



FEBRUARY, 1986.

THE CIRCULAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB  
 Registered by Aust. Post Publication No N8H 3848  
POSTAL ADDRESS P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW NSW 2519

<u>CLUB MOTTO</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>
"One Good Tern Deserves Another"	Jim Robinson 16 Burling Avenue <u>MT. OUSLEY NSW 2519</u> 29-4213	Anna Knowlson Nth. Marshall Mt. Rd. <u>MARSHALL MT. NSW 2527</u> 56-6142	Ron Almond 2 Shoobert Cresc. <u>KEIRAVILLE NSW 2500</u> 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.

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

NEXT MEETING - will be held at the Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Centre, cnr. of Collaery Avenue & Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow on Monday 10th February at 7.30pm. Our GUEST SPEAKER for the evening will be Mr. Chris Pavich. He will speak to us about the management of the Illawarra Escarpment State Recreation Area. Chris addressed our club 2 years ago about the formation of the State Recreation Area and has kindly offered to return and discuss with us what developments have taken place since. This will be a chance for members to learn more about a very important part of their local environment.

WINDANG ESTUARY EXCURSION - As has been the practice in past years, our 1986 activities will commence with an evening outing to the entrance of Lake Illawarra. We will meet at the eastern end of the northern shore adjacent to the Windang Caravan Park on Wednesday 5th February at 5.30pm. From here we will walk across the sandflats to the entrance to view the waders. Bring a sandwich and a cuppa and enjoy a pleasant start to the new year.

FIELD OUTING - Saturday 15th February to Comerong Island which is located at the eastern end of Terara Road on the south side of the Shoalhaven River. Cross the Shoalhaven River bridge and turn left into Terara Road. Access to the island is by vehicular ferry. We will be meeting at the ferry at 8.30am. Those arriving early can cross the river and help ease the congestion at the ferry. Anyone not wishing to take their car onto the island can park and be accommodated in other vehicles. Barry Virtue will lead the outing. Bring a carry lunch.

PAYMENT OF FEES - Fees are now due for the 1986 calendar year. They remain unchanged at Family \$8, Single \$5, Student \$2. Payment should be made to Hon. Treasurer, Ron Almond, 2 Shoobert Crescent, Keiraville, 2500, or paid at the February meeting. Please note The 1986 membership list will be compiled from financial members only and only those on the list will receive the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES - To enable the editor to produce an interesting & informative newsletter it is essential to maintain a constant flow of articles from members. The articles can be as brief as a few lines or as much as 2,000 words, a summary of a trip, an interesting observation in your garden, the results of a personal study or survey.

The more varied the articles, the more the newsletter will reflect the diverse interests of the membership. Your newsletter needs your contributions. Post articles to IBOC editor, Wal Emery, 63 Dymock Street, Balgownie 2519 or bring them to the monthly meetings.

SEABIRD TRIPS OFF WOLLONGONG - Following on from the excellent results obtained from the 1985 boat trips, David Fischer has organised a full programme for 1986. The dates are as follows:-

<u>January</u>	Saturday 25th - Sunday 26th	<u>July</u>	Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th
<u>February</u>	Saturday 15th - Sunday 16th	<u>August</u>	Saturday 23rd - Sunday 24th
<u>March</u>	Saturday 22nd - Sunday 23rd	<u>September</u>	Saturday 27th - Sunday 28th
<u>April</u>	Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th	<u>October</u>	Saturday 25th - Sunday 26th
<u>May</u>	Saturday 24th - Sunday 25th	<u>November</u>	Saturday 22nd - Sunday 23rd
<u>June</u>	Saturday 28th - Sunday 29th	<u>December</u>	Saturday 13th - Sunday 14th

For further information on cost & bookings ring David Fischer (042) 27-1704

DECEMBER FIELD OUTING - Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve, Saturday 8th December, 1985

The final outing of the year, 32 members met at the 'Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve' about 3-30pm in the car parking area. The weather during the afternoon was overcast, warm and humid with a light southerly breeze. A light sprinkle occurred for a few minutes about 4-00pm.

The club made a visit to the reserve on the 20th August, 1978. Since then the character and habitat has changed considerably. Where it was only grassland with a few eucalypts, it has now a variety of vegetation, which has been introduced. Some of the vegetation there is bottle brush, tea trees, acacias and a type of hawthorn along the hillside overlooking the lagoon. The lagoon covers a large area of the river flats, being part of the Wingecarribee River, and is generally shallow with reeds and other aquatic growth covering much of the surface area, with a few small islands, creating a natural habitat for the large number and variety of species of waterfowl throughout the area.

One eucalypt we observed contained a bee hive, and two others the Common Starling nesting in the old hollow trunks.

Throughout the afternoon 19 species of waterfowl were identified there. One prize sighting was the Blue-billed Duck, of which there is only one other recorded sighting within the County of Camden. There were 4 males and two females identified. Two pairs of Great Crested Grebe were observed among the reeds, one pair with 3 young. Some other birds observed there were the Hardhead, Musk Duck, Pink-eared Duck, Grey & Chestnut Teal, Australasian Shoveler and Black Swan. The Little Grassbird and Clamorous Reed Warbler were sighted among the reeds along the length of the lagoon on a number of occasions.

About 5-00pm dark clouds came over with the distant rumbling of thunder. Half an hour later rain began to fall, lightly at first, but within half an hour fell much heavier causing a cancellation of any further activities for the day. During the afternoon a total of 32 species were observed.

H. Ward.

DECEMBER MEETING - A good time was enjoyed by all at the December social evening. A packed hall was entertained by a number of IBOC members as they portrayed some of the more humorous sides of birdwatching. The birds nest hat parade again showed the ingenuity of members and produced some mind boggling creations. As usual the supper table overflowed with goodies topping off an enjoyable evening.

Thanks to all those who participated in the evenings activities and contributed to its success. The committee would like to thank all members for their involvement throughout 1985 and look forward to another successful year in 1986.

Wal Emery.

THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK - AT NIGHT.

On the evening of the 14th November, David Fischer and myself decided to go spotlighting along Lady Carrington Drive in the Royal National Park. This road is a particularly good birding area and is generally closed to vehicular traffic.

Arriving at the park about 5-30pm we walked along the track for several kilometres finally settling on the rest area at Palona Brook as our starting point. Several good diurnal species were found on our inward journey, Collared Sparrowhawk, Rose Robin, Golden Whistler, Black-faced Monarch and Green Catbird.

Dusk was well established when we recorded our first nocturnal species, a pair of Southern Boobooks calling. All of a sudden we heard a call that sounded like a descending bomb whistling.

Moments later the call was repeated and our excitement grew. Quickly we packed up and headed off in the call's direction. We stopped in a fairly clear area where we could view the opposite side of the creek, the area where the calls were coming from. We imitated the call several times and the bird responded. Eagerly we watched the opposite slope calling at intervals hoping to attract the bird closer. And then out of nowhere not one but two birds could be seen flying towards us in the moonlit sky. Quickly the spotlight centred on one bird and we enjoyed brief but exciting views of the beautiful and rare Sooty Owl.

The birds alighted in nearby trees and began chattering to each other in their alternate call, a sort of 'rolling trill'. Despite vigorous searching with the spotlight we could not get another view and after ten minutes we decided to start making our way back to the car.

The next creatures to enter the spotlight were mammals, a few Greater Gliders and a pair of Common Ringtail Possums. Suddenly the ghostly shape of an owl glided across the searching beam and flew further up the track. Quickly we followed and found it sitting on an overhanging branch. David set up his spotting scope while I watched with binoculars. It's hunched appearance, large talons and dark rimmed mask left no doubt that we were looking at another rare owl, the Masked Owl. We watched this owl through the scope for nearly five minutes before it decided to move on.

Next up were a pair of Common Brushtail Possums and a Swamp Wallaby. Only a short distance from the car we found our last bird for the night, an Owlet Nightjar, casually sat preening itself on a low branch totally unconcerned by our presence.

Without question this is the most exciting night of spotlighting I have experienced and proves that if you go out often enough eventually something totally unexpected will crop up and provide the observer with a truly memorable experience.

Chris Chafer.

TRIUMPH & TRAGEDY.

Pottering about in my front garden one morning in early March, I wondered why the Bulbuls were making such a din, so unlike their usual 4 note call. Just as I had decided it was probably because I was out there disturbing them, I caught sight of a seagull with something dangling from its feet. A closer look revealed no seagull but an Australian Kestrel with one of my Bulbuls dangling from its talons. I didn't see it swoop but it was still trying to clear the power lines on its upward flight when I saw it.

A little later the same morning I was hacking into an overgrown section of the garden at the side of the house when I spotted something bluey-green. I raked it out and found it was the body of a small kingfisher, the Sacred, I think. As I haven't seen one in the yard for many years I wonder, was it the cat or did the kestrel drop it on an earlier flight?

Margaret Ward.

.../4



A BRIEF SURVEY OF WATERFOWL IN THE ILLAWARRA.

On the weekend of 6th & 7th July 1985, Lindsey E. Smith and myself conducted a brief survey of waterfowl on the coastal Illawarra plain. This was brought about by a noticeable influx of Pink-eared Duck and Australasian Shoveler to the Windang estuary.

Three areas were covered over the weekend, Lake Illawarra including the Ash Ponds at Tallawarra, the Dunmore area including Killalea Lagoon and the lower Shoalhaven estuary including Nowra Sewerage Ponds.

On Lake Illawarra we found 1,830 Grey Teal, 251 Chestnut Teal, 142 Pink-eared Duck, 128 Australasian Shoveler and 40 Musk Duck on the Ash Ponds. Killalea Lagoon added 52 Hardhead and 2 Musk Duck. The Nowra Sewerage Ponds produced an incredible 765 Hardhead on one pond about 50 metres by 20 metres in area. A pair of Australian Shelduck were also found here. Some 70 Australasian Shoveler were located near the entrance of Broughton Creek, while near Pig Island, we found 25 Pink-eared Duck. In the lagoon on the northern side of Comerong Island we found 53 shoveler and over 500 Black Duck. On the river bank near the ferry crossing we counted 600 Black Duck and 1,200 Grey Teal. Large numbers of Chestnut Teal and Eurasian Coot were spread up and down the river.

The total result was a mammoth 8,108 ducks and 950 coot (see table) and goes further to proving that coastal wetlands provide an important habitat for our waterfowl. I would like to thank Phil Bath and Diana Wright for assisting in counting and Barry Virtue for organising entry permission to the Nowra Sewerage Ponds.

SPECIES	LAKE ILLAWARRA	DUNMORE	SHOALHAVEN EST.	TOTAL.
Grey Teal	1,830	40	2,873	4,743
Chestnut Teal	251		490	741
Pink-eared Duck	142		26	168
Aust. Shoveler	128		137	265
Black Duck	50	40	1,200	1,290
Musk Duck	40	2		42
Maned Duck			40	40
Aust. Shelduck			2	2
Hardhead		52	765	817
Eurasian Coot	200	200	550	950
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,641</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>6,083</b>	<b>9,058</b>

Chris Chafer.

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS FOR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 1985.

U Black-winged Stilt	4 adults	4 chicks	Bass Pt.	26-11-85	C. Chafer
S Black-tailed Godwit	1		Comerong Island	20-11-85	"
R Great Knot	1		"	20-11-85	"
R White-winged Tern	1		Windang	9-12-85	"
S Logrunner	1		Woonona	6-11-85	K. Mills
S Diamond Firetail	1		Bass Point	9-11-85	"
U Common Koel	1		Woonona	25-11-85	"
U Ruddy Turnstone	4		Lake Illawarra	5-11-85	M. Parkinson
S Eastern Reef Egret	1		Bass Pt.	5-11-85	P. Bath
R Pied Oystercatcher	1		"	10-11-85	"
S Satin Flycatcher	2		Stanwell Park	10-85	D Perry
Buller's Albatross	1		Boat Trip East	23 & 24-11-85	Seabird Group
Buller's Shearwater	2		of Wollongong	" "	Records Per
Black Petrel	1		" "	" "	D. Fischer
Buller's Shearwater	1		" "	14 & 15-12-85	" "
White Tern	1		" "	" "	" "
White-necked Petrel	1		" "	" "	" "
Sooty Tern			" "	" "	" "
Cook's Petrel	1		" "	" "	" "

I.B.O.C. SPRING BIRD COUNT - 2 NOVEMBER 1985 - COUNT NO. 14

Weather - Fine and warm (25°C) in morning, turning cloudy in mid afternoon.  
Slight wind from S.E.

Area 1 - North

Team 1: Horace Ward, Debbie Perry, Bob and Peg McKinley  
Team 2: Ron Almond, Jim Robinson and Esme Gay.

Two Teams: 13 hrs, 75 kms, 62 species (cumulative)

Area 2 - Thirroul

Ian Rowles and Jeff Smeaton

One Team: 11 hrs, 120 kms, 86 species

Area 3 - Corrimal

Wal and Hazel Emery

One Team: 12½ hrs, 43 kms, 97 species

Area 4 - Mt Keira

Andrew and Anna Knowlson, Ron Simcock, Luke McGettigan

One Team: 9½ hrs, 82 kms, 64 species

Area 5 - Wollongong

Lawrie and Nola Williams, Jack Hyslop

One Team: 7 hrs, 52 kms, 65 species

Area 6 - Dapto

Team 1: Lorraine and Les Hurt

Team 2: Chris Brandis and Phil Bath

Two Teams: 14 hrs, 82 kms, 101 species (cumulative)

Area 7 - Lake

Kevin Hood and Peter Fackender

One Team: 10 hrs, 60 kms, 91 species

I.B.O.C. Area Total: 9 teams, 24 people, 77 hrs  
514 kms, 170 species, 13824 individuals

COMMENTARY

There is rarely a bird count which does not show up something of a record and this count is no exception. A total of 170 species is two species more than our previous highest in Spring 1982, and 13824 individuals is easily our lowest since the same Spring count (16491 individuals). The reason for this is somewhat unclear as it is usual to expect that good seasons, such as the present, would produce both a high number of individuals and species. A casual comparison with the numbers of individuals seen on previous counts for various species, shows that there is not a particular family involved; rather there is a general reduction in the numbers of individuals of most families.

With such a fine species tally, one would rightly expect some "first-timers". The six of these species are shown in Table I. I also found it surprising when I was able to list 20 species of which only one individual was recorded and these birds are included in Table II.

Table I

Brown Bittern  
Sanderling  
Little Greenshank  
Whimbrel  
Red-rumped Parrot  
Scaly-breasted Larikeet

SPECIES SEEN FOR THE FIRST  
TIME IN I.B.O.C. BIRD COUNTS

Table II

Nankeen Kestrel  
Peregrine Falcon  
Little Eagle  
Collared Sparrowhawk  
Brown Goshawk  
Boobook Owl  
Arctic Skua  
Brown Bittern  
Mangrove Heron  
White-necked Heron  
Whimbrel

Sanderling  
Red-rumped Parrot  
Scaly Thrush  
Blackbird  
Rock warbler  
Varied Sitella  
Cicada Bird  
Rose Robin  
Chestnut-rumped Heath wren

SPECIES FOR WHICH ONLY ONE INDIVIDUAL  
WAS SEEN DURING 1985 SPRING BIRD COUNT

White-plumed honeyeaters are not on our list for the first time in eight counts. The small population (max 5) which was previously known near Phil Adams Park, Corrimal, could not be found. This raises a number of questions, eg did the birds simply die there, did they move away during the past good season, or are they still nearby? Time will help us answer the latter of these queries but answers to the former are a little more difficult.

The end of 1987 completes 10 years of bird counts and it has been suggested that the survey may thereafter take a different form. This could give our club an opportunity to start counts in other parts of the County of Camden. Any ideas or views from members would be much appreciated.

Lastly, I thank once again all those who participated, particularly in the absence of some of our regular leaders who were lucky to be holidaying in quite different habitats.

K.A. Wood

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	NORTH	THIRROUL	CORIMAL	MT KEIRA	WONGS	DAPTO	LAKE	TOTAL
East Swamphen			14		5	12	2	33
Coot			1		165	47	58	270
Brown Bittern			1					1
Sooty O/C			1		2		2	5
Spur-W Plover	4	6	9	7	9	31	25	91
E Golden Plover			3			49	28	49
Red-Capped Dot								31
Common Tern							2	2
Blk-Fronted Dot	2							2
Bar T Godwit					63		65	128
Eastern Curlew							13	13
Greenshank							15	15
Tattler							2	2
Jap Snipe				1			3	4
Sharp-T S/P							130	130
Curlew S/P							4	4
Red-Necked Stint							45	45
Dominican Gull		3	1					4
Silver Gull	110	200	415	18	2735	1222	755	5455
Caspian Tern					2		2	4
Crested Tern	1	11	3		4		40	59
Little Tern							75	75
Topknot Pigeon						14		14
Domestic Pigeon		2	9		4	1	13	29
Brown Pigeon		6	20	2		9		37
Wonga Pigeon			3	4		3		10
SP Turtle dove	7	15	36	4	13	2	13	90
Y-T Blk Cuckatoo				4				4
S-Cr Wh Cuckatoo	17	16	6	4		8	2	53
Gang Gang				2				2
Galah	19	11	16		2	23	10	81
Green Winged Pigeon			1	1				2
Crested Pigeon						3	1	4
Wh-headed Pigeon						2		2
Brown Falcon	1	1						2
Little Falcon						1		2
Peregrine Falcon			1					1

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	NORTH	THIRROUL	CORIMAL	MT KEIRA	WONGS	DAPTO	LAKE	TOTAL
Little Grebe				20	5	4	35	31
Hoary-H Grebe					2			37
Arctic Skua				1				1
Fluttering S/W							50	50
Sh-Tailed S/W							20	20
W-Tailed S/W							25	25
Pelican			1	9	36		49	95
Ege Blk Cormorant		8	7		63	1	40	119
Little Blk Corm		1	4	1	18	2	35	61
Pied Silt					4		4	8
Little Pied Corm	1	1	13		10	4	60	89
Wh Faced Heron		1	4	1		2	14	22
Cattle Egret			8			122	6	136
Large Egret		1			3		17	21
Little Egret							11	11
Straw-Neck Ibis							20	20
White Ibis							25	25
Royal S/B			1				16	17
Black Swan					9	2	500	511
Black Duck		5	13		37	24	12	94
Mallard (1)	3		4				12	16
Grey Teal			4		40	1	300	345
Chestnut Teal	4					19	31	54
Wood Duck	30	1	8	38		62	5	144
Musk Duck							5	5
Wh-Eyed Duck					9			9
Black Sh Kite					1	2		3
Nankeen Kestrel							1	1
Dusky Moorhen		6	14		20	19	6	65
Wh-necked Heron						1		1
Mangrove Heron							1	1
Ruddy Turnstone		1	27		10		9	47
Whimbrel			1					1
Little Greenshank							2	2
Sanderling							1	1

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	NORT+	HIRROL	CORIMAL	MT KERA	WGONG	AFRO	SKM	TOTAL
King Parrot	4	4	6	7		6		23
Crimson Rosella	25	14	6	29		22	4	96
Eastern Rosella	2	6	5	2		13	2	32
Fan-T Cuckoo	5	11	9	12	4	11	2	54
Sacred K/F	2	7	2	2	1	4		18
Kookaburra	9	12	8	6	4	23		62
Sup Lyrebird	2	2	3	5		2		12
Welcome Swallow	17	23	45	8	33	82	60	268
Tree Martin	2	57	6			7	20	72
Fairy Martin	4	8	6		8	13	12	67
Pipit	7	4	3	3	1	3	4	51
Blk-F Cuckoo Shr	9	22	34	2	23	9	12	25
Red-Wh Bulbul	16	20	47	9	5	23		111
East Whipbird	2	2	18		10	1	10	120
Reed Warbler	5	15	4		15	6	12	43
Golden-H Cisticola	7	7	38	8	6	20	2	52
Nk-Browed Ser Wren	6	5	13	18	21	59	18	86
Sup Blue Wren	2	2	4	2	2	1		140
Variegated Wren	1	27	27		13	8	6	11
Yellow T/B	5	12	30	16	1	5		55
Striated T/B	20	13	5	14	1	22		68
Brown T/B								65
Y-Rumped T/B				4		8	3	11
Buff-Rumped T/B								4
Brown Warbler		25	42	2		8		107
Wh-Throated Warb			1			4		5
Wh-Fronted Chat							4	4
Grey Fantail	16	7	20	11	5	25	1	85
Willie Wagtail	4	1	6	1	1	24	10	47
Blk-Faced F/C	3	17	15	2	1	8		46
Yellow Robin	6	3	14	3		7		33
Brown Goshawk			1					1
Grey Goshawk		2	2	1		1		6
Collared Sp-hawk			1					1
Little Eagle			1					1
Whistling Kite						1	3	4
Wh-bellied Sea Eagle	1					1		2
Boobook Owl		1						1

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	NORT+	HIRROL	CORIMAL	MT KERA	WGONG	AFRO	SKM	TOTAL
Golden Whistler	4	8	21	8		2	1	44
Rufous Whistler	2	4	6	4	4	12	3	35
Grey Thrush	1	6	6	3		6		22
Wh-Throated T/C		3	3	5		7		18
Mistletoe Bird		2	3	1		4	3	11
Spotted Pardalote	5	2	13	6	5	19		50
F Striated Pard						4		4
Silvereye	8	32	54	10	40	57	35	236
E Spinebill	16	17	29	21	2	33	2	120
Lewin H/E	12	21	39	19	4	38	1	134
Y-Faced H/E	13	12	4	25	1	11		66
New Holland H/E	38	16	26		23	7		110
Noisy Miner		40	12	8		39	10	109
Little Wattlebird	25	10	26	5	3	1		70
Red Wattlebird	1	6		3		4		8
Goldfinch (I)					18	4	11	39
Red-Browed Finch	8		27	1	5	26	3	70
Sparrow (I)	14	50	61	5	60	82	105	374
Starling (I)	33	50	70	2	55	207	116	533
Indian Myna (I)	16	45	82	5	22	33	30	233
Magpie Lark	7	1	10	1	3	28	20	70
Dusky W/S		25				4		29
Grey Butcherbird	4	2	2	1			2	11
Magpie	10	9	15	13	1	93	16	157
Pied Currawong	12	9	8	15	2	7		53
Catbird		6	2	3		1		12
Satin Bowerbird	11	7	22	11	1	16		68
Aust Raven	16	27	43	21	16	84	18	225
Yellow-thr Ser Wr	1	3	16					20
Large-billed Ser Wr			4					4
Sthn F mu Wren	2	1				1		4
Little Grassbird			8					8
Chestnut-rump H Wren		1						1

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ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB

PROGRAMME FOR 1986.

FEBRUARY

Wed. 5th 5.30pm	Outing	Windang Estuary
Mon. 10th 7.30pm	Meeting	Chris Pavich - Management of the Illawarra Escarpment State Recreation Area.
Sat. 15th 8.30am	Outing	Comerong Island

MARCH

Mon. 10th 7.30pm	Meeting	Graham Pyke - "Abundance & Nesting of Heathland Honeyeaters"
Sun. 16th 8.00am	Outing	Mt. Murray
Fri. 28th - Mon 31st	Easter Camp	Jingellic

APRIL

Mon. 14th 7.30pm	Meeting	Members' Night
Sat. 19th 8.00am	Outing	Mainbar

MAY

Sat. 3rd 6.00	Film Night	...
Mon. 12th 7.30pm	Meeting	Richard Jordan - "Research at Barren Grounds Bird Observatory"
Sat. 17th 8.30am	Outing	Mittagong
Sat. 31st 6.00	Film Night	...
Sat. 31st ...	Autumn Bird Count	

JUNE

Mon. 9th 7.30pm	Meeting	Jack Waterhouse - "Mallee Birds"
Sat. 14th 8.30am	Outing	Avondale

JULY

Sat. 5th 6.00pm	Film Night	...
Mon. 14th 7.30pm	Meeting	Ian Rowles - "Bird Photography"
Sun. 20th 8.30am	Outing	O'Hare's Creek

AUGUST

Sat. 2nd 6.00pm.	Film Night	...
Mon. 11th 7.30pm	Meeting	Deborah Perry - "The Dampier Archipelago"
Sat. 16th 8.30am	Outing	Douglas Park

SEPTEMBER

Sun. 7th 7.30am	Coach Trip	Jervis Bay Botanic Gardens
Mon. 8th 7.30pm	Meeting	Wyn Filewood - "A Contribution to The National Photographic Index"
Sat. 13th 8.00am	Outing	Calderwood

OCTOBER

Fri. 3rd - Mon. 6th	Family Camp	Goulburn
Fri. 24th - 27th	Camp	Murga

NOVEMBER

Sat. 1st	Spring Bird Count	
Mon. 10th 7.30pm	Meeting	A. McGill O.A.M. - "Those Little Brown Birds"
Sat. 15th 9.00am	Outing	Springwood

DECEMBER.

Sat. 6th 3.00pm	Christmas B.B.Q.	Royal National Park
Mon. 8th 7.30pm	Christmas Meeting	

Note that at the November meeting we conduct our brief Annual General Meeting to elect our principal office-bearers for 1987.

# I. B. O. C. NEWS

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No. 91 MARCH, 1986.



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

CLUB MOTTO

"One good Tern  
Deserves Another"

PRESIDENT

Jim Robinson  
16 Burling Avenue  
MT. OUSLEY NSW 2519  
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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

NEXT MEETING - will be held at the Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Centre, corner of Collaery Avenue & Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow on Monday 10th March at 7-30am. Our Guest Speaker for the evening will be Graham Pyke from the Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Australian Museum. Graham will talk on "Abundance & Nesting of Heathland Honeyeaters". This should prove to be a very interesting and informative evening.

FIELD OUTING - Sunday 16th March, 8-00am., Mt. Murray area. The leader for this outing will be Laurie Williams. We will meet at the Waterboard gate entrance to Gerrigaroo Pine Forest on Mt. Murray Road.

To reach the Mt. Murray Road travel up Macquarie Pass to the top then take the first unsealed road to the right. Proceed along this road to the railway crossing. After crossing the railway line carry on for approximately 1.2 klms to the sign-board on the right hand side indicating pine forest. Take a carry lunch.

PA YMENT OF FEES- Membership fees must be paid by the March meeting if you wish to be included on the 1986 mailing list. Only financial members will receive the newsletter once the list is compiled. If any details relevant to the list such as Phone numbers etc. have changed since the 1985 list was compiled please make details available to Secretary Anna Knowlson.

SEABIRD TRIPS OFF WOLLONGONG- Extra to the normal trip which will be held this month on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd March, a special additional trip has been organised. This trip has been planned to leave Belmore Basin on the "Sandra K" at midnight on Friday 7th March. Weather permitting, this trip will go out 80 miles offshore and return Saturday evening. For further information on cost and booking ring David Fischer on (042) 27-1704.

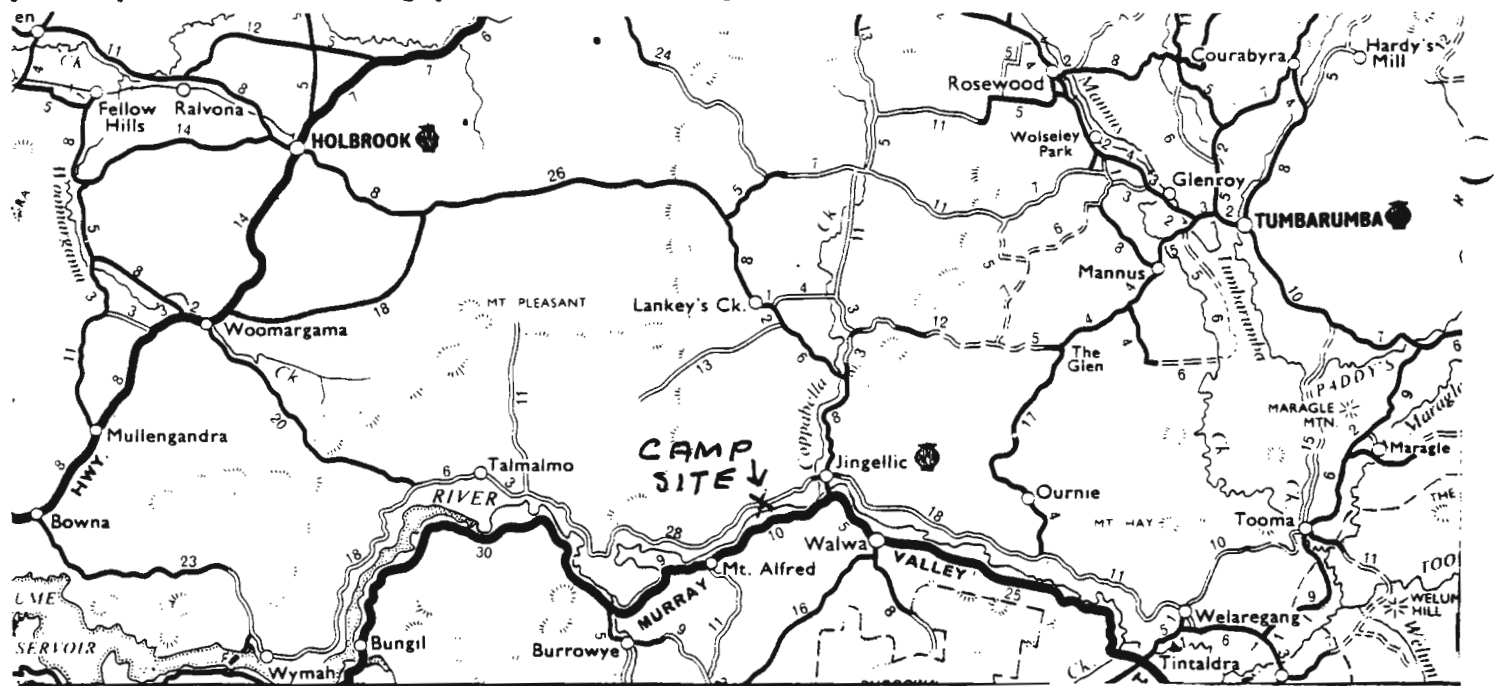
1986 COMMITTEE. The following persons form the 1986 IBOC Committee.:-

<u>PRESIDENT</u> -	Jim Robinson	<u>RECORDS OFFICER</u> -	Horace Ward
<u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u>	Wal Emery	<u>DISPLAY BOARDS</u>	Esme Gay
<u>SECRETARY</u>	Anna Knowlson	<u>HALL SUPERVISOR</u>	Bob McKinlay
<u>TREASURER</u>	Ron Almond	<u>KITCHEN ORGANISOR</u>	Jan Stuart
<u>LIBRARIAN</u>	Ron Hanks	<u>SALES OFFICERS</u>	Brian & Barbara Hales
<u>EDITOR</u>	Wal Emery		
<u>COMMITTEE PERSONS</u>	Kevin Wood, Andy Knowlson, Dave Thomson.		

