

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

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NEWS-SHEET No. 85 - JANUARY 1983

What a hectic month January has been for the executive. There are three major events on the calendar which all have to be organized within a short space of time.

Apologies on behalf of Michael who is away in Brisbane, which has meant that the bird count summary, although completed, did not reach me in time for the newsletter deadline. Unfortunately, it means also that 'Members' Bird Notes' and 'New Toowoomba Bird' are a bit on the scimpy side this month. Hopefully all will be rectified next month. (By the way, there is another new bird.)

The three events I mentioned before are i) the Australia Day weekend camp-out; ii) voting for the new logo; and iii) the Hobby-n-Craft Spectacular.

i) Australia Day Camp-out

In the December news-sheet I gave pre-warning about our camp-out this month. It has meant a change in our routine, but I think it will be well worth it. We are joining the Q.O.S. and will meet more people with similar interests and see lots of great birds. At least four couples have been in touch with Marilyn to say they will be camping.

On Sunday, 30th January, the T.B.C. will meet at 9.30 am at Burtons Well so that those members who only wish to go for a day will have plenty of time to get to the Bunyas. Whether you intend to camp or only go for the day, please let Marilyn know so that you will be expected.

Recognition of John Moverley, the Q.O.S. leader, is by his green Subaru 4-wheel drive with a Q.O.S. sticker. Lesley and John Ball should be at Burtons Well by early Friday evening. They have a green Valiant utility reg. no. OGW 554.

Ann Shore is hoping to find a lift for the Sunday as John is unable to go that day. Please contact Ann if you are able to help her.

Hope to see you there!

EDITORIAL CONT'D

ii) New Club Logo

In answer to the A.G.M. request for new logo ideas, the executive have since received two designs. Our thanks to Roy Beaton and Shane Brady for their submissions.

You will find both these designs on page 6 plus a voting form. It is important that your views be known so register your choice as soon as possible. You have until the 4th of February and I've conveniently put a subscription slip on the back for those who aren't up to date on their membership.

iii) "Hobby-n-Craft Spectacular"

1983 is the seventh year that the Rotary Club of Toowoomba South is holding its Hobby-n-Craft Spectacular. This year the T.B.C. is going to have a stand at the show. It is on the weekend of the 18th, 19th and 20th of February.

Our main aim is to let the people of Toowoomba know that there is a Bird Club. We also hope that we may get a few new members and interest the public in birding generally.

The display will consist of an audio-visual program, posters and photographs of birds and T.B.C. outings.

So far all expenses for this venture have been donated as the club is not in a position to support it, with its limited finances. The greatest problem, however, is making sure that the display is staffed at all times. We would like members to help us by volunteering their time. The hours are:-

Friday, 18.2.83.	5 - 9 pm.
Saturday, 19.2.83.	9 am. - 10 pm.
Sunday, 20.2.83.	9 am. - 5 pm.

If you can spare an hour or more please phone Marilyn.

We don't need great experts in the field of ornithology, just members who are friendly and helpful. Any tricky queries can be passed on to experienced members. It is important that there is always somebody who can encourage any interest and answer general questions. Please don't leave it up to the same four or five people who will have to put in a large amount of time. An hour or two on a weekend is all we ask.

Back to more normal business, thanks to those people who are sending in some fine articles. I have one or two up my sleeve now which makes my job so much easier. Over the next couple of months we have the Bird Census Summary and the Annual Summary. These are large articles and it means that space is limited, so if your article seems to have been forgotten, please have patience. It will be printed and most welcome as well.

Lesley Ball, Editor

NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRD

235. Freckled Duck                      Hood's Lagoon.                      a pair

That is all the information I have I'm afraid, full details will be in next month.

NORTHERN QUEENSLAND SUCCESS

During August, Brian Foulis and myself undertook a trip to the Cairns region as far north as Daintree River. The trip was for 15 days in which our species list reached 232. We spent our second night at Mt. Spec, where the local shop cum cafe has a feeding table which Victoria's Riflebirds and Spotted Catbirds use. The birds have become quite approachable and we spent a very pleasant breakfast watching them and other species. From Mt. Spec we continued on to Cairns via Mission Beach, well known for its cassowaries. We were fortunate to catch a poor glimpse of one bird just off the road but later in the trip obtained very close and slightly daunting views of these spectacular birds.

Once in Cairns we spent considerable time at the Botanical Gardens and the adjacent Centenary Lakes which provide easy and accessible yet rewarding birdwatching. From Cairns we made short trips west to Georgetown and north to Julatten and Daintree. We went to Georgetown in the hope of escaping the rain which dogged our stay around Cairns. We certainly succeeded in this, as the country was very dry with the areas surrounding the few waterholes being practically devoid of grass. It certainly made a contrast to the incredible lushness of the coast.

At Daintree we were kindly allowed the use of a rowboat by the local teahouse and proceeded up a small creek. Thus we obtained our solitary sighting of a Great-billed Heron. On the Daintree itself, from the comfort of a cruise boat we saw a Little Kingfisher and three Broad-billed Flycatchers.

We stayed several nights at the Julatten Caravan Park with the aim of seeing the resident Red-necked Rail. On the third night the rail duly trotted out of the scrub and strolled around the waterhole giving a close if rather dark view. On the whole, our stay in the Cairns area was made much more enjoyable and rewarding by the chance meeting of four birdwatchers who proceeded to show us around. With their local knowledge we saw such species as Boatbills, White-eared Monarchs and Mangrove Robins among others, that we might not have seen otherwise.

I would certainly and probably unnecessarily recommend this area to any birdwatcher.

