

# THE SUNBIRD



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## CONTENTS

<b>P. L. BRITTON</b>	The Queensland Ornithological Society Bird Report, 1990 .....	65
<b>J. D. GRANT and W. F. LAURANCE</b>	Court size and maintenance in the Tooth-billed Catbird .....	90

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P.O. Box 97, St. Lucia, Queensland, 4067.

# THE SUNBIRD

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Volume 21 No. 3

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## THE QUEENSLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY BIRD REPORT, 1990

P.L. BRITTON

This eighth annual report lists bird records from Queensland for 1990, adding to the now substantial bank of data for the State. It is pleasing to note the large number of observers contributing. Published records again dominate, as does the southeastern district.

The exceptional rainfall of 1989 was referred to by Britton (1990b). Cyclonic activity was again important during 1990, involving Cyclone Nancy in early February and Cyclone Joy in late December, but rainfall overall was close to average (Fig. 1). Hundreds of Flock Pigeons were associated with exceptionally verdant conditions in June-July. The 1989 Bird Report also referred to a lack of records from Torres Strait Islands, overlooking a New Guinea Pied Harrier *Circus spilothorax* (or *C. aeruginosus spilothorax*) at Badu Island on 5 September. This sighting at the island airfield was reported in the September 1990 RAOU *Newsletter*, where identification difficulties were mentioned; see Smith (1991) for plumage details of this and other extralimital harrier species.

Maggie Geese were reported in impressive numbers in the Brisbane area, while 350 Cotton Pygmy-Geese at Lake Powlathanga is an exceptional count (Blakers *et al.* 1984). Ruddy Shelduck and Cape Barren Goose in the southeast were eventually assessed as possible escapees. Plains-wanderer, Night Parrot and numbers of Freckled Ducks and Flock Pigeons in the northern interior are especially noteworthy. Some published data suggested that both Laughing Gulls remained at Cairns into 1990, whereas only one did. The eventual departure of this bird was soon followed by another extraordinary 'double', involving both Eurasian Curlew and Bristle-thighed Curlew in late November. Two Redshank *Tringa totanus* at Cairns on 31 December are excluded from the Systematic List. They are included here because they have appeared in print (*per*

D. Magarry) in the March 1991 *bird observer*. Visiting observers from England were involved, and D. Magarry (*in litt.*) agrees that this exceptional record should not be included in this report if the observers' names are not known. Some records in the RAOU *Newsletter* lack such detail, but they are included in the Systematic List, labelled RAOU.

Data from occasional pelagic trips in southeastern waters continue to hint at a wealth of interesting and seldom recorded species, also mirrored by records of dead and dying beachwashed birds. A Mottled Petrel at Moreton Island was new for Queensland. Blakers *et al.* (1984) refer to unconfirmed 1980 sightings of Wonga Pigeons in the Eungella district, so it is especially pleasing to be able to document breeding at Eungella Dam. Gull-billed Tern, Red-rumped Swallow, Asian Dowitcher, 28 Garganey and other species from the Northern Hemisphere are likewise noteworthy.

### METHODS

Records included have been selected by the compiler. Omission from this report in no way implies that a record was considered erroneous. Format, nomenclature, abbreviations and sources for published records are as used in the 1986 Bird Report (Redhead 1988). The regional location (Fig. 2) is given in parenthesis for less well-known localities the first time each appears. Initials of the observers appear after other details of each record. Observers of especially interesting species are encouraged to submit more detailed statements for publication in future issues of *The Sunbird*.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to all Q.O.S.I. members and other observers who contributed records. David Niland and Tom Tarrant commented on the manuscript.

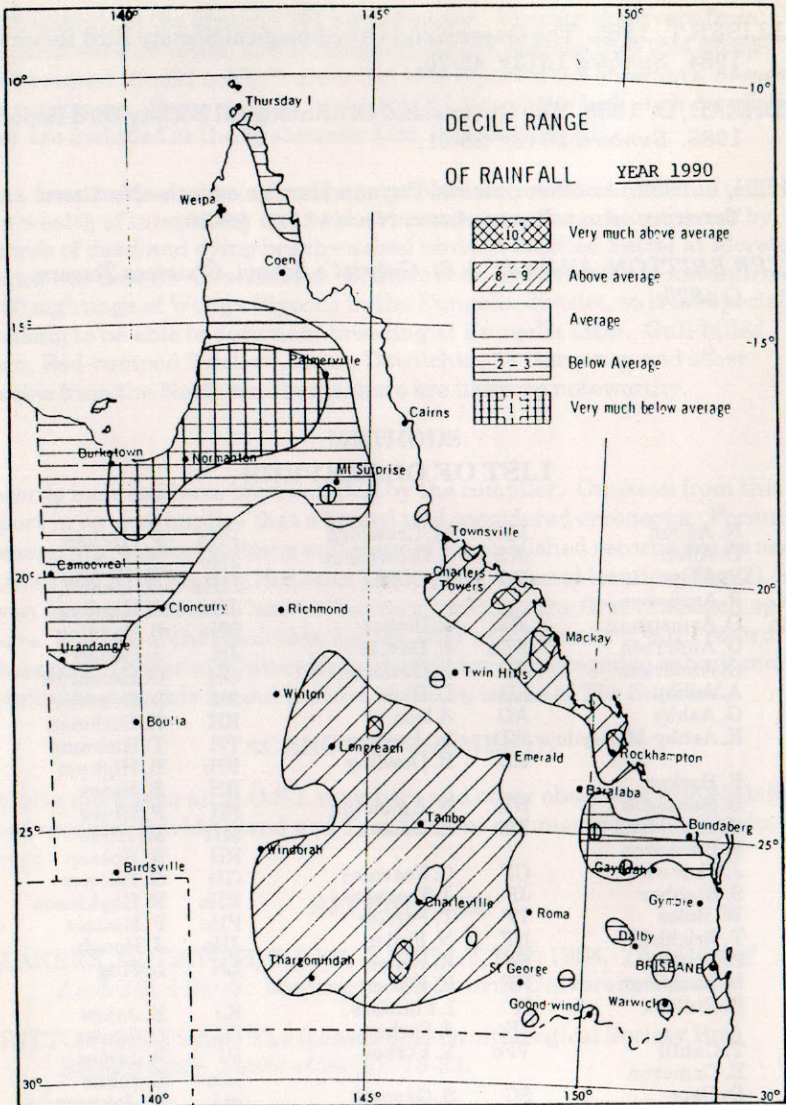
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- PETER BRITTON, *All Souls' & St. Gabriel's School, Charters Towers, Q 4820.*

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NA	N. Adlem	MCr	M. Crawford	PHa	P. Hacker
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OA	O. Anderson	PD	P. Dawson	CH	C. Hembrow
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GB	G. Beruldsen	EE	E. Euston	MH	M. Hirst
FB	F. Bielewicz			RH	R. Hobson
JB	J. Bielewicz	CF	C. Fearnley	GH	G. Holmes
SB	S. Blabber	JF	J. Fearnley	RHo	R. Hopkinson
WB	W. Boles	TF	T. Ferrier	PHo	P. Hottola
TB	T. Brickhill	NF	N. Fidler	JHo	J. Hough
PB	P. Britton	RF	R. Fidler	LH	L. Hug
MB	M. Buchanan	KF	K. Fisher		
BB	B. Bullock	IF	I. Flinders	KJ	K. Jakes
		JFo	J. Forbes	DJ	D. James
TC	T. Cahill	VFo	V. Forbes	PJ	P. James
EC	E. Cameron			LJo	L. Johns
DC	D. Cape	SG	S. Garnett	MJ	M. Johnson
RC	R. Cartner	AG	A. Gibson	LJ	L. Johnston
SC	S. Cartner	CG	C. Giffard	WJ	W. Jolly
JC	J. Chandler	JG	J. Goodwin	IJ	I. Joyce-Smith
SCh	S. Chisholm	AGr	A. Green		
MC	M. Cooper	BGr	B. Green	EK	E. Karplus
CC	C. Corben	PG	P. Grice	HK	H. King
DCr	D. Crawford	FG	F. Guard		



Adapted from the Monthly Weather Review - Queensland  
 Bureau of Meteorology  
 Department of Science.

