

THE SUNBIRD



Journal of the
QUEENSLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 21

Number 4

December 1991

CONTENTS

- PETER DAWSON, DOREEN DAWSON, IVAN REYNOLDS and SANDRA REYNOLDS**
Notes on the birds of Logan Reserve, Southeast Queensland, 1967 - 1990 93
- IAN ROWLEY** Petal-carrying by the Red-backed Fairy-wren 112
- PETER and BEVLY HUGHES**
Some recent records of Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos in southeastern Queensland 114

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL FOR 1991

President
ROY SONNENBURG

Vice President
GRAHAM LEACH

Past President
DAVID NILAND

Country Vice President
DAWN ALLEN

Treasurer
DON MUIR

Secretary
POLLY CUTCLIFFE

Outings Officer
JULIEN BIELEWICZ
JOHN HADLEY

Sunbird Editor
PETER BRITTON

Assistant Editor
PHILLIP MAJOR

Librarian
GRAHAM LEACH

Slide Librarian
JOHN NOYCE

Projects Officer
IAN VENABLES

Conservation Officer
SANDRA HARDING

Membership Secretary
SUE HEUSSLER

Newsletter Editor
DAWN MUIR

Council Members
PETER DRISCOLL, LYNDA LITZ-TYNE, ANDREW THELANDER,
JEREMY THOMPSON

The objectives of the Society are to promote the scientific study and conservation of birds by all means possible, with particular reference to the birds of Queensland.

Annual subscription rates to the Society are:

All members receive a monthly newsletter and a copy of the quarterly journal, *The Sunbird*. The price of *The Sunbird* to non-members is \$5.00 per issue. The Society holds a general meeting and a field excursion each month.

All correspondence, including membership fees, should be addressed to the Secretary. *The Society's address is:*

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

THE SUNBIRD

Volume 21 No. 4

December 1991

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF LOGAN RESERVE, SOUTHEAST QUEENSLAND, 1967-1990

PETER DAWSON, DOREEN DAWSON,
IVAN REYNOLDS and SANDRA REYNOLDS

Logan Reserve, approximately 30 km SSE of Brisbane city centre, is essentially rural and undeveloped, despite the depredations of suburban sprawl and real estate developers in recent decades (see maps, Fig.1). Subdivisions have significantly modified Flesser's Property and part of Willett's Property during the study period, while more recent modifications have taken place near Fleming's Dam and Logan Reserve State School. The usual pattern is to clear unwanted living and dead trees, excavate a dam, introduce domestic animals, and plant exotic trees. Encroachment of Logan City on the northern boundary is unlikely to penetrate the natural Floodway buffer, and it is hoped that the Beaudesert Shire Council will continue its policy of 1 ha minimum lot size. Properties and other sites of importance for bird observations are detailed in Appendix 1, which summarizes physical characteristics and dominant vegetation.

Roberts (1979) and others have documented the status of birds in southeast Queensland, though there are few definitive statements for particular areas in or near the metropolitan area. It is clearly desirable to have such data available for future monitoring in this rapidly changing environment. Australasian Grebe, Cattle Egret, Sacred and Straw-necked Ibis, Maned Duck, Masked Lapwing, Spotted Turtle-Dove, Galah, Common Starling, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie and Torresian Crow (also Channel-billed Cuckoo in terms of brood parasite status) appear to have benefitted from environmental modification and development; while Black Bittern, Pheasant Coucal, Australian Owlet-nightjar, White-throated Nightjar, Jacky Winter, Grey-crowned Babbler and Buff-rumped Thornbill have undoubtedly suffered. These and numerous other data are to be found in the Systematic List (Appendix 2). Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, reported by Dowling (1990), is new for Logan Reserve.

Seasonality is an important component of the Systematic List, though 'seasons' are difficult to define in southeast Queensland using the accepted European terms of spring, summer, autumn and winter. Many birds are influenced more by climatic factors (especially rain and drought) than they are by the four seasons *per se*. These traditional terms are used widely in the Systematic List, more for a convenience than a seasonal description. 'Wet' and 'dry' are often more meaningful. The wet season generally extends from December to April and is associated with very hot, humid weather, heavy rain and flooding. The dry season is the period of cooler weather and lower rainfall from May to November. These seasons are a contributing factor to the movement and breeding of birds at Logan Reserve. Vegetation is likewise important in terms of distribution and seasonal occurrence. Genera and common names of native flora mentioned in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 are found in Appendix 3.

REFERENCES

- DOWLING, R. 1990. Backyard Birding. *QOSI Newsletter* 21(11): 5.
- ROBERTS, G.J. 1979. *The birds of south-east Queensland*. Brisbane: Queensland Conservation Council.
- PETER & DOREEN DAWSON, 150 Loganview Road;
IVAN & SANDRA REYNOLDS, Lot 8 Loganview Road, Logan Reserve,
Q 4133.
-

