



I. B. O. C. NEWS

60.

THE CIRCULAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

REGISTERED BY AUST. POST PUBLICATION NO. NBH 3848.

PRESIDENT

Laurie Williams
18 Achilles Avenue
North Wollongong NSW 2500
29 6637

SECRETARY

Hazel Emery
63 Dymock Street
Balgownie NSW 2519
84 0139

CLUB MOTTO

"One Good Tern
Deserves Another"

CLUB'S AIM: To join together people with a common interest to further their knowledge of the Birdlife around them.

February 1983

NEXT MEETING:

Monday February 14th commencing 7.30 pm sharp. Our guest speaker on this occasion will be Arnold McGill - a noted speaker on Ornithology. The meeting will be held at the Senior Citizens Centre, Cnr Collaery Avenue and Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow.

FIELD OUTING:

Saturday February 19th - to Towra Point.

Meeting at the Cnr of Elouera Road and Captain Cook Drive, North Cronulla at 8.00 am, thence to Towra Point. John Waugh will be our leader on this occasion. You will need to take a carry lunch.

SPECIAL EXCURSION:

We will be meeting at 5.30 pm at Windang on Wednesday evening 16th February to have a look at the Waders. Bring along a sandwich and a cup of coffee.

Turn left before you cross Windang Bridge and travel between the lake and the camping area, meeting on the lake foreshore, then to the lakes entrance on the northern side.

CHRISTMAS MEETING 1982

What a great time we had at our Christmas meeting, an evening of fun and fellowship.

Highlights of the night was the "Inventors Segment" in which a "Panel of Experts" chose the best invention as an "aid to birding". What great fun it was, thanks go to the Panel for their effort in making this item such a great laugh provoking one.

Wally and Hazel Emery in their item "Recovery Round Up", gave a very well thought out item for the Christmas programme. (No - Channel 4 has no intention of signing Wally on as their Programme Manager).

The musical item by the "Ornithologist's Delight" was well received by the large audience. The "Gendarmes Duet" will never sound the same again.

"Father Christmas" Williams dug deep into his Christmas sack to find some presents for unsuspecting club members, many got a surprise.

It was good to see Arnold McGill, Jim Dixon and Alan Leishman members of Sydney Bird Observers Clubs, also so many visitors to help us celebrate the end of a very successful year for the Illawarra Bird Observers Club.

At the conclusion of the evening we gathered round the table for supper and the cutting of the Christmas cake.

FIELD OUTING

BULLI PASS SCENIC RESERVE

Saturday, 11th December 1982

Thirty five members attended our final outing for the year on a cool summer day. The tall thick vegetation protected us from the wind and sun making conditions very pleasant.

Meeting at the gates of the Reserve, we climbed into a few cars driving to a clearing where we were to begin our walk.

The path which led up the slopes was very steep, at the final stage were steps leading to the top of the escarpment at Sublime Point, some of the members completed the climb. Many tall eucalypts, palm trees, cedars and a variety of smaller trees were to be seen. All this harbouring many species of birds but made them difficult to see.

Along the trail was a swampy clearing where some members came upon a brown snake going into the bush.

A sighting of the Goldern Whistler, Rufous Fantail, Yellow-throated Scrubwren and Black-faced Monarch were made.

The afternoon walk concluded back at the parked cars where a large group stayed for a meal. A Koel was observed after it was heard calling. Later in the evening a spotlighting walk along part of the trail revealed 2 Ringtail Possums and a Goanna in a rock crevice.

In all, 35 species of birds were sighted.

"TALES FROM A TRAVELLER'S DIARY" (CONT.)

We made a visit to a lovely garden at Paluma on Mt Spec., during our recent holiday. We went to Ivy Cottage where you can enjoy devonshire tea, and we sat at a table in the back garden.

The garden was nice with some lawn, pretty flowers and a few shrubs including a large hibiscus and at the back was a very large coral tree in flower, some banana trees and then the beautiful rainforest trees which formed a border and which would creep closer and closer if they could. I guess it wasn't as much what was growing in the garden as what was living in it, that made it so attractive.

There were lovely butterflies flitting in and out and lots of beautiful birds only too happy to share our morning tea with us.

Macleay and Lewin Honeyeaters were tame and happy to fly to the table and eat the crumbs. The Victoria Riflebirds were more shy, but the birds would fly in quickly and take some crumbs, then fly to the shrub alongside to eat. Eastern Spine bills and Grey-headed Robins were hopping around under the shrub eating the Scraps that were dropped and very occasionally the male Riflebird and Spotted Catbird flew in for their share. Further back on the lawn a Scaly Thrush hopped around and the Coral Tree was forever dancing with the birds feeding there. Down in the quietness of the rainforest, Chowchillas were scratching among the leaf litter for food, and if you were quiet you could sit and soak in the beauty of the rainforest and hear the calls of lots of other beautiful birds. We sat crouched in the banana trees while the lady washed the dishes and when the water trickled out of the drain onto the ground just below us a Large-billed Scrubwren and a Scaly Thrush came hopping out of the grass, picking at the dirt for some tit-bits, and if you are lucky and wait there quietly, a Red-necked Rail will also come wandering out in all it's glory.

We were ever so lucky, and enjoyed watching that beautiful bird for a couple of minutes before it made its way back through the grass into the rainforest to wait for the next sound of trickling water.

What a beautiful place to live! and we felt very priviledged to be able to share some of the secrets of that lovely garden!

Nola & Laurie Williams





1983 PROGRAMME

14 February, Monday	....	Arnold McGill (Waders)
19 February, Saturday	....	Towra Point
14 March, Monday	....	Laurie Williams
19 March, Saturday	....	Windsor
11 April, Monday	....	Ellis McNamara
16 April, Saturday	....	Picton Lakes (Kevin Mills)
7 May, Saturday	....	Film Night (at Thomsons)
9 May, Monday	....	Members' Slide Night
15 May, Sunday	....	Mt Kembla (Chris Pavich)
28 May, Saturday	....	Autumn Bird Count
11 June, Saturday	....	Film Night
13 June, Monday	....	John De Jose (Bustards).
19 June, Sunday	....	Macquarie Rivulet
9 July, Saturday	....	Film Night
11 July, Monday	....	Allan Leishman (Birds of Norfolk Island)
16 July, Saturday	....	Macquarie Pass
6 August, Saturday	....	Film Night
8 August, Monday	....	Dick Turner (Tanami Desert)
13 August, Saturday	....	Pennant Hills (Ernie Hoskins)
10 September, Saturday	....	Bus Trip to Canberra Botanical Gardens
12 September, Monday	....	Rob Whelan (Birds, Mammals & Banksias)
17 September, Saturday	....	Royal National Park
1 - 3 October	....	Camp out at Wanganderry
22 - 23 October	....	Camp out at Batemans Bay
29 October, Saturday	....	Spring Bird Count
14 November, Monday	....	Humphrey Price Jones (Birds of Prey)
19 November, Saturday	....	Comerong Island
10 December, Saturday	Barren Grounds
12 December, Monday	Christmas Meeting

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MARCH, 1983

NEXT MEETING: March/14th at the Senior Citizens Centre, Cnr. Collaery Avenue and Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow at 7.30 pm.

GUEST SPEAKER: Laurie Williams speaking on "A Trip to Darwin - with a few detours "

FIELD OUTING: Saturday 19th/March to Windsor, Meeting at MC Grath's Hill at 8.30 am.

1983 FEES - are overdue if you wish to receive the "Newsletter" and have your name added to the membership list, would you please pay your dues to our Treasurer Ron Almond as soon as possible.

PLEASE NOTE:-

Binoocular repairs can be carried out by Edwin Bowers & Sons
695 George Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

A Camp will be held at the Myall Lakes area over the Easter week if you would like to attend, would you talk to Dave Thom son, on Phone No. 84.2876.

BIRDING IN BORNEO

Having read recently of an "Illawarra Century", I thought that Club Members might be interested to hear of an attempt at a 'century' under rather different circumstances. As most of you probably know, I am living just outside of Sepilok Forest Reserve about 14 miles from Sandakan on the East Coast of Sabah in north Borneo. There is a small area of oil palm plantation behind the house, with a path leading to the entrance to the Forest Reserve, which contains mostly primary tropical lowland rainforest. Along the road to the entrance (which has an orangutan rehabilitation centre) is mostly 'kebun' -- houses interspersed with market gardens, bananas, fruit trees and secondary scrub. The current list for the area has 230 species of birds, nearly all of which are resident, so you might think a century easy, but finding these birds, even by call, is quite another matter! The lower storey birds are fairly thinly scattered and often rather elusive, while the canopy birds are often nomadic, and hard to identify 200' up!

Nevertheless, a British Birder, Peter Coe was visiting me and had been staying in my house and heading out to the forest to look for birds while I worked in the office. He was quite experienced having chalked up 600 species in 6 months in Thailand, and over 200 species in 3½ weeks in Sabah, so I decided to join him for a day to see what we could find.

We set our date for 14 July, but got started late and missed dawn by about half an hour. To save time we rode around to Sepilok by road, tallying 10 species from the motorbike as we went. We left the bike at the orangutan centre, and walked back through the kebun to look for secondary species, as they are easier to see, especially in the early morning before the sun gets too hot. Brown-throated and Crimson Sunbirds, and Orange-bellied Flowerpeckers were feeding in the fruit trees, while Little Spiderhunters flew by at high speed. Large numbers of Pink-necked Pigeons were flying around, while the Collared Kingfishers and Blue-throated Beeeaters perched on the wires. Numerous swiftlets were flying around, but only white-bellied could be identified, as the other three species look identical in flight. A Lesser Coucal briefly popped out of the grass, but defied attempts to get a better view. Scanning the treetops at the edge of the forest revealed Grey-breasted Spiderhunters and Hill Mynas to add to the list. Commenting on the absence of the White-chested Babbler, and incredibly loud call revealed the bird in a ditch 2' below my feet!

About 08:00 we headed into the forest, as the more interesting species are to be found there. Along the trail we found small mixed flocks of babblers, including Chestnut-winged, Moustached, Scaly-crowned, Short-tailed and Horsfield's. Fairy Bluebirds, Racket-tailed Drongos, and Dark-throated Orioles were active in the upper storey, while the odd Long-tailed Parakeet called as it flew high overhead. Whenever we heard the loud drumming of a woodpecker we tried to follow it, finding Crimson-winged, Buff-necked, Orange-backed, and even the crow-sized White-bellied woodpecker. By mid-morning the birds were fairly quiet, though barbets continued to call all day. We set off into my mist-netting area where I know there are several species of wren-babblers, but none of them would show itself. We did find a few more babblers and bulbuls including a group of Fluffy-backed Tit-Babblers, though. About noon we left the forest, and rode 1 km along the road to the Forestry Research Centre for lunch. There we tallied our list at 69 species -- only 31 more for a century, but we'd found all of the easy ones!

After eating we searched the gardens for sunbirds, but only added Red-throated. A small unusual sounding spiderhunter flew over--Thick billed we decided -- a species I'd never seen but unfortunately it didn't stop to provide a good view. After a bit more time at the edge searching unsuccessfully for raptors, we set off again, this time with torches and a spotlight, planning to head right through to the mangrove and return after dark. We followed the main trail for 1.5km, and stopped for a while listening for the Malaysian Honeyguide but it was not prepared to call for us. We continued up along a ridge, where the forest was fairly open, but by 16:00 we still only had about 80 species. Then our luck changed, and a mixed flock appeared including Speckled Piculets, Greater Green Leafbirds, Maroon-breasted Flycatchers, White-bellied Yuhinas, Green Ioras, and a beautiful jewel-like male Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker. As we reached the end of the ridge and entered secondary forest a Garnet Pitta whistled, and when I replied it hopped out on a log to display its brilliant Scarlet and Blue colouration.

In the mangrove we found Mangrove Whistlers and Mangrove Blue Flycatchers, and saw a large flock of Blue-rumped Parrots circle overhead, but as darkness fell our total was still only 97 species. Unexpectedly Peter saw a large silhouetted bird fly over the trees which we realized was a Storm's Stork, first record for the reserve! As we tried to guess what owls we might find an Argus pheasant called, and soon afterwards a Brown Wood Owl -- to be our last bird of the day, for although we had a 4 km return walk, and we spotlit 2 hit by a tremendous thunderstorm a third of the way back, and reached the forest edge very wet! We were still fairly pleased, though, for we'd found 100 species -- though only 99 each, as we both missed one -- including 3 additions to the Sepilok list, 2 to my life list, and 6 to Peter's list. But what was surprising were the missing species -- half the babblers and bulbuls, all the raptors, all but one horn-bill and many others -- quite possibly another attempt would reveal 100 as well, but with only half the same species!

Charles M Francis

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION



Circular Letter to all Members of I.B.O.C.

THE BARREN GROUNDS OBSERVATORY

The Observatory was officially opened on 26th September. It should become a very important development for everyone interested in ornithology and especially for those living in the Sydney, Canberra and Wollongong areas. It is the first attempt to establish such a facility in N.S.W. and is one of only three such observatories in Australia. This letter aims to inform you of the present position and to seek your support.

THE SITE

The Barren Grounds comprises over 2,300 ha., mainly perched swamp and heathland, at about 640m. above sea level. It is on the eastern edge of the southern tableland, bounded by a steep sandstone scarp overlooking the coastal plain of the Illawarra with its beaches, headlands and lakes. It includes areas of hardwood forest and some rain forest. More than 125 species of birds have been identified in the locality, including two rare species, the swamp parrot and the bristle bird.

Management Arrangements

The R.A.O.U. has been granted a licence to occupy the Barren Ground Nature Reserve by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. After a Management Plan acceptable to both parties has been formulated, a long-term lease will be granted.

An Advisory Group-cum Management Committee has been established by the R.A.O.U., consisting of representatives of the Council of the R.A.O.U., N.P. & W.S., and the four supporting clubs, N.S.W.F.O.C., C.B.O.C., Illawarra B.O.C., and the Canberra Ornithologists Group.

The Immediate Challenge

With valued help from the N.P. & W. Foundation and voluntary help from two of the Clubs, an existing ranger's cottage has been renovated, and a stone lodge has been extended, developed and furnished to accommodate 12 people at bunk-house standard. Much interest has already come from universities, schools and field ornithologists who wish to use the facilities now.

However, before the Observatory can really function, considerable funds are required for capital items to provide a mini-bus for transport of students, office and teaching equipment, a reference library, instruments and equipment for use in the field, laboratory gear, operating costs such as postage, printing and telephone and, most importantly, a salary and reasonable living standard for the Warden and his assistant.

The budget for the first year, on an extremely modest basis, is for total expenditure of \$29,000, with an income from charges to those who will use the Observatory of \$9,000. This means that we have to find \$20,000 to cover the first year's operations. In the second year, it is expected that the operating loss will be less than \$3,000. Thereafter the operation will be on a self-financing basis, as is already the case with the other two similar institutions.