Fig.1 : Rainfall summary for 1990

GLe	G. Leach	DN	D. Niland	RS	R. Sonnenburg
LL	L. Litz-Tyne	HN	H. Noyce	YS	Y. Sparks
GL	G. Long	JN	J. Noyce	JS	J. Squire
KL	K. Long	GN	G. Nye	DS	D. Stewart
WL	W. Longmore			RSw	R. Swaby
		MO	M. O'Keeffe		
AM	A. Magarry	SO	S. O'Keeffe	AT	A. Taplin
DM	D. Magarry			IT	I. Tarrant
MMh	M. Mahoney	GP	G. Palmer	DT	D. Taylor
PMh	P. Mahoney	IP	I. Parkins	GT	G. Taylor
RMh	R. Mahoney	CP	C. Pavey	MT	M. Templeton
PMa	P. Major	KP	K. Peace	BT	B. Temple-Watts
CM	C. Mann	WP	W. Pickwell	ATH	A. Thelander
NM	N. Marr	MP	M. Preston	MTh	M. Thompson
PM	P. Martin	JP	J. Price-Stephens		
PMa	P. Maskell			FV	F. Van Gessell
MMA	M. Mathieson	RAOU	RAOU Newsletter	IV	I. Venables
DMc	D. McCloskey	DR	D. Redhead	JV	J. Venables
PMc	P. McConnell	IR	I. Reynolds		
CMc	C. McDowell	GR	G. Roberts	PW	P. Waldrige
LMc	L. McDowell	BR	B. Robertson	PWh	P. Wheeler
NMc	N. McFadzean	MR	M. Roe	NW	N. White
WMc	W. McFadzean	PR	P. Roe	JWh	J. Whittle
EM	E. McIlwraith	LR	L. Roy	JW	J. Wieneke
JM	J. McLean			KWi	K. Williams
IM	I. McMahon	BS	B. Sargeant	KW	K. Wilson
DMi	D. Milton	GS	G. Scherf	MW	M. Wilson
JMi	J. Minns	ASe	A. Seddon	JWr	J. Wren
MM	M. Moore	ASh	A. Sharp		
DMo	D. Moss	RSh	R. Sharrock	HZ	H. Zawacki
DMu	D. Muir	KS	K. Smith		
TM	T. Murphy	AS	A. Smyth		