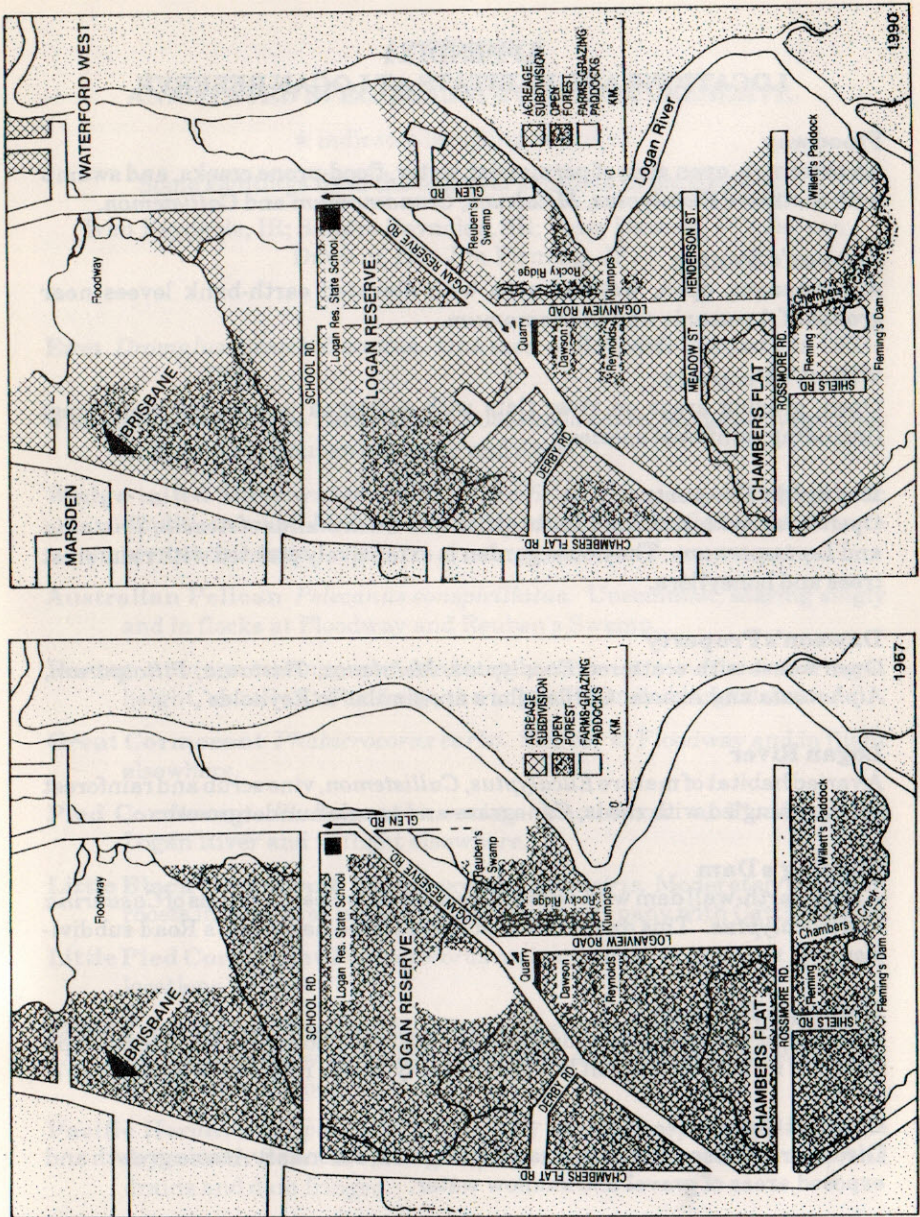


Fig. 1. Maps of Logan Reserve, showing portions occupied by open forest, grazing paddocks and subdivisions in both 1967 and 1990.

APPENDIX 1
LOCATIONS AND HABITATS AT LOGAN RESERVE

Floodway

An extensive, open area of permanent water, flood-prone creeks, and swamp with scattered *Eucalyptus*, *Melaleuca*, *Cinnamomum* and *Callistemon*.

Reuben's Swamp

A permanent, open, wetland area with elevated earth-bank levees near groups of *Araucaria* and *Cinnamomum*.

Willett's Property

Open, grazing areas on river flats with scattered patches of open forest (including rainforest species).

Reynolds' Property

Open forest with scattered *Eucalyptus* and thick stands of *Acacia*, *Tristania* and *Leptospermum*. The house garden is extensively planted with rainforest trees and honeyflora.

Dawson's Property

Open forest with scattered *Eucalyptus*, *Melaleuca*, *Tristania*, *Pittosporum*, *Alphatonia* and *Acacia*. Garden flora are similar to Reynolds'.

Logan River

A varied habitat of mature *Eucalyptus*, *Callistemon*, vine scrub and rainforest species mingled with reeds, Canegrass and tangled undergrowth.

Fleming's Dam

A large earth-wall dam with water lilies and reeds close to stands of *Casuarina* and *Eucalyptus*. This dam is now included in the new Shiel's Road subdivision.

Klumpff's Property

Open forest with rocky outcrops, descending to the Logan River. The Klumpff family is no longer resident but the property is still referred to as Klumpff's.

Council Quarry

Disused roadbase extraction quarry with thick, secondary *Acacia* growth and exposed areas of gravel and shallow water.

Chambers Creek

A generally slow-moving creek, with scattered permanent water holes thickly lined with open forest (including rainforest species).

APPENDIX 2

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST FOR LOGAN RESERVE.

★ indicates breeding record(s).

Some sightings have the observer's initials in parenthesis:

Ivan Reynolds, IR; Sandra Reynolds, SR; Peter Dawson, PD; Doreen Dawson, DD; Jim Fleming, JF.

