

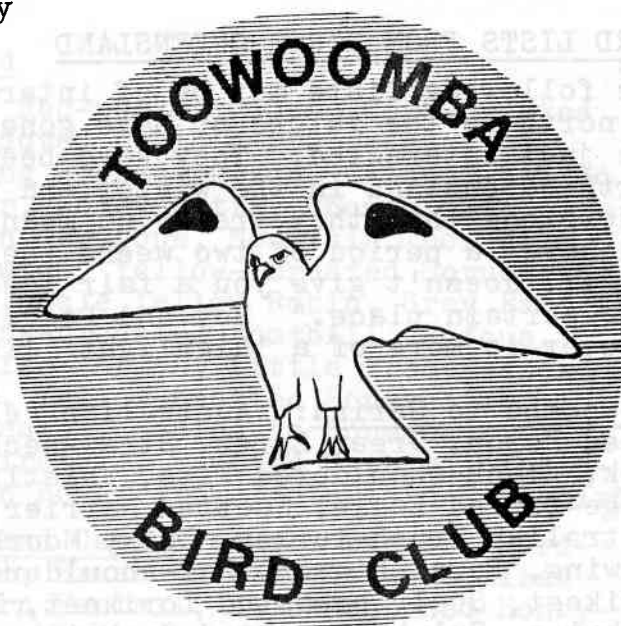
"To encourage the observation and study of birds of the Toowoomba area."

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 Memor St., Toowoomba, 4350.
Ph: 35 1933

Editor: Lesley Ball.
15 Dunmore St., Toowoomba, 4350.
Ph: 32 6262



Please address all correspondence to:
(For the months of May and June only)
The Editor, Toowoomba Bird Club,
15 Dunmore St., Toowoomba, 4350.

NEWS-SHEET No. 77 - MAY 1982

Well, our list of birds seen in the Toowoomba Bird Club area is to be lengthened once again this month, with another sighting at that fertile birding ground, Hood's Lagoon. Patricia Comerford, one of our more recent members, thought she heard the call of a Little Grassbird in the reeds at the edge of the lagoon. Calling on some other members of the club, they sat it out, to be rewarded with a sight of this very shy bird.

Next month we were to have another film night, but Ann Shore forlornly requested that it be postponed until July so that she and John would be able to attend. As both these members very rarely miss an outing or social function held by the club it was felt a simple thing to comply. So now the film evening will be on the 23rd July. Write this date on your calendar now so that you won't miss it. These evenings have always been entertaining with a chance to see two or three films on birds that are not on general view to the public. It is also a time for those members that are unable to be as actively involved in the club as they would wish, to meet each other and have a chat about birding. Make sure your name is put to a face.

Lesley Ball

--ooOoo--

NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRD

229. Little Grassbird (*Megalurus gramineus*). 23.4.82.
Hood's Lagoon. Michael Atzeni, Shane Brady, Sister Patricia Comerford.

After hearing the species call, a pair of birds was lured to the edge of the reeds by imitating their diagnostic call, audible as a plaintive 'pee-pee'. Difficult to observe; streaked above, although difficult to distinguish streaked crown; white eyestripe; whitish underparts; long tail.

--ooOoo--

BIRD LISTS FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND

The following lists may be of interest to those members who intend to go north in the future or have gone north in the past, or for those who are just interested. They have been compiled from members who were in North Queensland in the winter and spring of last year. It is to be understood that they are by no means comprehensive. Michael's list was made over a period of two weeks (see News-sheet No. 76) and as he says it "... doesn't give you a fair idea of which species are most common in a certain place." Roy and Peggie's list is over several months, however is more of a 'highlight' list than every bird they've seen.

