

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

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NEWS-SHEET No. 84 - DECEMBER 1982

Another year is over, another year about to begin. If the Club has as successful a time next year we will be doing very well. Eight new members and their families joined our ranks. We also had two film evenings through the year which were very enjoyable and of course the delightful slide presentation at the Annual General Meeting. "To encourage the observation and study of birds of the Toowoomba area" is our motto and though it is not the sole aim of the Club to add new birds to our area list, it is always a pleasure to sight new birds in the area. Twelve bird species were added to the list this year, ten of them being seen at Hood's Lagoon.

I can see you counting on your fingers, 'twelve?' - I know this is becoming monotonous, but two more birds were sighted at Hood's Lagoon since our last issue.

While we are on the subject of Hood's Lagoon, when the Club visited that property on the November outing the members found the gate locked. Later Michael enquired of Mr Hood whether our long-standing arrangement was still valid. He assured us that we were still able to visit the lagoon. The reason for the locked gate is that one day it was left open and his calves got out on to the road. He believes it was birdwatchers. We don't believe that any of our members would be so careless, but it is a timely reminder for this holiday period. If you have permission to birdwatch on private property please make sure any gate you open is securely closed behind you.

It is time once again for subscription renewals. Out of necessity, the rate has increased and for 1983 it is:-

\$8.00 - ordinary/family membership  
\$4.00 - student membership.

Please be as prompt as you can, as March will have to be the final delivery of the news-sheet to those members who forget to renew their subscription. This small contribution ensures the survival of this news-sheet.

The Executive take this opportunity to thank all the members for their support throughout the year. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 1983 with plenty of good 'birding'.

Lesley Ball, Editor

NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRDS

233. Black-tailed Native-hen (Gallinula ventralis). 28.11.82. Hood's Lagoon. Michael Atzeni, Lesley Ball, Peggie Beaton, Roy Beaton, Marilyn Jacobs, Sandy Pottinger.

A single bird, smaller than Swamp-hen; bantam-like appearance. Blue-grey underparts; bronze-brown wings; prominent, vertically fan-shaped black tail; red legs; habit of running swiftly rather than flying.

234. Marsh Sandpiper (Tringa stagnatilis). 4.12.82. Hood's Lagoon. Michael Atzeni, Terry Reis, Tony Venaglia.

A single bird, Stilt-like sandpiper but smaller in size; white underparts; grey-brown upperparts; long, needle-like bill; yellowish-green legs; white back, rump and upper tail seen in flight.

--ooOoo--

BIRD CURIOSITIES

Being that sort of person I have been in the habit of tossing the binding string off the "Chronicle" onto a bush outside my front door until it was almost covered with string loops. With the advent of nesting time I suddenly realised that the bush had been denuded of string, the culprit being a House Sparrow with a nest a few houses away from mine. Unfortunately the nest is not visible from street level.

Recently I saw a group of 5 Pied Butcherbirds doing 'wing exercises' by fully extending one wing at a time, retracting it and repeating the exercise with the other wing. They were perched on a TV aerial and were keeping time with each other in a manner that would not have disgraced a Corps de Ballet. Can anyone explain or comment please?

Ron Colpus

--ooOoo--

VISIT TO BARREN GROUNDS

Earlier in July this year I travelled south and stayed for one week at Barren Grounds Bird Observatory with another club member, Terry Reis.

This reserve is situated slightly inland from Kiama in the Illawarra (NSW) district just south of Woolongong. It is run by the RAOU under the wardenship of Richard and Pat Jordan.

It has an area of approximately 2000ha. vegetated basically by heath-land and by sclerophyll forest. However, there are pockets of wet sclerophyll and rainforest. The area is best known as a habitat of the Eastern Bristlebird and Ground Parrot.

We arrived at Jamberoo, the nearest town, and began the last leg of our trip. We were faced with a dirt road (the only real access road) which wound its way up nearly 600m to the plateau on top of the escarpment. At this stage we began wondering what heath would look like at such a high altitude (as we experienced coastal heathland at Green Cape the day before).

We met Pat Jordan and immediately asked for a short tour of the reserve. We walked a couple of kilometres to find an area of what appeared to me to be open grassland with isolated clumps of straggly bushes. Within two hours we had seen Ground Parrots and Eastern

VISIT TO BARREN GROUNDS CONT'D

Bristlebirds in this area.

During our stay we sighted many new species and experienced much assistance and warm hospitality from Pat and Richard Jordan. We would certainly recommend a visit to the reserve for any birders who are in the area and wish them luck in their quest for Origmas (Rock Warblers) - we tried hard but failed!

