

THE CIRCULAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB
REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION (CATEGORY 'B')

THE CLUB'S AIM: TO JOIN TOGETHER, PEOPLE WITH A COMMON INTEREST, TO FURTHER THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND ENJOYMENT OF THE BIRD LIFE AROUND US.

CLUB MOTTO: ONE GOOD TERM DESERVES ANOTHER

The club's next meeting will be held at the St. Alban's Church of England Hall, corner of Princes Highway and Cox's Lane, Corrimal, on Monday the 9th of February, starting at 7.30 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Mr. Wayne Longmore who will talk about IRON RANGE and how to get there.

The outing will be on the Sunday following, i.e. the 15th February, at UPPER KANGAROO VALLEY. Those participating are asked to assemble at the Hampton Bridge at 9.30 a.m.; the bridge is approximately 1 1/2 hours running time from Wollongong.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT: Well, the festive season is now behind us and it is only 43 weeks till our Christmas 1981 meeting but in between we have a lot of exciting goals to reach, and, of course, many birds to see.

With your MARCH circular you will receive an indemnity form from the Railway Department and it will be necessary for everyone who attends our march excursion - the train trip up the escarpment - and the walk back down - to fill in one of these forms and to return it to 1P Achilles Avenue, by Sunday the 8th of March 1981.

If we do not get an indemnity from you, you will not be allowed on the train; the date of the excursion is Saturday the 14th of March, 1981.

The main events over the Christmas season have been:

- 1) The return of the Salvadori Family to Canada.
- 2) The sighting of 16 Freckled Ducks at Kanahooka
- 3) The visit of Sister Patricia from Ayr in Queensland. A small group has been able to spend a couple of enjoyable outings with Sister Patricia, during January, 1981. She was on leave in Wollongong.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

We are looking for interesting articles for inclusion in the circular. Are you an amateur poet or have you had an interesting bird excursion? Others would like to share with you, your experience.

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The meeting will be addressed by Mr. Graeme Phipps of the McLeay Museum, the University of Sydney, whose subject will be, "The Role of Aviculture in conservation to-day."

The March outing will be a train trip up the escarpment to Huntley Colliery Private Level, whence we will walk down the escarpment, to a place where our transport will have been assembled.

Because we will be leaving the train at an un-scheduled stopping place, each person attending must complete an indemnity form (copy attached). Submission of this form, is a condition for joining the train. Completed forms are to be given to Laurie who will attend to the formalities; latest date for submission is at the march meeting.

Thirty-five persons only can be accommodated on the outing, so the first applications received will be successful. The cost will be 90c per adult, 40c per child; Members should assemble at Wollongong Station, not later than 12 noon on Saturday, 14th of March, bringing a carry lunch and drink. It is recommended that women wear slacks for greater convenience in disembarkation.

OUTING-LAKE ILLAWARRA

On Tuesday evening the 3rd of March at 5.00 p.m. there will be a meeting on the lake side of Windang Surf Club. If you have time to spare, bring a sandwich and study the waters in comfort and good surroundings.

THE APRIL MEETING: Please note that this Meeting is to be held at the usual place, a week earlier than usual, i.e the 6th April, to avoid conflicting with Easter; the outing will be held on Saturday the 11th of April.

MEMBERSHIP: Those wishing to retain their membership should forward their fee by 30th of March, 1981.

BOOKS: At the March Meeting, the following titles will be available for purchase:-

- PIZZEY. "A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA."
SLATER. "A FIELD GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN BIRDS," Vols. 1 & 2.
BERULDBSEN. "NESTS AND EGGS."
READERS DIGEST - "COMPLETE BOOK OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS."

COMMITTEE: Karen Hansen has accepted the position of supper supervisor; she will be assisted by Dulcie Rose, who has previously filled this position.

Horry Ward has assumed the position of Recorder, from Doug Gibson; Mike Morphett, who previously held this position is co-operating with Horry in the transfer.

A BREEDING PLACE FOR THE LITTLE TERN: Alistair Drake of the Canberra Ornithological Group has referred IBDC to the following item in the Canberra Times of 1st February, 1981:

"If within its power, Eurobodalla Shire Council intends re-opening a road in its Southern District, closed, to protect a rare bird species. Cr. Bill Dudley told council this week, the road had been closed on the advice of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, 'because birds are nesting.' He said there were about six little terns in the area.

People wanting to prawn and fish were being frustrated, he said, and Council should take steps to have the road reopened immediately. The Town Planner, Mr. Stephen Brogan, told Council this was the only breeding ground of the little tern, in the Region."

The C.O.G. has written to the Council, asking support for the preservation of a species under threat.

Doug Gibson, our historian, has written to the council pointing out the threat to the survival of this species, here and elsewhere by human activities that affect its breeding success. He has pointed out that there are now very few breeding sites for this species, remaining on the New South Wales Coast.

Doug has appealed for the protection of this traditional breeding site, particularly between October and February (inclusive)

Diversion of the road, fencing off the area to restrict unnecessary human and vehicular traffic, are recommended, and signs inviting interest and support from the public.

Those wishing to support this issue should write to: The President, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Campbell Street, Moruya, 2537.

Enquiries: After Business Hours, enquiries to the President should be made to 296637; on no account should 296687 be rung - as it is unattended then.

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUBAGENDA FOR 1961

9th FEBRUARY - Monday	Wayne Longmore-Iron Range & How to Get There
15th FEBRUARY - Sunday	Kangaroo Valley
9th MARCH - Monday	Greene Phipps - Role of ^{Aviculture} Conservation ^{on} to-day
14th MARCH - Saturday	Train trip up the escarpment
20th MARCH - SATURDAY	Film Night
6th APRIL - Monday	Members' Night
11th APRIL - Saturday	100 Fire Trail, Wedderburn
11th MAY - Monday	Charles Francis - Sea and Shore Birds
17th MAY - Sunday	Foxground
30th MAY - Saturday	Autumn Bird Count
30th May - Saturday	Film Night
8th JUNE - Monday	Roy Wheeler
13th JUNE - Saturday	Douglas Park
4th JULY - Saturday	Film Night
13th JULY - Monday	Wyn Filewood- ^{Relationship of New Guinea} Birds to North Aust. Birds
19th JULY - Sunday	Macquarie Falls
17th AUGUST - Monday	Films
22nd AUGUST - Saturday	Atlassing Excursion
14th SEPTEMBER - Monday	Bob Tonkin
19th SEPTEMBER - Saturday	Seven Mile Beach
3rd, 4th & 5th OCTOBER	Family Camp "Wendelo", Canyonleigh
24th & 25th OCTOBER	Weekend Away
31st OCTOBER - Saturday	Spring Bird Count
9th NOVEMBER - Monday	Tom Grant - Birds, Man & the Environment
14th NOVEMBER - Saturday	Atlassing Excursion
5th DECEMBER - Saturday	Rhododendron Park
14th DECEMBER - Monday	Club Christmas Night

For any enquiries regarding the programme please ring Laurie Williams, 29-6637

INGALBA NATURE RESERVE, TEMORA24th to 27th October, 1980.

In excellent weather conditions, a party of 22 camped on a gravelly ridge on Ian and Laurel Thompson's property within the reserve, situated south-west of Temora off the Wagga road. Again the late October weekend outing proved very popular, and this one was made all the more interesting by the leadership of Marge Cochrane, who has made an extensive study of the area. The reserve contains no creeks; the vegetation includes ironbark, grey box, Ross's gum, Dwyer's mallee, and stringybark.

A number of walks were made all round the campsite, including Wharrun Wildlife Refuge (trig. point 402), plus a trip along Beck Minces Road to Dunkirk Tank (Lat. $34^{\circ}29'S$ Long $147^{\circ}25'E$) to observe smaller birds drinking in the late afternoon. Club members were thrilled to record 14 new species: Black-tailed Native Hen, Cockatiel, Blue Bonnet, Superb Parrot, Mallee Ringneck, Spotted Nightjar, Brown and Rufous Songlark, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Western Warbler, Gilbert's Whistler, and Masked and White-browed Woodswallows, and the Spotted Harrier.

Breeding records comprised 4 nests of the White-browed Woodswallow, one with 2 eggs; male Rufous Whistler sitting, and a nest being built 18 ft. up in a pine; Jacky Winter Feeding 2 young, a nest with 3 young, and another being built; Red-capped Robin feeding 2 fledglings; Cockatiel's nest 25ft up in dead gum; Common Bronzewing sitting; White-winged Cough with young; nest of Yellow-rumped Thornbill with 3 eggs in Cootsmundra wattle; Magpie on nest; nest of Rufous Songlark with 3 eggs in paddock; White-browed Babbler and Western Warbler nestbuilding; Weebill sitting; and Brown Treecreeper's nest with young in dead tree.

Spotlighting revealed no mammals, but plenty of trapdoor spiders and some bats. Undetected by day round the campsite, the Spotted Nightjar stood out in the spotlight with its sparkling eyes and white patches. The Willie Wagtail was regularly vocal during the night.

Weekend tally: (75) (49 passerines and 26 non-passerines)

On the journey home a detour was made to the paddocks bordering Aerodrome Lane, Junee where Marge Cochrane had rightly guaranteed sightings of the Orange Chat. During the two short visits made, 18 other species were observed, including the Spotted Harrier.

HOUNT KEIRA SCOUT CAMPSaturday, 6th December, 1980.

15 members met in the shed at the Scout Camp at 2 p.m. and enjoyed listening to Doug Gibson's tape of the Birds of Tilpa until the rain ceased an hour later. The group went for a walk through the camping area to the chapel and were greeted by leeches. Lots of eastern spinebills were observed feeding in the jacaranda trees.

After a cuppa back at the shed, the party walked along the road back towards Mr. Keira Road. A very good view was had of two brown pigeons. Differences in plumage colour were noticed: the bird considered to be the female was darker in colour on the head and breast, and the lighter coloured bird was seen parading in front of its mate.

18 members enjoyed a barbecue tea, and then 6 stayed on for spotlighting, when two ringtailed possums were seen feeding in the brush cherry trees. A boobook owl was heard.

Tally: 36 species (27 passerines & 9 non-passerines)

N.H.

THE FUTILE FANCYWORK OF FLANAGAN'S FANTAILS

During winter walks through the bushland of the old Excelsior No. 2 Colliery at Thirroul, I had noticed that an area along a gully of the northern tributary of Flanagan's Creek had become the regular haunt of a pair of grey fantails. This shady spot, formed by wet sclerophyll vegetation, over the water, at times reduced to a mere trickle during the drought this year, attracted a myriad insects, which constituted a feast for the fantails.

In time, the birds' customary 'chip chip' calling was augmented by a more melodious song, sounding to me not unlike their Latin name of *Rhipidura fuliginosa* played on a stradivarius. Their song heralded their family.

On 18th October, the fantails' bold behaviour betrayed to me the beginnings of their nest, the site of which was not at all obvious at first, nor later, even though it was situated right beside the track bordering the creek. It stood 1.6 metres off

the ground on a branch of a young *Pittosporum undulatum*. This species of tree had earlier given off a beautiful perfume from its flowers along the gully. The base of the nest had been formed, and the tail shaped. Whilst agreeing to one theory that the tapering tail may serve as a camouflage, I now wonder if it may also act like a ship's keel to position the nest. Aware of the birds' touchiness to human interference, I was able to cordon off successfully the track from trail bike riders by placing dead trees and boulders at different points.