Toowoomba to Sarina: Australian Pelican, Little Pied Cormorant, White-faced Heron, Great Egret, Straw-necked Ibis, Pacific Black Duck, Maned Duck, Black-shouldered Kite, Whistling Kite, Black Kite, Brown Goshawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Spotted Harrier, Brown Falcon, Australian Kestrel, Australian Brush-turkey, Dusky Moorhen, Australian Bustard, Masked Lapwing, Feral Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Crested Pigeon, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Galah, Cockateil, Red-winged Parrot, Australian King-parrot, Crimson Rosella, Pale-headed Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, Pheasant Coucal, Sacred Kingfisher, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Laughing Kookaburra, Rainbow Bee-eater, Welcome Swallow, Tree Martin, Fairy Martin, Richard's Pipit, Australian Magpie-lark, Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Grey-crowned Babbler, Apostlebird, White-winged Cough, Willie Wagtail, Superb Blue Wren, Striated Pardalote, White-throated Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Little Friarbird, Noisy Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, House Sparrow, Common Starling, Indian Mynah, Figbird, Pied Butcherbird, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Crow.

Sarina to Cairns: Australasian Grebe, Little Black Cormorant, Pacific Heron, Cattle Egret, Intermediate Egret, Black-necked Stork, Sacred Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Magpie Goose, Plumed Whistling-Duck, Pacific Baza, Brahminy Kite, Brolga, Purple Swamphen, Red-capped Plover, Black-fronted Plover, Marsh Sandpiper, Black-winged Stilt, Silver Gull, Spotted Turtledove, Peaceful Dove, Squatter Pigeon, Little Corella, Forest Kingfisher, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Mistletoebird, Yellow-bellied Sunbird, Brown Honeyeater, Zebra Finch, Nutmeg Mannikin, Olive-backed Oriole, Spangled Drongo, White-breasted Woodswallow.

Cairns Esplanade: Striated Heron, Little Egret, Royal Spoonbill, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Osprey, Large Sand Plover, Mongolian Plover, Lesser Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Little Curlew, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Great Knot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Caspian Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Little Tern, Crested Tern, Varied Honeyeaters.

Cairns (Botanical Gardens/Centenary Lakes), Edmonton, Gordonvale: Wandering Whistling-Duck, Green Pygmy-Goose, Bush Thick-knee, Torresian Imperial-Pigeon, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Common Koel, White-rumped Swiftlet, Little Kingfisher, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike, Cicadabird, Varied Triller, Variegated (Lovely) Fairy-wren, Golden-headed Cisticola, Tawny Grassbird, Large-billed Gerygone, Rufous Fantail, Leaden Flycatcher, Black-faced Monarch, White-eared Monarch, Little Shrike-thrush, Silvereye, Dusky Honeyeater, Graceful Honeyeater, Yellow Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, Brown-backed Honeyeater, Double-barred Finch, Metallic Starling, Yellow Oriole, Black Butcherbird.

RD LISTS FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND cont'd

Mt. Lewis/Julatten: Australian Hobby, Red-necked Crake, Comb-crested Jacana, Top-knot Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-dove, Gould's Bronze-cuckoo, Emerald Dove, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Shining Bronze-cuckoo, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Large-tailed Nightjar, Noisy Pitta, Chowchilla, Eastern Whipbird, Fairy Gerygone, Brown Gerygone, Mountain Thornbill, Large-billed Scrubwren, Atherton Scrubwren, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Australian Fernwren, Grey-headed Robin, Pale Yellow Robin, Grey Fantail, Spectacled Monarch, Pied Monarch, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Rufous Whistler, Golden Whistler, Bower's Shrike-thrush, Little Treecreeper, Scarlet Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Bridled Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Macleay's Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Red-browed Firetail, Spotted Catbird, Tooth-billed Catbird, Golden Bowerbird, Satin Bowerbird, Victoria's Riflebird.

Mt. Molloy, Mt. Carbine, Big Mitchell and Carr Creeks: Darter, Hard-head, Collared Sparrowhawk, Brown Quail, Brush Cuckoo, Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, White-browed Robin, Northern Fantail, Black-chinned Honey-eater, Black-throated Finch, Great Bowerbird.