## SYSTEMATIC LIST

- Southern Cassowary** *Casuarius casuarius*. Paluma (NEQ), 26 Feb, DJ.
- Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*. At least 10, Murray Lagoon, Rockhampton, 8 Jan, MCr; Tamborine (SEQ), 24 Feb, 4 Mar, GH; 6, Reeves Lake, near Charters Towers, 20 May, PB; Swanbank Power Station, Ipswich, 4 Jun, 19 Jul, HZ; 7, Richmond (CQ), 20 Jun, PB; 2, Lake Moondarra, Mt Isa, 22 Jun, PB; 44, Lake Powlathanga, near Charters Towers, 29 Aug, PB; at least 20, Lake Barambah (SEQ), 20 Oct, MT; 3, Gordonbrook Dam, near Kingaroy, 27 Sep, GH.
- Hoary-headed Grebe** *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*. 2, Reeves Lake, 24 Feb, PB.
- Great-winged Petrel** *Pterodroma macroptera*. 3, 80 km E of Brisbane, 27-28 Jan, CC, LH, JP, IT.
- Tahiti Petrel** *Pterodroma rostrata*. 50, 80 km E of Brisbane, 27-28 Jan, CC, LH, JP, IT.
- Mottled Petrel** *Pterodroma inexpectata*. Washed up alive, later died, Moreton Is, 17 Feb, KW, PAR; first for Queensland.
- White-necked Petrel** *Pterodroma externa*. 1, 80 km E of Brisbane, 27-28 Jan, CC, LH, JP, IT. Britton (1990a) reported an occurrence off Pt Lookout on 6 February 1988 and noted a lack of published details for a species which is hardly recorded in Australian waters.
- Gould's Petrel** *Pterodroma leucoptera*. Beachwashed, Pt Lookout, 27 Feb, PH.
- Black-winged Petrel** *Pterodroma nigripennis*. Beachwashed, Southport, 3 Feb, GH.
- Hutton's Shearwater** *Puffinus huttoni*. 1, 80 km E of Brisbane, 27-28 Jan, CC, LH, JP, IT.
- Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*. 100 breeding, S of Morning Inlet, Gulf of Carpentaria, 4 Apr, SG, AT.
- Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator*. 2, diving only 3m from beach, Caloundra, 4 Sep, PM; off Green Is, Moreton Bay, 10 Jun, PW; off Nudgee Beach (SEQ), 14 Jul, PW.
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- Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula*. Inland from Ingham (NEQ), 26 Dec; an especially interesting casualty of Cyclone Joy (Burton *et al.* 1991).
- Great Frigatebird** *Fregator minor*. 4, Noosa, 1 Feb, MO, associated with Cyclone Nancy; 20, Endeavour River, Cooktown, 18-19 May, JM.
- Least Frigatebird** *Fregator ariel*. 3, 80 km E of Brisbane, 27-28 Jan, CC, LH, JP, IT; Burleigh Heads (SEQ), 4 Feb, MC; Samsonvale (SEQ), 5 Feb, IF; 18, Pt Lookout, 20 Apr, DR; 45, Endeavour River, Cooktown, 14 May, JM; in flight 50 km inland, Mareeba (NEQ), 25 Dec, EB; numbers on coast at end of year, Cairns area, DM, AK; Bowen, 29 Dec, PB. Birds in early February were associated with Cyclone Nancy, while birds in late December were associated with Cyclone Joy.
- Red-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon rubricauda*. 1, 80 km E of Brisbane, 27-28 Jan, CC, LH, JP, IT; first pair returning for breeding, Lady Elliot Is, 1 Sep, JP.
- White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus*. 1, 80 km E of Brisbane, 27-28 Jan, CC, LH, JP, IT; several km inland, Whitfield Range, Cairns, 29 Nov, PHo.
- Great-billed Heron** *Ardea sumatrana*. Haughton River (NEQ), 15 Jan, 6 May, PB; Endeavour River, Cooktown, 10 May, 3 Aug, JM; Bungundarra, W of Yeppoon (MEQ), 2 Aug, MCr; Centenary Lakes, Cairns, early Nov, DM.
- Pied Heron** *Ardea pictata*, Blakey's Crossing, Townsville, 3-21 Feb, DJ.
- Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*. Barcaldine area (SCQ), 27 Jan, TB.
- Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*. Coal Creek, Ipswich, 1 Aug, JH; Kangaroo Pt, Brisbane River, 18 Jul, GN.
- Rufous Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*. Ashmore (SEQ), 20 Oct, KS; Leslie Dam, Warwick, 31 Oct, LD, KS.
- Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*. Auchenflower (SEQ), 18 Aug, IV; Buderim (SEQ), 22 Aug, AG.
- Black Bittern** *Dupetor flavicollis*. 2, Cressbrook Creek (SEQ), 6 Feb, WP; Gordon Creek, Iron Range (NEQ), 27 Nov, CP; Centenary Lakes, Cairns, 28 Nov, DM.
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- Australasian Bittern** *Botaurus poiciloptilus*. Lake Clarendon (SEQ), 29 Sep, PMc.
- Black-necked Stork** *Xenorhynchus asiaticus*. Barcaldine, 25 Aug, 24 Oct, CMc, LMc, JC; recorded in SEQ at Boonah, Tingalpa, Ewan Madook Dam, Warrill View, Canungra, Rathdowney, Coomera, Coombabah Lake, GL, YS, AG, PR, MR, LD, BR, KS, MM. Breeding records (SEQ): Bald Hills, 1 Mar, PMa; Pine River, 4 Nov, RS *et al.*; E of Rockhampton, 23 Nov, MCr; Bruce Hwy/Gateway Arterial Road junction, 15 Aug, NE.
- Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*. At least 140, Redcliffe Airport (SEQ), 19 May, JN; unusual concentration.
- Magpie Goose** *Anseranus semipalmata*. Numerous records from SEQ, mostly in summer, including at least 1000 at Lockyer River, 29 Dec, GB, 800 near Bundaberg, 13 Oct, LR, and 150 at Warrill View, Apr-May, MR.
- Wandering Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*. Sightings at Coombabah Sewage Works (SEQ) throughout the year; Carbrook (SEQ), 11 Oct; all LD, MM, KS. Pair with 6 young, Coombabah, 28 Apr, GH.
- Plumed Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna eytoni*. At least 500, Airlie Beach (MEQ), 20 Jul, DT; 600, close to Kilkivan-Goomeri road (SEQ), 4 Jul, CF, JF; 200, Tamrookum, near Beaudesert (SEQ), 24 May, LD, MM, KS; also noted in SEQ at Coombabah Sewage Works, Kenilworth, Oxenford and Kerry, BR, LD, MM, KS.
- Freckled Duck** *Stictonetta naevosa*. At least 20, perhaps hundreds, Caikingburra Swamp, Lake Buchanan (CQ), 11 Aug, DMc, KP.
- Cape Barren Goose** *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*. A bird E of Goondiwindi (SEQ), Dec, BT, RAOU; probably an escapee.
- Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*. Near Toowoomba, from Sep intermittently to end of year, RAOU; probably an escapee.
- Australian Shelduck** *Tadorna tadornoides*. Male, Eyre Creek, 100km N of Birdsville (SWQ), 2 Dec, DJ.
- Radjah Shelduck** *Tadorna radjah*. 5, Blakey's Crossing, Townsville, 14 Jul, MM, KC, CP; 2, Mon Repos, Bundaberg, 30 Dec, LR; sighted regularly (up to 20), Yeppoon area at Kinka Beach and Iwasaki, pair inspecting nesting hollow on 31 Jul, MCr.
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- Chestnut Teal** *Anas castanea*. Marburg, W of Ipswich, 7 Aug, GLe *et al.*.
- Australasian Shoveler** *Anas rhynchos*. Near Caboolture (SEQ), 15 Apr, JN *et al.*; N of Bowen (NEQ), 23 Dec, PB; Reeves Lake, 4 on 24 Feb, 1 on 11 Mar, 5 on 1 Dec, PB.
- Garganey** *Anas querquedula*. 28, Inverleigh Station, near Burketown (NWQ), 2 Apr, SG, AT.
- Pink-eared Duck** *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*. Tallegalla (SEQ), 21 Feb, GLe; Marburg, 7 Aug, GLe *et al.*.
- Cotton Pygmy-Goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus*. Exceptional count of 350, Lake Powlathanga, 29 Aug, PB; 31, Atkinson's Dam (SEQ), 22 Jun, CP, KC; Lake Clarendon, 18 Feb, FG, MB; Murray Lagoon, Rockhampton, 8 Jan, MCr; 75, Palm Tree Creek, NW of Taroom (SEQ), 22 Jun, GH.
- Blue-billed Duck** *Oxyura australis*. Near Helidon (SEQ), 1 Apr, RAOU.
- Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*. Storm King Dam, Stanthorpe, 31 Oct, LD, KS.
- Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*. Mitchell (SCQ), 500 km from coast, 21 Dec, DA.
- Letter-winged Kite** *Elanus scriptus*. Mareeba (NEQ), 5 May, RAOU.
- Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata*. Numerous records in SEQ, late Mar - Sep, at Buderim, Coal Creek, Oxley Creek, Enoggera Reservoir, Eight Mile Plains, Thornlands, Yeronga, Bracken Ridge, Imbil and Advancetown; bred successfully E of Rockhampton, Jan - May, MCr.
- Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*. Chermerside (SEQ), 30 Jul, JN.
- Square-tailed Kite** *Lophoictinia isura*. Charters Towers, 26 Jan, PB; Waterford (SEQ), 12 Feb, 2 Mar, DAG; Lake Samsonvale, 1 Sep, IF, CC, LH; N of Rockhampton, 6 Nov, PMh; Burpengary (SEQ), 5 Dec, JN; Townsville, 31 Aug, DJ.
- Black-breasted Buzzard** *Hamirostra melanosternon*. Lockyer Water (SEQ), 24 Apr, TM; 2, W of Hughenden (CQ), 19 Jun, PB; Richmond, 20 Jun, PB; NW of Julia Creek (WCQ), 21 Jun, PB; E of Boulia (WCQ), 25 Jun, PB; Bloomfield River district (NEQ), 3 Nov, CG; Lake Buchanan (CQ), 5 Jul, PB; Lockhart River, Cape York Peninsular, 23 Nov, CP; Charters Towers, 7 Sep, PB; W of Georgetown (NCQ), 1 May, DJ.
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- Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*. Successful nesting, Indooroopilly (SEQ), 20 Oct, TF; 2, Brisbane River at University Reach, Jun, DMu.
- Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*. Burpengary, 30 Nov, JN; Bald Hills (SEQ), 2 Aug, RS.
- Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*. Currumbin Valley (SEQ), 31 May, LD, MM, BR; Downfall Creek Reserve (SEQ), 26 Feb, AGr, BGr.
- Grey Goshawk** *Accipiter novaehollandiae*. Barcaldine, 21 Jan, 13 Oct, TB, JC; Pullenvale (SEQ), 4 Feb, GG, MG.
- Red Goshawk** *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*. Toowoomba area, 29 May, RH, RHo, WJ; Lakefield NP (NEQ), 12 Sep, RS; Crystal Creek, N of Townsville, 13 Jan, RD; Bloomfield River district, Jun, CG.
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*. Newstead (SEQ), 1 Apr, SO; Bramble Bay (SEQ), 5 May, HN, JN; Numinbah Valley (SEQ), 10 May, LD, BR, KS.
- Wedge-tailed Eagle** *Aquila audax*. SEQ, in or near Brisbane: Blunder Creek, 19 Mar, JHa; 2, McDowall, 2 May, BGr; Bruce H'wy (Beewah Turnoff), 22 Jul, GN; The Gap, 9 May, TM.
- Little Eagle** *Hieraetus morphnoides*. Woodstock, S of Townsville, 13 Apr, PB; Enoggera Reservoir, 25 Apr, RC *et al.*; Samsonvale, 29 May, DC; W of Hughenden, 27 Jun, PB; 2, E of Boulia, 25 Jun, PB; Bruce H'wy, Kallangur (SEQ), 23 Jul, JN; Glenlyon, SW of Stanthorpe (SEQ), 1 Nov, LD, KS; Buderim, 12 Nov, AG; Townsville, 4 Jul, DJ.
- Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis*. Mt Elliot, S of Townsville, 10 Feb, PB; pair, Rosewood, Apr, DMO; Boonah (SEQ), 22 Apr, IT; near Canungra, 24 May, LD, MM, KS; Calen, N of Mackay, 24 Dec, PB; road kill, N of Gin Gin (SEQ), 11 Jul, MMa, CP; S of Charters Towers, 26 Aug, PB.
- Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*. Swanbank Power Station, Ipswich, 4 Jun, HZ; NW of Julia Creek, 21 Jun, PB.
- Black Falcon** *Falco subniger*. Beaudesert, 8 Nov, DT; 2, N of Bedourie (SWQ), 1 Dec, DJ; N of Birdsville, 2 Dec, DJ; S of Boulia, 3 Dec, DJ.
- Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*. Brisbane, 28 Jan, 4 May, MP, AD;
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- Coombah Sewage Works, 5 Jul, LD, MM; 70 km E of Boulia, 25 Jun, PB; Kinka Beach, Yeppoon, 7 May, MCr.
- Grey Falcon** *Falco hypoleucos*. Barcaldine area, 21 Jan, TB; 2, W of Boulia, 3 Dec, DJ.
- Stubble Quail** *Coturnix novaezelandiae*. 2, Lake Powlathanga, 16 Feb, PB; Charters Towers, 10 Mar, PB.
- King Quail** *Coturnix chinensis*. Family party, Mt Elliot, 17 Jun, PB; dead female, Cooktown Racecourse, 31 Jul, JM; Lake Samsonvale, throughout the year, IT; 2, Blakey's Crossing, Townsville, 21 Feb, DJ.
- Red-backed Button-quail** *Turnix maculosa*. Barambah Falls, Winderam (SEQ), 10 Dec, MT; Mt Elliot, 20 Jan, PB; female, Samsonvale, 11 Nov, IT; Blakey's Crossing, Townsville, 21 Feb, DJ.
- Painted Button-quail** *Turnix varia*. Girraween NP (SEQ), 14-15 Oct, FG; Calliope Range (SEQ), 3 Sep, IV.
- Black-breasted Button-quail** *Turnix melanogaster*. 2 Females, Deongwar State Forest (SEQ), 6 May, GH; male, Yarraman State Forest (SEQ), 28 Sep, GH.
- Red-chested Button-quail** *Turnix pyrrhotorax*. Injured bird, Beechmont (SEQ), 6 Feb, GH; Blakey's Crossing, Townsville, 24 Jan, PB; road kill, Paluma, 26 Feb, DJ.
- Plains-wanderer** *Pedionomus torquatus*. Tucson, 45 km SE of Winton (WCQ), Jan, JM, SH.
- Buff-banded Rail** *Rallus philippensis*. 2, Giru (NEQ), 10 Mar, PB; Kipparing (SEQ), 2 Dec, JB, FB; Lake Cootharabah (SEQ), 15-16 Dec, DMu *et al.*; Bowen (MEQ), 22 Dec, PB; Eungella NP, W of Mackay, 24 Dec, PB.
- Lewin's Rail** *Rallus pectoralis*. Calling from Lantana, Samsonvale Cemetery, 4 Nov, IT; Lamington NP, 27 Feb, 14 Nov, GH; Lower Beechmont, 18 May, 27 Jul, GH.
- Red-necked Crake** *Rallina tricolor*. Breeding, Cairns garden, 2 Feb-3 Mar, DM.
- Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla*. Reeves Lake, 24 Feb, PB; S of Mora Mora Station, Gulf of Carpentaria, 5 Apr, AT, SG; Georgetown (NCQ), 15

