

CIRCULAR FROM THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB

On Monday evening the 12th of February 1979 we will be holding our first meeting for the year timed to start at 7.30 p.m.

VENUE: St Albans Church of England Princess Highway Cnr Cox's Lane, Corrimal.

GUEST SPEAKER: Terry Outrim.

SUBJECT: Hawks of the Illawarra.

FIELD OUTING: Saturday the 17th February 1979.

MEETING TIME: 9AM sharp

MEETING PLACE: Cnr of Captain Cook Drive and Elouera Road North Cronulla - opposite the high school.

DESTINATION: Towra Pt Reserve Botany Bay. Please bring change of footwear and come prepared to walk through water and bring a carry lunch.

Please note the Club Officers for 1979 are as follows:-

President	Laurie Williams
Secretary	Terry Dunlea
Treasurer	Ron Almond
Field Officer	Mike Morfett
Attesting	Dave Thompson
Technical	Doug Gibson
Librarian	Hazel Emery
Display Boards	Wal Emery
Supper	Ruby Johnson

SPECIAL NOTE: Fees are due and payable on the 1st of January 1979.

For further details ring 296637

Laurie Williams  
President.

CIRCULAR FROM THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB.

On Monday evening the 12th March, 1979 we will be holding our next meeting timed to start at 7-30pm.

VENUE St Albans Church of England, Princes Highway, opp Cox's Lane, Corrimal.

SUBJECT OF THE NIGHT This is to be a members night where members are asked to contribute to the meeting by showing some of their slides, or an exhibit, or a monologue of a subject which the person thinks the group would find interesting.

FIELD OUTING Saturday 17th March, 1979.

VENUE Killalea Beach, near Bass Point.

MEETING PLACE AND TIME 8-30am on the private road into Killalea Beach on the top of the hill overlooking the lagoon just after paying 40 cents entry.

FEES ARE NOW DUE.

Please Note.

Roger Yuswak is now our officer responsible for co-ordinating and reporting on our beach walking scheme, so any information or details you have, please contact Roger.

We are looking for information to include in our circular to help those who can't attend our meetings. If you have an unusual sighting, an important sighting or details of an outing, please put pen to paper and forward the information to a committee member.

FILM NIGHT Saturday 24th March, 1979, at 18 Achilles Avenue, North Wollongong. 2 showings, 6pm & 8pm.

SUBJECT Possums.

EXTRA EXCURSION FOR APRIL Saturday 7th April, 1979.

Birdwatching, followed by a BBQ, followed by spotlighting.

For afternoon birdwatching, meet at 2pm on the corner of the SHOALHAVEN turn-off and the Nowra-Geroa Road.

If attending the BBQ, meet in the picnic area at the southern end of Geroa Beach approx. 4km south of Geroa at 5-30pm.

To attend the spotlighting meet at 7pm at the same picnic area.

For further details please ring 296637.

Laurie Williams.

CIRCULAR FROM ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB.

On Monday evening the 9th April 1979 we will be holding our next meeting timed to start at 7-30pm.

VENUE St. Albans Church of England, Princes Highway cnr Cox's Lane, Corrimal.

GUEST SPEAKER Terry Lindsay

FIELD OUTING Saturday 21st April.  
Please note this outing is later in the month than normal because of Easter.

VENUE Canyonleigh.

MEETING PLACE Entrance to property called "Coowong", 16 kilometers along the Tugalong Road which turns off the Canyonleigh Road 9 kms from the intersection with the Hume Highway.

MEETING TIME 8-30am at "Coowong".  
The trip from Wollongong will take about 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 hours.

EXTRA EXCURSION FOR APRIL Saturday 7th April, 1979.  
Birdwatching, followed by a BBQ, followed by spotlighting.

For afternoon birdwatching, meet at 2pm on the corner of the Shoalhaven turn-off and the Nowra-Geroa Road.

To attend the BBQ, meet in the picnic area at the southern end of Geroa Beach, approx 4km south of Geroa, at 5-30pm.

To attend the spotlighting, meet at 7pm at the same picnic area.

SPECIAL NOTE Included in next months notice will be a list of financial members with addresses etc. If you wish to be included it will be necessary to pay your 1979 fees before 30th April 1979.

REPORT ON KILLALEA BEACH & BASS POINT OUTING 17th March, 1979.