The Warden

We have been extremely fortunate in securing the services of Richard Jordan as Warden and his wife Pat, as assistant. They have outstanding qualifications, experience and character. They have achieved remarkable results in a short time on very slender resources and for quite inadequate pay, which until now has had to be supplemented by other outside work. The Committee has great confidence in their ability to establish a first-rate research and study and teaching centre.

Meeting the Budget

Everything which has been done so far has been backed only by an act of faith that money would be forthcoming, and strenuous efforts have been made towards this end. To date, only about half of the budget for the first year is in sight. Nearly all of this will come as gifts from a few major Australian institutions and foundations. It is now clear that in the present economic climate, we must look to interested individuals for most of the balance of our needs. Perhaps this is a good thing, for it means placing our dollars where our interests and minds are, and also encouraging active bird-lovers to take a personal interest.

We are therefore now asking all members of the ornithological societies in N.S.W. and the A.C.T. to consider making a personal donation. (Some of you might also be able to suggest names of likely donors to us).

How Much Will You Give?

The few members whom we have approached have asked, "What amount would you suggest?" To this very personal decision, we can only say that our hopes are as follows: We would hope that everyone would make a contribution, however small, as a gesture of support and interest.

Perhaps we could nominate three categories:

- a) A minimum of \$2 and up to \$5 (say 70% of us).
- b) From \$6 to \$25 (say 25% of us).
- c) From \$25 upwards. (After a talk on the problem made to the Cumberland Bird Observers Club, one lady handed me a cheque for \$100. Surely there are others of her species with regard to both ability and interest).

Please hand or send your donation to Club Treasurer Ron Almond. Make cheques payable to "I.B.O.C./R.A.O.U. Research Fund." Cash is of course acceptable. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

The Club will send on to R.A.O.U. a single cheque for the total of our donations.

I would like to thank you in advance for giving this matter a sympathetic hearing and trust that you will give generously.

Yours sincerely,



E.L. CARTHEW *per as*

Councillor of the R.A.O.U.
and

Chairman, Barren Grounds Management Committee

6 Carson Street,
PYMBLE. N.S.W. 2073



P.O. BOX 3
JAMBEROO
N.S.W. 2533

Phone (042) 360195

PROGRAMME OF COURSES - MARCH TO JUNE 1983

THE SOURCE BIRDS FAIR

Leader: Richard Jordan
Dates: March 4th - 6th 1983
Cost: \$45

Recognising bird calls. The way birds communicate. Equipment and techniques for sound recording. For the inexperienced bird-watcher.

A WEEKEND OF BATS

Leader: Chris Fidsmann
Dates: March 18th - 20th 1983
Cost: \$45

A close look at a remarkable group of mammals with an expert leader.

INTRODUCTION TO NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Leaders: Sid Wilkinson and Pat Jordan
Dates: March 31st to April 4th 1983
Cost: \$30

A course for those interested in the special techniques of nature photography. The equipment needed and how to use it. Close-up and hide work. Darkroom procedures and print-making. For beginners and those with limited experience.

FIELD ECOLOGY WORKSHOP

Leader: Dr. Rob Whelan
Dates: April 15th - 17th 1983
Cost: On application

This is an opportunity for those working in the field of ecology to get in touch with the regeneration studies being carried out after the recent bush-fire in Barrern Grounds Nature Reserve.

INTRODUCTION TO BIRD-WATCHING

Leaders: Barry Virtus and Richard Jordan
Dates: April 22nd - 24th 1983
Cost: \$45

A Lezimmers course being organised through the Shoalhaven Adult Education Group. To include bird recognition, calls, books, equipment and the scientific use of

LEARNING ABOUT NATURAL HISTORY

Leaders: Richard and Pat Jordan
Dates: May 16th - 21st 1983
Cost: \$30

A 5-day course for adults and family groups. To include work with birds, mammals and plants. Activities will be planned for all ages and levels of experience - including mammal-trapping, spotlighting and bird-banding. Also, something about the Aboriginal people of the Illawarra Region.

ART IN NATURE

Leaders: Howard Jones and Pat Jordan
Dates: May 27th - 29th 1983
Cost: \$45

A practical art course, with the emphasis on nature. Barrern Grounds Nature Reserve offers unique opportunities for the artist.

HONEYEATERS

Leader: Dr. Graham Pyke
Dates: June 3rd - 5th 1983
Cost: \$48

The Barrern Grounds area is host to large numbers of honeyeaters in winter. The course will include work with banding, identification, diet and consuing. Mainly for the bird-watcher with some experience.

BIRDS FOR BEGINNERS

Leaders: Richard and Pat Jordan
Dates: June 23rd - July 1st 1983
Cost: \$66

A mid-week course for those interested in learning more about the techniques of bird study. To include bird identification, equipment needed, bird-banding, and a whole lot more. Mainly for the beginner.

Costs shown are fully inclusive of full-board accommodation. Weekend courses commence with an evening meal at 8.00 p.m. on Friday (Thursday in the case of the Easter course)

For further details, and a brochure, contact:- The Warden,
Barrern Grounds Bird Observatory
P.O. Box 3,
Jamberoo, 2533

phone (042) 360195

Please note:- Fees are payable in advance, but places may be reserved on courses by payment of a deposit of 20% of the course fee - the balance being payable 1 month before the commencement of the course.

DUCK SURVEY, FEBRUARY, 1983.

Areas Visited.	Australian Shelduck	Black Duck.	Grey Teal.	Chestnut Teal	Shoveler.	Pink-eared Duck.	Hardhead.	Wood Duck.	Musk Duck.	Freckled Duck.
Lake Fitzroy	0	75	45	0	10	1	50	0	9	1
Cecil Hoskins Reserve	0	13	110	0	45	0	0	0	7	0
Paddy's River Dam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spring Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shangri-la, Bundanoon	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0
Coomaditchy Lagoon	0	14	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fitzroy Falls Reserve	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	17	9	0
Kangaroo River Bundanoon	0	50	0	0	0	0	5	14	0	0
Lake Illawarra	0	16	310	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albion Park Showground	3	40	65	0	8	0	12	0	0	0
Cordeaux Reservoir	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Killalea Lagoon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kanahooka Lagoon	0	160	2	0	38	6	0	0	3	1
Barrack Swamp	0	45	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamberoo Farm Dam 3KM	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0
Jerrara Creek Dam	0	27	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kiama Treatment Dam	0	18	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Korrangulla Swamp	0	120	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamberoo Farm Swamp 1KM	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0
Spring Creek Kiama	0	60	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shone Ave Dapto	1	87	0	0	0	0	8	0	2	0
Marshall Mount Dams	0	30	6	8	0	0	1	119	0	0
Allan's Creek	0	8	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bellambi Lagoon	0	70	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Berry Sewage Ponds	1	55	23	2	3	0	11	3	0	1
Nowra Sewage Ponds	3	30	30	30	10	12	96	10	0	5
Commonderry Swamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brundee Swamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worrigeer Swamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Since the survey started the Coomaditchy Lagoon finally dried up. For your information the following sequence of sightings took place.

30-1-83 just a little water left. Birds seen,
 53 Silver Gull
 4 Masked Plover (2 were juveniles)
 31 Grey Teal
 14 Black Duck
 10 Coot
 4 Royal Spoonbill
 1 Pelican.

2-2-83 even less water
 32 Silver Gull
 6 Coot
 1 Grey Teal.

3-2-83 less water still
 16 Silver Gull
 2 Coot

5-2-83 one little puddle
 1 Coot

8-2-83 dried up no birds.

The last time this lagoon dried up was in 1941 and prior to that it was in 1917.



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NEXT MEETING: MONDAY APRIL 11TH AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, CNR COLLAERY AVENUE AND PRINCESS HIGHWAY FAIRY MEADOW. TIMED TO START AT 7.30 PM.

GUEST SPEAKER: ELLIS MACNAMARA.

FIELD OUTING: SATURDAY APRIL/16TH/TO THIRL MERE LAKES (PICKTON LAKES), MEETING AT 8 AM ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THIRL MERE RAILWAY STATION.

DONATIONS TO BARRÉN GROUNDS:- AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING ON APRIL/11TH WE WILL BE FORWARDING A CHEQUE TO BARRÉN GROUNDS TO ASSIST IN THE WORK BEING CARRIED OUT AT THE OBSERVATORY, SO ANY DONATIONS YOU WISH TO MAKE WOULD YOU PLEASE CONTACT OUR TREASURER BY THIS MEETING, DONT FORGET ALL DONATIONS OF \$2.00 OR MORE ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE.

OUR MEETING: ON NOVEMBER 14TH/ WAS "TO BE ADVISED" BUT WE NOW HAVE A GUEST SPEAKER FOR THIS MEETING HUMPHREY PRICE JONES HIS SUBJECT "BIRDS OF PREY".

MARCH MEETING

Our guest speaker last month was Laurie Williams, who spoke of his recent trip to Central Australia. The slides which accompanied his talk were excellent - what a wonderful country we live in.

Laurie and Nola travelled through Bourke stopping off at many places on the way to Alice Springs and Ayers Rock. The slide of the Golden Bower bird was worth seeing, although I don't like the idea of crocodile infested rivers.

What a wonderful place Ayers Rock is. The slide Laurie took of the sunset over the Rock was magnificent. He also spoke of the wildlife seen on the trip and the slides of the many birds he saw, made us wish we could have seen them too.

The journey down through Mt Isa on the way back to Wollongong brought Laurie's talk and the showing of his slides to an end.

Thanks once again Laurie and Nola for letting us share some of the highlights of your trip to Central Australia. I for one enjoyed the talk and the showing of the slides immensely.

EDITOR

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB

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HOW MANY WADERS ?

As your stint continues, and your green shanks take you through lots of common reed on the subject, the question will probably strike you -- willet make a lot of difference if your red knees turn to stone and you tie yourself in knots ? It probably wood matter if you had mongolian features but to stop people sniping at you, put your long toes forward and ride ruff-shod over the silly plovers who try to be sharp by asking you to take up the merest whim (brel).

Send all the bills to the orient, no matter how broad they may be. Don't be misled by the red-caps who have banded together and become prone to wandering. Rather than being stilted, get down on your pectorals and have a ruddy good try to un-mask those of hooded providence. God give you wit !

Signed: JOHN BAIRD

(Total = 25. Answers next month).

PHONE: (02) 211-4377

As published in the March
Newsletter, binocular repairs
can be carried out by

Edwin Bowers & Sons Pty. Ltd.
Chronometer and Nautical Instrument Makers
695-697 GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY
N.S.W. 2000. AUSTRALIA



I . B . O . C . NEWS

THE CIRCULAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVER'S CLUB

REGISTERED BY AUST. POST PUBLICATION NO. NBH 3848.

May 1983

CLUB MOTTO

"One Good Tern
Deserves Another"

TREASURER

Ron Almond
2 Shoobert Cres.
KEIRAVILLE 2500
29 8612

PRESIDENT

Dave Thomson
84 Mt Pleasant Road
BALGOWNIE NSW 2519
84 2876

SECRETARY

Hazel Emery
63 Dymock Street
BALGOWNIE NSW 2519
84 0139

CLUB'S AIM: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the Birdlife around them.

NEXT MEETING

Members night, May 9th, at the Senior Citizens Centre, Cnr Collaery Ave. and Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow.

Don't forget to bring along some of your favourite bird slides for showing at this meeting.

FIELD OUTING

Sunday May 15th to Mt Kembla. Our leader on this occasion is Chris Pavich. (Meeting Mt. Kembla Lookout, under power lines, 2.5 km west of Mt. Kembla Post Office, at 8 am.)

GUEST SPEAKER - APRIL MEETING

Was Ellis McNamarra who showed us some of his excellent slides of Bird Studies. What a great photographer this man is - those slides were world class.

At the last Committee meeting Laurie Williams was elected to the position of Excursions Officer.

Please note - 1983 fees are overdue if you have not paid them to our Club Treasurer. Would you kindly see him as soon as possible, to bring your membership up to date.

Fees are - \$5.00 single membership
\$8.00 family membership
\$2.00 junior membership

Dave Thomson was elected President of our Club at the April meeting - congratulations Dave.

AN APPRECIATION OF OUR PAST PRESIDENT

The work and enthusiasm that our retiring president has injected into IBOC since its inception over six years ago have, without doubt, helped to make the Club the successful organisation it is today.

At the conclusion of the W.E.A. "class of '76", which brought together about fifty bird enthusiasts, it was Laurie William's initiative that started the Illawarra Bird Observers Club. I am sure the pioneer group will agree that it was Laurie and Nola's determination to persevere and remain cheerful that kept the Club going in the beginning when every outing was on the wettest day of the month. Much time and energy was required in organising outings, guest speakers, Club camps etc. and Laurie's friendliness and consideration for all members ensured that the Club remained a happy organisation. The ever increasing membership indicates its popularity and success.

All IBOC members appreciate the effort, Laurie, that you and Nola have given so generously to the Club and are pleased that you will both still be there to add your support. Camps just wouldn't be the same without your cheerful "move 'em out !" While we can hear that we are sure all is well and the Club will continue to thrive.

D.G.

FIELD OUTING. 16th April, 1983.

A party of 42 members assembled at Thirlmere Railway Station at 8-00am. for our planned outing to Thirlmere Lakes National Park under the leadership of Kevin Mills.

The first lake visited consisted of a clear body of water surrounded by a wide margin of reeds and aquatic grasses. The Darter was sighted on this lake. Some of the sightings observed during a walk around this lake were, Peaceful Dove, Chestnut-rumped Hylacola, Scarlet Robin, Variegated Wren, and Noisy Friar-bird. The Little Grassbird was heard but not sighted. A detour away from the lake and up a rocky hillside revealed a pair of Spotted Quailthrush, Shrike-tit and Rose Robin.

Walking down the road at the main lake, we added the Rock Warbler, Red-browed Treecreeper, Varied Sittella, and Brown Honeyeater. A short drive took us to the edge of the Water Board property, where we consumed a well earned lunch.

The afternoon walk led into a wetter area with tall Eucalypts flanked by sandstone outcrops. The Red-browed Treecreeper was again sighted as was the White-throated. This allowed members to make an interesting comparison between the two species.

A final tally at the vehicles recorded 65 species. A satisfactory total observed in very pleasant surroundings. Many thanks, Kevin.

Film Night. Sat.7th May.

Film night Saturday, May 7th at the home of Betty and Dave Thomson, 84 Mt Pleasant Road, Balgownie. 2 sessions - 6 pm and 8 pm. Please bring a plate and have high tea with us and enjoy the films.