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Apr, DM; 3, Eulo Bore (SWQ), 29 Sep, RD, GL, AGr, BGr; 2, Swanbank, 28 Nov, HZ; Doboy (SEQ), 29 Dec, AT, IM; Blakey's Crossing, Townsville, 7 on 21 Feb, male with fledgling on 25 Feb, DJ.

**Australian Crake** *Porzana fluminea*. 3, Lake Powlathanga, 16 Feb, PB; Blakey's Crossing, Townsville, at least 20 on 21 Feb, and noted throughout Feb, DJ.

**Spotless Crake** *Porzana tabuensis*. 2, Hasties Swamp, Atherton Tablelands, 15 Nov, DM; Broken River, Beaudesert, 1 Sep, RD; Campbell's Pocket (SEQ), 7 May, HN, JN; immature, Eyre Creek, 2 Dec, DJ.

**White-browed Crake** *Poliolimnas cinereus*. Centenary Lakes, Cairns, 28 Nov, DM.

**Bush-hen** *Gallinula olivacea*. Brookfield (SEQ), 11 Feb, MR; Mt Elliot, 25 Jan, 15 Sep, PB; Cawarral, near Rockhampton, 26 Jun, MCr.

**Black-tailed Native-hen** *Gallinula ventralis*. Durham Dam, Georgetown, 11 Feb, RD.

**Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa*. Influx of 40, Reeves Lake, 24 Feb, PB; only one still present on 11 Mar.

**Brolga** *Grus rubicundus*. Buderim (SEQ), 14 Jul, AG.

**Sarus Crane** *Grus antigone*. At least 500, Malanda, Atherton Tablelands, 18 Jun, BS.

**Australian Bustard** *Ardeotis australis*. 33 together, Booringa Downs, Mitchell, Jul, DA; 2, Kingaroy area, 14 Apr, PMA, NA.

**Beach Thick-knee** *Burhinus neglectus*. Several pairs, southern Gulf of Carpentaria, 29 Mar, AT, SG; South Stradbroke Is, 24 Mar, PR *et al.*; Scarborough (SEQ), 26 Jan, MMh, PMh, RMh.

**Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*. Successful breeding, May-Oct, Redcliffe Airport, IT, JP; breeding, Wyvenhoe Dam, 1 Nov, GB; Durham Dam, Georgetown, 11 Feb, RD.

**Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolor*. An unusual concentration of 300, Booringa Downs, Mitchell, Feb, DA; Durham Dam, Georgetown, 11 Feb, RD; up to 5, Rosewood (SEQ), 22-29 Apr, DMO; breeding, Lockyer Creek, near Helidon, 18 Aug, JP; nesting, NW of Beaudesert, 1 Sep, RD;

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breeding, Burpengary, 5 Oct, JN, RC, SC; 2, Lake Powlathanga, 15 Nov, PB; 6, Toomba Lake, 1 Dec, PB.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*. Alva Beach (NEQ), 6 on 21 Jan, 1 in nuptial dress on 1 Sep, 6 on 28 Sep, PB; Dunk Is (NEQ), 21 Sep, PB; Cooktown, 14 Dec, JM.

**Red-kneed Dotterel** *Erythrogonyx cinctus*. 9, Reeves Lake, 11 Mar, PB; 12, Lake Powlathanga, 16 Mar, PB; Cairns Esplanade, 17 Mar, DM; 20, Lytton Road, 26 Apr, IT.

**Double-banded Plover** *Charadrius bicinctus*. Pt Halloran, 21 Apr, SHa, DM; 8, Reef Pt, 19 May, JN; several, North West Is, 18 Jun, SCh; all SEQ.

**Red-capped Plover** *Charadrius ruficapillus*. 40, NW of Julia Creek (WCQ), 21 Jun, PB; 90, Lake Buchanan (CQ), 5 Jul, PB.

**Red-necked Avocet** *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*. 6, Neil Turner Weir, Mitchell, 29 Apr, DA; Lytton Road, 3 May, IT.

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*. Cairns, 23 Nov, JCr; seldom recorded in Australia. Full details in published form are anticipated for this and the next species.

**Bristle-thighed Curlew** *Numenius tahitiensis*. Cairns, 20-28 Nov, JS, JCr, OA; first for mainland Australia.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*. Lake Broadwater, SW of Dalby, 23 Nov, MW, MH.

**Little Curlew** *Numenius minutus*. 2, Townsville Town Common, 28 Oct, PB.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*. Lake Powlathanga, 25 Sep, PB; 2, Redcliffe Airport, 29 Sep, PJ.

**Wandering Tattler** *Tringa incana*. Noosa Heads NP, 12 Jan, PB; Green Is (NEQ), 3 Apr, CM.

**Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*. Endeavour River, Cooktown, 23 Jul, JM; 2, Haughton River, Giru, 17-20 Jan, PB; Swanbank, 9 Sep, HZ; Dunk Is, 21 Sep, PB; Burdekin Weir, Charters Towers, 9 Sep, PB; Bowen, 22 Dec, PB.