After almost a week of much rain, the party of 30 was fortunate to have sunshine, which increased as the day wore on. After payment of 40c to enter the ICI property, the group left their cars at 8.30 am on the beach road overlooking the lagoon and descended down to the water. Here were clearly seen six species of duck, including first club sighting of the pink-eared red Duck. Overhead five varieties of birds of prey made visits to this basin area; a pair of White-breasted Sea Eagles displayed tumbling acrobatics. A red-bellied snake was met at the water's edge near the spot where the mid-morning break was taken.

After visiting the beach and continuing round the lagoon plus a stop to observe a lone Black Swan in the adjacent pool, the party walked up the ridge through lantana, melaleucas, and tea-trees. The descent was made down a pocket of rainforest bordering a creek, marked on the map as intermittent but now quite swollen. Whilst expecting to see chiefly small birds in this part, the group was thrilled to spot an immature Channel-billed Cuckoo high in a fig tree. After circumventing the lake, the party took lunch at the cars at 1pm.

Another glimpse was had of the Pink-eared Ducks and then the group, now smaller, proceeded to Bass Point. En route on the out-skirts of Shellharbour, some saw the Eastern Golden Plovers in the football field. At the Point, the party was more conscious of other people's activities. Alongside the road to the memorial rock Superb Blue Wrens abounded and New Holland Honeyeaters in the banksias. The walk finished about 4pm.

The day's tally: 68 species ( 29 Passerines & 39 Non-Passerines)

????????? HAVE YOU DONE YOUR BEACHWALK FOR THIS MONTH ????????

On Sunday 25th March, 1979, a small group of Birdos went to the Canyonleigh area. After investigating several areas we have decided the April outing will be to the property named "Coowong", which is situated 16kms along the Tuggalong Road. Mike's comments are as follows, "After consulting the owner, Dr Hughes, the group drove about a mile through the paddocks and woods to the edge of the spur. On the way, a flock of about 80 Wood Duck was seen gathered at the larger stock dam. The prominent white on its flanks made the male Blue-winged Shoveller identifiable with two females. Only the one Black-fronted Dotteral was seen. Below the cattle yards the party walked down to paddocks dotted with dead timber in the direction of Batteries Point. Many smaller birds were seen here, notably the Hooded Robin." Approximately 30 species were recorded on this property in the short time we were there.

CLUB FEES ARE \$2-00 a full time student,  
\$5-00 ordinary member,  
\$8-00 family membership.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET We are looking for information to include in our circular to help those who can't attend our meeting. If you have an unusual sighting, an important sighting or details of an outing, please put pen to paper and forward the information to a committee member.

Cec & Molly Thomas reported that a dozen White Ibis arrived at Calderwood on 4th March, 1979.

Jack Hyslop of Stanwell Park & Ray Elford of Bulli have both had Whip Birds in their back gardens in the past month.

Wal Emery has sighted 5 White Plumed Honeyeaters in the Phil Adams Park at Corrimal on 2 seperate occasions in March.

FOR SALE

Birds of the High Country \$13-50  
Frith's Waterfowl in Australia \$12-00  
Rare and Vanishing Birds \$12-00.

FOR SALE

BIRDS OF THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN by Doug Gibson on sale \$2-00 each.  
IBOC Car Stickers are now on sale at \$1-00 each.  
Recording cards for the County of Camden are now on sale 30c each.

SPECTLA NOTE We are planning a couple of special excursions and to allow us to make a tentative booking, would anyone who is interested in going to one of the following places please fill in the section below and return it to the President or Secretary by the 30th April.

THREDBO

A weekend in a lodge at Thredbo on the weekend of 3rd & 4th November, 1979 from Friday evening until Sunday.

LORD HOWE ISLAND

For 10 days in February or March, 1980.

.....  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I am interested in going to Thredbo, in November.

.....  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I am interested in going to Lord Howe Island in Feb. or March, 1980

Details of the cost involved in these 2 excursions will be circulated when we have an indication of how amny people might be attending.

