

Bird Club



NEWS-SHEET No. 7 - MAY, 1976.

Some exciting reports of sightings have reached us of late from club members who have enjoyed good bird-watching holidays recently.

Hazel and Paul Green have just returned from a camping trip in the Warrumbungle National Park and there is a list of their sightings published in this news-sheet. Bill Jolly and family have just returned from a trip to New Guinea. Such exotic birds as large-tailed lightjar, moustached swift and Raggian's bird-of-paradise have been mentioned in conversation and I believe an article on Bill and Eileens' New Guinea holiday will be forthcoming in a future news-sheet.

Mr. Don Vernon, Curator of Birds at the Queensland Museum has indicated that he is most willing to visit us in the near future and to give a talk, illustrated with slides and skins. Something to really look forward to.

Our next outing will be to Ravensbourne. Now that winter is upon us the leeches and ticks are most likely to be at an all time low regarding predation upon bird-watchers. So come along and enjoy yourselves.

Acting Editor,
Rod Hobson.

NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRDS.

There have been no new sightings this month but keep looking. Remember, let us hear about any exciting observations you make for our next regular item.

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES.

- Banded plover. May, 1976. Wilsonton. Rod Hobson. Pair of birds flying extremely high over aerodrome, showing conspicuous ventral markings.
- Barn owl. 1.5.76. Flagstone Creek. Rod Hobson. 17.5.76. Toowoomba City area. Kerri Hobson. (see article).
- Rose robin. 8.5.76. Flagstone Creek. Rod Hobson. Magnificently coloured cock bird. 16.5.76./30.5.76. Redwood Park. Rod Hobson. Male birds. This appears to be a good time of year, judging by past and present records, to observe robins in and around Toowoomba.
- Restless flycatcher. 16.5.76. Redwood Park. Rod Hobson. Single bird observed at park entrance on range highway.
- Speckled warbler. 30.5.76. Redwood Park. Rod Hobson. Beautifully marked little bird approached, hopping along ground, to within three feet of observer.

Reg and Chris Eley have enjoyed some interesting birding in their new home area, Amby, and Reg has forwarded the following list for our benefit. This little known and isolated area has produced some surprises as the following list shows.

Acting Editor.

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| 1 Rainbow lorikeet 8.3.76. Amby Crk. | 2 Brown thornbill 3.4.76. Amby |
| 1 Pheasant coucal 8/15.3.76. Amby Crk. | 2 Scaly-br. lorikeets 4.4.76. Amby |
| Spine-tailed swift(flock) 22.3.76. Amby | 1 Spotted harrier 4.4.76. Amby |
| 1 Spotted bowerbird 24.3.76. Amby | 2 White-throated warbler 27.3.76. |
| 3 Spotted harrier 25.3.76. Amby-Mitchell | 20 miles West of Roma. |
| 1 Emu 30.3.76. Amby | 1 Black-chinned honeyeater 27.3.76.(ditto) |
| 1 Letter-winged kite 1.4.76. Amby | White-winged chough(family party) 27.3.76. |

(cont/d).....

The letter-winged kite was observed just as it was getting dusk, hawking above the railway and adjacent paddocks. Chris and I observed he was slightly brownish, possibly an immature and we observed him for nearly forty-five minutes.

Reg Eley.

Here also for members' perusal is a list of sightings by Hazel and Paul Green. The area observed was in the Warrumbungle National Park and judging by the Greens' list it appears to offer much to the bird-watcher. I have taken the liberty of adding some interesting bird notes taken from a check-list of the park. The list has been compiled by Ranger A.K. Morris from information compiled by Ranger I. Archbold (Warrumbungle National Park) and members of the New South Wales Field Ornithologists Club. My list is an extract from this check-list which I hope may be of interest to members. It appears at the end of the Greens' list.

Acting Editor.

Birds seen at Warrumbungle National Park, April, 1976.

Emu	Welcome swallow	Grey-breasted silvereye
Bl.-shouldered kite	Bl.-f. cuckoo-shrike	White-eared honeyeater
Wedge-tailed eagle	Superb blue wren	Yellow-tufted honeyeater
Bar-shouldered dove	Scarlet robin (pair)	Noisy friarbird
Little lorikeet	Grey fantail	Red-browed finch
Sulphur-cr. cockatoo	Willie wagtail	Magpie lark
Galah	Restless flycatcher	Pied currawong
Crimson rosella	Golden whistler	Black-backed magpie
Eastern rosella	Brown tree-creeper	Australian raven
L. kookaburra	Spotted pardalote	

Many of the species were in large numbers and quite a lot could be seen in the camping grounds.

Hazel & Paul Green.

