



NEWS-SHEET No. 91

JULY 1983

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

## toowoomba bird club

### Postal Address

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### Club Officers

President: Marilyn Jacobs.  
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Secretary/Treasurer: Ann Shore.  
"Shorelands", Withcott,  
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Editor: Lesley Ball.  
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### Annual Subscription

Ordinary/Family membership ..... \$8.00  
Student membership ..... \$4.00

### Activities

Field Outing and Monthly Meeting - 4th Sunday of each  
month - usually leave from Pigott's Car Park at  
7.30 am.

Camping trips, film and slide evenings.

### News-sheet

Published monthly, before the outing. Articles have a  
deadline of the last day of the month and should be  
mailed to the editor.

EDITORIAL

Here I am, sitting at my typewriter, on such a beautiful sunny morning. Through the pounding of the keys I can hear bird song from the many inhabitants of mine and my neighbours' gardens. The Figbirds are back and in fine voice, the bell like tones of the Pale-headed Rosellas ring clearly. The Brown Honeyeaters look as if, at long last, they have made my grevilleas their home, and every so often I hear the Lewin's Honeyeater flitting through. The good old Starlings, Sparrows and Mynahs are incessantly chattering. I just love to listen to all that twittering going on around me.

Michael, Pat and Terry are seeking species of the more uncommon kind by going on a 2 to 3 week trip to South Australia. On Sunday, 17th July, they are going on a cruise especially organized for 'birdos'. Hopefully, they will catch good sightings of the oceanic birds that frequent that area (and some that are infrequent, too). Envious though I am, I hope that they have a great time and come back and tell us all about it, maybe with some slides.

CHANGE OF DATE. The film evening arranged for the 22nd July has had to be changed to Thursday, 21st July. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause members, but hope we will get a good turnout. Please support your club. There will be an excellent film on the two Christmas Islands and two other seabird films.

Lesley Ball, Editor

---ooOoo---

ALDERLEY STREET BIRD PARK

The proposal to establish a water bird park in the Alderley - McKenzie Street wetland area is still before the city council. A few aldermen are interested but not all, at present. The interested ones feel that a presentation of visual material showing what birds would be attracted to the area, and also what other, similar areas look like would be of great value in demonstrating to the council just what might be achieved.

To that end Ken Ferrier is seeking assistance in collecting colour slides of water bird types which would use the area. Although, of course, many other Passerine and Non-Passerine species would be attracted, it is simpler to concentrate on the water birds. Also useful would be slides showing other water holes, lagoons, small lakes and wet areas which could be related to our project. Particularly helpful would be pictures of shores and margins showing grasses, reeds and other vegetation of such areas.

If you have colour slides you think might be useful, Ken would like to borrow your slide and make a copy. Your slide would then be returned to you and the copy used in the presentation. Hopefully, a few members can oblige, perhaps even shoot a few frames when you are out and about. Mark your name on the slide mount and pass it to me or any member of the Club executive.

The species envisaged are listed:

Straw-necked Ibis	Yellow-billed Spoonbill
Sacred Ibis	Royal Spoonbill
White-faced Heron	Intermediate Egret (Plumed)
Pacific Heron (White-necked)	Great Egret
Maned Duck (Wood Duck)	Latham's Snipe
Little Pied Cormorant	Hardhead (White-eyed Duck)
Comb-crested Jacana (Lily-trotter)	Black-fronted Plover (Dotterel)

ALDERLEY STREET BIRD PARK CONT'D

Species list cont'd:

Australasian Grebe  
Masked Lapwing (Spur-winged Plover)  
Black Swan  
Purple Swamphen

Dusky Moorhen  
Black Duck  
Grey Teal  
Eurasian Coot  
Black-winged Stilt

Ron Hopkinson

--ooOoo--

MIGRATION OF IBIS

Living at the foot of the Great Dividing Range, looking east towards the Lockyer Valley with a wide expanse of clear sky above, we are well positioned to observe birds flying overhead.

On many occasions we have watched Ibis, mostly of the Straw-necked variety and often in huge flocks, as they fly inland in clearing weather following good falls of rain. First they appear as a smudge on the eastern horizon, coming in over Helidon hills then gradually materialize into skeins of birds, which as they approach us change formation many times while they wheel and circle to take advantage of the thermals and gain height to take them up and over the Range. A spectacular and beautiful sight when they turn, the sun glinting on their white underparts one minute and the next they are almost lost against the clouds, flying strongly and getting smaller by the minute as they climb.

Noticing that these flocks always fly one way, that is inland, westward, gives rise to speculation - just where do they come from and how do they know that just now feeding will be good out west on the Downs - and again, what route do they use flying eastward and do they make that migration also in those vast flocks or slowly in small groups as their habitual damp feeding grounds dry out?