- Emu** *Dromalus novaehollandiae*. One seen at Reynolds' property in 1987 (IR)
- ★ **Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*. Moderately common at Floodway, Reuben's Swamp and dams.
- Wedge-tailed Shearwater** *Puffinus pacificus*. Four seen during cyclonic conditions on 26 January 1974 (IR); other unidentified seabirds were seen at this time.
- Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*. Uncommon, soaring singly and in flocks at Floodway and Reuben's Swamp.
- Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster*. Moderately common, sometimes soaring at height, usually at Floodway, the Logan River and large dams.
- Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Scarce: at Floodway and in flight elsewhere.
- Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax varius*. Uncommon: at Floodway, the Logan River and in flight elsewhere.
- Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*. Moderately common: roosts in trees over water at Floodway in company with Cattle Egrets.
- Little Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*. Common at all water locations.
- Least Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel*. One at Dawson's property on 14 February 1972 associated with cyclonic conditions; another sighted at Waterford in the same period.
- Pacific Heron** *Ardea pacifica*. Moderately common, especially during the dry season. Soars in small groups and can be seen at Floodway, road drains and dam fringes.
- ★ **White-faced Heron** *Ardea novaehollandiae*. Common throughout.
- Cattle Egret** *Ardeola ibis*. Rare in the early 1970's, now the most common
-

egret; associated with stock, roosting at Floodway.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*. Moderately common in the late 1960's and early 1970's. At present, it is sometimes seen at Floodway and Reuben's Swamp.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*. One seen at Floodway in August 1973.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*. Uncommon; formerly the most common egret locally.

Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*. Often roosting in Camphor Laurel trees at Reuben's Swamp in the past; now rare.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*. Regularly flushed from thick cover along Chambers Creek in the past; now rare.

Black-necked Stork *Xenorhynchus asiaticus*. Mixed groups of adults and immatures are occasionally sighted; generally uncommon, noted at Floodway, Reuben's Swamp and in flight elsewhere.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*. Generally uncommon; mostly recorded at Floodway and Reuben's Swamp.

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopica*. Moderately common throughout, sometimes in mixed flocks with the next species; more common in the dry season in open areas.

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*. Generally common, especially in open paddocks and cultivation in the dry season.

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*. Moderately common in wet areas; can be seen feeding in fast flowing water when local creeks are in flood.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*. As for the previous species but less common.

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*. A local influx in March – May 1990 when 44 birds were noted at Fleming's Dam.

★**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*. Regularly seen at Floodway and has nested at Reuben's Swamp; moderately common to uncommon.

★**Pacific Black Duck** *Ana superciliosa*. Very common in all wet areas, especially at Reuben's Swamp and Floodway.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. One at Klumpp's Dam on 23 July 1978 (IR).

Grey Teal *Anas gibberifrons*. Moderately common to uncommon; Floodway and large dams.

Hardhead *Aythya australis*. Uncommon on open water at Floodway.

- ★**Maned Duck** *Chenonetta jubata*. Previously uncommon; now the most common duck in the district.
- Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*. Occasional at Floodway and the Logan River.
- ★**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus notatus*. Moderately common in open areas; numbers increase in winter and during mouse plagues.
- Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata*. Uncommon, mostly in autumn or winter; mixed groups of adults and immatures. Not shy when intent on feeding; often makes noisy display flights.
- ★**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*. Formerly nested regularly near the Logan River; occasional sightings at Reuben's Swamp.
- Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*. Generally uncommon, more conspicuous when breeding; regularly preyed on Dawson's Guinea Pigs, especially at dawn, dusk and on overcast days.
- ★**Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*. Similar status as the previous species; annual nesting in Rossmore Road prior to the Rebecca Drive development.
- Grey Goshawk** *Accipiter novaehollandiae*. A single sighting in the early 1970's (IR).
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*. Two sightings of birds in flight (IR).
- Wedge-tailed Eagle** *Aquila audax*. Generally uncommon; wandering immatures are often involved.
- Little Eagle** *Hieraetus morphnoides*. Very uncommon; observed feeding and preening whilst soaring (PD).
- Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis*. Rarely seen at Floodway, Reuben's Swamp and Henderson Street.
- Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*. Uncommon at Reuben's Swamp and over open grassland.
- Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*. Uncommon; immature birds sometimes harass Domestic Pigeons.
- Australian Hobby** *Falco longipennis*. Uncommon, mostly at Floodway; often on overhead wires.
- Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora*. Generally uncommon; attracted by grass fires.
- ★**Australian Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides*. Moderately common throughout;
-

previously very common at Floodway and in open areas generally.

Brown Quail *Coturnix australis*. Uncommon in moist, grassed areas; numbers fluctuate seasonally.

King Quail *Coturnix chinensis*. Rare; recorded at Reuben's Swamp and in a swampy area near Reynolds' property.

★**Painted Button-quail** *Turnix varia*. Seldom recorded; was moderately common in open forest in the past.

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*. One flew into a window on 15 October 1972; died later.

Buff-banded Rail *Rallus philippensis*. Uncommon; usually in long grass at roadsides, also Reuben's Swamp.

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis*. One flushed by dogs from a rockery in Reynolds' garden on 22 October 1970 (SR).

★**Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa*. Common at Floodway and dams.

★**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*. Very common throughout, especially at Reuben's Swamp, Fleming's Dam and Floodway.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*. Moderately common on permanent water; total absence at times.

★**Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea*. Previously uncommon on expanses of permanent water where water lilies occur; now moderately common.

Bush Thick-knee *Burhinus magnirostris*. Heard once, mid-1970, at property adjacent to Reynolds'.

★**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*. Very common in all open areas; frequently calls and flies at night.

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*. Ten at Floodway, August – October 1970.

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonyx cinctus*. Occasional on muddy fringes at Reuben's Swamp and Floodway.

★**Black-fronted Plover** *Elseyaornis melanops*. Moderately common in the past at Reuben's Swamp, Floodway and the Council Quarry; uncommon in recent years.

★**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*. Moderately common at sheltered permanent water; numbers fluctuate.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. Rare; recorded at Reuben's Swamp and Floodway.

