

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

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NEWS-SHEET No. 75 - MARCH 1982

This month's news-sheet has items of interest (as usual), and some of excitement.

Our regular birdwatching members of the club have uncovered three, yes THREE, new species for the Toowoomba area. Much to our great delight one was seen by no less than eight members of the club who went on the February outing. They also saw the other two new species which had first been sighted earlier in the month. Being one of those on the outing it was a tremendous thrill for me. Hearing other comments that were passed around I believe it was for the rest of the group too. More people should come on our field days. It really is an enjoyable time in good company.

I have been asked by a number of members lately why the club has switched from the distinctive green paper for our news-sheet to the more common white. There is a simple answer, and I'm afraid it is a matter of budgeting. The cost of printing on the green is more than half again as that of using the white. Although the majority of members spoken to prefer the green it is impossible for the club to take on such a rise in costs. I hope you can grin and bear it!

Once again the club is having a film evening. I hope the weather is a little more hospitable than the last time, so that even more members will be able to make it. The November evening was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. There is more details later in the news-sheet, but please mark it on your calendar and make the time to meet some of your fellow members as well as have an entertaining evening. Do you realize that some members, living in Toowoomba, have never been seen! Here's the chance to come out of the shrubbery and be sighted.

Lesley Ball, Editor



LONG-TAILED OUCKOO CONT'D

above and below was the most obvious marking, and the long tail seemed to indicate the bird was some kind of cuckoo. I initially thought it to be a female Koel because of the size, long tail and spotted markings, but realized the colours were brown and white and that the black cap and chestnut throat of the female Koel were missing. I also recall the underparts to be spotted rather than barred. The bird made no call to identify itself. Upon checking my Slater field guide, I was surprised to discover the bird Tony and I had seen was a Long-tailed Cuckoo. Could it be possible for a bird reportedly seen only on Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands during northward migration from New Zealand to be in Toowoomba in April? A search of both the Rigby and Reader's Digest bird books and later Pizzey's field guide failed to turn up any mention of Long-tailed Cuckoos. I checked my only New Zealand bird identification book by P. Moncrieff (5th ed. revised 1957), but neither the black and white nor the colour plates seemed to resemble the Peter Slater drawing or the bird I'd seen at the D.D.I.A.E. However, identification from small illustrations in older books is often very difficult, as we are well aware from Cayley's 'What Bird Is That?'. In an effort to locate the bird again, I took my binoculars to the area for several weeks, but to no avail. I resigned myself to the fact that I had seen an 'unidentified' bird.

Marilyn Jacobs

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ANNUAL BIRD SUMMARY - 1981

This summary has been compiled from members' gold checklists sent to me during the year. The information has also been passed on to the RAOU Atlas Scheme which terminated at the end of 1981.

A total of 190 species were seen during 1981 including 7 new species. The club's official list now stands at 277 with the addition of 4 new species so far this year. The 7 new species last year were Great Crested Grebe, Little Egret, Pink-eared Duck, Peregrine Falcon, Painted Snipe, Squatter Pigeon, and Buff-rumped Thornbill. 33 previously recorded species were not seen.

With the aid of a good season and monthly visits to Hood's Lagoon, our waterbird coverage was excellent, but there is a noticeable paucity of records for other groups, especially most raptors, quail, cuckoos and woodswallows.

An absence of a few species, very prominent in 1980, raises the question as to what factors caused this. Fuscous Honeyeaters and Red-capped Robins were regularly seen in mid-1980, yet not last year. Banded Lapwings were commonly seen throughout 1980 but only seen in the summer months last year.

Rufous and Brown Songlarks and White-winged Trillers were in significant numbers in the uprange section during 1980 but absent in 1981. Musk Lorikeets were also as common as any of the three other lorikeet species in 1980 but were only recorded once in 1981. To determine the exact reasons is beyond us with our limited knowledge but it would be interesting to attain summaries of other proximate areas to see how they compare with respect to the species mentioned.

With the addition of another 3 species from Hood's Lagoon last month I hope a few interests have been sparked and that its potential speaks for itself. There are still new species to be seen in our club area and water is an excellent drawcard. Once again I urge members to venture out.