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- Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*. 34, Lake Buchanan, 5 Jul, PB.
- Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*. 35, The Lake, Abbot Point (NEQ), 18 Sep, GH.
- Latham's Snipe** *Gallinago hardwickii*. Reeves Lake, 6 on 26 Jan, 13 on 24 Feb, PB; Lake Powlathanga, 9 on 16 Feb, 3 on 1 Sep and 25 Sep, PB; Blakey's Crossing, Townsville, 2 on 10 Mar, 1 on 1 Aug, 3 on 27 Oct, PB; Pine River (SEQ), 4 Nov, RS *et al.*; Charters Towers, 17 Dec, PB; Sandgate Lagoon (SEQ), 20 Dec, IM; Doboy, 29 Dec, IM, ATh.
- Asian Dowitcher** *Limnodromus semipalmatus*. Thornside (SEQ), 4 Nov, PW.
- Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*. 320, freshwater lagoon at Alva Beach, 21 Jan, PB; Reeves Lake, 3 on 24 Feb, 8 on 11 Mar, 3 on 18 Dec, PB; 45, Lake Buchanan, 5 Jul, PB; Redcliffe Airport, 3 Sep, JHy.
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*. 600, The Lake, Abbot Point, 18 Sep, GH.
- Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum*. 2, Barcaldine, 13 Jan, JC; Yarrabah area, near Cairns, 16 Nov, JCr.
- Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*. 800, NW of Julia Creek, 21 Jun, PB; 400, S of Boulia, 24 Jun, PB.
- Silver Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae*. 110 nests, many with eggs, Lake Buchanan, 4 Jul, PB; Reeves Lake, 1 on 24 Feb, 3 on 1 Dec and 18 Dec, PB.
- Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*. One of the two birds reported last year (Britton 1990b) remained until 25 Sep (JP). This one-legged adult was seen intermittently by many observers, assuming nuptial dress prior to departure, JCr, DM *et al.*
- White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucoptera*. 1600, Alva Beach, 8 Apr, PB, CM; 200, Lake Samsonvale, 13 Apr, GA; 250, Luggage Pt (SEQ), 22 Apr; Centenary Lakes, Cairns, 23 Nov, DM, AM.
- Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*. 60, seasonal wetland NW of Julia Creek, 21 Jun, PB; 2 small birds, Lytton, 8 Dec, CC, probably referable to the race *affinis* from the Northern Hemisphere, not previously recorded in eastern Australia.
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- Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*. 350, Bowen, 29 Dec, PB; 30, freshwater west of Bruce H'wy, N of Bowen, 30 Dec, PB; these, and numbers along the coast in the Cairns area at the end of the year, DM, were associated with Cyclone Joy; adult, Reeves Lake, 14 Oct, PB.
- Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*. 3 with Common Terns on freshwater N of Bowen on 30 Dec were presumably victims of Cyclone Joy, PB.
- Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana*. Lytton, 3 Mar, SHa, DMi; noted off the Cairns Esplanade, 23 Dec, EK, see Common Tern above.
- Sooty Tern** *Sterna fuscata*. Noted off the Cairns Esplanade, 23 Dec, EK, see Common Tern above; heard at night over Lockhart River Community, W Cape York Peninsular, 24 Jan, DN.
- Bridled Tern** *Sterna anaethetus*. Noted off the Cairns Esplanade, 23 Dec, EK, see Common Tern above.
- White Tern** *Gygis alba*. 6, Chilli Beach, Iron Range (NEQ), 16 Sep, RS.
- Superb Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus*. Waterford (SEQ), 2 Mar, DAG; pair, Cooloola NP (SEQ), 3 Jun, AS, MMA, CP.
- Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina*. Killed at plate glass door, Indooroopilly, 8 Dec, RT.
- Torresian Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula spilorrhoa*. 700 moving south in 20 minutes at Mission Beach (NEQ), 19 Sep, after very bad weather, PB; 2, Mirani, W of Mackay, 27 Dec, PB.
- Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus*. Byfield NP, N of Rockhampton, 29 Jul, MCr.
- White-headed Pigeon** *Columba leucomela*. Kenmore, suburban Brisbane, 35 on 4 May, 8 on 21 Aug, GLe, IV.
- Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*. Jourama Falls NP, near Ingham (NEQ), 25 May, JW; Black Mt, S of Cooktown, 29 Jul, JM.
- Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*. Chermside, 24 Jul, JN; Toohey Forest, Mt Gravatt, 14-19 Apr, CP.
- Flock Bronzewing** *Phaps histrionica*. Flinders H'wy between Richmond and Julia Creek (WCQ), 130 on 21 Jun, 82 on 27 Jun, PB; 36, E of
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Boullia, 25 Jun, PB; 200-300, S of McKinlay on Landsborough H'wy, 10 Jul, KW.

**Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*. Two pairs, one with eggs, Eungella Dam, W of Mackay, 3 Jan, RD.

**Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptrorhynchus magnificus*. 3, Imbil, 5-7 May, DMu; Doonan, near Tewantin, 26 Apr, CF; 2, Pullenvale, 23 Apr, GG, MG; W of Yandina, 5 Dec, SH; exceptional south of Gympie-Noosa-Tewantin area

**Glossy Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptrorhynchus lathamii*. Mudgeeraba, 24-25 Feb, HK; Mt Marrow, 17 Mar, IT, JP; 3, Rosewood, 13-14 Apr, DMo; 4, Pomona area, 15 Apr, AA, KA; 3, Samsonvale, 22 Apr, IF; 3, Lamington NP, 29 Apr, CP; 2, Booringa Downs, Mitchell, 28 Jun, first since Nov 88, DA; 4, Byfield NP, N of Rockhampton, 25 Nov, MCr; 3, Cleveland, 22 Dec, WD; mostly extreme SEQ.

**Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptrorhynchus funereus*. 110 together, including many immature birds, Glasshouse Mt, near Caloundra, 21 Oct, GL.

**Long-billed Corella** *Cacatua tenuirostris*. Redcliffe, 20 Sep, 5 on 25 Sep, with flock of next species, KH, TH, JB.

**Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea*. 40, Gailes Golf Course, Wolsten Park, 15 Mar, MJ; pair with Galahs, Ashgrove, 1-4 May, PHa; 8, Redcliffe, May, ASH; Sandgate Lagoon, 2 Oct, 25 Nov (4), 20 Dec (3), IM; all extreme SEQ. One at Tully (NEQ), 19 Jan, JW; probably an escapee.

**Pink Cockatoo** *Cacatua leadbeateri*. 2, Gold Creek Reservoir, Brookfield (SEQ), 18 Jul, 7 Sep, 2 Dec, DB, EC, MJ.

**Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concinna*. Cunningham's Gap (SEQ), 31 Oct, LD, KS; Goomburra Forest Park (SEQ), 11 Aug, SHa, JHa.

**Red-winged Parrot** *Aprosmictus erythropterus*. Mt Eden, Roma (SCQ), 29 Apr, JHy.

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*. 13, Urangan Botanic Gardens, near Hervey Bay, 28 Jun, GAs, KA, ASe.