- Latham's Snipe** *Gallinago hardwickii*. Recorded in September and November 1970, and January and September 1973; recorded feeding on Reynolds' lawn.
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*. Recorded at Reuben's Swamp, Chambers Creek and Floodway; uncommon.
- Silver Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae*. Occasional visitor to Floodway during cyclonic conditions and floods.
- Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*. An occasional visitor, usually in small parties; hawks over Floodway and Reuben's Swamp when flood conditions prevail.
- Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*. Occasionally seen flying high over the area during unsettled weather.
- Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*. A flock of fourteen birds on 12 February 1972 (IR); this record coincided with inclement coastal weather.
- Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina*. An adult male on 21 December 1989 (PD); in eucalypt woodland close to rainforest.
- Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus*. Never common, but regularly seen flying in formation flocks. From the directions of flight it would appear that there is some movement to and from the rainforest areas to the north and south of Brisbane.
- ★ **Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*. Common throughout, especially in outbuildings on farms; also nests in hollow limbs, apparently competing with native hole-nesting species.
- ★ **Spotted Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*. Increasing, perhaps with the encroachment of sub-divisions and the more suitable habitat which they provide. More likely heard than seen; very common around Reuben's Farm.
- Brown Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia amboinensis*. An uncommon to moderately common dry season visitor. Singly or in small flocks, feeding on Wild Tobacco Bush and other berries.
- ★ **Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida*. Moderately common, preferring open gravelly areas; numbers fluctuate seasonally.
- ★ **Bar-shoulded Dove** *Geopelia humeralis*. A common breeding resident in open forest.
- Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*. A single 1985 record in Dawson's garden (PD); also recorded by Dowling (1990).
-

- ★ **Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*. Moderately common; numbers fluctuate greatly, preferring drier conditions and sometimes absent for periods of a month or more.
- ★ **Crested Pigeon** *Ocyphaps lophotes*. Generally common in open areas and around stock yards; numbers fluctuate seasonally.
- Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus magnificus*. A pair and two immatures were noted on three occasions in September 1970.
- Glossy Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus lathami*. One seen in Slash Pines on 14 February 1990 and twice recorded in the late 1980's; also recorded by Dowling (1990).
- ★ **Galah** *Cacatua roseicapilla*. Early records indicate that it was uncommon. It has been common for some years; numbers, though fluctuating, appear to be on the increase.
- Long-billed Corella** *Cacatua tenuirostris*. One seen at Logan Reserve Road in 1987 was quite tame and possibly an escapee (PD).
- Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea*. A flock of eleven birds at the junction of Glen Road and the Logan Reserve Road in 1987 (PD).
- ★ **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua galerita*. Moderately common, more so in the vicinity of the river; flocks of 200 or more feed on corn stubble.
- ★ **Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*. Very common throughout; numbers fluctuate.
- ★ **Scaly-breasted Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*. Very common throughout; forms mixed flocks with the previous species, and both are regular at local feeding stations.
- ★ **Little Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta pusilla*. Moderately common in open forest, mostly seen in flight; very common when preferred eucalypts are in flower.
- Australian King-Parrot** *Alisterus scapularis*. Occasional in pairs or small flocks; a group of about a dozen remained for most of 1981.
- Red-winged Parrot** *Aprosmictus erythropterus*. Rare; recorded in Reynolds' garden on 14 November 1970, in February 1971 and in October – November 1973.
- Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*. Uncommon; pairs and small flocks.
- Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*. Several sightings of single birds probably refer to escapees.
- Swift Parrot** *Lathamus discolor*. Fourteen flew over Dawson's property in
-

June 1988 (PD).

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*. Rarely seen, singly or in pairs, in gardens and open forest.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*. One often seen in company with the next species during the 1970's.

★**Pale-headed Rosella** *Platycercus adscitus*. A very common resident.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*. A group of at least two adults and four immatures on a sandstone ridge in December 1986(PD). They were usually recorded in *Ficus* and caterpillar - defoliated *Melia*; very elusive, keeping to thick cover and rarely still.

★**Pallid Cuckoo** *Cuculus pallidus*. A regular spring visitor in the early 1970's when it was regularly heard calling from overhead wires and fence posts. Modern records are far less frequent.

★**Brush Cuckoo** *Cuculus variolosus*. Formerly an uncommon summer visitor. More common in recent years, though numbers vary from year to year; feeds on *Melia* - defoliating caterpillars.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cuculus pyrrhophanus*. A moderately common dry season visitor; mainly calls at dawn and dusk.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*. Uncommon throughout; more frequent when smaller birds are nesting and when *Melia* are defoliated by caterpillars.

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*. As for the previous species.

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx malayanus*. An uncommon summer visitor, more often heard than seen.

★**Common Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea*. A common breeding visitor in summer when it parasitizes Noisy Friarbirds, Australian Magpie-Larks and Blue-faced Honeyeaters. During the 1970's it arrived regularly in mid-September, coincident with a local influx of Noisy Friarbirds, though recent observation indicate that this pattern is less defined now.

★**Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scythrops novaehollandiae*. Formerly a rare summer visitor; now moderately common in pairs and flocks, parasitizing Torresian Crows and Australian Magpies.

★**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*. Moderately common in the past; now heard and seen occasionally.

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*. Commonly heard in open forest, but rarely seen.

- Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*. Generally uncommon, numbers increasing during mouse plagues; sometimes seen on Floodway fence posts and power wires.
- ★**Tawny Frogmouth** *Podargus strigoides*. A moderately common breeding resident in open forest. An individual of the red phase found injured on 10 May 1990.
- Australian Owlet-nightjar** *Aegotheles cristatus*. Occasionally heard in open forest; has been seen in the vicinity of Willett's property.
- ★**White-throated Nightjar** *Caprimulgus mysticallis*. Used to breed regularly at Willett's property, varying its nest-site by only a few metres each year; now rare.
- White - throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*. A moderately common summer visitor from October to February–March; often seen on thermals above the sandstone ridge at Loganview Road.
- Fork-Tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*. A very uncommon summer visitor; usually in flocks at considerable heights.
- Azure Kingfisher** *Ceyx azurea*. Uncommon at Floodway, creeks and dams.
- ★**Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae*. A very common resident in all habitats.
- ★**Forest Kingfisher** *Halcyon macleayii*. Uncommon in open forest and at Floodway and Reuben's Dam.
- Red-backed Kingfisher** *Halcyon pyrrhopygia*. An uncommon winter visitor; usually seen on wires and fence posts at Floodway.
- ★**Sacred Kingfisher** *Halcyon sancta*. A common summer breeding visitor where suitable termite mounds occur; some individuals remain in winter.
- ★**Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus*. Moderately common in aerial flocks throughout; sometimes roosts in large flocks in Camphor Laurels at Floodway.
- ★**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*. A common summer visitor from September–October to February–March.
- Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*. Noted in Dawson's garden in April 1990 after local heavy rain.
- ★**White-backed Swallow** *Cheramoeca leucosternum*. Formerly uncommon, now rare; has bred in exposed sand banks near the river.
- ★**Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena*. A very common breeding resident
-

throughout. Noticeable winter movements in mixed flocks with Tree Martins and Fairy Martins are westerly in the mornings and easterly in the evenings.

★**Tree Martin** *Hirundo nigricans*. Generally uncommon but often seen at Reuben's Dam.

★**Fairy Martin** *Hirundo ariel*. A common resident; nests in culverts at Floodway and used to nest in caves and rocky overhangs on the eastern side of Loganview Road.

★**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. Common in all open, grassy areas especially at Floodway.

★**Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae*. A very common breeding resident throughout.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*. Uncommon in open forest and gardens.

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*. Uncommon to common summer visitor from September–October to April–May; numbers vary seasonally during this period.

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*. An uncommon, irregular visitor; mostly recorded at Floodway and in the vicinity of Logan Reserve State School.

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*. An uncommon spring visitor; recorded in or near School grounds, especially in stands of Cypress Pines.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*. Rare; mainly sighted in vine thickets, gardens and thick scrub.

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*. A moderately common winter visitor; more often heard than seen, avoiding open areas.

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*. Rare; recorded at Chambers Creek and Dawson's garden, where it stayed for approximately two weeks during a rain depression.

Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea*. Recorded in the late 1960's.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*. A moderately common winter visitor, mainly females and immatures; usually in company with mixed parties of feeding passerines in open forest.

★**Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris*. A very common summer breeding resident in open forest.

- ★**Grey Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla harmonica*. Moderately common in open forest.
- Black-faced Monarch** *Monarcha melonopsis*. A moderately common passage migrant in open forest in September–October and January–February.
- Spectacled Monarch** *Monarcha trivirgatus*. A very uncommon passage migrant in open forest.
- White-eared Monarch** *Monarcha leucotis*. A bird frequented Dawson's garden for approximately two weeks in the winter of 1989.
- ★**Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula*. Moderately common in open forest from late August to early May; no winter records and most frequent when on the move in September–October and March–April.
- ★**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta*. Very few records during the past decade; moderately common previously.
- Rufous Fantail** *Rhipidura rufifrons*. Generally scarce, but common in Dawson's garden and Reynolds' garden during February–May 1990.
- Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura fuliginosa*. A very common winter visitor in open forest; often follows mixed flocks of passerines, feeding on disturbed flying insects.
- ★**Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys*. A very common breeding resident which prefers more open areas.
- Eastern Whipbird** *Psophodes olivaceus*. Formerly rare, becoming more common; prefers thick cover, especially Lantana thickets on river slopes.
- Spotted Quail-thrush** *Cinclosoma punctatum*. One sighting in the mid-1970's; flew from Reynolds' garden to rocks on Klumpp's property.
- ★**Grey-crowned Babbler** *Pomatostomus temporalis*. Becoming less common; prefers drier, open forest on sandy soils with abundant leaf litter and debris.
- ★**Clamorous Reed-warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus*. An uncommon resident in thick reeds and grasses at Reuben's Swamp, Floodway, the Logan River and larger dams.
- Tawny Grassbird** *Melagurus timoriensis*. An uncommon resident in thick grass and low shrubs; usually close to water, including Fleming's Dam, Floodway and the Logan River.
- ★**Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*. A common breeding resident in all open grassy areas; especially conspicuous at Floodway.
-