On 20th October, half the bowl of the goblet-like nest had been constructed.

On 29th October, there were three eggs, creamy white and minutely freckled with brown shadings.

November 9th brought the first substantial fall of rain for weeks, and Verraux's tree frogs higher up the bush seemed to rejoice.

By 14th November, the eggs had already hatched, and the parent birds were busily seeking food for the three hungry blind chicks, which I reckoned to be between one and three days old.

By 18th November, tragedy had struck. I found only minute droppings in the bottom of the nest. Some of the fine plant fibres lining the rim of the nest had been lifted up, suggesting to me that the chicks had been plucked out, perhaps by the grey butcherbirds that had two fledglings to feed 300 metres or so away. The parent fantails were nowhere to be seen or heard.

On 20th November, I removed the nest and at home carefully dissected it with tweezers and scissors to marvel at its composition. My statistical findings hardly do justice to this natural beauty, and the pile of plant shreds on my desk, which numbered 450, looked like a heap of abandoned wires and strips in a scrap-heap, but they helped me appreciate the toil and craftsmanship of this pair of 16 centimetre acrobatic and energetic architects and engineers. I ended up with six components of the grey fantails' nest:-

(i) Nest site: slightly sloping *pittosporum* branch with centre of nest base at the point where a twig joined the branch.

There were three points of attachment where the nest had been fastened by cobwebs wrapped round the branch and twig;

(ii) Nest base: made firm by compacted short plant fibre and cobweb;

- (iii) Tail: 9 cm long, hanging beneath the branch and made of decayed wood strands bound at the top with cobweb;
- (iv) Nest cup: 5 cm diameter and 3 cm depth with an inner lining of coarse bark and plant shreds and
- (v) long fine plant fibres forming the rim, with a maximum length of 29.5 cm; and
- (vi) Cobweb overlay to nest cup.

Mike Morphett

21st November, 1980.

FEES:

Fees are now due, they are:

- Family membership \$8
- Personal membership .. \$5
- Full-time students .. \$2

OUTING - LAKE ILLAWARRA: We will be having a special late afternoon outing to Lake Illawarra, on Wednesday the 18th of February, 1981, meeting on the lake side of Windang Surf Club at 5.30 p.m. If you have time to spare, bring a sandwich and study the waders in comfort and good surroundings.

ENQUIRIES: After Business hours, enquiries to the President should be made to 296637; on no account should 296687 be rung as it is unattended, then.

UPPER KANGAROO VALLEY RECONNAISSANCE REPORT:

On 17th January, 1981, a small group investigated the possibility of a February excursion to a property in UPPER KANGAROO VALLEY. The property owned by Mr. Serge Dilly, proved to be an area with diverse types of habitat, sustaining a variety of birds of which 61 species were seen during the day. The highlights of the day were the first club sighting of the Regent Honeyeater and the nesting of the Azure Kingfisher and Silvereye, and watching a pair of Red-browed Firetails building a nest.

Sightings made included: Little Pied Cormorant, White-faced Heron, Black Duck, Wood Duck, Nankeen Kestrel, Masked Plover, Brown Pigeon, Wonga Pigeon, Galah, Crimean Rosella, Eastern Rosella, Fantailed Cuckoo, Azure Kingfisher, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Superb Lyrebird, Welcome Swallow, Tree Martin, Richard's Pipit, Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike, Rose Robin, Yellow Robin, Jacky Winter, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Black-faced Monarch, Leaden Flycatcher, Rufous Fantail, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Superb Blue Wren, Large Billed Scrub Wren, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, White-browed Scrub Wren, Brown Warbler, White-throated Warbler, Brown Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, striped Thornbill, White-throated Treecreeper, noisy Friarbird, Regent Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Spotted Pardalote, Silvereye, European Goldfinch, House Sparrow, Red-browed Firetail, Common Starling, Olive-backed Oriol, Satin Bowerbird, Magpie Lark, Dusky Woodswallow, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Australian Raven.

N. Williams

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB

AGENDA FOR 1981.

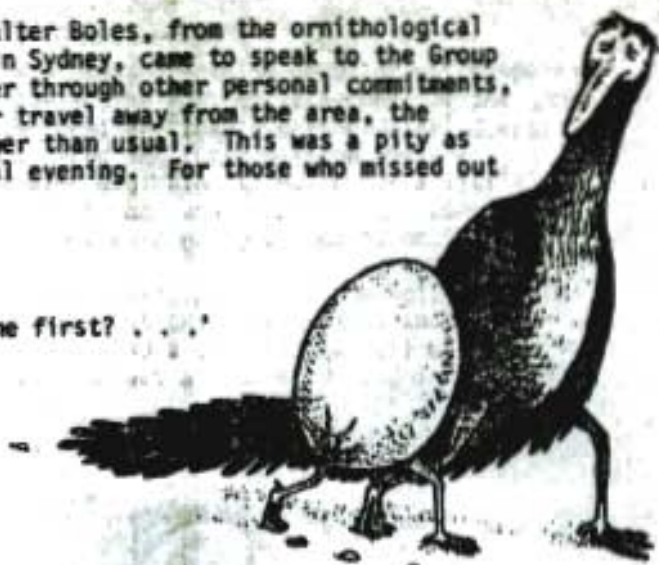
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No40
p3

At the club night in June, Walter Boles, from the ornithological section of the Australian Museum in Sydney, came to speak to the Group on 'Adaptions for Flying'. Whether through other personal commitments, the onset of the colder weather or travel away from the area, the attendance at this meeting was lower than usual. This was a pity as it was an enjoyable and educational evening. For those who missed out a brief résumé may be of interest.

'Which came first? . . .'



It all started with a frog. Well, if not a frog, a pterodactyl. They are cousins albeit a few generations removed and both are related to lizards, alligators, turtles, crocodiles and a few other reptiles that are no longer with us such as the dinosaur and the ichthyosaur. Come to think of it, the pterodactyl isn't around much anymore either.

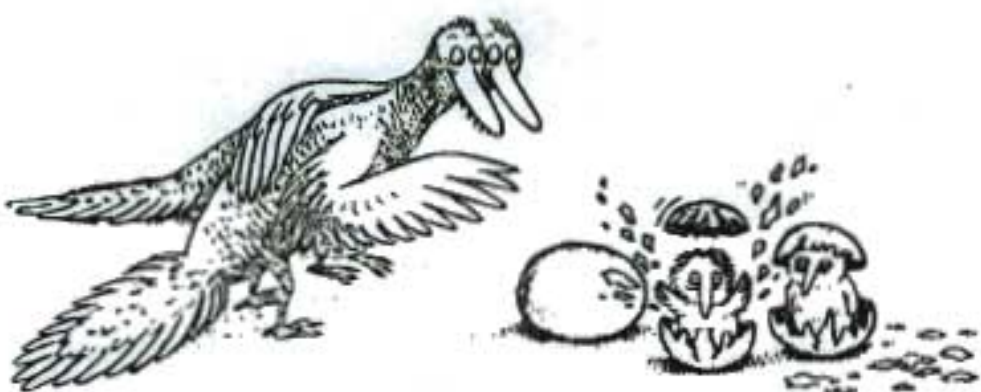


He was a creature dissatisfied with his lot. His head was always in the clouds. This was not altogether unfortunate as the pterodactyl had wings but alas no feathers. For it's feathers that make a bird and that was what the pterodactyl aspired to be. Unless the pterodactyl could grow feathers he was through. In that case he was no longer a pterodactyl. Nor could he make it as a bird. Feathers just didn't suit the pterodactyl yet a bird's not a bird without them. His featherless friends shunned him. He lost his zest for life and died out completely.



Nonetheless, it was apparent that something peculiar was happening to certain reptiles. Sure a few of the fartherout members of the group had sprouted wings, as we have seen, and they'd all been laying eggs from the beginning. But one hundred and forty million years ago, give or take a few, some eggs were beginning to hatch out a little feathery and the offspring tended to hop and flap around. Something was happening to them alright, they were going to the birds.

The first one was the archaeopteryx, or 'ancient wing'. Despite some unsightly and definitely reptilian characteristics, such as a claw or two at the end of his wings and a jaw crammed full of teeth, the archaeopteryx had feathers. Thus he was a true bird, and in those days any bird was a rare bird indeed.



Well, there was an occasional throwback . . .





Time passed. Many eggs were laid. Barring a few ups and downs, such as the disappearance of the archaeopteryx, birds slowly increased and multiplied. By the time the paleocene epoch of the cenozoic era rolled around (some seventy or eighty million years after the first bird was hatched), the feathered creatures were pretty well established and the many species which we know today were starting to appear. Now there are about one hundred billion birds in the world and less than four billion people, making about twenty-five birds swooping in and out of every man's life.



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Our next meeting will be held at the St. Alban's Church of England Hall, corner of Princes Highway and Cox's Lane, Corrimal, on Monday the 6th of April, starting at 7.30 p.m. It will be members' night. As many members as possible are requested to bring along, say, a dozen slides of our previous activities. If you have a story to tell, or the details of some incident while out with the Group, it will add to the evening.

The April excursion will be held on Saturday the 11th of April, to the vicinity of O'Hares Creek along the 'TEN-B' FIRE TRAIL, on the Northern side of the Appin Road. To reach the starting point, drive about 8 Km. West along the Appin Road from Bulli tops, where the party will be assembled, near the 'monument.' The 10 B Fire Trail is on the right-hand side of the road; the party will leave the assembly point at 8.30 a.m., for a further 6 Km. run to the site.

MAY MEETING: Charles Francis will give a talk on 'sea and shore birds' at our meeting on the 11th May.

THE COMMITTEE: There will be no committee meeting in April; the May meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th of May at the home of Dave and Betty Thomson.

'WHAT BIRD IS THAT' Doug Gibson is presenting a series of Lectures on basic ornithology, at the W.E.A. Rooms in Corrimal Street. The first lecture will be held on Tuesday, 31st March, starting at 7.30 p.m. There will be 6 lectures and two(2) field trips. There are a few vacancies left in this class, so if you are interested, see the W.E.A.

THE WILL TO SURVIVE:

During September 1978 we were walking along the beach, at Valla Park on the Northern Coast of N.S.W., just North of Nambucca Heads, when we saw an Australian Raven (Corvus Coronoides) fly from the sand hills onto the back of the beach, with something in its beak. The bird landed on the sand and had a very good look around while still holding the food in its beak.

After some time it seemed to be satisfied that nothing was watching, so it dropped the food onto the sand and walked a few feet away, where it picked up a piece of dried seaweed and walked back and placed it over the food.

Once again the bird had a good look around, then satisfied it had hidden the tit-bit well, it flew off. We walked over to the spot, lifted the seaweed and discovered a piece of squid hidden underneath, obviously a tasty morsel stored for when the Raven was feeling hungry!