EASTER CAMP - JINGELIC. Our camp this year will be on a 1,000 acre property on the N.S.W bank of the Murray River near Jingelic (see N.R.M.A. Map Murrumbidgee, Murray E 8) The property "The Oaks" is owned by Joe and Kath Jefferies (Phone 060-376263) This phone No. is for emergency purposes only and must not be used for social contact. To reach the property you take the Hume Highway towards Melbourne and turn left to Jingelic in the middle of Holbrook. Follow that road for about 55 klms then right at the Tumbarumba junction.

At Jingelic turn right at cross roads onto a gravel road past the service station opposite the store (if you get to the river you have gone too far). Look for I.B.O.C. signs as you proceed 7 klms past the farm "Illawong" on the right (homestead) take the third gate on the left, just before the dip in the road ( if you reach "The Oaks" on the right you have gone too far). Proceed diagonally (due south) across paddock, down bank and onto riverside.

Easter this year falls on Friday 28th to Monday 31st March. Some people will be camping from Thursday 27th March till Friday 4th April. Members are welcome to camp for all or part of this period. Water is available from the river for washing, you may choose to bring your own drinking water.



FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT. Members filled the hall for our first meeting of the year to hear Chris Pavich talk to us on the progress made and the problems encountered in the development of our State Recreation Area Escarpment Park. With the aid of slides Chris took us on a tour of the area showing historical sites and the diverse flora and fauna of our region. Much work has been done to create numerous walking tracks and to repair erosion caused by unplanned service roads and by illegal use of off-road vehicles. A big effort has been made to prevent the dumping of rubbish, in particular car bodies and a lot of work has been done removing these eyesores.

Chris stressed the need for education to reduce this problem and asked all those using the park to be vigilant and to report any vandalism they may see. With planned management it is hoped natural regeneration will in time return our still beautiful escarpment rainforests to their former grandeur. Thank you Chris for an interesting evening.

Wal Emery.



FEBRUARY FIELD OUTING TO COMERONG ISLAND.

Well, here we are into 1986 and to begin our field outings, thirty five ISOC's ventured to Comerong Island, east of Nowra for a most pleasant day. The weather was favourable although several members may have been sporting a little colour the next day. After meeting at approximately 8.30 am. we gradually reached the other side of the canal by means of the ferry. Whilst standing around for a short time, having "cuppas" and smothering ourselves in insect repellent, there were sightings of a White-bellied Sea-Eagle, White-faced Heron and in total contrast, two dear little Cisticolas - immature and mature, Fairy Martins and Welcome Swallows. Further around the island, along a track bordered by beautiful native trees and bushes e.g. coastal tea-trees, gum trees, casuarina and "little banksia men" trees, we sighted Brown and Yellow Thornbills, Superb Fairy-wrens, Silvereyes, sweet little Grey Fantails, the occasional butterfly and gossamer-winged dragonfly. As we diverted to the river mouth, we sighted a huge silvery white noisy bird called a "Seaking", followed by an Airforce Orion and the occasional Mackie Trainer. Dave kept us amused with his joke about the "two old ducks" to keep our minds off the remote possibility of the presence of snakes in the thick green grass.

A dear old log was waiting for us for a spell, so 18 ISOC's decided to become "log-sitters" whilst the other 17 either sat on the grass or ambled around whilst we viewed Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwits, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Cormorants, lots of Sacred Ibis, Chestnut Teal, Pied Oystercatchers and the occasional Silver Gull. A convoy of 21 elegant Black Swans came sailing along then seventeen soared to the sky - so lovely they looked! After that pleasant rest, we walked around the track between sandhills on the left and sandflats to the right where we sighted some Golden and Red-caped Plovers, also Masked Lapwings. Circling overhead was a Whistling Kite and a Brown Goshawk, whilst 3 Australian Kestrels were very busy hovering and landing in the sandhills.

Lunchtime arrived so we all found a cool spot in the shade at the edge of the bushland which was thickly inhabited by Golden Orb-weavers ever ready to pounce on any living thing which was to become entangled in their beautifully spun webs.

Afternoon took us back towards the canal where we warily crawled under an electric fence and walked along a little water course where we found a poor dead duck wedged against a log in the middle of the "stream". In spite of that very sad sighting, we managed to enjoy some juicy ripe blackberries and a short rest in the shade of a lovely big Moreton Bay Fig which housed a hive of bees. After this little interlude, we drove a little further by which time we were beginning to feel somewhat hot so half of us decided to share the shade of the trees at the side of the track whilst the others took a little walk across the field to a muddy flat where there were sightings of quail and Richard's Pipits.

On reflection some other species seen during the day were Lewin's Honeyeater, Marsh Harrier, Red-necked Stint, Sacred Kingfisher, Grey-tailed Tattler, Reed Warbler, Little Wattlebird and Rosellas.

After "thank-you" to our leader, Barry from our new President Jim, we enjoyed a refreshing "cuppa" and wended our way to the ferry after a really different and interesting outing.

Vera Rodgers.

*"The LONG - LONG - LOG"* COMERONG FEB 86



THE SIGHTING OF A BLACK FALCON 5 KILOMETRES N.E. OF EXETER, N.S.W. L.E. Smith & C.S. Chafer.

On January 19th 1986, at 900 Hrs Chris and I were counting waterfowl on a small dam at the side of the road, approximately 5 kilometres N.E. of Exeter.

When Chris called whats that? I looked up to see the silhouette of a falcon heading in our direction, approximately 200 metres away to our right, and 50 metres above the ground. First impression was that of a Peregrine Falcon, (*Falco peregrinus*) as it was gliding head on towards us, its wings appeared to be slightly bowed. The long tail appeared to be forked, though closer inspection with 20 X spotting scope, showed the bird to be in heavy moult. The two central tail feathers were missing giving the bird its fork-tailed appearance. The body and underwing coverts were sooty black, whilst primaries and secondaries appeared frosted. I immediately identified the bird as a Black Falcon (*Falco subniger*), a bird I have seen on several occasions in the inland.

The bird was watched for several minutes as it passed within 100 metres of the observers before disappearing in the distance.

The Black Falcon is a rare bird in our local area, the only previous sighting that I am aware of locally, is that of a bird recorded near East Kangaloon on February 2nd 1978, L. E. Smith and B. T. James.

This previous sighting was made while Brian James and myself were conducting an atlassing excursion in the 10 min. Grid Block, 34°35' 150°35'.

This second sighting by Smith & Chafer was recorded in the 10 min Grid Block 34°35' 150°15' which is quite close to the original sighting, in the same period of the year, 8 years before. Once again the bird was sighted in an area of open grassland interspersed with scattered timber, favoured habitat of the Black Falcon.

To the inexperienced observer, the Brown Falcon (*Falco berigora*) in a very dark colour phase could be mistaken for a Black Falcon. Points to note are the flight, which in the case of the Brown Falcon tends to be slow and laboured in comparison to the Black Falcon, whose flight is usually swift and direct, similar to that of a Peregrine Falcon, (*Falco peregrinus*).

When gliding the Brown Falcon holds its wings in a shallow vee, slightly up-swept, the Black Falcon holds its wings slightly bowed when gliding.

Black Falcons often fly quite low to the ground especially when hunting. Quail and other small ground dwelling birds are favoured prey, rabbits are also taken.

When perched Brown Falcons (dark phase) and Black Falcons are of very similar structure, and should be flushed to note underwing pattern and flight characteristics, before identification is made. Care should always be taken when identifying either of these two species.



Black Falcon Head on



Brown Falcon Head on,

L. E. Smith.

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## OBSERVATIONS FROM THE THIRROUL AREA

I have patrolled Thirroul Beach almost daily checking the Short-tailed Shearwater mortality from mid-October to mid-January and have come up with the figure of only 23 which is an assessment of the number of beach-washed derelicts per kilometre over the mortality period.

It has been a good year for this migratory species and its annual mortality rate in this area this season has been one of the lowest on record and a far cry from the 202 per kilometre (323 to the mile) recorded by Doug Gibson and yours truly back in 1954.

The only 'rarities' collected during the above patrols were a Great-winged Petrel on 27.10.85 and a Buller's Shearwater on 9.11.85. I collected and made a skin of the latter on 14.11.54 and from memory it was either the first or second Australian record.

Since my retirement over two years ago I can now relax in the garden with my trusty 10 X 50's and I have recorded a few new species within the precincts of 15 Station Street, Thirroul. The Spangled Drongo and Satin Flycatcher have passed through and the flowering eucalypts, melaleucas, callistemons and grevilleas have attracted a wealth of honey-birds. In addition to the New Holland, White-cheeked, Yellow-faced, White-naped and Lewin's Honeyeaters, Red and Little Wattlebird and Eastern Spinebill, we have also enjoyed the presence of the Rainbow, Scaly-breasted Musk and Little Lorikeets.

I am now quite content to let the birds come to me and leave the more physical side of the game to you younger ones.

Allan Sefton.

## A NESTING RECORD FROM BULLI.

It was on the day of the Spring Bird Count that I visited an area bounded by the residential areas of Bulli and Thirroul, South Thirroul Beach and an industrial area on the Western side.

The area is approximately one kilometre square, and has three normally small creeks running through and joining before emptying into the ocean. Along the northern most creek are growing a number of Casuarina trees and common to all creeks are substantial stands of Bulrush and Cumbungi. The rest of the area is grassland mainly Paspalum, Buffalo and Kikuyu which is quite deep and dense in places. At the moment this area is an access to the beach for surfboard riders and trail bikers not to mention it's use as an unofficial rubbish tip for the uncaring. In the future it is marked as the route for the proposed beach front road.

The birds seen in this area on the count day included Black-shouldered Kite, Australian Magpie-lark, Pied Cormorant, Masked Lapwing, Common Mynah, Starling, House Sparrow, Spotted Turtledove, Goldfinch, Skylark, Superb Fairy-wren, Golden-headed Cisticola, Clamorous Reed Warbler and Richard's Pipit.

A return visit to this location on November 25th revealed a number of the above species nesting, namely Golden-headed Cisticola, of which two nests were found, each containing four chicks, Richard's Pipit three nest sites, two with three chicks and one with two chicks.

On November 27th a hide was placed near the nest of one of the pipits to record on paper and film, a day in the life of a parent pipit. The hide was moved in to a distance of 1.5 metres from the nest and the following observations were made during the next few hours. The nest was concealed beneath the thickest grass. It was cup shaped and made from dried pieces of grass which were woven together to form the outer shape of the nest, it was lined with finer grasses and fine roots. A small landing was built onto one side of the cup, a short tunnel through the grass led away from the nest.

The three chicks were clothed in fluffy down with pinfeathers on the wings, breastbone and backbone and I estimated their age at six days. The adults were cautious at first, landing on perches 30 metres on either side of the hide and flying over the hide to check out this foreign object.



This carried on for about ten minutes and then one of the adults decided the situation was safe and dropped into the grass 2 metres away from the nest on the opposite side to the hide and made it's way to the nest. They obviously use the same route on each visit as there is a track through the grass leading to the tunnel mentioned earlier.

The three hungry chicks threw their heads in the air with their mouths wide open, noisily bidding for the grub that was held firmly in the beak of the adult. Normal nesting duties had resumed and the chicks were fed at about ten minute intervals on a variety of food which included grubs, spiders, insects of various species such as moths and grasshoppers. On one occasion the abdomen of a garden skink was offered and after several attempts at inserting it into the throat of one of the chicks, it disappeared down. It must have been all of 35 mm long. On the next visit the tail section of the skink was brought to the nest and fed to one of the other chicks.

The adults were now becoming so used to the hide they were alighting on the roof before dropping into the grass and making their way to the nest, bobbing their tails as they went.

Another nest was located about 50 metres from this one and in a similar situation. If the adults of that nest were as busy as this pair it would add up to quite a weight of food caught by the end of the day.

Having had a long session in the hide I decided to vacate. The hide was removed so as not to attract inquisitive and unwanted persons who may have caused damage to the nest and contents. The grass was stood up again where the hide had been and the site was vacated.

I returned to the site at 0715 hours on December 3rd to find the nest empty, the adults were in the general area of the nest site and flying around with food and I am satisfied the chicks left the nest safely. Their neighbours were still feeding their chicks in the nest.

By December 5th, there were pipits feeding young out of the nest in a number of locations. I have four positive nestings for this species in this area as well as the two successful nestings of the Golden-headed Cisticola.

Assuming that some of the species seen on the Bird Count day would also nest in this area I think you would agree that this habitat is quite a productive area.

Ian Rowles.

#### TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH.

The bird in Margaret Ward's garden that looked like a Silver Gull as it flew off with a Bulbul dangling from its feet proved, on closer inspection, to be a kestrel but in our garden the predators really are Silver Gulls.

The Bultuls have been building their nests higher and higher each year to escape marauding cats but this year they built so high that the nests were visible to the ever-circling Silver Gulls who picked off the fledglings almost as soon as they were born.

Eventually the Bultuls got the message and built fresh nests half way down the trees and close to the trunks leaving the frustrated Silver Gulls to look elsewhere for temporary satisfaction for their insatiable appetites.

Bob & Dina Green.

#### AN UNWELCOMED VISITOR.

We recently had an early morning visit from a Little Corella (presumably an escapee) who perched on our TV antenna then flew round the district for half an hour making a great deal of noise. At one stage it was dived on by what appeared to be a White Goshawk but managed to escape from its talons after a few moments and its cries appeared to take on a note of indignation. Eventually it incurred the wrath of a flock of 8 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos which chased it until it took refuge in the centre of one of our Golden Cypress trees still protesting strongly.

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The Corella was around for the next 2 days but then disappeared. Perhaps it decided to return to its cage and be "kept" rather than try to fend for itself after this hostile reception in the wild.

Bob & Dina Green.

BIRDWATCHING IN NEW ZEALAND.

I was very fortunate in November, 1985 to have a holiday in the South Island of New Zealand.

Our trip commenced by coach from Christchurch. We enjoyed our first day sightseeing around the city of Christchurch and were soon out of the city and into the countryside.

It was early afternoon when I sighted my first birds, the Masked Plover, a vagrant from Australia, and now established in New Zealand and later I saw some Black-billed Gulls.

As our tour progressed I had a few "converts" to my birdwatching and even our driver was educated a little about his birds of New Zealand of which he admitted to not knowing many species. My most useful guide for the birds was a pocket size book "Know your New Zealand Birds" by Murdoch Riley which for a new "birdwatcher" was much thumbed through.

One of the common birds to see was the Pied Oystercatcher which I did see frequently in the lush green paddocks beside the highways. The binoculars were often in use to spot such birds as the White-fronted Tern seen on the west coast very busy with a grey fluffy chick on the nest.

Throughout the island there were many hawks, Australian Harriers and New Zealand Falcons. Not as common to see was the Pukeko ( Swamp Hen), a beautiful coloured bird. Other birds I was able to identify were Male Paradise Duck, Canada Goose, New Zealand Pigeon, Silvereye, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Black Swan, Goldfinch and Blackbirds.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable time and very rewarding to identify so many birds in such a beautiful country.

Margaret Walton.

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS DECEMBER 1985, JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1986.

U	Rainbow Bee-eater	20	Goodman's Ford	28-12-85	C. Chafer &
R	Blue-billed Duck	4	Hoskins Nat. Reserve	28-12-85	L. Smith
R	White-winged Tern	8	Windang	28-12-85	" "
S	White-headed Pigeon	2	Balgownie	29-12-85	" "
R	Great Knot	1	Comerong Island	29-12-85	" "
R	Black Falcon	1	Exeter	19-1-86	" "
U	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	17	Moss Vale	19-1-86	" "
U	Grey Goshawk (White phase)	1	Figtree	17-1-86	D. Green
U	Large-billed Scrubwren	6	Mt. Keira	22-12-85	"
U	White's Thrush	1	Mt. Keira	22-12-85	"
MC	Origma	1	Stanwell Park	-12-85	D. Perry
U	Grey Goshawk	1	Stanwell Park	-12-85	"
MC	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	2	Imm. " "	-12-85	"
R	Pheasant Coucal	1	Barren Grounds	-1-86	R. Jordan
U	Tawny-crowned H'eater	3	Stanwell Tops	15-12-86	K. Mills
U	Crescent Honeyeater	3+	Bundanoon	28-12-86	"
U	White-cheeked H'eater	1	Thirroul	16-12-86	"
R	Marsh Sandpiper	1	Koona Bay	22-2-86	L. Smith
U	Ruddy Turnstones	33	Pt. Kembla Beach	8-2-86	"
	Red-rumped Parrot	1F	2 imm. J. J. Kelly Pk.	26-1-86	"

R	Crested Pigeon	1	Thirroul	-2-86	N. Williams.
S	White-plumed Honeyeater	2	Nth. Wollongong	-2-86	"
MC	Double-barred Finch	6	Yallah	-2-86	"
S	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Balgownie	24 -2-86	H. Emery
U	Marsh Harrier	1	Killalea Swamp	31-1-86	R. Simcock
S	Spangled Drongo	1	Mt. Kembla	9-2-86	"

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<u>BOAT TRIP EAST OF WOLLONGONG</u>	<u>25-1-86</u>	<u>26-1-86</u>	Seabird Group record per D. Fischer.
Cook's Petrel	1		
Black-winged Petrel	1	1	
Buller's Shearwater	1	8	
Herald Petrel	1		
Kermadec Petrel	1		
Long-tailed Jaeger	8	5	
Gould's Petrel		50	
White-necked Petrel		1	
White-tailed Tropicbird		1	
Wandering Albatross	1	Unusual January record	
	<u>15-2-86</u>	<u>16-2-86</u>	" "
Grey Ternlet	1	3	
Buller's Shearwater	1		
Black Petrel	2		
Tahiti Petrel	1		
Gould's Petrel	12		
White-tailed Tropicbird		1	
Storm-Petrel Species (Fregetta)			

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# I. B. O. E. NEWS

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NEXT MEETING - will be held at the Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Centre, corner of Collaery Avenue and Princes Highway Fairy Meadow on Monday 14th April at 7.30pm. This will be our annual members night. All members are invited to contribute to the content of the programme.

This can be done in several ways, a selection of slides of either birds or camps and outings. I'm sure there are a lot of slides around of club members in humorous situations. The club is now in its 10th year, maybe some of the longer term members can dig into their cupboards and show to newer members a glimpse of some of our past activities. Don't leave it all to our more professional bird photographers, although we certainly hope to receive a contribution from these people.

If you think your slides have been shown before, remember the membership is changing each year and a lot of people may not have seen them. Other ways members can contribute are with taped bird calls they may have collected or recorded. Artists may like to display bird paintings or landscapes of places the club has visited. Some members may like to summarise a study they are carrying out or perhaps give a short talk on an interesting birding trip they have been on. This is your night, if you are able to contribute to its success please do so.

FIELD OUTING - Saturday 19th April, 8.00am. - Marley Track, Marley Beach, Little Marley Beach, then along coast to Wottamolla in Royal National Park. We will meet at Wottamolla parking area which is signposted to the right off Sir Bertram Stevens Drive, about an hours drive from Wollongong. We will leave some cars there and then proceed to Marley Track car park by returning to Sir Bertram Stevens Drive and following Bundeena Drive to the right a few hundred metres to the right and about 1.5 km past Mainbar Road which goes off to left. Car Park is on left hand side of Bundeena Drive and is well signposted. Distance of walk is approximately 7.5 km, so it will be necessary to carry lunch. There is safe swimming at Little Marley and Wottamolla beaches, if anyone is interested, but not at Marley beach.

SEABIRD TRIPS OFF WOLLONGONG - This months seabird trips will be on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th April. For bookings and further details please contact David Fischer on (042) 27-1704.

POSITION VACANT - No wages - immense job satisfaction. The club is looking for someone to fill the position of excursion officer. Laurie Williams has served the club well in this position over the past few years.

The job of excursion officer involves surveying walking tracks for our field outings. This is usually done by contacting a few people and going out a month or two before the outing to an area already decided on the previous year. Being excursion officer does not necessarily mean that you have to attend all the field outings. This is the advantage of taking others with you on the survey. If others know the route the job of leading the outing can be shared around.

Anyone willing to help the club in this area please make contact with either President Jim Robinson or Vice-President Wal Emery.

FILM NIGHT - Our first film night for 1986 will be on Saturday 3rd May at the home of Dave and Betty Thomson, 84 Mt. Pleasant Road, Balgownie.

There will be the usual two sessions commencing at 6.00 and 8.00pm. All members are invited to attend. Bring along a plate for supper. Newer members who have not attended a film night before will find it an enjoyable, relaxed experience providing the opportunity to get to know other members in a social atmosphere.

MARCH MEETING REPORT - Statistics and Honeyeaters.

If that sounds an odd mixture, then you weren't one of those who enjoyed the talk at our March meeting - Graham Pyke from the Museum's Department of Vertebrate Ecology speaking on the distribution and movement of honeyeaters. His research plot has been the Brisbane Water National Park and over several years he's located, counted, caught and tracked honeyeaters and has measured how much food is available through the year.

He's been able to show for instance that about 20% only of the honeyeaters are resident, that each of those residents keeps to about a 100 metre circle and that the breeding peak during May/June coincides with the time when nectar is most plentiful. And on the way he's used some interesting techniques - drawing nectar from flowers and weighing it, mistnetting, fitting 1.5 gram radio transmitters to 20 gram birds.

Graham's easy style belies his scientific standing - degrees in mathematics and biology, research on the American bumble-bee and a recognised authority on bird censusing. A very good night and a message to all of us who are content to just watch. Out thanks to Kevin and Ann Wood for hosting Graham and to Andy Knowlson for expressing our thanks.

Dave Thomson.

MARCH FIELD OUTING REPORT - Mt. Murray - Sunday 16th March, 1986.

Thirty seven IBOC's met at the Water Board gate entrance to Gerrigaroo Pine Forest on the Mt. Murray Road under an overcast sky on the morning of the outing.

The main part of the walk for the day followed the roads through the area with a couple of short diversions into the bush. The habitat varied from pine forest; tall eucalypt forest with an understorey of small bushes; heath and swampland; flowering *Lambertia Formosa* and *Banksia Spinulosa*, and some open farmland.

Very good views were had of the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos on several occasions, and along with many Grey Fantails, would have been the most frequent birds seen during the day.

Wal Emery and Phil Bath were fortunate to see a Powerful Owl feeding on the lower half of a Ring-tailed Possum, being divebombed by Grey and Pied Currawongs and Magpies. The owl finally flew off leaving its dinner behind. This was a very exciting first sighting for Wal who enjoyed telling us about it during our morning tea stop at Molly Morgans Swamp.

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As we set off again we had some rain but it only lasted a short while and it stayed dry for the rest of the walk. Lunch was at Little River where Eastern Spinebills, both immature and mature were busy feeding on the *Lambertia Formosa* flowers and the Grey Fantails flitted around. Some members wandered around the area and were rewarded with sightings of the Pilot Bird and Black-faced Monarch while others walked a little further and saw Eastern Rosellas and 39 Maned Duck.

Some other birds seen during the day included Red-browed Treecreeper, Chestnut-rumped Hylacola, female Scarlet Robin, Flame Robin, Golden and Rufous Whistlers, Rufous Fantail, Gang Gang Cockatoo. A total of 48 birds were seen on the excursion and a very pleasant, easy walk of approximately 11 km. was enjoyed by all.

Nola Williams.

Thanks to Laurie Williams for organising and leading a relaxed and interesting outing - Editor.

#### AN INTERESTING DAYS BIRDING.

On Saturday morning 1st February, '86 David Fischer, George Danials (an American visitor) and I set out at 6.00am. for a days intensive birding in the local district. Our itinerary was to include as many varied habitats as possible. This would ensure the maximum number of bird species.

Our first stop was along Swamp Road which traverses the flood-plain of the Minnamurra River. Here we found Pacific Heron, Sacred and Straw-necked Ibis, Golden-headed Cisticola, and Chestnut-breasted Mannikin to mention a few species. From here we continued on through the rich pasture land to foothills and the escarpment at Jamberoo Pass. A short stop about half way up the pass turned up some species that occur in the escarpment forests. These included Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Crested Shriketit, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and a Superb Lyrebird in full view not 15 feet from our car. Here we also saw a Swamp Wallaby as it bounded up the road in mock surprise, much to the delight of our American visitor.

From here we continued on to the Budderoo Fire-trail which passes through a large area of heathland at the top of the escarpment. Here we were to add some of the heathland species to our list, amongst them Chestnut-rumped Hylacola, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Southern Emu-wren, Eastern Bristlebird, Grey Currawong and Ground Parrot, of which 8 were clearly seen including one which sat in the middle of the track, and allowed us excellent views from 30 metres with a 20x telescope.

Well satisfied with our progress so far, we headed off through Robertson and along the Tourist Road to Mittagong adding a few more species to our tally; Black-shouldered Kite, Maned Duck and Sulpher-crested Cockatoo.

Just past Mittagong we turned off the highway and onto the road to Wombeyan Caves. As the country side changed so did the birds; Rufous Songlark, Common Bronzewing and Wedge-tailed Eagle were soon added to our growing lists. Continuing on to Bullio the country started to change again and a short walk here turned up several more interesting species. Double-barred Finch, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Scarlet Robin and Dusky Woodswallow were recorded here along with a rather impressive Gippsland water dragon; several Eastern Grey Kangaroos were also seen.

By now the sun was high overhead and we decided to seek refuge along the Wollondilly River, which glistened in the bottom of the deep gorge far below. Soon we were threading our way down the dusty, winding road to the ford at the bottom, stopping now and then to inspect some of the steep sided gullies as we went.

.../4

Here we found Brown Goshawk, Bell Miner, Speckled Warbler and Dollarbird. On our arrival at Goodmans Ford we were greeted by the churring calls of the beautiful Rainbow Bee-eaters, which were busy hawking for dragonflies and insects along the river. Here as we had hoped, we found many species of birds. White-winged Triller, Brown Treecreeper, Diamond Firetail, King Parrot and Noisy Friarbird were just a few of the species seen. Common Wallaroo were also recorded here.

After spending about 1½ hours here in the oppressive heat, we decided to head over to Cecil Hoskins Reserve near Moss Vale, to try our luck with water-fowl which would be still active in the heat of the day. After a short stop at Bowral for some light refreshment, we arrived at Hoskins Reserve and found that our luck was still with us as we managed to locate Blue-billed Duck, Musk Duck, Australasian Shoveller, Great-crested and Hoary-headed Grebes.

From here it was back down the mountain to spend the cool of the evening looking for waders at Killalea Lagoon and the estuary of the lake at Windang.

On our arrival at Killalea we were disheartened to find that the water level was very high and birds were few and far between, though we managed to find Black-winged Stilt, Black-fronted Plover and White-fronted Chats.

Windang on the other hand was very good with the tide receding and lots of waders about, Greenshank, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Grey-tailed Tattlers were quite plentiful as were Red-necked Stint and Red-capped Plover, Gull Sandpiper and Great Knot were also seen.

At 7.00pm. we decided to call it a day and tallied up our list for the day. Total Species recorded 133, 56 of which were new to our American friend, who was most impressed with the beautiful scenery and the many species of birds, animals and plants that he had seen.

To David and George thankyou for a very enjoyable day with the birds.

Lindsay E. Smith.

#### MIGRATION STUDIES OF DOUBLE-BANDED PLOVERS.

(Request for searches for colour-banded birds in winter 1986)

Since the late 1970's Double-banded Plovers have been colour-banded in both New Zealand and Australia to help in studies of breeding biology and migration. In New Zealand, only a few localities (in the Central South Island) have received significant coverage up until 1985, and these mainly for studies of population dynamics and breeding ecology. In the 1985 season, however, colour-banding was greatly increased throughout New Zealand in order to examine patterns of migration from region to region. About 20 members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand took part in the banding which resulted in about 1,000 new birds being banded. About 80 geographical regions were recognised, each of which has a separate colour-band code for adult males, adult females and juveniles.

This colour-banding will provide information firstly on post-breeding movements to moulting areas in NZ, and secondly on late-summer-autumn movements to the wintering grounds. Many thousands of Double-banded Plovers winter in Australia, so we are very keen for ornithologists in Australia to check for colour-banded birds. The bands used in New Zealand are white, yellow, red, dark blue, dark green and metal - all on the tarsi. Metal is part of the colour code, so it is important to note its position on the tarsus. In Australia, most birds have been banded (260 last winter) with metal on the tibia and with colours on the tarsi - normally three different colours on each bird (red, dark blue, pale green or white).