Mule Point/Port Douglas: Eastern Reef Egret, Common Sandpiper, Beach Thick-knee, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Azure Kingfisher, Shining Flycatcher.

Michaelmas Cay: Great Frigatebird, Black-naped Tern, Sooty Tern, Bridled Tern, Lesser Crested Tern, Common Noddy.

Trip home: Spotted Bowerbird (Lotus Creek), Black-faced Woodswallow.

Michael Atzeni

Rockhampton, Capricornian Coast: Darter, Black Cormorant, Royal Spoonbill, Yellow Spoonbill, White Ibis, White-faced Heron, Magpie Goose, Black-shouldered Kite, Brahminy Kite, Brown Falcon, Eurasian Coot, Dusky Moorhen, Masked Lapwing, Red-capped Plover, Black-winged Stilt, Eastern Curlew, Pied Oystercatcher, Silver Gull, Peaceful Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Crested Pigeon, Squatter Pigeon, Pale-headed Rosella, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Rainbow Bee-eater, Pheasant Coucal, Common Koel, Welcome Swallow, Emu, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Red-backed Fairy wren, Shining Flycatcher, Satin Flycatcher, Spectacled Flycatcher, Rufous Whistler, Mistletoebird, Yellow-breasted Sunbirds, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Spangled Drongo, Southern Figbird, Pied Butcherbird, Little Crow.

Townsville: Little Egret, White Egret, Straw-necked Ibis, Pacific Heron, Mangrove Heron, Black Kite, Australian Kestrel, Brolga, Beach Stone Curlew, Masked Lapwing, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Forest Kingfisher, Australian Magpie-lark, Zebra Finch, Nutmeg Mannikin, White-breasted Woodswallow.

Atherton Tableland: Jabiru, Wood Duck, Grass Whistling-Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Sarus Crane, Banded Landrail, Wompoo Fruit-dove, Tawny Grassbird, Northern Yellow Robin, Shining Flycatcher.

Cairns, Mission Beach, Port Douglas, Upper Daintree River: Great Frigatebird, Reef Heron, Black Bittern (immature), Whistling Kite, White-breasted Sea-Eagle, Great-billed Heron, Australian Brush-turkey, Black-fronted Plover, Little Kingfisher, Sacred Kingfisher, Tree Martin, Cassowary, Varied Triller, Little Cuckoo-shrike, Yellow Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, Indian Mynah, Yellow Oriole, Yellow Figbird, Black Butcherbird.

Roy and Peggie Beaton

TASMANIAN NOTES

On our journeying around Tasmania, Roy and I decided to leave the main road and look at a place with the pretty name of Mossy Marsh Dam. All around this south-western area and the lakes area of Tasmania the Hydro Electric Commission have built dams at the sight of which the mind boggles, but this dam, hidden in the woods, was a very pretty little lagoon with the dam itself more of a mud and stone causeway, not a concrete horror.

When we arrived at the dam we saw these two 'ducks' which from a distance we could not identify. Then we realised, for ducks, they were behaving very strangely, no head down, tail in the air for these two, but the mother did a neat forward half somersault and disappeared entirely, leaving baby cheeping disconsolately until she reappeared. He then swam to her and was fed. They came nearer to us and we recognized the funny little cat-like face of the Hoary-headed Grebe in full breeding plumage. We watched them for some time. The mother would stay under water for 19-20 seconds but the little freckled youngster could only manage about 7-10 seconds.

Another interesting sighting was at the Asbestos Range National Park on the central north coast. This is a paradise for all types of wild life. When the area was first settled in 1837 it was drained by convict labour and potatoes grown. However since being acquired as a National Park some of these ditches have been dammed and a largish lagoon has formed. A 70 - 90 metre (80 - 100 yards) catwalk has been built through the trees over the marsh to a well constructed hide from which one can watch a large variety of water birds. We thought we had once more a sighting of the Hoary-headed Grebe. On closer observation and seeing the very distinctive fan shaped tail as it dived, we identified a female Musk Duck and youngster. Later we saw the male, distinguished by the large pendulous lobe under his bill. I would not say either of these ducks would get to first base as contenders in a beauty contest with their large heads and bills, especially the male with his 'lobe'!