Terry Reis

Truncated Species List: (en route/Cairns/Georgetown)

Emu	Spotted Harrier
Southern Cassowary	Marsh Harrier
Great-billed Heron	Orange-footed Scrubfowl
Eastern Reef Egret	Brown Quail
Striated Heron	Red-chested Button-Quail
Rufous Night Heron	Buff-banded Rail
Black-necked Stork	Red-necked Crake
Wandering Whistling-Duck	Bush-hen
Magpie Goose	Brolga
Cotton Pygmy-Goose	Sarus Crane
Green Pygmy-Goose	Australian Bustard
Osprey	Bush Thick-knee
Black Kite	Beach Thick-knee
Black-breasted Buzzard	Mongolian Plover
Brahminy Kite	Large Sand Plover
Whistling Kite	Grey-tailed Tattler
Brown Goshawk	Terek Sandpiper
Collared Sparrowhawk	Black-tailed Godwit
Grey Goshawk	Great Knot
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Broad-billed Sandpiper

NORTHERN QUEENSLAND SUCCESS CONT'D

Australian Pratincole	Lovely Fairy-wren
Lesser Crested Tern	Fernwren
Wompoo Pigeon	Atherton Scrubwren
Topknot Pigeon	Large-billed Gerygone
Emerald Dove	Fairy Gerygone
Squatter Pigeon	Varied (Striated) Sitella
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo	Little Treecreeper
Red-winged Parrot	Helmeted Friarbird
Little Bronze-Cuckoo	Yellow-throated Miner
Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo	Macleay's Honeyeater
Barn Owl	Yellow-spotted Honeyeater
White-rumped Swiftlet	Graceful Honeyeater
Little Kingfisher	Bridled Honeyeater
Blue-winged Kookaburra	Singing Honeyeater
Red-backed Kingfisher	Varied Honeyeater
Collared Kingfisher	Yellow Honeyeater
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	Yellow-tinted Honeyeater
White's Thrush	Brown-backed Honeyeater
Mangrove Robin	Rufous-throated Honeyeater
Pale-Yellow Robin	Banded Honeyeater
White-browed Robin	Yellow-billed Sunbird
Grey-headed Robin	Crimson Finch
Grey Whistler	Black-throated Finch
Little Shrike-thrush	Nutmeg Mannikin
Bower's Shrike-thrush	Metallic Starling
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher	Yellow Oriole
Yellow-breasted Boatbill	Great Bowerbird
White-eared Monarch	Spotted Bowerbird
Pied Monarch	Spotted Catbird
Broad-billed Flycatcher	Victoria's Riflebird
Shining Flycatcher	Little Woodswallow
Chowchilla	Black Butcherbird

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TASMANIA TO TOOWOOMBA

Our stay in Tasmania came sadly to an end. Our last two new sightings being for Roy a Rufous-tailed Bronze-Cuckoo and for me a Fantailed Cuckoo - a very accurate sighting, this latter, as it knocked itself out on the window of the homestead, allowing me a really good look at it!

On arriving back on the mainland we went and stayed in the Dandenongs, visiting Sherbrooke Forest hoping to see a Lyrebird but though we heard them we saw none. However, new sightings here were an Eastern Whipbird both male and female and the lively inquisitive Eastern Yellow Robin.

A few days at Mittagong included a visit to the Barren Grounds Reserve where we heard the Bristlebirds but saw only the Pilotbird. At Hoskins Reserve between Mittagong and Bowral we saw the Red-rumped Parrots and the Golden-headed Cisticola. A skitter through the reeds was a Marsh Crake.

In Toowoomba we had the pleasure of going on the last Field Outing of the year with the T.B.C. and met many people who had been only names in the newsletter. We had a very enjoyable day and added to our personal list of new sightings with the pretty little Jacana, Painted Snipe, the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Latham's Snipe and Australian Native Hen.

Early morning visits with Lesley to Redwood Park and Prince Henry Drive added the Varied Triller and the Crested Shrike-tit.

TASMANIA TO TOOWOOMBA CONT'D

And now on the sixth floor of a unit block on the river at St. Lucia in Brisbane we are doing an interesting variation to backyard bird-watching by 'Balcony Birdwatching' and are practically in the upper canopy set of birds and have added the White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike and the Hooded Robin to our list of new sightings.

Peggie Beaton

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FIELD DAY OUTINGS FOR 1983

Write these dates down on your calendar today, so that you will be able to join us for an enjoyable morning or longer.

January	29-31st	camp-out at Bunya Mountains
February	27th	
March	27th	
April	24th	
May	22nd	
June	26th	
July	24th	
August	28th	
September	25th	
October	18th	Annual General Meeting
	22-23rd	Annual Bird Census
November	27th	Last outing and break-up picnic

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FIELD DAY FOR JANUARY

Camp-out:

Date: 29th-31st January, 1983. Place: Bunya Mountains  
 Assembly Point: Burtons Well.  
 Time: not specified.

Day trip:

Date: Sunday 30th January, 1983. Place: Bunya Mountains  
 Assembly Point: Burtons Well  
 Time: 9.30 a.m.

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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: .....

.....

THE TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB

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.

NEW LOGO DESIGNS

This is your chance to vote for a new design to head our newsletter. Choose the design you like then tick one box as we are using the 'first passed the post' system.

All votes have to be received by the executive by Friday 4th February as counting is on the 5th.

Hand your vote to any member of the executive or post to the Secretary. If there are more than one member in your family, please use a slip of paper to register any extra votes.

DESIGN A



DESIGN B



DESIGN C

Original logo

My choice for the Toowoomba Bird Club Logo is:-

DESIGN A

DESIGN B

DESIGN C

only tick one box