Tony Venaglia

Species list:

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Grey Goshawk           | White-browed Scrubwren     |
| Wedge-tail Eagle       | Chestnut-rumped Hylacola   |
| Peregrine Falcon       | Brown Thornbill            |
| Topknot Pigeon         | White-throated Treecreeper |
| Gang-gang Cockatoo     | Red-browed Treecreeper     |
| Australian King Parrot | Red Wattlebird             |
| Crimson Rosella        | Lewin's Honeyeater         |
| Man-tailed Cuckoo      | Crescent Honeyeater        |
| Superb Lyrebird        | Yellow-faced Honeyeater    |
| Singing Bushlark       | Eastern Spinebill          |
| Flame Robin            | New Holland Honeyeater     |
| Eastern Yellow Robin   | Spotted Pardalote          |
| Grey Fantail           | Red-browed Firetail        |
| Eastern Whipbird       | Beautiful Firetail         |
| Superb Fairy-wren      | Green Catbird              |
| Grey Shrike-thrush     | Pied Currawong             |
| Southern Emu-wren      | Grey Currawong             |
| Eastern Bristlebird    | Magpie                     |
| Pilotbird              | Australian Raven           |

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FIELD DAY REPORT - BIG Oakey Creek & HOOD'S LAGOON 28.11.82

The November outing, the final one for 1982, was aided considerably by a cloud coverage and pleasant breeze. The excursion included two specific locations - the Withcott area along Big Oakey Creek and Hood's Lagoon, near Helidon.

Ann and John Shore introduced us to the first which began with a drive along a charming country road and continued, after leaving the cars, with Ann leading us on an enjoyable bird and bush ramble. The highlights of this part of the outing were the splendid sightings of a Crested Hawk and a Channel-billed Cuckoo.

After morning tea, we moved on to Hood's Lagoon via the back road to Helidon. Hood's, always a rewarding place for birdwatching, once again exceeded our expectations. There was an excellent opportunity for positive identification and study of a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, while the sightings, both in flight and on the ground, of three Painted Snipe, a bird considered a rare species by the Reader's Digest Bird Book, caused great excitement.

Further excitement occurred when a single example of the Black-tailed Native-hen was flushed out of the grass and made its way to the water's edge - not however, before it was positively identified by pursuing Bird Club members. This was a new bird for the Club's list and made a fitting finale to 1982.

Lunch at the Spa Park proved an anti-climax after such a morning's activities, especially as the proprietors seemed rather unsympathetic - perhaps they can be encouraged to take a more positive interest in birdwatching activities as the Spa area does attract a reasonable

FIELD DAY REPORT CONT'D

number and variety of birds.

Club members present at the November outing included Ann and John Shore, Maggie Drabsch, Michael Atzeni, Lesley Ball, Ron Colpus, Marilyn Jacobs, Sandy Pottinger - and - last but not least, joining us for the first time in person - those intrepid and itinerent birders - Peggie and Roy Beaton whose articles have been featured at regular intervals in the newsletter - Welcome Peggie and Roy!

Sandy Pottinger

Species List:

Withcott and travelling to Helidon, and Helidon Spa.

Australasian Grebe, Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Pacific Heron, White-faced Heron, Rufous Night-heron, Straw-necked Ibis, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Maned Duck, Black-shouldered Kite, Pacific Baza (Crested Hawk), Australian Kestrel, Dusky Moorhen, Purple Swamphen, Black-fronted Plover, Black-winged Stilt, Peaceful Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Common Bronzewing, Crested Pigeon, Galah, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Common Koel, Channel-billed Cuckoo, White-throated Needle-tail, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Dollarbird, Richard's Pipit, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Cicadabird, Leaden Flycatcher, Willie Wagtail, Clamorous Reed Warbler, Superb Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, White-throated Gerygone, Striped Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Scarlet Honeyeater, Mistletobird, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, House Sparrow, Red-browed Firetail, Double-barred Finch, Common Starling, Common Mynah, Olive-backed Oriole, Figbird, Magpie-lark, Pied Butcherbird, Magpie, Pied Currawong, Crow. 63 species.

Hood's Lagoon

Australasian Grebe, Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Glossy Ibis, Sacred Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Black Swan, Pacific Black duck, Grey Teal, Australasian Shoveller, Pink-eared Duck, Hardhead, Maned Duck, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Purple Swamphen, Black-tailed Native-hen, Eurasian Coot, Comb-crested Jacana, Painted Snipe, Masked Lapwing, Red-kneed Dotterel, Black-winged Stilt, Latham's Snipe, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Crested Pigeon, Pale-headed Rosella, Pallid Cuckoo, Common Koel, Rainbow Bee-eater, Welcome Swallow, Fairy Martin, Richard's Pipit, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Willie Wagtail, Golden-headed Cisticola, Little Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Common Starling, Magpie-lark, Crow. 43 species