**Ground Parrot** *Pezoporus wallicus*. 13 flushed, Cooloola Plains, 26 May, GB.

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- Night Parrot** *Geopsittacus occidentalis*. A dead bird 30 km S of Mt Isa on 17 Oct was probably a road kill, long dead (perhaps 4-12 months), WB, MTh, WL. This exciting find will be documented fully elsewhere. A record by an unknown observer (RAOU) of a bird matching the description of this species between Mt Isa and Cloncurry is also noteworthy.
- Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*. At least 1 million emerging from roost trees, 100km S of Boulia, 3 Dec, DJ.
- Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans*. Aspley, suburban Brisbane, 19 Apr, KL; flying over with Pale-headed Rosellas. A Yellow Rosella *P.e. flaveolus* at Woodend, Ipswich, 8 Sep, LJo, MB; presumably an escapee.
- Eastern Rosella** *Platycercus eximius*. Pullenvale, 17 Mar, GG, MG. Pale-headed Rosella *P. adscitus* hybrid, 16 km N of Nanango, 29 Jan, 18 Apr, 29 May, MT; a fully-plumaged Eastern Rosella noted 6 km S of Nanango, 3 Sep 86, MT.
- Port Lincoln Ringneck** *Barnardius zonarius*. 2, Toowoomba area, 27 Aug, IJ; presumably escapees.
- Red-rumped Parrot** *Psephotus haematonotus*. At least 30, S of Nanango, 30 Jun, MT; Prenzlau, 2 Sep, GLe.
- Golden-shouldered Parrot** *Psephotus chrysopterygius*. At least 25, S of Musgrave, Cape York Peninsular, 10 Nov, PMh.
- Blue Bonnet** *Northiella haematogaster*. Lake Broadwater (SEQ), 17-18 Feb, IT; increasing in numbers, N of Dalby, MW; Mt Eden, Roma, 29 Apr, JHy.
- Bourke's Parrot** *Neophema bourkii*. Near Eulo, 8-11 Jun, IT, JHo; Yaraka district, 21-25 Jun, LL.
- Turquoise Parrot** *Neophema pulchella*. Girraween NP (SEQ), 2 Nov, LD, KS; Biloela (SEQ), 2 Sep. IV.
- Oriental Cuckoo** *Culcululus saturatus*. Atherton (NEQ), 7 Jan, DM; Sherwood (SEQ), Jan, JFo, VFo; Waterford, 4 Mar, DA; St Lucia, Mar, CP; Mt Silvia (SEQ), 13 Apr, DA; Centenary Lakes, Cairns, 5 Dec, DM; Mt Coot-tha (SEQ), 2 Dec, DO.
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- Pallid Cuckoo** *Cuculus pallidus*. Glenlyon, SW of Stanthorpe, 1 Nov, LD, KS.
- Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo** *Cuculus castaneiventris*. Bloomfield River, 10 Apr, CG; juvenile fed by 4 Tropical Scrubwrens, Iron Range NP, 15-17 Nov, PMh; Julatten Caravan Park, near Port Douglas, 25 Jul, AS, MMA, CP; all NEQ.
- Black-eared Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx osculans*. Lake Broadwater, 17-18 Feb, IT; singing, St George (SCQ), 13 Apr IT.
- Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx basalis*. Enoggera Reservoir, 25 Apr, RC *et al.*.
- Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx lucidus*. Booringa Downs, Mitchell, 27 Jul, SHa, DMi; western edge of range.
- Common Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea*. Heard, Upper Endeavour River, Cooktown, 26 May, JM.
- Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scythrops novaehollandiae*. Immature, Cooktown, 22 May, JM.
- Rufous Owl** *Ninox rufa*. Crater NP, S of Atherton (NEQ), 6 Jan, 14 Apr, DJ, JV; Curtain Fig, Yungaburra (NEQ), 28 May, JW; Cairns, two localities, 8 Feb, 3 Jul, 15 Jul, DM *et al.*; Scrubby Creek, Iron Range, 23 Nov, DS, KF, FV, CP; Daintree NP (NEQ), 5 Jan, DJ.
- Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*. Coal Creek, Ipswich, 18 Mar, LJ, MB.
- Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*. St George (SCQ), 8-11 Jun, IT, JHo; Byfield NP, N of Rockhampton, 29 Jul, MCr.
- Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*. Aspley High School, Brisbane, 24 Aug, BH. Perhaps hundreds (1 bird/2km), between Bedourie and Boulia, 2 Dec; plague of Long-haired Rats *Rattus villosissimus*, DJ.
- Masked Owl** *Tyto novaehollandiae*. Kirrama State Forest, inland from Cardwell (NEQ), 18 Dec, DJ.
- Eastern Grass Owl** *Tyto longimembris*. Nesting, Proserpine, eggs rescued and taken to Whitsunday Eden Park, hatched 11 Aug, RAOU; Alva Beach, 30 Jun, PB; Bedourie, 2 Dec, DJ.
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- Sooty Owl** *Tyto tenebricosa*. Joalah NP, Mt Tamborine, 14 Feb, GH; Deongwar State Forest (SEQ), 6 May, GH; Mt Glorious (SEQ), 28 Dec, AS, CP; Paluma, 25 Feb, DJ; Broadwater State Forest, Herbert River (NEQ), 15 Feb, DJ; Kirrama State Forest, 18-19 Sep, DJ.
- Australian Owlet-nightjar** *Aegotheles cristatus*. South Stradbroke Is, 24 Mar, PR *et al.*; near Caboolture, 15 Apr, JN *et al.*.
- White-throated Nightjar** *Caprimulgus mystacalis*. Deception Bay (SEQ), 2 Dec, JB, FB.
- Spotted Nightjar** *Caprimulgus guttatus*. Numerous (1 bird/2km), Normanton to Karumba (NCQ), 1-2 May, DJ.
- White-rumped Swiftlet** *Collocalia spodiopygia*. Glass House Mt, 3 Sep, IV; scarce this far south.
- White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*. Coombabah Sewage Works, 29 Mar, LD, MM, KS; at least 20, Stafford Heights (SEQ), 1 Nov, BH; Woodford (SEQ), 16 Nov, 23 Nov, JG; 70, low over water at Toomba Lake, 1 Dec, PB.
- Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*. At least 50, Noosa, 1 Feb, MO; at least 200, Indooroopilly, 11 Feb, RT; hundreds, Sandgate to Redcliffe, 12 Feb, IT.
- Azure Kingfisher** *Ceyx azurea*. Nested successfully, Kinka Beach, Yeppoon, 17 Jun, MCr.
- Little Kingfisher** *Ceyx pusilla*. Pair, Lower Endeavour River, Cooktown, 5 Jun, JM; McEwan's Beach, S of Mackay, 23 Sep, GH.
- Blue-winged Kookaburra** *Dacelo leachii*. Warril View, 27 Apr, MR, PR; Peak Crossing, Ipswich, 5 May, GH.
- Forest Kingfisher** *Halcyon macleayii*. Theodore, inland SEQ, 23 Jun, GH; western limit.
- Red-backed Kingfisher** *Halcyon pyrrhopygia*. Gordonvale, NEQ coast, 3 Mar, DM; Maroon, near Rathdowney (SEQ), 24 Apr, GP.
- Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera sylvia*. Open eucalypt woodland, S of Musgrave, 13 Nov, PMh.
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- Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*. Palm Beach, Gold Coast, 23 Apr, KS; a late date.
- Red-bellied Pitta** *Pitta erythrogaster*. Iron Range, 18 Jul, VC.
- Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*. Window strike, Brisbane City Centre, 26 Apr, RS; garden, Logan Reserve, Brisbane, 5 Apr, PD, IR; Mt Coot-tha, May-Jun, CP; West Mt Cotton, 17 Jun, PG.
- Rufous Scrub-bird** *Atrichornis rufescens*. Binna Burra, Lamington NP, calling all months, occasionally seen, GH.
- Singing Bushlark** *Mirafra javanica*. Numerous, S of Kynuna, 26-27 Jul, NM, CH.
- White-backed Swallow** *Cheramoeca leucosternum*. Malabar (SEQ), 7 Aug, Gle *et al.*.
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*. 2, Cromarty Siding, S of Townsville, 25 Nov, RSw; 15, Halifax (NEQ), 21 Jan, RD.
- Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*. Fisheries Research Vessel, Gulf of Carpentaria, at 11° 32'S, 139° 42'E, 8 Dec, SB; few Australian records.
- Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*. Gordonvale and Edmonton Turf Farms (NEQ), 11 Mar, 13 Mar, 29 Dec, DM; Yarrabah area, near Cairns, 16 Nov, JCr.
- White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina papuensis*. Barcaldine area (SCQ), 27 Jan, TB.
- Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina lineata*. 35-40, Lower Beechmont (SEQ), 28 Apr, GH; Coal Creek, 21 Apr, GL; Mt Coot-tha, 3 on 10 Nov, 2 on 8 Dec, CP.
- Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*. Near Caboolture, 15 Apr, JN *et al.*; Eidsvold (SEQ), 18 Jun, GH.