1. MIGRATION OF BIRDS - FLIGHT FOR SURVIVAL
(40 mins)
Traces the migration routes of a number of birds which visit Britain.
2. NECTAR EATERS - 15 minutes
Features the birds and mammals which feed on the nectar and pollen available in Australia's flowering forests and woodlands.
3. THE LADY AND THE OWL - 28 minutes
Kay McKeever, a Canadian, cares for sick and injured owls.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS IN COUNTY OF CAMDEN

Below is a list of species classified as rare, scarce and uncommon within the County of Camden, observed during first quarter, 1983.

Mountain Duck	3	Albion Pk. S/Ground	8. 2.83	W. Emery
Brown Bittern	1	" "	27. 1.83	"
Mountain Duck	1	West Dapto Road	8. 2.83	"
Little Friarbird	1	Cordeaux Dam	1.83	P. Nuske
Freckled Duck	1	Kanahooka Lagoon	14. 2.83	R. Simcock
Pink-eared Duck	8	" "	14. 2.83	"
Bar-shouldered Dove	1	B/Observatory, Barron Grounds	19. 1.83	P. Jordon
Pied Stilt	1	Gt Southern Drain, Coal Loader	4. 2.83	R. Almond
Mountain Duck	14	Hooka Point	14. 2.83	K. Wood
Black Bittern	2	Macquarie Rivulet Mouth	14. 2.83	"
Shoveller	2	Hooka Point	10. 2.83	"
Spotted Crake	1	Griffin's Bay	10. 2.83	"
Brown Bittern	1	Albion Pk. S/Ground	10. 2.83	"
Black Bittern	1	Cabbage Tree Crk.	27. 2.83	W. Emery
Great Crested Grebe	1	Mullett Creek	23. 2.83	"
Little Falcon	1	Dymock St. Balgownie	25. 2.83	"
Spotted Crake	1	Kully Bay, L. Illawarra	20. 2.83	"
Swamp Harrier	1	Bellambi	13. 3.83	J. Smeaton
Lesser Frigate Bird	1	Hill 60	5. 3.83	R. Simcock
Little Woodswallow	1	Waterboard Houses, Mt Kembla	5. 3.83	"
Brown Goshawk	1	Excelsior No.2 Colliery Thirroul	12. 3.83	M. Morphett
Reef Heron	1	Gt. Southern Drain, Coal Loader	4. 2.83	R. Almond
Spotted Crake	1	Griffin's Bay	15. 3.83	R. Simcock
Spangled Drongo	1	Achilles Avenue, Nth Wollongong	March	N. Williams
Sanderling	1	L. Illawarra Entrance	22. 3.83	C. Chafer
Wandering Tattler	1	Windang Island	4. 3.83	K. Woods
White-fronted Chat	30	Macquarie Rivulet Delta	8. 3.83	

THE DOLPHINS PLAYGROUND

Mimosa Rocks National Park is a small coastal park south of Narooma between Bermagui and Tanja. In February we spent two days in the Southern section of the park, making our camp at Picnic Point near the entrance to Lake Wapengo. Here picturesque rock formations jut to the sea protecting several small bays and beaches. Behind the beaches heatherland blends into banksia scrub, then into dense woodland and finally a good stretch of grassland (former farmland) goes down to the lake foreshore where several small mangroves are beginning to take root. On the Western side of the lake are good stands of dry Sclerophyll forest, thus providing a wide variety of habitats for birdlife. In the flowering banksias around the camp area, honeyeaters were predominant. New Holland Honeyeaters and Little Wattlebirds were everywhere. We also found White-naped, yellow-faced and Lewins Honeyeaters, Silvereyes and superb Fairy Wrens.

In the flowering eucalypts we found Musk Lorikeets, Red Wattlebirds and noisy Friarbirds showering the ground with their pickings. Off the beaches Crested Terns and Australian Gannets could be seen, while every evening a school of dolphins could be seen playing in the surf occasionally riding a wave towards the shore just like a board rider.

In the grassland area, we had good sightings of White-fronted Chats, Jacky Winters, Sacred Kingfisher, Eastern Rosellas and Dusky Woodswallows. On the lake itself, Eastern Curlews, Bar-tailed Godwits, Whistling Kites, Black Swans and Pied Comorants were seen.

In the forest on the lakes western side, Bell Miners, Crimson Rosellas, Yellow Robins were sighted while at meal times we were joined by several large Goannas who greedily consumed any scraps we offered them. Mammals we found included Marsupial mice, brush-tailed possums and small wallabies.

In reality Picnic Point offers a beautiful and peaceful spot where seemingly few people venture, thus allowing one to enjoy the diversity of this coastal park.

Chris and Kerry Chafer

I.B.O.C. FIELD OUTING - FOXGROUND 1980

In 1980 during the Club's excursion to Foxground area, members saw the dilapidated remnants of stone walls arousing their curiosity as to the origin of these structures.

Recent reading has brought to light additional information.

"The enclosing of the farmlands at Kiama was carried out in a distinctive manner, unique in New South Wales, by the erection of stone walls, many of which remain to give a charm to the landscape. They were built by Thomas Newing over a period of 70 years. He was shown at Foxground how to build his first wall in 1857 and then became the artist himself. The stones were gathered from the paddocks and fitted to hold together tapering to the top. Thomas Newing died in 1927 at the age of 93 years."

This information is from "Blue Haven Centenary History of Kiama Municipality, N.S.W. by William A. Bayley

Richard Miller.



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REGISTERED BY AUST. POST PUBLICATION NO. N8H 3848.

July, 1983.

CLUB MOTTO

"One Good Tern
Deserves Another"

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84-2876
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29-8612

CLUB'S AIM: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the Birdlife around them.

Our next Meeting will be held at the Senior Citizens Centre, Cnr Collaery Avenue and Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow at 7.30 pm on Monday, 11th July, 1983. GUEST SPEAKER Alan Leishman, noted for his work as a bird bander, has spoken to our Club previously, and I am sure he will give an interesting talk -- "Birds of Norfolk Island". Don't miss it.

Next Field Outing Macquarie Pass on Saturday, 16th July, meeting at the picnic area at the foot of the Pass (North side) at 8.30 am. Bring a carry lunch. We will be driven to the start of the walk and will walk down to the picnic area.

Film Night -- Saturday, 9th July, at the home of Ron and Norma Almond, 2 Shoobert Crescent, Keiraville. Two sessions, 6.00pm. and 8.00pm. Bring a plate of eats.

Adelie Penguins of the Antarctic. 24 mins.

Meticulous observations by a member of the Falkland Islands Survey show us the breeding habits, migration and life of the Adelie and Chinstrap Penguins in their natural habitat on the South Orkney Islands.

Home of the Takaou. 28 mins.

This study of the Gannets of New Zealand tells the dramatic story of their once in a lifetime return flight to Australia.

Egretta. 16 mins.

A life history of the four species of Egrets commonly found in Australia.

Bird Migration. 10 mins.

Discusses three classes of birds, regular migrants, irregular migrants and non-migrants. Suggests a possible explanation of bird migration by pointing to the climatic development of the North American Continent and sketches four routes taken by migrant birds.

August Camping Trip for two weeks from Sunday 14th August to Saturday 27th August. We are going out west to the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park (near Mildura) for about four days and then to Kinchega National Park (on the Menindee Lakes) with a couple of days on the road each way. Contact President Dave Thomson if you are interested.

Bus Trip to Canberra Saturday, 10th September. Leaving the Illawarra County Council Administrative Building, Bridge Street, Coniston at 7.00am., Arriving back around 8.30pm. The trip will take about 4½ hours each way with ½ hr. stop at Goulburn. Suggest carry lunch. Fare will be \$13.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children. All monies need to be in by our July meeting - seats are of course limited and will be allocated in order of fare receipt.

June Meeting The 45 members who braved the winter cold to attend our meeting on 13th June, were pleasantly rewarded with a very humorous and informative evening. John De Jose, Curator of Birds & Small Mammals at Taronga Zoo, is an articulate and relaxed speaker. His recounting of plans to establish a breeding colony of Bustards at Dubbo Western Plains Zoo with the aim of releasing surplus birds into areas of N.S.W. once colonised by this species, held the interest of all present.

With the aid of his slides, John took our members on a journey through the Northern Territory in search of the elusive Bustard. During the trip we saw examples of the different habitats, flora and fauna which make up this diverse country of ours. What a magnificent area Kakadu National Park is. Perhaps a future destination for a Club Safari?

Unfortunately for John and his crew, the elusive Bustard lived up to its reputation and the numbers captured were insufficient to establish a viable breeding colony. John hopes to return next year with some revised plans in an attempt to gain sufficient numbers to ensure the success of his project, "Operation Bustard". We wish him well in his endeavours and I'm sure members would be pleased if he could return to our Club in a few years to report on the progress of the breeding programme. Good luck John!

W. Emery.

The June Field Outing to Macquarie Rivulet was called off due to rain-- we'll fit the Rivulet into our 1984 programme.

The Film Night on 11th June, at the Hales' home, was attended by 18 members. The attendance was less than normal, due probably to the combination of the Holiday weekend and the cold weather. However, those who made the effort were treated to an enjoyable evenings entertainment. Three films were shown, the first one "Behind the Dunes", from the Wild Australia series dealt with the birdlife found in the Coorong area of South Australia. Next on the programme was a film showing the life cycle of the Great Heron in the British Isles. The programme finished with a short documentary on the making of the film "Storm Boy". Our thanks go to Brian and Barbara for allowing us to share their hospitality and new rumpus room. Thanks also to Russell and Carla for the fireworks display during interval.

W. Emery.

Some Library Books are still outstanding, please return them by July meeting. See our Librarians--- Bob and Dina Green.

Changes to Membership List.

Please add---

Mr. James Sligar,
P.O. Box 96,
WOLLONGONG EAST. N.S.W. 2500

Amend- new address--

Miss Barbara Date,
10/1 Edgar Street,
TOWRADGI. N.S.W. 2518 Phone 83-5118

Please add---

Mr. Dave Burgin,
43 O'Donnell Street,
PORT KEMBLA. N.S.W. 2505.

Special Sightings for May-June, 1983.

Status uncommon, scarce and rare within the County of Camden.

R. Swift Parrot	11 Phil Adams Pk. Corrimal	28-5-83	C. Chafer & W & H Emery
MC. Little Lorikeet	2 Phil Adams Pk. Corrimal	28-5-83	"
U. Rainbow Lorikeet	1 Cabbage Tree Ln. Balgownie	12-6-83	W & H Emery
R. Swift Parrot	35 Sand Dunes Bellambi Lagoon	4-6-83	K. Wood & W. Emery
U. Peregrine Falcon	1 Barren Grounds	15-6-83	C. Chafer
U. Crescent Honeyeater	20+ Barren Grounds	15-6-83	"
U. Emu Wren	5 Puckey's Park	12-6-83	"
U. Brown Quail	6 Bellambi near Surf Club	12-6-83	"
R. Swift Parrot	22 Phil Adams Park Corrimal	13-6-83	"
S. Rose Robin	1 Bulli	12-6-83	I. Rowles
S. Spine-tailed Chowchilla	2 Rhododendron Park	13-6-83	"
R. Black Bittern	1 Macquarie Rivulet	28-5-83	K. Wood & M. Hawken
S. Crested Pigeon	1 Nth Macquarie Road	6-5-83	K. Mills
S. Reef Heron	1 Bass Point	8-5-83	"
R. Swift Parrot	6 Bass Point	8-5-83	"
S. Crested Pigeon	2 Nth. Macquarie Road	14-5-83	"
S. Darter	2 Cordeaux Dam	28-5-83	"
U. Pied Stilt	3 Griffins Bay	29-5-83	"
U. Red-browed Treecreeper	1 Upper Cordeaux	28-5-83	"
U. Spotted Quail-thrush	1 Kelly's Creek	28-5-83	H. Ward.

An Early Illawarra Record. From the Journal of one James Backhouse, who visited the Illawarra District in 1836. On the 23rd September, 1836, he travelled on the new road near Mt. Keira:

"The Brush Turkey, Alectura Lathamii, inhabits these forests: it is somewhat less than the female of the Common Turkey; its general colour is dark brown, but the head and neck, which are almost bare of feathers, are red, and it has a large, orange-red wattle, attached to the lower part of the neck. This bird is remarkable for using a hot-bed for hatching its eggs. It scratches together a conical heap of sticks and leaves, in which it deposits its eggs, distantly one from another, with the small end downward. From the quantity of eggs found in these heaps, several females are supposed to lay in the same place. The birds, both male and female, are said by the Natives, to watch the heaps during the period of incubation, and the latter diminishes or adds to the heated, vegetable matter, according to the instinct given her by her Creator".

K. Mills.

Co-operative feeding between Large Egret and Little Black Cormorants.

Co-operative feeding between a Large Egret and three Little Black Cormorants was observed at Griffins Bay on the 28th. April, 1983. The Egret moved slowly along the shoreline in shallow water while the three Cormorants swam further out in deeper water about two metres away. The Cormorants followed the Egret along the shoreline and every time the Egret struck at a school of fish, the Cormorants would dive and catch the scattered fish. This is of interest as each species has a different feeding method and generally do not compete directly for a food supply.

Kevin Mills, May'83.

The Big Hole.

Deua National Park is one of New South Wales' newest National Parks. It is situated south of Braidwood, and with an area of 80,300 ha, is centred on the Deua River with the Shoalhaven River to the West.

The area described in this article is known as the "Berland Section" located on the western side of the park. An excellent rest area is located on the Shoalhaven River with facilities, and overnight camping is allowed.

The vegetation in the area consists of dry sclerophyll woodland around the rest area, then a good section of heath, then an Ironbark forest.

The main attraction of this section is the Big Hole, a huge collapsed cavern some 96 metres deep and 50 metres in diameter. A well marked track leads from the rest area to the hole, the sight of which can only be described as "awe inspiring".

We have visited the area several times and will return there many times in the future, not only to view the wonder of the hole, but also for its wildlife. Apart from more than 50 species of birds, we have also had good sightings of Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Black Wallaby, Echidna, Eastern Water Dragon, Brush-tail Possum and Sugar Glider.

During the day, birds commonly found around the rest area included the Scarlet and Hooded Robin, Leaden Flycatcher, Sacred Kingfisher, Noisy Friarbird, Red Wattlebird, Spotted and Striated Pardalote and the noisy Sulphur Crested Cockatoo. Walks along the river produced the Black Duck, Black-fronted Dotterel, Brown Honeyeater, and Yellow-rumped Thornbill, while along the walk to the hole we have seen the Red-browed Treecreeper, Grey Currawong, Fuscous Honeyeater, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Black-shouldered Kite and White-winged Triller.

At night the air is filled with mysterious calls and we have heard Owlet Nightjar, Tawny Frogmouth and Barking Owl.

In all we think it an excellent spot to "get away from it all" for a day or two and we highly recommend it.

Chris & Kerry Chafer.

