

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

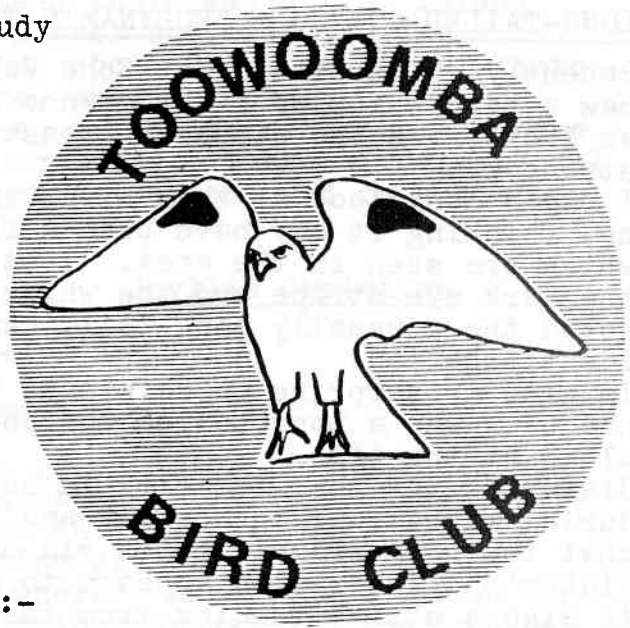
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NEWS-SHEET No. 74 - FEBRUARY 1982

The good news this month is that the long-awaited index is attached as a supplement. When you look through it you will realize the large amount of work it entailed. Many thanks to Marilyn Jacobs for this great effort.

Much to our disappointment the Goomburra outing was cancelled due to the very wet weather and uncertainty of the road. However an alternative venue was made through Heiffer and Ma Ma Creeks area.

Marilyn Jacobs has informed the Club that the National Library has a number of bird films that are available for viewing. She has kindly offered to borrow a couple for the Club so that another film evening may be organized. It is hoped that some time in March can be arranged and more details on the names of the films, where and when they will be seen will be in the March news-sheet.

Once again an annual summary has been compiled by our Records Officer and this should be in the March issue also.

Please remember that annual subscriptions are due. This month you will find a reminder slip at the end of the news-sheet.

Lesley Ball, Editor

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NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRD

224. Cotton Pygmy-Goose (*Nettapus coromandelianus*). 7.1.82.  
Hood's Lagoon. Michael Atzeni, Shane Brady.

Male and female on the water. Male - white underparts, neck and face; thin dark collar; dark crown and back of neck; bronze-green wings.

Female simiar but duller with no collar; white brow.

--oo0oo--

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO - "EUDYNAMIS TAITENSIS"

Recently while birding at Echo Valley in the Nelson Street area I saw a bird which at first glance I thought to be a female Koel but as I observed the streaked breast I realized that this was a stranger.

I had a long look at this bird, in the open, with the sun behind me, thinking it may have been a female Brush or Fan-tailed Cuckoo which are seen in the area. I studied the striped head marking, the dark eye stripe and the white stripe above and below this and noted the unusually long tail, memorizing them for future identification.

Imagine my surprise on reference to Slater to find that the bird I had seen was a Long-tailed Cuckoo and I regretted that I had been alone at the time.

Slater states that the bird is seen in our area (meaning Australia) during migration, on Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands. Is it possible that the bird travels north via our East Coast to Papua?

Slater's illustration appears to show a narrow brown hood, but this is also a stripe running from the beak back over the head and is approximately the same width as the eye stripe.

Joe Deuble

This is not the first report I've heard of someone seeing this bird in our area. If you have anything to add to Joe's sighting please let us know. Ed.