- Ground Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina maxima*. 6, Mt Eden, Roma, 29 Apr, JHy; 2, N of Charters Towers, 2 Jun, PB; 5, Hervey Range, W of Townsville, 30 Apr, DJ.
- White-winged Triller** *Lalage sueurii*. Male and female, Brookfield (SEQ), 3 Oct, IP.
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- Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*. Isla Gorge NP (SEQ), 23 Jun, GH; western limit.
- White's Thrush** *Zoothera dauma*. Russet-tailed bird, Gold Creek Road (SEQ), 21-22 Jul, MR, PR.
- Rose Robin** *Petroica rosea*. Indooroopilly, May, TF; Willowvale, near Oxenford, 3 May, LD, MM, BR; several, Tallegalla, 7 Aug, GLe *et al.*: Bell Bird Grove, Brisbane Forest Park, 15 Aug, DMu *et al.*; Bribie Is, 8 Jul, GN *et al.*.
- Hooded Robin** *Melanodryas cucullata*. Yaraka district, 27 Sep, LL.
- Mangrove Robin** *Eopsaltria pulverulenta*. Nesting, with young, Koumala, SE of Sarina (MEQ), 1 Jan, RD; McEwan's Beach, Mackay, 23 Sep, GH.
- Crested Shrike-tit** *Falcunculus frontatus*. Sheep Station Environmental Park, near Caboolture, 3 Jun, JN.
- Little Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha*. Isla Gorge NP, 23 Jun, GH; western limit.
- Crested Bellbird** *Oreoica gutturalis*. 40 km E of Lawn Hill NP (NWQ), 18 Feb, RD.
- White-eared Monarch** *Monarcha leucotis*. E of Nanango, 26 Apr, MT; West Mt Cotton, 3 Jan, PG; 6, Tallebudgera area, 1 Jul, JDa, RDa; pair, Rocksberg, 27 Oct, JN, JW, RF, NF; all SEQ.
- Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*. Male, Severn River, Sundown NP (SEQ), 13 Oct, CP, AS, GR, GS.
- Shining Flycatcher** *Myiagra alecto*. Burpengary Creek (SEQ), 10 May, HN, JN.
- Rufous Fantail** *Rhipidura rufifrons*. Boondall, 10 Mar, NW; Blunder Creek, 12 Mar, JHa; SEQ, early arrivals.
- Chirruping Wedgebill** *Psophodes cristatus*. Goonamurra Station, near Eulo (SWQ), 8-11 Jun, IT, JHo; Thargomindah Road, S of Quilpie, 26 Aug, NM, CH.
- Spotted Quail-thrush** *Cinclosoma punctatum*. 2, Mt Nebo Road, The Gap, 14 Oct, MJ; male, Camp Mt, Brisbane Forest Park, 12 Nov, CP.
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- Cinnamon Quail-thrush** *Cinclosoma cinnamomeum*. Pair, near Eulo, 8-11 Jun, IT, JHo; in level mulga, Eulo Bore, 29 Sep, RD, GL; 3, W of Winton, 1 Dec, DJ.
- Hall's Babbler** *Pomatostomus halli*. 10-15, near Toompine (SCQ), 30 Jul, IT, JP; Yaraka district, 21-25 Jun, LL; 108 km W of Quilpie (SWQ), 25 Aug, NM, CH; Yowah, 1 Jan, RD, GL.
- Clamorous Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus*. 3, Barcaldine, 1 Sep, JC.
- Brown Songlark** *Cinclorhamphus cruralis*. Gordonvale Turf Farm, NEQ coast, 17 Feb, DM.
- Little Grassbird** *Megalurus gramineus*. Lake Powlathanga, 14 Oct, PB.
- Spinifexbird** *Eremiornis carteri*. Lake Moondarra, Mt Isa, 22 Jun, PB.
- Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*. 2, Giru, 20 Jan, 5 Feb, DJ, PB; Kinka Beach, near Yeppoon, 30 Oct, MCr; nesting (with young), Koumala, SE of Sarina, 1 Jan, RD.
- Red-backed Fairy-wren** *Malurus melanocephalus*. Dirranbandi (SCQ), W edge of range, 19 Feb, RMh, MMh.
- Carpentarian Grasswren** *Amytornis dorotheae*. 6, 95 km NNW of Mt Isa, 25 Jun, RAOU; extension of known range 300 km to SE.
- Striated Grasswren** *Amytornis striatus*. Opalton, 28 Jul, NM, CH; with Rufous-crowned Emu-wrens *Stipturus ruficeps*.
- Grey Grasswren** *Amytornis barbatus*. Small parties, Eyre Creek, 1-2 Dec, DJ.
- Dusky Grasswren** *Amytornis purnelli*. 4 on rocky hillside, 10 km S of Mt Isa, Sep, GT.
- Eastern Bristlebird** *Dasyornis brachypterus*. Spicers Gap, 3 Nov, SHa, DMi; Lamington NP, 29 Apr, CP.
- Tropical Scrubwren** *Sericornis beccarii*. Weipa (NEQ), 7 Aug, DMi.
- Chestnut-rumped Hylacola** *Sericornis pyrrhopygius*. Girraween NP, 2 Nov, LD, KS.
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- Weebill** *Smicrornis brevirostris*. Coomera (SEQ), 14 Jun, 4 Oct (nesting), LD, BR, KS.
- Buff-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza reguloides*. Kaban, Atherton Tablelands, 3 Jan, DM.
- Southern Whiteface** *Aphelocephala leucopsis*. Sundown NP, SW of Stanthorpe, 1 Nov, LD, KS.
- Brown Treecreeper** *Climacteris picumnus*. Sundown NP, 1 Nov, LD, KS.
- Little Wattlebird** *Anthochaera chrysoptera*. Pair feeding Koel, Eight Mile Plains, 5 Apr, NM, WMc.
- Striped Honeyeater** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*. South Stradbroke Is, 24 Mar, PR *et al.*; Geebung, 30 Mar, EM; Wavell Heights, early Oct, MHa; Acacia Ridge, 7-8 Apr, KJ; all in the Brisbane area.
- Regent Honeyeater** *Xanthomyza phrygia*. Burnett Creek, near Maroon, 29 Jul, LE.
- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater** *Xanthotis flaviventer*. Weipa, 7 Aug, DMi.
- White-eared Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus leucotis*. Isla Gorge NP, 23 Jun, GH; eastern limit.
- Fuscous Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus fuscus*. Kaban, 3 Jan, DM.
- Yellow-tinted Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus flavescens*. Weipa, 7 Aug, DMi; northern limit of range.
- White-plumed Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus penicillatus*. Woodend, Ipswich, 5 Nov, MB.
- Black-chinned Honeyeater** *Melithreptus gularis*. Samsonvale, 4 Mar, JP.
- White-streaked Honeyeater** *Trichodere cockerelli*. 2, heathland, Cooktown, 9 May, JM; Weipa, 7 Aug, DMi.
- Painted Honeyeater** *Grantiella picta*. Bollon (SCQ), 14 Apr, IT; Opalton road, 29 Jul, NM, CH; 5, Eulo Bore, 29 Sep, RD, GL; W of Tara (SEQ), 5 Nov, PMh.
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- New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*. Borumba Dam, Imbil, 18 May, LD, KS.
- Bar-breasted Honeyeater** *Ramsayornis fasciatus*. Fitzroy Barrage, Rockhampton, 6-7 Oct, BHi; Kinka Beach, 14 Jan, MCr.
- Rufous-throated Honeyeater** *Canopophila rufogularis*. Forrest Beach, near Ingham, 21 Jan, RD.
- Black Honeyeater** *Certhionyx niger*. Pair, Lake Bindegolly, near Thargomindah, 8-11 Jun, IT, JHo; 8, E of Boulia, 25 Jun. PB; Opalton road, 29 Jul, NM, CH; Barcaldine, 31 Jul, NM, CH; Eulo Bore, 28 Sep, RD, GL.
- Pied Honeyeater** *Certhionyx variegatus*. W of Tara, 5 Nov, PMh; W of Boulia, 3 Dec, DJ.
- Crimson Chat** *Epthianura tricolor*. Pair, Richmond, 20 Jun, PB; small flock, near Toompine, 30 Jul, IT, BB, JP; 240, Boulia area, 23-26 Jun, PB; 12, Julia Creek, 26 Jun, PB.
- Orange Chat** *Epthianura aurifrons*. S of Kynuna, 26-27 Jul, NM, CH; 60, one nest with eggs, Boulia area, 23-26 Jun, PB.
- Gibberbird** *Ashbyia lovensis*. Fairly common, between Birdsville and Boulia, 1-3 Dec, DJ.
- Red-browed Pardalote** *Pardalotus rubricatus*. Near Eulo, 8-11 Jun, IT, JHo.
- Masked Finch** *Poephila personata*. 6, collecting nesting material, Georgetown, 1 May, DJ.
- Plum-headed Finch** *Aidemosyne modesta*. 6, Prenzlau, 11 Mar, GLe; Bollon, 14 Apr, IT; breeding, Wyvenhoe Dam (SEQ), 1 Nov, GB; at least 40, Winderera (SEQ), 4 Dec, remained to 1991 and bred, MT.
- Pictorella Mannikin** *Lonchura pectoralis*. 8, N of Normanton, 2 May, DJ.
- Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** *Lonchura castaneothorax*. 6, N of Richmond, 20 Jun, PB.
- Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*. Bribie Is, 8 Jul, GN *et al.*
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**Common Mynah** *Acridotheres tristis*. Records from various localities in the Brisbane area including some new sites; W of Dalby, well-established N of Dalby, MW; evidently extending its range in SEQ.

