



NEWS-SHEET No. 99

MARCH 1984

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

toowoomba bird club

Postal Address

P.O. Box 67, DARLING HEIGHTS. Q. 4350

Club Officers

President:

Marilyn Jacobs.
21 Sylvan Court, T'mba. 4350
Ph: 35 85 94

Secretary/Treasurer:

Ann Shore.
"Shorelands", Withcott,
M.S. 224, T'mba. 4352
Ph: 30 3207

Records Officer:

Michael Atzeni.
2 Memory St, T'mba. 4350
Ph: 35 9433

Editor:

Lesley Beaton.
15 Dunmore St, T'mba. 4350
Ph: 32 6262

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

The last few weekends have been busy with birding events but, how rewarding. Read the reports in this issue and find out what has been going on. Those members that couldn't join in because of distance or other commitments will be jealous I'm sure.

There is one sour note, unfortunately. It has been reported that some Bird Club members that joined us at Pat Scanlan's property were taking cuttings from his native shrubs. To damage native plants at any time is frowned upon, however to take them from someone who's been kind enough to let us onto his property is pure vandalism! I hope the members involved realize the damage they can do to the plants and to the Club's reputation. Think before you act!

Lesley Beaton, Editor

--ooOoo--

HOBBY-N-CRAFT

The Hobby-n-Craft Spectacular was very successful. This year, to make it a little more interesting, there was a bird quiz which consisted of ten slides of birds found in our local area. 140 people participated in this quiz. Many of them were very interested to see a photograph of an Eastern Whipbird which they knew by sound but not by sight.

There was also a Lucky Draw where non-members could enter their names and at the end of the weekend one of these entries was picked out of a box and they had a free membership for 1984. The winners of this were -

E.M. (Elaine) & R.E. (Ron) Box,
13 Jenkins St, Toowoomba.

Congratulations to them and it has been wonderful to see them on a couple of outings since then.

Thank you to Michael Atzeni, Lesley Beaton, Ron Colpus, Jane Corbin, Ron Colpus, Marilyn Jacobs, Angela Kilmartin, Margo and Sandy Pottinger, Ann Shore, Vera Simons and Audrey Sorensen who all helped on the display.

--ooOoo--

GREENWATCH PLANT SALE

Date: 14th April, 1984.

Time: 9.30 am. onwards.

Place: 108 Hill Street (Peg Iseppi's house)

All proceeds are for the Waterbird Habitat Project and therefore your patronage is welcome.

Any people with plants they would like to donate, please get them to Peg's house on the weekend a fortnight before (31.3.84/1.4.84).

--ooOoo--

RAOU BIRD ATLAS

In mid-1984 the Atlas of Australian Birds will be released. A special pre-publication offer is being made to those individuals and ornithological societies that contributed to this publication. Until 16th April, 1984 members may purchase this book at \$39 (+\$5 postage), after that it will be \$49. It is available from

RAOU Headquarters,
21 Gladsone St,
MOONEE PONDS, VIC. 3039.

--oo0oo--

FIELD DAY REPORT - PAT SCANLAN'S, STOCKYARD 26.2.84.

It was a very fine clear day when members of the Chinchilla Field Naturalists' Club and the Toowoomba Bird Club got together. There was a large group of people consisting of 21 birdos and 15 visitors. First stop was at the junction of Flagstone Ck Road and Upper Flagstone Road. This is always a good spot and it proved to be so this time as well. Many small bush birds were seen.

Species list:

Crested Hawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Dusky Moorhen, Masked Lapwing, Feral Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Crested Pigeon, Galah, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Dollarbird, White-backed Swallow, Welcome Swallow, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Cicadabird, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Whipbird, Cisticola, Superb Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, Red-backed Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrubwren, Speckled Warbler, Brown Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, White-throated treecreeper, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Scarlet Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, Red-browed Firetail, Zebra Finch, Double-barred Finch, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Starling, Figbird, Magpie-lark, Pied Butcherbird, Magpie, Currawong, Crow. 52 species

We then moved onto Pat Scanlan's place. His house is settled in a valley with the mountains rising up on either side. Rainforest gullies as well as ridges of eucalypt forest and open areas of lantana and grass are all good birding habitats. Around his house Pat has planted many native shrubs and trees that have grown up into a haven for birds and people alike. A number of people took a walk into the back paddocks where they were delighted with a good view of a Tawny Grassbird. A 'first' for a number of those present. What with a Green Tree Python being rescued from a slow death and a frog (which was identified, but I don't know what) found on the track there was enough wildlife for everybody.