When checking for colour-banded birds, please double check combinations, taking care not to confuse left and right legs. The data needed are: Date; Locality; No. of birds checked for bands; no. of birds banded; band combinations eg. left leg red over white over blue, right leg metal; Observers name and address.

.../5



With a total population of probably only about 10,00 birds - half of which winter in Australia - the probability is that you may only have to examine 10 or 20 birds to find one with colour bands this winter. So reward for effort should be more than worthwhile. Please, therefore, take every opportunity to examine all Double-banded Plovers very carefully and report your results as soon as possible after the observation. A Double-banded Plover banded at Stockton was caught in New Zealand this Summer!

Please send details of colour-banded birds to either:

Banded Dotterel Study Group,           OR  
C/- Dr. Ray Pearce,  
P.O. Box 69,  
LAKE TEKAPO.  
South Island,   NEW ZEALAND.

Victorian Wader Study Group,  
C/- Dr. Clive D.T. Minton,  
165 Dalgetty Road,  
BEAUMARIS. 3193  
Victoria, AUSTRALIA.

GARDENING IS FOR THE BIRDS.

I have read several books on attracting birds to your garden and almost without exception they advocate developing an all native garden. Most birdo's who garden suggest that the best treatment for exotic plants is one good heavy pruning, about two feet below ground level. I tend to lean towards this line of thought, but because my wife does most of the gardening, because she likes exotics and because I'm basically a coward at heart we have reached a compromise of a mixed garden of natives and exotics.

Our garden is approximately one acre in area and has a natural creek bordered with a few rainforest trees running through it. It adjoins about twenty acres of cleared land, again with a tree lined watercourse, so we were fortunate to have a natural attraction for birdlife before we started to develop our garden twelve years ago. We have observed 104 species of birds during this period of which 3 species of eagle, Whistling Kite, swifts and martins were sighted overhead. The remaining 98 species, some common, some rare, have visited the garden to feed and 30 plus species are regular daily visitors.

Three basic requirements are necessary to achieve a balanced garden for birds. Firstly food and water. If there is nothing to eat the birds have no reason to visit your garden. Second a sanctuary from predators. Birds need to feel secure when feeding, this is best achieved by pockets of dense shrubbery and some strategically placed tall trees into which they can retreat. The third requirement in order to build up a resident population of species is safe nesting sites, and this is where we have had some surprising results with the exotic section of our garden. The garden has been planned in three main sections. A native section for nectar feeders, an exotic section around the house to please my wife and a section planted out with ferns and rainforest species for fruit-eaters, which I refer to as the "rainforest". Because of the limited area there is a degree of overlap of these sections. They are joined by a lawn which contains several eucalypts and a continuous corridor of shrubbery has been provided around the perimeter of the garden.

Our observations over the years have provided many surprises, not only with the rare species which have visited us, but also with the way in which the native birds have used the exotic section of the garden for both food and nesting sites when we appear to have met all their requirements in the native sections. Most of the honeyeaters visit the sasanqua Camellias, fuschias and chinese lanterns (Abutilon) just as eagerly as they seek out the banksias, grevilleas and callistemon.

The two exceptions to this are the Little Wattlebird which only passed through the garden in transit before we established some Grevillea banksii. They now monopolise this shrub expelling all lesser species who dare to sip the nectar and the White-naped Honeyeater which never appeared till we had established some eucalypts. The reverse however, is the New-Holland Honeyeater which tends to pass the natives in preference to the Jacaranda and Rondeletia when they are in flower.

The Superb Fairy-wren and White-browed Scrubwren spend more of their time foraging in and out of the Azaleas and other exotic shrubs than they do in the natives, whilst the Silvereyes earn their keep by keeping the roses free from aphids although they do spend a lot of time feeding in the eucalypts.

Amongst the small birds the thornbills, gerygones and pardalotes seem to spend their time exclusively gleaning insects from the native trees, having nothing at all to do with the exotics.

Three native pigeons have visited our garden, they also have fed exclusively off native fruits. The Emerald Dove on the fallen seeds of *Acacia binervata*, the White-headed Pigeon only on the fruit of the Cheese Tree, although I have seen them elsewhere feeding on the berries of the introduced Camphour Laurel, and the Brown Cuckoo-Dove, a common visitor which I have observed in our garden feeding on five different rainforest berries. By contrast the Satin Bowerbirds eat both native and introduced fruits and have a particular liking for mulberries.

Of the parrots and cockatoos all have chosen to feed on native trees with the exception of the Crimson Rosellas, which share their feeding between the native Grey Myrtle and the introduced cotoneaster.

The Spectacled Monarch has visited us on two consecutive summers, an immature bird in February 1980 and an adult in November, 1980. It spent its stay exclusively in the rainforest section of the garden as does its Black-faced cousin and the Rufous Fantail. Two other rare visitors, each sighted on two occasions only were the Black Sittern and the Rufous Night Heron, both probably attracted more by the aquatic life in the creek than the actual garden, although they again chose the exotic Willow Trees for their daytime sanctuary. The willows provided another surprise with their catkins being eagerly sought after as a food source by the Mistletoebird and we now have mistletoe growing on two of them.

Another micro habitat within the garden, not originally planned as such, but one which has added to the birdlife in the garden is the lawn. Magpies, Magpie-larks and White-faced Herons patrol the lawn particularly in the winter when it is wet with dew, searching for grubs and worms.

Red-browed Finches seek the seed of the winter grass, whilst the Superb Fairy-wrens make sorties from the shrubbery on the warm summer evenings to feed on the insects. The Rose Robin which visits us from May to August also take grubs from the lawn although they always return to the safety of a tree to eat.

Eight species of raptors have visited our garden, Australian Hobby, Australian Kestrel, Black-shouldered Kite, Peregrine Falcon, Brown Falcon and Grey Goshawk; the Collared Sparrowhawk and Brown Goshawk being regular visitors. I have observed the last species on three occasions take a Spotted Dove in flight.

Several species of native fruiting trees have seeded in the garden and where ever possible these plants are left to develop. I work on the theory that they must have been brought in by the birds and are therefore a food source. Although they are both good food sources I break this rule with the exotic privet and lantana as they do so much damage to our native bush and I do not want to have a part in their proliferation.

Fifteen species have nested in our garden again producing many surprises as to their choice of nesting sites. White-browed Scrubwrens were the first to take up residence, for years nesting in the undergrowth along the creek bank. This year however, they moved right up to the house building a nest 1.5 metres high in a pine tree. The Red-browed Finches also use the pines for nesting sites.

Eastern Spinebills have always built in the densely foliated deciduous wisterias, maples and willow trees. Not once have I observed them nesting in natives. The Yellow-faced Honeyeaters built once in a native pittosporum but have since preferred ornamental plums and azaleas. Our Yellow Robins have always used native shrubs with one exception. One year they lost two nests to Jacky Lizards, they then moved to a banana tree and raised a successful brood.

I wondered if the smooth trunk proved a deterrent to the climbing ability of the lizards. The bowerbirds have used both the willow trees and a rainforest tree. A secluded area with a tangled thicket of *Jasminum polyanthum* and honeysuckle was chosen by the Eastern Whipbirds even though similar areas of native vine thickets are available.

Several years ago a pair of Blackbirds arrived on the scene. They built in a neighbour's mandarin tree, abandoned this nest with eggs when it was discovered then moved to our willows, where they raised a Fantail Cuckoo. The Yellow Thornbills built for the first time this year in a Cedar Wattle, whilst the Fairy-wrens, like the White-browed Scrubwrens abandoned their traditional spots along the creek for the safety of the exotics near the house. Maybe the marauding neighbourhood cats have had something to do with this. The Bul-Buls reversed the cycle. After losing two broods in the exotics to Pied Currawongs, they retreated to the under canopy of the tree fern fronds where they raised a successful brood. Our biggest surprise came in 1983 when a male Brush Turkey arrived in the "rainforest" section and commenced work on an incubation mound. After ten days non-stop work and with raw material becoming more difficult to obtain, it crossed the creek and began pilfering Hazel's compost heap. It scratched a year's supply of compost into the creek and then found its powerful legs not quite strong enough to toss it up the 1 metre high bank on the other side. Faced with the prospect of having her precious compost lost down the creek in the next flood, Hazel donned her gum boots and tossed it up the bank, working on the basis she could perhaps recover it after the turkey had finished with it. The turkey quick to seize the opportunity, moved in and transported it the remaining 4 metres to the mound.

After 24 days the mound was complete. The bird hung around for a further week before abandoning the mound after failing to attract a female. I have since reached the conclusion that the bird was an aviary escapee. Summing up our observations over twelve years, I believe it is possible to have a successful all native garden for birds and indeed I know several people who have such gardens.

I believe you can only achieve very limited results with an all exotic garden as in my opinion any successful bird garden must contain a couple of eucalypts and acacias as well as some banksias and grevilleas. From our results however, I would argue a mixed garden of natives and exotics is practical and that given the choice native birds do not always choose natives.

Wal Emery.



MODERN TECHNOLOGY - A SOLUTION TO ALL PROBLEMS.

Dear Grandma has a habit of posting nice but noisy battery operated toys to Paul (nearly 3) for gifts. Consequently daddy and mummy hesitate to frequently replace the batteries even though Paul thinks his daddy's sole purpose for working is to buy batteries.

So recently Paul found a dead bird on the footpath. After observing the bird for some time Paul turned to daddy and said "Daddy, this bird doesn't work! It's like my Police car - it needs more batteries!!!"

Nola Williams.

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH, 1986.

S	Sanderling	1	Windang Beach	7-2-86	C. Brandis
R	Great Knot	2	Windang Estuary	20-2-86	"
R	Glossy Ibis	2	Killalea Lagoon	23-2-86	"
S	Spangled Drongo	1	Dunmore	2-3-86	"
U	Buff-banded Rail	1	"	22-2-86	"
U	Buff-banded Rail	1	Lake South	5-3-86	"
S	Darter	1	Killalea Lagoon	21-2-86	C. Chafer
R	White-winged Tern	1	Windang	22-2-86	"
U	Australasian Shoveler	44	Koona Bay	22-2-86	"
R	Blue-billed Duck	2	Hoskins Reserve	2-3-86	"
S	Intermediate Egret	2	"	2-3-86	"
S	Fork-tailed Swift	100+	Coalcliff	28-2-86	D. Perry
S	Crested Pigeon	4	Coalcliff	3-86	"
S	Spangled Drongo	1	Bellambi	4-3-86	"
S	Satin Flycatcher	1	Puckeys Estate	4-3-86	"
U	Southern Emu-wren	4	"	4-3-86	"
U	Grey Goshawk (white phase)	1	Bulli Pass	18-2-86	I Rowles
S	Satin Flycatcher	1	Bass Point	19-2-86	"
S	Spangled Drongo	3	Bulli	6-3-86	"
S	Fork-tailed Swift	200+	Bulli	15-3-86	" & L. Klumpes
MC	Tawny Frogmouth	1	Corrimal	2-86	B & P McKinlay
S	Spangled Drongo	1	Balgownie	1-3-86	"
U	Azure Kingfisher	1	Figtree	18-2-86	D. Green
#PE	Pale-headed Rosella	1	Blackbutt	8-3-86	P. Bath
R	Great Crested Grebe	100+	Wingercarrabee Dam	4-3-86	"
R	Blue-billed Duck	1	Killalea Lagoon	1-3-86	P. Bath
R	Freckled Duck	2	Hoskins Reserve	31-12-85	"
S	Spangled Drongo	2	Farmborough Heights	2-3-86	G. Payne
S	Crested Pigeon	2	Thirroul	4-3-86	N. Williams
U	Marsh Harrier	1	Killalea Lagoon	31-1-86	R. Simcock
S.	Spangled Drongo	1	Mt. Kembla	9-2-86	"

#PE - Probable Escapee.

BOAT TRIP EAST OF WOLLONGONG

8-3-86

Seabird group Records per  
D. Fischer.

Gould's Petrel	3
White Tern	2
Common Noddy	1
Sooty Tern	6
Long-tailed Jaeger	2
Kermadec Petrel	1

The 1986 records to date have shown up an unusual abundance of Spangled Drongos and Fork-tailed Swifts, both species regarded as scarce in the County of Camden. Another interesting record is the Blue-billed Ducks at Hoskins Nature Reserve and Killalea Lagoon, whilst the Crested Pigeons have continued their eastern movements right to the ocean with records from Thirroul and Coalcliff

Wal Emery - Editor.



# I. B. O. C. NEWS

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No. 93 MAY, 1986.



THE CIRCULAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB

Registered by Aust. Post Publication No NBH 3848

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CLUB MOTTO

"One good Tern  
Deserves Another"

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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

NEXT MEETING - will be held at the Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Centre, corner of Collaery Avenue & Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow on Monday 12th May at 7.30pm. Our GUEST SPEAKER for the evening will be Richard Jordan, the warden from Barren Grounds Bird Observatory. Richard addressed the club several years ago when he accepted the position as the Bird Observatory's first warden and explained to us the concept of a Bird Observatory and the plans he had for its development. His talk will cover the progress made to date and the type of research being carried out there. This will be a chance to learn more about this valuable local research facility and the way in which club members can involve themselves in the classes being conducted there.

FIELD OUTING - Saturday 17th May, 8.30am; Box Vale walking track near Mittagong approximately 1 hours drive from Wollongong. The track turn-off is on the right 3.7 klm from the main street of Mittagong to the west or 0.8klm east of the Wombeyan Caves Road if you are coming from the Berrima end. We will meet at the entrance to the Car Park on the highway at 8.30am.

The walking track follows the formation of an historic railway line passing through cuttings along embankments and through a tunnel 84 metres long. The track has easy grades and is 4.4 klm in length, also a spur track 1.8 klm through pleasant bushland to Forty Foot Falls is included in the walk which should take approximately 5 hours return. Those of us who explored the walk for this months outing found it to be very pleasant indeed, and can highly recommend it. About 30 species of birds were sighted, among those the beautiful Golden Whistler perched on a tree in the sunlight enabling us to catch a perfect view of the colours of this magnificent bird. Please bring a carry lunch.

FILM NIGHT - As mentioned in the April newsletter, our first film night for the year will be held at the home of Dave & Betty Thomson, 84 Mt Pleasant Road, Balgownie, on Saturday 3rd May. As in the past there will be the usual two sessions at 6.00pm & 8.00pm. All members are invited to attend. Bring a plate for supper and enjoy a pleasant social evening. The programme is as follows:-

- (1) WHY DO BIRDS SING. 27mins.  
Discusses the research that has been conducted to decipher the meaning of various types of birdsongs and to discover how fledglings learn adult birdsong.
- (2) ADAPTIONS OF BIRDS. 11 mins.  
Describes developments in birds which have allowed them to adapt to different habitats.
- (3) ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR: THE MECHANISM OF IMPRINTING. 15 mins.  
The concept of imprinting in ducklings.
- (4) AN EAGLE CALLED CHOOK. 28 mins.  
Chook is a Wedge-tailed Eagle found as a baby and raised by two dedicated birdlovers. They patiently teach him the lessons he should have learnt in the nest and eventually set him free.

SEABIRD TRIPS OFF WOLLONGONG. This months seabird trips will be on Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th May. For bookings and further details please contact David Fischer on (042) 27.1704.

Last months trip provided a real bonus for those who took part with the sighting of a Pink-footed Shearwater, the first confirmed sighting of this species in Australian waters.

AUTUMN BIRD COUNT - Saturday 31st May. In conjunction with the N.S.W. F.O.C. & the Cumberland B.O.C. our club takes part in an annual autumn and spring bird count in which we survey the birdlife within an 80klm radius of Sydney. Our area extends from Darkes Forest to Lake Illawarra and is divided into seven sub-areas. If you would like to be part of a team in one of these areas, please contact I.B.O.C. area organiser Kevin Wood on 29.5514.

PROPOSED TASMANIAN SAFARI TOUR.- Some members have expressed interest in a tour of Tasmania in February 1987. It will be a 3 week all coach safari tour. If you are interested in such a trip, please contact Secretary Anna Knowlson as soon as possible as it is necessary to make an advanced booking on the Bass Strait ferry. Please note at this stage it is only a proposal to see if there is sufficient interest to pursue it further. The approximate cost will be \$600.

#### EASTER CAMP REPORT.

Twenty odd (?) IBOC's spent up to one week camped under the River Red Gum beside the Murray River at Jingellic over the Easter break. It was a beautiful spot, although the Sulphur-crested Cockatoos thought so too and had us awake at dawn with their raucous cries. The early arrivals noted a Crimson Rosella with yellow wings, tail and back, the back being flecked with red and yellow infused into the breast. It stayed around the camp all week giving everyone a good view of this beautiful part lutino form and Chris Chafer obtained some close-up photos.

A Common Sandpiper was seen while we walked along the river banks and Stubble Quail were flushed while crossing a field of long grass. The area was generally very dry and birds were rather scarce, even the billabongs and swamps were dry or drying up.

After the Chafers reconnoitred the nearby Burrowa Pine National Park, we made a day trip there. The first area walked was very quiet but the bush under the falls and about the picnic area was alive with birds. Five species of honey-eaters were in the area and we all had good sightings of Fuscous Honeyeater in both adult and immature plumage and a Satin Bowerbird and its bower was seen just off the walking track.

The Park Ranger stopped by for a chat and gave us some information on the park and the residents and with our sightings his bird list grew by about five species. He suggested another spot on the other side of the park, but it turned out to be fairly quiet and a little further than expected which caused some of the car drivers concern as the fuel gauges pointed to empty. It was interesting to note that three species of tree creeper, the White-throated, Red-browed and Brown, were all seen in close proximity to each other in the park.

The evenings were spent about the traditional campfire after washing off the day's dust in either the river or under the IBOC shower. The owners of the property, Joe & Kath Jefferies visited one evening and gave us some interesting historical highlights of the area. He also lets several other groups camp there, including 1300 motorcyclists from Willoughby, who taxed the area's catering facilities to the limit. A lovely plate handpainted by Hazel Emery was presented to the Jefferies as a token of appreciation by President Jim. This was followed by supper around the campfire.

The days were taken up bird watching or just relaxing about the camp, some joined Timothy playing in the river and when the water fight was on it was all hands to the buckets.

Although the birds were scarce due to the dry conditions and lack of variable habitats an enjoyable time was had by all with the usual well organised facilities and enjoyable company. A total of 108 species of birds were sighted and recorded in 4 atlassing areas plus two snakes, one almost under Wal Emery's foot. Brushtail Possums abounded in the trees around the river, with Black Tailed Wallabies in the gullies and Grey Kangeroos in the scrub.

Thanks to David Winterbottom for putting us in touch with the Jefferies. Thanks also to President Jim Robinson for his organisation and to those who helped cart the gear.

Chris Brandis.

#### APRIL MEMBERS NIGHT.

13 members made contributions to the programme for our April member's night, providing the remainder of the audience with an interesting evening.

Ron Imisides commenced proceedings with a selection of seabird slides, showing the non-sailors in the club that there's a lot more than Silver Gulls to see once you get out a few kilometres. Richard Fackender and Len Klumpes showed some more of their high quality slides of birds at the nest, whilst Chris Chafer contributed with telephoto shots of some of the birds of Northern Australia. One of particular interest to me was the White-breasted Whistler, a bird which eluded us on the Kakadu trip.

A break from the slides for a while as Wally Hurst sketched a rather 'rare' tern. Dora Lockrey's recounting of some humorous bird stories from the past set members in the right mood for some of the comical camp slides that were to follow from Ron Almond and Dave Thomson.

Laurie Williams' Iron Range selection stimulated the fading memories of those who were fortunate to have been part of that magic trip. Ron Hanks added to the nostalgia with a selection from the Kakadu trip.

Next, a few outing landscapes from Bob Nenke and a couple of interesting slides from Don Rodgers, a Striated Pardalote at the nest and an unusual shot of an Owllet Nightjar on a corrugated iron roof. Horrie Ward completed the programme with some lovely scenic slides of the beautiful landscape that surrounded us at our Easter Jingellic camp.

Thanks to all those who contributed their talents to provide an enjoyable evening.

Wal Emery.

## APRIL FIELD OUTING REPORT.

The April outing was attended by 22 members, meeting at Wattamolla car park at 8.00am. Leaving some cars there we drove to Marley car park where we began our walk, which was planned to finish back at Wattamolla.

The weather during the day was perfect. It was sunny all day with a very light wind and atmosphere very clear. Our walk began at 8.30am. from Marley car park to the lagoon behind Little Marley Beach, then on to Little Marley Beach, Marley Beach and to Wattamolla where we had first met in the morning.

The walk was mostly through heath except for a couple of wet gullies in which creeks flowed through. The vegetation consisted of a variety of banksias, hakea and tea-trees, which appeared to dominate. Banksia Ericaefolia and Integrifolia with darwinea and tea-trees were in flower, adding to the pleasure of the walk. The vegetation growing on the Hawkesbury sandstone with little top-soil was somewhat stunted but none the less beautiful.

Although the number of bird species in the heath were few, this habitat supported a large number of New Holland Honeyeaters throughout the whole area along with many Little Wattlebirds. Also the Tawny-crowned, Yellow-faced, White-naped Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebill were observed there.

The first gully we came to with a flowing creek produced some different birdlife due to the variation in vegetation. In this gully the trees were tall. The beautiful angophoras, eucalypts and casuarinas overshadowed a ground cover consisting mainly of tea-tree and acacia. Here we observed the White-eared Honeyeater, Red-browed Firetail, Silvereye, Superb Fairy-wren, Brown Gerygone and White-browed Scrubwren.

We arrived at the lagoon at Little Marley Beach about 11.00am but were surprised to find it deserted except for the Purple Swamphen, the only bird observed there. As we walked across the sandhills to the creek which drained the lagoon a White-faced Heron flew over and circled the lagoon a couple of times then alighted on a sandhill about 50 metres away. Along this creek we observed the Black-fronted Plover and some Superb Fairy-wrens. On the rocks at the northern end of the beach was a Reef Egret which was able to be approached quite closely before it walked away.

As we walked along the sea shore and cliffs the Little Pied and Great Cormorant, Crested Tern and Australasian Gannet were sighted. This part of the walk unfolded some of our very beautiful coastline to as far south as the Illawarra Range west of Kiama. The view was made even more enjoyable due to such clear conditions.

We arrived back at Wattamolla about 2.30pm after a walk of about 8 klm, with a total of 39 species observed for the day.

H. Ward.

## ANOTHER VISIT TO SANDY HOLLOW.

We camped at 'Amesbury Park', Sandy Hollow for 10 days from Good Friday. The countryside was very dry due to the area having received no rain since January. There was very little water in Worondi Rivulet which runs through the property and none in the vicinity of the camping area.

During our stay we spent a considerable time sitting in our chairs in the shade of the trees, watching the activity of the birds in a eucalypt tree covered with flowering mistletoe.

We recorded 14 species of birds feeding in this tree, namely the Noisy Friarbird, Red Wattlebird, Yellow-faced, Yellow-tufted, White-plumed, Brown-headed, White-naped, Crescent, New Holland and Scarlet Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebill, Little Lorikeet, Eastern Rosella and Crested Shriketit. There were 3 other honeyeaters observed in the immediate area, the Noisy Miner, White-eared and Striped Honeyeater, but they were not seen in this tree.

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For the first 3 days the weather was mild and sunny with a southerly breeze blowing and during this time the southern half of the tree was patrolled by a Noisy Friarbird. He harassed any bird that dared try to feed in his territory but on the fourth day he tried to patrol the entire tree. On the fifth day he appeared to patrol the whole tree for the early part of the morning and after that we never saw the bird in the tree again.

There also appeared to be a significant drop in the number of other species feeding in the tree. Our theory for this was the noticeable increase in day-time temperatures as the southerly breeze changed to a north, north westerly wind and also the mistletoe appeared to be nearing the completion of the flowering period.

One bird that was very conspicuous by it's absence in the whole area during our stay was the Mistletoebird.

We recorded a total of 73 species during our stay and added 3 new birds to our total list of 119 species for the area, namely the Southern Whiteface, Red Wattlebird and Crescent Honeyeater. We were amazed to see several Crescent Honeyeaters, both male and female, as we have always thought of them as a bird of the damp gullies, but there were no damp gullies there, so there are always surprises in the world of birdwatching!

We have records for the area since 1978 which include 4 spring visits and one previous Easter visit. On several of these visits we have recorded the Lyrebird by call and on our last club camp the bird was both heard and evidence of it's activity in the area was seen, but we have never been fortunate enough to see it. Once more on this visit we didn't see the bird, but sightings have been made by the residents of the area on more than one occasion.

As previously mentioned there was very little water but we found by digging a couple of holes in the creek bed, an inch or so of water was evident. It proved a very pleasant pastime, particularly at dusk, to watch many small birds come to these small waterholes to drink and bathe; Eastern Spinebills, White-plumed and White-eared Honeyeaters, Yellow Robins, White-throated Treecreepers, Red-browed Firetails and Double-barrred Finches to name a few.

At daybreak and again at dusk it was also very relaxing to sit by the dam and watch the Eastern and Crimson Rosellas, King and a couple of Red-rumped Parrots drink at the edge of the quickly diminishing water.

Over the past 8 years members of I.B.O.C. have enjoyed very pleasant camps at 'Amesbury Park', with lots of lovely birds to enjoy, but the one we seem to associate most with the area is the Red-capped Robin and it didn't disappoint us this time. We saw females, males and for the first time others that appeared to be in female plumage but with a red wash on the breast. We did wonder if they were females with a red wash on the breast or immature males. We have left the area with this question unanswered.

Nola Williams.

### SUPERB PARROTS.

The New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service is concerned about the future of the Superb Parrot Polytelis swinsonii which is endemic to New South Wales and Victoria. The Superb Parrot appears to be threatened by illegal trapping for the aviculture industry and by habitat destruction in both its breeding and feeding areas. The species is listed in Part 2, Vulnerable and Rare Fauna, of the Endangered Fauna Schedule of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974.

The Commonwealth Government through Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, provided financial assistance under a States Assistance Grant for a survey of the breeding habitat of the Superb Parrot during 1985/86. Whilst a number of breeding sites were identified and valuable data were collected in respect of vegetation associations in these breeding areas during the first six months of the survey, there is much information still to be gathered, particularly in respect to post-breeding dispersal.

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Regrettably it would be impossible, in the remaining few months of the present study for the consultant to investigate all previously documented sightings for Superb Parrots and to thoroughly search the extensive post-breeding dispersal areas to increase our knowledge of these birds. The Service therefore wishes to enlist the aid of bird observers and landholders to assist in compiling a much broader data base on which future conservation strategies for the Superb Parrot might be based.

The Service therefore would appreciate details of any and all sightings of Superb Parrots and wishes to recruit "permanent" observers (within the range of the birds) who are willing to submit regular reports on their observations over the next three to four years.

The Service has prepared a standard information report form and copies of this are available from Jeff Hardy, N.P.W.S., P.O. Box N189 Grosvenor Street, Sydney 2000, Ph. (02) 237-6695. Of course all reports do not necessarily have to be on the standard form, but it would be appreciated if the following detail could be included with observations submitted to the Service:-

Date and time; precise location of observation (include property names and map co-ordinates if possible); number of birds; flock composition; type of vegetation associations (River Red Gum, Box woodland; Box/Cypress Pine Woodland; other) evidence of breeding; food resources utilised; any further information which may be of interest or assistance to the study and of course the name, address and phone number of the observer.

Your assistance in this important study would be greatly appreciated.

J.F. Whitehouse,  
Director N.P.W.S.

#### WILL A PICTORELLA MANNIKIN BE NEXT?

In recent weeks, along a small section of Stonequarry Creek, Picton, I have had a finch bonanza. I have seen Zebra Finches for the first time in this area, and at two weekly intervals have seen Chestnut-breasted Mannikins, Nutmeg Mannikins and Plum-headed Finches. Did someone leave an aviary door open, and if so, why is there a different finch each time?

Perhaps they have all been there all the time, just in a different place along the creek when I visited. I am hoping that my next fortnightly finch might be the elusive Pictorella Mannikin which we missed during our trip north last year. It would be rather ironic to find it at Picton.

As I was leaving after watching the Plum-headed Finches, I heard a different call overhead, and looking up saw 3 White-backed Swallows. I think these birds are so handsome, and as they are pretty uncommon in the area, I am always delighted to see them.

I have been spending March watching our White-winged Choughs raise a second family. This is my first record of them breeding at this time of the year. The baby-sitters are beginning to leave the nest unattended now, so I suppose it will not be long before the two nestlings leave the nest.

Shirley Rooke, Bargo.

#### THE GIBSON WALKING TRACK.

We arrived at the foot of those steep steps about 8.30am. on a hazy morning, not realizing what a bounty of birds awaited. As soon as we reached the top the birds were everywhere, we didn't know which way to look.

Lots of little grey birds flitted in the upper foliage, Brown Gerygone, White-throated Treecreepers were busy on the bark, then something different in the dark heavy foliage, a Leaden Flycatcher, then another. Grey Fantails entertained us for morning tea, Silvereyes enjoyed snacking on the blackberries, and Spotted Pardalotes gleaned lerpes from the eucalyptus leaves.

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Further up past the cabbage palms Denise spotted something exciting, turned out to be a Black-faced Monarch looking rather flash with it's rich rufous tummy and black face. Yellow Robins began to appear steadily along the track, also Golden Whistlers.

We decided on another cuppa and found a large log, got the flash out as Rufous Fantails danced about in the shafts of sunlight. Then I spotted a large grey bird, was it a hawk or a Channel-billed Cuckoo. We crept over closer but it took off, but then there was another movement high up in the branches, a Green Catbird, great!

Back to our cold tea, then a Whipbird foraging about for us to see. Something else overhead, a Spangled Drongo hawking insects. What a great walk for a birdwatcher.

Margaret Parkinson.