Swift Parrot.

The Swift Parrot which were sighted in the Corrimal- Bellambi area on the Autumn Bird Count on 28th May, have now been observed on six occasions over the past month.

This Parrot breeds in Tasmania during the summer and migrates to the mainland during the winter. The main concentration is centred in Victoria and South East N.S.W., but flocks move north as far as Queensland in a nomadic search for blossom.

On Thursday 23rd June, a small group of club members had a morning walk in the Bellambi dune area. 3 Swift Parrots were sighted flying between Banksia Integrifolia (Coast Honeysuckle) and Eucalyptus Robusta (Swamp Mahogany) both flowering profusely at this time of year.

Kevin Mills has also observed the Swift Parrot at Bass Point.

H. Emery.

I.B.O.C. AUTUMN BIRD COUNT - 28TH MAY, 1983 - BIRD COUNT NO. 2

Weather: Fine; cool calm and clear morning; cloudy afternoon with some strong cold westerly gusts. (Refer to commentary also)

AREA 1 - NORTH

Horace Ward and David Winterbottom (co-leaders in different areas), Wendy Hanks, Esme Gay, Ron Almond, Andrew Knowlson.
Two (2) teams: 18.25 hrs, 68 km, 69 species
L.O.I.A.: Iree Martin, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Eastern Striated Pardalote, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Dusky Woodswallow, Common Bronzewing, Spotted Quail-thrush, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Fuscous Honeyeater, Grey Currawong (10 species)

AREA 2 - THIRROUL

Doug Gibson (leader), Len Klumpes, Ian Rowles, Jeff Smeaton
One (1) team: 7.5 hrs, 60 km, 59 species
L.O.I.A.: Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly Thrush, Southern Logrunner, Chestnut-tailed Heath Wren, Rock Warbler (5 species)
Count performed on Sunday 29th May, 1983 in this area.

AREA 3 - CORRIMAL

Wal Emery (leader), Hazel Emery, Chris Chafer
One (1) team: 10.5 hrs, 42 km, 84 species
L.O.I.A.: Blackbird, White-naped Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, Little Lorikeet, Swift Parrot, Wandering Albatross, Ruddy Turnstone, Boobook Owl, Grey Goshawk (9 species)

AREA 4 - MT KEIRA

Kevin Mills
One (1) team: 7.5 hrs, 100 km, 65 species
L.O.I.A.: Hoary-headed Grebe, Scarlet Robin, White-eared Honeyeater (3 species)

AREA 5 - WOLLONGONG

Dave Thomson (leader), Laurie Williams, Mervyn Hawken, Bob Green
One (1) Team: 7 hrs, 38 km, 57 species
L.O.I.A.: Spangled Drongo, Zebra Finch, Little Cuckoo-shrike, Southern Emu Wren (4 species)
Count performed on Sunday 29th May, 1983 in this area.

AREA 6 - DAPTO

Ron Imisides (leader), Lindsay Smith, Brian James
One (1) team: 10 hrs, 63 km, 75 species
L.O.I.A.: White-eyed Duck, Rufous Whistler (2 species)

AREA 7 - LAKE

Kevin Wood (leader), Margaret Parkinson, Mervyn and Madee Hawken
One (1) team: 9 hrs, 52 km, 71 species
L.O.I.A.: Pied Oystercatcher, Easter Golden Plover, Red-capped Dotterel, Double-banded Dotterel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Eastern Curlew, Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Black-tailed Godwit, Red-necked Stint, Caspian Tern, White-fronted Chat, Black Bittern, Little Grassbird, White-breasted Sea Eagle (15 species)

L.O.I.A. = Listed Only in Area

Cumulatively: 8 teams, 25 people, 69.75 hrs, 423 km, 149 species

COMMENTARY

I am sure you will agree that the above results represent a most commendable effort. Our last autumn count resulted in 141 species; some 8 species fewer than this count and 18646 birds; some 4000 fewer. As most of the leaders forecasted, we are improving our knowledge of our own sub-areas with every count.

The most significant benefit to be derived from this count is a knowledge of the effect of rainfall on the bird-life of the area. Recordings at the University of Wollongong for the preceding week were as follows:

To 9.00 a.m. Saturday	21st May, 1983	-	7 mm
Sunday	22nd May, 1983	-	47 mm
Monday	23rd May, 1983	-	4 mm
Tuesday	24th May, 1983	-	9 mm
Wednesday	25th May, 1983	-	11 mm
Thursday	26th May, 1983	-	28 mm
Friday	27th May, 1983	-	6 mm
Saturday	28th May, 1983	-	74 mm
TOTAL			186 mm

As this was the first substantial rain in the district for maybe 9 to 12 months, its effect was very obvious.

The lake, for example, was some 45 cm higher than on a 1.8 m high tide. Paddocks throughout the district were still flooded.

Grey Teal and Chestnut Teal were at an all time low of 11 and 18 respectively instead of circa 2000 and 200 respectively. On the other hand, the numbers of Black Duck found (171) were not as noticeably affected. One such duck was found sitting on 10 eggs at Macquarie Rivulet delta. Silver gull (total 12000+) concentrated on fields, presumably to feed on worms, and were easy to count in large numbers, e.g. two flocks of 2500 each in sub-area 7. Likewise, 1500 straw-necked Ibis were seen in two (2) large flocks over the flooded paddocks of Albion Park.

The count was not without its surprises; to name a few, the Spotted Quail-thrush, Rock Warbler, Little Lorikeet, Swift Parrot, Zebra Finch, Black Bittern and Black-tailed Godwit.

The value of having many participants can also be appreciated by noting that the northern team found Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters instead of the usually reliable Thirroul team, and the Thirroul team found the Scaly Thrush and Southern Logrunner; sightings which often are made by the Corrimal Team.

For those who are statistically minded, the diversity of habitats in our Illawarra area is somewhat illustrated by a total of 46 species being seen only once. Without the addition of these, our Illawarra cumulative total would be very much less.

In all a very successful and enterprising count and again I thank all for their contribution.

K.A. WOOD,
Recorder.

ILLAWARRA
BIRD COUNT
28-5-83

	NORTH	THIRCOL	CORIMAL	MT KEIRA	WONG	DARTO	LAKE	TOTAL	(P1)
Little Grebe	2			30		2		4	
Hoary-II Grebe								30	
Wand Albatross			2					2	
Aust Gannet	3		10		6		2	21	
Pelican	3		35		12		180	195	
Ige Blk Cormorant	2	5	18		29	1	38	110	
Little Blk Corm		1	9	3	7		65	91	
Ige Pied Cormorant		3	15		2		95	5	
Little Pied Corm	6	1	23		10	1	6	118	
Wh Faced Heron				30	2	6	4	21	
Cattle Egret		23	8		34	196	14	312	
Large Egret				2	2		4	6	
Little Egret				1	1		3	4	
Straw-Neck Ibis						1100	400	1500	
White Ibis			13			51	61	125	
Royal S/Bill			8		9		46	63	
Yellow-B S/Bill						2	2	4	
Black Swan							140	142	
Black Duck		2		55	2	52	46	171	
Mallard (H)			4		1	1	2	8	
Grey Teal					2	1	8	11	
Chestnut Teal					3	3	15	18	
Wood Duck	18		4	5		34	6	61	
Musk Duck				1				7	
Wh-Eyed Duck						1		1	
Black Sh Kite		1	3	1	4		2	11	
Nankeen Kestrel	1		2		3	4	4	14	
Dusky Moorhen			16	28		28	3	75	
Wh-Bristled Sea Eagle							2	2	
Darler				2			2	4	
Blk Bittern							1	1	
Pied Stilt					5		1	6	

	NORTH	THIRCOL	CORIMAL	MT KEIRA	WONG	DARTO	LAKE	TOTAL	(P2)
East Swamphen				26				43	
Coot					19			42	
Pied O/Catcher	1	3	5					2	
Sooty O/Catcher	15	6	23					2	
Spur-W Plover				5				2	
E Golden Plover					32			24	
Red-Capped Dot								1	
D-Banded Dot								19	
Bar-T Godwit								24	
Eastern Curlew								26	
Greenshank								2	
Tattler								1	
Blk-Tailed Godwit								1	
Roddy Turnstone			3					1	
Red-Necked Stint								3	
Dominican Gull		2						3	
Silver Gull	35	1400	1683	20	2100	1600	5200	12048	
Caspian Tern								21	
Crested Tern		11	6				8	32	
Topknot Pigeon	10	52						118	
Domestic Pigeon	13	32	22		43	42	60	212	
Brown Pigeon			3	2				5	
Wonga Pigeon			3	2				5	
Sp Turtledove	2	5	19	15	4	2	3	50	
Y-T Blk Cockatoo	32		4	1				37	
S-Cr Wh Cockatoo	21	2	8	2				35	
Galah	2	46	6	2			4	114	
Boobook Owl			1					1	
Grey Goshawk			1					1	
Brown Goshawk				1				2	
Whistling Kite			1					2	
Wedge-T Eagle			1			2		3	

ILLAWARRA
BIRD COUNT
28-5-83

	NORTH	WARRIOR	CORRAL	MT KEIRA	WONG	VARO	LAKH	TOTAL
King Parrot		9	4	4		1		18
Crimson Rosella	33	10	2	25		28		98
Eastern Rosella			3	4		24		31
Fan-T Cuckoo	1		1					2
Kookaburra	15	5	11	7		30		68
Sup Lyrebird		5	6	6		4		21
Welcome Swallow	33	17	23	12	39	127	37	288
Tree Martin	4							4
Pipit	6	2	5	1	11	12	12	49
Blk-F Cuckoo Shr		1	9	3				13
Red-Wh Bulbul	15	1	6	2	3	22	8	61
East Whiplbird	9	3	12	3	3	4		34
Golden-ll Cisticola	4				3	1	9	17
Wh-Br Scrob Wren	14	1	19	8	5	38	2	87
Sup Blue Wren	32	2	7	39	24	40	44	188
Variegated Wren			3	3			5	16
Yellow T/Bill	3		18		8	25		54
Striated T/Bill	4	52	14	13		14		97
Brown T/Bill	16	15	6	16		14		57
Y-Rumped T/Bill	1					7		8
Buff-Rumped T/Bill	15							15
Brown Warbler		6	15	8		13		42
Wh-Fronted Chat							14	14
Grey Fantail	14	3	11	2	5	39		74
Willie Wagtail	15	2	8	2	5	22	6	60
Yellow Robin	5	2	9	2	12	1		31
Rainbow Lorikeet		5						5
Little Lorikeet			2					2
Swift Parrot			11					11

ILLAWARRA
BIRD COUNT
28-5-83

	NORTH	WARRIOR	CORRAL	MT KEIRA	WONG	VARO	LAKH	TOTAL
Golden Whistler								
Rufous Whistler								
Grey Thrush								
Wh-Throated T/C	2							
Mistleloa Bird	1							
Spotted Pardalote	1							
E Striated Pard	1							
Silvereye	42	60	75	79	72	136	2	466
E Spinebill	7	4	16	16	21	22		86
Lewin H/Eater	9	17	25	23		53	3	130
Y-Faced H/Eater	37	45	8	24	8	99	15	236
Brown-headed H/E	10							10
New Holland H/E	40		26	7	111			184
Noisy Miner	1		4	19		35	9	68
Little Wattlebird	6			2				8
Red Wattlebird	18	14					2	34
Goldfinch (1)							9	32
Red-Browed Finch	24	3	90	28	21	18		163
Sparrow (1)	22	9	8	20	130	66	25	280
Starling (1)	154	115	48	11	225	777	380	1710
Indian Myna (1)	28	8	28	7	8	69	14	162
Magpie Lark	25	8	11	11	14	71	9	149
Dusky W/Swallow	18							18
Grey Butcherbird		2	2	4		5		13
Magpie	22	7	19	18	7	78	14	165
Pied Currawong	73	40	15	55	1	47		231
Satin Bowerbird		5	1	6		1		13
Aust Raven	19	53	22	18	38	134	24	308
Red-Br T/Creper			1	1				2

ILLAWARRA
BIRD COUNT
28-5-83

	NORTH	THIRROOL	CORRIMAL	MT KEIRA	WAGOONG	DAPTO	EXM	TOTAL (PS)
Common Bzwing	1							1
Brush Bzwing				2		2		4
Little C-Shrike					1			1
Scaly Thrush		1						1
Black bird			1					1
Rose Robin	1		1			2		4
Scarlet Robin				2				2
Silkn Logrunner		1						1
Spotted Q-Thrush	1							1
Little Grass bird							7	7
Silkn Emu Wren					3			3
Chest-T Hlk Wren		1						1
Rock Warbler		2						2
Lge-Billed Sc Wren	2		5					7
Yellow-T Scr Wren	2		1	1				4
Tacky Winter	3			1		4		8
Extra Shrike-tit		2	4			1		7
Noisy Frar bird	25						1	26
Tawny-Cr W/Eater	2							2
Fuscous W/Eater	1							1
Wk-Naped W/Eater			5					5
Wk-Eared W/Eater				2				2
Wk-Plumed W/E			4					4
Olive-Backed Oriole					1	2		3
Spangled Drongo					1			1
Zebra Finch					3			3
Grey Currawong	2							2
TOTAL SPECIES	69	59	84	65	57	75	71	149
TOTAL BIRDS								22867



I. B. O. C. NEWS

66

THE CIRCULAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB

Registered by Aust. Post Publication No. NSH 3848.

AUGUST, 1983.

CLUB MOTTO

"One Good Tern
Deserves Another"

PRESIDENT

Dave Thomson
34 Mt. Pleasant Rd.
BALGOWNIE NSW 2519
34-2576

SECRETARY

Hazel Emery
53 Dymock St.
BALGOWNIE NSW 2519
34-0139

TREASURER

Ron Almond
2 Shoobert Cres.
KEIRAVILLE NSW 2500
29-8612

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL MAIL TO P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW NSW 2519

CLUB'S AIM: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the birdlife around them.

Our next Meeting will be held at the Senior Citizens Centre, Cnr Collaery Avenue and Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow, at 7-30pm. on Monday 8th August, 1983. Guest Speaker, Dick Turner, of the Forestry Commission, his subject the "Tanami Desert." I remember seeing a film on television some months ago about the Tanami Desert which was very interesting. I'm looking forward to hearing Dick Turner's talk and to hear something about the wildlife of the desert. Don't miss it---Should be well worth hearing.

Film Night, Saturday, 6th August, at the home of Brian and Barbara Hales, 39 Lake Parade, Corrimal East. Two sessions, 6-00pm and 8-00pm. Bring along a plate and have high tea with us and enjoy these films:

The Cuckoo Bird

14 mins.

A remarkable study of parasitism and instinctive behaviour.

Centralia.

27 mins.

This film presents the centre of Australia as a "living heart" as opposed to the popular conception of a "dead heart".