Total species 85

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MEMBER'S BIRD NOTES

Black-faced Shag. 1.10.82. Wallaroo. PM, TR.  
Crested Hawk. 28.11.82. Withcott. AHS.  
Black-breasted Buzzard. 29.9.82. Kinchega Nat. Park. PM, TR.  
Malleefowl. 5.10.82. Wiperfeld Nat. Park. PM, TR.  
Black-tailed Native-hen (1). 28.11.82. Hood's Lagoon. MJ, SP, LB,  
PB, RRB.  
" " (3). 4.12.82. Karrasch's Lagoon. MA, TR, TV.  
Painted Snipe (3). 21.11.82. Hood's Lagoon. LB.  
" " 28.11.82. " " AHS, LB, PB, RRB.  
Latham's Snipe. 28.11.82. Hood's Lagoon. MJ, SP.

MEMBER'S BIRD NOTES CONT'D

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. 28.11.82. Hood's Lagoon. AHS.  
 White-winged Tern. 5.11.82. Coolmunda Dam. BF, TR, TV.  
 Brown Cuckoo-dove (6). 28.10.82. Rangeview. JEC.  
 Emerald Dove. 21.11.82. Redwood. LB.  
 Glossy Black Cockatoo (8). 29.10.82. Rangeview. JEC.  
 Red-rumped Parrot (2). 13.10.82. Debra St., T'mba. JEC.  
 Regent Parrot. 4.10.82. Wiperfeld Nat. Park. PM, TR.  
 Shining Bronze-cuckoo. 6.11.82. Redwood. LB.  
 Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike. 25.11.82. Redwood. LB, PB.  
 Crested Shrike-tit. 26/27.11.82. Redwood. LB, PB, RRB.  
 Chestnut Quail-thrush. 5.10.82. Wiperfeld Nat. Park. PM, TR.  
 Yellow Thornbill. 29.11.82. Memory St., T'mba. MA.  
 Yellow-rumped Pardalote. 5.10.82. Wiperfeld Nat. Park. PM, TR.  
 Little Woodswallow. 2.12.82. Murphy's Creek. MA.  
 Grey Currawong. 5.10.82. Wiperfeld Nat. Park. PM, TR.

MA: Michael Atzeni, LB: Lesley Ball, PB: Peggie Beaton, RRB: Roy Beaton, JEC: Jim Corbin, BF: Brian Foulis, MJ: Marilyn Jacobs, M: Pat McConnell, SP: Sandy Pottinger, TR: Terry Reis, AHS: Ann Shore, TV: Tony Venaglia.

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FIELD DAY FOR JANUARY 1983

This is to give you plenty of warning of a change in date for the January outing. We have arranged to join the Q.O.S. on their January camp-out at the Bunya Mountains on the Australia Day weekend. This is the last weekend of the month not the 4th as we normally have.

John Moverley is the Q.O.S. leader and will be arranging a group camping permit for the Burtons Well area which is 7km towards Kingaroy from the main camping area. As it is a long weekend it would be wise to arrive early as sites cannot be reserved. John will be recognisable by his green Subaru four-wheel drive with a Q.O.S. sticker. Lesley and John Ball from our Club should be there early Friday evening and have a green Valiant Utility, reg. no. OGW 554.

For day-trippers there will be a 9.30am meet at Burtons Well. More details next news-sheet.

Please phone Marilyn Jacobs if you are thinking of going so that you will be expected.

*John + Lesley Ball + Roy + Peggy Beaton  
 Roy + Audrey Viljoen*

January 29th - 31st, Bunya Mountains.

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PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

BIRDS. Autumn 1982. (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds magazine)  
 The Bird Observer. October & November 1982. (newsletter of the Bird Observers' Club)  
 Urimbirra. October & November 1982. (newsletter of the Chinchilla Field Naturalists' Club)

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 + THE TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB ++  
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+ Annual Subscription: (due on January 1st each year) +  
 + \$8.00 - ordinary/family membership; \$4.00 - students +  
 + Deadline for news-sheet articles: This is the fourth Sunday of +  
 + the month and coincides with the field day. It may be +  
 + handed to any member of the executive or mailed to the +  
 + Editor. +  
 + Field Day: normally this is the fourth Sunday of the month, +  
 + excluding December. For more details get in touch with +  
 + the Secretary. +  
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FOOTROT FLATS (STOLEN FROM THE "CHRONICLE" 10.11.82.)  
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SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

The Secretary,  
 Toowoomba Bird Club,  
 P.O. Box 67, DARLING HEIGHTS. Q. 4350

Please renew my membership of the Toowoomba Bird Club for the year 1983. I enclose a fee of \$8.00 (\$4.00 for students)

Signed: .....  
 Name: Mr/Ms .....  
 Address: .....  
 .....