#### UNEXPECTED VISITORS.

As we live closer to the ocean than to the escarpment we do not get many birds from the bush in our garden. Honeyeaters come in twos and threes and not in flocks. A family of Superb Fairy-wrens visit occasionally and I once saw a Rose Robin.

Imagine my delight then when on the 1st February two Crimson Rosellas came to feast on the berries of the Cotoneaster. I was doubly surprised because the berries though in great profusion are not ripe, that is to say they are not red yet. Very few birds seem to be interested in them when they are ripe, the only ones who eat them usually are the Bul Buls and they are not all that fond of them.

The rosellas visited the garden every day for eight days, some days remaining for several hours. On one occasion they were startled and flew across the road alighting on a psoralia in a garden on the opposite side to us and then disappearing into one of those dense conifers that the doves like to nest in. I wondered if they were lodging there while they took advantage of the berries on the cotoneaster.

We have lived here for thirty five years and I have never previously seen a rosella in the garden. When we first came here our block of land was part of a large paddock of paspalum. There were three or four swamp oaks and a small patch of couch. That was the extent of the flora and for fauna we had Red-bellied Black Snakes, Red-backed Spiders and the occasional Echidna or Bandicoot. One of the most common birds was the so-called 'Blue Crane' or White-faced Heron, they were around all the time. In late February or early March a flock of 'White cranes' would arrive and the old-timers would say "Now the summers' over, the white cranes have arrived". I suppose they would have been one of the egrets. We don't see them around now though they sometimes fly over - much of their habitat has gone. However the development of gardens does seem to have brought its compensations.

Margaret Ward.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS Annual Scientific Day is to be held in Canberra over the weekend May 10-11th, 1986. The conference should be of relevance to anyone interested in any aspect of animal communication.

For enquiries or Registration Forms, please contact C.C. Davey, Conference Co-Ordinator, on Telephone 062-546324 (H) or 062-411211 (W).

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INTERESTING SIGHTINGS MARCH - APRIL, 1986.

U Peregrine Falcon	1	Killalea Lagoon	11-3-86	L. Smith
R Blue-billed Duck	1	" "	11-3-86	"
R Pied Oystercatcher	2	Windang Estuary	14-3-86	"
U Ruddy Turnstone	7	M.M. Beach	13-3-86	"
R White-winged Tern	1	Windang	18-3-86	"
S Intermediate Egret	1	Lake South	24-3-86	"
R Great Knot	1	Lake South	28-3-86	"
U Buff-banded Rail	1	Bass Pt. S.R.A.	11-4-86	"
R Striated Heron	1	Barrack Point	12-4-86	"
S Rose Robin	1	Marshall Mt.	15-3-86	A. Knowlson
MC Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	1	" "	10-3-86	"
S Spangled Drongo	1	Bulli Pass	20-3-86	D. Strickland
U White-fronted Chat	1	Barrack Heights S.W.	22-3-86	"
R Blue-billed Duck	1	Killalea Lagoon	9-4-86	"
S Little Eagle	2	" "	9-4-86	"
U Black-winged Stilt	5	" "	9-4-86	"
R Blue-billed Duck	3	C. Hoskins Res.	16-3-86	C. Chafer
S Whimbrel	1	Comerong Island	23-3-86	"
S. Black-tailed Godwit	1	" "	23-3-86	"
R Red-kneed Dotterel	2	Killalea Lagoon	2-4-86	"
U Buff-banded Rail	1	Shellharbour Swamp	11-4-86	"
MC Mongolian Plover	21	Comerong Island	13-4-86	"
S Greenshank	40	" "	13-4-86	"
S Black-tailed Godwit	10	" "	13-4-86	"
S Logrunner	2	Balgownie	12-4-86	W. Emery
S Spangled Drongo	2	"	19-4-86	W & H Emery
S Rose Robin	1	"	19-4-86	"
MC Jacky Winter	2	Stuart Park	22-4-86	R. Almond
U Black-winged Stilt	6	Tom Thumb Lagoon	25-3-86	"
S Spangled Drongo	4	Keiraville	18-4-86	"
U Yellow-tailed Blk Cockatoo	1	"	18-4-86	"

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<u>BOAT TRIP EAST OF WOLLONGONG</u>	22-3-86	23-3-86	Records per
White-headed Petrel	1		David Fischer
White Tern	1		
Kermadec Petrel (Dark Phase)	1		
Long-tailed Jaeger		4	
Pink-footed Shearwater (First Aust. Record)	1		

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MEMBERSHIP LIST CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs. Deborah Perry, 12 Allen Street, Austinmer, 2514 Ph Home 67.1258.



# I. B. O. C. NEWS

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NO. 94 JUNE, 1986.

THE CIRCULAR OF THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS' CLUB

Registered by Aust. Post Publication No N8H 3848

POSTAL ADDRESS P.O. BOX 56 FAIRY MEADOW NSW 2519

CLUB MOTTO

"One good Tern  
Deserves Another"

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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

NEXT MEETING - will be held at the Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Centre, corner of Collaery Avenue & Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow on Monday 9th June at 7.30pm. Our GUEST SPEAKER for the evening will be Jack Waterhouse. Jack is a very experienced bird observer and is well regarded by all those who know him. His topic for the evening will be "Mallee Birds". I am sure members can look forward to an interesting evening as they learn more about this very specialised group of birds.

FIELD OUTING - 8.30am Saturday 14th June, Minnamurra. We will be walking through "Glenowrie" property adjacent to Minnamurra River. A pair of White-bellied Sea Eagle have a huge nest in the area and expect to sight them on our outing. Drive south along Princes Highway to Dunmore and turn right into Swamp Road. "Glenowrie" is 2.8 kms along Swamp Road and located on left hand side of sharp bend in road. It is a few hundred metres before the Strawberry Farm. Delivery box out front shows "GLENOWRIE J.E. HARDING". Park cars east and to the left of the house about 100 metres in off Swamp Road. Assemble here at 8.30am. Bring a carry lunch as walk is expected to last past lunch time. Area would also suit anyone who wants to spend half day only on walk.

MID-WEEK OUTING - A mid-week morning only outing has been organised for 8.30am Wednesday 4th June at the end of Brookes Point Road, Appin. To get there, turn left as you come off the Bulli-Appin Road into Appin, proceed south and then turn right into Brookes Point Road. Drive to end of road and park. For more details ring Len Klumpes on 84-8592.

FILM NIGHT - Our next film night will be held at the home of Brian & Barbara Hales, 39 Lake Parade, East Corrimal on Saturday 31st May. There will be the usual two sessions at 6.00pm & 8.00pm. Richard's choice of two films about the Mallee country should create added interest with our June guest speaker's talk about the birds of that area to follow. Bring a plate for supper and enjoy a pleasant social evening. The programme is as follows:-

THE SUNSET COUNTRY.

17 mins

A record of an expedition of 12 people who crossed a little known area of the Victorian mallee known as the sunset country.

THE MALLEE FOWL.

11 mins

Shows how the Mallee Fowl incubates its eggs in a bed of organic matter in a mound of earth. The male bird adjusts the mound according to the season and time of day to maintain the eggs at a temperature of 92°F.

WHEELS ACROSS AUSTRALIA.

29 mins

A journey from Adelaide to Darwin showing birdlife in the Murray Valley, aborigines and animal life in the Northern Territory.

GIANTS IN THE SKY.

26 mins

The largest of the world's wild geese thought to be extinct by the early 1930's were recently discovered within the city limits of a bustling metropolis. Today they are re-establishing themselves throughout North America.

BIRD COUNT - Don't forget the Bird Count on the 31st May. If you wish to participate, ring Kevin Wood on 29-5514 and he will put you in touch with the area leader of your choice.

SEABIRD TRIPS OFF WOLLONGONG - The June boat trips will be held on Saturday, 28th and Sunday 29th June. Several species of Albatross should be abundant at this time of the year. It is a great experience to see these magnificent birds at close range. For further details on cost and bookings ring David Fischer on (042) 27-1704.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS - Articles are requested from members for the newsletter. Just a paragraph or two about an interesting observation or a longer more detailed article covering observations or birding trips. We can only make the newsletter interesting if members continue to contribute. Please post articles to Wal Emery, 63 Dymock Street, Balgownie 2519 or hand them in personally at the monthly meetings.

PROPOSED TASMANIAN TRIP - The committee has decided to abandon plans for a trip to Tasmania in February 1987 due to insufficient response from members. Only 12 people indicated an interest and this would not be a viable number for such a trip.

An alternative 5 day trip to O'Reilly's Guest House, Lamington National Park S. E. Queensland from Tuesday 1st to Sunday 6th September 1987 is now being organised. This trip will proceed regardless of numbers. The cost ranges from Double/Twin room with separate bathroom block at \$59 per person per day through to \$81 per person per day for single or double self contained units. All meals are included in these prices.

For bookings ring Wal Emery on 84-0139 or sign the register at the June meeting.

A maximum of thirty beds will be available and these will be allocated on a first in basis. We will also be seeking an indication as to your preferred mode of travel i.e. Air, rail coach or private car. Travel costs are additional to Guest House tariff. Please note this is September 1987 not 1986!

A National Park camping ground exists adjacent to O'Reilly's. This could be an alternative to anyone not wanting accommodation. It would allow you to meet up with members staying at the Guest House but would preclude you from any activities organised by O'Reilly's, e.g. bus tours or film nights. It is not suitable for caravans.

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NAME TAGS - Due to the increase in membership it is becoming difficult for all members to be personally introduced to each other. This is the price we must pay for the continued success of the club. It has been suggested that all members should wear a name tag at the next few meetings for the purpose of self introduction. These will be issued at the June meeting.

If you already have a tag please wear it and help make it easier for those issuing new ones. Your co-operation will help maintain the friendly atmosphere that the club has enjoyed over the past ten years.

EXCURSION OFFICER - Chris Chafer has offered to fill the position of excursion officer for the club. Chris knows the birds of our district well and the habitats in which they can be found. I'm sure we can look forward to some interesting outings in 1987. Thank you Chris from the committee for accepting the position.

MAY FILM NIGHT.

Approximately 40 members attended the two sessions at the home of Dave & Betty Thomson. A varied and interesting programme was shown, topped off with a pleasant chat around the supper table. Thanks to Dave & Betty for their hospitality and to Richard for selecting and organising the films.

Wal Emery.

MAY MEETING REPORT.

Our guest speaker for the May meeting was club member Richard Jordan. This was Richard's second address to our club, the first when he became Warden of the Barren Grounds Nature Reserve and the newly established Bird Observatory.

This time he was able to recount to us the amount of research and development which has been done - and with slides of graphs, this was easily understood.

One most important study is the affect of bush fires in relation to the bird population. We mostly regard a bush fire as a disaster, but in some cases such as the rare Ground Parrot, the fire regenerates the sedge on which they feed.

The pictorial slides shown were delightful. Some were of the beautiful views from the Barren Grounds. Others were showing the types of vegetation, birds and visitors to the area. These slides were relative to the bird studies, the seed or pollen count. Here visitors (including children) were often seconded to help in this very detailed work of data collection.

This most interesting lecture was added to by Dave Walsh in his 'vote of thanks' by giving us background information to the formation of the Barren Grounds Nature Reserve.

Gwen Robinson.

MAY FIELD OUTING REPORT. Box Vale Walking Track, Mittagong.

On the way to the May outing through the light rain, we had a good sighting of a male Superb Lyrebird on Macquarie Pass, but by the time we reached the head of the track with the 28 other members, the weather had cleared to overcast. The walk was along an old railway line that was completed in 1888, through numerous cuttings, over raised sections and through a tunnel. Chris Sonter joined us for the walk and being raised in the area kept up an interesting patter of comments on the history of the area. It was amazing that the 6km line was completed in less than a year and the evidence of manual chipping through the sandstone was clearly evident. The line only carried 8,000 ton of coal before being closed down and now 20 metre trees grow through the track.

Unfortunately the sky opened up after a while and as the rain drops built up on my glasses, my binoculars fogged up and bird watching became bird hearing. This proved to be very quiet as the birds sheltered from the rain. We reached the tunnel in various stages of saturation and if I had not been given the job to write the article I probably would have joined those heading back. Instead I carried on to the end of the track where it began to clear producing a magic view up the mist covered Nattai Gorge to Katoomba.

The early bird sightings were fairly typical for the area, with the dam producing both Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes, Black-fronted Plover and for a few lucky ones, the Azure Kingfisher. About 30 species had been identified through the rain by the time we reached the tunnel. On the way to the lookout an Origma demanded right of way while a Superb Lyrebird was calling in the bushland. After some exploring about the point where the coal reached the head of the line we retired to the tunnel for lunch.

It was fairly fine while we walked back and a few hearty souls decided to do the walk down to the Forty Foot Falls. This gave us a good view of the Red-browed Treecreeper in the smooth bark of the upper tree branches. The falls were down a rather steep climb and we rested in a cave behind the falls which were like a curtain over the entrance. By the time we wearily climbed back to the car park the total species count was 50, quite a good number for the area according to Chris. After a warm cuppa and a chat we headed back to the Gong, many vowing to return in better weather. Thanks to the organisers, the participants and Chris Sonter for bringing the history of the area alive and keeping the interest high while the weather kept the birds down.

Chris Brandis.

STORY: "THE EVILS OF BIRDWATCHING OR HOW AN INNOCENT CITY GIRL WAS LED INTO A GRIM LIFE OF SEWERAGE PONDS AND GARBAGE DUMPS!"

I have been seduced into this skulking existence by my own mother - she who has had me plough through mud and leeches in Far North Queensland, slogged across parched desert land in the Gulf country and been taken on regular visits to sewerage farms on her occasional visits to her aged parent. Now, returning to my previously comfortable city existence I find, instead, the rot has set in to the extent that I am seen racing through blocks of flats, hare-ing across fields of picnickers and risking life and limb getting across busy main roads in the nick of time, all for a few silly birds!

Having just moved to Canterbury within sight of the Cook River, and only 5 miles from Sydney city centre, I decided to please my mother and survey the birdlife in my new habitat. Not promising, as the Cook River bears a close resemblance to a noisome, cement lined sewer with only 1-2 metres of water at the best of times. However, it does have a bicycle path running its length till it meets Botany Bay at Sydney Airport.

My first trip out took me up past the Skating Rink to the racecourse - a lucky choice as I was rewarded with 11 Grey Teal sitting on the black mud in between the prams and burnt out car bodies that fill the water. Then 100 yards away a White-necked Heron was seen looking very depressed and bedraggled, with a large dog barking at it.

Encouraged by this start my next outing took me down stream on the 6 km bicycle path. Another good trip, Oh! not by Wollongong standards, but enjoyable enough in the inner city. Started with White-plumed Honeyeaters playing catch in the casuarinas, followed by 10+ noisy Bulbuls (not native but fun) willies on the path and Welcome Swallows back and forth over the river. Things livened up by the sight of me racing through a large field of picnickers after a flock of 'little fellows' who will remain forever anonymous. This was looked upon as an amazing sight by the assembled multitude of Sydney siders but I had my reward as I returned to the path in the form of a Crested Tern not 10 feet away and leisurely flying up the river. It was followed by a sighting of a Kookaburra (not exciting? to me yes, as they are now rarely seen in Sydney), nearby were Magpie and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike.

In a tennis court between the flats two Masked Lapwings, and between two groups of footballers a very unhappy Crested Pigeon. A rest at the end beside the Waterworth Velodrome and within sight of the airport brought Yellow-rumped Thornbills, wrens, pipits and a Golden-headed Cisticola. A Pied Cormorant shared the fishing with the locals. The trip back through the streets added a Red Wattlebird.

A relaxing day and one I enjoyed, however the birds added a later indignity! Having just settled for much needed relief in our backyard W/C (ours is an old two-storey building) I saw over the top of the door a grey bird with hooked beak sitting on the aerial of the shop next door! Up came the trousers and out I shot, up two flights of stairs for the binoculars and book, down the stairs to the kitchen, bird took one look at me through kitchen window and off he went, followed closely by yours truly through factories, across road, through blocks of flats etc. Anyway, only an Australian Kestrel but an addition to my list. Addenda: Scared a Feral Pigeon into the river under a bridge, pigeon just sat on the water with wings outspread, after some thought I went round the corner of bridge. Pigeon then proceeded to row itself to shore with its wings like oars!

Susan Rooke.

#### A PADDLE DOWN THE MINNAMURRA RIVER.

With Timothy in the bow to watch out for logs and shallows we started to paddle our canoe down the Minnamurra River from the Old Swamp Road. The main reason for the trip was to observe the Azure Kingfishers that inhabit the mangroves along the river bank. Within a short distance a flash of blue across the water and into the over hanging mangroves gave us the first glimpse of this beautiful bird. Quietly drifting with the tide allowed us to get within 2 metres of the bird sitting in the mangroves and the striking plumage has to be seen to be appreciated.

We saw only 2 more on the trip down to Kiama Downs and each time the birds sat quietly in the mangrove branches to give us an excellent view. Quite early a Spangled Drongo was noted perched over the river, Sacred Kingfishers were quite common and other river birds were seen along the way.

In a 30 minute walk through the samphire and tea tree below Kiama Downs only 2 Brown Thornbills and 2 Southern Emu-wrens were seen but at every suitable site Golden Orb spiders had their webs spun, making progress through the trees difficult.

The northern bank was densely vegetated and a recent fence was the only area where a walk could be taken. Some of the birds noted were Crested Shrike-tits, Rufous Fantail, Leaden Flycatcher and other forest birds. After an easy paddle back with the rising tide and a few more sightings of Azure Kingfishers we arrived back with a total of 41 species and thanks to the Rid, only 3 sandfly bites.

Chris Brandis.

#### BLACK DAY FOR DUCK OR "DUCKS DILEMMA"

Location: Radium Park, Berry N.S.W.  
Time: Before most of you wake up.  
Reason for trip: Health and doggy needs.  
Weather: Typical for area.

Well the story goes like this, you know that familiarity breeds etc. etc. There were two Mallards, tame, two Aylsbury and numerous Muscovy ducks but not for long. We were returning around the pond as is our wont and approaching the shallow highway end, when we were a little surprised and pleased to disturb a family of Black Ducks, father? at the front, mother? in the rear with six baby ducklings, who were as surprised to meet us as we were them; we, meaning my Dobermann bitch now seven and me.

Now! how? or rather where had they hatched out. It must have been near, as the pond as such, ends at the highway and there are only fields for miles. Day by day the secret was well kept even from my neighbours, after all I was supposed to be a bird observer not a bank teller.

The domestic bliss was soon to end with first the drake and two babies disappearing, then after reaching about half size, a further duckling departed.

.../6



Soon after the duck herself left the scene, by natural causes or four legged ones. Anyway to-date the remainder are sharing in the daily parade of passing visitors to the park, mainly local children who love to feed them and practice counting and telling a grey-haired old fuddy duddy living nearby how many there are each day.

Someone over the years has been playing ducks and drakes with the breeds as there used to be some fine Aylsbury, then came all Muscovy and I mean ALL OVER the place, in your garden, flying about, a pest at times. Then the ailing wife of a regular feeder and keeper of the flock died, the man lost his driving licence at eighty five and the park has never been the same especially when someone sneaked about one night and removed a sitting duck complete with eighteen nice eggs under her.

What people will stoop to these days!

Wal Hurst.

AZURE KINGFISHER NESTING.

On the 26th January I went to Douglas Park, and while walking across the causeway I saw an Azure Kingfisher fly into a casuarina growing at the edge of the river, then to my surprise the bird flew down to the very edge of the causeway in front of me. I stood and watched. The kingfisher watched the water for quite awhile, bobbing it's head, then flew down onto the cement spillway below and caught something. It then flew under the causeway and up stream.

I followed and saw it on a small bare branch over the water. Sitting with my back against a tree, I watched it fly into a hole low down in a small cutting coming down the bank to the river, not over the water, and I'm told that is unusual, as they are frequently over water.

I informed Ian Rowles, as I thought he may be able to photograph it. Ian has been several times, and the bird was on the causeway fishing. It was difficult to set up a hide in the cutting at the nesting tunnel, and too near people who frequent this spot on fine days.

Ian said on his third visit the kingfisher was flying and feeding three young ones on the other side of the river. He managed to photograph the bird on the causeway. A delightful bird to watch, with its lovely azure blue back, tiny little, short red legs and feet and very short tail. What a large bill for such a small bird.

An immature Dollarbird and Sacred Kingfisher were also seen in trees on the other side of the river.

Esme Gay.

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS FOR MARCH - APRIL - MAY, 1986.

U	Spotted Quail-thrush	4	Avon Sub-station	24-4-86	P Bath
U	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	Marshall Mount	30-4-86	"
S	Spangled Drongo	1	Windang	6-5-86	"
U	Rainbow Lorikeet	5+	Austinmer	5-86	D. Perry
R	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	5+	"	5-86	"
MC	Origma	1	Sublime Point	16-5-86	"
R	Red-kneed Dotterel	6	Killalea Lagoon	20-4-86	C. Chafer
R	Tawny Grassbird	2	Dunmore Swamp	3-5-86	"
S	Whimbrel	9	Comerong Island	10-5-86	"
R	Red-necked Avocet	1	" "	10-5-86	"
S	Fork-tailed Swift	20+	Killalea Area	25-4-86	C. Brandis
MC	Double-barred-Finch	2	" "	25-4-86	"
S	Scarlet Honeyeater	3	Dunmore Res.	9-5-86	"
R	Red-rumped Parrot	2	Figtree	3-5-86	D. Green
S	Beautiful Firetail	2 Pr.	No 10 Firetrail Appin	14-3-86	I. Rowles
R	Turquoise Parrot	1	" " Road	14-3-86	"
U	Spotted Quail-thrush	2	" " "	4-4-86	"
U	Rainbow Lorikeet	20+	Bulli	15-3-86	"
U	White's Thrush	2	Bellambi Creek	26-3-86	K. Mills
R	Bar-shouldered Dove	3	Bass Point	12-4-86	"
U	Southern Emu-wren	1	Puckey's Estate	15-5-86	R. Almond

# I. B. O. C. NEWS

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No. 95 JULY, 1986.



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

CLUB MOTTO

"One good Tern  
Deserves Another"

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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

NEXT MEETING - will be held at the Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Centre, corner of Collaery Avenue & Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow on Monday 14th July at 7.30pm. Our GUEST SPEAKER for the evening will be club member Ian Rowles. His topic for the evening will be "Bird Photography". Those who have been fortunate to view a sample of Ian's slides at past members' nights will know that he is a photographer of great ability, his work being of the highest standard and able to be compared favourably with that of our best bird photographers. As well as his bird slides Ian has also prepared some slides illustrating the methods and the variety of hides he uses to achieve his results. Come along and share in an interesting evening, I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

FIELD OUTING - 8.30am. Sunday 20th July at start of Fire road 10Q on Appin Road. This starting point is located on crest of hill, directly under power lines, and 0.5 kms from bridge over freeway. Park cars in open area on right side of road reserved for road building materials. From here we will walk north along fire road towards Darkes Forest, a distance of 7.5 kms. Enough cars will be organised to drive to Darkes Forest in order to transport people back to starting point at end of outing. Bring a carry lunch. Ian Rowles has surveyed route and will lead the outing. Thanks Ian.

MIDWEEK OUTING - The next midweek outing will be to Killalea Lagoon on Wednesday 2nd July. The Killalea turn off is east off Jamberoo Road between Shellharbour and Dunmore, south-west of Shellharbour Cemetery. Meet on the hill above Killalea Lagoon at 8.15am. For further details contact Mary Eskdale on 29.1650.

FILM NIGHT - Our next film night will be held at the home of Jim & Gwen Robinson 16 Burling Avenue, Mount Ousley on Saturday, 5th July. There will be the usual two sessions at 6.00pm & 8.00pm. Bring a plate for supper and join in a pleasant evening. The programme is as follows:-

(1) THE WAY OF A RIVER.

Looks at life in and around the River Test, Hampshire, U.K. during the seasons of the year.

- (2) PEREGRINE 20 mins  
Reviews the historical presence of this falcon in man's history.
- (3) THE BILLABONG. 11 mins  
Looks at birdlife in the flooded red gum forests along the Murray River.
- (4) NORTHERN TERRITORY CONTACT NO. 10. 5 mins.  
A poetic study of birdlife in the Territory, where at least a third of Australia's total bird species may be seen.

SEABIRD TRIPS OFF WOLLONGONG - The July boat trips will be on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th. For further details on cost and bookings ring David Fischer on (042) 27.1704.

O'REILLY'S TRIP, SEPTEMBER 1st TO 6th, 1987.- We now have twenty seven bookings confirmed with O'Reilly's and will probably be able to get another three. If you wish to go book with Wal Emery on 84.0139. No bookings will be accepted after the July meeting as we have to give O'Reilly's a final number by this date.

A deposit of \$50.00 per person will be required on or before the 14th July from all those who have booked. Please post cheques to Treasurer, Ron Almond, 2 Shoobert Crescent, Keiraville, 2500 or pay at the July meeting.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS - Thanks to the members who contributed articles for this months newsletter. Please keep the newsletter interesting by contributing long or short articles to Editor, Wal Emery, 63 Dymock Street, Balgownie, 2519.

NAME TAGS. The wearing of name tags at the June meeting proved to be a successful inovation. Please continue the success by wearing them to future meetings.

BOOK SALES - It is anticipated that the club will be in a position to purchase the following editions of the National Photographic Index of Australian Wildlife and sell them to members at the prices indicated:

"The Wrens & Warblers of Australia"	\$40
"The Waterbirds of Australia"	\$40
"Seabirds"	\$43

Anyone wishing to order any of these books should ring sales officers, Brian and Barbara Hales on 84.4266 or place their order with them at the July meeting.

CAPE YORK SAFARI OPPORTUNITY - We have received a letter from a Mr. Neville G. Foskey who is looking for someone to accompany him on a seven week 4WD Group Safari trip to Cape York, leaving Sydney on the 29 July. He is a life member of the David Stead Foundation at Wirrimbirra and has a keen interest in conservation. Anyone interested should contact him on (048) 71.2323 for more details.

#### JUNE FILM NIGHT REPORT

28 members enjoyed the four film programme on Saturday 31st May at two sessions in the home of Brian & Barbara Hales. Two of the films concentrated on firstly the Mallee Fowl and its incubation of eggs in an organic dirt mound, and the second on the Canada Goose in North America where this bird has made a comeback from the edge of extinction. The third and fourth films covered expeditions within Australia and both were excellent in showing the country, flora and fauna and in the case of "Wheels across Australia" included some aspects of aboriginal life. Photography was excellent in each film. Many thanks to Brian and Barbara for their hospitality.

Jim Robinson.

### JUNE MID-WEEK OUTING.

For those retired or simply not working, what better way to spend a glorious day in walking through the bush looking at birds and enjoying life. 12 of us gathered at Brooks Point where Ian Rowles and Len Klumpes conducted a tour of one of their favourite bird haunts. Friendly Shetland ponies accompanied us on the first part of the walk.

Ian promised that he had a few surprises in store for us and what wonderful surprises. A colony of Bell Miners was the first. Their ringing calls could be heard throughout the dry sclerophyll bushland and it was not long before we had them in our binocular sights.

Next highlight was a Powerful Owl in it's nest. All had a good look at the owl staring down at us and we had a further treat in watching its strong swooping flight down the gully. The Powerful Owl is a long time resident of the area according to our guides.

Next we were lead to a Satin Bowerbird's bower. Less than a metre away was a bird hide which Ian had set up 5 years ago to closely study and photograph the bird in its displays.

This was not all. We saw numerous Yellow Robins, White-naped Honeyeaters and Eastern Rosellas, also Varied Sittellas and the beautiful Crested Shrike-tits. A lovely Golden Whistler perched overhead where we stopped for morning tea. Other birds were Scarlet and Rose Robins, Noisy Miners and a flock of Maned Duck. Altogether 40 species of birds were sighted on our morning walk. We finished the day by observing the antics of a Red Fox for several minutes before he became aware of us.

Many thanks to Len Klumpes and Ian Rowles for a most rewarding morning.

Jim Robinson.

### THE JUNE MEETING REPORT.

Jack Waterhouse on Mallee birds - a genuine 'old timer' birdo and one of Australia's earliest bird photographers. It was like the talks we've come to expect from our own Arnold McGill - names of legends in birding, difficult driving and camping, makeshift equipment, first sightings and first photographs.

Jack took us on a run to Hattah and 'The Mallee', that country made up of eucalypts with no trunk but a lignotuber, several trunk-like branches and a maximum height of about 3 metres - and dry. His slides, his wealth of experience and his chatty style brought to life some of the mallee birds - Mallee Fowl, Mallee Ringneck, Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Splendid Fairy-wren, (Black-backed), Varied Sittella (Black-headed), White-fronted Honeyeater, Orange Chat and Yellow-rumped Pardalote. It was an enjoyable night and made more so by the couple of mallee films that Richard Miller had arranged for us at our last film night.

Dave Thomson.

### JUNE FIELD OUTING REPORT.

Adjacent to Minnamurra River on "Glenowrie" - The 34 people who turned out for the outing along the Minnamurra River were pleased that once again the weather forecast was wrong, instead of predicted rain we had a lovely balmy day.

Having duly admired the Hales' new yellow Datsun station wagon we set off to see the water-birds on the nearby dam. Two graceful Black Swans, a couple of Australasian Grebes and several other species of waterfowl started the day's tally. As we made our way down to the river edge the 'Red Baron' displaying some aerobatics added to the pleasure of our walk.

On the river we viewed some Sacred Ibis, White-faced Heron and Chestnut Teal and a couple of Black Duck. We then made our way in the direction of what had been promised as the sighting of the day, the White-bellied Sea-Eagle's nest.