On the 19th of May, 1980, we were standing in our front garden watching an Eastern Spine Bill (*acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*) perched on a branch of a small gum tree only a few feet away, when two more Spine Bills flew in to join it.

At what seemed to be a secret signal, the two birds flew to the ground together and had a quick wrestle and they just as quickly flew back to the tree. Again at a given signal they both flew to the ground and appeared to be wrestling seriously, while the first bird remained in the tree quite unconcerned.

One of the wrestlers appeared to be getting the upper hand of the situation and began pecking fiercely at the bird underneath it.

I became very concerned that I was witnessing a fight to the death, so I clapped my hands, whereupon, all three birds immediately flew off.

Nola and Laurie Williams.

MALE CHAUVINISM ETC.

We noticed, from about June, 1979, that Superb Blue Wrens (*Malurus cyaneus*) were nesting in the shrubbery at our bedroom window each night, until the beginning of October, 1979, when a pair of Superb Blue Wrens were noticed carrying nesting material into thick shrubbery, beside another bedroom window at the front of our home.

Later, the female was seen carrying feathers into the spot and then the female was obviously sitting on the nest, as the male spent most of every day sitting and singing in low branches in a small gum tree, about a metre from where the nest was.

On 22nd October, the male was seen carrying food to the nest-site and the female was also seen, that day, carrying food.

On 29th October, the parents had three babies in shrubs at the side of the house, about seven metres from the nest site.

The family continued to move around the garden; on the 11th November, the babies were still with the parents, but much more independent, yet always roosting at night in the original roosting area.

On 22nd November, the Wrens were seen back at the nest area, with the male once more sitting and singing in the gum tree.

On 25th November, it was noticed that about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the original nest was gone and we wondered if it was being moved to a different site. On the 27th, the female was seen carrying the nesting material into the shrubs about a metre from the original site and in perfect view from the window, the male was still singing in the gum tree.

By 6th December, the female seemed to be sitting on the nest and the male was spending a lot of time in the gum tree.

On 13th December, food was being brought to the nest and on the 19th, two brown wrens and the male were observed carrying food.

The following day, three brown and one blue birds were carrying food, indicating that the previous nestlings must be assisting with the brood.

On the 24th December, three babies were brought out of the nest and on the 25th, the little family was observed in shrubs at the side of the house; they spent some weeks moving around the garden, before disappearing.

In a period of just over two months, the two adult birds had built a nest and raised three young, then rebuilt the nest and raised another three young, this time with the help of at least two of the previous nestlings.

It was a very exciting experience for us, as it all occurred in our home garden, which isn't very big in size, but well-planted with mostly native trees and shrubs and most exciting of all, the birds chose to nest in a position in front of a window, which meant we could observe them with no apparent disturbance to the birds.

L. & N. Williams

OBSERVATIONS:

On 23rd January, 1981, at Violet Hill in the Myall Lakes National Park, we observed a grey butcher-bird (*Cracticus torquatus*), catch a cicada. It alighted on the horizontal branch of a casuarina tree and proceeded to pull the wings off the insect, all the while trying to wedge it in a fork in the branch of the tree. The bird's endeavours to wedge it in the fork were unsuccessful, as the insect fell to the ground.

The bird flew down and retrieved the insect and proceeded to consume it.

A few days later, in the Mungo Brush area, also in the Myall Lakes National Park, we observed a noisy friarbird (*Philemon corniculatus*) catch a cicada.

The bird flew to the nearest branch of a tree and proceeded to swallow the cicada, whole, head first.

Several times we have been on North Wollongong beach and have watched various Silver gulls (*Larus novae hollandiae*) catching small crabs. Each time, the gull has held the crab by the nippers or claws, shaking it until the limb has fallen off and both pieces have fallen onto the sand.

The bird then retrieves the crab and sets to work again until the body is separate from the rest and there are bits and pieces lying everywhere on the sand near the bird's feet.

It then proceeds to swallow the body whole and then, one by one, retrieves and swallows the other pieces.

L. & N. Williams

ACCEPTANCE

When the spent sun throws up its rays on cloud
 And goes down burning into the gulf below,
 No voice in nature is heard to cry aloud
 At what has happened. Birds, at least, must know
 It is the change to darkness in the sky.
 Murmuring something quiet in her breast,
 One bird begins to close a faded eye;
 Or overtaken too far from his nest,
 Hurrying low above the grove, some waif
 Swoops just in time to his remembered tree.
 At most he thinks or twitters softly, 'Safe!
 Now let the night be dark for all of me,
 Let the night be too dark for me to see
 Into the future. Let what will be, be.'

From 'West-Running Brook' by Robert Frost.

PUTTY: Rosswell

Weekend 7th to 9th November, 1980.

A party of 13 used the same campsite as on the previous visit—the end of last June. Stops were made at Colo River, where two extra bird species were recorded: Lewin Honeyeater and good first club sightings of a pair of Indian Koel in some large fig trees. Other firsts seen at Putty were the Marsh Crake at a swamp on the road into the camp; Banded Plover; and both mature and immature Blue-faced Honeyeater.

Breeding records comprised the Eastern Swamphen with two well-grown young; Masked Plover with downy young, just a handful but nevertheless already 'wattled': nests of Fairy Martins with young on rocks near the farm; nest of Rufous Whistler with two eggs about 8 feet up in shrub overhanging the creek near the camp; nest of Jacky Winter with two eggs and a Jacky Winter sitting on nest; nest of Willie Wagtail with two young; Speckled Warbler with young out of nest; Yellow-rumped Thornbill taking food into nest, another feeding young in a tree, and a half-built nest; Noisy Friarbird at nest high up, appearing to feed young; White-browed Woodswallow with flying young.

A solitary Nutmeg Mannikin was seen in a flock of about 30 Double-barred Finches near a swamp along the road into the camp. There was a good sighting of a group of Channel-billed Cuckoos flying over, demonstrating a cross-like appearance, and five other species of cuckoo were also recorded.

The tally for Putty and Colo was 100 species: 63 passerines and 37 non-passerines.

D.T.

UPPER KANGAROO VALLEYSunday 15th February 1981.

A party of 34 met at Hampden Bridge at 9.30 a.m. and motored to Dr. Serge Dilly's property situated 8 Kms. along River Road.

In somewhat hot and humid conditions, the group covered much of the area scouted by the reccy party on 17th January last: along the foothills on the east side of Kangaroo River and, after lunch, descending to the confluence of Gerringong Creek and finally skirting the river itself. A variety of habitats was encountered: woodland, heathland, rainforest and farm paddocks.

Of particular interest was the first club and good sighting of the Eastern Bristlebird in the wet gullies, its loud call betraying its presence. The lunchtime stop by a tall gum rewarded the group with a clear observation of a pair of Tawny Frogmouth, roosting in an adjacent willow. A few were fortunate to spot the Grey Goshawk in white phase, distinguishing it from the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, which was not recorded during either visit.

Generally, the bird population was smaller and birdsong quieter than on the reccy trip, although the vegetation was more luxuriant, especially the undergrowth, after the recent rains. Prominent, were grey fantails, superb blue wrens and redheads; the latter two species included several immatures.

Also seen on the walk were rabbits, swamp wallabies and red bellied black snake.

Tally: 61 species (41 passerines plus 20 non-passerines).

Species recorded on the reccy, but not on the main outing were:

Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Tree Martin, Rose Robin, Jacky Winter, Leaden Flycatcher, Large-billed Scrubwren, White-throated Warbler, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, Regent Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, European Goldfinch and Common Starling.

Highlights of the January 17th trip were the first club sighting of the Regent Honeyeater and the nesting of the Azure Kingfisher and Silvereye, and watching a pair of Red-browed Fire-tails building a nest.

MJM & NW

THE CIRCULAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB
REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION (CATEGORY 'B')

MAY, 1981

THE CLUB'S MOTTO: ONE GOOD TERN DESERVES ANOTHER.

Our next meeting will be held at St. Alban's Church of England Hall, corner of Princes Highway and Cox's Lane, Corrimal, on Monday the 11th May, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Our Speaker will be Charles Francis, whose topic will be 'SEA AND SHORE BIRDS'.

The May outing will be to Foxground; it will be led by Denise Black. Those wishing to attend should drive along the Princes Highway, past Gerringong, then further South, until the FOXGROUND TURN-OFF is reached. Turn right and travel along the Foxground Road approximately 5 kilometres, to the end of FREE SELECTOR'S ROAD, where we will meet at 9.00 a.m., on SUNDAY, 7th of MAY. Please allow at least 1 1/2 hours travelling time from the centre of Wollongong.

FILM NIGHT Our May Film Night, will centre on the theme, 'Birds, Man and the environment'. In the absence of Australian Films on this theme, we will be seeing, 'THE ROBIN', 'THE RIDDLE OF THE ROCK' and 'THE PRIVATE LIFE OF THE STREET PIGEON,' studies of three European Birds and their relationship with man.

Also shown will be 'BIRD HUNT', the story of two young boys, who go bird hunting, and, in contrast, 'BIRD LOVERS OF N.S.W.', the story of the foundation and a brief history of the Gould League.

These films will be shown at the home of Laurie and Nole, 18 ACHILLES AVENUE, NORTH WOLLONGONG, on the evening of SATURDAY, the 30th of MAY.

Two sessions will be held, one at 6.00 p.m. and another at 8.00 p.m.

ACTIVITIES:

Botany Bay:

The Australian Museum will conduct two trips around Botany Bay, in search of Water Birds. Birds of a variety of habitats will be sought, at TOWRA POINT, WOOLDOWARE SWAMP, QUIBRAY BAY and BOAT HARBOUR

Each excursion will commence at 9.30 a.m., with a talk and a film at the AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, College Street, Sydney; following this, the party will leave the museum, for the Bay, by bus and will return at 4.00 p.m.

The cost per person is \$2, per family \$4, the dates, Tuesday the 12th and Thursday the 21st of May.

Early booking is recommended, enquiries -(02) 339 6111.

Waders:

The Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union, will hold a 'scientific day' on the theme 'AUSTRALIAN WADER STUDIES', on SATURDAY the 16th of MAY, starting at 9.00 a.m.

It will be held at the Hallstrom Theatre, the AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, College Street, Sydney.

For further details, see Laurie, 29.6637

Bird Collection:

One of the largest, private, historical collections of birds, in Australia, will be open for display on Friday evening, 15th May, from 7-10 p.m.

The collection is located in Science Road, The University of Sydney, City Road, Chippendale.

If you are interested, give your name to Laurie and perhaps a group can be formed to make the trip.

May Committee Meeting:

The meeting will be held at the home of Dave and Betty Thomson, on Tuesday, 19th of May at 8.00 p.m.

A Letter from Chris Souter:IDENTIFICATION PROBLEMS WITH RUFOUS WHISTLERS

Some few weeks back, I was handed a small dead bird that had flown into a closed window of a house at Irymple (Vic.). Naturally, the person wanted to know what kind of bird it was, and I could have easily said it was a female Rufous Whistler (Pachycephala rufiventris) but remembering a past experience, merely said, "I'll let you know."