Some interesting and unusual birds from Warrumbungle National Park check-list:-

- 7. Brown bittern: rare visitor to creeks (23.1.69).
- 12. Letter-winged kite: rare visitor (3.1.70) (See "Birds" 5.69) to grasslands.
- 13. Square-tailed kite: rare visitor (Jan. 1970) to open forest and grassland.
- 17. Aust. little eagle: uncommon, probable resident of lightly timbered valleys and watercourses.
- 19. Peregrin falcon: uncommon, breeding resident (3 eyries known) of Park generally.
- 24. Painted quail: common resident of forested areas.
- 27. Southern stone curlew: rare visitor to grasslands. Status uncertain.
- 36. Swift parrot: rare visitor to open forest (12.6.71).
- 45. Ring-necked parrot: rare visitor to open forest along western border.
- 55. Barking owl: rare. Status not known.
- 59. Owlet nightjar: uncommon forest and open forest. Status not known.
- 74. Little cuckoo-shrike: rare visitor to dry sclerophyll forests.
- 96. Heath wren: uncommon resident of undergrowth, occasionally seen along Sperey Ck.
- 99. Crimson chat: uncommon visitor to grasslands (Sept. & Oct. 1969).
- 132. Regent honeyeater: rare visitor (Feb. 1970) to open forest.

Unusual bird for Toowoomba City.

Whilst waiting for my husband on the corner of Neil & Herries Streets, my attention was drawn to the clamour of several pied currawongs overhead. On looking up I observed the object of their attention to be a slightly bedraggled barn owl trying vainly to out manoeuvre these oppressors. Eventually the owl escaped the currawongs by taking refuge in the rafters of the old Western Transport building. This is the first time that I have observed a barn owl so close to the central city area. Has any other member any record of these unusal and magnificent birds being sighted in town?

No doubt many members have noted the large numbers of pied currawongs invading the inner city area lately. It would appear that the fruiting camphor laurel trees are drawing them in. These birds, along with Southern figbirds, seem to enjoy the fine berry fare provided by the many camphor laurel trees lining Toowoomba streets.

Kerri Hobson.

OUTING FOR JUNE, 1976.

Ravensbourne National Park, Sunday, 20th June. Depart Mt. Kynoch Reservoir 8.30 a.m. (Wonga pigeons, Australian ground thrush and topknot pigeons fairly certain).

Here also for members' perusal is a list of sightings by Hazel and Paul Green. The area observed was in the Warrumbungle National Park and judging by the Greens' list it appears to offer much to the bird-watcher. I have taken the liberty of adding some interesting bird notes taken from a check-list of the park. The list has been compiled by Ranger A.K. Morris from information compiled by Ranger I. Archbold (Warrumbungle National Park) and members of the New South Wales Field Ornithologists Club. My list is an extract from this check-list which I hope may be of interest to members. It appears at the end of the Greens' list.

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MEETING FOR JUNE, 1976.

The election of officers held-over from our last meeting will now take place on Thursday evening, 17th June 1976 at 7.30 p.m. at Alan & Sylvia Graham's home, Naliandrah, Gittings Rd., Withcott.

MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER, 1976.

Wednesday, 15th September, 1976. 7.30 p.m. at 22, Isabel Street, Toowoomba. (Vera Simon's home). Bob Dorricott will be showing us some of his award-winning movie-films including "Island Invaders" the story of the nesting of the White-capped Noddy on Heron Island.

NEW MEMBERS.

The club is pleased to welcome Ron Hopkinson, 50, Bass Street, Toowoomba. Ph. 35.4952.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

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The Bird Observer, June, 1976, July, 1976.

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The Birds of Heron Island - booklet by G.B. & E.O. Goeden (copies available to members courtesy J. Weis, Mullet Gut Marine, Margaret Street, Toowoomba - contact Editor.)

Fish for Farm Dams - booklet by D. Tumar & B. Pollock (as above - copies available, numbers limited.)

Fish that are poisonous to eat - D.P.I. leaflet (as above - copies available.)

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THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF ALL SPECIES IDENTIFIED BY MEMBERS WITHIN A 10 km RADIUS OF THE MAIN POST OFFICE, TOOWOOMBA, DURING THE MONTHS OF MAY (5), JUNE (6) AND JULY (7), 1976.