Fairy Penguins.

12 mins.

An insight to the charming if somewhat hazardous life of these birds.

The Forest That Goes To The Sea.

24 mins.

A detailed study of a tropical mangrove swamp, how it is formed, the life it sustains and the part it plays in forming land and altering the coastline.

PLEASE NOTE.. PLEASE NOTE... PLEASE NOTE.. Our Field Outing to Pennant Hills has been brought forward a week to Sunday 7th August, (due to camping trip to Hattah Lakes.) Meeting at the Cumberland State Forest, Pennant Hills Main entrance, Castle Hill Road, 400 metres beyond Koala Park on left hand side, just inside gates at 9-00am. We will be having lunch at the cars. Our leader on this occasion will be Ernie Hoskins.

DON'T FORGET.

Saturday, 6th August.

Film night at the Hale's.

Sunday, 7th August.

Field Outing to Pennant Hills.

Monday 8th August.

I.B.O.C Meeting with Dick Turner as our guest speaker.

It's going to be a busy weekend.

Canberra Bus Trip, Saturday 10th September, leaving Illawarra County Council Administrative Building, Bridge Street, Coniston at 7-00 am. As there are still a few seats left, members are asked to send monies (\$13-00 adults 05-00 children) to our Treasurer, Ron Almond, 2 Shoobert Crescent, Kairaville, 2500 urgently if they wish to go. After this the seats will be allocated to non-members, so time is running out.

August Camping Trip to Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, on Saturday, 13th August to 27th August, thence to Kincheega National Park. Should be a very worthwhile two weeks, especially for a hopeful sighting of the Plains Wanderer.

Advance Notice. Family Camp, 1st to 3rd October at the property of Miss Badgery at Wanganderry. More details in the September newsletter. Also,

Late October Camp, Bateman's Bay from 22nd to 23rd October, 1983.

July Meeting. A large turnout of members filled the hall at our meeting on 11th July to hear Alan Leishman give an informative talk about the history, ecology and birdlife of Norfolk Island.

Alan began his talk with a brief history on the early settlement of the Island. Using extracts from early Journals, he was able to convey to the audience a picture of what the vegetation must have been like before permanent human settlement, particularly on Philip Island, the largest offshore island.

As you would expect with an island location, the main emphasis of the talk was on seabirds. Alan's talk dealt largely with the bird colonies on Nepean and Philip Islands. The almost completely denuded and eroded surface of Philip Island contrasted completely with the descriptions in the early journals of lush, thick, impenetrable gullies. A sad comment on man's short settlement in the area. It is hoped that attempts to remove the rabbits from the island and rejuvenate it will prove successful. Thanks Alan, for an interesting talk.

W. Emery.

Field Outing, 16th July, 1983. Forty seven members met at the foot of Macquarie Pass on a cold, but sunny day. Some cars were taken with members further up the pass to a track that eventually crosses Glenview Road to another walking track, marked by metal discs on small trees, steep in parts, but with the assistance that is always so readily given in this club, one is able to negotiate the more difficult places.

Four splendid waterfalls were crossed on the way down, and we had lunch in front of the last of these, where a tree grew from the top with its roots exposed right down the rock face.

I personally did not see many birds, but as members listed what they had observed, the tally was reasonable. A pair of King Parrots sitting in a hollow in a dead tree, provided some members with great pleasure.

The Blackbird was seen towards the end of the walk, so common in Adelaide and Melbourne gardens. A few people walked on the Clover Hill road and were able to sit and just enjoy the mimicry of the Superb Lyrebird, some of its display mounds being close to the road. This bird would be nesting now.

I think this day was enjoyed by all who attended, with its varied vegetation and landscape, this area is always interesting. 35 species were observed on the walk.

Esme Gay.

The Film Night on 9th July had an audience of 20 and again the films were enjoyable and informative. While we found special interest in the Egrets and the Adelie Penguins, the film about the Australasian Gannets (Maori name Takapu) had something extra in its timeliness. That film showed the Takapu breeding on the east coast of New Zealand's north island and the subsequent flight to and from Australia's coast of the young birds.

Two days after we saw the film, Alan Leishman, talking to us about Norfolk Island, showed pictures of several errant pairs of those same Takapu nesting near Norfolk Island. Our thanks go to Ron and Norma Almond for their hospitality— another good night.

D. H. T.

Changes to Membership List

Amend—new address Mr. & Mrs. J Geenty,
1/3A Market Place,
WOLLONGONG. 2500

I.B.O.C. T.Shirts and Blouses Etc.

Arrangements have been made for stencilling of T. Shirts etc. at a cost of \$2 each. Size of stencil is 260 cm. deep by 360cm. wide but slightly smaller items may be stretched to fit stencil. Pure fabrics -- 100% cotton, silk and wool are recommended as printing does not last as long on synthetics.

Members requiring stencilling are asked to bring garments (suitably identified) to the August meeting and they will be returned at the September meeting.

Special Sightings for June-July, 1983.

Status uncommon, scarce and rare within the County of Camden.

S.	Great-winged Petrel	5ml.	Flock Barrack Point	18-6-83	C. Chafer
S.	Darter	5	Macquarie Rivulet Mth.	19-6-83	"
U.	Stubble Quail	5	" "	19-6-83	"
U.	Little Grassbird	12	" "	19-6-83	"
R.	Pied Oystercatcher	1	" "	19-6-83	"
U.	Little Falcon	1	" "	24-6-83	"
S.	Greenshank	3	" "	24-6-83	"
S.	Little Eagle	1	" "	24-6-83	"
U.	Brown Goshawk	2	" "	24-6-83	"
U.	Musk Duck	4	" "	24-6-83	"
MC.	Fairy Prion	50+	Red Point	27-6-83	"
S.	Reef Egret	1	Red Point	27-6-83	"
U.	Giant Petrel	1	" "	27-6-83	"
S.	White-capped Albatross	2	Sass Point	10-7-83	"
U.	Spotted Quail-thrush	2	Royal National Park	10-7-83	J. Smeaton
S.	Little Eagle	1	Sulli	30-6-83	"
R.	Swift Parrot	13	Sellambi Point	16-6-83	K. Wood
U.	Brown Quail	4	" "	16-6-83	"
U.	Sooty Oystercatcher	3	" "	13-6-83	"
S.	3th. Logrunner	2	Cataract Creek	1-7-83	"
U.	Gang-gang Cockatoo	3	" "	1-7-83	"
U.	Ruddy Turnstone	13	Sellambi Point	1-7-83	"
R.	Swift Parrot	3	" "	1-7-83	"
U.	Skylark	1	Wollongurry Point	2-7-83	"
U.	Giant Petrel	1	Sellambi Point	10-7-83	"
S.	Rose Robin	1	Shoobert Crescent Keiraville	2-7-83	R. Almond

Cont.....

Special Sightings Continued.....

U. Rainbow Lorikeet	1	Balgownie	4-6-83	K. Mille
U. White-fronted Chat	2	Warrawong	11-6-83	"
U. Pied Stilt	3	Griffins Bay	11-6-83	"
MC. Eastern Golden Plover (full breeding plumage)	2	Oak Flats	13-6-83	"
U. Crested Shrike-tit	1	Jamberoo Lookout	14-6-83	"
U. Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Balgownie	9-7-83	W & H Emery
S. Little Friarbird	1	Bellambi Point	13-7-83	H. Ward, E. Gay, B & P McKinlay & Others.

The Whalebird.

On 27-6-83, while observing albatrosses from Red Point, Port Kembla, I noticed a number of small seabirds weaving and banking in the strong westerly winds. After finding protection from the wind on the rock shelf, I sat down to study this new find. After careful observation, I discovered them to be Fairy Prions.

The following field marks were noted: The upperparts were a smokey blue-grey with a dark blackish band extending about halfway up the tail. The tail in flight was slightly wedge-shaped. Across the wings a distinct dark W pattern forms across the out-stretched wings. The bill and legs appeared bluish-grey, while the entire underside was white. In size it was about two-thirds the size of a Silver Gull.

Their unique feeding behaviour known as hydroplaning captivated me. This consisted of lowering itself onto the surface into the wind, then lowering its bill, and sometimes the whole head, in the water and then 'running' over the water with its wings semi-folded and occasionally diving through small wave crests.

The reason for doing this is because the birds are plankton eaters and each side of the upper mandible contain minute fine combs or lamellae. As the bird collects water in its bill, it pumps it out through these lamellae with its tongue and thus collects small organisms, particularly plankton, which it then consumes.

On calmer days the birds seemed to do away with hydroplaning and simply plucked at the surface while flying over it and occasionally settling on it and swimming around dipping its bill to feed.

I observed the birds nearly every day for almost two weeks and thoroughly enjoyed their brief but spectacular stay, and I hope that some day you all may have a similar experience.

I would like to point out that Red Point can at times be a wonderful place for birdwatching, especially when it's windy. Other birds observed over the same period include: Wandering and Black-browed Albatross, Giant Petrel, Kelp Gull, Fluttering Shearwater, Gannet, White-fronted Tern, Reef Egret, Sooty Oystercatcher, and a pair of White-bellied Sea-eagles.

The title "Whalebird" refers to the name given to prion species by whalers of the past and their probable association with plankton eating whales.

C. Chafer.

Bellambi Point.

On Wednesday, 13th July, a small group of members went again to Bellambi in the area behind the dunes, and had an excellent view of the Swift Parrots. The Little Friarbird was seen this time and many observations made of it feeding in Eucalyptus Robusta, a very rewarding tree to watch, as quite a number of other birds were enjoying it's blossom.

Albatross were on the water some distance out, so these magnificent flyers are visiting again.

Esme Gay.



I ~ B ~ O ~ O ~ C ~ NEWS

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THE CIRCLAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB.
Registered by Aust. Post Publication 'o NBF 3343.

SEPTEMBER, 1983.
TREASURER.

CLUB MOTTO

"One Good Tern
Deserves Another"

PRESIDENT.

Dave Thomson
34 Mt. Pleasant Rd.
BALGOWNIE NSW 2619
34-2876

SECRETARY.

Hazel Emery
33 Dymock St.
BALGOWNIE NSW 2619
34-0139

Ron Almond
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25-8612

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL MAIL TO P.O. BOX 86 FAIRY MEADOW NSW 2619

CLUB'S AIM: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the birdlife around them.

Our next Meeting will be held at the Senior Citizens Centre, Cnr Collaery Avenue and Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow, at 7-30p. on Monday, 12th September, 1983. GUEST SPEAKER will be Dr. Rob. Whelan, Head of the Biology Department, Wollongong University, speaking on "Birds, Mammals and Banksias."

Field Outing on Saturday, 17th September, 1983 to Heathcote National Park, led by Jack Hyslop. Meeting 8-30am, cul-de-sac, Northern end of Warrabin St, Waterfall. Turn left at Sundarra Street, off the Highway just before the overhead bridge, then turn right into Warrabin Street, proceed to the end of sealed road at northern end. Take a carry lunch.

Cancerra Bus Trip on 10th September, Saturday, to the National Botanic Gardens. Leaving Illawarra County Council Administrative Building, Bridge St, Coniston. Assembling at 6-45am, sharp for a 7-00am. departure.

Advance Notice. Annual General Meeting in November when the election of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer will take place. Members wishing to help the club on the committee are asked to contact President Dave Thomson or a committee member before the November meeting.

December Meeting. Final one for the year & our Christmas Party. We ask members to think about the segment "What Bird is That?" and to come representing a bird, eg. bring along a whistle (Golden Whistler) or juggling two stones (Turnstones) A panel will judge the best original bird imitation. Also we need some acts, songs, poems ect. so put on your "thinking caps" and make our end of year get-together the best yet. With great expense we've managed to get the "Ornithologists Delight" to sing again.

PLEASE NOTE. Two Camps will be held this year during October, at;

"Wanganderry" the property of Miss Badgery on 1st to 3rd October, 1983. Day visitors are welcome, our Field outings for this camp are-- 1-00pm Saturday, Afternoon walk.
9-00am. Sunday morning walk.
9-00am. Monday morning walk.

cont.....

Wanganderry Camp cont.....

The camp gate is on the South side of Wombayan Caves Road, 19 Klm. off Hume Highway. (Gate is 4kms beyond bitumen road.) I.B.C.C signs will be erected. Bring enough drinking water for weekend. (See Map page 4)

Deua National Park on 22nd to 23rd October, 1983. Camping in the Berlang Rest Area, on the road from Braidwood, South West to Krawarree and Snowball, between Cranmeir and Gundillion on the east side of road, 42 Kms. from Braidwood. (See I.R.M.A. Map South Coast and Snowy Mountains.) Bring enough drinking water for the weekend. (See Map Page 4)

Lists will be circulated at the September meeting-- if unable to attend meeting and interested in either camp, ring Dave Thomson.

See you at our camps..... Editor.

August Meeting, Monday, 3th. As usual a large turnout of members filled the hall to hear Dick Turner of the Forestry Commission speak on a trip made to the Tanami Desert. What a very interesting talk it was, one I thoroughly enjoyed. Dick spoke of the trees and vegetation of the area and the wildlife, backing his talk with some excellent slides. It was interesting to hear him speak of a plant which was rich in Vitamin C which explorer Sturt ordered his men to eat as a supplement to their diet. The explorers Burke and Wills on later expeditions into the interior of course wouldn't eat "blackfella tucker" as they called it, and subsequently died of starvation.

Thanks Dick, for a very interesting and informative talk.

R.G.H.

Film Night Saturday, 6th August, at the home of Brian and Barbara Hales and again an audience of 37 saw some excellent films.

I enjoyed the film on "Centralia" showing the beauty of the "living heart" of this great continent. One of these days I'll get out there to see the place for myself. The film of the quaint Fairy Penguins was great, they are fascinating little creatures and can't they swim in the rough surf. I think so anyway. The film on the "Forest that Goes to Sea" told a story of the mangrove swam, the life it sustains. I saw a television programme which dealt with a storm and the battering the mangroves took thus saving the shoreline tremendous damage. A great programme of films once again, our thanks go to Barbara and Brian for their hospitality.

R.G.H.

Field Outing, Sunday August, 7th at the Cumberland State Forest, Pennant Hills. Situated in a well populated area it is large enough to support an extensive variety of woodland habitat and birds. Our leader was Ernie Hoskins whose ability to mimic bird calls is remarkable.

Meeting at the car park entrance at 9-00am., we began the day in a Noisy Miner colony. Ernie told us of the association between Noisy Miners and the Grey Butcherbird. The Tawny Frogmouth also associates with the Miners.

Walking slowly down the track we spotted a male Rose Robin, Brown Warblers, Whippoorwill, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater and a beautiful Yellow Robin's nest. Moving further along we saw some Eastern Spinebills and heard and saw some of the lovely Bell Miners. Close by we observed the magnificent bower of the Satin Bowerbird. The Olive-backed Oriole, Eastern Rosella and Red Wattlebird were also observed along the track.