Birds seen on our circumnavigation of the lagoon, 8.30 - 12.00 a.m.
Black Cormorant, Little Pied Cormorant, White-faced Heron, Black Swan and cygnets, Mountain Shelduck, Pacific Black Duck, Musk Duck and immature, Pacific Heron, Eurasian Coot, Masked Lapwing, Banded Lapwing, Silver Gull, Green Rosella, Blue-winged Parrot, Pallid Cuckoo, Spine-tailed Swift, Laughing Kookaburra, Welcome Swallow, Richard's Pipit, Grey Fantail, Superb Fairy-wren, Tasmanian Sivereye, Starling, Raven.
*** 7 wombats, Forrester's Kangaroo and others.

Peggie Beaton

--ooOoo--

FIELD DAY REPORT - BLANCHVIEW RD, IREDALE RD. 25.4.82.

Toowoomba's Autumn weather has been beautiful and the April field outing was a perfect day for exploring the down range areas of Blanchview and Iredale. Our bird watching numbers were increased by two very young visitors - twin babies (grandchildren of new member Lydia Lyndon) and their mother, Lydia's daughter Tricia.

Five cars set out for an initial stop on the Flagstone Creek Rd. at the bottom of the range, but only four arrived as the 'followers' missed the 'leader'. We soon joined up again on the Blanchview Road where the first group had stopped to view a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles. It was as if they knew they were being admired for we were treated to a magnificent view at close range. It was a good day for raptors as several Brown Goshawks were also evident. Other highlights included a White-bellied (Little) Cuckoo-shrike, a Restless Flycatcher and a party of noisy Grey-crowned Babblers.

ELD DAY REPORT cont'd

As we approached the highway, two cars departed (the twins having proved they were very 'quiet' birdwatchers!), and the remaining three cars took the Iredale Road. Several stops provided some good water birds as well as a beautiful male Mistletoebird, and Ann found us a shady spot for morning tea/lunch. It was another good birding day and although no new Toowoomba birds were added to our list, everyone had an enjoyable time.

Members present were Lesley Ball, Str. Patricia Comerford, Graham Corbin, Jane Corbin, Maggie Drabsch, Ron Hopkinson, Marilyn Jacobs, Lydia Lyndon, Sandy Pottinger and Ann Shore.

Species list:

Australasian Grebe, Little Pied Cormorant, Pacific Heron, White-faced heron, Straw-necked Ibis, Plumed Whistling-duck, Pacific Black Duck, Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Goshawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Dusky Moorhen, Masked Lapwing, Feral Pigeon, Spotted Turtledove, Peaceful Dove, Crested Pigeon, Galah, Pale-headed Rosella, Pheasant Coucal, Laughing Kookaburra, White-backed Swallow, Welcome Swallow, Fairy Martin, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler, Restless Flycatcher, Grey Fantail, Eastern Whipbird, Grey-crowned Babbler, Golden-headed Cisticola, Superb Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrubwren, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Striped Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Mistletoebird, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, Zebra Finch, Double-barred Finch, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Common Starling, Common Mynah, Figbird, Australian Magpie-lark, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Australian Raven, Torresian Crow.

