

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

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NEWS-SHEET No. 86 - FEBRUARY 1983

January's camp-out at the Bunya Mountains was very successful. There were twelve campers for all or part of the week-end and four day trippers on the Sunday. Because of its success at bringing some of our members out of hiding we are organizing another camp-out at Giraween National Park in March. More about that and the camp-out report later in the news-sheet.

Our new logo is to be Design A of the three designs printed in last months news-sheet. A total of twenty-three votes were received from interested members; just over half of them voted for the new design. Unfortunately I have not been able to get my act together quickly enough to have it ready at the top of this issue. Next month, when life, hopefully, will be a little less hectic for me, I should be able to arrange it.

The big news this month is, of course, the 'Hobby-n-Craft Spectacular' which is on the week-end of the 18th to 20th February. Marilyn has been delighted with the response for offers to help, however, another couple of volunteers to help man the display would be welcome.

This month we have the Annual Bird Census Summary as a supplement, therefore the number of articles that can be printed in this issue has to be curtailed quite drastically. Especially as there is a large number of members' bird notes.

Lesley Ball, Editor

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NEW TOOWOOMBA BIRD

These are the promised details from last month.

235. Freckled Duck (Stictonetta naevosa). 3.1.83. Hood's Lagoon.
Michael Atzeni, Pat McConnell.

Two birds. Dark greyish-brown, uniformly freckled with pale greyish-buff; distinct peak at back of crown; bill prominently scooped above giving the appearance of a high forehead.

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AN UNNERVING EXPERIENCE CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOO (SCYTHROPS NOVREHOLLANDIRE)

Recently, while birding alone in Echo Valley, I was endeavouring to pick my way silently along a path on the rim of the Valley when I was suddenly startled by a series of loud harsh calls coming from above. On looking up I discovered I was being 'circled' by two Channel-billed Cuckoos.

The birds were obviously resenting my presence and showed no fear of me and eventually settled in the branches of a large gum tree under which I was standing and I was obliged to lay down on my back to better observe them.

They stayed in the branches above me for five minutes or more, turning their heads sideways and peering down at me with one baleful red-rimmed eye, periodically giving their loud startling calls. I was amazed at the volume of the call as compared to the size of the bird.

Eventually deciding that I was harmless and that they had scared the daylight out of me (which they had) they took off and glided down the slope giving me an excellent view of their cross position in flight.

Neville Cayley states their call to be "loud - awesome - screaming - difficult to describe" - and he is right!

Normally I am not much good at recognizing birds by their calls, except the commoner variety but there is now one bird whose call I recognize instantly.

Joe Deuble

--ooOoo--

FIELD DAY REPORT - BUNYA MOUNTAINS 28.1./31.1.83

As mentioned earlier, sixteen members managed to get to the Bunya Mountains for all or part of the Australia Day Week-end. The weather was fine and hot with early morning fog. Q.O.S. also had a turn out of about sixteen members and that's not counting those people that belong to both clubs.

Friday evening and Saturday morning everybody was getting themselves sorted out and set up, but by 2 p.m. Saturday, John Moverley of Q.O.S. had a walk organized for Ghinghion Lookout which was well attended and gave everybody a chance to meet and make friends. Many birds were seen on this pleasant walk winding through rainforest and skirting the steep western side of the range. It was heart-breakingly dry, so that when we came to the only pool of water on that particular walk there was quite a flurry of bird activity. Ray Viljoen took full advantage of this situation to set up his hide and camera equipment. He and John Walters spent the whole week-end in this little sweat-box, emerging only to eat and sleep. They believe their results will be well worth the effort, however.

Sunday and Monday, people tended to strike off in their own directions, after their particular kind of interest. We all gathered at the camp fire in the evenings to swap yarns, congratulate or commiserate.

Lack of space does not allow me to print the outing's bird list, but I hope this may be included in a news-sheet in the near future.

Those attending were - Michael Atzeni, Lesley and John Ball, Roy and Peggie Beaton, John and Shirley Gregor, Ann Gardiner (visitor), Marilyn Jacobs, Pat McConnell, Sandy, Margot and Bert Pottinger, Vera Simon, Ray and Audrey Viljoen.

