

# TOODYAY

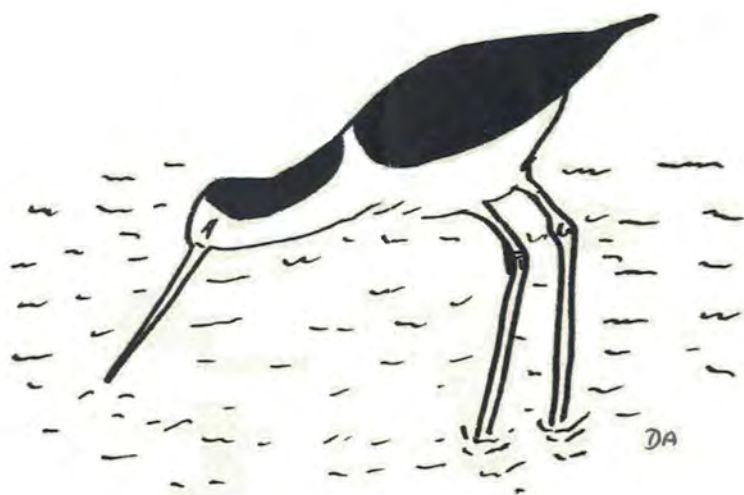
## NATURALISTS'

## NEWSLETTER

VOL 2

No 1

MARCH 1986



### Editorial.

Because of pressure of work Pam feels she would like someone else to take on the club's newsletter. I felt I'd like to try. I have a few ideas like reproducing articles published in an early series of newsletters. One will appear in this issue. I'd also like to include articles by other club members. Within the club is a tremendous amount of knowledge and I am hoping a newsletter will be one outlet for such talents. Our club is 18 years old, I hope to bring you snippets of the major events of all those years.

But first a big thankyou to Pam for all her excellent work in past newsletters.

### Years Programme.

11th April	Drummond trek.
19th	L. Hodges. "Rocks."
17th May	E. McCrum slides "Tasmania"
21st June	M. Blackwell "Bungle Bungle"
19th July	A.G.M. Club evening

### Special date.

30th/31st Aug. Campout.  
Dr. N. Marchant leader  
Mt. Caroline ...  
Mt. Stirling. areas.



At our March meeting Ruth and Lindsay took us to the Flinders Ranges via some very attractive slides and prints. Another well prepared and informative talk.

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I have pleasure in including in our newsletter an article, that first appeared in a previous newsletter (1973) An article that is 'mind stretching! and holds a 'key' to being a thinking naturalist. An article I feel you will enjoy and which will help you to observe the bush and its creatures.

OBSERVATION. .. by L. Milhinch

Have you ever thought about the difference there is between observing something, and just seeing it? To me observing often leads to questioning what is happening, why it is happening, and is it influenced by other things which are also happening around it? When observing nature and all the creatures and plants which go to make up the ecology, I am often amazed with the dependency of one upon the other, or how the loss of one will affect another.

Where I live south east of Northam, there seems to have been a decline in the number of predator birds over the last two years. Although some are seen there does not seem to be nearly as many Kestrels, Black-shouldered Kites,

Wrens. The yellow\_tailed Thornbills build a dome shaped nest and the wren a smaller hooded nest. Now the Zebra Finch also builds a somewhat similar nest with a side entrance as a rule, but have you ever found a Cuckoo's egg in a Finch nest? The Finch of course is a seed eater, but what is it that tells the Cuckoo that this nest is not suitable for its young? Or with the Pallid Cuckoo which mostly lays its eggs in open cupped shaped nests made of different kinds of materials such as cobwebs, grass, small twigs etc. made by Willie Wagtails, honeyeaters, Wood Swallows etc. But again have you seen a Cuckoo's egg in a dove or Pigeon's nest? These are flimsy nests I know but they are open nests that I am sure the Cuckoo would use if their builders were not seed eaters. However, I understand that these Cuckoos have been known to deposit their eggs in the nests of the introduced Goldfinch, which I believe builds a cup shaped nest<sup>UN</sup> like the finches.

I often find myself fascinated with the interdependency of plants and animals. For instance I marvel at the great increase in the spread of mistletoe in Jam trees which took place some years ago when there was an open season for taking Brush\_tailed possums. Possums I understand will feed on this mistletoe and when around in sufficient numbers they kept it in check. Perhaps now that they are increasing again the Jam tree may live a little longer.

The Toodyay Naturalist's Club  
meets 3rd Saturday in the month  
at 8 p.m. in the Anglican hall  
Toodyay.



"GOONARING SPRING"  
MEETING PLACE  
1.30 PM.  
(FOR TRAIL WALKERS)

NATIONAL PARK RD.

"MORINGUP SWAMP"  
(CAMPSITE)

BLACK SWAMP PLACE RD

NATURE RESERVE

5 KM

NATURE WALK TRAIL

FEANIE RD

PERTH - TOODYAY RD

SANDPLAIN RD

"DRUMMOND TREK"  
11th APRIL 1986

CHALKLINE RD

TOODYAY

NORTHAM RD