.../4

On the way Esme' and Nancy side-tracked us into the lantana to search for something they had sighted with a red chest. Our search revealed a beautiful male Rose Robin.

A large bird of prey perched on a post caught our attention. There was some indecision as to it's identity until someone was bold enough to suggest it was a Spotted Harrier. Normally a bird of drier inland regions this is a rare sighting in the Illawarra. Disturbed by the attention the bird rose from its perch and flew overhead revealing unmistakably the beautiful plumage of an adult Spotted Harrier.

A tea-break was called to discuss the sighting before we continued along the sandy track to the huge White-bellied Sea-Eagle's nest. As promised it was a spectacular sight. Regularly added to over fifteen years by its occupants, it had developed into a huge structure.

We continued on to some samphire flats picking up several more species along the way; White-throated Treecreeper, Mistletoebird, Brown & Striated Thornbills and another Rose Robin to name a few.

Ron Almond was fasting for the 40 Hour famine, so while we all ate lunch Ron 'watched' and he was well rewarded for his fast, if not in money certainly with his spotting the Sea-Eagle perched close by and in good view for us all. We are putting Ron on a fast every outing from now.

The return journey across the paddocks provided us with a good sighting of an Australian Hobby perched in a tree. A couple of Whistling Kites, Southern Emu-wren and a male Flame Robin added to the final count of 63 sightings for the day.

There were many 'bon voyages' for Wendy and Ron Hanks who are off for a few months overseas next weekend! I believe they will be vack in time to stoke the fires and boil the billy at our October camp. Thanks to Lindsay Smith for organising access to 'Glenowrie' and sharing one of his favourite birding spots with us. Thanks also to President Jim for leading this interesting outing.

Val Shurley.

#### MORE GOODIES FROM THE BASS POINT REGION.

On the morning of 21st May, Lindsay Smith and myself were searching for a small colony of Tawny Grassbirds I had recently discovered in the Dunmore Swamp area.

During the course of our search we decided to wander through the large patch of melaleuca and casuarina forest of the southern side of the swamp. Many birds were present including a large party of Yellow Thornbills, Southern Emu-wrens, Variegated Fairy-wrens and surprisingly, a White's Thrush. As we were about to leave the forest and see what was on the swamp a pair of Lewin's Honeyeaters began an incessant chattering and Lindsay suggested that the presence of an owl could be the cause of their concern.

We slowly made our way through the thick melaleuca towards the noise eventually flushing it. Fortunately the bird did not go far, landing in a nearby casuarina. We were able to obtain excellent views of the bird for several minutes before it took off for a safer hiding place.

The bird was a medium sized owl with large yellow eyes. It had longish legs and tail, large talons, a small amount of spotting on the shoulders, heavily streaked on the underparts and a white throat. The final diagnostic feature was its almost total lack of a facial disc leaving no doubt that the bird was a Barking Owl. A good picture showing all these features appears on page 142 in 'Owls of the World', edited by John A. Burton.

The only other known records of this species in the County of Camden come from Sarren Grounds in 1973 and 1983, Shoalhaven Heads January 1970, and Morton National Park, 1970.

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On the afternoon of 28th May, Fred Ramsey and myself were birding in the Killalea Lagoon area. We were searching for Chestnut-breasted Mannikins which can often be found in the gully above the western ridge of the lagoon. We were slowly making our way down to the crystal clear stream which runs through the gully, when, all of a sudden a small bird flushed from underneath my feet. I knew it was a quail but which one. Unlike most quail, which explode off the ground and tear off at a million kms. an hour, this one took off almost vertically, flapping madly in an effort to gain altitude. After reaching about eye level it veered off and landed in a blackberry thicket about ten metres away.

Although this all happened within a second or two it gave us ample time to observe its small size, steely-blue and chestnut body and white throat patch. The bird of course was a male King Quail and represents only the 3rd record of the species in the County, the other two being at Stanwell Park and Yallah.

As the bird landed in a large patch of blackberries it was impossible to pursue it further and so we continued looking for the mannikins, which we soon found.

One week earlier while in the same location with Lindsay Smith and Chris and Timothy Brandis we briefly sighted a pair of quail land in dense grass near by. Despite vigorous tramping through the grass we were unable to relocate them. Considering that they appeared very small it is possible that these too were King Quail.

Chris Chafer.

#### MORE ON ROSELLAS.

As reported in an earlier newsletter, two Crimson Rosellas visited us for 8 days. We did not see them for a couple of days and thought they had left us but they returned and stayed until the first week in May. By that time there was hardly a cotoneaster berry left! The only other trees they fed from were the brush box and these also seemed to provide shelter for the night.

Although they did not become tame, they did become much bolder. At first they fed on the cotoneasters which though close to the house, were not near a door. The last one was just outside the dining room and also close to the back door. Eventually they came to it and would continue to feed even with us (and the dog) passing by.

To sit near the window and watch these beautiful birds was a real pleasure. I was amazed to see one of them drinking from a drum of rather dirty water so I put a bucket of water near the last of the cotoneaster, but I don't know if they drank from it.

Margaret Ward.

#### WINNING FRIENDS WITH WATER.

The day after the May meeting I saw one of the wagtails on the roof vainly searching the gutter for water. On the notice board at the meeting there was an article on providing water for birds and I decided to try it. I purloined the saucer of a large plant pot and placed it in a fairly open place but in front of a tree and in full view of the kitchen window. By the time I had filled the dish with water the wagtail was back down in the garden and by the time I got back to the kitchen it was in the dish.

Since then I have seen numerous birds taking the water. All the resident sparrows, starlings, mynahs, magpie larks, doves, bul buls and wagtails, also Silvereyes and a family of Superb Fairy-wrens. Two Eastern Spinebills, who have been constant visitors for some months, also bath in it.

On really hot days I put a sprinkler on but have always been wary of putting a dish out in case the cat sets up an ambush. However placing the dish close to a tree gives the birds an escape route. The cat has a bell on its collar.

Margaret Ward.

### IN SEARCH OF THE TAWNY GRASSBIRD.

It was the fourth time in as many weeks that I had pulled on the gumboots to search the Dunmore swamp for the Tawny Grassbirds that had been noted by Chris Chafer for the first time in the district for some years.

I left the road and followed the line of the she-oaks that lead past the swamp, looking into the taller trees for any sign of the Barking Owl also spotted by Chris Chafer and Lindsay Smith a couple of weeks earlier. Superb Fairy-wrens and Red-browed Firetails were frequently flushed while a pair of Whistling Kites soared overhead and a Golden Whistler searched for food in the lower branches. There were large clumps of blackberries thickly entwined with grass and as I passed one of these near a small drain with a patch of rushes, a bird flew out of the grass almost under my foot and perched for a few seconds on a rush stem before diving into the blackberry thicket.

At first glance the bird resembled a larger version of a Golden-headed Cisticola with a longer thicker tail; being very pale underneath with an even paler throat, the back was streaked dark brown with dark secondaries and it had an almost golden crown. The bird began to call in the dense vegetation with a 'jk' 'jk' 'jk' sound, at last I had glimpsed the Tawny Grassbird.

I tried to squeak the bird out for over 5 minutes but all I called up was 4 cisticolas and a Little Grassbird, the darker cousin with a streaked crown and fine striations about the throat. It skulked in the background popping out for a quick look several times before vanishing back into the rush patch.

The bird then stopped calling so I returned through a swampy patch back to the road. While watching a pair of Southern Emu-wrens I heard 'jk' 'jk' again and two grassbirds flew up into a small tree and peered through the foliage. One went to ground quickly while the other flew to a nearby blackberry patch and by keeping most of the patch between me and the bird I managed to have a clear sighting for about 5 minutes.

I left the area thinking how amazing it was to have tramped the area so many times looking for the bird, yet it remained elusive, and I wondered how many more may be in those rank grass areas waiting to be spotted by an IBOC in the right spot at the right time.

Chris Brandis.

### BIRDING IN THE RHODODENDRON PARK.

The Illawarra Rhododendron Park is a beautiful place to visit and a credit to the Society members who maintain it on a voluntary basis. As you stroll through the garden enjoying the enormous variety of shrubs and trees, there is an added bonus, the birdlife which inhabits the park and adjoining escarpment rainforest.

Several creeks flow down through the park so there is an abundance of fresh water all year round. On the bottom level near the barbecue area, you may find Yellow Robin, Yellow-faced and Lewin's Honeyeaters and Satin Bowerbirds.

White's Thrush, Superb Fairy-wrens, White-browed Scrubwren and Grey Thrush fossick amongst the leaf litter under the azaleas and rhododendrons, while overhead, the leader of the 'gang', Grey Fantail, is followed by its entourage, Golden Whistler, dozens of Brown Gerygones, Striated, Yellow and Brown Thornbills and Silvereyes, their beaks clicking as they forage for insects in the eucalypts and rainforest trees.

In autumn and winter, Rose Robins may be sighted in the lower area of the park, in spring they retreat to the escarpment rainforest area behind the park. As you progress up the drive towards Cedar Bend, Crested Shrike-tit, Spotted Pardalotes and White-naped Honeyeaters may be found here. Another highlight at this spot is a pair of Cicadabirds which have been seen on a regular basis during spring and summer over several years.

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Also in spring Black-faced Monarch, Rufous Fantail and Rufous Whistler may be seen quite easily. Crimson Rosellas, King Parrots and Eastern Whipbirds are common throughout the year.

On the upper level near a giant fig tree, lillypillies grow profusely and here you may find Wonga and White-headed Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Emerald Dove, and Green Catbird.

As you enter the escarpment park through a gate just north of the fig tree, tracks lead to the left or right. Left goes slightly uphill into an open area, and here I have sighted Topknot Pigeons feeding in Cabbage Tree Palms while overhead, Collared Sparrowhawk and Brown and Grey Goshawk have been sighted. On the last Autumn birdcount, 2 Logrunners were heard calling in the lantana thicket, also a Superb Lyrebird.

The track to the right of the gate winds down to another creek and swampy area and on the same bird count, it was alive with several species of birds including dozens of Red-browed Firetails. The track when winds uphill through glorious rainforest and here I found Yellow-throated and Large-billed Scrubwrens, with Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos calling overhead.

Easy and quick access and an abundance of birds makes this area ideal for a mornings' birding. The Rhododendron Park is open every weekend now until early November and usually Tuesday mornings for a working bee, so there is always a member of the Society available to answer any queries.

Hazel Emery.

MEMBERSHIP LIST - CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

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9 Greenwell Point Road,  
NOWRA. 2541

WALTON  
2 Junction Street,  
CORRIMAL 2518 phone 83.5087

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222 Canterbury Road,  
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PERRY, Deborah  
12 Allen Street,  
AUSTINMER. 2514 phone 67.1258

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INTERESTING SIGHTINGS - APRIL - MAY - JUNE, 1986.

U	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	50+	Killalea	18-5-86	C. Chafer
S	White-headed Pigeon	2	Bass Point	18-5-86	C. Chafer
U	White's Thrush	1	Dunmore Swamp	18-5-86	"
R	Barking Owl	1	" "	18-5-86	"
R	Tawny Grassbird	2	" "	23-5-86	"
R	Ring Quail (male)	1	Killalea area	23-5-86	"
U	Hestless Flycatcher	1	Lake Heights	25-5-86	"
U	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	2	Yallah	25-5-86	"
U	Pink-eared Duck	150 +	Yallah swamp	1-5-86	"
R	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	11	Primbee	1-6-86	"
S	Scarlet Honeyeater	20+	Comerong Island	8-6-86	"
U	Hardhead	200+	Saltwater Swamp (near Nowra)	8-6-86	"

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C	Red-capped Plover	66	Comerong Island	13-5-86	M. Parkinson &
S	Little Eagle	1	" "	13-5-86	D. Strickland
R	Great Knot	1	" "	13-5-86	" "
S	Spangled Drongo	1	" "	13-5-86	" "
R	Pied Oystercatcher	6	" "	13-5-86	" "
S	Spangled Drongo	1	Blackbutt	19-5-86	M. Parkinson
U	Grey-tailed Tattler	4	Barrack Point	27-5-86	"
U	Black-winged Stilt	3	Warrawong	27-5-86	"
R	Striated Heron	1	Berkeley	5-6-86	"
U	Pink-eared Duck	30	Albion Park	8-6-86	"
U	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	2	"	8-6-86	"
R	Red-kneed Dotterel	1	"	8-6-86	"
R	Red-kneed Dotterel	1	Macquarie Rivulet	29-5-86	D. Strickland
U	Southern Emu-wren	2	Dunmore Swamp	4-6-86	"
U	Pacific Heron	2	" "	8-5-86	"
U	Marsh Harrier	1	" "	8-5-86	"
R	Pied Oystercatcher	1	Little Lake	25-5-86	P. Bath
U	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	Shellharbour S/W	25-5-86	"
U	White-fronted Chat	9	Killalea Lagoon	26-5-86	"
R	Bar-shouldered Dove	2	Bass Point	26-5-86	"
S	Spangled Drongo	2	Bass Point	26-5-86	"
U	Gang-gang Cockatoo	15+	Mossvale	3-6-86	"
U	White's Thrush	2	Robertson	4-6-86	"
R	Tawny Grassbird	1	Dunmore Swamp	14-6-86	W. Emery
S	Rose Robin	1	Balgownie	15-6-86	"
S	Spangled Drongo	1	Balgownie	3-5-86	K. Mills
U	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	18	"	5-5-86	"
U	Ruddy Turnstone	1	Bellambi Point	6-5-86	"
U	Crescent Honeyeater	1	Barren Grounds	11-5-86	"
	Logrunner	2	Mt. Keira Scout C.	26-5-86	"
U	Brown-headed Honeyeater	1	Picton Road	31-5-86	"
U	Chestnut-rumped Hylacola	2	" "	31-5-86	"
U	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	1	" "	31-5-86	"
S	Scarlet Honeyeater	1	Balgownie	2-6-86	H. Emery
U	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Balgownie	16-6-86	"

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I.B.O.C. AUTUMN BIRD COUNT - 31 MAY 1986 - COUNT NO.15

Weather - Very comfortable autumn weather; warm, sunny and little wind all day.

Area 1 - North

Team 1: Ron Almond, Jim Robinson, Peg McKinlay, Stuart Almond

Team 2: David Winterbottom, Dan Wetherall

Two Teams: 16 hrs, 70 kms, 63 species (cumulative)

Area 2 - Thirroul

Ian Rowles, Jeff Smeaton, Deborah Perry

One Team: 9½ hrs, 98 kms, 78 species

Area 3 - Corrimal

Team 1: Hazel Emery

Team 2: Wal Emery, Chris Chafer, Fred Ramsey, Margaret Parkinson, Mary Browne

Two Teams: 14½ hrs, 43 kms, 98 species (cumulative)

Area 4 - Mt Keira

Kevin Mills

One Team: 8 hrs, 100 kms, 65 species

Area 5 - Wollongong

Dave Thomson, Laurie & Noia Williams, Bob & Dina Green

One Team: 8 hrs, 52 kms, 72 species

Count performed on Sunday 1 June 1986 in this area.

Area 6 - Depto

Team 1: Ron Inisides, Lindsay Smith, Lorraine Hurt

Team 2: Phil Bath & Chris Brandis

Two Teams: 15 hrs, 84 kms, 96 species (cumulative)

Area 7 - Lake

Kevin Wood, Peter Fackender & Luke McGettigan

One Team: 9½ hrs, 60 kms, 80 species

I.B.O.C. Area Total: 10 teams, 29 people, 80½ hrs, 507 kms, 150 species, 1911b individuals

COMMENTARY

The above results summarise our seventh Autumn count. Most participants are aware that for some time we have been using two standard "Bird Count Tally Sheets" to simplify collation of the overall result. These two sheets contain 122 pre-typed species which commonly occur in either the Autumn or Spring or in both seasons of the year. This Autumn there were 14 species listed on those sheets which were not seen. Those species and the number of previous autumn counts on which they were seen are shown below.

Species Name No of previous Autumn counts on which species were seen

Topknot pigeon	5
White-fronted chat	4
Red-necked stint	3
Wandering albatross	2
Reed Warbler	2
Rufous Whistler	2
Little tern	1
Wedge-tailed shearwater	1
Fairy martin	1
Eastern Golden plover	1
Black-faced flycatcher	zero
Japanese snipe	zero
Curllew sandpiper	zero
Sharp-tailed sandpiper	zero

This poses the question as to why the above birds were not seen. Were they absent from the area or were they present but not detected? Whatever the reason, it appears that statistically, we were unlucky to miss those at the top of the list, but not so unlucky to miss those at the bottom. And talking of luck, it must have been quite a thrill for those who saw the following: short-tailed shearwater, pink-eared duck, spotted crane, Red-kneed dotterel, White-headed pigeon, Little corella, Azure kingfisher, and Scarlet honeyeater.

The last-mentioned 8 species have been recorded rarely in Autumn counts to date.

The autumn counts so far have resulted in an average of 148 species and 20 560 individuals. Our count of 150 species and 19 116 individuals this Autumn was therefore very typical. But unusual tallies for particular species can always be found, and, on an area basis, I have noted the following:

30 Sulphur-crested cockatoos (North)
58 Crimson-rosellas (Thirroul)
28 Yellow-throated scrub wren (Corrimal)
159 Yellow-faced honeyeaters (Mt. Keira)
22 Black-fronted dotterel (Wollongong)
159 Magpies (Depto) and
22 Musk Duck in the Lake area.

Perhaps there are other aspects of this count that you will specially remember.

Once again, I thank all those 29 members who participated, particularly the leaders. The success of the project depends on your involvement.

Kevin Wood



(15)

31 MAY 1986

	NORTH	HIRROUL	CORRIMAL	MT KEIRA	WANG	DAPTO	LAKE	TOTAL
Little Grebe	2			1	19	48	4	71
Hoary-H Grebe				5	2		550	557
Blk-B Albatros			5					5
Sh-Tailed S/W			1					1
Aust Gannet	1	3	2	4	4		2	12
Pelican			4	88	178			270
Lge Blk Cormorant	3	3	6	14	3	3	330	359
Little Blk Corm		2	2	1	18	3	25	51
Lge Pied Cormorant				2				2
Little Pied Corm	1	14	5	10	8	3	350	391
Wh Faced Heron	4		4	2	4	44	25	83
Cattle Egret		13	56	1	2	149	13	234
Large Egret			1	2	2	24	6	27
Little Egret								6
Straw-Neck Ibis					48			48
White Ibis			3	1	8	50	35	97
Royal S/B			3	3	3	2	48	56
Yellow-B S/B					1	1	2	3
Black Swan			1	1		4	420	426
Black Duck			34	18	28	114	36	230
Mallard (11)			4			1	3	8
Grey Teal			17		227	28	1100	1372
Chestnut Teal			2		5	26	180	213
Wood Duck	103		34	7		275	2	421
Musk Duck				1			22	23
Wh-Eyed Duck					17	11		28
Black Sh Kite	1	3	1	1	1	1		7
Nankeen Kestrel		1	1	1	4	3	8	18
Dusky Moorhen		1	20	13	27	54	11	126
PLUMED EGRET				1				1
PINK-EARED DUCK							170	170
BL-WINGED SHOVELLER							2	2
WH-NECKED HERON						4		4

(15)

31 MAY 1986

	NORTH	HIRROUL	CORRIMAL	MT KEIRA	WANG	DAPTO	LAKE	TOTAL
East Swamphen		4	11	51	10	33	1	59
Coot					92	374	55	572
Pied O/C								1
Sooty O/C	1	4	1					15
Spur-W Plover	21	9	23	2	25	85	28	193
Red-Capped Dot.					9		15	24
D-Banded Dot.							6	6
Blk-Fronted Dot.		1			22		10	33
Bar T Godwit							32	32
Eastern Curlew							2	2
Greenshank							2	2
Tattler (GREY-T)							2	2
BLK-WINGED STILT					10		11	21
RED-KNEED DOT.							9	9
SPOTTED CRAKE			2				2	4
RUDDY TURNSTONE		4						4
Dominican Gull	2	5	2		10		3	22
Silver Gull	56	200	755	51	1088	1053	900	4103
Caspian Tern							4	4
Created Tern	1	16	4		4		65	90
Domestic Pigeon	3	3	1		94	22	50	173
Brown Pigeon			2			1		3
Wonga Pigeon		2	4	2				8
Sp Turtledove	6	25	46	1	12	22	6	118
Y-T Blk Cockatoo	12		7	8		3		30
B-Cr Wh Cockatoo	34	51	40			16		141
Gang Gang	2		27	3				32
Galah	20	11	57		1	10	1	100
CRESTED PIGEON				1		3	4	8
WH-HEADED PIGEON			2					2
GREEN-WG PIGEON						1		1
LITTLE CORELLA						3		3
RAINBOW LORIKEET		20						20

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(15)

31 MAY 1986

	NORTH	HIRROUL	CORIMAL	MT KEIRA	WONGS	DARTO	LAKE	TOTAL
King Parrot		5	13			1		19
Crimson Rosella	26	58	45	15		31	13	175
Eastern Rosella	4		7	12	3	25		61
Fan-T Cuckoo		1			1	1		5
Sacred K/F								1
Kookaburra	12	3	5	7	2	29		58
Sup Lyrebird		2	9	12		4		27
Welcome Swallow	22	5	24	48	64	262	213	638
Tree Martin		2						2
Pipit	1	6	12		6	18	13	56
Blk-F Cuckoo Shr	1	5	3		2	7	1	19
Red-wh Bulbul		22	83	2	21	9	12	149
East Whipbird	6	13	56	9	4	14		102
Golden H Cisticola	5	7	12		22	10	8	64
W/Brow Scr Wren	4	7	41	6	3	19		80
Sup Blue Wren	60	12	49	29	41	76	22	289
Variegated Wren		2	11	3			2	18
Yellow T/B			18		6	15	5	44
Striated T/B	11	3	32	3		15		64
Brown T/B	16	120	10	8	1	25		80
Y-Rumped T/B	2		6			29		37
Buff-rumped T/B	6	22		2				30
Brown Warbler	43	48	92	19	12	70		284
Wh-Throated Warb						1		1
Grey Fantail	13	3	24	6	6	35	4	91
Willie Wagtail	1	3	9	2	7	24	3	49
Yellow Robin	7	4	19	3	1	8		42
SCARLET ROBIN		2				3	1	6
ROSE ROBIN			2			1		3
JACKY WINTER				8		1		9
CRESTED SHR-TIT		2	2			1		5

(15)

31 MAY 1986

	NORTH	HIRROUL	CORIMAL	MT KEIRA	WONGS	DARTO	LAKE	TOTAL
Golden Whistler		8	18	5	1	12	1	45
Grey Thrush	8	4	10	10		18	3	53
Wh-Throated T/C	8	2	8	8	1	10		36
Mistletoe Bird			10	3		6		20
Spotted Pardalote	29	56	33	18	8	30	2	176
E Striated Pard	1							1
Silvereye	43	52	82	28	102	45	70	422
E Spinebill	30	10	11	17	6	29	1	104
Levin H/E	21	36	63	26	12	54		212
Y-Faced H/E	80	33	10	159	3	65	1	351
Brown-Headed H/E		30		1				31
New Holland H/E	11	30	60		65			166
Noisy Miner			8	12		41	4	65
Little Wattlebird	29	4	4		13			50
Red Wattlebird	9	20		35	1			65
Goldfinch (I)					4	26	6	36
Red-Browed Finch	62	42	80		18	95	10	307
Sparrow (I)	9	22	70	6	31	113	45	296
Starling (I)	96	28	331	4	558	408	190	1615
Indian Myna (I)	23	70	97	5	16	49	18	278
Magpie Lark	16	3	12	3	7	64	13	118
Dusky W/S		5				1		6
Grey Butcherbird	5	2	2			4		13
Magpie	25	4	10	13	3	169	9	233
Pied Currawong	23	35	80		21	22	21	202
Catbird		4	1					5
Satin Bowerbird	2	7	9	3	5	17		43
Aust Raven	46	15	36	22	26	154	30	329
WH-NAPED H/E		3	1	1		8		13
TAWNY-CROWN H/E	6	12		1				18
SCARLET H/E			1					1
NOISY FRIARBIRD						1		1
OLIVE-BKD ORIOLE						1		1
NH-EARED H/E	1			9				10

(P4)

(P5)

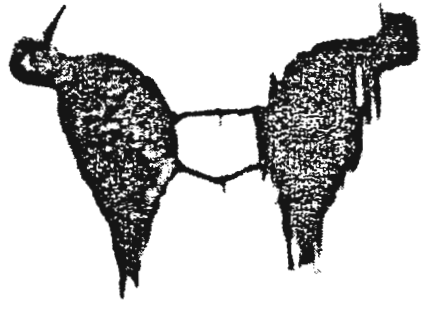
(15)

31 MAY 1986

	NORTH	THIRKOOI	CORIMBAL	MT KEIRA	WANGS	DAPTO	LAKEN	TOTAL
GREY GOSHAWK	1	1	1	1		3		7
WHISTLING KITE	2					1	2	5
LITTLE EAGLE		1						1
WEDGE-TAIL EAGLE						2		2
SEA EAGLE			1				2	3
COLLARED S-HAWK			1					1
PEREGRINE FALCON			2			1	1	4
BROWN FALCON						6		6
ORIGMA				1		2		3
LGE BILL SCR WR		2	11					13
YELLOW TH SCR WR	1	4	28			2		35
STAN EMU WREN	6		2		5			13
CH-RUMP HEATH WR				2				2
LITTLE GRASSBIRD			3			1		4
SPANGLED DRONGO			2				1	3
STAN LOGRUNNER		4	7					11
WHITE'S THRUSH		1	5	2				8
AZURE KINGFISHER						1	1	2
SKYLARK			2			2		4
TOTAL SPECIES	63	78	98	65	72	96	80	150

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS

19116



A PALAEARCTIC MIGRANT

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# I. B. O. C. NEWS

96

No. 96 AUGUST, 1986.



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

## CLUB MOTTO

"One good Tern  
Deserves Another"

## PRESIDENT

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56-6142

## TREASURER

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KEIRAVILLE NSW 2500  
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.

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

NEXT MEETING: - will be held at the Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Centre, cnr of Collaery Avenue & Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow on Monday 11th August at 7.30pm. Our GUEST SPEAKER for the evening will be club member Deborah Perry.

Deborah was born in Perth and will speak to us about the flora and fauna and recreational attractions of the Dampier Archipelago and the Pilbarra. She has spent a year on a cattle station in the Pilbarra and a further five years in the area. I'm sure members can look forward to an interesting talk about a unique part of this diverse country in which we are so fortunate to live.

FIELD OUTING - Saturday 16th August to St. Marys Towers Monastery, Douglas Park. We will meet just inside the gates at 8.30am. Please note this is a religious retreat and we have been asked to keep noise levels to a minimum whilst in the immediate vicinity of the Monastery. From Wollongong travel up Mt. Ousley Rd. to the Picton turnoff and turn left onto the Picton Road. Follow this road right through till it joins the Wilton Road at a T intersection. Turn right for about 200 metres then left. This road is named Douglas Park Road on some maps and Mt. eira Road on others. Proceed down this road to the Monastery gates which are on the left hand side. This distance is estimated at 3 to 3½ klms but has not been measured. The habitat is dry sclerophyll and native grassland and should provide a range of birds different to those we have been viewing on the past few outings. Bring a carry lunch. Travelling time about ¾ hour.

MID-WEEK OUTING - Wednesday 6th August to Mt. Kembla Ring Track. Meet at Mt. Kembla Lookout at 8.30am. Anyone requiring more details ring Mary Eskdale on 29.1650.

FILM NIGHT - Our final film night for 1986 will be held at the home of Ron and Norma Almond, 2 Shoobert Crescent, Keiraville on Saturday 2nd August. Once again there will be the usual two sessions commencing at 6.00 & 8.00pm. All members are invited to attend. If you haven't attended a previous film night, come along and enjoy a relaxed social evening. Bring a plate for supper. The programme is as follows :-

(1) THE RECEDING WETLANDS.

31 mins

Describes a typical swamp in the Arnhem Land region or Northern Australia

(2) A STATION WITH CRANES.

29 mins

A look at the life of Red-crested White Cranes in the marshlands of Hokkaido, Japan.

(3) KUMAGERA - THE GREAT BLACK WOODPECKER

30 mins

About the Great Black Woodpecker, formerly revered as a god, in a remote forest on the island of Hokkaido where it still, though precariously, flourishes.

COACH TRIP TO JERVIS BAY BOTANIC GARDENS.- Sunday 7th September. All members booked on this trip must make payment to Treasurer, Ron Almond at or before the August meeting. The cost is \$10.00 adults, children free. There are still a few vacant seats on the coach and these are available to members or friends of members.

They will be allocated on a first come basis. Bookings should be made through Secretary, Anna Knowlson (Phone 56.6142). The coach will depart from the County Council Car Park, Bridge Street, Coniston at 7.30am sharp. It is expected we will arrive back between 5 & 6pm.

OCTOBER CAMPS - Advance Notice. The October long weekend camp, Friday 3rd to Monday 6th will be at "Coowong" Canyonleigh, not Goulburn as stated in our 1986 programme. The late October camp, Friday 24th to Monday 26th will be at Murga, about halfway between Orange & Forbes. Some members may extend the length of this camp. More details and maps will appear in the September newsletter.

SEABIRD TRIPS OFF WOLLONGONG - The August trips will be on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th. For further details on cost and bookings ring David Fischer on 27.1704.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS - Thanks to all those who contributed to last months newsletter. Please continue to submit articles to editor, Wal Emery.

JULY FILM NIGHT REPORT.