Lesley Ball

--ooOoo--

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Water Whistling-Duck. 15.1.83. Hood's Lagoon. MA, BF, PM, TR.
Freckled Duck. (2). 5.1.83. Hood's Lagoon. MA, LB.
" " (5). 15.1.83. Hood's Lagoon. BF, PM, TR.
" " (3). 30.1.83. Hood's Lagoon. MA, BF, PM.
" " (5). 9.1.83. Karrasch's Lagoon. MA, BF, PM, TR.
" " (1). 15.1.83. Karrasch's Lagoon. MA.
" " (8). 30.1.83. Karrasch's Lagoon. MA, BF, PM.
Square-tailed Kite. 11.12.82. St. George. MA, BF, TR, TV.
Black Falcon. (2). 17.1.83. Umbiram. MA.
Painted Button-Quail. 27.12.82. Collier St. (Pistol Range). MJ, SP.
Buff-banded Rail. 28/29.12.82. Lion's Park. LB, PB, RRB.
Wandering Tattler. 20.11.82. Pt. Lookout, Nth. Stradbroke. BF, PM, TR.
Asian Dowitcher. 14.11.82. Lytton. BF, PM, TR.
Painted Snipe. 11.12.82. Hood's Lagoon. LB, JB.
" " 3.1.83. Hood's Lagoon. MA, PM.
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. 23.12.82. Echo Valley. JD.
Pallid Cuckoo. 23.12.82. Echo Valley. JD.
Channel-billed Cuckoo. (2). 10.1.83. Echo Valley. JD.
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike. 22.12.82. St. Lucia, Brisbane. PB, RRB
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater. 8.12.82. West St., South. MJ.
Blue-faced Honeyeater. 7.1.83. Echo Valley. JD.

MA: Michael Atzeni, JB: John Ball, LB: Lesley Ball, PB: Peggie Beaton,
RRB: Roy Beaton, JD: Joe Deuble, BF: Brian Foulis, MJ: Marilyn Jacobs,
PM: Pat McConnell, SP: Sandy Pottinger, TR: Terry Reis, TV: Tony
Venaglia.

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FIELD DAYS FOR THE FIRST THIRD OF THE YEAR

Over the past couple of months members of the executive have been able to visit club members and ask them what it is that appeals in an outing. As you can guess there was a wide variety of replies. So to try and accommodate these we're going to try a variety of outing types. Sometimes they will be shorter outings consisting of visiting one place and walking for an hour or two, having morning tea and then dispersing to go our separate ways. Another time we may go for a drive, stopping at different places to get a greater variety of birds and habitats. Also we shall try and organize more camp-outs as a number of members enjoy these. So for February, March and April the following is arranged (due to varying circumstances this could be changed at short notice).

February 27th. Redwood Park. - a morning walk.

March 25th-27th. Giraween N.P. camp-out.

April 24th. Flagstone Creek. - drive.

For February:

Date: 27th February, 1983. Sunday. Place: Redwood Park

Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park.

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

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NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Margo and Bert Pottinger, 140 Tourist Rd., Toowoomba.
Introduced to the club by Sandy Pottinger.

--ooOoo--

7th ANNUAL BIRD CENSUS - TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB - 23/24.10.82.

The Toowoomba Bird Club's seventh annual census was performed over the weekend 23/24.10.82. covering the club's official area as illustrated in the supplement of News-sheet No.82.

To the credit of the 22 people who volunteered their time to participate over both days or part thereof, this census has been the most productive to date, with a total of 7096 birds counted consisting of 144 species. This is another 238 birds and 10 species more than the previous highest count in 1979. Compared with 1981 it represents an extra 1613 birds and 15 species. These extra species were mainly waterbirds (12 more species than 1981) but the increase in overall numbers is far greater than the totals of these waterbirds and no doubt is influenced by a number of variables especially effort and time spent by each group. The prolonged dry spell certainly did not lend itself to an increased bird population. Therefore, we see the difficulty in comparing different census results and interpreting fluctuations. In future counts it would be useful to try and standardize the length of time spent counting in any one sector to make comparisons more reliable.

To the 22 participants, sincere thanks are extended for making it a successful and worthwhile census.

The following table summarises the past 6 censuses.

U = Uprange D = Downrange	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>
No. of birds seen	5947	6011	6858	5695	5183	7096
No. of species seen U	104	104	103	119	105	110
" " " D	92	90	105	85	94	116
Species seen U and D	66	73	74	71	70	82
Total no. of species seen	130	128	134	133	129	144
Non-passerine species	65	55	63	59	52	71
Passerine species	65	73	71	74	77	73

Michael Atzeni, Records Officer

Participants: Laurie Atzeni. Michael Atzeni. Lesley Ball. John Ball. Mrs Bartlett. Shane Brady. Ron Colpus. Sr. Patricia Comerford. Graham Corbin. Jane Corbin. Jim Corbin. John Gregor. Ron Hopkinson. Marilyn Jacobs. Pat McConnell. Sandy Pottinger. Terry Reis. Elizabeth Russell. Mike Russell. Ann Shore. John Shore. Andrew Tan. (22)

LIST OF SPECIES AND NUMBERS OBSERVED

	<u>U.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>T.</u>		<u>U.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>T.</u>
Hoary-headed Grebe	-	1	1	Glossy Ibis	-	14	14
Australasian Grebe	3	26	29	Sacred Ibis	39	7	46
Darter	-	2	2	Straw-necked Ibis	154	188	342
Little Pied Cormorant	1	7	8	Royal Spoonbill	-	1	1
Pacific Heron	4	8	12	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	-	4	4
White-faced Heron	22	3	25	Black Swan	-	7	7
Cattle Egret	-	96	96	Pacific Black Duck	15	52	67
Great Egret	-	1	1	Grey Teal	-	121	121
Intermediate Egret	-	8	8	Australasian Shoveller	-	2	2
Rufous Night-heron	1	2	3	Pink-eared Duck	-	14	14