Next we took a look at the Forestry Commission's Nursery in the middle of the State Forest where a great number of native trees and shrubs were on display.

cont.....

Further on we observed a pair of Restless Flycatchers and Ernie told us of the "block of flats" tree where in the hollow limbs Rainbow Lorikeets, Musk Lorikeets and Crimson Rosella nest at various levels. We continued our walk after lunch through tall Turpentine trees sighting a pair of White-naped Honeyeaters, Brown Thornbills and the lovely Golden-bronze Cuckoo.

In all 80 species of birds were observed, our thanks go to Ernie for showing us this interesting piece of Sydney bushland.

C. Gnafer.

I.B.C.C. T. Shirts. Don't forget to bring along your T. Shirts for stencilling to the September meeting. (These will cost \$2.00 to stencil.)

Changes to Membership List.

Amend-- new address Mr. A. Brown,
45 Whitenead Street,
KIRANCOEAN, N.S.W. 2542

New members.... Maurice & Grace Nelson,
30 Robson Road,
KEIRAVILLE, N.S.W. 2580.

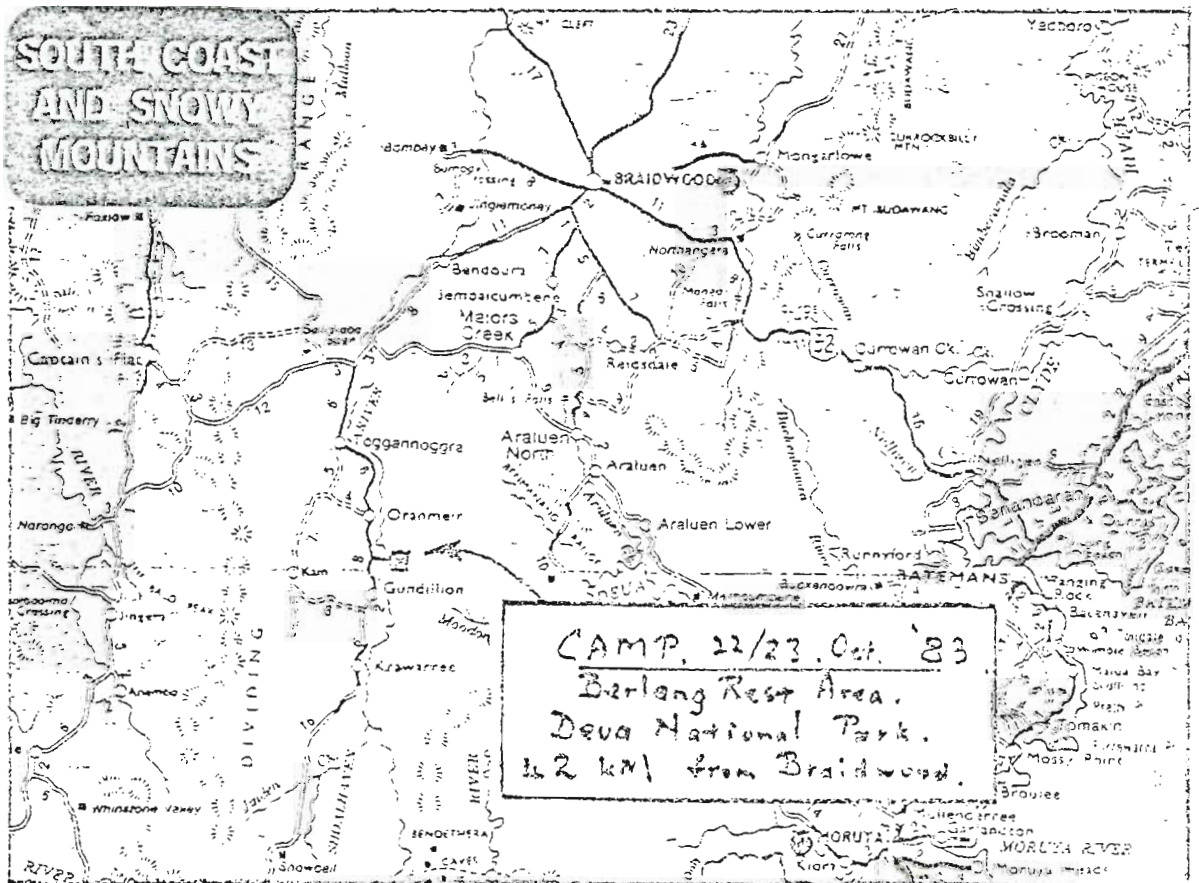
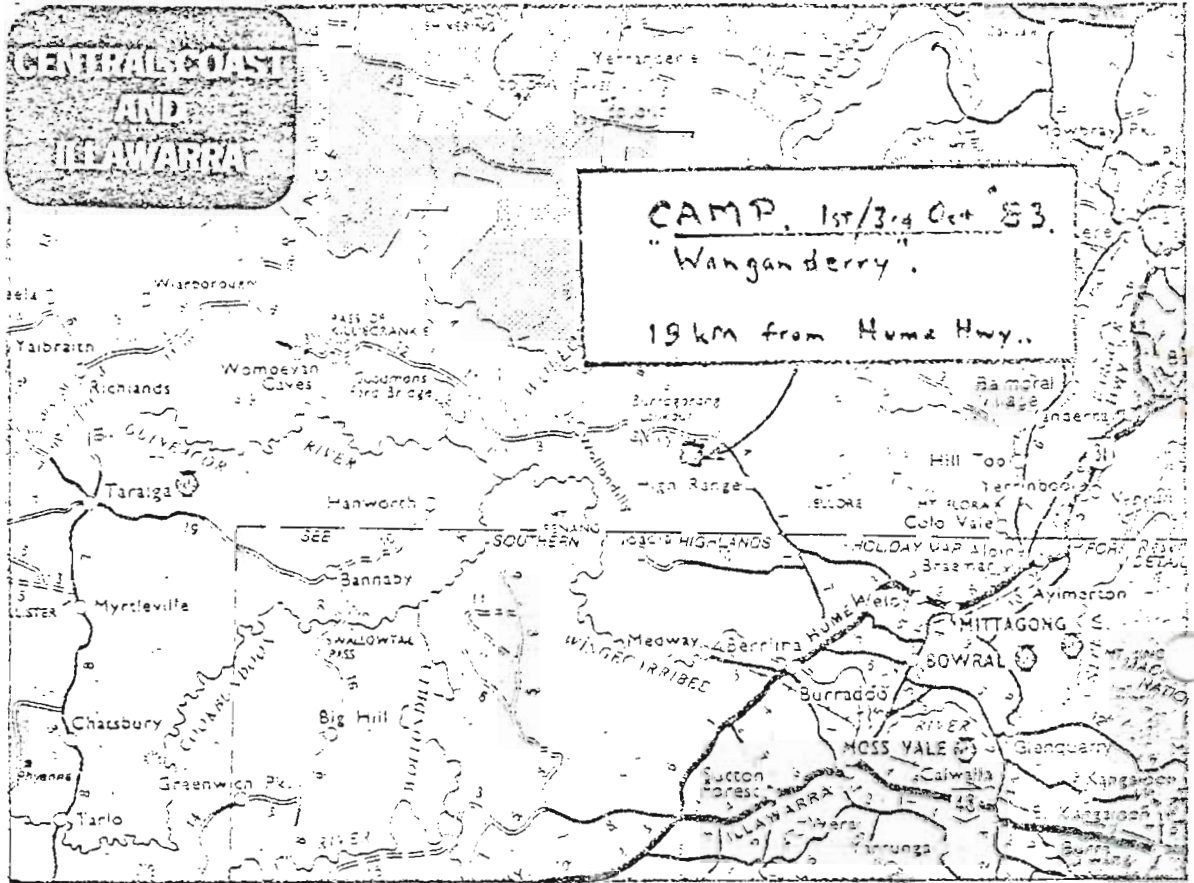
Change of Phone No. for.... Mrs. Jean Roberts.
61-3203.

Special Sightings for July-August, 1983.

Status uncommon, scarce and rare within the County of Camden.

U.	Little Grassbird	1	Puckey's Estate	14-7-83	K. Wood
U.	Cattle Egret	15+	Robson Rd. Nr University	23-7-83	"
U.	Southern Giant Petrel (All white phase)	1	Cape Solander	3-8-83	"
U.	Southern Giant Petrel (dark phase)	1	Off Wollongong 1km.	3-8-83	"
NO	White-fronted Tern	2	Woonona	2-8-83	J. Smeaton
S.	Rose Robin	1	Bulli	30-7-83	"
S.	Northern Giant Petrel	1	Off Bulli 8kms.	7-8-83	"
U.	Flame Robin	3	Robertson	1-8-83	K. Hausen
S.	Rose Robin	1	Botanical Gardens	24-7-83	J. Slinger
S.	Little Friarbird	1	" "	24-7-83	"
R.	Bar-shouldered Dove	1	Bass Point	26-7-83	R. Imisidias
S.	Little Eagle	1	Minnamurra	19-7-83	I & M Eskdale
R.	Pied Oystercatcher	2	Lake Illawarra Entrance	11-7-83	C. Gnafer
U.	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	15	Lake Illawarra Pionio Is	17-7-83	"
S.	Darter	2	Macquarie Rivulet	17-7-83	"
U.	Skylark	3	Macquarie Rivulet	17-7-83	"
U.	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	15	Lake Illawarra Pionio Is.	1-8-83	"
S.	White-capped Albatross	2	Barrack Point	3-8-83	"
U.	Rainbow Lorikeet	100+	7 Mile Beach Nat Pk.	5-8-83	"
U.	White-cheeked Honey- eater	2	Brookhaven Heads	6-8-83	"
S.	Scarlet Honeyeater	1	Mangerton	10-7-83	P & L Coxon
R.	Brush Turkey	1	Dymock St. Balgownie	29-8-83	M & H Emery.

Don't forget the Spring Bird Count any interested member please contact K. Wood. Your help would be appreciated.



I.B.O.C NEWS



THE CIRCULAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB
 Registered by Aust. Post Publication No NBH 3848.
POSTAL ADDRESS P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW NSW 2519.

NOVEMBER, 1983.

CLUB MOTTO

"One Good Tern
Deserves Another"

PRESIDENT

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 84 Mt. Pleasant Rd.
BALGOWNIE NSW 2519
 84-2876

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CLUB'S AIM: To join together people with a common interest who wish to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the birdlife around them.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are due on 1st January each year, FAMILY \$8, SINGLE \$5 STUDENT \$2.

Our Next Meeting will be held at the Senior Citizens Centre, Cnr Collaery Ave, and Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow on Monday 14th November, commencing at 7-30pm. GUEST SPEAKER, Humphrey Price-Jones, his subject "Australian Birds of Prey." He developed a keen interest in both Art and Natural History at an early age. Studying Art in London, and after leaving Art School, lived and worked there for some years, teaching Art and doing freelance work. His works were exhibited around many of the galleries in London. Arriving in Australia in 1968, he lives in Crookwell, NSW where he teaches Art and manages a beef cattle property. He should prove to be a very interesting speaker, so don't miss hearing him speak on a very interesting subject.

Field Outing to Comerong Island on Saturday, 19th November. Meeting at the Punt 8-30am. Lunch will be at the cars.

Don't forget the Annual General Meeting, November, where election of officers will take place for President, Vice-president, Secretary & Treasurer.

Please Note. Items are required urgently for our Christmas get-together, our final meeting for 1983. Those members wishing to take part, would you please contact President Dave Thomson as soon as possible.

September Meeting. Dr. Rob Whelan spoke to us on the pollination of certain Grevilleas and Banksias found in the Barren Grounds Sanctuary, and elsewhere. He told us that these plants belong to the Proteaceae, and went on to discuss the structure of their flowering parts and the mechanism of fertilisation, referring finally to the part played in that process by certain animals during their search for the nectar secreted by the plants.

Rob explained how a fluorescent material was applied to certain Proteaceae in such a way that the creature, in the transfer of pollen would also transfer this material to other plants visited; the fluorescence was very readily detected in the dark by the use of ultraviolet light. This was demonstrated. It was apparent that visits were systematic and not random. Care was taken in carrying out the experimental procedures and also in testing the validity of conclusions. For example, a test was applied to determine whether birds, alone, were effecting pollination and not for example- insects.

An unexpected observation then showed that for some plants, ground foraging animals were also active in the pollination process - small mammals.

This pleasant and coherent talk was concluded with a question time that developed further interesting points.

T.W.B.

The Field Outing in September was to Heathcote National Park. The weather during the morning was fine and cloudy with some sunny periods during the afternoon. The countryside was a blaze of colour with wildflowers, orchids, grevilleas, tea-trees, turning the bushland into a picturesque natural garden. With so much attention taken by the wildflowers, we still had some time to observe the birdlife in the park. Many birds were spotted on our walk to the lake, spending an hour there before setting off along Coutts Gully Creek, past Bondel Pool. Arriving at Kingfisher Pool at mid-day we had lunch and explored the area.

Our next destination, a waterfall with a half hour walk along the bed of the creek, before returning to the starting point at Warrabin Street. All had an enjoyable day, arriving back at our cars at 4-00pm. 45 species of birds were observed on our walk through the park which took in 6klms. Total area of Heathcote National Park is 2,500 ha.

H.F.W.

National Botanic Gardens, Canberra Saturday 10th September. A special outing, travelling by coach to Canberra to the National Botanic Gardens on the slopes of Black Mountain. It was a very pleasant day for all those able to attend. The pleasure of viewing the gardens, displaying a large collection of Australian native plants and observing the abundant birdlife within the park. There are four main walking tracks around the site leading through 40.5 ha.

There is a nature trail on the higher slopes through a natural environment, open eucalypt forest containing mostly Scribbly Gum and Red Stringybark with creepers and grasses as a ground cover.

October Long Weekend Camp was held on the property "Wanganderry" along the Wombeyan Caves road. What a successful camp it was, despite the rain on Monday, when it was time for us to journey home. The walk for that day was called off. Most of the club members arrived on Friday morning, some of whom went for a walk during the afternoon to look over the area.

Saturday morning dawned fine and clear, during the afternoon we walked to the boundary fence and along to a deep gully behind our camp. Miss Badgery, the owner of the property joined us on the walk, and many sightings of birds were made. Some of the members saw five Glossy Black Cockatoos, a rare sighting for the area.

At night around the camp fire, Miss Badgery told us of the history of the property, which proved very interesting. Sunday morning we went out to explore another part of the property. Our President said it would only be a short distance, but later looking at the map discovered we had walked 8 klms. on the round trip.