ANNUAL BIRD SUMMARY CONT'D

Currently, I receive about ten to thirteen checklists a month and I take this chance to thank all those that have sent these in and to please keep doing so. I would be very pleased to receive more from other members.

I wish all members good birding for 1982.

Below is a list of species not seen in 1981 with the month and year it was last recorded in brackets.

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ✓ Little Bittern (11.77)             | ✓ White's Thrush (10.80)        |
| ✓ Black Bittern (3.79)               | ✓ Scarlet Robin (4.80)          |
| ✓ Black-necked Stork (14.79)         | ✓ Red-capped Robin (8.80)       |
| ✓ Mallard (12.75)                    | ✓ Spotted Quail-thrush (12.78)  |
| ✓ Whistling Kite (4.80)              | Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (6.80) |
| ✓ Brown Goshawk (9.80)               | ✓ Fuscous Honeyeater (8.80)     |
| ✓ Grey Goshawk (7.79)                | White-breasted Woodswallow      |
| ✓ Stubble Quail (1.80)               | (10.76)                         |
| ✓ Red-chested Button Quail (11.77)   | Masked Woodswallow (9.80)       |
| Buff-banded Rail (7.76)              | White-browed Woodswallow (9.80) |
| Sooty Tern (1.76)                    | Black-faced Woodswallow (10.79) |
| ✓ Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (10.79)  |                                 |
| ✓ Turquoise Parrot (4.80)            |                                 |
| ✓ Oriental Cuckoo (1.79)             |                                 |
| ✓ Pallid Cuckoo (12.80)              |                                 |
| ✓ Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo (11.80)  |                                 |
| ✓ Powerful Owl (11.78)               |                                 |
| ✓ Barking Owl (4.79)                 |                                 |
| ✓ Australian Owlet-Nightjar (4.80)   |                                 |
| ✓ White-throated Nightjar (12.79)    |                                 |
| ✓ White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike (9.80) |                                 |
| ✓ Ground Cuckoo-shrike (7.80)        |                                 |

TABLE OF SPECIES 1981

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Great Crested Grebe							7					
Hoary-headed Grebe	1	2		4		6	7	8		10	11	12
Australasian Grebe	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Australian Pelican					5			8				
Darter			3	4	5	6						
Great Cormorant								8				
Pied Cormorant								8				
Little Black Cormorant	1	2	3	4	5	6			9	10		12
Little Pied Cormorant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12
Pacific Heron	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
White-faced Heron	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Cattle Egret	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12
Great Egret			3	4							11	12
Little Egret		2										12
Intermediate Egret			3	4	5		7					
Rufous Night-heron										10	11	12
Glossy Ibis			3	4								
Sacred Ibis	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Straw-necked Ibis	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Royal Spoonbill		2	3	4	5	6	7					
Yellow-billed Spoonbill		2	3	4		6	7	8	9			
Plumed Whistling-duck	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Black Swan	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pacific Black Duck	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Grey Teal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Australasian Shoveller		2	3			6	7	8				

ANNUAL BIRD SUMMARY CONT'D

1981

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Pink-eared Duck		2			5	7						12
Hardhead	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Maned Duck	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Black-shouldered Kite	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pacific Baza	1	2								10	11	12
Black Kite				4				8				
Square-tailed Kite			3									
Collared Sparrowhawk	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			10	11	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12
Little Eagle			3									
Spotted Harrier				4		6	7					
Black Falcon				4								
Peregrine Falcon			3			6						
Australian Hobby		2	3	4		6	7					12
Brown Falcon	1		3	4		6	7					
Australian Kestrel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Australian Brush-turkey					5	6		8			11	12
Brown Quail										10		
Little Button-quail												12
Dusky Moorhen	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Purple Swamphen	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Eurasian Coot	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Comb-crested Jacana	1		3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12
Painted Snipe												12
Masked Lapwing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Banded Lapwing	1	2									11	12
Red-kneed Dotterel		2		4							11	12
Black-fronted Plover	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Black-winged Stilt	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Latham's Snipe		2	3					8	9			12
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper												12
Silver Gull	1	2	3									
Rose-crowned Fruit-dove											11	
Top-knot Pigeon									9	10		
White-headed Pigeon							7	8		10		
Feral Pigeon	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Spotted Turtledove	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Brown Cuckoo-dove	1		3		5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Peaceful Dove	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Emerald Dove				4	5	6			9	10		12
Common Bronzewing	1	2	3			6		8	9			
Crested Pigeon	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Squatter Pigeon												12
Wonga Pigeon	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12
Glossy Black Cockatoo				4	5			8	9			
Galah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	1		3	4				8	9			
Rainbow Lorikeet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Musk Lorikeet				4								
Little Lorikeet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Australian King Parrot	1	2	3		5	6		8	9	10		
Cockatiel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Crimson Rosella							7					12
Eastern Rosella				4								
Pale-headed Rosella	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red-rumped Parrot	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