I finally got around to examining the specimen which, because of skin 'slip', was unsuitable for a study skin. However, I dissected it to gain other details and, sure enough, found it to be a male, though the gonads were small and opaque, which is indicative of a non-breeding bird. The skull on closer examination, showed that 75% of the bone pneumatization was complete, which certainly placed it out of the range of a juvenile. From my experience I assessed the specimen to be sub-adult.

There was nothing in the plumage to indicate it was anything but a female Rufous Whistler. The specimen did possess conspicuous dark brown striations on the upper breast which became less obvious on the lower abdomen. On a previous occasion I examined a similar specimen, which, upon dissection, also proved to be a male. This specimen is lodged in the Gibson/Sefton Collection (Thirroul, NSW.) and clearly shows plumage descriptive of a female Rufous Whistler.

The above notes bring me to the question of when, and how, do both male and female Rufous Whistlers obtain their full adult plumage? From my own personal accounts I have never observed the species showing other than all male, female or juvenile plumage. I am fully appreciative of the lack of knowledge pertaining to problems of plumage molts etc. in many of our birds.

May, 1981.

Although Pizzey ('A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia', Collins, 1980) gives us some hint on immature plumage and its progress to adult plumage, it nevertheless, leaves a big gap in which to try to assess the bird we are looking at, either in the hand or the field.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone seeing this species bearing only partial traces of adult male plumage.

Chris Souter, 72 San Mateo Avenue, Mildura, Vic. 3500.

Officers: Pres. Laurie Williams
Secty. Rowena Errington
Treas. Ron Almond

JUNE, 1981

THE CIRCULAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB
REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION (CATEGORY 'B')

THE CLUB'S AIM: TO JOIN TOGETHER, PEOPLE WITH A COMMON INTEREST,
TO FURTHER THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIRDLIFE AROUND US

THE CLUB'S MOTTO: ONE GOOD TERN DESERVES ANOTHER

Our next meeting will be held at FAIRY MEADOW SENIOR
CITIZENS' CENTRE, corner Prince's Highway and Collorey Avenue,
(formerly the North Illawarra council chambers,) opposite DAVIS
and PENNEY.

The meeting will be held on Monday, the 8th of June,
commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Our Guest Speaker will be Roy Wheeler, from Victoria; his
subject will be 'BIRDS AROUND AUSTRALIA.'

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE

Our next outing will be on SATURDAY the 13th of June,
meeting at the gates of ST HARY'S TOWER, RETREAT AND CONFERENCE
CENTRE AT DOUGLAS PARK. We will meet there at 8.30 a.m.

FILM NIGHT: There will be a film night on Saturday, the 4th of
July, at Uel and Hazel Emery's home, Lot 1, Dymock Street, Balgownie.
Two sessions will be held, the first at 6.00 p.m., the second at
about 8.00 p.m.; bring along a plate of goodies and have high tea
with us, between sessions.

TALKING BOOKS AND CASSETTES ON NATURAL HISTORY:

The Bird Observers' Club in Melbourne, is collecting stamps
to help finance the production of talking books and cassettes on
Natural History; these will be donated to the disabled.

~~I.B.O.C. has decided to help. Please bring used stamps to~~
our meetings, still attached to the envelope, or cut out, leaving
a 10mm border all around the stamp. When we have enough to make a
parcel, they will be forwarded to Melbourne.

AMENDMENT TO I.B.O.C. 1981 AGENDA: PLEASE NOTE...PLEASE NOTE !

On the 22nd of August, the atlasing excursion will be to
Bundanoon; on the 14th of September we will be addressed by Dr.
Ben Miller - his subject, 'THE BIRDS OF LORD HOWE ISLAND.'

COMMITTEE MEETING:

The next meeting will be held at the home of Ron and Norma
Almond, on Tuesday, the 16th Of June, at 8.00 p.m.

ST MARY'S TOWER, DOUGLAS PARK:

The following is a list of birds seen while organising the coming outing, seen under difficult and damp conditions, in the space of about two hours:-

WOOD DUCK, BROWN FALCON, EASTERN SWAMPHEN, MASKED PLOVER, CRESTED PIGEON, SPOTTED DOVE, PEACEFUL DOVE, COMMON BRONZEWING, GALAH, EASTERN ROSELLA, FAN-TAILED CUCKOO, KOOKABURRA, SACRED KINGFISHER, SUPERB LYREBIRD, WELCOME SWALLOW, BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE, HOODED ROBIN, JACKY WINTER, GOLDEN WHISTLER, GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH, GREY FANTAIL, WILLIE WAGTAIL, EASTERN WHIPBIRD, SUPERB BLUE WREN, ROCK WARBLER, BUFF-RUMPED THORNBILL, STRIATED THORNBILL, WHITE-THROATED TREECREEPER, NOISY FRIARBIRD, NOISY MINER, YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER, YELLOW-TUFTED HONEYEATER, WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER, SPOTTED PARDALOTE, SILVEREYE, HOUSE SPARROW, DOUBLE-BARRED FINCH, COMMON STARLING, COMMON MYMA, WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH, MAGPIE LARK, DUSKY WOODSWALLOW, GREY BUTCHERBIRD, AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE, PIED CURRAWONG, AUSTRALIAN RAVEN.

THE BONG BONG PASS:

During our March meeting, prior to the field outing to the Bong-Bong Pass, a short talk was given with reference to the early history of this route; the following is an outline of that talk:

The earliest explorers of the Illawarra District, approached from the sea, so it is perhaps surprising to realise that our local area was opened up through the movement of early settlers from the west of the Illawarra mountain range.

From 1795, when Gov. Hunter looked down from the mountain range into what was later to be called the 'Garden of N.S.W.' there was a keen desire on the part of the early settlers to find a road through and over the mountain to this land of promise.

200 years ago, this fertile district was inhabited solely by a few aborigines who had small communities on the shores, the mountain-side, the Lake and the Rivers. They knew some of the difficult ways up the steep mountainsides, for Charles Throsby found natives who had ascended the Macquarie Pass to get into the valley of the Kangaroo River.

The first pass to the Illawarra, was through Mt. Keira. About this time, settlement took place at Appin and Picton, with the result that this route was much used. The mail went this way, via Appin to Sydney, though on many occasions, reports of Bushrangers on the top of Mt. Keira Pass caused considerable difficulty in getting mail carriers.

During the following 20 years, the area developed considerably as a farming community and supplier of timber. Illawarra was lucky in having an additional way out, by sea, to deal with this produce. However, there was a desire to open up a route giving access to Kangaroo Valley and out to Moss-Vale and Goulburn, and this led to another exit via Bong-Bong Pass.

In 1820, Charles Throsby had written to Governor Macquarie, saying, "I have fully established the practicability of a short communication between the coast, at the district of Illawarra and the new country in the county of Camden, by a pass in the mountains, several miles south of the original (Mt. Keira) road, discovered and made by me, where I have succeeded a few days since, in driving a herd of my cattle in the short space of one day, having been at

some expense in cutting bush to clear a sufficient road by the same route and direction I passed in February, 1817."

According to James Jarvis, this track evidently lay north of the dense bush on the volcanic country, about Burrswang and Robertson, and reached the coastal district, behind Depto.

In 1831, Surveyor Jacques described the pass between Wollangong and Bong-Bong (near Mossvale) as being on a very narrow shelf on the precipitous side of the mountain, the acclivity being so very steep as not to be made suitable for drays, without tunnelling, so that it must always be dangerous, even for cattle and horses. In 1832, the Sydney Monitor said, "From Wollangong to Bong-Bong, there is a well-beaten path which might be improved and which the Commissioner (escorted by one of the mounted police) might have traversed in 7-8 hours."

The construction of a road from Depto to Bong Bong was much discussed locally in 1842. It was reported that the construction of a road passable for carriages from the lands of Henry Osborne to Throsby's up the mountain, was a measure of importance. In 1862 it was said that preparations were being made by a small party, to examine the mountain between Berrima and Illawarra.

Two routes were known, one via Osborne's and the other by way of Depto.

A meeting to discuss the matter was held in September, 1842, when George Underwood Alley reported that a bridle road could be made to the top of the mountain for £150; W.P. Faithfull and W.W. Jenkins, who had examined the line, considered a good road via Depto, could be made for £1000. The meeting resolved that the pass pointed out by G.U. Alley, leading to Bong-Bong, having been examined and found capable of being made into a good dray road, that measures be taken for its construction.

The advocate of the scheme followed this meeting up with a dinner at the top of the mountain, when all present were invited to subscribe to a fund for building the road. No casualties were reported, but if it were like most dinners of the time, the special providence that watches over lunatics and drunks must have worked overtime, to bring all the diners down safely.

In December it was reported that £490 had been subscribed toward the construction of the road, but an official report the next year, indicated that both estimates of cost, put forward at the meeting, had been wildly optimistic.

Application was made to the Surveyor General concerning a survey of the line proposed, and Assistant Surveyor Bourke was instructed, in September, 1842, to examine the country behind Illawarra and to furnish a plan and survey as soon as possible. In 1843, Bourke reported to his chief, Sir Thomas Mitchell, that he had surveyed the line of communication from Berrima to Depto, marked by Mr. Alley, and that a bridle track was in the process of formation; it commenced at George Brown's inn at Depto, then ran toward the range, which it climbed and joined Henry Osborne's track 10 and 3/4 miles from the inn. From this point it followed the existing cattle track to Daudle's Folly Creek, where it left the track and ascended the Mittagong Range. It then joined the carriers dray track to Berrima, eleven miles away. The total length of the proposed road was 32 miles, 34 chains.

The report stated there were only two passes by which a road could be taken over Illawarra range in the direction desired, one chosen by Alley, the other by Osborne. Bourke said the gradients

on the range were such as to prevent the transport of goods in drays, or wheeled vehicles. It could only be used as a horse road; some of the gradients were 1 in 2.

Bourke's report was so adverse, that the government would not construct the road.

The committee interested, had pushed on with the work of making a possible track and it was reported in March 1843 that it was expected the road would be opened in a month. Dr. Aleck Osborne, who was a candidate at the elections for the Legislative Council in 1844, said, "I look upon the completion of a dray road up that mountain, to be an object of prime importance."

In 1847, Yates, member for Camden, moved that the sum of £300 be placed on the estimates to complete the road, which had been partly constructed by private persons, but was not passable for vehicles; his proposal was defeated.

Early in 1850 a dozen men met at the house of Yates, west Dapto, and carefully explored the line of road. They reported that a mile and a quarter up the mountain was in very passable order and would not require alteration. It was decided to petition the government for funds to complete the road.

In May, 1851, Surveyor Shone was instructed to make a report on the best line available, as representations had been made to the government to provide funds for the opening of the road known as "Alley's". Shone reported unfavourably on the line of road from Dapto to Berriwa, saying, "I do not consider this route or any other from Dapto to Berriwa, which must traverse a broken line of country, can be made available as a road for traffic from the southern country to Illawarra. The mountain ascent is exceedingly difficult and abrupt and I cannot see the utility of laying out a few hundred pounds on the line of road, when some thousands would be required to render it safe and practicable for even limited traffic." Astonishingly, he added that, "during the early part of the year 1848, I also made a preliminary survey and examination in the same direction for the proposed eastern line of railway toward Goulburn," for although part of the Unanderra-Mossvale line follows Alley's line, considering it as a Sydney-Goulburn, and eventually, the Sydney-Melbourne route, one can only say with Bertie Wooster, "I inspected the imagination - it bagged!"