Ann Shore

--ooOoo--

BATTLING THE WIND

There was a gusty south-westerly blowing, and the hawk that went over seemed to float along with little or no effort. At least until our two tame-wild magpies took after him! They are our unofficial pets, that take meat from our hands, dig our worms and use our bird-bath. We, like the trees and garden, are part of their territory.

They shot up like rockets, wings pounding, and in no time, it seemed, they were on the intruder's tail. There was a flurry of movement, with black specks whirling, diving, and climbing, and just a little ahead of them a brown bird of prey doing its best to dodge them. The battle moved away over the range, and presently our two came back, battling that lively, gusty wind.

Wings going double-time, they swooped and veered, soared upward in sudden sharp blasts of wind, and battled and struggled closer. Finally they came down in a long dive, wings still working hard until, it seemed with difficulty, they perched on the topmost branch of a big pine tree, leaning against the wind.

Defending your territory on a windy day can be hard work, and as I watched a flock of White Ibis (Sacred), a mile or so away, battling and swaying and struggling their way towards the west, I thought, the sailors aren't the only ones with problems. Life, in more ways than one, can be hard in the bird world.

Bert Pottinger

PROGRESS IN 1983 --- SPECIES NOT SEEN

A major function of our club is to record the species diversity of our Toowoomba/Helidon area. This is done through the monthly checklists sent to me. The annual species summary has been the final product to date.

This year I have decided to indicate our progress by listing all the species on our checklist which have not been reported in 1983. By doing this, I hope local birders will concentrate their efforts on recording these species for the year. Indeed, there should be that air of satisfaction in knowing your sighting is the first for the year. Make this your incentive!

Many of the 56 species listed have been rarely seen in our area. I have indicated, to the best of my knowledge, the least seen species by placing a number in brackets after them. This number represents the number of times the species has been reported by members, be it a single sighting or an extended stay by the species.

Next month I plan to elaborate on these past sightings in an attempt to pinpoint specific localities.

Species not reported in 1983 as at 9.7.83.

Great Crested Grebe (1)	Turquoise Parrot (1)
Hoary-headed Grebe	Oriental Cuckoo (3)
Pied Cormorant	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
Little Egret (2)	Powerful Owl
Rufous Night-heron	Barking Owl (2)
Little Bittern (1)	Australian Owlet-Nightjar
Black Bittern	White-throated Nightjar
Black-necked Stork (1)	Fork-tailed Swift
Magpie Goose (2)	Red-backed Kingfisher
Mallard (1)	Noisy Pitta
Cotton Pygmy-Goose (1)	Singing Bushlark
Square-tailed Kite	White-winged Triller
Red Goshawk (1)	White's Thrush (2)
Little Eagle	Scarlet Robin (1)
Black Falcon	Red-capped Robin
Brown Quail	Crested Shrike-tit
Little Button-quail	Spotted Quail-thrush (3)
Red-chested Button-quail (1)	Clamorous Reed Warbler
Black-tailed Native-hen (1)	Tawny Grassbird
Marsh Sandpiper (1)	Little Grassbird (1)
Curlew Sandpiper (1)	Rufous Songlark
Silver Gull	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Sooty Tern (1-dead)	Plum-headed Finch
Emerald Dove	White-breasted Woodswallow (1)
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo	Masked Woodswallow
Glossy Black Cockatoo	White-browed Woodswallow
Eastern Rosella	Black-faced Woodswallow

Michael Atzeni

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FIELD DAY REPORT

26.6.83

LIONS PARK, HODGSONVALE  
& STOCKYARD CREEK

Four vehicles, including eight members and a visitor arrived at Figotts car-park on the bitterly cold morning of June the twenty-sixth, ready to embark on the club's June outing. At this point the weather was fine except for a few clouds and if the air temperature had been ten degrees higher, it would have

FIELD DAY REPORT CONT'D

been a very comfortable morning. After deciding that there were no more members coming, we set off to our first port of call, Lions Park. This area yielded little except for a calling Restless Flycatcher and a pair of Little Friarbirds feeding in a blossoming Bottle-Brush. The presence of these birds was betrayed by their calls, the flycatcher's familiar "scissors-grinder" call, and the call of the Friarbird's being a strange "kwok!" note.

On leaving Lions Park a drive was taken in the Preston - Hodgsonvale area, along the road which marks the club's southern boundary. This area also yielded little but a lone Black Duck. Gradually we moved out of the club area, and the slack bird-watching up until this point was more than made up for by the discovery of a feeding party consisting of various Honeyeaters and other birds. Small birds with short repeated "chit" calls revealed themselves to be Brown-headed Honeyeaters, while a Brown Cuckoo-dove was sighted by some people. Among other birds seen here were Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, White-naped Honeyeaters, Little Lorikeets, and a Grey Shrike-Thrush.