At night we went spot-lighting, and were disappointed at the sightings, namely 2 Wombats, some Kangaroos and Wallabies, no birds. We were pleased at the number of day visits from club members who were not camping with us. We broke camp after lunch on Monday, 64 species of birds were observed during the weekend.

A presentation of a plate on which a pair of Yellow Robins was painted so beautifully by Hazel Emery, also a copy of a Field Guide was presented to Miss Badgery as a token of our thanks for allowing us to camp on such a lovely property.

R.G.H.

Please add to Membership List.

Judith Parkinson,
33 Kenny Street,
WOLLONGONG NSW 2500 Phone 29-5025

also

Les & June Potter, Roslyn, Richard, Malcolm,
83 Hamilton Street,
FAIRY MEADOW, NSW 2519 Phone 84-7876

Special Sightings for August - September, 1983.Status uncommon, scarce & rare within the County of Camden.

R.	Pied Oystercatcher	2	Duck Creek	21-8-83	C. Chafer
MC.	White-breasted Sea-eagle	2	" "	24-8-83	"
S.	Reef Heron	1	Bass Point	24-8-83	"
U.	Emerald Dove	1	" "	24-8-83	"
S.	White-headed Pigeon	2	" "	24-8-83	"
R.	Bar-shouldered Dove	4	" "	24-8-83	"
U.	Skylark	6	" "	25-8-83	"
C.	Fluttering Shearwater	2,000+	" "	26-8-83	"
S.	White-capped Albatross	2	Bass Point	27-8-83	"
R.	Swift Parrot	12	" "	29-8-83	"
MC.	Eastern Curlew	166	Shoalhaven Heads	2-9-83	"
U.	Peregrine Falcon	1	Bass Point	10-9-83	"
S.	Sanderling	1	Lake Illawarra Ent.	11-9-83	"
S.	Grey Plover	1	" "		
			(in breeding Plumage)	11-9-83	"
U.	Pied Cormorant	8	Picnic Island	12-9-83	"
MC.	White-breasted Sea-eagle	1	Royal National Park	2-9-83	J. Smeaton
U.	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	Yallah	2-9-83	P. Ewin
R.	Pied Oystercatcher	2	Macquarie Rivulet Ent.	4-9-83	J. Sliger
R.	Brush Turkey	1	Balgownie	Sept. & Oct.	W & H Emery
R.	Indian Koel	1	Balgownie	1-10-83	H. Emery
U.	Brown Goshawk	2	Balgownie	15-10-83	W. Emery
R.	Indian Koel	1	Bulli	17-10-83	L. Klumpes
U.	Painted Button Quail	2	Albion Park	6-10-83	W. Emery

August Camp-out. A group of ten members left Wollongong on 12th August for a 2 weeks camping trip to Hattah Lakes National Park via Deniliquin, then on to Mootwingie Historic Site, north east of Broken Hill before returning home through Cobar.

We arrived at Deniliquin about 6-00pm. after a long, but easy drive along flat straight roads, a lot of water lay in the bright green paddocks all the way from Yass. We camped in the dark in Gulpa Island State Forest, arose in the morning to find great puddles of water all around, we had picked the only dry spot.

Saturday off to Deni to pick up our knowledgeable guide, Phillip Maher. We drove out to a gravel pit looking for crakes, 3 species have been recorded there, however none were sighted. Then on to Mongo swamp, 6 large Mountain Duck perched around the edges and across the road Long-billed Corellas sat camouflaged among a flock of Galahs. Zebra Finches hopped up and down on the fence and Blackfaced Woodswallows watched from overhead wires. A flock of 500+ Plumed Whistling Ducks squatted around a farm dam further along with 8 other species of water birds.

Two tame Apostlebirds had a nest with eggs just above the track. Back out beyond Conargo on a deserted property "Wangaretta", in Boree forest, we spotted Blue Bonnets, Mallee Ringnecks & Red-rumped Parrots.

cont.....

A pair of Bush Stone-curlew were the sighting of the day as they stretched out trying to creep away. Grey-crowned Babblers hopped about under sparse Cypress Pine and a Red-capped Robin posed on a dead twig for us. Striped Honeyeaters played cat and mouse among the branches and a White-winged Triller put in an appearance.

On Sunday morning in the Gulpa State Forest, we were again joined by Phillip Maher, along with Graham Harrington. A Hooded Robin perched out, while a Gilberts Whistler sang merrily. A first sighting for the forest of a Black-eared Cuckoo was made. The Superb Parrot was sighted briefly as it flew across. Yellow Rosellas were common and Brown Falcons were perched at every corner, and Galahs lined the roads continually.

Our thanks go to Phillip Maher for guiding us through a very interesting weekend in the Deniliquin district.

M. Parkinson.

Andy and I met with the rest of the group at Barham on the Murray River on Monday morning, 15th August. We proceeded through into Victoria to the Lake District west of Kerang and stopped at a few of the lakes to see Ibis rookeries. We also saw our first White-winged Wren and it was a magnificent sight.

We then headed along the Murray Valley Highway to Hattah Lakes National Park. Upon arriving we were surprised to meet Esme and Donald Gay. They had stopped over on the way to Western Australia with the intention of spending a full days birding with us. Unfortunately it rained all the next day and we were busy making ourselves waterproof. The rain cleared the following day, so we started our exploration of the Mallee habitat.

We realised that you had to keep your eye on the sun as the Mallee was so featureless. Dave found this out for a fact the next afternoon whilst searching for Scrub Robins. He found it was almost as difficult to relocate the cars as it was to find the robins. Later that same afternoon, one carload struck it lucky, scaring a Mallee Fowl off the road. When the rest of us in the next car stopped to look for it, we couldn't find it but came across 2 Chestnut Quail-thrush instead.

Chris Sonter and his family drove down from Mildura that night to share a barbecue with us. Chris is Secretary-Editor of the Sunraysia B.O.C. We were also pleased to share our campfire with David Kinlock, Vice-president of the B.O.C. and his daughter, Christina. With three bird clubs represented there are no prizes for guessing what the main topic of conversation was. An interesting night with a three way exchange of ideas.

Our last afternoon at Hattah was spent looking fruitlessly for elusive little Fieldwrens in sparsely vegetated claypans. We left Hattah Lakes on Saturday morning 20th, and headed for Mildura to do some shopping and meet at Chris Sonter's home. After an interesting hour in Chris' study, we headed out to the Meridian Swamps with Chris & Jeff Campbell where a close observation of the beautiful Red-necked Avocet was made, a first for most of the group.

Farewell to Jeff and Chris, then we headed up the Silver City Highway, meeting up just before we crossed the Anabranh of the Darling River. We travelled down about 15klms. of dirt road to set up camp at Lake Neary Nature Reserve on the banks of the Anabranh in time for the best sunset we'd seen.

The next day Wal headed off early to scout for Redthroats and the rest of the group went for a quiet walk along the river and into the saltbush from camp. Had to lay off in the middle of the day to escape flies.

In the afternoon we all hopped into cars and drove down the road to a spot where Wal had heard Redthroats that morning. The group surrounded one in a large clump of bluebush, but after sometime when it failed to appear, we split up, with some people going off to look at the dry Lake Neary and the rest of us spread out searching for Redthroats.

cont.....

I wanted to see a White-winged Wren that I missed. As I was stalking it I also heard a Redthroat calling, so I followed the sound and I was fortunate enough to have a male Redthroat pop up for a few seconds in front of me just as the light was fading, much to Wal's disgust, who had tried so hard to find one.

It rained most of that night and in the morning we were all a bit concerned about the condition of the dirt road back to the highway. Everyone packed up early and Horrie went out in his 4WD Subaru to check if the road was passable. About 1 hour later he trudged back into camp, his car was bogged about 5kms. up the road. So all the men headed off in another car to dig Horrie's car out. It was about 1 hour later when the women decided to walk up and see if they needed help and another hour before they finally got the car out, jacking it up and putting timber under the wheels.

By this time the road had dried out a bit and a few of us headed off to Broken Hill while the rest finished packing. The dirt road back to the highway was slippery in places but we took the short route and were happy to see the tar.

We had a brief look around Broken Hill which we found quite an unusual town, and then regrouped at the turn-off to Mootwingee on the Silver City Highway, north of Broken Hill, about 4-00pm. Good sightings of the Wedgebills were made at this spot.

The road out there was drier but it was dark by the time we arrived at the campsite. We found a spot and after setting up camp settled down for an early night.

Next day we spent individually, wandering around the Historic Site, looking at rock carvings and paintings. Spectacular scenery, but the restricted habitat did not produce many birds. We saw a pair of Red-backed Kingfishers at a nest hole in a bank quite near the campsite and also a White-breasted Woodswallow and Mulga Parrot. A pleasant ended with a beautiful sunset.

The following morning we went on a group walk down a valley, hoping for some bluebush country. The birds were scarce and vegetation sparse, but on the return to camp some of the group sighted White-fronted Honeyeaters feeding in Eremophila, the third sighting for the trip of this nomadic bird.

Andy and I decided to leave early to visit relatives near West Wyalong, so we packed up and left the group that afternoon and headed for Wilcannia via White Cliffs and were rewarded on the way with sightings of both Crimson and Orange Chats.

It rained that night and although we had a slippery trip to West Wyalong we heard the rest of the group had a very boggy drive out of Mootwingee the next morning and decided to head straight home as it was still raining.

Andy and I enjoyed our trip tremendously and I'm sure the rest of the group will join in thanking Dave, Betty, Wal and Hazel for all the effort they put in to make it all worthwhile.

Thanks also to Chris Sonter for his help in planning the Hattah Lakes, Mildura, Lake Neary section of the trip.

153 species were recorded for the trip. Some first sightings for members of the group included:

Black-eared Cuckoo	Bush Stone-curlew
Brolga	Superb Parrot
Regent Parrot	Mulga Parrot
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Purple-gaped Honeyeater
White-fronted Honeyeater	Crested Bellbird
Wedgebill	Splendid Wren
White-winged Wren	Orange Chats
Red-necked Avocet	Crimson Chats
Barking Owl	Redthroat

Anna Knowlson.

Birding Around Dubbo. I would like to share some of the more notable birds and best birding places from our recent ten day camp near Dubbo.

Birdwatching was not quite as easy as when we were in this area in 1981, during the drought when the birds were more concentrated near remaining water.

Perhaps the best area if you intend a trip to this central western district was an extensive wetland called Old Harbour Lagoon, a wildlife refuge on private property near Eumungerie, where we saw Red-capped Dotterel, eight species of ducks, Great Crested Grebe and a wide range of bush birds.

Other good birding was at the Goonoo State Forest and Coolbaggie Nature Reserve through Mogriguy, Burrendong Dam and the Arboretum, the Sewerage Treatment Works at Dubbo and the Western Plains Zoo.

Here such variety of native plants have been established that there would be something in blossom all year round to attract a wide variety of Honeyeaters and where there is permanent water attracting ducks and other water fowl.

Carol & Barry Virtue.

REPORT TO MEMBERS. - 1983.

On the eve of the elections for our executive for 1984, we look briefly at the year past. Our program was much the same as in other years with regular monthly meetings and outings, with film nights during the winter and with camps at Easter and in October. The fortnight trip "out west" in August and the bus trip to the National Botanic Gardens in September were special events. Meetings and outings were well attended and seemed to meet the needs of members, although there was a feeling for more of the outings to be nearer home.

The highlight of the year was installation of two new life members - Doug Gibson for his ornithological understanding and guidance and Laurie Williams for his enthusiasm and untiring work as President from foundation in February 1977 till early this year. The Club owes everything to Doug and Laurie.

More materially, our numbers rose by only a few and with fees still at 1977 level our income from fees was of the order of \$450 - we made a little also from the sale of books. Principal expenditure was for postage of the monthly newsletter. After seven years of existence and after buying this year a typewriter our bank balance stands at \$570.

Dave Thomson	)	President
Wal Emery	)	Vice President
Hazel Emery	)	Hon. Secretary
Ron Almond	)	Hon. Treasurer

Stop Press.

When Ray Seale, Sydney, and John Lowe, France, visited us some time ago they gave us a donation towards a library book. That book, "The Fairy Wrens" by Richard Schodde has now arrived and is in our library - it's a fine book.

I.B.O.C NEWS

DECEMBER, 1983.



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HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



Next Meeting will be held at the Senior Citizens Centre, Cnr Collaery Avenue, and Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow at 7-30pm. on December, 12th 1983. This is our Christmas meeting, the final one for the year.

As in the past our Field Outing will be held on the Saturday prior to the meeting. Meeting at Barren Grounds Field Studies Centre at 3-00pm, 10th December, 1983. Barren Grounds is on the top of Jamberoo Pass, access from Jamberoo or Robertson.

We will be going on a walk in the area, arriving back at the Picnic Area for a Barbecue tea at 7-00pm. So bring plenty to eat. This will be followed by a spotlighting excursion through some of the area, at night.

Programme for the Christmas Get-together is;

- (a) Presidents Welcome
- (b) "Story of a Bird Song" Competition Accompanied by slides
- (c) Birds of a Feather
- (d) Ornithologists Delight
- (e) "Guest Speaker"
- (f) What Bird is that?
- (g) Film
- (h) Father Christmas
- (i) Supper and Fellowship

So put on your thinking caps for the segment "What Bird is that?" Come representing a bird ie. Juggling two stones (turnstone) etc. Come along and make this our final meeting of the year a happy one.

Subscriptions are due on 1st January, 1984, Family \$8, Single \$5, Students \$2. See our Treasurer Ron Almond, or mail your cheque to Ron, 2 Shoobert Crescent, Keiraville, 2500.

November Meeting. At our November meeting, our guest speaker was Humphrey Price-Jones who spoke to us on "Australian Birds of Prey". He gave us some insight into various aspects of these impressive birds. Humphrey mentioned man's fascination with these birds from early times because of their inherent beauty, their soaring ability and their use in the sport of falconry.

He spoke of some modern myths which have developed around birds of prey because little in-depth study has been carried out. He explained that silhouettes are of limited use in field identification, a job which is further complicated by the variations in colour between individual birds, however he suggested that recognition was best served by familiarity and a knowledge of flight feathers.

Humphrey illustrated his talk with slides of his paintings and sketches from his book "Australian Birds of Prey" recently published by Doubleday Press. Humphrey's knowledge of his subjects and his attention to fine detail in his paintings was very impressive. This very interesting talk concluded with a short question period.

P.T.F.

Field Outing to Comerong Island, 19-11-83. Thirty members met at Shoalhaven Heads Caravan Park at 8-30am. then shortly afterwards heading over the extensive sandflats to Comerong Island. A host of waders awaited our eager eyes, a flock of 300 Bar-tailed Godwits provided a great display of aerobatics flying from one spot to another. Included in the group were a pair of Pied Oystercatchers, Red-capped Plovers, Red-necked Stints, Eastern Curlews, Curlew Sandpipers, Sanderling and the attractive Red-kneed Dotterel.