ANNUAL BIRD SUMMARY CONT'D 1981

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Brush Cuckoo				4				8			11	
Fan-tailed Cuckoo				4	5		7	8		10	11	
Shining Bronze-cuckoo									9	10		
Common Koel	1	2	3	4					9	10	11	12
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	2								10	11	12
Pheasant Coucal	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12
Southern Boobook	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12
Barn Owl			3									12
Tawny Frogmouth	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
White-throated Needletail	1	2	3								11	12
Fork-tailed Swift	1		3									
Azure Kingfisher		2					7			10		
Laughing Kookaburra	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red-backed Kingfisher								8				
Sacred Kingfisher	1	2	3	4					9	10	11	12
Rainbow Bee-eater	1	2	3			6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Dollarbird	1	2	3						9	10	11	12
Noisy Pitta										10		
Singing Bushlark	1								9	10		
White-backed Swallow	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Welcome Swallow	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Tree Martin		2	3				7	8	9	10		12
Fairy Martin	1	2	3				7	8	9	10	11	12
Richard's Pipit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike		2			5							
Cicadabird	1	2	3							10	11	12
White-winged Triller	1									10	11	12
Varied Triller		2				6		8	9	10		
Rose Robin				4	5	6	7	8				
Eastern Yellow Robin	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Jacky Winter		2	3				7			10	11	
Crested Shrike-tit										10		
Golden Whistler		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12
Rufous Whistler	1	2		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Grey Shrike-thrush	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Black-faced Monarch	1	2	3							10	11	12
Spectacled Monarch									9	10	11	12
Leaden Flycatcher	1	2	3						9	10	11	12
Satin Flycatcher										10	11	
Restless Flycatcher		2	3			6	7	8	9			
Rufous Fantail	1	2	3		5				9	10	11	12
Grey Fantail	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Willie Wagtail	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Eastern Whipbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Grey-crowned Babbler	1	2	3				7	8	9	10	11	
Clamorous Reed Warbler	1	2						8	9	10	11	12
Tawny Grassbird	1	2								10		
Golden-headed Cisticola	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rufous Songlark	1											12
Brown Songlark	1	2								10		
Superb Fairy-wren	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Variegated Fairy-wren	1	2		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red-backed Fairy-wren	1		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Large-billed Scrubwren	1	2							9		11	12
White-browed Scrubwren	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Speckled Warbler	1	2	3		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Weebill		2			5			8	9		11	12
Brown Gerygone	1			4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12

1981

ANNUAL BIRD SUMMARY CONT'D

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
White-throated Gerygone	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12
Brown Thornbill	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Buff-rumped Thornbill								8				12
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Yellow Thornbill	1			4								12
Striated Thornbill		2					7	8		10	11	
Varied Sitella	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12
White-throated Treecreeper	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12
Red Wattlebird	1					6	7		9	10	11	12
Striped Honeyeater				4	5			8	9	10		12
Noisy Friarbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Little Friarbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Blue-faced Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Noisy Miner	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Lewin's Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
White-throated Honeyeater				4				8		10		
White-naped Honeyeater		2	3						9	10		
Brown Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Eastern Spinebill				4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Scarlet Honeyeater	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Mistletoebird	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Spotted Pardalote	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Striated Pardalote	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Silvereye	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
House Sparrow	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red-browed Firetail	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Zebra Finch	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Double-barred Finch	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Plum-headed Finch		2										12
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	1	2	3	4						10	11	12
Common Starling	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Common Mynah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Olive-backed Oriole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Figbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Spangled Drongo	1	2	3	4						10	11	12
Satin Bowerbird			3				7		9	10		
Regent Bowerbird	1	2	3		5		7	8	9	10	11	
White-winged Chough												12
Australian Magpie-lark	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Dusky Woodswallow				4				8		10	11	
Grey Butcherbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pied Butcherbird	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Australian Magpie	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pied Currawong	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Australian Raven			3	4	5	6			9	10		12
Torresian Crow	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

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FIELD DAY REPORT

Unfortunately, lack of space this month does not allow for the field day report. This is a pity as it really was an exciting morning. Once again Goomburra was washed out (not enough of you had your fingers crossed!), so Hood's Lagoon was the main venue of the day. You've already read Michael's opinion of this very fine birding spot, just wait till you've read the report.

