



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

toowoomba bird club

Postal Address

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Club Officers

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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 dead-
line of the last day of the month and should be mailed to
the editor.

EDITORIAL

This is only February and already my birding year has been very busy. It started with the S.S.S. month of January, and being on holiday I was one of the lucky ones able to get to every sub-division of our study area. Very rewarding it was too, as I managed to see some birds that I hadn't seen in those places before.

Then our January outing was well attended with some long-time members and recently subscribed members getting together. It is how the Executive envisage these outings; a time for novice and experienced birdos to meet and share their knowledge, perhaps take people to new birding areas, and in general have a pleasant time. Which is exactly what happened this time.

Next I went on one of these sea-birding jaunts off the coast of Queensland. As I don't get down to the coast very often I thought this was a beaut opportunity for me to see birds normally inaccessible to the average birdo. I was not wrong! At the obscene hour of 4.00am. I arrived at the Manly wharf to meet with thirteen other loonies. We promptly boarded and headed out to sea. For approximately seven hours we went due east, between Moreton and Stradbroke Islands, across the bar and out into the Pacific Ocean.

The forecast had been for choppy seas, they were, so inevitably I was sea-sick! This was a pity as I turned green whenever they stopped the boat to observe flocks of birds more closely. Next time I will take a sea-sickness tablet before I go. And there will be a next time, as practically every bird I saw was a new sighting for me. I'd never seen Shearwaters before and I saw three species of them, Skuas, Petrels and Terns.

The most exciting sighting was the Gould's Petrel which skimmed the water close to the boat. It is rarely seen on the coast of Queensland and everybody was highly excited. It was a great thrill to see this beautiful and delicate bird.

For all you 'tickers' out there the trip is well worth it. The cost is \$30 for a tiring but full day. (I had twelve hours on the water.) You take your own lunch and drinks and sit back to view some magnificent birds.

Lesley Beaton, Editor

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ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT CONTINUED

(The story so far Roy is trying to buy himself a good pair of binoculars, similar to his wife's light 8x40's.)

I picked up a very small pair which nestled very comfortably between thumb and fingertips of one hand. In their closed working position they slipped easily into a trouser pocket. The only thing that wasn't small about them was the price tag. They were of a top quality Japanese manufacturer for the Bushnell Optical Co., a division of Bausch & Lomb of Pasadena, California. The specification was 7x26 with a seven degree field of view, which at the time meant very little, but when tested were excellent, plus the short focus feature.

I was so pleased with my new find that I lost little time in showing them off.

Incidentally, if anyone is interested in these binoculars, there was a supplement to "The Bird Observer" of October 83 which the Club

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT CONT'D

undoubtedly will have a copy, and I also brought up from Brisbane some catalogues to be held by our Secretary, Ann Shore, just to whet your appetites.

In conclusion let me say it does depend very much on the individual's involvement in birdwatching. If you only do it now and again then it's not likely you'll want to be in this league of binoculars. As far as Peggie and I are concerned and with the nomadic lifestyle we lead, there would hardly be a day go by when we are not doing some 'birding'. We often take them shopping - just on the off-chance.

So for those who may be involved at some time in the purchase of a new pair of binoculars, or who want to set up their present pair, the following is a condensed version from the Bausch & Lomb instruction leaflet.

1. Bring the binocular barrels together or apart until the two pictures, as seen through the eyepieces, merge into one.
2. You'll notice a graduated scale on one of the eyepieces. This adjusts to accommodate eyes of unequal vision. The scale should be set at 'zero' before you begin focussing. Sight through the binoculars on an object about 500ft away, preferably something with plenty of fine detail such as a sign with small letters, a bush or a tree. Most important - KEEP BOTH EYES OPEN, place your hand or a card over the front lens on the same side as the adjustable eyepiece, and rotate the knurled focussing wheel in the centre of the two barrels until you see the sharpest detail.
3. Then transfer your hand or card to the other front lens - still with both eyes open - and without touching the focussing wheel, rotate the adjustable eyepiece one way or the other until the picture is again sharp and clear.

You now have adjusted the binoculars to your particular eye characteristics. You need do this focussing only once.

N.B. We stress keeping both eyes open while making these adjustments because closing one eye while focussing tends to strain and pull the muscle of the open eye, causing the final setting to be inaccurate.