The Surveyor General reported to the colonial secretary that, "Shone's examination showed that the expenditure alone, of vast sums of money would render the road safe and practicable."

Nothing further seems to have been done by the government, but the track continued in use until the road from the tablelands, via Jamberoo, was constructed.

In 1860, the Song-Bong road was said to be in a dangerous state, because of the increased traffic over it, and a subscription was opened to repair it.

Of all the travellers who have used the pass, from cattle drovers to birdwatchers, wooltraders and travellers, none could have been more exotic than the 14 Alpacas that came that way in 1866. An English resident in Peru had smuggled them to Sydney, where they were bought by the government for £15000; their export was forbidden by the Chilean government.

The alpacas were brought from Mingella via Song-Bong road, to Marshall Mount and then to Avondale. However, acclimatisation proved difficult and the alpacas needed more attention than merino sheep, and was less profitable; gradually the flock waned.

John Brown, in 1873, referred to Bong-Bong road, then under the control of a special trust, as having fallen into a most wretched state.

As late as 1897, efforts were being made, to make the pass trafficable again, the object being to bring to the notice of Mr. Campbell, the member for the district, the necessity for the pass to be improved to the point where vehicular traffic could use it with safety.

He promised to do all in his power; however, he was obviously powerless, and the making of a respectable road by contemporary standards, up Macquarie Pass in 1897-8 caused Bong-Bong pass, finally, to be written off as a main road.

A local surveyor, Carl Weber, was put on the job and it is said that he marked out Macquarie Pass on the principle of never sacrificing any height, once gained, whatever the cost in curvature, a perfectly reasonable attitude for the horse traffic of the day, but as we know later generations of motorists have not shared the same thoughts over his planning results.

THE CIRCULAR OF THE WOLLONGONG BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB
REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION (CATEGORY 'B').

OFFICERS: Pres. Laurie Williams
 Secty. Rowena Errington
 Treas. Ron Almond

THE CLUB'S AIM: TO JOIN TOGETHER, PEOPLE WITH A COMMON INTEREST,
 TO FURTHER THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIRDLIFE AROUND THEM.

THE CLUB'S MOTTO: ONE GOOD TERM DESERVES ANOTHER.

The meeting will be held at the FAIRYMEADOW SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE, (Formerly the North Wollongong Council Chambers) opposite DAVIS AND PENNEY, corner of the Princes Highway and Colisery Avenue; the date - Monday the 13th of July, starting at 7.30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Wyn Filewood, who will speak on, 'THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE NEW GUINEA BIRDS AND THE NORTH AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.' There is parking at the rear of the premises.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE.

THE CLUB'S NEXT OUTING will be to the Macquarie Falls area, on SUNDAY the 19th of July, meeting at 7.00 a.m. to study the Lyrebirds.

FILM NIGHT: Don't forget the film night to be held at the home of Del and Hazel Emery, at Lot 1, Dymock Street, Balgownie. Two sessions will be held - the first at 6.00 p.m., the second at about 8.00 p.m. **4th July**

Bring along a plate of 'goodies' and have 'high' tea with us, between sessions.

TALKING BOOKS AND CASSETTES ON NATURAL HISTORY.

The Bird Observers' Club in Melbourne, is collecting stamps to help finance the production of talking books and cassettes on NATURAL HISTORY; THESE WILL BE DONATED TO THE DISABLED.

I.B.O.C. has decided to help. Please bring along used stamps to our meetings, still attached to the envelope, or cut out, leaving 6 mm (3/4") border around the stamp.

When we have enough to make a parcel, they will be forwarded to Melbourne.

COMMITTEE: There will be no committee meeting in July.

PRESIDENT'S PHONE NUMBER: Please do not ring 296200 after office hours, it is then unattended; please ring 296537.

July, 1981.

A Walk in a Pine Forest:

Wingello State Forest was visited by half a dozen IBCC -ers on 29.3.'81 and found to be a very interesting area. The forest consists of pine trees, but the native vegetation has been left around the creeks in steep gullies.

A road was followed for some distance; it had pines on the higher side and eucalypts and wattles on the other, which ran down into a deep gully, where tree ferns were growing, to a creek, probably a tributary of Johnstone's Creek.

For some distance no birds were seen, except for a pair of Grey Fantails, although there was evidence of Rock Warblers' and Lyrebirds' recent nesting and of pinecones being chewed apart by Cockatoos.

A bend in the road was reached, where a creek ran through the pine forest and under the road, running into a gully which dropped away quickly. Alongside the creek in among the pines, a Yellow-throated Scrubwren and a Rock Warbler were observed and another species, possibly a Grey Fantail was seen bathing. Buff-rumped and Brown Thornbills were seen flying across the road and into the bracken, bordering the gully; a Red-browed Firetail was observed for some time, feeding on the road and showing its yellow shoulder-bar very well to the observer.

Rock Warblers were seen hopping in among the bracken fern and a quiet 'sit' by the creek under the native trees, was rewarded by the sighting of a male Rose Robin and a Crested Shrike-tit.

Twenty-seven(27) species were observed, namely: Superb Lyrebird, Rose Robin, Yellow Robin, Crested Shrike-tit, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Rufous Fantail, Grey Fantail, Eastern Whipbird, Rock Warbler, Yellow-throated Scrub-wren, White-browed Scrub-wren, Brown Thornbill, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, White-throated Treecreeper, Lewin's Honey Eater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Red-browed Firetail, White-winged Chough, Pied Currawong and Australian Raven.

A Visit to J. Voorwinden's Farm, Foxground, Berry, N.S.W.

Lat. 34°43' 30" S, Long. 150° 44' 30" E.

On Sunday, the 17th of May, Club members met at the junction of Freeselectors Road and Foxground Road, at 9.00 a.m. The attendance (46) was swelled by new members, who had recently attended the ornithology course at the W.E.A. Wollongong.

The Foxground Road passes through a cleared area; only a few patches of the original rainforest remain. Rough pasture neighbouring the road was feeding-ground for both Straw-necked and White Ibis and the White-necked and White-faced Heron.

Denise Black, a club member, led the convoy 3 km up a winding dirt road to a partly cleared area near the head of Broughton Creek and just below the upper scarp face. Vehicles were parked on Denise's acreage. Members then had opportunity to see a dead White-throated Nightjar, brought by Dave Thomson, from New Mount Pleasant Road, Balgownie. An initial, largely unproductive

search was made of the surrounding bush.

As the walk began, increasing numbers of birds were observed. Much of the land in this area had been cleared and was being used for rough grazing. Bracken and lantana were colonising in patches, but it was mostly in the damper gullies where there were a few older Coast White-box and Sassafras trees and engulfing spreads of lantana, that most of the initial sightings were made, - Grey Fantails, Brown Warblers, Silvereyes, Lewin's Honeyeater, Superb Blue Wrens, an adult male Golden Whistler and a Grey Shrike-thrush.

Crossing an arm of Broughton Creek, below Voorwinden's homestead, the track wound gradually upward out of the rough pasture and scattered dwellings, to become hemmed in by mature growth of the original coast white-box forest. Further up the track there were also patches of pure rain forest, containing many Celery-top Cedars, noted by club members. Sightings were few and identification was mainly of birds heard, but not seen.

From the rather grey and overcast conditions of the early morning, there was now an improvement and when the group stopped for lunch, at a 'T' junction clearing, just below Table Rock, the sun was filtering through the bush, warming the observers.

After lunch, the group fanned out into a small area of rain forest, with many buttress-rooted figtrees and lichen-entangled Brown Beeches at the base of the scarp, in the hope of increasing the number of species seen. However, birdlife was still and inconspicuous.

The few who went on further, to scramble up the craggy sandstone outcrop, eventually to the top of the scarp at the southern end of Barren Grounds Nature Reserve, had more luck, sighting the Eastern Bristlebird and the Southern Emu-wren.

Early in the afternoon as the group made its way along the foot of Kangaroo Ridge, we discovered remnants from earlier days - rather dilapidated stone walls. These relate back to the 1890's when the area was cultivated as an orchard in the farmland garden of a Mr. Parrish; Parrish is an old name in the Gerringong area.

Mr. Parrish was the great, great uncle of Trudy Voorwinden, wife of the present owner. More information can be obtained from the Gerringong Historical Society.

During mid-afternoon the weather took a sudden turn for the worse; a blanket of cloud rolled across the scarp, enclosing those returning from Barren Grounds. A lucky few had reached the shelter of the cars before the black skies swept overhead, bringing a heavy shower which hastened the end of the day's observing.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable round trip, which more than made up for the small number of birds (a total of 41 species) seen on the day:-

White-necked Heron, White-faced Heron, Cattle Egret, White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Black Duck, Topknot Pigeon, Wonga Pigeon, King Parrot, Crimson Rosella, Kookaburra, Superb Lyrebird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Yellow Robin, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Superb Blue Wren, Southern Emu-wren, Eastern Bristlebird, Large-billed Scrub-wren, Yellow-throated Scrub-wren, White-browed Scrub-wren, Brown Warbler, Brown Thornbill, Striped Thornbill, White-throated Treecreeper, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Spinbill, Whistletoe-bird, Spotted Pardalote, Silvereye, Red-browed Firetail, Common Starling, Satin Sowerbird, Magpie Lark, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Australian Raven.

August, 1981.

August, 1981.

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Treas. Ron Almond

THE CLUB'S AIM: TO JOIN TOGETHER, PEOPLE WITH A COMMON INTEREST,
TO FURTHER THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIRDLIFE AROUND THEM.

THE CLUB'S MOTTO: ONE GOOD TERN DESERVES ANOTHER.

The August meeting will be held at the FAIRYMEADOW SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE, (Formerly the North Wollongong Council Chambers) opposite DAVIS AND PENNEY, corner of Princes Highway and Colliery Avenue; the date - Monday the 17th of August, starting at 7.30 p.m. PARKING AT REAR. Please note this is the third Monday.

There will be no guest speaker this month; instead, there will be special 'birding' files, which we feel sure, you will enjoy.

Our outing this month will be to Moreton National Park, where we are meeting at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday the 22nd August, in the car-park, inside the main gateway to the park, at Bundanoon.

STAMPS: Please don't forget, we are still collecting stamps and will be sending away our first parcel after this meeting.

A NEW MEMBER: Please add to the membership list, the name of Mrs. Margaret PARKINSON, 5 Strata Avenue, Barrack Heights, 2528.

JUNE OUTING:

ST. MARY'S TOWER CONFERENCE CENTRE, DOUGLAS PARK, SAT. 13TH JUNE, 1981

Lat. 34°12' 30" S. Long. 150° 42' 30" E.

Forty nine people met at the main entrance to St. Mary's Tower Conference Centre, at 8.30 a.m. and later drove into the grounds and parked.