---oo0oo---

NOTES FROM "GAMARREN", CUNNAMULLA

In news-sheet No. 71 I noticed an article from Charleville, so as I was at "Gamarren" last September, I would like to tell of what I saw as we drove around looking for, and at the interesting bird life in the area. It was after the rain following several years of drought and there was a tremendous busyness in the activity of the birds there. We went out to Werona Lake - large and shallow, about a mile long, very open, with samphire as the only vegetation, and a small open island in the centre. While there we saw:-

Nesting

Avocet  
Pied Stilt  
Red-capped Dotterel  
Red-kneed Dotterel  
Black-fronted Dotterel  
Spur-winged Plover  
Australian Little Grebe  
Hoary-headed Grebe  
Black Swan  
Whiskered Tern

Not observed nesting

Grey Teal  
White-eyed Duck  
Coot  
Glossy Ibis  
Little Black Cormorant  
Silver Gull

"Mulligans" was our next port of call. More swampy with Lignum, reeds, lilies, cane grass and Coolibah trees, and in the paddocks surrounding were growing Parapeela, Hare Bells, 'Gunda Bluey' wattle, Darling pea and white and yellow everlastings. In the bird line there, we observed:-

Nesting

Pink-eared Duck  
Grey Teal  
Black Duck  
Black-fronted Dotterel

Not observed nesting

Pelican  
Black-tailed Native Hen  
Royal Spoonbill  
Yellow-billed Spoonbill  
Little Pied Cormorant  
Sacred Ibis  
Straw-necked Ibis

Little Grebe

In another small lake near the homestead there was a tiny island with short, wiry grass and an Avocet's nest composed of wire - small pieces of rusty ring-lock fencing about 2 - 3 cm long. There were three eggs, and while I was there, they hatched. It was all quite amazing as, of course, all these nests were on the ground and the place was filled with activity. These birds were all identified by my daughter-in-law, Susan Patterson, and my son, Tony Patterson.

Phyllis Christian

--ooOoo--

INDEX OF BIRD CLUB NEWS-SHEETS, ISSUES 1 - 60

Many hours of work have gone into the preparation of the index you will find attached to this news-sheet since I first had the inspiration to undertake such a project back in 1979. It all began because I was having difficulty locating articles I knew were 'somewhere' in the news-sheets - but where? Each time I wanted to find some information I would end up going through all the issues. There had to be a better way!

As a founding member of the Toowoomba Bird Club, I was in an ideal position to compile an index of the first 48 issues (which soon grew to 60) because I had copies of all the news-sheets in my possession. My original idea of a fairly simple and straightforward index vanished amid a variety of ideas and suggestions, and a project I thought might take several months to complete, took instead, several years.

Many thanks to Bill Jolly for giving me ideas about the general subject headings and for helping with the organizational format back in the early stages of the project. Also, thanks to Lesley Ball who spent many hours helping me to re-check all the entries - a task we have only recently completed.

An index will be completed for each year henceforth.

Marilyn Jacobs

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FIELD DAY REPORT - HEIFER CREEK ROAD 24/1/82

As in the past, the club's attempts to have the state forest region of Goomburra as the venue for a field day was thwarted by the weather. Although one party with an appropriate vehicle visited Goomburra, the other members opted for the alternative excursion which was to follow the New England Highway to the Heifer Creek - Gatton Road and proceed along this to Grantham via Heifer and Ma Ma Creeks.

We made several short stops along the highway, one of which was to identify a group of Black-faced Woodswallows feeding their young. One woodswallow had been killed by a vehicle but was still in a reasonable enough condition for Lesley and Marilyn to procure samples for their feather collection.

The Heifer Creek Road is a picturesque drive and offers a variety of birdlife, however as the road is narrow, stopping for any length of time can be dangerous and care had to be taken in selecting a safe area for our several cars to pull off, especially as the weather of the previous week had left soft, muddy edges. The highlight of one stop was the sighting of a Channel-billed Cuckoo, a first for several members. We were able to observe the underwing pattern and hawk-like flight quite clearly. Another point of interest was the sighting of two large separate colonies of Tree Martins.

During the morning tea stop at the Heifer Creek picnic area, we saw several Spangled Drongos. Our drive then continued toward Ma Ma Creek with stops at some dams which rewarded us with sightings of numerous duck including two Hardheads (White-eyed Duck). As the temperature was climbing, we decided to push on to the Lockyer Creek picnic area at Helidon for lunch. This welcome respite was a little longer in coming for one party who suffered a blow-out just before Helidon. However, even this set-back did not spoil an enjoyable outing.

Those present included Ann and John Shore, Maggie and Benita Drabsch, Ron Colpus, Lesley Ball, Marilyn Jacobs and Sandy Pottinger.