- Rufous Songlark** *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*. Rare; seen at Willett's property and Meadow Street.
- Brown Songlark** *Cinclorhamphus cruralis*. Rare; seen at Meadow Street and Floodway in January 1975.
- ★**Superb Fairy-wren** *Malurus cyaneus*. Moderately common throughout; most frequent along the Logan River where it is very common.
- ★**Variegated Fairy-wren** *Malurus lamberti*. Moderately common throughout, preferring thicker cover and piles of dead timber. All three *Malurus* species have been seen together.
- ★**Red-backed Fairy-wren** *Malurus melanocephalus*. Moderately common in open forest with an understorey of grass (for example Ironbark).
- White-browed Scrubwren** *Sericornis frontalis*. Uncommon or rare in thick cover; only sighted in Loganview Road (between Dawson's property and Reynolds' property).
- ★**Speckled Warbler** *Sericornis sagittatus*. Uncommon in pairs and groups in open forest with leaf litter.
- ★**Weebill** *Smicrornis brevirostris*. Commonly seen in open forest in the 1970's. A bird in April 1990 was the first for many years.
- ★**White-throated Gerygone** *Gerygone olivacea*. Moderately common in open forest, preferring areas where *Acacia* species dominate.
- Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusilla*. A single sighting in She-Oak trees with Lantana understorey near the Quarry (PD).
- ★**Buff-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza reguloides*. Moderately common at Reynolds' property and Willett's property prior to sub-divisions at the latter; no sightings for many years.
- ★**Yellow-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*. Moderately common in the grounds of the Logan Reserve State School and in adjacent open areas; uncommon elsewhere.
- Varied Sittella** *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*. Uncommon; wandering parties in open forest.
- White-throated Treecreeper** *Climacteris leucophaea*. Rare; recorded in open forest at Willett's property.
- ★**Little Wattlebird** *Anthochaera chrysoptera*. Flowering trees, especially *Banksia* and *Grevillea*, attract large numbers. It is not unusual to see none one day in Dawson's garden and an abundance the next day; then, a day or so later, they might be gone altogether, or they might stay for
-

months. Sometimes a single pair will arrive, nest and depart.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthogenys rufogularis*. A few were seen in the early 1980's in Loganview Road between Reynolds' property and Dawson's property.

★**Striped Honeyeater** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*. A moderately common breeding resident in open forest; common in pairs and small parties at Dawson's property.

★**Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus*. Common throughout; often nests in stands of Swamp Mahogany.

★**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*. Moderately common in all habitats.

Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*. A single bird was seen on numerous occasions in Reynolds' garden from mid-February to late March 1990.

★**Blue-faced Honeyeater** *Entomyzon cyanotis*. Formerly common throughout; numbers declined from the mid-1980's, but sightings are again becoming frequent.

★**Noisy Miner** *Manorina melanocephala*. Resident territorial groups are very common throughout; mainly in open forest and gardens.

★**Yellow-faced Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus chrysops*. Moderately common in open forest. Seasonal movement from April to September results in greater population densities.

★**Mangrove Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus fasciogularis*. A small party feeding in *Callistemon* at Floodway on 12 July 1972(SR,DD).

★**White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis*. A very common resident at Dawson's property, especially in Paperbark and Mahogany; also moderately common in the vicinity of Chambers Creek and in other suitable habitat throughout.

★**Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*. Common in *Callistemon* along the Logan River; moderately common elsewhere.

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*. Moderately common in gardens and open forest in the dry season.

★**Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*. An uncommon to common nomad throughout.

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*. Uncommon in open forest from April to September; singly or in small groups.

-
- ★**Striated Pardalote** *Pardalotus striatus*. Very common from April to September, uncommon at other times; becomes tame when looking for nest-sites.
- ★**Silvereeye** *Zosterops lateralis*. Wandering flocks move in 'waves' through open forest from April to September, often feeding in company with other passerines. Such flocks often include darker-flanked southern birds. Numbers decrease during the summer months.
- European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*. Occasionally recorded at Floodway when Scotch Thistle is seeding.
- ★**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*. Moderately common at Logan Reserve State School, Reuben's Farm and Willett's Farm. Stragglers visit Dawson's garden where they are repelled by Grey Butcherbirds.
- ★**Red-browed Firetail** *Emblema temporalis*. Generally uncommon in grassland and open forest; regular sightings in thorny shrubs along Chambers Creek.
- ★**Zebra Finch** *Poephila guttata*. Occasionally recorded at Willett's property, Reynolds' property and Klumpp's property.
- ★**Double-barred Finch** *Poephila bichenovii*. Moderately common in open forest, gardens and grassland; numbers fluctuate markedly.
- ★**Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** *Lonchura castaneothorax*. Uncommon in pairs or flocks in long grass (for example Canegrass in the Anderson Street Park, near the Logan River and at Floodway).
- ★**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*. Moderately common in stock-grazed paddocks. Immatures frequent Floodway powerlines in numbers after the breeding season.
- ★**Olive-backed Oriole** *Oriolus sagittatus*. Common in open forest during the summer months, uncommon in winter; regularly nests at Dawson's property
- ★**Figbird** *Sphecotheres viridis*. Moderately common in open areas and gardens; feeds voraciously on Mulberries and often seen in native Fig Trees.
- ★**Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*. A seasonal passage migrant; previously uncommon but noted in greater numbers in recent years.
- Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus*. A dead bird found in Reynolds' garden.
- ★**Australian Magpie-lark** *Grallina cyanoleuca*. A very common breeding resident in all habitats.
-

-
- White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus*. An uncommon visitor, usually perched on power wires; typically near water, for example Floodway and larger dams.
- Masked Woodswallow** *Artamus personatus*. Rare and sporadic in twittering, aerial mixed flocks with the next species.
- White-browed Woodswallow** *Artamus superciliosus*. Similar status to the previous species.
- Dusky Woodswallow** *Artamus cyanopterus*. Formerly a regular visitor during cooler months; recorded from Willett's top paddock and fence posts at Floodway; no recent records.
- ★ **Grey Butcherbird** *Cracticus torquatus*. A common breeding resident in open forest.
- ★ **Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis*. A common breeding resident in cleared and lightly timbered areas.
- ★ **Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen*. Very common in all habitats.
- Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina*. An altitudinal migrant, uncommon during the winter months, and sometimes absent for many years. Often seen in native Fig Trees and Hoop Pines at Reuben's Farm.
- ★ **Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru*. A very common breeding resident, forming noisy flocks after breeding.
-

APPENDIX 3
NATIVE FLORA AT LOGAN RESERVE

Frequent reference is made to various trees and shrubs. Several species of a particular genus may occur in this area, but specific names are avoided.