Around 30 members attended the two sessions at the home of Jim & Gwen Robinson. Once again an excellent programme was selected by Richard Miller. The first film about the River Test showed the life which abounds in and around this English river through the four seasons of the year. Peregrine, showed the history of this beautiful bird, its decline in many areas of the United States due to pesticides and the successful attempts to breed them in captivity and re-establish them in the wild. The Billabong, a beautiful film showing the birdlife along the Murray River and its many billabongs, the countryside a vast contrast to that shown in the first film from Hampshire, U.K.

Thanks to our hosts Jim & Gwen and to Richard for organising the films.

Wal Emery.

JULY MEETING REPORT.

A well attended meeting was afforded a very educational evening as club member Ian Rowles spoke to us of his interest in birds and photography. As a young boy he roamed the hills around his home observing the native birds, bred budgerigars and learnt to use a Brownie box camera. These early interests have developed into a great love of the outdoors, a very caring concern for the birds and the wonderful hobby of photographing them in their natural habitat.

Ian did an excellent job of explaining the behind the scenes work involved in bird photography and the different methods and equipment he uses to obtain his photographs.

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He had a very interesting display of photographic equipment and showed slides of scaffolding, ladders and hides he uses in his pursuit of perfection. It was very interesting to be shown slides he considers faulty and his reasons for delegating such slides to the garbage tin, but the highlight of the evening was a selection of top quality slides of our beautiful native birds.

Ian is to be congratulated on the standard he has reached and also on showing us that great patience comes naturally when you are doing something you enjoy.

Nola Williams.

#### JULY OUTING REPORT.

For the July field outing 36 members met at the junction of the Appin Road and the 10Q Firetrail about 1 klm west of the Princes Highway. The walk led by Ian Rowles was planned to proceed to the Darkes Forest Road via 10Q, 10A & 10 Firetrails. a distance of approximately 7.5 klms.

The weather was a very pleasant clear sunny day with a moderate southerly breeze. Several cars were driven to Darkes Forest Road to transport everyone back to the starting point. The walk began at 9.00 along 10Q Firetrail through dry sclerophyll habitat with a cleared area under the power lines. From about the three kilometre point the landscape opened out into heathland dotted with small clumps of trees. Along the way we crossed three creeks which drain into the water supply.

The area sloping westward on Hawkesbury sandstone is part of the Sydney Waterboard catchment area. Having little topsoil, it creates the stunted heathland habitat. The banksias there are generally less than 1.5 metres, but flower profusely supporting a large number of honeyeaters, two prominent species being the Tawny-crowned and New Holland.

In the area around the first creek we counted a flock of approximately 100 New Holland Honeyeaters. Some of the species observed up to this point included the Gang-gang Cockatoo, Little Wattlebird, Spotted Pardalote and Beautiful and Red-browed Firetails.

At the 4.5 klm mark we crossed the second creek and walked up a ridge. By this time it was about midday and the birdlife had become quite scarce, especially in an area to the west which had been burnt out for some distance. Sightings along this section included Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Superb and Variegated Fairy-wrens, Buff-rumped Thornbills and Southern Emu-wren. The Brown Falcon and Black-shouldered Kite were also observed along the way and a flock of about 30 Topknot Pigeons flew overhead.

On the final section nearing Darkes Forest the bush became a little more lush along the gully where the last creek flowed through. Here we sighted the White-throated Treecreeper, Eastern Spinebill, Silvereye and Lewin's Honeyeater. We finished the walk about 2.00pm with a total of 26 species observed.

Thanks to Ian Rowles for leading the group on a pleasant and interesting outing.

H. Ward.

#### A SATIN BOWERSBIRD'S BOWER.

During the spring of 1985 we noticed a partly made bower, with a few blue pieces, in an overgrown corner of a neighbouring property. A number of immature or female birds seemed to play around the area but the bower was never completed.

In April of this year when we returned from a fortnight away, we discovered a fully completed bower in exactly the same spot. It runs north and south and appears to be made largely of lantana sticks. Although I have never observed the male painting the bower, it does look blackish in colour.

The bird has gathered a great collection to decorate his bower including three dozen plastic pegs, all dark blue, (not ours) a dozen blue bottle tops, which we have supplied, half a dozen blue straws, a few odd pieces of blue plastic and a couple of Crimson Rosella's tail feathers.

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We have watched him at the bower practically every day throughout the winter. He fusses about moving pieces hither and thither, and makes his soft mating call quite different to the usual harsh growl. Although we have often seen green birds at the bower we haven't observed mating take place.

Bob & Peg McKinlay.

#### HAVE YOU EVER SEEN AN ALBATROSS???

I'd been thinking about going on one of the seabird trips for months but so many questions ran through my mind - would I get seasick and end up spending the entire day staring at the deep blue sea? Would I drown and never return? Would I get my prized and cherished possession, my binoculars, wet? Would I get wet and catch pneumonia? Such things needed much consideration. But I longed to see an Albatross, of any kind, and the best way to see albatross or any of our other species of seabirds is to go out to sea.

So on Saturday 24th May at 6.00am, I stepped onto the "Candra K" praying for a good day and a safe return. As the dawn broke and we motored away from the shore, Kevin Wood began to 'burley' in the birds by throwing pieces of fish out behind the boat. These immediately attracted our friendly Silver Gulls but it wasn't long before we saw our first albatross - a Black-browed gliding in towards us on its long slender wings and coming to land on the water for its share of the free feed. The size and the beauty of the bird captured my attention at once as I delighted in watching more gather, flying over and around the boat within metres of us. A few Yellow-nosed Albatross came in, circling around the boat and giving us a close-up view. They are every bit as beautiful as the Black-browed's. A little further out and we saw a couple of Wandering Albatross. So large are these birds that they make the Black-browed and Yellow-nosed look quite small.

Well, with all this going on, one is too busy and too astonished to think about being seasick or even worry about drowning. In fact by the end of the day, after seeing no less than 18 species of seabirds, most of which were new to me, I'd had such a good time that I had no hesitation at all about going out again.

On the 28th June trip we saw these same species plus got a good look at some Shy Albatross and the very rare Buller's Albatross (there were lots of these). Fairy Prions in their shimmering silvery-blue plumage and the beautifully marked Cape Petrels flew around the boat for quite some time giving everybody a good long look. In all, it was another exciting seabird day.

Although I went on these boat trips as a joyful observer, there is valuable research being carried out about our seabirds on each trip so it's important that the boat trips continue and only our patronage will ensure that they do. So if you've never seen a Wandering Albatross or a Cape Petrel or a Fairy Prion, or a Fluttering Shearwater, then book to go on the next boat trip. You'll find it an interesting experience.

Lorraine Hurt.

#### HOW TO HAVE A LAZY DAYS BIRDING AND FIND A NEW BIRD.

After an unfortunate altercation between my big toe and a brick, (the brick won) a planned bushwalking venture by Lindsay Smith and myself had to be postponed. In its place we decided to drive around the area roughly bounded in the Municipality of Shellharbour, and without leaving the vehicle see how many species we could observe. As well as binoculars we both carried 20 power spotting scopes while the vehicle used was a Suzuki 4WD.

The morning of Monday 9th June (a holiday) began without a cloud in the sky and not much of a breeze either. After Lindsay picked up this poor injured birdo we began our day of laziness and drove down to the entrance of Lake Illawarra, then slowly made our way along Reddall Parade to Oak Flats High School.

Species observed so far included Willie Wagtail, Common Starling, Silver Gull, Magpie Lark, Spotted Dove, Common Myna, Masked Lapwing, Grey & Chestnut Teal, Sacred Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Little Pied, Little Black and Great Cormorants, Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey-tailed Tattler, Caspian and Crested Tern, Pelican, Australian Raven, Hoary-headed Grebe, House Sparrow Red-whiskered Bulbul and Magpie. We then travelled by main roads to Yallah adding Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Galah, Black Swan, Richard's Pipit and Cattle Egret. At the two road side swamps at Yallah we added Intermediate Egret, Coot, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, Noisy Miner, Eastern Rosella, Straw-necked Ibis, Black-shouldered Kite and three Crested Pigeons. From here we drove back through Albion Park to Calderwood Road which we followed to North Macquarie Road and back onto the Illawarra Highway.

Here we added Hardhead, Maned Duck, White-faced Heron, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Welcome Swallow, Kookaburra and Australian Kestrel. Next we drove up Tongarra Lane to a friend's property and it was here that we had the highlight of the day. In the gully of a small creek high up on the escarpment we stopped the vehicle to see what was around. Almost immediately we both saw a medium sized bird jumping around on the ground behind a sapling. The bird then flew up to an adjacent branch and gave us an excellent view of it. It was obviously a whistler and had a white throat, overall olive brown colouration and buff coloured underparts. After several minutes of observation we decided that the bird could be nothing else but a female Olive Whistler, only recorded a few times previously from the Illawarra. It is interesting to note that Richard Jordan rang us up the following day to state that he had caught a male Olive Whistler in his mist nets while banding that morning and Barry and Carol Virtue had a fortnight earlier found a single bird foraging in a gully just south of Camberwarra Mountain in Red Rock N.R. These sightings would tend to form the conclusion that there has been a minor influx of this species into the County of Camden. It was also my first sighting of this species.

Other species found in the Tongarra Lane included Superb Fairy-wren, Pied Currawong, Grey Shrike-thrush, Crimson Rosella, Silvereye, Yellow-faced and Lewin's Honeyeater, Brown and Striated Thornbills, Grey Tantail, Yellow Robin, Red-browed Firetail, Crimson Rosella, Spotted Pardalote, White-throated Tree-creeper, Superb Lyrebird, Eastern Spinebill, Golden Whistler and Brown Gerygone. Near the highway we found a flock of 30 Chestnut-breasted Mannikins feeding in a small corn field.

We then drove up Macquarie Pass and had lunch at the Pie Shop where, unfortunately, we had to get out of the car. We did however sight a Satin Bowerbird. We then drove east along the Jamberoo Pass Road to the Budderoo Track sighting a beautiful male King Parrot along the way. Down the track we found Eastern Whipbird, Grey Currawong, White-eared Honeyeater, Scarlet Robin and Buff-rumped Thornbill. We then descended down the pass to Jamberoo and via Swamp Road to Dunmore. Birds were few along this section and we only added Brown Goshawk, Yellow Thornbill and White-browed Scrubwren. Next stop was Dunmore Swamp and the birds picked up again; we added White-bellied Sea-eagle, Whistling Kite, Little Eagle, Australian Kestrel, Brown Falcon and Golden-headed Cisticola. From here we went to Killalea Lagoon adding Great Egret, Black-winged Stilt and Black-fronted Plover. Bass Point was then visited and produced Scarlet and New Holland Honeyeaters and Sooty Oystercatcher. The final spot visited was Little Lake at Barrack Point and here we added Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike and a Striated Heron skulking on the mud flats.

With the exception of the Satin Bowerbird every species was observed without getting out of the car. A total of 91 species were observed and showed us that even if we ever became permanently injured we would probably still be able to enjoy the wonders of birdwatching.

So if you ever have the misfortune to injure your big toe, don't sit at home and mope about. Find a friend and go for a lazy day's birding, the results can be most interesting.

Chris Chafer.

SWEET-TOOTHED BOWERBIRDS?

For a few years now we've been feeding honeyeaters on the brown sugar and water mixture suggested by Blakers in "Learning about Australian Birds".

Lewin's Honeyeaters are regular year-round customers, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters are in attendance most of the time, and Little Wattlebirds are usually about in the summer. This year, however, there has been a variable group of Satin Bowerbirds squabbling over the sugar water. There have been up to seven females (or females and immatures) and three blue-black males simultaneously disputing possession of the feeder, the males, needless to say being the more aggressive.

The feeder is only a couple of metres from the kitchen door, so we're able to get close-up views of these interesting birds by seeing through a half closed venetian blind. As an added bonus, I've noticed that this month (July) they have started grazing on the seeding "winter grass" etc. which passes for the lawn in our backyard.

Judging by the droppings which appear all around the sugar feeder, however, the grasses are poorly digested by the bowerbirds. Interestingly, the small group of Rainbow Lorikeets who have also adopted us this year, have no trouble seeing the bowerbirds off, despite an apparent weight disadvantage.

The surrounding area, by the way, is well supplied with various eucalypts, grevilleas and a few banksias, so the un-natural sugary diet would be unlikely to pose a major nutritional imbalance. On the same subject, finally, I've noticed that a few camellia species are very attractive to Lewin's Honeyeaters, which appear to consume the pollen from these flowers.

John Pollard.

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS FOR MAY - JUNE - JULY, 1986.

R	Olive Whistler	(male)	1	Red Rocks N.R.	25-5-86	C. Virtue
R	Spotted Harrier		1	Beach Rd. 7 Mile N.P.	18-6-86	B. Virtue
U	White's Thrush		2	7 Mile Beach N.P.	18-6-86	"
U	Restless Flycatcher		1	" "	6-86	"
S	Spangled Drongo		1	Shoalhaven Heads	9-6-86	N & L Williams
U	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo		5	Farmborough Heights	13-7-86	G Payne
MC	White-bellied Sea-Eagle		1	Primbee	18-6-86	L. Hurt
U	Gang-gang Cockatoo		2	Mt. Keira	13-7-86	B & P McKinlay
S	Scarlet Honeyeater		4	Bass Point	12-6-86	M. Parkinson
S	Little Eagle		1	Dunmore	13-6-86	"
U	Australian Hobby		1	Blackbutt	28-6-86	"
R	Pacific Gull		2	Windang	23-6-86	C. Grandis
S	Whimbrel		1	Shoalhaven River	5-7-86	"
U	Yellow Spoonbill		1	Windang	22-7-86	"
R	Striated Heron		1	Little Lake	6-86	"
U	Scarlet Robin		2	Yallah	1-7-86	P. Bath
MC	Double-barrad Finch		2	Yallah	1-7-86	"
U	Skylark		15	Shellharbour	7-7-86	"
S	Reef Egret		1	Bass Point	7-7-86	"
S	Scarlet Honeyeater		10	Minnamurra Spit	15-6-86	C. Chafer
R	Swift Parrot		2	" "	20-6-86	"
R	Pacific Gull		2	Windang	14-7-86	"
R	Red-kneed Dotterel		4	Gt. Southern Drain	26-6-86	"
R	Red-kneed Dotterel		4	Bellonglo State Forest	6-7-86	"
S	Darter		1	Hoskins N.R.	6-7-86	"
S	Whimbrel		1	M.M. Beach	10-7-86	"
U	Kelp Gull		35	Windang	10-7-86	"
R	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet		2	Austinmer	-7-86	D. Perry
U	Rainbow Lorikeet		10	"	-7-86	"
U	Sooty Oystercatcher		7	Austinmer	11-7-86	"

# I. B. O. C. NEWS

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No. 97 SEPTEMBER, 1986.



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

CLUB MOTTO

"One good Tern  
Deserves Another"

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29-1184

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KEIRAVILLE NSW 2500  
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.

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

NEXT MEETING - will be held at the Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Centre, cnr of Collaery Avenue & Princes Highway Fairy Meadow on Monday 8th September at 7.30pm. The GUEST SPEAKER will be Win Filewood. His subject will be "A Contribution to The National Photographic Index". Win is a professional biologist although his main interest is in ornithology.

Longer standing members will remember his address to the club at Corrimal several years ago when he spoke to us about the birds of New Guinea & tropical Australia. He has published an excellent book on this subject. I'm sure his talk about his contribution to the National Photographic Index will provide members with a very interesting evening.

PLEASE NOTE - As has been the policy in the past, there will be no October meeting.

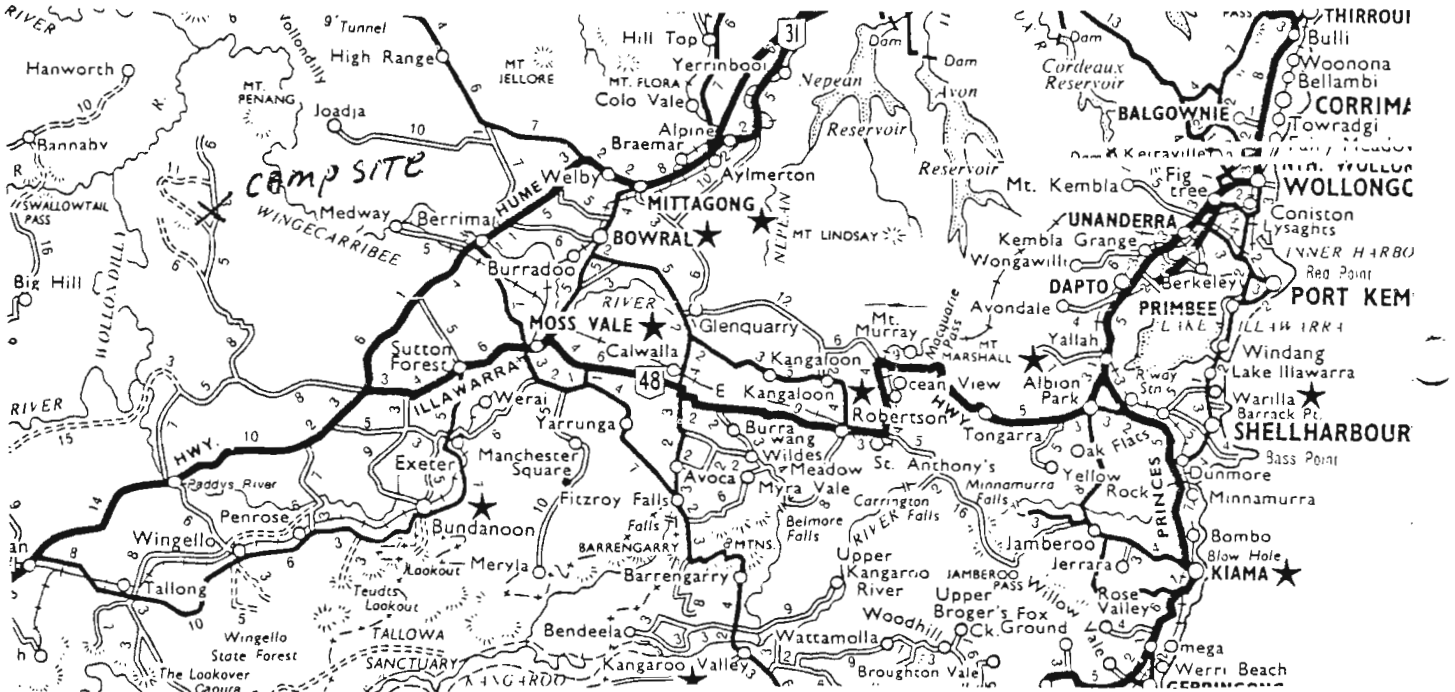
FIELD OUTING - Saturday 13th September to Calderwood. Starting time 8.00am. We will meet at the corner of Calderwood Road and steep road (where power lines cross) on the left, 2 to 3 kms west of the junction of Marshall Mt. Road and Calderwood Road. (Half hour from Wollongong). Take a carry lunch. Some cars (with plenty of power) will go up the hill from where the walk will start and the rest will be left at the end of Calderwood Road (Voorwinden's) where the walk will finish.

COACH TRIP TO JERVIS BAY BOTANIC GARDENS - Sunday 7th September. There are still some seats available on the coach. Anyone not booked and wishing to go should contact President Jim Robinson on 29-4213. The coach will leave the County Council car park, Bridge Street, Coniston at 7.30am sharp. Cost adults \$10.00, children free. Friends of members are welcome.

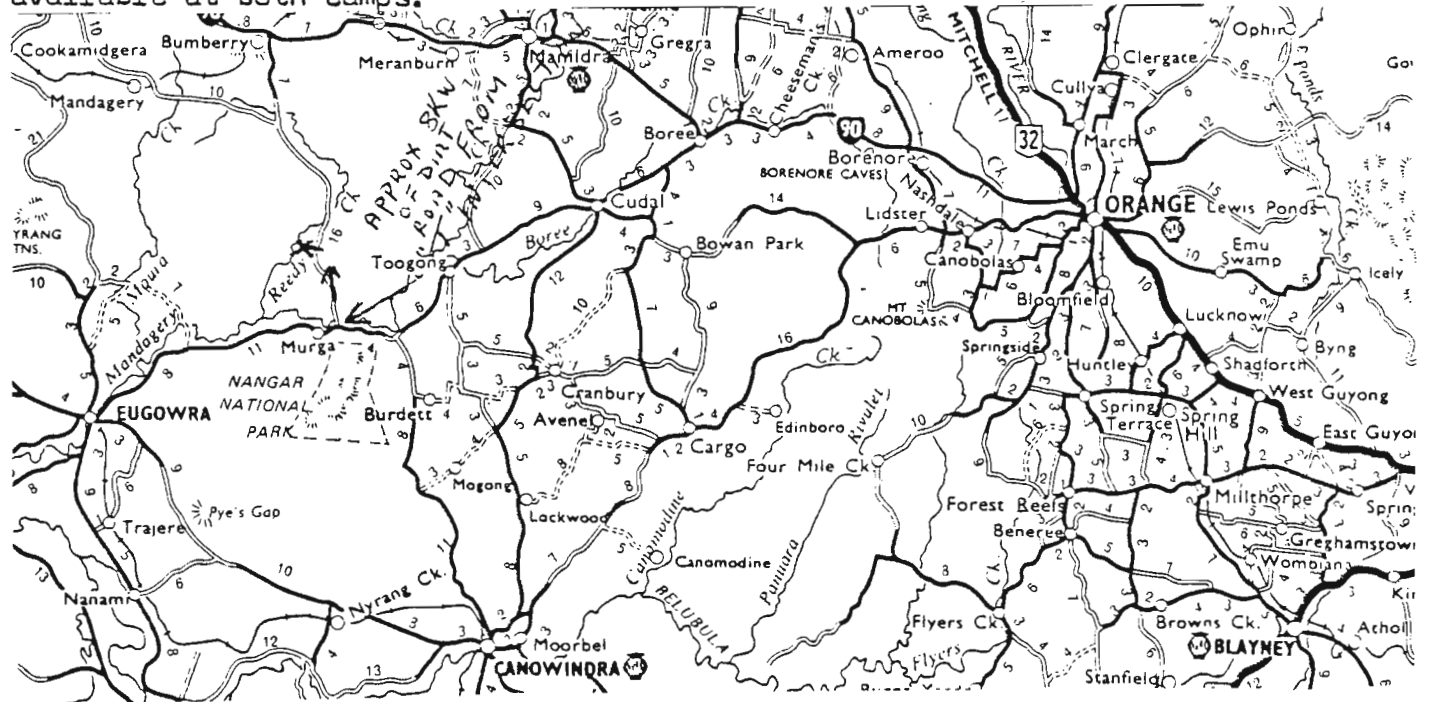
MID-WEEK OUTING - Wednesday 3rd September, 8.30am. Due to the cancellation of last months outing because of rain, it has been decided to try again at the same location. Meet at M t. Kembla Lookout at 8.30am. Anyone requiring more details, ring Mary Eskdale on 29.1650.

OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND CAMP - Friday 3rd October to Monday 6th October will be at 'Coowong', Canyonleigh. This property is owned by Dr. Hughes and was the location of our successful 1981 camp. To get there you travel 16kms up the Tuggalong Road, which turns off the Canyonleigh Road, 9kms from the intersection with the Hume Highway. (See Map)

For those not able to camp but able to come for an outing, walks will commence at the following times:- Saturday 4th 2.00pm - Sunday 5th 9.00am - Monday 6th 9.00am. Driving time from Wollongong 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  hours. Washing water is available but it will be necessary to bring drinking water.



LATE OCTOBER CAMP - Saturday 25th October to Saturday 1st November to Murga which is about halfway between Orange and Forbes. The property 'Cleavland' which is owned by Neil & Sue Skinner is 1,500 acres in area. Turn right onto dirt road about 2 kms from Murga. There is a park on the corner. The property is located about 8 kms along dirt road on left hand side - look for IBOC signs. Murga can be reached either through Katoomba, Bathurst or Goulburn, Cowra. The property owners suggest the latter route would be the best. Once again it will be necessary to take drinking water, Hot showers and toilet facilities will be available at both camps.





SEABIRD TRIPS OFF WOLLONGONG - The September and October trips will be held as follows:-

September            Saturday 27th - Sunday 28th

October                Saturday 25th - Sunday 26th

For further details on cost & bookings ring David Fischer on 27.1704.

FOR THOSE WHO THOUGHT ATLASSING DEAD.

The N.S.W. Bird Atlassers have arranged a series of Atlassing trips over the next two years with Bert Bolton's Outback Tours. The aim of these trips is to cover every empty ten minute block in N.S.W. by 1988.

The first trip will take place from 11th to 19th October 1986. This 9 day tour will cost \$395 and will travel along the N.S.W./S.A. border from Broken Hill to Queensland. The cost includes transport, tent accommodation & meals - bring your own sleeping bag.

These trips are open to any interested persons - not just Atlassers. For further information & details please contact Dick Cooper at 132 Huon Creek Road, Wodonga, Victoria 3690 or phone him after hours on 060 24.4750.

Here's a moderately priced trip with the opportunity to spend 9 days with keen birdo's from outside our club.

SPRING BIRD COUNT - will be held on Saturday 1st November, 1986. For those members who have not been involved before and would like to participate, ring Kevin Wood on 29.5514.

CHANGE OF SECRETARY- Secretary Anna Knowlson has resigned her position due to the fact that Andrew has taken a position at Tumut. We will sadly miss the company of Anna & Andrew, both long standing members of the club.

Thankyou Anna for the work you have done for the club and we wish you both well in your new life. Robyn Wilson has offered to fill the position of Secretary. Welcome to the committee Robyn and thanks for filling in at short notice. Robyn's phone number is 29.1184.

AUGUST FILM NIGHT REPORT - Our final film night for 1986 was held at the home of Ron & Norma Almond. Approximately 30 members attended and enjoyed another pleasant social evening. Thanks to Ron & Norma for their hospitality and thanks once again to Richard for his efforts throughout the year selecting the films.

AUGUST MEETING REPORT.

Club member Deborah Perry entertained us at the August meeting with an interesting insight into the Dampier Archipelago and surrounding areas. She explained in a humorous way the problems of teaching oneself to bird watch in a relatively isolated area without the benefit of other birdo's to discuss sightings with. Despite this disadvantage she eventually reached a competent level and was able to contribute to the Atlassing Scheme. This provided her with a satisfying contact with other birdwatchers. Deborah's slides covered a range of subjects from 1 klm long ore trains, the beautiful scenery of the Archipelago and some of the bird life and wildlife of the area.

Her talk was backed up with a selection of interesting specimens which she collected during her 5 year stay in the area. Thank you Deborah for sharing your experiences in an area about which most of us knew very little.

Wal Emery.

AUGUST FIELD OUTING REPORT.

After the recent record rainfalls and strong winds, we were fortunate indeed to have such a beautiful day for our outing to St. Marys Towers Monastery at Douglas Park, on Saturday 16th August.

.../4

We met just inside the gates of the Monastery at 8.30 am as planned. Even as we waited we were entertained by a noisy display of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos chasing away 2 Little Corellas who dared to invade the territory of their nesting tree.

The Monastery consists of beautiful old sandstone buildings set well back from the road and surrounded by paddocks and numerous waterholes. On the waterholes we saw a Pied Cormorant, Black Ducks, Maned Duck, Dusky Moorhens, Purple Swamphens and Little Grebe. A White-faced Heron was seen several times in the paddocks and in flight but whether it was the same bird or several different ones I'm not sure. Near the main waterhole is a tall stand of bamboo at least 12 metres high. Nearby is an old Irish Strawberry Tree which attracted attention from our plant lovers.

Throughout the estate are several tracks. We followed the one signposted 'to subway'. It led us through bush to a walkway under the highway. We continued on this track until we came to the rock ledges overlooking the Nepean River. All the time we were able to observe many species of honeyeaters including the Brown-headed, Fuscous, Lewin's, White-eared, White-naped, White-plumed, Yellow-faced and Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters and the Eastern Spinebill and the Red Wattlebird - 12 species for the day.

Some IBOC's clambered down the steep banks to the river but others were content to wait on the ledge and overlook the river. The high tide mark from the recent floods was evident with debris well above the present water level. From the ledges we saw more honeyeaters, an Eastern Yellow Robin and an Oriigma hopping about on the ledge only metres away from us.

On the return walk we crossed under the highway at Pheasant's Nest Bridge. Growing out of the disturbed sandstone ground was a delightful display of boronia in full bloom in many shades of pink. Further on in more open country someone spotted a Hooded Robin and several people set off in search of it. Within one small area they uncovered Yellow, Rose, Hooded and Scarlet Robins and also a Jacky Winter.

All in all we had a most pleasant and rewarding day. The bush was a picture with the wattles, boronias and epacris in bloom. The bird count for the day was 66 species. I would like to thank the people at the Monastery for allowing us access to their estate. Also I would like to thank our leader Jim, for setting up and planning such an interesting outing.

Olive Rodwell.

IBOC made a visit to St. Marys Towers on a previous occasion, 13-6-81. Coincidentally 66 species were observed on both occasions although 16 different species were observed on our last outing. The following is a comparative list of the variation of species observed on the two outings.

1981	1936.		
Pacific Heron	Crested Shrike-tit	Black Duck	Willie Wagtail
Straw-necked Ibis	Restless Flycatcher	Grey Teal	Chestnut-rumped
Black Swan	Rufous Fantail	Brown Goshawk	Hylacola
Peaceful Dove	Eastern Whipbird	Australian Kestrel	Varied Sittella
Common Bronzewing	Weebill	Dusky Moorhen	Noisy Friarbird
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Diamond Firetail	Purple Swamphen	White-eared H'eater
Azure Kingfisher	White-winged Chough	Wonga Pigeon	Brown-headed H'eater
Skylark	Australian Magpie-lark	Little Corella	Satin Bowerbird
Richard's Pipit		Rose Robin	

Horace Ward, Recording Officer

A NATIONAL PROJECT TO MONITOR BIRD POPULATION AND MOVEMENTS.