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MEMBERS' BIRD NOTES

Black-winged Petrel. 1.2.82. Norfolk Is. RGH.  
 Whiskered Tern. 20.2.82. Hood's Lagoon. LB, JB.  
 Wedge-tailed Shearwater. 2.2.82. Norfolk Is. RGH.  
 Masked Booby. 2.2.82. Norfolk Is. RGH.  
 Red-tailed Tropicbird. 1.2.82. Norfolk Is. RGH.  
 Glossy Ibis (10). 1.1.82. Road to Brookvale Park. JEC, JCC.  
 " " (7). 6.2.82. Lake Clarendon. LB, MB.  
 Sacred Ibis (1) + Straw-necked Ibis (150). 19.12.81. Over Ocean Street. JCC, JEC.  
 Sacred Ibis (25). 20.12.81. Over Ocean St. in a westerly direction. JCC, JEC.  
 Straw-necked Ibis (50+). 20.12.81. Over Ocean St. in a westerly direction. JCC, JEC.  
 Maned Duck. 4-31.12.81. East Creek, Kitchener St. JEC, JCC.  
 Black Noddy. 1.2.82. Norfolk Is. RGH.  
 Grey Ternlet. 1.2.82. Norfolk Is. RGH.  
 White Tern. 1.2.82. Norfolk Is. RGH.  
 Brown Quail. 18.1.82. 6 Range St. DJM.  
 " " 28.2.82. Old Toowoomba Rd. outside Gatton. LB, MJ, SP.  
 Buff-banded Rail. (captive). 5/6.3.82. Caught at D.D.I.A.E. by gardener. TR, PM./MA, SB.  
 Red-kneed Dotterel (12). 1.1.82. Road to Brookvale Park. JEC, JCC.  
 Black-winged Stilt. 1.1.82. Road to Brookvale Park. JEC, JCC.  
 Spotted Harrier. 6.2.82. Warrego Highway near Wilsonton Airport. LB.  
 Little Corella. 9.1.82. Flagstone Ck. MB, GB.  
 Channel-billed Cuckoo (2). 12.2.82. Echo Valley. MA.  
 Tawny Frogmouth. 5.12.81. 10 Ocean St. JEC, JCC.  
 Barn Owl. 6.12.81. Ocean St. JEC, JCC.  
 " " (injured). 10.12.81. Mango Vale, Withcott. MD, JAS, AHS.  
 White-breasted White-eye. (*Zosterops albogularis*). 1.2.82. Norfolk Is. RGH.  
 White-winged Chough (7). 7.2.82. Carbarlah. JD.  
 Apostlebird (5). 7.2.82. Carbarlah. JD.

MA: Michael Atzeni. LB: Lesley Ball. GB: Gerard Bou. MB: Marie Bou. SB: Shane Brady. JCC: Jane Corbin. JEC: Jim Corbin.  
 MD: Maggie Drabsch. JD: Joe Deuble. MJ: Marilyn Jacobs.  
 DJM: D.J. Mears. PM: Pat McConnell. SP: Sandy Pottinger.  
 TR: Terry Reis. AHS: Ann Shore. Jas: John Shore.

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FIELD DAY FOR MARCH

Date: Sunday, 28th March, 1982. Place: Ravensbourne National Park

Assembly Point: Pigott's Car Park.

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

I don't think I have to elaborate on Ravensbourne. It should be a good day with some fine birding and perhaps a barbeque lunch.

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PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Birds. Winter. (Quarterly newsletter of the Royal Society for Preservation of Birds)

Q.O.S. Newsletter. January 1982. (Queensland Ornithological Society)

Urimbirra. January & February 1982. (Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club)

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