ANNUAL TOOWOOMBA BIRD CENSUS 1982

	<u>U.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>T.</u>		<u>U.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>T.</u>
Hardhead	-	72	72	White-winged Triller	6	9	15
Maned Duck	58	25	83	Varied Triller	2	-	2
Black-shouldered Kite	10	3	13	Eastern Yellow Robin	12	1	13
Square-tailed Kite	-	2	2	Jacky Winter	1	-	1
Wedge-tailed Eagle	-	3	3	Golden Whistler	1	-	1
Marsh Harrier	-	1	1	Rufous Whistler	6	4	10
Brown Falcon	-	1	1	Grey Shrike-thrush	9	3	12
Australian Kestrel	31	6	37	Black-faced Monarch	4	-	4
Aust. Brush-turkey	1	-	1	Spectacled Monarch	5	-	5
Brown Quail	6	-	6	Leaden Flycatcher	3	-	3
Dusky Moorhen	2	22	24	Satin Flycatcher	4	-	4
Purple Swamphen	-	73	73	Restless Flycatcher	-	1	1
Eurasian Coot	-	148	148	Rufous Fantail	9	-	9
Comb-crested Jacana	-	4	4	Grey Fantail	2	-	2
Masked Lapwing	33	29	62	Willie Wagtail	19	44	63
Banded Lapwing	-	3	3	Eastern Whipbird	29	6	35
Red-kneed Dotterel	-	6	6	Grey-crowned Babbler	2	20	22
Black-fronted Plover	-	5	5	Clamorous Reed Warbler	10	10	20
Black-winged Stilt	-	9	9	Golden-headed Cisticola	17	9	26
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	-	6	6	Rufous Songlark	4	3	7
Gurlew Sandpiper	-	1	1	Superb Fairy-wren	31	28	59
Feral Pigeon	181	15	196	Variegated Fairy-wren	15	2	17
Spotted Turtle-dove	3	1	4	Red-backed Fairy-wren	6	4	10
Brown Cuckoo-dove	6	-	6	Large-billed Scrubwren	1	-	1
Peaceful Dove	3	12	15	White-browed Scrubwren	37	4	41
Bar-shouldered Dove	33	20	53	Speckled Warbler	8	6	14
Emerald Dove	1	-	1	Brown Gerygone	12	1	13
Common Bronzewing	-	3	3	White-throated Gerygone	21	13	34
Crested Pigeon	53	38	91	Brown Thornbill	8	1	9
Wonga Pigeon	4	-	4	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	21	28	49
Galah	156	35	191	Striated Thornbill	12	3	15
Rainbow Lorikeet	5	-	5	Varied Sitella	13	-	13
Scaly-breasted L'keet	142	12	154	White-throated Treecreeper	8	-	8
Little Lorikeet	18	2	20	Striped Honeyeater	-	5	5
Aust. King Parrot	1	-	1	Noisy Friarbird	72	10	82
Cockatiel	33	8	41	Little Friarbird	9	42	51
Eastern Rosella	1	-	1	Blue-faced Honeyeater	-	5	5
Pale-headed Rosella	74	22	96	Noisy Miner	243	29	272
Red-rumped Parrot	41	2	43	Lewin's Honeyeater	88	13	101
Pallid Cuckoo	1	8	9	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	10	4	14
Horsfield's Bronze-c'koo	4	-	4	Brown Honeyeater	32	26	58
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	1	-	1	Scarlet Honeyeater	11	2	13
Common Koel	5	9	14	Mistletoebird	2	3	5
Channel-billed Cuckoo	2	3	5	Spotted Pardalote	19	2	21
Pheasant Coucal	7	-	10	Striated Pardalote	57	19	76
White-throated				Silvereye	69	14	83
Needletail	9	-	9	House Sparrow	507	28	535
Azure Kingfisher	-	6	6	Red-browed Firetail	36	2	38
Laughing Kookaburra	69	28	97	Zebra Finch	-	2	2
Sacred Kingfisher	27	15	42	Double-barred Finch	21	95	116
Rainbow Bee-eater	2	52	54	Common Starling	403	190	593
Dollarbird	41	17	58	Common Mynah	164	29	193
White-backed Swallow	-	4	4	Olive-backed Oriole	6	11	17
Welcome Swallow	91	9	100	Figbird	29	16	45
Tree Martin	9	64	73	Spangled Drongo	8	3	11
Fairy Martin	2	369	371	Satin Bowerbird	5	-	5
Richard's Pipit	10	5	15	Regent Bowerbird	1	-	1
Black-faced Cuckoo-				Australian Magpie-lark	81	59	140
shrike	72	21	93	Black-faced Woodswallow	-	2	2
Cicadabird	1	-	1	Dusky Woodswallow	2	-	2

