallel. The point is marked by a narrow gravel track which which turns north off the highway and passes under the rail line. The map used to define this area will be available for perusal at the annual general meeting. However, members wishing to purchase their own would need the two sheets, Toowoomba (sheet #9242) and Helidon (sheet #9342) in the National Topographic series, scale 1:100 000, available from the Map Office, first floor, old Courthouse building, Margaret St., Toowoomba. Price is \$2.10 per sheet.

In the October issue, in time for the census, we will define again the sectors into which the area is divided for the count.

Ron Hopkinson.

FIELD DAY REPORT.

REDWOOD PARK -HOOD'S LAGOON. 25/8/81.

Granted that a large body of people would perhaps see fewer birds than a small party, it is nonetheless stimulating to one's birding to get together once a month with like minded people. Providing this opportunity is one of the prime functions of a club.

And the opportunity was certainly provided in August when we met with members of the Q.O.S. and took a look at Redwood park and Hood's lagoon at Helidon. About twenty club members turned out, the largest party we have gathered for some time, and with about equal numbers of Q.O.S. folk enjoyed a day of meeting birds and birders. It is hoped that we can make a trip to do some wader watching later.

T.B.C. members present were: M. Atzeni, S. Atzeni, A. Shore, J. Shore, S. Brady, M. Jacobs, R. Colpus, J. Corbin, G. Corbin, G. Hamilton, R. Hamilton, D. Dowling, M. Drabsch, R. Lawrence, J. Deuble, R. Hopkinson and a group of three students from St. Mary's College.

For record purposes (ours and the R.A.O.U. Atlas) two separate lists are provided.

SPECIES LIST-REDWOOD PARK-25/8/81

Brown cuckoo-dove, Bar-shouldered dove, Galah, Little lorikeet, Laughing kookaburra, Black-faced cuckoo-shrike, Varied triller, Rose robin, Eastern yellow robin, Golden whistler, Rufous whistler, Grey shrike-thrush, Rufous fantail, Grey fantail, Willie wagtail, Eastern whipbird, Superb fairy-wren, Variegated fairy-wren, Large-billed scrubwren, White-browed scrubwren, Weebill, Brown gerygone, White-throated gerygone, Varied sittella, White-throated treecreeper, Little friarbird, Lewin's honeyeater, Yellow-faced honeyeater, White-throated honeyeater (new to Redwood list), Brown honeyeater, Eastern spinebill, Scarlet honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Spotted pardalote, Striated pardalote, Silvereye, Red-browed firetail, Double-barred finch, Olive-backed oriole, Figbird, Regent Bowerbird, Australian magpie-lark, Dusky woodswallow, Pied currawong, Torresian crow.

LIST FOR HELIDON-HOOD'S LAGOON.

Hoary-headed grebe, Australasian grebe, Little black cormorant, Sacred ibis, Straw-necked ibis, Plumed whistling-duck, Black swan, Pacific black duck, Grey teal, Australasian shoveller, Hardhead, Maned duck, Wedge-tailed eagle, Australian kestrel, Dusky moorhen, Eurasian coot, Comb-crested jacana, Masked lapwing, Black-fronted plover, Latham's snipe, Crested pigeon, Galah, Laughing kookaburra, Rainbow bee-eater, Richard's pipit, Willie wagtail, Clamorous reed-warbler, Striped honeyeater, Little friarbird, Scarlet honeyeater, Silvereye, Australian magpie-lark, Australian magpie, Torresian crow.

OUR SPUR-WINGED PLOVER REPORT.

We are years 1,2,3 and 4 at Charlton State School. We have been watching the plovers trying to hatch their eggs.

On the first day of the second semester we saw two plovers on our oval. The next day we looked at the four green and brown eggs in the nest. After that we looked at the plovers through binoculars so that we didn't disturb them. We kept a tally for twenty-nine days to see how long it took for the eggs to hatch.

The dental service was visiting the school. When the caravan left it nearly ran over the nest. We were nervous. Luckily the nest was safe! We were all happy.

On Tuesday, 11/8/81, we looked out of the window and saw that two plovers had hatched. We watched them walking around with their parents. They were the size of a sparrow. When they were still they looked like stones on the oval. They were like black and white chicks.

The next day the last two eggs hatched. We all felt excited and happy. Our little family was now ready to go to a quiet place. The parents took their family to the paddock behind the Charlton Caravan Park.