Members present were Michael Atzeni, Lesley Beaton, Elaine and Ron Box, Ron Colpus, Joe Deuble, Don Gaydon, Gloria Glass, Marilyn Jacobs, Angela Kilmartin, Lydia Lyndon, Ena McCulloch, Margo and Sandy Pottinger, Ann, John and Craig Shore, Martyn Sutcliffe, Liz Taylor, Aino and Christine Tuppurainen.

Species list:

White-faced Heron, Brown Goshawk, Brown Quail, Bar-shouldered Dove, Wonga Pigeon, Pale-headed Rosella, Kookaburra, Cicadabird, Eastern Yellow Robin, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Willie Wagtail, Whipbird, Tawny Grassbird, Brown Thornbill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Sparrow, Red-browed Firetail, Zebra Finch, Double-barred Finch, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin,

FIELD DAY REPORT CONT'D

Spangled Drongo, Dusky Woodswallow, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Magpie, Crow, Channel-billed Cuckoo. 30 species

Total 64 species

--ooOoo--

JOINT FIELD TRIP WITH THE TOOWOOMBA FIELD NATURALISTS, 4.3.84.

Birding activities on three weekends running! A wealth of social contacts; good sightings and new members and friends to introduce to some of our favourite haunts. Yes, this was a memorable three weeks for one member at least, culminating in a most enjoyable day with the Toowoomba Field Naturalists.

Although first intended purely as a waterbird outing, it was decided that the Bird Club would start the day by travelling to our scheduled meeting place at Helidon by way of Flagstone Creek; always a great area for varied bird life. To our delight many of the Field Naturalists opted to join us for an early start from Pigott's and it was quite a large convoy that got underway for the trip down range.

Stopping first at the foot of the hill we were aware of bird sounds all around us; noticeably more apparent than on the Sunday before following the good rain of two days previously. Walking a short distance up the Upper Flagstone Road we were rewarded by close sightings of Chestnut-breasted Mannikins, Golden-headed Cisticolas, Australasian Grebes and the calls of Honeyeaters, Wrens, Pardalotes, Noisy Friarbirds, and a Grey Shrike-thrush to mention but a few. While ex-members, John and Ruth Walter, identified Nutmeg Mannikins which we hope will soon be confirmed by the Club as a new bird for our list.

One more brief stop along the creek and it was time to make for our deadline in Helidon with the other Field Naturalists and the start of our waterbirding at Hood's Lagoon. There we found one large sheet of water due to the recent storm water run-off; a large number of Cattle Egrets, which flew further off on our approach and a considerable number of duck away on the far side. A good outline view of a lone Musk Duck in the middle distance but the remaining birds were tantalisingly far away.

The scene of too much water and distant birds was to be repeated at Karrasch's, with the bonus of five Ground Cuckoo-shrikes obligingly posing in a small wattle. At Gatton we stopped briefly at the water treatment works where some duck were easier to observe in detail and we also saw our only wader of the day, a Black-fronted Dotterel. A welcome break for lunch next in a small Gatton park before continuing to Coles Rd swamp off the Esk Rd. There we were lucky to find shady parking for all and could watch a number of Plumed Whistle Ducks standing about in rows, plus two Black Swans, Egrets and a Comb-crested Jacana on the water-lilies while later three White-breasted Woodswallows showed off to advantage in a tall dead eucalypt and a pair of White-breasted Sea-eagles soared effortlessly high above.

Some people were still game for more and set off for Dyer's Lagoon but others parted company then, following a full and instructive day made all the more enjoyable by the company of pleasant and knowledgeable naturalists who added their own comments on flora and fauna.

JOINT FIELD TRIP CONT'D

There were 35 people present including Bird Club members Michael Atzeni, Lesley Beaton, Janet Berners, Elaine and Ron Box, Marilyn Jacobs, Paul Kennedy, Lyn and Lee-anne Rowan, Ann Shore, Audrey Sorensen, Audrey and Ray Viljoen.

Ann Shore

Species List for Flagstone Creek:

Australasian Grebe, Pacific Black Duck, Kestrel, Brown Quail, Masked Lapwing, Spotted Turtledove, Peaceful Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Crested Pigeon, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, Pale-headed Rosella, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Dollarbird, Welcome Swallow, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Cicadabird, Eastern Yellow Robin, Grey Shrike-thrush, Black-faced Monarch, Willie Wagtail, Whipbird, Golden-headed Cisticola, Superb Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, Red-backed Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrubwren, Speckled Warbler, Weebill, White-throated Gerygone, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Scarlet Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, Sparrow, Red-browed Firetail, Double-barred Finch, Nutmeg Mannikin, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Starling, Mynah, Olive-backed Oriole, Spangled Drongo, Magpie-lark, Pied Butcherbird, Magpie, Currawong, Crow.