In a samphire covered mud flat Eastern Golden Plovers played hide and seek with us, White-fronted Chats and Golden-headed Cisticolas caught our eye, while on a small lagoon were Black Swans, Chestnut and Grey Teals, while Welcome Swallows and Tree Martins skimmed over its surface.

cont-----

Several pairs of Little Tern, Caspian Terns and Crested Terns gave us an insight to their fishing habits.

On the island we were able to observe Bar-shouldered Doves, Rufous Whistlers, Yellow Thornbill and Eastern Rosella. We stopped for lunch at a beautiful spot overlooking the ocean. Kevin Wood gave us a talk on the difference between Sharp-tailed and Short-tailed Shearwaters with the aid of a beachwashed specimen collected nearby.

The walk back to the cars was uneventful, although we spotted a Rufous-tailed Bronze Cuckoo and a Greenshank. It was a pleasant day for bird observing 73 species being spotted.

Chris Chafer.

October Camp, Deua National Park. Twenty nine club members were camped at the Berlang Rest Area, Deua National Park over the weekend of October 22nd to 23rd. Most of us were in camp on Friday night. Some of the retired members were lucky enough to arrive early Friday morning.

The park is situated in the south-eastern coastal ranges of the State, covering 80,300 ha. Nearby is the remarkable Big Hole, a near vertical sided hole 96 metres deep and 50 metres across. It is thought to have been formed by sedimentary rock collapsing into a hollow cavern of limestone underneath.

Saturday dawned fine and clear, so we set off in the direction of the Big Hole, crossing the Shoalhaven River walking through lovely country. A magnificent view of the green paddocks was had on the higher slopes. A sighting was made of a Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring into the sky, also of the lovely Welcome Swallows flying around the Big Hole.

Walking down along the track we came across a deserted farm house which was surrounded by a garden now overgrown with weeds. Once again we crossed the river and walked back to camp, to enjoy our lunch after a walk lasting five hours. At night around the camp fire, one of our members told us the history of the old deserted farm house which proved very interesting. Some of the members went spot lighting sighting some Brush-tail Possums (mother & Baby) 3 Sugar Gliders, a Wombat and a **roosting Kookaburra.**

Sunday saw us heading out to Tallaganda State Forest, 35klms. south-west of Braidwood. Logging has been going on in this forest for over 90 years and is still being logged today. In 1952 an old waterwheel was brought to the site to generate electricity. This was recently restored and is now in full working order. A sighting was made of the lovely Flame Robin which had a nest under the timber awning over the lunch table. Both male and female were observed feeding their young. We took two short walks before lunch. Sightings were made of the Crescent Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin and Golden Whistler.

After lunch some of those who were leaving for home left us. Those who were left walked a short distance along a track only to be soaked by a sudden downpour in a heavy thunderstorm. The rain continued through the night and early morning. Monday's walk was abandoned so we packed for our journey home only to see sunshine. Deua National Park is a great place to stay even for a few days. It is a place steeped in history, I for one will be going back there soon. In all 64 species of birds were sighted during the weekend.

R.G.H.

On visiting friends at their property "Snowball" 20 klms. from the camp site at Deua National Park, we discovered they knew a great deal about the area. John and Gwen Horne are friends of our daughter and her husband. John's father was a hairdresser in Crown St. Wollongong many years ago. They are people in their early sixties and as a young girl Gwen used to walk along the track to the Big Hole. Their parents told them "scary stories" about this great hole so as to keep both her and her brothers out of harms way. The deserted farmhouse belonged to her uncle. The house was flooded on many occasions, so it was in part taken to higher ground. As a girl Gwen remembers the lovely garden which her mother kept neat and tidy. We saw remains of that garden on our walk and it still looked great though full of weeds. Fruit trees were planted and flowering shrubs dotted the area. Her mother was a great gardener and Gwen remembers the parties at her house and the dances on the lovely lawns.

cont.....

But floods caused a great deal of damage so this house was moved also. The garden we saw was still lovely to see and looked as if someone had looked after it in days gone by. John used to ride his bicycle to Braidwood which took a days journey, over rough roads. When Gwen was married she moved to "Snowball" and her husband has never seen the area around Deua National Park. The copper we saw in the paddock was used to "boil" down the wild pigs which were caught and used for meat for the animals. The old rusty machine was used to crush the eucalyptus leaves so as to extract the liquid.

L. Potter.

Special sightings for September-October+November, 1983.

Status uncommon, scarce & rare within the County of Camden.

R. Great Knot	1	Lake Entrance	14-9-83	C. Chafer
S. Black-tailed Godwit	3	Lake Entrance	14-9-83	"
U. Common Tern	1	" "	16-9-83	"
S. Grey Plover	1	Shoalhaven Heads	18-9-83	"
Striated Heron	1	Hooka Point	20-9-83	"
S. Black-tailed Godwit	4	Macquarie Rivulet Mth	25-9-83	"
U. Swamp Harrier	1	"	25-9-83	"
R. Great Knot	1	Lake Entrance	30-9-83	"
S. Whimbrel	1	" "	30-9-83	"
R. Great Knot	1	Shoalhaven Heads	9-10-83	"
S. Whimbrel	2	"	9-10-83	"
C. Bar-tailed Godwit	665	"	9-10-83	"
U. Swamp Harrier	1	Barren Grounds	17-10-83	"
R. Terek Sandpiper	1	Lake Entrance	24-10-83	"
R. Wandering Tattler	1	Windang Island	28-10-83	" & R. Imisides
U. Black-winged Stilt	1	Killalea Swamp	28-10-83	" "
R. Whiskered Tern	29	"	28-10-83	" "
MC Mongolian Plover	15	Shoalhaven Heads	14-11-83	C. Chafer
R. Great-crested Grebe	1	Hoskins Nature Reserve	12-11-83	K. Mills
S. Scarlet Honeyeater	1	Bulli	17-10-83	J. Smeaton
MC Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	Bulli pass Top	29-10-83	"
MC White-fronted Tern	6	Woonona	30-10-83	"
U. Brown Pigeon	1	Bulli	29-10-83	"
R. Red-kneed Dotterel	1	Shoalhaven Heads	12-11-83	P. Ewin
S. Scarlet Honeyeater	1	Dapto	8-11-83	A. Knowlson
U. Sooty Oystercatcher	1	Minnamurra Ent	11-11-83	"
MC Wonga Pigeon	1	Mt. Kembla	13-11-83	R. Simcock
MC White-breasted Sea-eagle	2	Shoalhaven	14-10-83	K. Hansen
U. Rainbow Lorikeet	1	Primbee	24-9-83	R. Imisides
S. Spangled Drongo	1	Korrongulla Swamp	11-10-83	"
R. Swift Parrot	6	"	30-10-83	"

BARREN GROUNDS BIRD OBSERVATORY FIELD STUDIES CENTRE. P.O. Box 3 JAMBEROO

Programme of Courses Summer & Autumn. for details phone (042) 360195

THE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF BARRENGROUNDS.

leader: Gary Daly

Dates: December 2nd to 4th 1983

cost: \$48

A practical look at snakes, lizards and frogs with an expert herpetologist. The reptiles and amphibians of Barren Grounds have been little studied, and course members will be able to assist with increasing our knowledge of the local species. Both for beginners and those with some experience.

GROUND PARROTS AND CHRISTMAS BELLS

leaders: Richard & Pat Jordon

Dates: December 30th 1983 to January 2nd 1984

cost: \$66

See in the year of the Brave New World with a fun course, which combines survey work on the elusive Ground Parrot with a look at the remarkable heathland flora, especially the spectacular display of Christmas Bells. Plenty of light-hearted moments on this

course - even more than normal.

cont.....

FRUIT BATS & FLYING MICE.

Dates: January 6th to 8th 1984

leader: Chris Tideman

cost: \$53

An introduction to the fascinating bats of southern Australia. Course members will visit a flying-fox camp and be involved in the trapping of insectivorous bats. They will learn something about all the bat species which inhabit this region, and how to identify them. Mainly for beginners.

BIRDS FOR BEGINNERS.

Dates: January 13th to 15th 1984

leaders: Richard & Pat Jordon

cost: \$48

A practical introduction to the birds of Barren Grounds Nature Reserve. How to identify common birds; learning about bird calls, and books and equipment needed. Another of our popular courses to increase understanding and awareness of bush birds. A close look at some species by mist-netting and banding.

LEARNING ABOUT NATURAL HISTORY.

Date: January 27th to 30th 1984

Leaders: Richard & Pat Jordon

cost: \$66

A long weekend involving a variety of activities to increase understanding and awareness of the natural environment. The course will include work on identifying wild-flowers and birds; something about the effect of fire on plant and animal life; a close look at some of the mammals and birds of the area, and walks and talks with an expert on the aboriginal culture of the Illawarra. Mainly for interested beginners.

ALL ABOUT INSECTS.

Dates: February 24th to 26th 1984

Leaders: Dr. Courtnay Smithers/ Geoff

cost: \$53

Holloway

A course to learn about the collection, identification and preservation of insects. An opportunity to learn more about butterflies, beetles and many, many more. Field work by day and night with experts from the Australian Museum. An opportunity not to be missed. For interested beginners.

ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BIRDS BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK cost: \$53

Dates: March 2nd to 4th 1984

leaders: John & Mary De Jose

See what the twitchers are missing. Learn what the birds are doing and why. To to with that -- an illustrated guide to Kentucky Fried - A Hands-on Experience. Get to know what makes it go! BYO BARBQ CHOOK. A fun course with two lively experts on the bird world.

WORKSHOP ON THE NON-DESTRUCTIVE ANALYSIS OF BIRDS DIETS.

Dates: March 17th to 19th 1984

cost: on application

This is a workshop for bird-banders interested in techniques of dietary analysis. Ask for further details.

A NATURE RETREAT.

Dates: March 30th April 1st 1984

leaders: Richard & Pat Jordon

cost: on application

A course of varied and practical environment activities being organised by the Department of Leisure, Sport and Tourism in Wollongong. Please ask for further details.

BIRDS FOR BEGINNERS.

Dates: April 6th to 8th 1984

leaders: Richard & Pat Jordon

cost: \$48

Another practical introduction to the world of birds, to be organised along the same lines as the course in January. This course will also include an introduction to simple bird-study projects suitable for the enthusiastic beginner.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY - A PRACTICAL GUIDE. leader: to be advised
 Dates: April 19th to 23rd 1984 (Easter Weekend) Cost: \$90

A chance to learn about the specialised techniques involved in photographing plants, birds and animals. A look at the equipment available, and a chance to try things out for yourself. Practical darkroom work, including making Cibachrome prints. Automatic devices for photographing wildlife, and tips for working from hides. Ask for further details.

BIRD-IN-THE-HAND. leader: Alan Leishman
 Dates: May 4th to 6th 1984 cost: \$53

Another of Alan's popular courses to introduce bird-watchers to the skills and techniques of bird-banding. The use of mist-nets and traps to capture birds for marking and study. A chance to see many bird species in close-up. We shall also be looking at moult and bird parasites. For beginners and those with some experience.

BIRDS, BEES AND BANKSIAS. leader: Dr. Rob Whelan
 Dates: May 11th to 13th 1984 cost: \$53

Rob is an ecology lecturer at the University of Wollongong working on a number of research projects in Barren Grounds Nature Reserve. In this course he will be looking at the pollination of plants by small mammals, insects and birds particularly honeyeaters. This is the time when large numbers of nectar-feeding birds visit the Barren Grounds area and we shall be capturing some, and looking at the way they feed and assist with pollination. We shall also capture some small mammals and study their influence on plant pollination.

CANBERRA CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION. leader: Sonia Tideman
 Dates: May 25th to 27th 1984 cost: on application

A course being organised through the Australian National University, and concerned principally with work on honeyeaters. Please ask for details.

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW. leader: John Dengate
 Dates: June 8th to 11th 1984 cost: \$73

A long-weekend course led by John, who is a broadcaster, and an extension officer with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. His lively approach will introduce you to the birds of Barren Grounds Nature Reserve. Something about identification, bird families and flight - and a close look at birds in the hand (as part of the bird-banding programme at Barren Grounds)

BIRDS FOR BEGINNERS. leaders: Richard & Pat Jordan
 Dates: June 22nd to 24th 1984 cost: \$48

Another beginners course, which will be organised along the same lines as the one in January. At this time of the year there will be special emphasis on lyrebirds and honeyeaters. The lyrebirds will be at the peak of their courtship displays, and honeyeaters pass through the area in large numbers to take advantage of winter-flowering banksias. Mainly for beginners.

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB.PROGRAM FOR 1984.

February 8th Wednesday 5-30pm	Outing	Windang Estuary
February 13th Monday 7-30pm	Meeting	Keith Coles -Bird Photography
February 19th Sunday 8-00am	Outing	Corrimal Airshaft
March 12th Monday 7-30pm	Meeting	Kevin Wood - Waterfowl & Waders Of Lake Illawarra
March 17th Saturday 8-00am	Outing	Lake Illawarra/Macquarie Rivulet
April 9th Monday 7-30pm	Meeting	Prof. E. Cowie W.U.- European Birds
April 15th Sunday	Outing	Mt. Murray/Summit Tank
April 19th Thursday/28th Sat.	Easter Camp	Pilliga State Forest
May 5th Saturday 6-00pm	Film Night	
May 14th Monday 7-30pm	Meeting	Mr. John Dengate (N.P.&W.S.) Bird Flight
May 19th Saturday 2-00pm	Outing	Australian Museum
May 26th Saturday	Autumn Bird Count	
June 2nd Saturday 6-00pm	Film Night	
June 11th Monday 7-30pm	Meeting	Members Night
June 16th Saturday	Outing	Royal National Park
June 30th Saturday 6-00pm	Film Night	
July 9th Monday 7-30pm	Meeting	Mr. John Wrigley (M.W.S&D.B) Managing Water Catchment areas
July 15th Sunday	Outing	Killalea Swamp/Bass Point
August 4th Saturday 6-00	Film Night	
August 13th Monday 7-30pm	Meeting	Yet to be arranged
August 18th Saturday	Outing	Barren Grounds
September 8th Saturday	Coach Trip	Kuring-gai Wildflower Gardens & National Park
September 10th Monday 7-30pm	Meeting	Ms. Denise Black
September 16th Sunday	Outing	Morton National Park
September 29th Sat/1st Oct Monday	Family Camp	Upper Kangaroo Valley
October 19th Friday/21st Saturday	Camp	Sandy Hollow
October 27th Saturday	Spring Bird Count	
November 12th Monday 7-30pm	Meeting	Mr. Arnold McGill O.A.M. Honeyeaters
November 17th Saturday	Outing	Taronga Zoo
December 8th	Christmas Barbecue	Berry
December 10th Monday 7-30pm	Christmas Meeting	