**Figbird** *Sphecotheres vividis*. Bird of the yellow form *flaviventris*, Kinka Beach, Oct, DCr.

**Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus*. Mary Cairncross Park, Maleny, 30 Oct, TC.

**Paradise Riflebird** *Ptiloris paradiseus*. Near Caboolture, 15 Apr, JN *et al.*; Mt Nebo Road, 8 Sep, YS.

**Magnificent Riflebird** *Ptiloris magnificentus*. Weipa, 7 Aug, DMi.

**Little Woodswallow** *Artamus minor*. Bollon, 14 Apr, IT.

**Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen*. A bird of the white-backed form *hypoleuca*, Woolongabba, suburban Brisbane, 27 Apr, GN; presumably an escapee so far north.

**Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina*. 4, Mt Piebald, N of Cooktown, 1 Apr, JM.

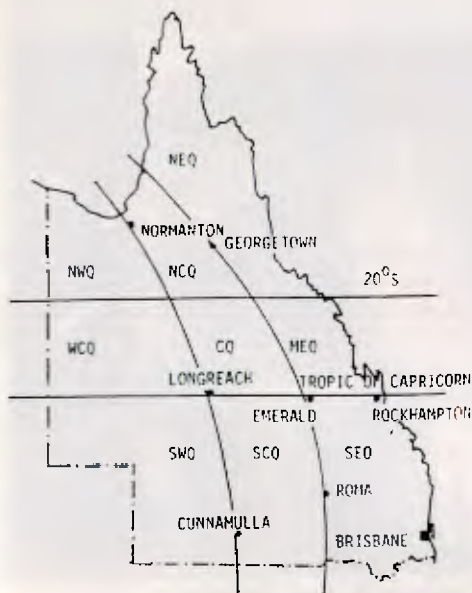


Fig. 2.  
Queensland districts  
mentioned in the text.  
(from Dahms, in Palliser  
1985).

## COURT SIZE AND MAINTENANCE IN THE TOOTH-BILLED CATBIRD

J. D. GRANT and W. F. LAURANCE

The Tooth-billed Catbird *Ailuroedus denticrostris* is confined to upland rainforest in north Queensland. Unlike most bowerbird species, in which males construct an elevated bower of twigs for courting, male Tooth-bills create a court (display arena) on the forest floor decorated with up-turned leaves. Males procure each leaf individually, using the tooth-like structure in their upper mandible for cutting leaf petioles. The courts are usually located on a ridge and consist of a 1-2m diameter oval cleared of leaf litter and debris. Tooth-bills are polygynous, and females apparently judge prospective mates on the basis of their court and associated vocalizations and displays (Schodde & Tidemann 1988).

Because there are no published, quantitative comparisons of Tooth-bill courts, we assessed individual and temporal variation in thirteen courts in 1989. The study site (17° 12' S, 145° 36' E) encompassed 200 ha of complex mesophyll vine-forest (Tracey 1982) on the northeast margin of the Atherton Tableland. The terrain was hilly and dissected, at 750-800m elevation.

Courts were located in mid-September, the beginning of the courtship period, and then monitored at 3-13 day intervals from 27 September to 17 December. Initially, all court leaves were counted and given a small (<5 mm) white paint



Photographs by courtesy Mr. Keith Richards



mark on their downward surface. In subsequent observations, previously marked leaves were counted, and new leaves were counted and given a different mark. Thus, for each observation period, we determined (1) total number of leaves on each court, (2) average daily rates at which leaves were added and discarded, and (3) duration of each leaf 'cohort' (mean number of days that leaves persisted before being discarded, derived by summing the number of leaf-days for each cohort over all observations, then dividing by initial cohort size).

All thirteen courts were on or near ridge-lines and at least 90% of leaves belonged to Umbrella Trees *Schefflera actinophylla*. However, the size (number of leaves) of each court was highly variable. Courts averaged between 22.8 and 94.6 leaves each ( $\bar{x} \pm \text{SD} = 46.7 \pm 26.9$  leaves).

When data from all courts and study intervals were combined, there were significant, positive correlations between court size and the daily rates at which leaves were added ( $r=0.717$ ,  $df=101$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). Thus, birds with larger courts collected and discarded more leaves. On average, each bird collected  $4.05 \pm 2.69$  new leaves/day, and discarded  $3.96 \pm 2.99$  leaves/day.

Mean leaf duration was highly variable on different courts, ranging from 2.3 to 10.1 days ( $\bar{x} \pm \text{SD} = 5.15 \pm 2.44$  days). However, these average values disguised variation in the individual leaves; most leaves were removed after two weeks or less, but a few persisted for 4-5 weeks. Mean leaf duration was not significantly correlated with mean court size ( $r=0.454$ ,  $df=10$ ,  $P>0.10$ ), suggesting that males with larger courts did not sacrifice court (leaf) quality. This is consistent with the observation that males with larger courts invested more energy in obtaining new leaves and discarding old leaves.

For most males, effort in court maintenance declined after mid-October, sometimes dramatically. Courts averaged  $52.2 \pm 27.5$  leaves until 15 October but only  $36.9 \pm 24.6$  leaves thereafter, with nine of thirteen courts declining

by at least 25%. This resulted from a sharp (51%) drop in the rate of accruing new leaves, although the rate at which leaves were discarded also fell by 35%.

The thirteen courts we monitored were highly variable in size. Larger courts require greater effort for construction, and our findings suggest that more time and energy must be devoted to their maintenance. Future studies should attempt to determine whether factors such as court size (number of leaves), court quality (leaf freshness), court location, and court age influence the frequency of matings (e.g. Borgia 1986). These data would yield insight into the criteria involved in female mate selection, and could help to discriminate between competing models of sexual selection for the evolution of court- and bower-building birds (Gilliard 1963, Borgia 1986). Clearly, as a species exhibiting a rudimentary form of bower behaviour, the mating system of the Tooth-billed Catbird is worthy of closer scrutiny.

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