

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

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NEWS-SHEET No. 71 - NOVEMBER 1981

Nasty, misty weather on the night of the Annual General Meeting meant that there were more apologies than members that attended. However, it was a good evening and office bearers were elected in due course - refer to A.G.M. report later in the news-sheet.

Our 6th annual bird census went off without a hitch with fine weather and good sightings of birds. So far there has been favourable reports about the count being held over the two days and any more comments would be appreciated. Less people took part this year, but practically every sector was covered. Many thanks to those who helped.

A date not to miss is Friday, November 20th when a film evening is being held, more details are on the next page.

Our thanks go to Creative 92 Art Gallery which offered an invitation to a showing of antique maps and prints. It included some fine bird illustrations by Gould. Members that were able to go to the exhibition thoroughly enjoyed all items on display.

It seems that as the end of the year draws closer it is time for saying 'thank you'. A special mention is to Ron Hopkinson who was Acting Editor for all of this year as well as carrying out his duties as President of the Club. This news-sheet is possibly one of the most important contributions we, as a bird club, make towards the ever-growing knowledge of Australian birds and their behaviour. It is read widely throughout Queensland and is appreciated by many. It is a fitting tribute to Ron's hard work this year that we have more articles than we can cope with this month. Don't stop sending them in; if yours isn't in this issue look forward to December. Once again - Thanks Ron.

Lesley Ball, Editor

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* FILM EVENING *
* *
* When: Friday, 20th November at 7.00p.m. for 7.30p.m. *
* Where: Toowoomba Education Centre, Baker Street. *
* What: The award winning film "Osprey". *
* This runs for approximately half an hour which *
* means there will be time afterwards for *
* discussion, some bird call tapes and light *
* refreshments. *
* Who: Toowoomba Bird Club members and interested *
* persons *
* *
* Members, please bring a plate! *
* *

FIGBIRDS - AN ANSWER TO MR WOOD

In August and September more than 150 Figbirds flew up the range each morning in small groups up to about twenty-five birds, returning each evening with great speed down the range to camp in the thicker areas.

This sighting covered only the small area round Rangeview so there must be many hundreds of birds doing this along the escarpment.

Earlier two or three Orioles were observed (by the sharp beak) each day, however these have now gone so the Figbirds must move on soon.

Also Ann Shore's group of white ibis with one black was observed very high south of Ocean St heading south-west.

On 8th September after 4.00 p.m., over fifty Top-knot pigeon were seen slowly struggling up the range near Rangeview.

Jim Corbin

BACKBUGGERIE - NOTES FROM CHARLEVILLE

Looking from the front yard, over the street and into the scrub - mostly tall eucalypts and lower Mulga, one can see and hear a multitude of bird life. This afternoon I watched as Bee-eaters chased insects and Dollar birds called in the background. These two have just shown up for the Spring. Always around are the Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes. At the end of the street there is a small group of White-breasted Woodswallows hawking from the overhead wires. Up the road I saw a Little Friarbird annoying a Kookaburra while a Black Kite soared above. Apostle birds from further down the gully visit sometimes and very occasionally a Pied Currawong. Also Sacred and Red-backed Kingfishers frequent the area. Always around are Mulga Parrots and Red-rumps and Red-winged Parrots and Pale-headed Rosellas. At the beginning of Winter we had passing through - Restless Flycatchers, Brown Honeyeaters, multitudes of Jacky Winters and Willie Wagtails. Last year I saw White-plumed Honeyeaters, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters (very shy birds), Yellow Thornbills, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Broad-tailed Thornbills, Grey Fantails, Rufous Whistlers and Major Mitchell Cockatoos.

CHARLEVILLE cont'd.

Way over the back of the scrub I have heard Grey Butcherbirds and Pied Butcherbirds. The mulberry tree has started to fruit, and last year we had visits from a Blue-faced Honeyeater and Olive-backed Orioles but so far this year only Noisy and Little Friarbirds and Spotted Bowerbirds have visited.

About half a mile down the gully is the sewerage works. Here we have three big evaporation ponds and a haven for bird life - no shooting allowed. Last year before the good rain, I identified - Red-kneed Dotterel, Pied Stilt, Red-necked Stint, Whiskered Tern, Little Greenshank and Royal Spoonbill and have not seen them since. Also on the ponds we have had on and off - Pink-eared Duck, and a Little Pied Cormorant but mostly there is - Black Duck, Wood Duck, White-eyed Duck, Aust. Little Grebe, Hoary-headed Grebe, Grey Teal, Coot and a Little Black Cormorant. Around the ponds I have seen Black-tailed Native Hen, Variegated Wren, Yellow-throated Miner, Noisy Miner, Hooded Robin, White-winged Wren, White-winged Triller, Welcome Swallow, Striated Pardalote, White-necked and White-faced Heron, Straw-necked and Glossy Ibis, Whistling Kites, a Brown Falcon, Banded and Masked Plovers, Peaceful and Diamond Doves.