<i>Acacia</i>	Wattle
<i>Alphatonia</i>	Silver Ash or Soap Bush
<i>Araucaria</i>	Hoop Pine
<i>Banksia</i>	Yellow Bottlebrush
<i>Callistemon</i>	Red Bottlebrush
<i>Callitris</i>	Cypress Pine
<i>Casuarina</i>	She-Oak, River Oak
<i>Cinnamomum</i>	Camphor Laurel
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	Gum Trees, Iron Bark or Bloodwood
<i>Ficus</i>	Fig
<i>Grevillea</i>	Red and White Bottlebrush
<i>Lantana</i>	Lantana
<i>Leptospermum</i>	May Bush
<i>Melaleuca</i>	Paperbark
<i>Melia</i>	White Cedar
<i>Pinus</i>	Slash Pine
<i>Pittosporum</i>	Native Daphne
<i>Tristania</i>	Swamp Mahogany

PETAL-CARRYING BY THE RED-BACKED FAIRY-WREN

IAN ROWLEY

On 20 December 1990, Eleanor Russell and I were searching the University of Queensland Farm at Mogill trying to locate a population of Red-backed Fairy-wrens *Malurus melanocephalus* that we could mist-net, colour-band and study. At 0930 we found a group beside an irrigation channel that appeared to include three fully plumaged males and several brown birds. The three males were interacting busily, and several times perched on the top strand of a barbed wire fence where they were clearly visible from our vehicle less than 10m away. We were using 8x30 binoculars and were watching two males displaying, with their dorsal feathers erected in a most spectacular display, when we noticed that one was carrying a scarlet petal that appeared to exactly match the colour of these dorsal feathers. The petal was approximately 10mm by 5mm and was clearly visible as the bird flew to some tall grass where it approached a brown bird (presumed to be a female). The male then returned to the fence line, still carrying the petal which was retained for at least three minutes before the birds moved off and we lost sight of them.

The birds were unbanded at that time so we could not assign status to any of the actors. During the following week, with the help of Martin Carrick, we managed to mist-net three groups of Red-backed Fairy-wrens in this area. A central group of five birds, comprising two fully plumaged males and three females, was located and banded where the petal-carrying episode had taken place. On each side of that group we caught and banded a simple pair of birds consisting of a fully plumaged male and a female. Our subsequent observations suggest that petal-carrying takes place when one of the males belonging to a simple pair tries to achieve a mating with a female in a larger group nearby. This situation has been reviewed recently (Rowley 1991).

We have identified the only flowering plant in the vicinity that could have provided a bright scarlet petal as Redhead Cotton-bush *Asclepias curassavica*, an exotic weed of South American origin, well illustrated in Auld & Medd (1987, p.79); three specimens were flowering beside the irrigation channel. This is the first time that this weed has been recorded as involved in petal-carrying, although other red fruits and petals have been seen to be carried by *M. melanocephalus* (Jack 1949, Hughes & Hughes 1988, Strong 1990).

REFERENCES

- AULD, B.A. & MEDD, R.W. 1987. *Weeds; an illustrated botanical guide to the weeds of Australia*. Sydney: Inkata Press.
- HUGHES, P. & HUGHES, B. 1988. Notes on berry and petal display by the Red-backed Wren at Widgee, south-east Queensland. *Sunbird* 18:52-53.
- JACK, N. 1949. Wren with flower. *Emu* 49:143-144.
- ROWLEY, I. 1991. Petal-carrying by Fairy-wrens of the genus *Malurus*. *Australian Bird Watcher* 14: 75-81.
- STRONG, M. 1990. Furgling by Red-backed Fairy-wrens. *Sunbird* 20:37-38.
- IAN ROWLEY, 53 Swan Street, Guildford, W.A. 6055.

**SOME RECENT RECORDS OF
RED-TAILED BLACK-COCKATOOS
IN SOUTHEASTERN QUEENSLAND**

PETER and BEVLY HUGHES

Knowledge of the distribution of the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii* in southeastern Queensland and northeastern New South Wales has been plagued by confusion with the similar Glossy Black-Cockatoo *C. lathami*. Ford (1980) reviewed the subject and referred to possibly valid records of *C. banksii* from Rockwood and Brisbane, though unequivocal confirmation is lacking. He accepted a record from along the Brisbane River in 1859, for the observer had distinguished the birds morphologically and ecologically from *C. lathami*. Records from Biggenden, Columboola, Kogan, Cooloola, Murphy's Creek, Lamington National Park, Stanthorpe and the MacPherson Range were rejected by Ford as they were in all cases erroneous or unsubstantiated. Nomenclature follows Schodde (1988).

A number of records of black-cockatoos with red tails from southeastern Queensland appeared in the *Newsletter* of the Queensland Ornithological Society in 1990, and most of these were listed as, and have been verified as, being referable to *C. lathami*. Only some, it seems, are reliably of *C. banksii*. Below we present details of our sightings, because, although the occurrence of *C. banksii* near Gympie (26° 11'S, 152° 40'E) is well-known among some bird observers in southeast Queensland, details do not appear to have been published.