-----  
Editor's note: Delightful--absolutely delightful. Thank you to the pupils of years 1,2,3 and 4 of Charlton State School. Their teacher is Lesley Ball, a new club member whom we welcomed in the July issue.

NEW MEMBER.

The club is pleased to welcome:  
Pat McConnell, 9 Bothwell St., Toowoomba.

FIELD TRIP FOR SEPTEMBER.

Date: Sunday, September 27th. Place: Spring Creek area and western side.  
Assembly point: Pigott's car park. Time: Departure 7.30am sharp.

MEMBERS BIRD NOTES

Sacred Ibis. (20 to 30) 17.8.81. Withcott. AHS. JAS. MD.  
" " 20+ 31.8.81. Airborne over Centenary Hts. REH.  
Black Kite. 18.8.81. Over Platz St. REW. JVW.  
Collared Sparrowhawk. 7.7.81 Ocean St. GC. JEC. JCC.  
Wedge-tailed Eagle. 24/29.8.81. Jennifer Cres. REW. JVW.  
Swamp Harrier. 30.8.81. Jahnke's Lagoon. REH.  
Brown Falcon. 18.7.81. Flagstone Ck. GC. JCC.  
Painted Button-quail. 25.7.81. Near Rifle Range road. PM.  
Wompoo Fruit-dove. 6.8.81. Little Yabba Ck. MA.  
White-headed Pigeon. 30.7.81. Rangeview. JEC. Also 20.8.81.  
Glossy Black Cockatoo. 3 birds. 27.8.81. Near Nelson St. JD.  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. 19.8.81. Over Nelson St. JD.  
Red-winged Parrot. 27.8.81. Near Nelson St. JD.  
Brush Cuckoo. 19.8.81. Echo Valley. JD. JB.  
Forest Kingfisher. 6.8.81. Beerwah. MA.  
Red-backed Kingfisher. 19.8.81. Spring St. west. MJ.  
Rainbow Bee-eater. 23.8.81. Lockyer Ck. AHS. JAS. MD.  
Little Shrike-thrush. 6.8.81. Beerwah. MA.  
White-throated Honeyeater. 16.8.81. Helidon Spa. MA. SB.  
Regent Bowerbird. 2.7.81. Rangeview. JEC.  
Little Woodswallow. 18.8.81. Rangeview. JEC.  
MA: Michael Atzeni. JB: Joyce Bartenstein. SB: Shane Brady. GC: Graham Corbin.  
JCC: Jane Corbin. JEC: Jim Corbin. JD: Joe Deuble. MD: Maggie Drabsch.  
REH: Ron Hopkinson. MJ: Marilyn Jacobs. PM: Pat McConnell. AHS: Ann Shore.  
JAS: John Shore. REW: Ron Wilson. JVW: Viv Wilson.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Bird Observer. July- August 1981.  
Q.O.S. Newsletter. June 1981.  
R.A.O.U. Newsletter. June 1981.  
Darling Downs Naturalist. September 1981.

ooo000000ooo

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB ANNUAL MEETING  
VENUE: TOOWOOMBA EDUCATION CENTRE, BAKER ST.  
DATE: Saturday, October 17th. 1981.  
TIME: 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA.

- 1) Minutes of previous meeting.
- 2) President's report.
- 3) Editor's report.
- 4) Treasurer's report.
- 5) Business arising from minutes.
- 6) Election of Officers.
- 7) General business.

Meeting Closes.

Finalisation of arrangements for Sixth Annual Bird Count.

---

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB.  
NOMINATION FOR OFFICE.

I nominate.....for the office of.....  
in the Toowoomba Bird Club for the year 1981/82. Date.....

Signed.....  
(Nominator)

I accept nomination for the office of .....  
in the Toowoomba Bird Club for the year 1981/82. Date.....

Signed.....  
(Nominee)

---

TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB  
SIXTH ANNUAL BIRD CENSUS

To take place over the week-end of October 24/25th., 1981.

Yes, I hope to be able to participate in the count.

I would be available to count at the following times.

Saturday ,24th A.M..... Saturday 24th., P.M.....

Sunday 25th A.M..... Sunday 25th P.M. ....

(Please tick the times that suit)

Signature.....

(Please return this form to any member of the Executive)