Continuing onwards we merged with the Stockyard Creek road where a stop was made. This stop was quite interesting as not many members had been to this area before. Among the birds seen were a male Superb Fairy-wren and a party of Double-barred Finches.

All members will know that the Red Goshawk is a very rare bird and so a drive up Kenedy's road where they had been seen only a matter of days prior seemed a very good idea. But unfortunately the road came to a homestead where we were told that the road ahead was too boggy to be traversed. Therefore we could not reach the place where the hawk had been observed and consequently the elusive Goshawk remained unseen. By this time the weather had become quite nasty and the cold winds persuaded us to head into Helidon. After a small chat near Helidon's War Memorial, each vehicle went its own way. The Red Goshawk had gone unsighted, but in my opinion the morning still provided a very enjoyable outing.

Don Gaydon

Members in attendance: Micheal Atzeni, Lesley Ball, Roy & Peggie Beston, Ron Colpus, Graham and Jane Corbin, Peter Green (visitor), Don Gaydon.

Species in club Area: Pacific Black Duck, Dusky Moorhen, Masked Lapwing, Feral Pigeon, Spotted Turtledove, Galah, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Restless Flycatcher, Willie Wagtail, Brown Thornbill, Little Friarbird, Noisy Miner, House Sparrow, Sterling, Common Nyna, Figbird, Maggie-lark, Aust. Magpie, Crow, Pied Currawong.

Species out of club Area: White-faced Heron, Black-shouldered Kite, Nankeen Kestrel, Feral Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-dove, Crested Pigeon, Galah, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, Cockatiel, Pale-headed Rosella, Laughing Kookaburra, Richards Pipit, Black-

FIELD DAY REPORT CONT'D

Species out of club Area cont'd:

Red-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, Jacky Winter, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-Thrush, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Eastern Whipbird, Superb Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrub-wren, Brown Thornbill, White-throated Tree-creeper, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Lewins Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Silvereye, Double-barred Finch, Starling, Figbird, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Aust. Magpie, Pied Currawong, Torresian Crow.

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MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

White-chinned Petrel. 25.6.83. Sydney. BF, PM, TR.  
Australian Pelican (17). 11. 5.83. over Jennifer Cres., T'mba.  
RW, VW.  
Pacific Baza. 15.5.83. Grantham. MA, BF, DG, PM.  
" " 15.6.83. over D.D.I.A.E. MA.  
" " (2). 4.7.83. Hodgson Vale. MA, SA.  
Peregrine Falcon. 25.6.83. Kennedy's Rd., via Stockyard. MA, DC,  
DG.  
Painted Button-Quail (3). 7.7.83. Helidon Hills. MA, LB.  
Black-breasted Button-Quail. 30.5.83. Ravensbourne N.P. PM.  
Arctic Tern. 12.6.83. Stradbroke Is. BF, PM, TR.  
Squatter Pigeon (4). 7.7.83. Helidon. MA, LB.  
White-headed Pigeon (2). 10.6.83. Bridge & Ruthven St cnr. JD.  
13.5.83. Margaret & Mary St cnr. DG.  
Swift Parrot. 15.5.83. Atkinson's Dam. TR.  
Barking Owl. 22.4.83. Mundubbera. PM.  
Sooty Owl. 10.5.83. Mt. Nebo. TR.  
Azure Kingfisher. 8.6.83. Big Oakey Creek, Withcott. AHS, JAS.  
MA: Michael Atzeni, SA: Simon Atzeni, LB: Lesley Ball, DC: Dean Collins, JD: Joe Deuble, BF: Brian Foulis, DG: Don Gaydon, PM: Pat McConnell, TR: Terry Reis, AHS: Ann Shore, JAS: John Shore, RW: Ron Wilson, VW: Viv Wilson.

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FILM EVENING

When: Thursday, 21st July 1983 at 7.30 pm.  
Where: Main Room, Toowoomba Education Centre, Baker St, T'mba.  
What: 3 films, mainly featuring seabirds; one excellent film on the two Christmas Islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Refreshments and a chat afterwards.  
Members, please bring a plate.

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FIELD OUTING FOR JULY

Date: Sunday, 24th July 1983. Place: Murphy's Creek and Helidon Siding

Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park  
Time: 7.15 am. for departure at 7.30 am. sharp.

We hope to have a short walk around the Spring Bluff area on this outing, depending on the weather.

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TRANSPORT for either the film evening or the outing may be arranged through Ann on 30 3207.