58 species

Waterbird Species List seen at Hood's, Karrasch's, Gatton Coles Rd Swamp:

Australasian Grebe, Little Black Cormorant, Little Pied Cormorant, White-faced Heron, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Straw-necked Ibis, Plumed Whistling-Duck, Black Swan, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, White-eyed Duck, Wood Duck, Musk Duck, Dusky Moorhen, Purple Swamphen, Eurasian Coot, Comb-crested Jacana, Masked Lapwing, Black-fronted Dotterel.

21 species

Other birds seen at Hood's etc.:

Whistling Kite, White-breasted Sea-eagle, Feral Pigeon, Little Lorikeet, Tawny Frogmouth (dead), Azure Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Dollarbird, Welcome Swallow, Richard's Pipit, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler, Restless Flycatcher, Willie Wagtail, Tawny Grassbird, Golden-headed Cisticola, Speckled Warbler, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill, Noisy Miner, Double-barred Finch, Starling, Mynah, Magpie-lark, White-breasted Woodswallow.

27 species

Total 90 species

--ooOoo--

MEMBERS BIRD NOTES

Grey Goshawk. 30.1.84. Ravensbourne. GG, AK.
Black-breasted Button Quail. 29.1.84. Ravensbourne. GG, AK, NM.
Buff-banded Rail. 14.11.83. Mackenzie St Swamp. GC.
Glossy Black Cockatoo. 28.2.84. "Brandywine", Sylvan Court, MJ, SP
Topknot Pigeon. 30.1.84. Ravensbourne. GG, AK.
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo. 9.1.84. Redwood. LB.
Forest Kingfisher. 29.1.84. Ravensbourne. GG, AK, NM.
White-winged Triller. 8.10.83. (2male, 1 female). Ocean St. GC, JCC, JEC
Rufous Shrike-thrush. 29.1.84. Ravensbourne. GG, AK, NM.
Spectacled Monarch. 11.1.84. 6 Range St. DJM.

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES CONT'D

Tawny Grassbird. 26.2.84. Scanlan's, Stockyard. LB, AHS.
Yellow-throated Scrubwren. 29.1.84. Ravensbourne. GG, AK, NM.
Blue-faced Honeyeater. 15.2.84. 1st time at Dunmore St. IB.
Spangled Drongo. 2.2.84. Tobruk Drive. JD.
White-winged Cough. 2.2.84. Cotswold Hills. JD.
Paradise Riflebird (6). 29.1.84. Ravensbourne. GG, AK, NM.
Green Catbird. 29.1.84. Ravensbourne. GG, AK, NM.

LB: Lesley Beaton, GC: Graham Corbin, JCC: Jane Corbin, JEC: Jim Corbin, JD: Joe Deuble, GG: Gloria Glass, MJ: Marilyn Jacobs, AK: Angela Kilmartin, NM: N. Marr (Q.O.S.), SP: Sandy Pottinger, AHS: Ann Shore.

--ooOoo--

FILM EVENING

*
*
* Date: Tuesday, 20th March 1984. *
* Time: 7.15pm. for 7.30 pm. start. *
* Place: Lower Lounge, Toowoomba Education Centre, Baker St. *
* Films: "The Two Christmases", 28minutes, Australian 1980. *
* Wildlife on the Christmas Islands of the Pacific and *
* Indian Oceans. *
* "Triangle Island", 14 minutes, Canadian 1979. *
* Seabirds of that region. *
* "Down The Wind", 60 minutes, Australian 1974. *
* Peregrine Falcons in the Snowy Mountains. *
*

MARCH FIELD OUTING

Date: Sunday, 24th March 1984. Place: Lytton, Brisbane
Time: 7.30 am. sharp.

Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park for further details.

A longer trip this time to see, hopefully, some seabirds and waders

--ooOoo--

NEW MEMBERS

Elaine and Ron Box, Jenkins St, Toowoomba. Ph: 34 3955
John Fletcher, Darling Heights, Toowoomba.
Mrs I.O. Hill, Mary St, Toowoomba, Ph: 38 1583 (introduced by Lorraine Wilson)
Mrs Lyn Hotchin, "Ashling", Mitchell.
Paul Kennedy, Weetwood St, Toowoomba. Ph: 34 3773
Mrs E.W. McCulloch, Mt Nebo Rd, The Gap.
Lyn & Lee-anne Rowan, Mary St, Toowoomba. Ph: 32 6767
Martyn Sutcliffe, Withcott. (introduced by Craig Shore)
Mrs Liz Taylor, c/- Nu-Steel Engineering, Toowoomba.

--ooOoo--

If there is a red tick in the box below I am afraid you are an unfinancial member and this will be the last news-sheet you are eligible to receive.