The presence of both *C. banksii* and *C. lathami* in the Gympie area presents an opportunity to compare the two species, of which *C. banksii* is the more common. Our records over a period of 25 years indicate more or less regular sightings. In some years birds have been seen in all months of the year, while in other years sightings have been recorded in only one or two months. Over the period of observation, the months involving the highest numbers of birds seen have been May to September. Peak numbers occurred in 1981, with 120 birds seen throughout July and August. When numbers are low, and only 3-20 are seen at one time, the birds are present for much longer periods. Birds were seen in all months of 1988, but numbers varied from three during January - May, with occasional larger flocks, up to twenty during May-September, and again down to three from September to December. The only occasions on which single birds have been seen is when two or more birds have been noted up to 15 or 20 minutes earlier, and the lone bird follows the same route taken by the others.

In flight, *C. banksii* follow timbered ridges or their periphery as they move in

to approach feeding areas of White Cedar *Melia azedarach*. This approach to feed trees is essentially direct, with a small amount of wheeling before alighting and commencing to feed. When not disturbed, this feeding takes place for 2-3 hours. Birds then move to nearby trees in which they perch and preen for a further 2-3 hours before returning to the feed trees. It is thought that these *C. banksii* roost in eucalypt woodland on a ridge about 10km from the feed trees on our property.

Berries are usually eaten by removing a small branch of fruit with the beak, holding it in one foot, and removing the berries with the beak. Once in the mouth the soft flesh is removed and the hard seed dropped. The same feed tree may be visited for 2-3 days in a row. There is an indication that a population of up to twenty birds is permanently resident in an area approximately 20km by 15km. This is a heavily timbered area with ridges of eucalypts and vine scrub and areas of regrowth.

C. banksii is difficult to approach when feeding or perched. The flock, when disturbed, flies off noisily, and usually returns within a short time. Our observations indicate that birds feeding in White Cedar are *C. banksii*, while birds feeding in casuarinas are *C. lathami*. Both in flight and when perched, *C. lathami* is a smaller bird, and when observed closely it is much more dusty black rather than glossy black, and it has a much less noticeable crest than *C. banksii*. If adult females are involved, *C. lathami* has a poorly defined band of yellow at the base of the neck, while in *C. banksii* there are numerous yellow spots on the head, neck and upper wing. *C. lathami* has a soft call while that of *C. banksii* is raucous. The mode of flight is significantly different, with *C. lathami* having a 'floating' flight and *C. banksii* having a stronger and more direct flight.

When approaching a feed tree, *C. lathami* firstly perches in a high and usually dead tree nearby before dropping down to feed. They may continue feeding for 2-3 hours before moving back to the perch tree. When feeding, they can be approached as close as 4 metres. Prior to flying, their only movement may be to the far side of a tree. Large flocks are seldom involved, 3-5 birds being the usual number seen at one time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Leo Joseph helped in the preparation of this note and an independent referee commented on the manuscript.

REFERENCES

- FORD, J. 1980. Morphological and ecological divergence and convergence in isolated populations of the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo. *Emu* 80 : 103-120.
- SCHODDE, R. 1988. New subspecies of Australian Birds. *Canberra Bird Notes* 13 : 119 -122.
- PETER & BEVLYHUGHES, M.S. 115, Hawkins Road, Widgee, via Gympie, Q 4570.
-

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

The Sunbird is published quarterly by the Queensland Ornithological Society to further the knowledge of birds in Queensland and adjacent northern regions of Australia.

Papers are invited from non-members as well as members on all aspects of ornithology, e.g. life history, taxonomy, distribution, behaviour, and ecology. Articles may take the form of major articles on specific birds, birds in specific areas or habitats, or short notes on either birds themselves or the literature on birds, such as reviews of books or comments on published articles.

Submission of a paper implies that the results reported have not been published and are not being considered for publication elsewhere. The editor reserves the right to submit records of rare birds to the Records Appraisal Committee of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union.

Manuscripts can be supplied on floppy disk (IBM or MACINTOSH systems using plain text 'ASCII format') or in typed form on paper. When typed, the manuscript should be double-spaced and two copies sent. Papers longer than four typed A4 pages should have a summary. If needed, help may be given to authors to find relevant literature. Common names, scientific names and order of names should follow 'Recommended English Names for Australian Birds', in *The Emu* Volume 77, Supplement, 1978. Intending authors should consult recent issues of *The Sunbird* to see acceptable forms of contributions.

References should be listed in alphabetical order at the end of papers in the following styles; titles of journals will be abbreviated as in the *World List of Scientific Periodicals*:

FLEAY, D.H. 1937. Nesting habits of the brush turkey. *Emu* 36: 153-163.

FRITH, H.J. (Ed.). 1976. Mallee fowl. In *Complete Book of Australian Birds*, pp. 136-137. Sydney: Reader's Digest.

SERVENTY, D., SERVENTY, V.N. & WARHAM, J. 1971. *The Handbook of Australian Sea-birds*. Sydney: Reed.

SLATER, P. 1970. *A Field Guide to Australian Birds. Non-Passerines*. Adelaide: Rigby.

Tables and Figures should be numbered with Arabic numerals. Drawings and diagrams should be in Indian Ink on cartridge paper or tracing cloth. If authors cannot arrange suitable drawings, the editor may arrange the drawing of figures and diagrams. Authors may submit photographs (preferably black and white) with their manuscripts.

Reprints are not supplied gratis. Authors may order reprints within one month after publication.

Manuscripts should be sent to:

The Editor, *The Sunbird*, Queensland Ornithological Society Inc.,
P.O. Box 97, St. Lucia, Queensland, 4067.