Roy Beaton

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T.B.C. Accounts 1982 - 83

As mentioned in issue 94 the summary of accounts would be published when the auditor returned them. They are as follows:-

<u>Income</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Opening balance as at 18.10.82.		\$ 70.21
Membership subscriptions (30 @ \$8.00, 2 @ \$4.00, 1 @ \$3.00)		251.00
Donations		24.30
Bank Interest		3.59
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Printing and paper	\$168.40	
Postage	63.60	
Subs. to Toowoomba Education Centre	25.00	
Subs. to "Birds" magazine	16.16	
Fed. Govt. tax on cheques	1.10	
Rental & key for mail box 67	30.30	

T.B.C. ACCOUNTS 1982 - 83 CONT'D

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Miscellaneous	\$ 19.97	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$324.53	\$349.10
Add recording errors re:-		
Banking 4.1.83.		2.00
Banking 30.3.83.		12.00
		<hr/>
		363.10
Less expenditure		324.53
		<hr/>
Balance as per statement		\$ 38.57

N.A. Hughes
Hon. Auditor
7.12.83.

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FIELD DAY REPORT - HELIDON (SUBDIVISION 7) 22.1.84.

A large group of 19 people including 3 visitors and 3 new members, enjoyed the first outing for 1984 to the Helidon area. Some species we'd hoped to see along the Seventeen Mile Road proved very elusive and the variety of birds seen was fairly disappointing, but good sightings of a Wedge-tailed Eagle, a male Rufous Whistler and Varied Sitella plus a pleasant walk to a shaded waterhole made our first stop quite enjoyable.

We later split into several groups, one continuing along the road in search of Fuscous Honeyeaters, another moving to Hood's Lagoon in an unsuccessful attempt to locate the newest addition to our Toowoomba bird list, the Musk Duck, and the remainder to the shady Helidon rest area for a welcome 'cuppa'. Some excellent birding was had by one group as they headed home via the old Toowoomba Road, Postman's Ridge. They were rewarded with good sightings of Chestnut-breasted Mannikins and Brown-headed Honeyeaters.

Members present: Michael Atzeni, Lesley Beaton, Ron Colpus, Jane and Graham Corbin, Joe Deuble, Don Gaydon, Gloria Glass, Marilyn Jacobs, Angela Kilmartin, Lydia Lyndon, Dell Proud, Ann and Craig Shore and Aino and Christine Tuppurainen.

Marilyn Jacobs

Species list:

Helidon (Subdivision 7): Wedge-tailed Eagle, Feral Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Crested Pigeon, Pale-headed Rosella, Pheasant Coucal, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Dollarbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Cicadabird, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Leaden Flycatcher, Willie Wagtail, Superb Fairy-wren, Weebill, Brown Thornbill, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Varied Sitella, White-throated Treecreeper, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Fuscous Honeyeater, White-throated Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, Sparrow, Red-browed Firetail, Zebra Finch, Double-barred Finch, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Common Mynah, Oriole, Figbird, Magpie-lark, Magpie, Crow, Koel, Tawny Frogmouth, Whipbird, Red-backed Wren. 48 species.

Hood's Lagoon (Subdivision 7): A'asian Grebe, Little Pied Cormorant,

FIELD DAY REPORT CONT'D

Cattle Egret, Straw-necked Ibis, Plumed Whistling Duck, Black Swan, Black Duck, Grey Teal, Pink-eared Duck, Hardhead, Maned Duck, Eurasian Coot, Masked Lapwing (about 30), Black-fronted Plover, Black-winged Stilt, Crested Pigeon, Koel, Pheasant Coucal, Sacred Kingfisher, Richard's Pipit, Starling, Mynah, Magpie-lark, Magpie. 24 species

Old Toowoomba Road (Subdivision 5): Aust. Kestrel, Rainbow Bee-eater, Fairy Martin, Cisticola, Little Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Brown Honey-eater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, White-throated Gerygone. 9 species

Total 70 species.

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MEMBERS BIRD NOTES

Gould's Petrel. 11.2.84. Brisbane Seabird Trip. LB.

White-necked Petrel. 11.2.84. Brisbane Seabird Trip. LB. (4th sighting for Australia.)

Fleshy-footed Shearwater. 11.2.84. Brisbane Seabird Trip. LB.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater. 11.2.84. Brisbane Seabird Trip. LB.

Short-tailed Rufous Night Heron. 25.1.84. "Flagstone" Ck Weir. MA. " "

Musk Duck. 19.1.84. Hood's Lagoon, Helidon. MA.