Lack of detailed knowledge about bird movements and population trends is hindering the development of effective conservation programmes for Australia's birds. Which species are increasing and which declining? How do the species use the different parts of the geographical range? A national project is needed to record and elucidate population movements and changes, to distinguish short-term changes from long-term ones, and local from national events. The Atlas of Australian Birds has shown the enormous value of harnessing the skills and energies of Australia's many birdwatchers in such a project. The network of observers established through the Atlas could now be used for a follow-up study of bird movements and population changes.

The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service has recently funded the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union to examine ways of running such a project. I have been asked by the Union to contact interested people and prepare a report on the feasibility of the project and the different approaches that could be used. The report will then be circulated and a workshop held at Adelaide University on 11 and 12 December 1986, just prior to the RAOU Congress. It may then be possible to get the project itself underway next year.

If you have any ideas for the project - what we should be trying to achieve and how to go about it - please contact me. Reverse-charge calls will be willingly accepted. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the report or attending the workshop should also contact me. The project will only be successful if it has wide support and involvement, not only during the fieldwork but in the planning stages as well.

Peter Smith,  
44 Hawkins Parade  
BLAXLAND N.S.W. 2774  
(047) 39.5312

THE ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT.

The Orange-bellied Parrot is one of Australia's rarest and most endangered birds with less than 200 individuals surviving. These small parrots are known only to breed along the remote south-west coast of Tasmania.

During the winter months they migrate to coastal areas of Victoria and South Australia.

Ref: Brown, P.R. Wilson, R. Loyn and N. Murray 1985.

The Orange-bellied Parrot - an R.A.O.U. Conservation Statement. R.A.O.U. Report No. 14 Melbourne R.A.O.U.

This paper is suggested reading for anyone that may be interested in this species.

QUEST FOR THE ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT

For me the quest for the Orange-bellied Parrot (O.B.P.) began back in October 1986, when Ron Imisides and myself were in Tasmania birding for ten days. Our intention was to see as many of the birds that are endemic to Tasmania as we could.

After months of preparation and research we set off for Hobart. On our arrival it was 12° and raining. The rain continued for most of our trip. This however did not dampen our enthusiasm. After staying overnight in Hobart, we set out to find the birds that we had come to see. We had with us some notes, supplied by John Waugh, on species, locations and some very interesting contacts to meet and discuss possible locations for finding the endemic species. After travelling up the north-east coast we headed west to Launceston and onto Penguin. (Named after the Fairy Penguin colony there). Here we met up with our first contact, Ray Goode. We were entertained by an excellent selection of Ray's slides of Tasmanian birds and interesting discussion on their habits and location. It was during this discussion that mention was made of the Orange-bellied Parrot.

Ray said to find the O.B.P. you have to go to Melaleuca and visit Denny King. They feed in his garden. "Amazing" I thought. The Orange-bellied Parrot, one of the rarest birds in Australia, feeding in someone's backyard. This I had to see.

From Penguin we continued on to Sister's Beach and 'Birdland'. Here we met our second contact, Trevor Waite. Trevor is a bird photographer of the highest standing. Once again we were shown a magnificent collection of bird studies by Trevor.

Our conversation turned again to finding the endemic species, and during this discussion mention was made of our hope to find the Orange-bellied Parrot. This brought a smile to Trevor's face. "The O.B.P." he said, "to find the O.B.P. you must visit Denny King at Melaleuca, they feed in his garden you know". Ron and I sat and listened intently as Trevor spoke of Denny King. Denny lives in the remote south-west corner of Tasmania. Here he keeps a weather station and works his own tin mine, a one man operation in the wilderness.

After listening to Trevor, Ron and I decided that we would like to meet Denny and his O.B.P.'s. The more we heard of Denny, the more interesting he became, one of the true characters of the remote south-west wilderness of Tasmania.

We were told that to get to Melaleuca we could 'walk in'. It takes about 4 days from Hobart. We could go by boat and 'walk in' 2 days from Stahan, or if lucky we could fly in by light aircraft. At least we had a choice. Ron soon changed our itinerary to include a trip to Melaleuca.

Leaving Sister's Beach we continued on to Stanley and the "Nut", from here down the west coast and back to Hobart. In all we had travelled over 3,000 Klm's by car in Tasmania, recorded over 100 species of birds including most endemic species. Only one remained to be found, the Forty-spotted Pardalote.

Back in Hobart we called on our last contact Len Wall and we discussed our notes of the trip so far. Once again we heard of Denny King and his O.B.P.'s. With the help from Len, Ron and I were able to charter a flight to Melaleuca. It was a couple of days before we could fly to Melaleuca; we filled these in by going to Bruny Island, and finding the last of the endemic Tasmanian birds, the Forty-spotted Pardalote.

This is it. Ron and I are at the airport, 'Par Avion' the sign read. "That's your plane there," said the attendant pointing to a sleek red and white single engined plane. Neither Ron or I had flown in a small plane before in our lives! Small planes have a habit of falling out of the sky, I thought to myself. Ron and I weren't concerned about flying in this small aircraft, we were scared half to death! I steadied my nerves by watching a pair of Green-finches feeding in some pines close by and pretending that I wasn't really worried.

Several minutes later we were strapped into our seats as the engine roared to life. The pilot coasted out onto the runway and faced it into the wind as the radio crackled "Par Avion flight to Melaleuca clear for take-off". With this the pilot gunned the engine, and we raced down the runway and bounced into the air, we were off. As the plane banked and climbed we looked down on Hobart. Soon we were cruising at 10,000 feet and our air speed showed 110 knts.

Just when I began to think that this flying wasn't too bad, we hit some bumps in the air. The pilot said not to worry, they're only bumps in the road. The engine purred away as we climbed over mountain ranges and the lush Huon Valley far below. After about 40 minutes flying the pilot pointed to an isolated white strip below. "Melaleuca" he said, "we will be on the ground in 10 mins." There in the middle of a huge Button grass plain was a small shack surrounded by trees and two small igloo type buildings. This was Melaleuca. The small shack was Denny King's house surrounded by his garden. The two igloo huts turned out to be the 'Melaleuca Hilton' complete with open fire places, magazines, bunks and a five star++++ rating.

After reading of some of the journeys undertaken by bushwalkers in this remote wilderness, the peaks often covered in snow and usually very wet underfoot, it is easy to see how the 'Hilton' got it's 5 star rating. Ron and I were both disappointed to find that Denny was not home. We were both looking forward to meeting with him. Well there was still the O.B.P.'s to be found. It was easy to believe that the O.B.P.'s fed here in Denny's garden, for as we walked through the garden we were soon accompanied by Dusky Robins and Olive Whistlers which showed no fear as they followed us along the narrow path. As we stopped and waited for a glimpse of the O.B.P.'s, White-browed Scrubwrens and Superb Fairy-wrens fed literally at our feet.

Soon the distant sound of our plane's engine signalled that our departure from this beautiful and tranquil place was only minutes away. With heavy hearts Ron and I set off to the landing strip, disappointed that we missed Denny and his Orange-bellied Parrots, but happy to know that we will come back.

I would like to thank John Waugh, Ray Hooge, Trevor White and Len Wall for their assistance in Tasmania and Ron for his fine company on this adventure.

Lindsay E. Smith.

#### DEATH BY MISADVENTURE.

While stopping off along the lake edge on the way to work one morning, I noticed some Silver Gulls hovering over something in the water, dropping down now and then pecking at probably some food source. An Australian Raven came flying in and started hovering above the water trying to drive off the gulls and get a piece of the action.

In the confusion a collision occurred and the raven and a gull took a dip, the gull of course bounced back into the air, but the raven, not being water-proof, was left floundering head high about 10 metres from shore. It started to try and wing-row towards the shore and with the wind was making some progress but appeared to be getting lower and lower in the water. Shortly I realised it was not going to make it as only it's head was above water and the bill kept dipping under so I slipped off my shoes and on with the GB's and into the water. It was just alive when I pulled it out but it was rather stiff and a minute later the eyes glazed over and a victim had been claimed.

C. Brandis.

THE AUTUMN BIRD COUNT REPORT featured a sketch of a Palearctic migrant. With the migrant season almost upon us again, another member has submitted his ideas as to what a pair of Palearctic migrants would look like.



*unlikely?*

In the event of a sighting, please address all correspondence to;

A. Nonymous,  
I.B.O.C.

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS FOR JULY - AUGUST, 1986.

R Hooded Plover	1	Coniston Beach	7-8-86	L. Smith & D. Fischer
U Peregrine Falcon	1	Warilla	31-7-86	C. Chafer
S Spangled Drongo	1	Lake Heights	4-8-86	"
U Black-winged Stilt	29	Gt. Southern Drain	8-8-86	"
R Red-kneed Dotterel	1	" "	8-8-86	"
R Slender-billed Prion	1	Pt. Kembla Bch(spec)	8-8-86	"
U Antarctic Prion	2	" " "	8-8-86	"
U Antarctic Prion	1	" " "	9-8-86	"
S Shy Albatross	1	Bass Point	10-8-86	"
S White-headed Pigeon	3	" "	10-8-86	"
U Fuscous Honeyeater	2	Yallah Scrub	19-7-86	C. Brandis
U Grey-tailed Tattler	1	Windang Est.	4-8-86	"
R Hooded Plover	1	Coniston Beach	10-8-86	C. Brandis
U Skylark	3	Sandon Point	19-7-86	I. Rowles
U White's Thrush	1	Gibson's Track	4-8-86	"
S Lewin's Rail (road kill)	1	Sth. Bulli Colliery	18-7-86	"
S Lewin's Rail	1 + 3 chicks	" " "	6-8-86	"
S Scarlet Honeyeater		Minnamurra	19-7-86	P. Bath
U Southern Emu-wren	2	"	19-7-86	"
R Pied Oystercatcher	2	Mt. Warrigal	21-7-86	"
R Red-necked Avocet	2	Comerong Island	27-7-86	"
R Yellow-nosed Albatross	2	Austinmer	26-7-86	D. Perry
S Logrunner	2	Gibson's Track	31-7-86	"
U Rainbow Lorikeet	10	Austinmer	July/aug-86	"
R Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	2	"	July/Aug-86	"
R Little Shearwater	1	Austinmer (Spec)	Aug-86	"
U Ruddy Turnstone	2	Bellambi Point	26-6-86	R. Almond
U Yellow-tailed Blk-Cockatoo	23	Keiraville	2-8-86	"
S Crested Pigeon	2	Woonona	21-8-86	W. Emery
S Scarlet Honeyeater	1	Balgownie	22-8-86	H. Emery
R Little Corella	4	Woonona	11-7-86	K. Mills
U Varied Sittella	2	Woonona	24-7-86	"
U Large-billed Scrubwren	1	Woonona	29-7-86	"
U Spotted Quail-thrush	1	Hilltop	31-7-86	"
U Pilotbird	1	Hilltop	31-7-86	"

Interesting sighting outside County of Camden

R. Noisy Pitta	1	Walumarra Track Royal National Park	25-7-86	D. Perry
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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

ALMOND, Stuart  
59/1A Kooringa Road,  
CHATSWOOD.

OWEN, Sue  
G.P.O. Box 3400,  
SYDNEY. 2001

MEDWAY, Patrick  
The Currumbin Sanctuary,  
Gold Coast Road,  
CURRUMBIN. QUEENSLAND 4223

RAMSEY, Fred  
3550 N.W. Glenridge Place,  
CORVALLIS. OREGON 97330 U.S.A.



# I. B. O. C. NEWS

98

NO. 98 NOVEMBER, 1986.

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 2519CLUB MOTTO

"One good Tern  
Deserves Another"

PRESIDENT

Jim Robinson  
16 Burling Avenue  
MT. DUSLEY NSW 2519  
29-4213

SECRETARY

Robyn Wilson  
4/18 Smith Street  
WOLLONGONG NSW 2500  
29-1184

TREASURER

Ron Almond  
2 Shoobert Cresc.  
KEIRAVILLE NSW 2500  
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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

NEXT MEETING - will be held at the Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Centre, cnr Collaery Avenue and Princes Highway Fairy Meadow on Monday 10th November at 7-30pm. Our GUEST SPEAKER for the evening will be Arnold McGill O.A.M. Most members will have heard Arnold speak before and will be familiar with his easy informative and entertaining style. His subject for the evening will be "Those Little Brown Birds!!" This will be a chance for members to learn more about identifying these plain nondescript little birds. Come along and enjoy an interesting evening and share in the experience of one of Australia's foremost Ornithologists.

FIELD OUTING - Saturday 15th November at 9-00am. to Blue Mountains National Park. We will enter the park at the end of Whitecross Road, Winmalee. Proceed along Great Western Highway to the Hawkesbury Road turn-off to Richmond at Springwood. Turn-off is on right immediately past overhead bridge over Springwood by-pass of highway and is sign-posted "Richmond". Whitecross Road Winmalee is on left 5.3 klm from highway with shopping centre in turning corner. Proceed approximately 1 klm to end of Whitecross Road where National Park signs will be seen. Park off end of bitumen on gravel area at start of fire-track. Travelling time from Wollongong approximately 1 hour 35 minutes. Bring a carry lunch.

SEABIRD TRIPS OFF WOLLONGONG - Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd November. For further details on cost and bookings ring David Fischer on 27-1704 (042)

ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTIONS - Our annual elections for 1987 Office Bearers will be held at the November meeting. The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary & Treasurer will be declared vacant and nominations will be called for. Members are invited to nominate for any of these positions. Wal Emery will not be standing for Vice-President and we would particularly like a nomination for this position.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING. Our December meeting will again follow the format of past years. The committee is looking for people willing to take part in the programme.

If you are able to perform an act, e.g. Songs, sketch, jokes, quiz, etc. please contact Jim Robinson or Wal Emery so that they can assemble a programme.

Our overall theme this year will take the form of a Bird Limerick or short rhyme. We would like members where possible to bring a sketch illustrating the rhyme but this is not necessary if, like me, you can't draw anything better than a straight line. The following are a couple of examples to start your minds working.

An Englishman surname of Pratt,  
Went in search of the rare Yellow Chat,  
He drove west for a week,  
Across desert and creek,  
Now he's just not quite sure where he's at.

A chinaman name of Lan Choo-ee,  
Caught a Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo-ee,  
He said, "I've seen nothing finer,  
In Taiwan or China,  
I'm sure it make real fine chop su-ee".

Remember the success of the evening depends on your participation. Don't hang back and leave it to others. Get your thinking caps on and help to make a contribution to the programme.

LIBRARY BOOKS - We are planning to have a working-bee at the hall to cover all the library books with clear plastic. If you are willing to help please notify librarian Ron Hanks at the November meeting.

NOTICE BOARDS. The display boards at the hall are arranged each month by Esme Gay. If you come across any newspaper or magazine articles about birds, wildlife or the environment etc. which you feel may be of interest to members, Esme would appreciate it if you could supply her with the clippings.

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT.

Our guest speaker for the September meeting was Win Filewood, this being the third time that Win has addressed our club. He is currently working on the final volume of National Photographic Index of Australian Wildlife. This volume will cover several groups of birds such as Finches, Sparrows, Starling, Woodswallows and Bowerbirds. Win entertained the good roll-up of members with his comments and observations of these birds, illustrating his talk with some really excellent slides. We were amused with his remarks on the Drongo and it is no coincidence that the word is entrenched in Australian slang vocabulary.

Maurie Nelson gave the vote of thanks for an enjoyable evening.

Jim Robinson.

#### SEPTEMBER FIELD OUTING - CALDERWOOD.

For the September outing eight members met on the Calderwood Road about three klms west from the intersection of Calderwood and Marshall Mount Roads, where a road to some adjoining properties branches off left up a rather steep incline. Transport was arranged at both ends of the walk to drive up the steep hill and to return us to the starting place. The walk began at the fire-trail which we followed for about two klms, then over some grazing land to meet up with a road which led to Voorwinden's property where the walk ended.

The weather during the day was good after a previous wet Friday. A westerly wind came up but we were sheltered in the trees and on the leeward side of the hills. Most of the day was sunny except for a few clouds about midday when a few drops of rain came down, but was over in a few minutes, and the rest of the day was clear.

We joined the firetrail near where we parked the cars. The birds were active in the early morning in the tall eucalypts. Some of the birds observed near the beginning of the firetrail were Grey Fantail, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, and White-browed Scrubwren. The Spotted Pardalote could be heard along with the Lewin's Honeyeater.

Along the firetrail we soon came to the wet gullies which cross it with the patches of rainforest where the beautiful Golden Whistler was observed several times as was the Brown Gerygone. The Eastern Whipbird was heard calling frequently. The trail led under two sets of power lines with some open grassland and beyond the tall eucalypts became dominant again. Higher up the hillside the trail turned back along the hilltop spur and into the property of Mr. Colin Levy. The Australian King Parrot, Silvereye, Superb Fairy-wren and a flock of Topknot Pigeons were observed along the hilltop.

The trail then began to descend the steep hillside. There a change of vegetation became apparent. The cedars, which stood out among the eucalypts with their new red spring growth, could be seen everywhere through the trees, even along the escarpment as we viewed it. In a section of open eucalypts with an undercover of wattles and lantana, the Variegated Fairy-wrens and White's Thrush were sighted.

As we moved on we came into some more most beautiful rainforest which came down the hillside to meet the grassland bordering the road. In a group of trees near the road a flock of about sixty Topknot Pigeons were observed, the second sighting of the day.

As we walked for five hundred metres we crossed some wet rainforest gullies with the most beautiful moss covered rocks and ferns under a cover of the rainforest trees. As the road led down the hillside we came to more open forest and out into open grassland nearing Voorwinden's property completing a most delightful walk.

For the day we observed a total of 53 species.

H. Ward.

#### JERVIS BAY TRIP.

Sunday September 7th, at 7-20am. we arrived at the I.C.C. Carpark in Coniston and wondered if we were at the right place, for there was only one other car there. However, in the following 10 minutes several other cars, and finally the coach itself arrived. All 29 of us clambered on board for a magnificent run down the coast in perfect weather to Jervis Bay Botanic Gardens.

We arrived at 9-30, half an hour before the gardens opened so went down to Greenpatch for morning coffee. Eleven naval vessels including a submarine were anchored in the bay and Little Lorikeets, Crimson Rosellas, Galahs, and Australian King Parrots flew among the trees. We returned to the Botanic Gardens to be greeted at the carpark by a flock of Crimson Rosellas so tame that the boldest took food from outstretched hands.

There was no fixed plan for the day so we broke up into little groups, some to explore the mature woodland, some the banksia heath, some to walk round the lake. We soon discovered that thanks to the excellent work of path construction done by the warden and CEPS, the maps at the entrance were largely irrelevant. We met at lunch and again at departure time to list sightings. Highlights - an excellent view of four Eastern Whipbirds; a male Satin Bowerbird tamely fossicking for food around a picnic table; a Little Eagle beside the lake. Altogether we saw 34 species and a very pleasant day was had by all.

J. Zealey.

.../4

#### OCTOBER CAMP REPORT.

On the 4th October, the Hales family arrived at the Birdo's annual long weekend camp at the property of Dr. Hughes at "Coowong", Canyonleigh, which is approximately 2 hours drive from Wollongong. We were met by other Birdo's who had been there for a couple of days and who had put up the usual high class facilities, two first class toilets and a shower unit some people would be pleased to have in their own home (almost) with hot and cold water of course.

There were twenty eight people at the camp plus day visitors, one who was so keen she arrived at 9-00pm and was gone by first light the next day. I still haven't decided whether that's a plus or a minus for our camp.

The wet weather gave way to a windy start to the camp which prevented a camp fire being lit on the Friday but by Saturday it was all systems go for the by now legendary camp fire meetings, hot 'spuds', tea, marshmallows and lots of idle gossip, a touch of ornithology and a 'smattering' of negative pommieology. And, so to the reason for our visit to this magnificent area. Approximately eighty species of birds were seen in surroundings that God must have put aside especially for the beautiful creatures. The creeks, trees, bushes and flowers seemed at their best in what can sometimes be a dry and harsh environment.

Our favourite sightings for Sunday were the Wedge-tailed Eagle, a number of Dusky Woodswallows, a Jacky Winter on it's nest and a nest of three Noisy Miner chicks at the top of a 4ft. broken-off tree, but we were upstaged by other members reporting seeing Regent Honeyeaters (Oh, to be a good birdo). Plenty of nests with and without eggs were also spotted. An added bonus while at one of the dams was when we heard the unusual cry of a pair of Australasian Grebe as they broke the surface of the water after their dive, a first for a few of us.

Around the last campfire, Monday, when ten members remained, a strange noise in nearby trees produced a Sugar Glider and with a little encouragement gave a great demonstration of it's gliding skills.

Tuesday, the last day of camp, some members visited Dr. Hughes and the President presented him with a hand-painted plate. A small sample of birds seen on the camp; Leaden Flycatcher, Grey Currawong, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Australian King Parrot, Common Bronzewing, Wonga Pigeon, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Rainbow Bee-eater, Southern Boobook, Horsefield's and Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Common Koel, Lyrebird, Scarlet, Hooded and Yellow Robins, Regent Honeyeater and lots more.

I would highly recommend these camping outings, a time to mix with people with similar interests and meet some real experts (my words not theirs) or just be there in the bush and take in what this country has to offer for free. Thanks to all concerned.

Brian Hales.

#### JUST AN HOURS BIRDWATCHING.

You certainly do not have to travel far to see beautiful birds. I have always been curious about a small casuarina bush opposite Swamp Road turn-off at Dunmore, so last Sunday I decided to wander along the track.

First up Scarlet Honeyeaters tinkling in the top of the oakies. How exciting. Yellow Thornbills were busy everywhere. I could hear a mournful descending trill in the distance, a cuckoo. Finally I spotted it, a Fantailed Cuckoo, it's whole body quivered with each call. Superb Fairy-wrens hopped about the undergrowth; next I spotted a rufous Whistler. Grey Fantails were active, fluttering in and out the trees.

Back to the car, and just a final look, then I disturbed an Australasian Bittern from one of the many waterholes. Then a different call, a beautiful Mistletoebird feeding in the mistletoe which was in full bloom everywhere. A very enjoyable hours birdwatching.

Margaret Parkinson.

### SIX DAYS IN OCTOBER.

I have never ceased to marvel at the bird attracting qualities of a native bush garden. Our family and friends have had many enjoyable moments 'birding' in our own back yard, but a sequence of events in October, 1986 just about topped anything that has happened before.

It all started quite innocently on October 1st. Rita mentioned that there was a new call in the yard, but she could not locate the bird.

On October 3rd I was awakened at approximately 6-30am. by a loud melodious call, quite different to anything yet heard in the yard. Through the bedroom window I could see with the naked eye, a large honeyeater in a Eucalyptus Leucoxylon "Rosea". Binoculars were quick to hand, and to my amazement I was to observe a Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater through our bedroom window! The adrenalin was really pumping by now. I raced outside with true birdo enthusiasm, dressed in pyjama pants and bare feet; no time to get dressed.

Rita and I were able to observe the Spiny-cheeked for 20 minutes, as it moved around the yard. Before it finally flew off the following diagnostic features were clearly noted at very close range (25 -30ft.): bi-coloured bill, bare pink skin under the eye, black line through eye, broad white streak from bill to cheek below black eye line, cinnamon throat and breast, lower breast and abdomen buff streaked with black. The bird clearly raised its bill whilst making a loud melodious call; also a single short "tok" call was noted.

A quick call was made to Lindsay Smith who dropped in on his way to work, but it was not to be seen again. So be warned, if you hear a "chock", "tock", or "quock" in the next few weeks, double check it. It just may not be a wattlebird.

From then on much time was spent in the yard in the hope that the Spiny-cheeked might turn up again. At mid-afternoon on the 5th October another strange call! Coming from a Eucalyptus Scoparia at the front of the yard was this beautiful soft musical call, but try as we might, Rita and I could not locate the bird. Quite frustrating. Rita confirmed that this was the call she had heard on the 1st October.

On the morning of the 6th October yet another surprise, out of the blue a male White-headed Pigeon landed under the seed feeders we have in the back yard, it must have sighted the Spotted Doves feeding on the droppings from the feeders. I raced inside for my camera which I now had at the ready for the Spiny-cheeked, but before I could use it the pigeon flew off after being constantly harassed by a Willy Wagtail.

On the morning of the 8th I was again awakened by that soft musical flute-like call. Rush to the garden, usual attire, pyjama trousers and bare feet, no time to dress, but once again worth it; a Tawny-crowned Honeyeater! Another quick call to Lindsay, but this time we were to enjoy the sighting together. The Tawny-crowned Honeyeater was to stay in the yard for 13 days, despite constant harassment from our resident New Holland Honeyeaters.

What an exciting time birding in our own back yard. Three new yard sightings, SIX DAYS IN OCTOBER.

Ron Imisides.

N.B. Occasional sightings of Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater recorded in Sydney area - Pizzey' Birds of Australia.

### 1986 WINTER DUCK COUNT.

This years count was held over the weekend of the 5th and 6th July and proved once again that the Illawarra area has a substantial population of waterfowl.

The region was broken up into three large areas and the results are tabulated below. Species included in the count were; all species of duck, all species of Grebe, Black Swan and Eurasian Coot. A total of 11,537 individuals were recorded, 8,104 of these being ducks. This compares favourably with the results of last years count in which 8,108 ducks were counted although the escarpment dams were not previously covered.

The highlights of the weekend included 43 Great Crested Grebe on Wingecarribee Dam, 8 Blue-billed Ducks on Cecil Hoskins Reserve, 30 Musk Duck on Tallawarra Ash Ponds, 970 Chestnut Teal and 1160 Black Swans on Lake Illawarra, 1407 Grey Teal on the lower Shoalhaven River and a single flock of 2,500 Hardhead in a single pond approximately 50 metres square at the Nowra Sewerage Treatment Works.

Other interesting birds observed during the weekend included single Darters at Cecil Hoskins Reserve and Primbee, a flock of 50 Purple Swamphens in a small paddock at Berry, a Whimbrel and 5 Greenshank on Shoalhaven River and 4 Red-kneed Dotterels on a small farm dam at Belanglo State Forest.

SPECIES	A	B	C	TOTAL.
Great Crested Grebe			43	43
Hoary-headed Grebe	38	387	250	675
Australasian Grebe	3	50	52	105
Eurasian Coot	134	420	660	1214
Black Swan	205	1172	19	1396
Pacific Black Duck	809	113	138	1060
Mallard		18		18
Grey Teal	1407	550	8	1965
Chestnut Teal	736	970	1	1707
Australasian Shoveler	62	4	2	68
Pink-eared Duck	61		2	63
Hardhead	2522	10	19	2551
Maned Duck	27	206	370	603
Blue-billed Duck			8	8
Musk Duck	1	30	30	61
<hr/>				
Total Ducks	5625	1901	578	8104
<hr/>				
Total Waterfowl	6005	3930	1602	11537

Area A - Lower Shoalhaven River, Nowra, Bomaderry, and Berry Sewerage Treatment Works, Saltwater and Worrigea Swamps, Comerong Island and farm dams around Berry.

Area B - Lake Illawarra, Killalea and Coomaditchy Lagoons, Dunmore and Yallah Swamps, Tallawarra Ash Ponds and farm dams around West Dapto.

Area C - Wingecarribee, Fitzroy Falls and Welby Dams, Cecil Hoskins Reserve, and farm dams along Wombeyan Caves/Greenhills Roads and at Belanglo State Forest, Moss Vale and Exeter.

I would like to thank the following people for assisting in this years count: L. E. Smith, L. Hurt, D. Wright, B. Virtue, G. Brandis, R. Wilson, and M. Parkinson.

Chris Chafer.

.../7



### ALONG THE ESCARPMENT.

Having Monday off work to make up for working on Monday evenings running a Stress Management & Relaxation Course, I thought it was a good idea to go for a walk along the firetrail above Corrimal mine.

It was a lovely sunny day, so all the birds agreed and I lunched on the bank of a pond. Two Maned Ducks flew away and there was a bird that I have not seen there before - swimming around in a kind of patrol - I think it was possibly a grebe. I shared my lunch space with a Kookaburra and noticed 10 noisy black cockatoos fly overhead. Returning along the firetrail I heard and was enthralled by a lyrebird going through all the bird calls that he could think of. He was very close to the track in a place where I have heard him before on a few occasions.

He's a clever fellow and never allows me too close and darts off before I am able to get even a glimpse. I commenced to pick my way very carefully over mossy rocks and logs. My dog lay down at the edge at my bidding; she is used to my doing odd things and the calls continued.

Finally I got myself into position - precariously poised most inelegantly and saw him with his tail out - lost in his variety show for just about one minute. Then all of a sudden he realised he was performing to an audience and he ran off up the hill and out of sight, followed by his lady. I do hope that they were able to continue their courtship somewhere else.

Further along the track I said hello to a black snake and I asked her what she was doing out in August. She just said, none of your business, and dived for cover.

Mary Browne.

### BIRDS OF THE SNOW FIELDS.

I spent a week skiing at Perisher Valley in mid-August and as well as skiing I kept my eyes out for any bird life other than the more fashionable ones.

We had 4 days of snow at first with visibility down to 20 metres at times, but the lodge was visited by a Pied Currawong and Little Ravens could be heard calling. When the storm finished Pied Currawongs could be seen visiting the lodges with the odd Australian Magpie probably looking for hand-outs, while Little Ravens scavenged about some of the rubbish bins.

I noted Little Ravens breaking small twigs off the gums for nesting as any on the ground were under a metre of snow, and next to a ski tow a nest was being built in branches under the snow canopy.