In the Charleville one degree block I have identified approximately 110 species over the last fifteen months. With another year (maybe) out here there is still a few gaps in the inventory to be filled.

David Newlands

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB held on Saturday 17th OCTOBER 1981 at the Toowoomba Education Centre

The President, Mr Ron Hopkinson, welcomed those present and opened the meeting at 7.45 p.m.

1. Apologies for absence: Received from Michael Atzeni, Marie Bou, Joe Deuble, Maggie Drabsch, John Gregor, Marilyn Jacobs, Sandy Pottinger, and Mike Russell.
2. Minutes of the last A.G.M.: These were read by the secretary, moved that they be adopted by Ron Colpus, seconded by Jim Corbin and carried unanimously.
3. President's Report: Ron Hopkinson read his report, as follows:-
"Once again it is that time of year when we take stock of ourselves and review the year's activities. Our club membership list currently carries 37 addresses. Allowing for more than one member at some addresses we could claim 50 actual members. Seven new names were added during the year and a few names were lost to the list. In fact, these figures tally with the numbers counted at last year's report. So, in terms of numbers the club has maintained itself. The club checklist of birds recorded in our study area now contains 221 species. This includes ten new birds added during the past year. Production of the news-sheet has continued throughout the period, despite difficulties. As always our greatest financial outlay has been on the sheet, but as this is our only communication with many members it is well worth it. The greatest difficulty in the production has been as ever, the lack of input of material by members. If one looks through the issues one sees a few names recurring as authors of

PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont'd.

contributions but out of a membership of fifty the proportion is disappointingly small.

The news-sheet is the most useful thing we do. It deserves better support. On behalf of the Executive, I extend our thanks to those members who have contributed, both to the news-sheet and with monthly checklists.

And finally, my sincere thanks to my fellow members of the Executive, both of whom have done a fine job through what has been in some ways a difficult year."

He then moved that it be adopted, seconded by John Shore and it was carried unanimously.

4. Editor's Report: There being no editor at present, these matters were covered in the President's Report as he had been acting as editor for most of the previous year.

5. Treasurer's Report: Ann Shore read her report, as follows:-
"I have to report that although 1980/81 has not been an easy year for the Toowoomba Bird Club we have managed to keep our heads above water financially without having to raise membership subscriptions and have finished the year with a balance approximately the same as that of last year, bearing in mind that we still have some outstanding printing bills to pay. Our income, mainly from subscriptions, totalled \$229.00 and expenses, to date, were \$177.53. I regret that I have been unable to balance the books to my own or the auditor's satisfaction and would prefer to relinquish the Treasurership as I have once again demonstrated my inefficiency in book-keeping. Please accept my apologies.

We have continued with our membership of the Toowoomba Education Centre, now raised to \$20.00 per annum, have had to bear increased postal and printing charges, have had to send more news-letters out by mail as our hand delivery service ran short of post-boys and, lastly, on the credit side, must give our special thanks to our president who has typed out most of the news-letters himself and thereby saved us extra expense, and also to Ron Colpus for his help in that line."

- moved that it be adopted, seconded by Graham Corbin and carried.

6. Business arising from the minutes:

a) Field Days - Trial changes to Field Day arrangements had worked well, i.e. holding them on the 4th Sunday in each month, barring Christmas and with the possible exception of Easter, and starting an hour earlier. But the decision to have members present at one Field Day decide where the venue for the next should be had not worked in practice.

b) Atlas Scheme - The Club was still forwarding any information gathered but the scheme was due to finish at the end of this year. Sue Elmes had queried two of the bird sightings, the Spectacled and Black-faced Monarchs respectively, but these had both been sighted on a number of separate occasions and the President had no doubt of their validity.

c) Visit to Girraween National Park - This had not been feasible during the year but it was hoped to go at some future date.

d) Specific List of Birds Seen in Redwood Park - Yes, the President confirmed there was such a list and it had been updated and published again earlier in the year.

e) Index of News-sheets - Marilyn Jacobs had finished the collating and it was now awaiting printing.

7. Election of Officers: No nominations had been received, the President reported, but Michael Atzeni would again accept office as Records Officer. He himself did not wish to stand again as President. Members tried, without success, to persuade him to change his mind. He then vacated the chair which Lesley Ball took temporarily while elections took place, as follows:-
- a) Office: President. There being no nominees and no volunteers it was decided to discuss the matter again later.
 - b) Office: Secretary/Treasurer. After ways were suggested for making the job of Treasurer simpler, Ann Shore agreed to continue in the joint office, proposed by Lesley Ball, seconded by Ron Hopkinson and elected unopposed.
 - c) Office: Editor. There being no nominees, Lesley Ball offered herself which was gratefully accepted and she was elected unanimously.
 - d) Office: Records Officer. Michael Atzeni elected.
- Lesley Ball as temporary President, then returned to the matter of electing a President for the forthcoming year. Members pointed out that without doubt Ron Hopkinson was far the most suitable person to hold this position, both as regards to seniority in the club and because of his knowledge of birds and the locality. It was thought important that the Club should have someone of standing to speak out on Club affairs when the need arose. On again being asked to accept the position, Ron Hopkinson agreed and was elected unanimously. He then resumed the chair.