The day was bright, clear and warm, but by evening, had turned cool.

Close by the parking area, a Black Duck settled onto a small lake; away from the main courtyard, the property is farmed in various ways, open grassland, ploughed fields, rough paddocks, with animals grazing and an assortment of sheds and outhouses.

August 1981.

Around the latter, Crested Pigeon and Common Myna were seen and over the paddocks were flocks of Galahs and Eastern Rosellas. Sulphur-crested Cockatoos screeched overhead and Welcome Swallows swooped low.

Maggie Larks moved among the sheep, Noisy Miners called constantly and a group of White-winged Choughs strutted among the long grass.

Adjacent to an underpass, at the F5 Freeway, which spans the property, in the ironbark woodland thereabout, the group spread out in an effort to sight the many birds that were calling.

This abundance of birdlife made for an exciting morning's observing; unfortunately, not many saw one of the day's best sightings, a Rock Warbler, near the entrance to the underpass.

In this vicinity, the group had morning tea; there was constant activity in the tops of the trees and members were busy, trying to identify the different species of Honeyeaters which were moving about.

Fuscous, ~~White-cheeked~~ ^{Green} and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were identified and a Crested Shrike-tit was seen.

During the rest of the morning, the walk continued through dry eucalypt forest, at a small dam a group of Wood Duck were put to flight; in low bushes nearby a variety of Thornbills were calling and actively moving about.

As the day grew warmer, bird activity decreased, yet an occasional White-throated Tree Creeper was seen or heard. Spotted Pardalotes were still active and Superb Blue Wrens flitted among the undergrowth.

An extended lunch-stop was made among sandstone outcrops at the rim of the gorge of Allen's Creek, where some members observed Spotted Pardalotes gathering nesting material.

There were many scribbly gums and rocks on the sides of the gorge and by the creek, a lot of lush grass and She-oaks; this new habitat brought its variety of birds for those who ventured down to the creek.

An Azure Kingfisher was fishing in the clear waters, Grey Fantails using perches in the She-oaks circled out into the sunlight, picking their mid-day meal, while Red-browed Finches pecked along one of the sandbars, at the water's edge.

An Eastern Whipbird called strongly, but was not seen; unlike the Yellow Robin who took up a prominent pose.

The return walk in the afternoon was at a quickened pace. There were fewer birds to be seen, but interest was lifted by seeing a fox jump Allen's Creek, before disappearing into the bush on the far bank.

Back at St. Mary's, Brother Barry said that he thought Foxes were raiding the nests of local Lyrebirds. A group of Wood Ducks huddled together and moved away from us as we returned across the farmland.

Back at the cars, the group enjoyed a warm 'cuppa' and enjoyed the pleasure of Roy Wheeler's company and experiences, at the end of his brief visit to the Illawarra.

DAY'S COUNT 67 SPECIES

(See over page)

White-necked Heron, White-faced Heron, Straw-necked Ibis, Black Swan, Wood Duck, Masked Plover, Crested Pigeon, Spotted Dove, Peaceful Dove, Common Bronzewing, Gang-Gang Cockatoo, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Azure Kingfisher, Kookaburra, Common Skylark, Welcome Swallow, Richards Pipit, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Scarlet Robin, Hooded Robin, Yellow Robin, Jacky Winter, Crested Shrike-tit, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Restless Flycatcher, Rufous Fantail, Grey Fantail, Eastern Whipbird, Superb Blue Wren, Rock Warbler, White-browed Scrubwren, Weebill, Brown Thornbill, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill, White-throated Treecreeper, Brown Treecreeper, Red Wattlebird, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Fuscous Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Silveryeye, Red-browed Firetail, Diamond Firetail, Common Starling, Common Myna, White-winged Chough, Magpie Lark, Dusky Woodswallow, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Australian Raven.

Addendum: Yellow-rumped Thornbill

THE BONG-BONG PASS:

Members will remember the proposed trip down Bong-Bong Pass, part of the March excursion. A submission in the June circular records the successful traversal of this pass by fourteen Alpscs, a specimen of Liama (noble like a mountain goat.)

It has now been done by IBCC and Mel captures it well!

THE MAN FROM ILLAWARRA,

Acknowledgment: BANJO PATERSON

There was movement at the station, for the word had passed around
That the train for Summit Tank was pulling out,
Lots of not so noted Birde's - from the district could be found,
Assembled at the railway in some doubt,
They could ride the 'IBCC SPECIAL', for the cost of ninety cents,
And their packs were full of things to drink and eat.

There was Williams, who had made his pile from heaters that gave chat,
Old man with waist as stout as oak,
But few could walk beside him, when his blood was running hot,
He'd walk all day and still have wind to joke,
Doug Gibson from Thirroul way, came down to make the run,
No better 'birde' ever held 'binocs',
With his pencil and his notebook, he records birds one by one,
And occasionally he ticks them off in flocks.

(over)

And one there was, a stripling, he was a small and wiry beast,
Something like an athlete undersized,
With a pair of size nine sandshoes, three parts Adidas at least,
Shoes such as are by many Birdo's prized.

The lad looked so thin and weedy, some thought perhaps he'd better
stay behind.

But the old man said, "we'll let him go,
For he comes from Illawarre, where the roads are twice as
as anything you'll find.

And just to slip, will cause a nasty blow."

Soon the noise of profane cursing, filled the air around the
heads.

A bullock-driver's symphony of sound.

It was the man from Illawarre, with his trousers torn to shreds,
Prostrate in full display upon the ground.

Now down along the South Coast where the smokestacks reach the sky,

And pollution often filters out the sun,

The local Birdo's tell the story of the lad who shouldn't have got.

And how the infamous Bong-Bong track was run.

The FACTS behind the FORKLIFT

Suspensions are being raised in non-ornithological circles as to the real motives behind the acquisition of a forklift truck by L.A.W. Williams Esq. to cope with his increased business workload. To dispel any myths and so prevent the said L.A.W. from getting into more hot water, our roving reporter maintains these sketches will attest to his veracity and the real meaning of the initials H.W.M.



How can we with

THE CIRCULAR OF THE MOLLONGONG BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB
REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION (CATEGORY 'B')

OFFICERS: Pres. Laurie Williams
 Secy. Rowena Errington
 Treas. Ron Almond

THE CLUB'S AIM: TO JOIN TOGETHER, PEOPLE WITH A COMMON INTEREST, TO FURTHER THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIRDLIFE AROUND THEM.

THE CLUB'S MOTTO: ONE GOOD TERM DESERVES ANOTHER.

The September meeting will be held at the FAIRYMEADOW SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE, (FORMERLY THE North Mollongong Council Chambers) opposite DAVIS & PENNEY (Now A.G. Campbell), corner of Prince's Highway and Collaery Avenue: the date - Monday the 14th of September, starting at 7.30 p.m.
PARKING AT REAR.

The Guest Speaker will be Dr. Ben Miller; his topic will be "The Birds of Lord Howe Island."

Our outing this month, on SATURDAY, 19th of SEPTEMBER, will be to the Seven Mile Beach area. We are meeting at BERRY POST OFFICE at 9.00 a.m. and leaving soon afterward.

At the end of the day we will be having a meal at Seven Mile Beach reserve, then a spotlighting walk in the evening. (Bring a barbecue if you wish.)

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

FAMILY CAMP: There will be a family camping week-end on 3rd, 4th and 5th of OCTOBER at "Wendela", CANYONLEIGH.

At the September meeting we will be taking names of those who will be attending the camp. If you are unable to attend the meeting and intend going to the camp, please ring Laurie Williams for final details. (29-6637).

Visitors are welcome on a daily basis; ring Laurie.

BIRDS SEEN AT CANYONLEIGH ON RECENT TRIPS ARE:-

Little Pied Cormorant, White-faced Heron, Wood Duck, Masked Plover, Pied Stilt, Crested Pigeon, Yellow-tailed Black Cuckoo, Galah, Crimson Nanella, Eastern Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, Shining Bronze Cuckoo, Spine-tailed Swift, Azure Kingfisher, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Dullerbird, Welcome Swallow, Richards Pipit, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Flame Robin, Scarlet Robin, Hooded Robin, Jack Winter, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Leaden Flycatcher, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Superb Blue Wren, White-browed Scrubwren, White-throated Warbler, Brown Thornbill, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, White-throated Treadcreeper, Brown Treadcreeper, Red Wattlebird, Noisy Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater,

New Holland Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, Red-browed Firetail, Common Starling, Olive-backed Oriole, White-winged Chough, Magpie Lark, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Australian Raven.

CAMP OUTING:

On the week-end of 24th and 25th of October, there will be a 'Campout' at the Allyn River area, via GRESFORD, just out of Singleton.

This is a magnificent state forest, with spectacular scenery and walks. Those wishing to attend and who are not at the September meeting, should phone Laurie on 29-6637.

SOME OF THE BIRDS RECENTLY SEEN AT THE ALLYN RIVER AREA ARE:-

Hedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Pigeon, Yellow-tailed Black Cuckoo, King Parrot, Crimson Rosella, Kookaburra, Tree Martin, Sooty Thrush, Rose Robin, Scarlet Robin, Yellow Robin, Crested Shrike-tit, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Eastern Whipbird, Superb Blue Wren, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Warbler, Brown Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, White-throated Treecreeper, Lewin's Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Red-browed Firetail, Satin Gowerbird, Regent Gowerbird, Green Catbird, Pied Currawong, Australian Raven.

SPRING BIRD COUNT:

On Saturday, the 31st of October, the Spring bird-count will be held.

Please ring Laurie(29-6637) during mid-October, if you are available to participate in this project.

ODD AND ENDS:

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT:

READERS' DIGEST BIRD BOOK	\$ 24
PIZZEV. A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA		\$17
FULLER, WOLLONGONG'S NATIVE TREES	\$ 14
RAINFOREST TREES AND SHRUBS	\$ 4
RAINFOREST FLORA OF N.S.W. CHECKLIST	89
KEY TO COMMON FAMILIES OF TREES AND SHRUBS	\$2
LEARNING ABOUT BIRDS	\$12

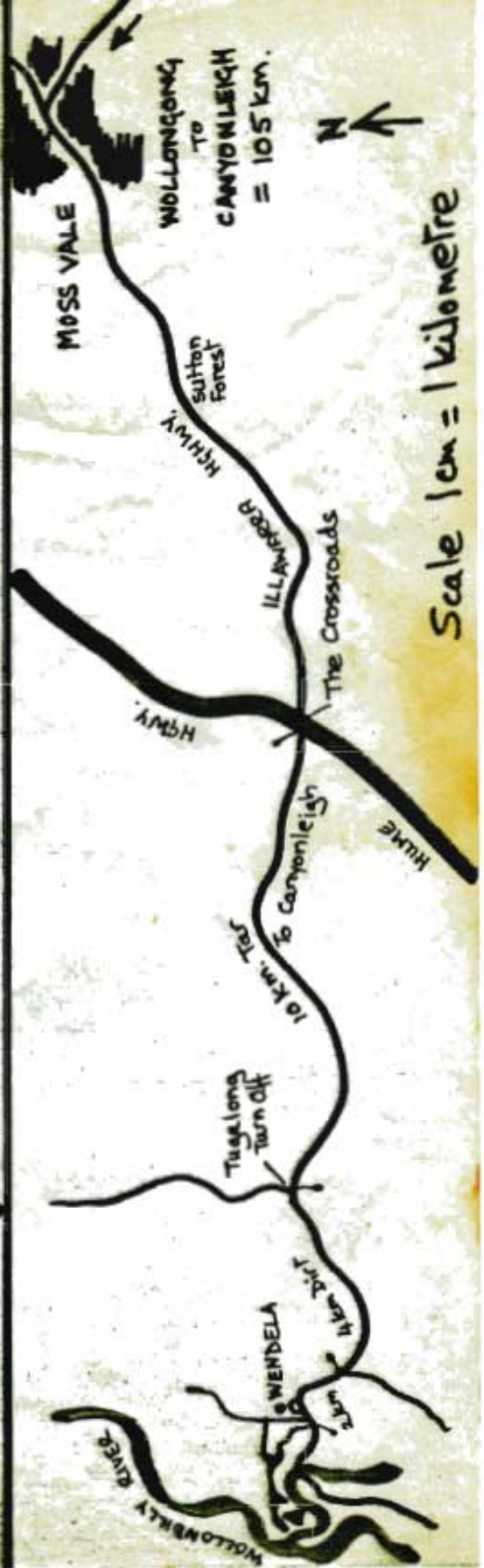
BADGES:

CLOTH CLUB BADGES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ... \$ 2.20 each.
METAL CLUB BADGES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ... \$ 1.50 each.