57 species

--oo0oo--

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Great Cormorant. 7.3.82. Lion's Park. MJ., SP.
Least Frigatebird. 15.4.82. Pt. Lookout. MA., SA.
Sooty Oystercatcher. 16.4.82. Pt. Lookout. MA., SA.
Pink-eared Duck. 18.4.82. Birdsville. RGH.
Brolga. 18.4.82. Birdsville. RGH.
Brown Goshawk. 25.4.82. Blanchview. AHS.
White-breasted Sea-Eagle. Gordon River, Tasmania. PB., RRB.
Brown Quail. 5.4.82. Charlton State School, Charlton. LB.
Red-kneed Dotterel. 18.4.82. Birdsville. RGH.
Double-banded Dotterel. Asbestos Range N.P., Tasmania. PB., RRB.
Mongolian Plover. 9.4.82. Woodgate. MA., BF., PM., TR.
Large Sand Plover. 9.4.82. Woodgate. MA., BF., PM., TR.
Ruddy Turnstone. Asbestos Range N.P., Tasmania. PB., RRB.
Eurasian Coot. (Road Casualty). 31.3.82. Mt. Lofty, T'mba. RGH.
Banded Lapwing. 18.4.82. Charleville. RGH.
Osprey. 16.4.82. Capalaba. RGH.
Red Knot. 9.4.82. Woodgate. MA., BF., PM., TR.
Sanderling. 9.4.82. Woodgate. MA., BF., PM., TR.
Caspian Tern. 3.4.82. Surfer's Paradise. RGH.
Squatter Pigeon. 25.3.82. Esk Rd., near Gatton. MJ., SP.
Blue-winged Parrot. Gunns Plain, Tasmania. PB., RRB.
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo. 6.3.82. Cnr. Boyden & Wirra Wirra Sts. LB, JB.
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike. 28.3.82. Seventeen Mile Rd., Helidon.
LB., PC., MJ., SP., VS.
Little Grassbird. 18.4.82. Hood's Lagoon. PC.
Olive Whistler. Rocky Cape, Tasmania. PB., RRB.
Crescent Honeyeater. Mossy Marsh Dam, Tasmania. PB., RRB.
Fuscous Honeyeater. 28.3.82. Seventeen Mile Rd., Helidon. LB., PC.,
MJ., SP., VS.

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES cont'd

MA: Michael Atzeni. SA: Simon Atzeni. JB: John Ball. LB: Lesley Ball. PB: Peggie Beaton. RRB: Beaton. PC: Patricia Comerford. BF: Brian Foulis. RGH: Rod Hobson. MJ: Marilyn Jacobs. PM: Pat McConnell. SP: Sandy Pottinger. TR: Terry Reis. AHS: Ann Shore. VS: Vera Simon.

--ooOoo--

FIELD DAY FOR MAY

Date: Sunday, 23rd May, 1982. Place: Pittsworth area.
Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park. Time: 7.15 a.m. for departure
at 7.30 a.m. sharp.

This area has been neglected lately, and although the variety of species may not be as prevalent, some different species may be seen. It is intended to go out on the Pittsworth Road and cut across to the Cecil Plains Road for home, stopping at an Environmental Park for morning tea.

--ooOoo--

NEW MEMBERS

It is pleasing to welcome another new member to the club. Good birding, Brian, and we hope to see you on some of our outings.

Brian Foulis, 19 Jennings St., Toowoomba.

--ooOoo--

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

If you enjoy our newsletter you are certain to enjoy other clubs' publications. Read through some of the letters to the editor and members' bird notes. I'm sure you'll read something to stir your memory and, who knows, may even get you to put your pen to paper! Michael Atzeni is only too pleased to share this stimulating reading. Get in touch with him on 35 1933 or ask at any Field Day.

The Bird Observer. January/February. March. 1982.
Q.O.S. Newsletter. May 1982. (Queensland Ornithological Society)
Urimbirra. March and April 1982. (Chinchilla Field Naturalists' Club)

--ooOoo--

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.

ooooOooooo

ERRATUM

News-sheet No. 75. Annual Bird Summary. The list now stands at 227, not 277 as stated. Sorry, blame the typist, Ed.

If there is a red tick in the box below I am afraid you are unfinancial and this will be the last news-sheet you are eligible to receive.