8. General Business:

- a) Treasurership - Suggestions were made by various members present as to how the book-keeping might be made easier. Jim Corbin offered to look into ways in which other small bodies conducted their affairs and the Treasurer would enquire of the Commonwealth Bank as to possibilities of having a cheque rather than a savings account.
- b) Printing - The President reported that we had explored other printing possibilities but these were all considerably more expensive than the Education Centre. We had recently saved a few dollars by changing from green to white paper for the Club news-sheets, etc.
- c) Club's Library of Magazines - Jim Corbin asked if these could be passed around from one member to another, with each responsible for sending them on to the next, etc. There was not much response. Instead we would again try to pass them around at Field Days.
- d) Film "Osprey" - Lesley Ball informed members that Marilyn Jacobs was borrowing this short film from 16th-23rd November and wondered if Club members would also be interested in seeing it. Yes. Perhaps it could be shown at the Education Centre, possibly on Friday 20th November. The President would look into this and publicize it in the November news-sheet. The Secretary suggested also putting it over the air. Agreed.
- e) Queensland Ornithological Society Bird Count - Marilyn Jacobs, Sandy Pottinger, Lesley Ball and Vera Simons had assisted as in previous years and at the lagoon near Grantham saw 4 Pink-eared Duck and a Peregrine Falcon while a Jabiru was seen at the heronry on the road from Gatton to Lake Clarendon.
- f) Club's Bird Count 24/25th October - The President reported final plans and sectors covered but was still short of counters for the inner-city area. He would again ask the Chronicle to note the event.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.30 p.m. and members adjourned for light refreshments.

DETAILS OF TOOWOOMBA BIRD CLUB ACCOUNTS FROM OCT. 1980 - OCT. 1981

Auditor's report:

Income

Subscriptions		213.00
Donations		4.00
Interest		12.00
		<u>229.00</u>

Less Expenses

Bank Charges	2.40	
Paper and Printing	86.75	
Postage	67.36	
Stationery	1.02	
T.E.C. Membership	20.00	177.53

Surplus		51.47
Deficiency		<u>17.72*</u>

		33.75
Bank Balance 18th October 1980		<u>95.94</u>

Bank Balance 30th September 1981		<u>\$129.69</u>
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*Since the audit the Secretary, Ann Shore, realizes where part of the deficiency is to be found.

Omitted in error from account book.

28.8.81. Printing of News-sheet for August		\$9.85
Cheque for above.		<u>.30</u>
		<u>\$10.15</u>

MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Great Frigatebird. 30.9.81. Michaelmas Cay. MA., PM.
 Australian Brush Turkey. 12/18.8.81. Rangeview. JEC.
 Buff-banded Rail (dead). 6.9.81. near Crows Nest Caravan Park MJ.,
 " " " 10.9.81. Atherton. RGH. LSP., LB.
 Red-necked Crake. 23.9.81. Julatten Caravan Park. MA., PM.
 Australian Bustard. 8.9.81. Croydon. RGH.
 Australian Pratincole. 6.9.81. Quamby. RGH.
 Top-knot Pigeon (50+). 8.9.81. Rangeview. JEC.
 Diamond Dove. 4.9.81. Boulia. RGH.
 Spinifix Pigeon. 4.9.81. Boulia. RGH.
 Glossy Black Cockatoo. 6.9.81. Redwood. MA., GC.
 Sulphur Crested Cockatoo. 14.9.81. Lion's Park. MJ.
 " " " 20.9.81. Blue Hills Drive. MJ., SP.
 Double-eyed Fig Parrot. 25.9.81. Port Douglas. MA., PM.
 Cloncurry Parrot. 2.9.81. Duchess. RGH.
 Shining Bronze Cuckoo. 2.9.81. Memory St. MA.
 Singing Bushlark. 16.9.81. Hodgson Vale. MA.
 Leaden Flycatcher. 29.9.81. Flagstone Creek. LB., MJ.
 Grey-crowned Babbler. 26.9.81. Flagstone Creek Rd., JD.
 Brown-headed Honeyeater. 10.9.81. Echo Valley. MA.
 Golden Bowerbird. 24.9.81. Mt. Lewis. MA., PM.
 Paradise Riflebird (♂). 6.9.81. Ravensbourne. LB., MJ., SP.
 MA: Michael Atzeni. LB: Lesley Ball. GC: Graham Corbin. JEC: Jim
 Corbin. JD: Joe Deuble. RGH: Rod Hobson. MJ: Marilyn Jacobs.
 PM: Pat McConnell. SP: Sandy Pottinger.

FIELD DAY FOR NOVEMBER

Date: Sunday, 22nd November, 1981. Place: Preston Road.
 Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park.
 Time: 7.15 a.m. for departure at 7.30 a.m. sharp.