IBOC Family Camp at Wendela October 1981



Scale
7cm = 1km



Scale 1cm = 1 kilometre

THE CIRCULAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB
REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION (CATEGORY 'B')

OFFICERS: Pres. Laurie Williams
Secy. Rowena Errington
Treas. Ron Almond

THE CLUB'S AIM: TO JOIN TOGETHER, PEOPLE WITH A COMMON INTEREST TO FURTHER THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIRDLIFE AROUND THEM.

THE CLUB'S MOTTO: ONE GOOD TERN DESERVES ANOTHER.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the FAIRYMEADOW SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, (formerly the North Wollongong Council Chambers) opposite A.G. Campbell's Warehouse, corner of Princes Highway and Colliery Avenue; the date, Monday the 9th of November, starting at 7.30 p.m. PARKING AT REAR.

THE GUEST SPEAKER will be TOM GRANT; his topic "BIRDS, MAN AND THE ENVIRONMENT."

OUR OUTING this month, on SATURDAY, 14th of NOVEMBER is an exciting excursion to BULLIO.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Well, it is that time of the year again, when we look back at our achievements and of course, we should be looking to the future, to see what we would like to see the club achieve in the next twelve months.

At this, our annual general meeting, we declare vacant the three positions of PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND TREASURER and call for nominations from the floor of the meeting.

The other members of the committee and club helpers are co-opted by the new committee at its first meeting, so at this meeting you have your opportunity to elect the members you feel will lead the club in the way you would like to see it lead in 1982.

Speaking now, as your 1981 President, it has been a wonderful experience seeing our club grow in stature and numbers and achieving the level of fellowship that has encouraged such good attendances at our meetings and of course at our family camp.

This level was only achieved because of the great work and enthusiasm of all the committee members and other helpers, who worked as a great team.

Without listing them individually, but speaking of them as a group of dedicated people, I would like to put on record the appreciation of myself and the club, for their involvement

and willingness to do the mundane and sometimes unrewarding tasks necessary in running the club during 1981.

We look toward 1982, hoping for similar support to further strengthen our club.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Members may wish to amend their membership record with the following entry:

Richard^o Miller's address, after the 14th of September, will be. 81 Bulli Pass Road, Thirroul, 2515. He may still be 'phoned in working hours, at 28 2943.

VISIT TO WILLANDRA:

During the recent school vacation, my family and I attended a ten day bird study camp at Willandra National Park (64 Km. N.W. of Hillston). Willandra Property, on the red soil plains, provides a bush camping area, or cabin accommodation by the billabong. We stayed in the shearers' huts, which had shower and toilet facilities and a kitchen and dining room.

Over 100 species were recorded for the camp, some from an overnight camp-out at Yathong Nature Reserve, (between Hillston and Cober).

Some highlights for us, of the list, were Crimson and Orange Chats, Australian and Red-knees Dotterels, Black-tailed Native Hen, Pink Cockatoos, Spotted Bowerbird at bower, Fork-tailed Kite, Spotted Harrier, Red-backed Kingfisher (carrying a young Red-capped Robin), Crested Bellbird and the Splendid Wren.

There are N.P.W.S. rangers at Willandra and at Yathong, both of whom were very helpful and information on the park and reserve may be obtained from the Service Officer in Griffith.

Barry Virtue.

MACQUARIE PASS NATURE RESERVE -Lat. 34°34' S, Long 150° 39' E
Sunday, 19th July, 1981.

An early start was made in expectation of sighting Lyrebird; a large turn-out gathered about a mile along the clover hill road turn-off from Macquarie Pass Road.

Lyrebirds were heard from the meeting place, but none was seen.

The first part of our walk continued along Clover Hill Road, the rainforest on each side, providing good cover for several small species; Eastern Spinebill, Brown Thornbill and Lewin's Honeyeater were seen. Some saw the Eastern Whipbird a bird we usually hear on our local walks, but rarely see. However, our best sighting was of a spotted owl, which was perched close to the road and everyone had chance of a good view, in passing.

The road then traversed clear, rough grassland, below Clover Hill Property, before 'ducking back' down toward the foot of Macquarie Falls.

Up beyond the cascades, sitting quietly on an otherwise bare tree, was a flock of nearly thirty Topknot Pigeons.

During the morning-tea stop, we saw a Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring along the escarpment and shortly afterward a pair of grey goshawks circled upward, before finally fading into the distant sky.

Later, the party followed the fall of the valley and fanned out to explore the surrounding forest until lunchtime, during which a mistletoe bird busily fed above our heads.

The outing finished after lunch and on our way back to the cars we saw a pair of Spotted Pardalotes carrying nesting material; by standing quietly on the road, we were able to watch the birds perch on nearby branches, hesitating at first in the presence of observers, before finally ducking into their hole in the roadside bank.

BIRDS SEEN WERE: (34 in all),

Grey Goshawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Topknot Pigeon, Brown Pigeon, Manga Pigeon, Crimson Rosella, Spotted Owl, Kookaburra, Superb Lyrebird, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Eastern Yellow Robin, Crested Shrike-tit, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail, Eastern Whipbird, Superb Blue Wren, White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Warbler, Brown Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, White-throated Treecreeper, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Mistletoe-bird, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Red-browed Firetail, Green Catbird, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Curlewong.

ERITH COALMINE, MORTON NATIONAL PARK.

Lat. 34° 40' 10" S, Long. 150° 48' E., Saturday 22nd August '81.

This excursion took place during a period of continuous gale force wind and only a dozen members braved the elements.

It has been our experience that on windy days the birds are relatively inactive and in good cover; this was certainly the case at Sundanoon.

The plateau top traversed by the "coal mine track" is a place of poor, sandy soil supporting the more hardy species of vegetation of an open dry forest. Birds were very scarce.

Further along the trail the soil was richer and moister and the plant life more diverse. The numerous wildflowers and particularly the wattles, enhanced the morning walk.

At a waterfall, in a beautiful gorge above the coalmine, the vegetation becomes luxuriant with ferns and mosses and a much greener forest.

The group spent an hour here and after morning tea, climbed back up onto the plateau, returning along Erith Coalmine old road to the cars and a sheltered lunch-spot at Riverview.

After lunch seven members went by car to the other side of the coal mine gorge to the property of Mr. and Mrs. Hickling. Here a most colourful sighting was a Scarlet Robin feeding in open grassland; later in the same area, a flock of Red-browed Firetails was seen.

Despite the preliminary work done by Ron Almond and Morris Ward, in planning this outing, the weather conditions and the scarcity of birdlife so detracted from the viewing, that the excursion was curtailed.

It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to do this same walk for one of our future excursions.

BIRDS SEEN WERE: (33 in all)

White-necked Heron, White-faced Heron, Green-necked Ibis, Black Duck, Wood Duck, Masked Plover, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Fantailed Duck, Kookaburra, Superb Lyrebird, White-necked Swallow, Flame Robin, Scarlet Robin, Grey-Shrike Thrush, Gray Fantail, Superb Blue Wren, Brown Thornbill, Buff-rumped Thornbill, White-throated Treecreeper, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Rufous Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, White-capped Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Silvereye, Red-browed Firetail, Diamond Firetail, Magpie Lark, Australian Magpie, Pied Curlewong.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE 'BIRD' MIND.

It seems as though Eastern Whipbirds have a particular liking for peanut butter and rolled oats.

White recently trapping small mammals for a study project (where the above items are used for bait), in a densely vegetated gully site at Penrose, two of this species were caught in a small aluminium trap, on successive mornings.

On another occasion, a White-browed Scrubwren was captured.

Another amusing incident involving a young Grey Butcherbird occurred when, after releasing a rat, the rat, instead of heading back into a pile of litter where he was caught, took off into the open.

A few metres away, the scurrying rat was intercepted by a Butcherbird. He (it was a he) escaped, however, and took refuge under my car.

The result was, the rat under the car looking at me and wondering where the Butcherbird was, the Butcherbird on the car roof looking for the rat and I looking at them both and wondering what was to happen next.

After a tussle under the car, the Butcherbird gave up and the rat disappeared out the other side of the car.

A further incident, involving another young Butcherbird, occurred the next day.

I was waiting quietly on the side of a gully, for a Lyrebird that was working its way toward me; the only other birds around were a White-throated Treecreeper and the Butcherbird.

Before I knew what had happened, the unlucky Treecreeper had been taken from the tree, in one swoop from the Butcherbird.

The young bird seemed to have some difficulty in handling the treecreeper, struggling to the ground with it. It wasn't going to let it go, however, and held on tenaciously as they struggled around on the ground. Two Thornbills arrived in the shrub above and made quite a fuss.

The Butcherbird was last seen struggling through the undergrowth with the hapless treecreeper still trying to escape.

RESERVED

To all 1300 members

Hi!...

HAPPY

SIGHTINGS

FOR



ILLINOIS BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB



December 1981

December 1981.

THE CIRCULAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB
REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION (CATEGORY 'B')

THE CLUB'S AIL: TO JOIN TOGETHER, PEOPLE WITH A COMMON INTEREST,
TO FURTHER THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIRDLIFE AROUND THEM.

THE CLUB'S LOTTO: ONE GOOD TERN DESERVES ANOTHER.

The December meeting follows the outing by a few days;
the outing commences at 2 p.m. on Saturday, the 5th of December,
at the RHODODENDRON PARK, Parrish Avenue, Mount Cusley.

Members will take a walk in the park, returning to the
car parking area at about 6 p.m. when a barbecue may be prepared.

After tea there will be spotlighting.