A pair of Crimson Rosellas made a brilliant sight against a white background as they fed amongst the snow gum foliage. A Grey Shrike-thrush was seen passing through and the only other small bird sighted was a White-browed Scrubwren. This could have been one of the family that lived in a patch of bushes next to the lodge which was now completely covered in snow forcing it to forage in the open foliage with no hiding place.

After seeing the area in summer when small birds abound I was surprised to see any birds at all in this frozen land let alone starting to nest, they must know something we don't about the beginning of spring time.

Chris Brandis.

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS FOR AUGUST - SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1986.

R Little Corella	5	Calderwood Rd	14-8-86	D. Thomson
U Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Mt. Pleasant	31-8-86	"
U Large-billed Scrubwren	3	Gibson Track	9-9-86	"
S Little Eagle	1	Mt. Pleasant	10-9-86	"
R Olive Whistler	1	Barren Grounds	11-9-86	"
U Rainbow Lorikeet	10	Austinmer	-8&9-86	D. Perry
R Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	2	Austinmer	-8&9-86	"
U Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	6	Stanwell Park	29-8-86	"
S Darter	1	Macquarie Rivulet	27-8-86	D. Strickland
U Pink-eared Duck	4		27-8-86	"
MC Pallid Cuckoo	1	Douglas Park	16-8-86	P. Bath
U Flame Robin	1	Unandorra	22-3-86	"
R Pacific Gull	1	Windang En trance	22-8-86	"
U Yellow-billed Spoonbill	3	Mt. Warrigal	23-8-86	"
U Zebra Finch	40+	Shellharbour	30-8-86	"
U Musk Lorikeet	1	Woonona	8-8-86	K. Mills
U Hooded Robin	1pr	Douglas Park	16-8-86	"
U Pilotbird	1	O'Hare's Creek	21-8-86	"
U Grey Currawong	1	" "	21-8-86	"
U Rose Robin	1	Woonona	1-9-86	"
U Logrunner	1	"	1-9-86	"
MC Topknot Pigeon	35	"	4-9-86	"
U Ruddy Turnstone	4	Bellambi Point	8-9-86	"
U Green Catbird	1	Woonona	22-9-86	"
S White-headed Pigeon	1	Primbee	6-10-86	R. Imisides
R Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	"	3-10-86	"
U Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	1	"	8 to 20-10-86	"
S Scarlet Honeyeater	1	Balgownie	22-9-86	H. Emery
R Common Koel	1	Balgownie	25-9-86	"
MC Leaden Flycatcher	1	"	22-10-86	"
S Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	"	26-10-86	"
U Rainbow Lorikeet	2	Tarrawanna	23-10-86	"

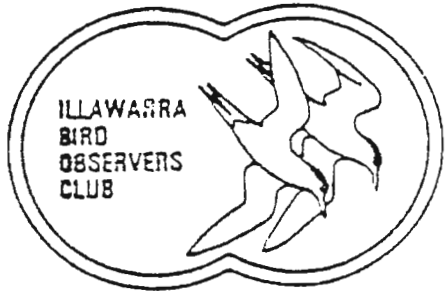
Two sightings of particular interest in this month's newsletter are the female Olive Whistler which was caught in a mist net at Barren Grounds by Richard Jordan & Dave Thomson and the Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater which visited Ron Imisides' beautiful all native garden (except the mandarin tree, Ron). The only Olive Whistler records for the County of Camden till 1986 were a specimen from Cambewarra Mountain in 1981, two records from Coudeaux, in the 1930's and one from J. Hobbs at Cambewarra on 22-9-77. Surprisingly in light of the sparsity of past records, 1986 has produced 4 records of this rare to the County of Camden species; Red Rocks N.R. 25-5-86, C & B Virtue, Albion Pk. 9-6-86, L. Smith & C. Chafer, Barren Grounds N.R. 10-6-86, R. Jordan, Barren Grounds N.R. 11-9-86 R. Jordan & D. Thomson.

Ron's Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater on the 3-10-86 is the first County of Camden record for this species and it is amazing that a bird so far beyond its recognized range should choose to visit an isolated suburban garden when the district is bordered with heathland and banksia dune forests. The Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, although not a rare bird in the heathland, is a very unusual sighting outside of this habitat and demonstrates the value of bird lovers developing native gardens.

Wal Emery.

# I . B . O . C . NEWS

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ILLAWARRA  
BIRD  
OBSERVERS  
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CLUB MOTTO

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Deserves Another"

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SECRETARY

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29-8612

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

NEXT MEETING - will be held at the Fairy Meadow Senior Citizens Centre, cnr Collaery Avenue & Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow on Monday 8th December at 7-30pm. As has been the custom in previous years there will be no guest speaker. The evening will follow past formats with the emphasis on having a good laugh. Songs & sketches will be performed by members and there will be one or two comical bird films. Our overall theme this year in which all members are invited to participate is the bird limerick competition. So please get your thinking caps on and front up on the night with a limerick/rhyme with a bird or IBOC theme. Here is another example to start you thinking;

Thirty IBOC's walked away from their camp,  
To the river they intended to tramp,  
But a mile down the track  
The sky turned very black,  
And they returned more than just a bit damp.

As in the past we would appreciate it if members made a little bit of extra effort with the supper. Come along and enjoy a happy social evening. The programme is as follows;

President's Welcome

The Birdo From Oak Flats

Birdo Dance

A Birds Eye View

Kangaroo Court

Films

Bird Limerick Competition

Father Christmas

Supper.

Margaret Parkinson

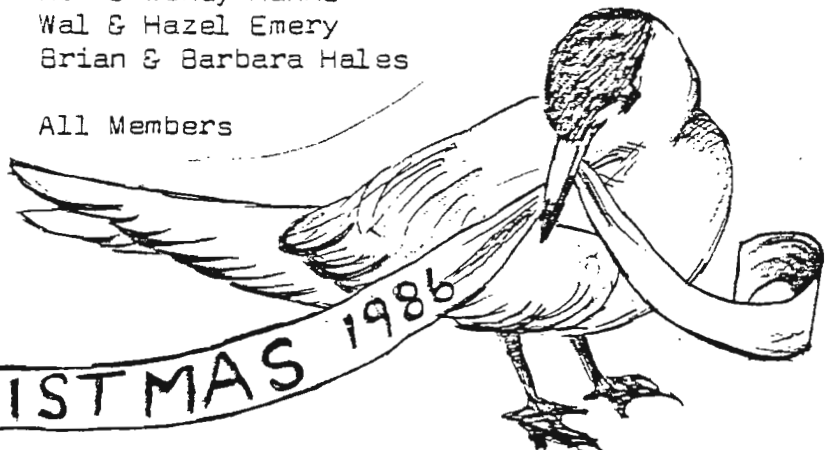
(Apologies to Banjo Paterson)

Ron & Wendy Hanks

Wal & Hazel Emery

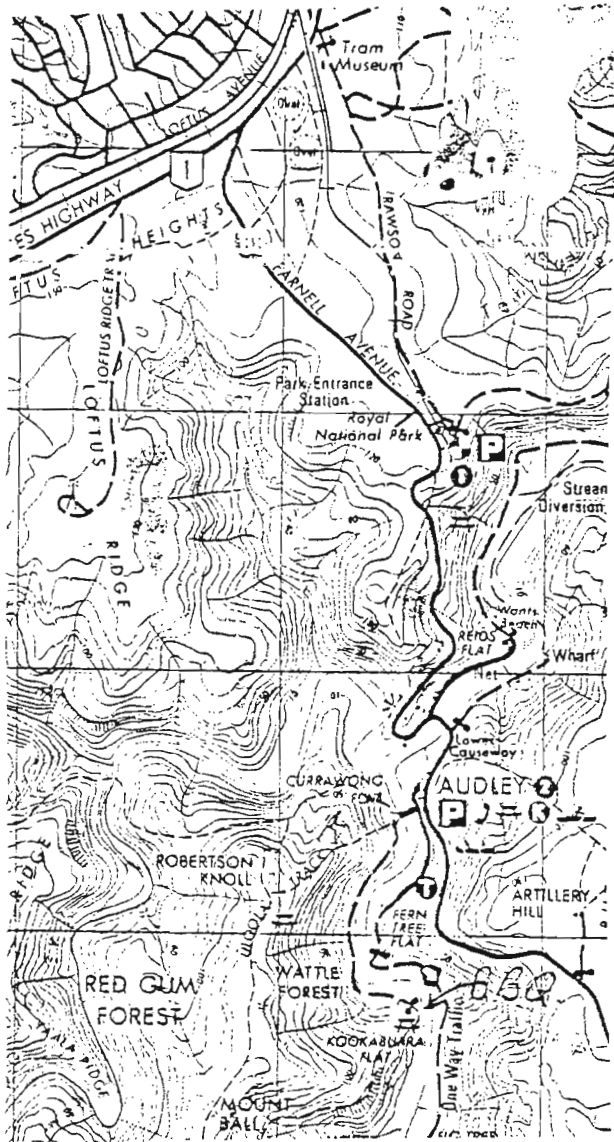
Brian & Barbara Hales

All Members



FIELD OUTING - This year's Christmas BBQ outing will be held in the Royal N.P. on Saturday 6th December. We will be meeting in the Kookaburra Flat Picnic Area at Audley at 3-30pm. To get there, proceed to Audley and then cross over the river on the small wooden bridge in the main picnic area. Turn left and follow the bitumen road to its end.

We will be going on a short walk around Mount Ball and Robertson Knoll before our evening BBQ.



For those who want to stay on, we will be going spotlighting along Lady Carrington Drive after dark. Several 100 watt spot lights will be in use during this part of the day, however I advise you to bring along a small personal torch.

It should be noted that entry into the park is now \$4 per car so the more friends you can take the more economical it will be.

Please note the outing is the Saturday before the monthly meeting, not after as is the case during the year.



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS - are due on the 1st January 1987 for the calendar year. Fees are the same as last year, Family \$8, Single \$5, Student \$2. Please make your payment to the Hon. Treasurer, Ron Almond, 2 Shoobert Crescent, Keiraville, 2500, or pay at the meeting.

SEABIRD TRIPS OFF WOLLONGONG - Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th December. For further details on cost & bookings ring David Fischer on 27-1704 (042)

BOOK SALES - Barbara Hales has advised that "The Readers Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds" is again available. As we have not yet received the invoice we cannot quote a price but they will be priced and available at the December meeting. Barbara also hopes to have a copy of the new Slaters Field Guide available for perusal.

LIBRARY BOOKS - thanks to all those who attended the working bee in November to cover the library books. The club now has a considerable investment in books and this will help to insure that they remain in good condition. As this is the last meeting for the year it would be appreciated if anyone with outstanding books would return them at the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

1986 was another active year for the club, with regular monthly meetings and outings being well patronised. It was good to see three (3) of the Guest Speakers coming from our own club members, namely, Ian Rowles, Deborah Perry and Arnold McGill. It was Ian's first time on his feet and I'm sure it won't be his last; he has so many superb slides to show and talk about. On the other hand, it was Arnold McGill's sixth address to our club over 10 years and as usual was most enjoyable. Deborah Perry moves to Singleton at the end of year and we will be sorry to lose such an entertaining speaker.

The film nights continue to be popular with members and thanks goes to the members who made their homes available for the four showings.

-The three camps held at Jingellic, Canyonleigh and Murga respectively were voted great successes by those fortunate to attend.

Favourable comments have been made from various quarters about the high standard of IBOC Newsletters and great credit goes to our Editor, Wal Emery for his efforts in compiling the circular; also to those members who contributed articles.

Last month, the club purchased a Paximat Slide Projector with accessories of a F150 lens and infra-red remote control unit. The two accessories will improve the audience viewing, particularly from the back of the hall, while the remote control should greatly facilitate the speakers job of showing the slides. For some years, we have relied on Len Klumpes to operate his own personal projector at our meetings and I would like to express the Club's thanks to Len for his generosity in providing this service. Thanks Len!

In August Anna Knowlson had to relinquish the Hon. Secretary's job when Anna and husband, Andy moved to Tumut. Andy was also a member of the Committee. We shall miss them both. Robyn Wilson took over the job of Hon. Secretary.

Apart from the Perry's and Knowlson's, there were a few other members who left the district during 1986. Peter Ewin, a most promising young birdo, moved to Crabbes Creek near Murwillumbah. Judging by his letters to members in Illawarra, he hasn't lost his enthusiasm for birds. The Errington's returned to England and you will recall that Rowena was Secretary in 1981. The Coxon's, long time members of the club, moved to Sydney.

I wish to record my appreciation of the efforts of all Committee members for their work on behalf of the club and making my first year as President a most rewarding task. I wish all members and their families a Happy Christmas and Good Birding for the New Year.

Jim Robinson.

LATE OCTOBER CAMP REPORT.

Murga October 25th - November 1st.

24 members arrived at the park at Murga by 2-00pm and enjoyed a late lunch before setting off to Neil & Sue Skinner's property "Cleavland" ten klms along a gravel road. The scenery was magnificent, the weather was windy, though sunny. We met David Winterbottom & son James near Reedy Creek in one of the paddocks on the property.

Members set up camp, and at night sat around the campfire and checked on a list of birds sighted by David the previous day.

Next day saw us walking down the creek on the boundary of the property. Sightings were made of the Sacred Kingfisher and Pacific Black Duck chicks under the bank of a creek.

On Sunday night campers were invited to the Skinner's house for a showing of slides. Neil is an accomplished photographer, and the slides were excellent. Neil's son Wayne is caretaker of a property owned by a Wollongong chemist, so we were all able to go by four wheel drive vehicles to Mingham Springs near the boundary of the property. The scenery was magnificent; the sighting of a waterfall was great. We disturbed a Peregrine Falcon nearby; some members climbed a cliff to look for the nest but failed to find it.

Monday night some more slides were shown at the Skinner's house. This was one of the highlights of the camp. One of our members celebrated her birthday so each of us joined in the celebrations. Later on in the afternoon we walked downstream and sighted some Little Lorikeets in a bush. Some of Len Klumpes friends from Orange played the guitar around the campfire at night and led us in some singing which was enjoyable. One of the days were taken up with a walk up the mountain across from our campsite. A sighting of the Leaden Flycatcher and a Red-capped Robin's nest were made on the walk. Some of the members left for home early while others stayed on to enjoy the wonderful spot on which we were camped. In all 98 species were sighted. Sunday saw us breaking camp after such an enjoyable week of 'birding'. Thanks go to our hosts Neil & Sue Skinner for allowing us to camp on their property in such a lovely place as Murga.

Some of the 98 species sighted were:-

Whistling Kite	Cockatiel
Peregrine Falcon	Budgerigar
Little Eagle	Eastern Rosella
White-throated Treecreeper	Red-rumped Parrot
Rufous Songlark	Tawny Frogmouth
Little Raven	Australian Owllet-nightjar
Rainbow Bee-eater	Brown Treecreeper
Diamond Firetail	Brown-headed Honeyeater

Ron Hanks.

#### NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT.

"Those Little Brown Birds", the title of another delightful and as usual informative address by Arnold McGill. Gerygones, thornbills and scrubwrens were dealt with in detail along with several other species as Arnold aided by slides set about explaining to members the identifying marks and behavioural traits of these often confusing birds. It soon became evident that call was one means of identifying like species. Habitat and distribution another means of narrowing the field.

Arnold's reminiscing of his difficulty in identifying, as a boy in the country, his first Southern Whiteface, was a sharp contrast to the fluent way in which he was able to relate to the audience without the aid of notes, his vast knowledge of the 50 odd species which were the subject of his talk.

His ability to talk on such involved subjects as taxonomy and still remain on the same level as his audience is one of the many reasons why Arnold is always in demand as a speaker.

Thank you Arnold from the members of ISCC for sharing yet another evening with us and we hope that perhaps in the future we can get together again, I'm sure there is no shortage of subject material about which you can talk.

Wal Emery.

.../5



NOVEMBER FIELD OUTING REPORT - Blue Mountains National Park. Saturday 15-11-86

The November outing, 17 attended but 15 made the long walk of about 12 klms. We met at the end of White Cross Road, Winnmalee near Springwood.

The weather during the day was cloudy early, but by 11-00am the sun came through and shone for the rest of the day. While waiting to begin the walk the Gang-gang Cockatoo was in the eucalypts, the Noisy Friarbirds in some grevillea, and Crimson Rosella were also observed.

The walk as planned was a circular one leading down from the end of Whitecross Road along a firetrail. About 100 metres along a trail branched off to the left, which we followed down into a valley of rare beauty to Blue Gums Swamp Creek, which the trail roughly followed for about 4 klms. It then turned back up the steep slope of the hillside to the top of the spur, which we followed to finish where we began in the morning.

The walk down into the valley along a rough trail was enhanced by the many wildflowers along the way. Tea-tree, wattle, callistemon, and drumsticks to mention a few were all flowering through the bush. On the upper levels the rough bark gums gave way to the tall graceful blue gums which predominated along the valley floor. The quiet of this lovely place was broken by the water cascading over rocks and the calls of the many birds, some of which were the Rufous Whistler, Peaceful Dove, Spotted Pardalote and frequently along the river, the Golden Whistler.

Where the track levelled off in the valley we made a short detour to a most beautiful spot called the "Grotto", a small clearing edged by a waterfall, cascading over a 15 metre rockface with fern covered ledges, all sparkling wet.

In this area the Buff-rumped Thornbill, Grey Fantail, Leaden Flycatcher and Eastern Whipbird were observed. On our return to the main trail the Dollarbird was sighted, high on a dead branch.

Returning to the trail we made our way through a forest of tall gums, in which many birds were calling, but generally hard to see in the higher branches. Some we observed were the Varied Sittella, Brown Thornbill, Brown Gerygone, Australian King Parrot, and Grey Shrike-thrush.

Upon leaving the valley as the trail rose up the hillside the environment changed back to the rough-bark gums and angophoras. Arriving at the top of the ridge we had about 4 klms to walk. In this dry sclerophyll the Yellow-faced Honeyeater was frequently heard along the trail which was lined with flannel flower and mountail devil among many other varieties.

Our walk finished at 3-45pm with a total of 36 bird species on our list.

Horace Ward.

BIRODS OF THE FIVE ISLANDS.

"I've got it all ready, Brian's boat is lined up for Monday, do you want to come out and check the Pelicans breeding". That's how come I was in a 14ft. open run-about at the entrance to Pt. Kembla Harbour with Lindsay Smith and Brian James while our plans were relayed to the Coast Guard.

Shortly we were ploughing through the swell and chop hanging on to Lindsay's inflatable rubber assault craft while we headed for Pig Island to see if the Kelp Gulls were nesting. We stopped about 50 metres off the island while Lindsay jumped into the inflatable and paddled over to where the 1½ metre waves were sweeping over the rocky shore. When a slight lull came, Lindsay paddled onto the rocks and jumped out, but another wave swept in flooding the inflatable and sweeping it and one paddle back into the sea with Lindsay hanging on. He quickly let go and thoroughly drenched he scrambled up the rocks with only a paddle. While we set about to collect the dinghy, Lindsay looked about the Island, the Kelp Gulls had only just started to build nests, a pair of Sooty Oystercatchers had eggs and two Australian Ravens called in looking for a feed about the Silver Gulls nests.

Lindsay had to jump in and swim to the dinghy through the rising swell and then we headed off to Martin's Island to check out the Pelicans. We could see about 50 young pelicans on the island but the swell had risen too high to attempt a safe landing, so we carried on to Big Island which has a small beach for an easier landing. The place was covered with Silver Gull's nests on the rocks, on the 300mm thick kikuyu grass, under bitu bushes, everywhere there were eggs and chicks, some almost fully fledged. The smell of rotten eggs and dead birds was high and the screams of protesting gulls was deafening. Any chick that moved away from it's nest was unmercifully pecked by other gulls which probably explained the hundreds of little corpses lying around.

The pelicans had set up a new rookery with about 60 eggs in about 40 odd little grass lined scrapes in the ground at the other end of the island from the larger rookery. This had about 35 almost fully fledged young which moved down towards the shore as we approached. There were 22 dead and dried up chicks about indicating a high mortality rate is fairly normal amongst these closely packed rookeries, but they are not cleaned up by any scavengers. Just past the pelicans about 400 Crested Terns were on a small patch of the island and were tightly sitting on eggs while young pelicans wandered through. We saw a few Fairy Penguins and Wedgetailed Shearwaters in their burrows, a Whimbrel and some Ruddy Turnstones on the rocky shore and a few Common Terns flying past on the way back to the boat.

On checking back with the coast guard on returning to harbour they asked if we had got the man off Big Island as they were worried but were satisfied with the explanation that birdwatchers are a bit that way inclined.

I must thank Lindsay and Brian for the opportunity to visit this amazing site off our shores and I now know why the pelicans appear to be increasing in numbers around the lake and can be seen soaring into the sky heading for Hill 60.

Chris Brandis.

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS FOR SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER - NOVEMBER, 1986.

R	Powerful Owl	1	Bass Point	13-9-86	C. Chafer
S	Whimbrel	31	Shoalhaven Estuary	12-10-86	"
R	Terek Sandpiper	1	Comerong Island	7-11-86	"
S	Black-tailed Godwit	10	Numbar Island	7-11-86	"
R	Spectacled Monarch	1	Bass Point	11-10-86	P. Bath
R	Powerful Owl	1	Bass Point	13-10-86	"
R	Little Corella	15	Barrack Heights	2-11-86	"
R	Marsh Sandpiper	1	Shellharbour	2-11-86	"
R	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	2	Austinmer	-10&11-86	D. Perry
U	Rainbow Lorikeet	10	"	-10&11-86	"
S	White-headed Pigeon	1	Stanwell Park	9-11-86	"
R	Blue-billed Duck	1	Hoskins Nat. Reserve	12-10-86	R. Simcock
R	Great Crested Grebe	1	" "	12-10-86	"
S	Scarlet Honeyeater	3	Cordeaux Heights	5-10-86	"
S	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1	Keiraville	30-10-86	R. Almond
U	Cicadabird	1	Scarborough	5-11-86	"
R	Lewin's Rail	2	Corrimal Escarpment	1-11-86	W. Emery
R	Brush Turkey	1	" "	8-11-86	H & W Emery
U	Cicadabird	2	Balgownie	26-11-86	D. Thomson
U	Pilotbird	1	10 B Firetrail	6-10-86	K. Mills
U	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	2	Appin	20-10-86	"
S	Chanell-billed Cuckoo	2	Mt. Ousley	20-10-86	"
R	Long-billed Corella	1	Berry	22-9-86	C & B Virtue
R	Pink Cockatoo	1	"	9-10-86	"

IBOC - Spring Bird Count - 1 Nov 1986 - Count No 16

Weather: Sunny but very cool with reasonably strong south westerly winds all day (av. about 10 knots).

Area 1 - North

Team 1: Ron Almond, Jim Robinson, Eame Gay, Horace Ward, Peg McKinlay (on 5 Nov 1986)

Team 2: David & Elizabeth Winterbottom (on 2 Nov 1986)

Two teams: 16 hrs, 70 kms, 70 species (cumulative)

Area 2 - Thirroul

Ian Howles & Jeff Smeaton

One team: 10.5 hrs, 130 kms, 79 species

Area 3 - Corrimmal

Team 1: Wal Emery

Team 2: Hazel Emery

Two teams: 13.5 hrs, 43 kms, 95 species

Area 4 - Mt Keira

Kevin Mills, Val Mills, Jackie Jakeman

One team: 8 hrs, 94 kms, 88 species

Area 5 - Wollongong

Dave Thomson & Jack Hyslop (on 2 Nov 1986)

One team: 9 hrs, 38 kms, 56 species

Area 6 - Dapto

Team 1: Lindsay Smith, Brian James, Lorraine Hurt

Team 2: Phil Bath & Chris Brandis

Two teams: 15 hrs, 84 kms, 94 species (cumulative)

Area 7 - Lake Illawarra

Kevin Wood & Peter Fackender

One team: 10.5 hrs, 55 kms, 83 species

IBOC AREA TOTAL:

10 teams, 23 people

82.5 hrs, 514 kms,

167 species, 13231 individuals

Commentary

Our sixteenth count turned out to be yet another success. With 167 species recorded we have again represented the avifauna of the Illawarra area as it really is. In every spring count since 1982 we have listed between 160 & 170 species.

The individual total of 13231 was a little lower than the running spring average. Yet it was fairly close to last year's spring tally of 13824. I wonder if the lower number of individuals but reasonably high number of species in the last two years is reflected by the relatively good seasonal conditions which have existed throughout the state.

My statistics this count relate to homo sapiens. Only three of this species participated in all of the last 10 counts. They are Ian Howles, Jeff Smeaton & Wal Emery. A big thank you to them.

As for the 23 people who gave their time a few weeks ago, a real thank you, too.

The data is irreplaceable!

Kevin Wood  
Organiser

(PI)

	NORTH	THIRROUL	CORRIMAL	MT KEIRA	WOLLONGONG	DAPTO	LAKE	TOTAL
Little Grebe							1	15
Hoary-II Grebe							10	14
W-tailed S/Water							2	2
Jacky Winter				2				2
Restless F/c	2	1						3
Common Bz wing					1			1
Crested Pigeon	2				1			3
Pelican	4		2				95	132
Lge Blk Cormorant		7	12		34		28	81
Little Blk Corm			4	1	7		96	108
Little Pled Corm		2	7	2	3	4	82	100
Wh Faced Heron	1			1		3	5	10
Cattle Egret	1		2			62	29	94
Large Egret						1	8	9
White Ibis						16	1	17
Royal S/B							13	13
Black Swan					2		825	827
Black Duck		2	19	2	7	17	17	64
Mallard (I)			6			2	8	16
Grey Teal					3	3	10	16
Chestnut Teal					1	13	66	80
Wood Duck	57	1	28	6		114	4	206
Musk Duck				4				8
Black Sh Kite		4				2	1	8
Nankeen Keatrel				1	1		20	4
Dusky Moorhen		4	12	2	29	17	2	66
Lewin Rail			2					2
Red-kneed Dot							1	1
Arctic Skua							3	3
Cockatiel (E?)				1				1
Little Corella (EP)				1				1

(16)

1 Nov 1986

(P2)

TOTAL

	NORTH	THIRROU	CORRIMAL	MT KEIRA	WONG	DARTO	LAKE	TOTAL
East Swamphen								
Coot		3	16	1	10	3	1	33
Pied O/C					67	56	2	126
Sooty O/C		3	2		1			6
Sput-W Plover	11	8	9	8	15	15	30	96
E Golden Plover							40	40
Red-Capped Dot			2				5	7
Blk-Fronted Dot		1			5	1		7
Bar-T Godwit							184	184
Eastern Curlew							12	12
Greenshank							37	37
Tattler							3	3
Jap Snipe			4					4
Sharp-T S/P							151	151
Curlew S/P							55	55
Red-Necked Stint							62	62
Dominican Gull							1	1
Silver Gull	75	80	150	66	2363	2077	520	5331
Caspian Tern							4	4
Crested Tern	6	4	6		2		50	68
Little Tern							44	44
Topknot Pigeon	29	70	35	28	18	68		248
Domestic Pigeon			3		5	1	6	15
Brown Pigeon		10	8	5				23
Wonga Pigeon	1	1	6	4		2		12
Sp Turtledove		10	5	2	15	3	4	39
Y-T Blk Cockatoo	3			5				8
B-Cr Wh Cockatoo	9	25	12	6		2		54
Gang Gang				4		3		7
Galah	11	25	5	2	25	15	24	107
Blk-Wing Stilt					8			8
Ruddy T/stone			9					9
Red Knot							8	8
Blk-T Godwit							2	2
Sanderling							2	2

(P3)

TOTAL

	NORTH	THIRROU	CORRIMAL	MT KEIRA	WONG	DARTO	LAKE	TOTAL
King Parrot			6	4		13		23
Crimson Rosella	21	28	21	16		22	1	109
Eastern Rosella	3	3	6	2		21		35
Fan-T Cuckoo	9		8	6		4		27
Sacred K/F	7	3		1	1	2		14
Kookaburra	22	6	4	7		13		52
Sup Lyrebird		3	4	7		3		17
Welcome Swallow	17	7	12	12	21	71	52	192
Tree Martin		20						20
Fairy Martin						27	21	48
Pipit	3	10	5	2	5	11	8	44
Blk-F Cuckoo Shr	14	5	1	9	1	2	6	38
Red-Wh Bulbul	10	12	22	2	17	12	16	91
East Whipbird	14	12	52	10	2	12		102
Reed Warbler			14		6	6	7	33
Golden-ll Cisticola		14	3		8	12	16	53
Little Grassbird			1			1		2
Sup Blue Wren	13	18	21	7	30	44	73	206
Variegated Wren	1		2		2		5	10
Yellow T/B	5		10		4	13	5	37
Striated T/B	11		10	7		6		34
Brown T/B	14	2	7	8		24	1	56
Y-Rumped T/D	2					8		10
Buff-Rumped T/B		2		2		2		6
Brown Warbler	1	2	39	9		14		69
Wh-Throated Warb						7		7
Wh-Fronted Chat							14	14
Grey Fantail	20	15	14	8	4	33	2	91
Willie Wagtail	9	3	6	1	4	27	7	57
Blk-Faced F/C	2	7	18	10		7		44
Yellow Robin	6	5	11	10	2	10	2	46
Wh-Brow Sw Wren	19	8	42	8	9	30	8	124
Sthn Logrunner		4	12					16
Dollar bird	1	2	4	2	2	9		20
Rufous Fantail	2		1	1				4
Leaden F/C	3		3	2		1		9
Ch-rump H/Wren	1			1				2
Sthn Emu Wren		2	3	3				8