Little Grebe	5	Pale-h. Rosella	5	6	7		
Little P. Cormorant	6	7	Red-r. Parrot	5	6	7	
Little Bl. Cormorant	7	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	5	6	7		
White-necked Heron	6	7	Spotted Owl	7			
White-faced Heron	5	6	7	Barn Owl	5		
Large Egret	7	Tawny Frogmouth	5	6	7		
Plumed Egret	6	7	Azure Kingfisher	6			
White Ibis	6	7	Kookaburra	5	6	7	
Straw-necked Ibis	5	6	7	Sacred Kingfisher	6		
Black Duck	5	6	7	Wh.-backed Swallow	6	7	
Grey Teal	6	7	Welcome Swallow	5	6	7	
Wood Duck	6	7	Richard's Pipit	6	7		
Black-sh. Kite	5	6	7	Bl.-f. Cuckoo-shrike	5	6	7
Crested Hawk	7	Varied Triller	6				
Brown Goshawk	5	7	Rose Robin	5	6	7	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	5	6	7	Red-capped Robin	6		
Spotted Harrier	7	Eastern Yellow Robin	5	6	7		
Peregrine Falcon	6	Jacky Winter	5	6	7		
Nankeen Kestrel	5	6	7	Golden Whistler	5		
Dusky Moorhen	6	7	Rufous Whistler	5	6	7	
Swamphen	5	6	7	Grey Shrike Thrush	5	6	7
Masked Plover	5	6	7	Restless Flycatcher	5	6	7
Banded Plover	5	6	7	Grey Fantail	5	6	7
White-headed Pigeon	7	Willie Wagtail	5	6	7		
Domestic Pigeon	5	6	7	Eastern Whistler	5	6	7
Spotted Dove	5	6	7	Grey-cr. Babbler	5	6	7
Peaceful Dove	5	6	7	G.-h. Cisticola	5	6	7
Bar-sh. Dove	6	7	Superb Blue Wren	5	6	7	
Crested Pigeon	5	6	7	Variegated Wren	5	6	7
Wonga Pigeon	6	Red-backed Wren	5	6	7		
Galah	5	6	7	Wh.-br. Scrub-wren	5	6	7
Rainbow Lorikeet	5	6	7	Speckled Warbler	5	6	7
Scaly -br. Lorikeet	5	6	7	Weebill	6		

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White-faced Heron	5	6	7	Barn Owl	5		
Large Egret		7		Tawny Frogmouth	5	6	7
Plumed Egret	6	7		Azure Kingfisher		6	
White Ibis	6	7		Kookaburra	5	6	7
Straw-necked Ibis	5	6	7	Sacred Kingfisher		6	
Black Duck	5	6	7	Wh.-backed Swallow		6	7
Grey Teal	6	7		Welcome Swallow	5	6	7
Wood Duck	6	7		Richard's Pipit		6	7
Black-sh. Kite	5	6	7	Bl.-f. Cuckoo-shrike	5	6	7
Crested Hawk		7		Varied Triller		6	
Brown Goshawk	5	7		Rose Robin	5	6	7
Wedge-tailed Eagle	5	6	7	Red-capped Robin		6	
Spotted Harrier		7		Eastern Yellow Robin	5	6	7
Peregrine Falcon	6			Jacky Winter	5	6	7
Nankeen Kestrel	5	6	7	Golden Whistler		5	
Dusky Moorhen	6	7		Rufous Whistler	5	6	7
Swamphen	5	6	7	Grey Shrike Thrush	5	6	7
Masked Plover	5	6	7	Restless Flycatcher	5	6	7
Banded Plover	5	6	7	Grey Fantail	5	6	7
White-headed Pigeon		7		Willie Wagtail	5	6	7
Domestic Pigeon	5	6	7	Eastern Whipbird	5	6	7
Spotted Dove	5	6	7	Grey-cr. Babbler	5	6	7
Peaceful Dove	5	6		G.-h. Cisticola	5	6	7
Bar-sh. Dove		6	7	Superb Blue Wren	5	6	7
Crested Pigeon	5	6	7	Variegated Wren	5	6	7
Wonga Pigeon		6		Red-backed Wren	5	6	7
Galah	5	6	7	Wh.-br. Scrub-wren	5	6	7
Rainbow Lorikeet	5	6	7	Speckled Warbler	5	6	7
Scaly -br. Lorikeet	5	6	7	Weebill		6	
Little Lorikeet		7		Wh.-thr. Warbler	5	6	
King Parrot	6	7		Brown Thornbill		6	7
Cockatiel	6	7		Yellow-r. Thornbill	5	6	7

(Cont/d.)

<u>Yellow Thornbill</u>	<u>5</u>		
<u>Striated Thornbill</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
<u>Wh.-thr. Tree-creeper</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	
<u>Striped Honeyeater</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
<u>Blue-f. Honeyeater</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Noisy Miner</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Lewin's Honeyeater</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Brown Honeyeater</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Eastern Spinebill</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
<u>Mistletoe Bird</u>	<u>5</u>		
<u>Spotted Pardalote</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Striated Pardalote</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Silvereye</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>House Sparrow</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Red-browed Firetail</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Zebra Finch</u>	<u>5</u>		

<u>Double-barrred Finch</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Common Starling</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Common Myna</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Olive-backed Oriole</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
<u>Green Figbird</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Satin Bowerbird</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	
<u>Australian Regentbird</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
<u>White-winged Chough</u>	<u>6</u>		
<u>Aust. Magpie Lark</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Dusky Wood-swallow</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Grey Butcher-bird</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Pied Butcher-bird</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Australian Magpie</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Pied Currawong</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Australian Raven</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Torresian Crow</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>

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