" " 5.2.84. " " " " LB.

"Grey Goshawk. 5.2.84. O'Reilly's, Lamington N.P. MA.

Arctic Skua. 5.2.84. Brisbane Seabird Trip. LB.

Brush Turkey. 9.1.84. Redwood. LB.

Rose-crowned Fruit-dove. 5.2.84. Lamington N.P. MA, PM, TR.

Boobook Owl. 6.1.84. Echo Valley, T'mba. JD.

Ground Cuckoo-shrike. 7.1.84. near western turnoff Old T'mba Rd. LB.

Restless Flycatcher. 11.1.84. Upper Withcott. LW.

Varied Sitella. 8.1.84. Upper Withcott. LW.

Olive-backed Oriole (N). 8.1.84. Upper Withcott. LW.

MA: Michael Atzeni, LB: Lesley Beaton, JD: Joe Deuble, PM: Pat McConnell, TR: Terry Reis, LW: Lorraine Wilson.

N = nesting.

Last month I typed Dynwor Lakes instead of DYNEVOR Lakes. Michael says I should hang my head in shame as this is a well known birding area. Sorry, Michael.

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FIELD DAY FOR FEBRUARY

Date: Sunday, 26th February 1984.

Place: Pat Scanlan's Property, Stockyard Creek.

Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park.

Time: 7.15 am. for departure at 7.30 am. sharp.

This is not an outing to miss. We will be joined by members of the Chinchilla Field Nats who are camping at Hampton over the weekend. Pat Scanlan's property is noted for the native trees and shrubs that he has planted. A large range of birds have been seen there, from rainforest through to scrub birds. We might see birds such as Regent Bowerbird, Glossy Black Cockatoos and Forest Kingfisher.

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JOINT FIELD OUTING WITH TOOWOOMBA FIELD NATS

Date: Sunday, 4th March 1984. Place: Hood's Lagoon, Helidon

- Assembly Point: 1) Pigott's Car Park
7.15 am. for 7.30 am. departure
2) Helidon Railway Station
9.30 am.

This is the monthly outing for the Field Nats. They normally start later than we do, hence the two assembly points. Early birdos leave Pigott's and wander down Flagstone Creek Road, meeting up with the sleepyheads at Helidon Railway Station at 9.30am. We'll then visit Hood's and Karrasch's Lagoons and Coles Road Swamp. All places which are noted for their water birds. Onto Dyer's Lagoon for lunch and hopefully some scrub birding in the afternoon.

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NEW MEMBERS

Six new members have joined the Club which is a marvellous start to the New Year. Thanks to Marilyn Jacobs, Lydia Lyndon and Sandy Pottinger for introducing them.

Bruce and Dianne Muirhead. Pittsworth. "Roseneath", M.S. 195,
Pittsworth. Q. 4356 PH: 93 5238

Dell Proud. Oakey. M.S. 222, Oakey. Ph: 91 1278

Aino (Mrs) & Christine Tuppurainen. 6 Macquarie St, T'mba.
Ph: 35 2422

Yvonne Winer. 65 Gorden Cres., Tabletop. M.S. 224 T'mba. Q. 4352

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Bird Observer. December 1983, January/February 1984. (Newsletter of the Bird Observers' Club)

The Care of Sick Injured and Orphaned Native Birds and Animals - Jack Wheeler.

The Darling Downs Naturalist. February 1984. (Newsletter of the Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club)

" " " " December 1983. (Journal of the T'mba Field Naturalist Club)

Queensland Ornithological Society Newsletter. January 1984.

The Sunbird. September 1983. (Journal of the Queensland Ornithological Society).

Urimbirra. January 1984. (Newsletter of the Chinchilla Field Naturalists' Club)

Please note the purchase of the little booklet on caring for injured and orphaned native birds and animals. Every member of the Executive has a copy and they are also available from the Club library. Do not hesitate to phone us if you have any inquiry about caring for native birds, though I should like to quote from the book:-

"Before capturing any deserted or orphaned bird, it is absolutely essential that you assure yourself that the bird has been deserted, as in many cases the parents are not too far away, possibly gathering food, as is often the case. Observe for at least half an hour and watch for the parents. However, when you are convinced that you have an orphaned or deserted bird on your hands, you must be prepared for a long period as foster parent - a challenge and responsibility involving a great deal of time in its care and feeding, to rear to a stage of eventual release."