Sandy Pottinger

Species List - Heifer Creek Road 24/1/82

Australasian Grebe, Pacific Heron, White-faced Heron, Cattle Egret, Straw-necked Ibis, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Hardhead, Maned Duck, Black-shouldered Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Australasian Kestrel, Dusky Moorhen, Feral Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Crested Pigeon, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Cockateil, Pale-headed Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, Koel, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Pheasant Coucal, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Dollarbird, White-backed Swallow, Welcome Swallow, Tree Martin, Fairy Martin, Richard's Pipit, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Restless Flycatcher, Willie Wagtail, Eastern Whipbird, Grey-crowned Babbler, Golden-headed Cisticola, Superb Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, White-throated Gerygone, Striped Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Silvereye, House Sparrow, Double-barred Finch, Common Starling, Common Mynah, Olive-backed Oriole, Figbird, Spangled Drongo, Magpie-lark, Black-faced Woodswallow, Pied Butcherbird, Magpie, Pied Currawong, Crow.

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MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Plumed Whistling-Duck. 25.12.81. Over Harristown at night. SB.  
Osprey. 16.12.81. Currumundi. SB.  
Pacific Baza. 14.12.81. Withcott. SB, MA.  
Little Eagle. 24.1.82. Girraween Nat. Park. MA, TR.  
Spotted Harrier. 30.1.82. Handley St, Drayton. SB.  
Black-breasted Button-quail. 8.2.82. Ravensbourne. MA, PM.  
Buff-banded Rail (dead). 20.12.81. Kawana Waters. SB.  
Black-naped Tern. 20.12.81. Mooloolaba. SB.  
Palm Cockatoo. 28.11.81. Horn Is., Torres Strait. RGH.  
Crimson Rosella. 14.12.81. Redwood. MA, SB.  
Mallee Ringneck. 18.1.82. Charleville. RGH.  
Blue Bonnet. 19.1.82. Miles. RGH.  
Red-rumped Parrot. 24.1.82. Shorncliffe. RGH.  
Turquoise Parrot. 24.1.82. Near Wallangarra. MA, TR.  
Long-tailed Cuckoo. 4.1.82. Echo Valley, Nelson St. JD.  
Channel-billed Cuckoo. 5/6.1.82. Flagstone Ck. SB.  
Fork-tailed Swift. 5.1.82. Flagstone Ck. SB.  
Azure Kingfisher. 5.1.82. Flagstone Ck. SB.  
Hooded Robin. 8.1.82. Charleville. RGH.  
Mangrove Gerygone. 6.12.81. Caloundra. SB.  
Yellow-throated Miner. 23.1.82. Atkinson's Dam. SB, AT.  
Plum-headed Finch. 14.12.81. Helidon. SB, MA.  
White-browed Woodswallow. 5.1.82. Ulimaroa. RGH.  
Little Corella. 9.1.82. Flagstone Ck. MB, GB.

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES CONT'D

MA: Michael Atzeni. GB: Gerard Bou. MB: Marie Bou. SB Shane Brady. RGH: Rod Hobson. PM: Pat McConnell. TR: Terry Reis, AT: Andrew Tan.

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FIELD DAY FOR FEBRUARY

Date: Sunday, 28th February, 1982. Place: Goomburra State Forest

Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park.

Time: 7.15 a.m. for departure at 7.30 a.m. sharp

Once more the Toowoomba Bird Club will try to reach the unattainable depths of Goomburra State Forest. Keep your fingers crossed and we may get there. A small party of intrepid bush-lovers will be camping overnight, hoping to get some extra birding done. There is even talk of doing some night-spotting. So, if you like to get back to nature, join us on the 28th!

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T.B.C. PUBLICATION DEADLINE

Articles for the Toowoomba Bird Club news-sheet have a deadline of the fourth Sunday of the month. This coincides with the Field Day and can be mailed to the Editor or handed to any of the Executive at the Field Day outing.

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The Secretary, Toowoomba Bird Club,  
"Shorelands", Withcott, M.S. 224,  
Toowoomba, 4352.

Please renew my membership of the Toowoomba Bird Club for the year 1982. I enclose a fee of Six Dollars (Three Dollars for students).

Signed: .....

Address: .....

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