The Christmas Meeting will be held on Monday the 14th of
December, in the Fairymeadow Senior Citizens Centre (formerly
the North Wollongong Council Chambers) opposite A.G. Campbell's
Warehouse, corner of Princes Highway and Collobery Avenue;
commencing time, 7.30 p.m.

The Programme will be:-

- (1) Welcome by the President
- (2) 'A trip to Cape York'
- (3) 'Mad Hatters' or 'birds' were never like this.
- (4) The Initiation
- (5) A special tern
- (6) Maybe - The Twittering Trio, or Quartet, or Choir
- (7) Scrambled Birds
- (8) A Film
- (9) In the beginning
- (10) Christmas Tree
- (11) Around the feeding table
- (12) Farewell to another year

Item (3) on the above programme will be the Parade of hats.
We are asking members to bring along a hat which depicts,
resembles or makes innuendo about, a bird.

Of course, there will be JUDGING and at GREAT EXPENSE,
a marvellous prize for the winner, so join in the fun of the
evening, let your imagination run wild and we will all have a
good time.

The Club wishes "A happy Christmas to one and all and a
very happy New Year" and may you all see "a new 'tern' in 1982."

There will be no meeting in January, 1982. Our next
meeting will be held on Monday evening, the 8th of February,
when our guest speaker will be Kevin Mills and our next
outing on Saturday, the 13th of February, 1982 - to BELANGLO
STATE FOREST.

At the Annual General Meeting held in November, 1981, the Officers elected were:-

- PRESIDENT: Laurie Williams.
- SECRETARY: Rowena Errington
- TREASURER: Ron Almond

LIBRARY: Members who have library books outstanding on loan, are requested to return them no later than the night of the Christmas Meeting.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Members are reminded that subscriptions for the New Year are due on the 1st of January, 1982. Family membership costs \$ 8, single membership \$ 5 and \$ 2 for full-time students.

The Club is looking for members to fill the following positions in 1982:-

- Editor of our Newsletter
- Culinary Supervisor
- Sales Officer
- Librarian
- Recording Officer.

SEVEN MILE BEACH VICINITY, NEAR BERRY, N.S.W.

Latitude 34°47'S; Longitude, 150°42'E, Saturday, 19th of September, 1981.

There was a large turnout for this excursion; our first stop was at the pasture research unit off Shoalhaven Road.

As we left our cars, we saw an Australian Pipit, climbing in fits and starts, then dropping suddenly to a regular perch on the fence-line.

Just after crossing a muddy creek - at which there was one mistake in judgment, we saw a Variegated Wren, nestbuilding; an Australian Magpie's nest was also found.

At Berry pondage, Black Duck, Grey Teal and a single Chestnut Teal were seen.

The trees along the banks of Broughton Creek were attracting many varieties of birds, the coral trees being those most sought; it was surprising how difficult it was, in such an open tree, to spot the Eastern Rosellas resting there.

Lewin's Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebills, Silvereyes, were all busy feeding here and in the undergrowth. Just above the water's edge, White-browed Scrubwrens, Superb Blue Wrens (the male in beautiful shining plumage) were seen.

Cutting back onto Broughton Mill Creek, a clamorous Reed Warbler was heard, calling from some low branches above the water, with no reeds in sight. Later a second bird was heard at the edge of the pondage.

A Yellow Thornbill was perched on a branch, as though to

show off to the newcomers in our group.

A Willie Wagtail was constructing a nest on a limb out over the creek and a Masked Plover's nest with two eggs was observed in the middle of a cowpasture.

During lunchtime a Pallid Cuckoo was heard repetitively calling. After lunch our walk near Toolijooa Road, took us past a sizeable farm-dam, much reduced by the dry conditions. Here, Black Swans were seen on the water, but we were unable to find a nest.

In a small patch of Eucalypts, we saw the highlight of the day, a Land Rail, disturbed, flew onto a branch about 5 metres from the ground and there, perched precariously. Observers had a thorough look at a bird which is usually seen only fleetingly among thick ground cover.

Crossing the railway, the club returned along Toolijooa Road, some diverting into the adjoining bush.

Here two more special sightings were made, a Brown Warbler's nest and a Yellow Robin's, with two eggs.

In the latter part of the afternoon the group had a barbecue at Seven Mile Beach. A Crested Tern was the only bird sighted here.

In the evening, Barry and Andrew Virtue led us on a spot-lighting walk through part of Seven Mile Beach National Park.

No birds were seen, but mammals were active and many people saw species for the first time.

Two Greater Gliders, Three Ringtail Possums and one Brushtail Possum were recorded.

Our day ended with a tally of Sixty-two species, twelve hours after it started and just as much-needed rain commenced.

Tally for the day:-

Little Pied Cormorant	Crimson Rosella
Black Cormorant	Eastern Rosella
White-faced Heron	Pallid Cuckoo
Cattle Egret	Kookaburra
White Ibis	Sacred Kingfisher
Black Swan	Welcome Swallow
Black Duck	Richards Pipit
Grey Teal	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Chestnut Teal	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Wood Duck	Yellow Robin
Whistling Kite	Rufous Whistler
Nankeen Kestrel	Grey Shrike-thrush
Land Rail	Grey Fantail
Dusky Moorhen	Willie Wagtail
Swamphen	Eastern Whipbird
Masked Plover	Clamorous Reed Warbler
Domestic Pigeon	Superb Blue Wren
Spotted Dove	Variegated Wren
Galah	White-browed Scrubwren
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Warbler

Brown Thornbill	Spotted Pardalote
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Silvereye
Yellow Thornbill	European Goldfinch
Striated Thornbill	House Sparrow
White-throated Treecreeper	Red-browed Firetail
Noisy Friarbird	Common Starling
Noisy Miner	Common Myna
Lewins Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Australian Magpie
New Holland Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Eastern Spinebill	Australian Raven

WENDELA, NEAR CANYONLEIGH, N.S.W.

Latitude 34°35'S, Longitude 150°7'E. Saturday 3rd -Mon. 5th
October, 1981.

The family camp this year, was held at their property by courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. Hicks. Sixty members and friends attended and during the camp a number of original sightings were made.

Doctor Hicks visited the camp on Sunday morning and we were fascinated to hear some of the history of the local area and of farming developments on the property.

The rest of the morning was left free and people chatted or explored as they preferred. A Little Eagle's nest was found down by the ford and a good view was had of the adult bird; others had a good sighting of a pair of Owllet Nightjars flushed from their tree roosts by 'birds' masquerading as goshaws.

By Sunday afternoon the wind had dropped and an enjoyable walk was made to an undisturbed stand of eucalypts North of the homestead. Leaving our camp, we followed a small creek with small farm dams along its course.

We saw a Dollar Bird perched high on a bare tree; a Brown Thornbill's nest with four eggs was seen, tucked in behind the bark of a tree-stump. Most of us, also, had a good view of a Restless Flycatcher and a chance to hear his 'scissor-grinding' call.

One of the small dams had a group of young Black Ducks and close to the bank was a Little Grebe's nest of floating weed. The adult bird, in breeding plumage, was out on the dam, having covered the eggs with weed before leaving.

An important sighting was of a Red-backed Kingfisher, only the second sighting in the County of Camden (first sighting, A. McGill, 1979) and for most of us the first sighting.

In good light, everyone had opportunity to see the bird circling from its perch on a fence post.

As we approached the woodland area, a group of Young Woodland Ducks scampered ahead of us; this area provided sightings of a number of small bush birds and a Common

Bronzewing Pigeon was seen in a clearing on the ground.

The sight of a Sugar Glider, gliding, made this afternoon walk more successful than the evening's 'official' spotlighting.

By Monday the weather had improved and the final walk, on Monday morning, was a delightful stroll in the sunshine along the banks of the Wollondilly River. Birds were continually active along the bank and across the water.

A Black Duck's nest was found with a large clutch of eggs nestled in a downy bed; many saw the Azure Kingfisher along the river, but an unusual observation was of a White-cheeked Honeyeater picked out from the other Honeyeaters, the Yellow-faced, the New-Holland and the Eastern Spine Bill, which were very active in the area.

The morning was capped for some by watching Platypus in the pools along the way, while back at the campsite there was an Echidna for all to see. Unfortunately, Satellite coverage of the observations could not be arranged to Ontario.

The week-end added considerably to the bird records for the area and the large attendance meant that many club members enjoyed the delights of this previously unexplored property.

Our thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Hicks for their hospitality. The bird tally for the week-end was 90.

Tally, week-end 2-5th October, 1961

Little Grebe	Shining Bronze Cuckoo
Australian Pelican	Spine-tailed Swift
Little Pied Cormorant	Azure Kingfisher
Black Cormorant	Kookaburra
White-faced Heron	Sacred Kingfisher
Nankeen Night Heron	Rainbow Bee-eater
Black Duck	Dollarbird
Wood Duck	Welcome Swallow
White-breasted Sea Eagle	Tree Martin
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Richard's Pipit
Little Eagle	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Nankeen Kestrel	White-winged Triller
Dusky Moorhen	Flame Robin
Masked Plover	Scarlet Robin
Black-fronted Dotterel	Hooded Robin
Pied Stilt	Yellow Robin
Crested Pigeon	Jacky Winter
Common Bronzewing	Rufous Whistler
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Grey Shrike-thrush
Galah	Leaden Flycatcher
Crimson Rosella	Restless Flycatcher
Eastern Rosella	Grey Fantail
Red-rumped Parrot	Willie Wagtail
Pallid Cuckoo	Clanorous Reedwarbler
Rufous-tailed Bronze Cuckoo	Superb Blue Wren
Pan-tailed Bronze Cuckoo	White-browed Scrubwren

Speckled Warbler	Eastern Spinebill
White-throated Warbler	Spotted Pardalote
Brown Thornbill	Striated Pardalote
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Silvereye
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	European Goldfinch
Striated Thornbill	Red-browed Firetail
Varied Sitella	Diamond Firetail
White-throated Treecreeper	Common Starling
Brown Treecreeper	Common Myna
Red Wattlebird	Olive-backed Oriole
Noisy Friarbird	White-winged Chough
Noisy Miner	Maggie Lark
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Dusky Woodswallow
White-eared Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird
White-plumed Honeyeater	Australian Magpie
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
White-naped Honeyeater	Grey Currawong
Crescent Honeyeater	Australian Raven
New Holland Honeyeater	Red-backed Kingfisher

BY THE BANKS OF ALLYN WATER.

By the banks of Allyn water,
The 'warra birdo's' caryed one day,
Mid trees of leafy splendour,
And birds of colours gay.

Through forest trails we wandered,
Searching trees for species rare,
Till the sounds of many voices,
Of the Wildlife, filled the air.

Down the rivers, creeks and wetlands,
The beauty to behold!
Through the rocks carved by nature,
Flowed the waters as of old.

Over mountain tops we gazed,
Over valleys bathed in light,
Till we saw a Wedge-tailed Eagle, soaring,
To a greater height.

In these days of rapid striving,
When all we do is race,
Let us stop and think again,
Of the beauty of this place.

God has given us this wonder,
All around, for us to see,
May we ever stop and thank him, for all
He's done, for you and me.

Ron Hanks.