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB PROGRAMME FOR 1979

- 12th February Guest Speaker Terry Outrim Birds of Prey.  
 17th February Outing to Powna Point Leader Ernie Hoskins.
- 12th March Club Night  
 17th March Outing to Killalea Beach & Bass Point.  
 2nd March Film Night
- 7th April Spotighting to Seven Mile Beach Leader Barry Virtue.  
 9th April Guest Speaker Terry Lindsay.  
 21st April Outing to Canyonleigh.
- 4th May Film Night  
 14th May Guest Speaker Jack Purnell (to be confirmed)  
 19th & 20th May Weekend at Greenpatch.
- 11th June Guest Speaker Gladstone Weatherstone.  
 17th June Outing to Yellow Rock Leader Helen Panter.
- 7th July Film Night  
 9th July Guest Speaker John Disney  
 14th July Birds of Prey Outing Leader Terry Outrim
- 4th August Visit to Sydney Museum & Dinner Show in evening  
 13th August Guest Speaker Vincent Serventy.  
 19th August Outing to Barren Grounds.
- 10th September Guest Speaker Wayne Longmore Birds of Kosciuszko  
 16th September Outing for Atlassing.
- 29th, 30th September & 1st October Family Weekend away (still to be arranged)
- 3rd & 4th November Weekend to Thredbo.  
 12th November Guest Speaker Alan Rogers  
 17th November Outing to National Park Leader Jack Hyslop.
- 1st December Outing to Bundanood.  
 10th December Christmas Night

SPECIAL NOTE FOR 1980.

10 day trip to Lord Howe Island is being planned for February or March 1980. If you are interested please advise before 30th April, 1979.

Any enquiries re the programme please ring Laurie Williams, 296637.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I am interested in going to a dinner show after the visit to the Sydney Museum on 4th August, 1979

CIRCULAR FROM ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB.

On Monday evening the 14th May 1979 we will be holding our next meeting timed to start at 7-30 pm.

VENUE St Albans Church of England, Princes Highway cnr Cox's Lane Corrimal.

SPEAKER Doug Gibson.

TITLE of TALK "FEATHERS & THINGS".

FIELD OUTING Saturday & Sunday, the 19th & 20th May, 1979.

VENUE Greenpatch, Jervis Bay.

For those wishing to spend the weekend camping at Greenpatch Camping Reserve, some members will be arriving on Friday afternoon and evening, others will be arriving on Saturday morning. For those who wish to attend for the day excursion only, we will assemble at the camping ground at 9am on Saturday and 9am on Sunday.

PLEASE NOTE that the June outing is postponed for one week to Sunday the 24th June because of the long weekend.

REPORT on COOMONDERRY SWAMP & SEVEN MILE BEACH NATIONAL PARK.  
Saturday 7th April, 1979.

At 2pm a party of 23 gathered opposite the riding school and, under the leadership of Barry Virtue, proceeded to Coomonderry property (now up for sale) just along the Berry Road. The cars were left by the farm buildings, and the group made it's way in sunshine along the southern edge of the swamp. The walk lasted two hours; at times it was wet underfoot after March's frequent rainfall, so attracting a myriad of mosquitos. For the third consecutive outing, a red-bellied snake was disturbed.

There were many Welcome Swallows skimming over the water, and at least 60 Cattle Egrets abandoned their swamp perches and headed for the paddocks of Cooli-downs property. A parent White Ibis fed its youngster at the top of a tree. White-faced Heron numbered about two dozen. The Eastern Swamphen looked like a single file of soldiers in resplendent blue uniform before taking flight with the Black Swan. A swooping Swamp Harrier caused chaos among the Coots, and a Peregrine Falcon remained still in a roadside tree as if waiting in ambush for the homing pigeons we could see in the distance.

At about 5pm a barbeque was had at the Seven Mile Beach picnic area.

In all, 47 species were recorded (23 Passerines & 24 Non-Passerines) including a female Darter, not seen on the south coast by the club since June 1977.

3 Kilometers south the group then went spotlighting along winding beach track through eucalyptus and banksias. 12 Greater Gliders, 1 Brush-tailed Possum and 1 Ring-tailed Possum with distinctive colour variations were seen in areas uninhabited by spiders it seemed. Some of the group then returned to the picnic area to find 3 more Greater Gliders and a Ring-tailed Possum and another bat. the excursion drew to a close at 9-45pm.

REPORT ON COOWONG PROPERTY, CANYONLEIGH, SATURDAY 21st April, 1979.

At 9am a group of 24 met at the gates of the Coowong property on a sunny autumn morning. The party proceeded to the stock dams in front of the Managers cottage where about 94 Wood Duck had been observed by the early arrivals to the property. Another 35 Wood Duck were seen later in the day on a dam further in the property. The cars were then parked about a mile through the paddocks and woods on the edge of the spur behind the cottage and the party walked past the cattle yards down to the paddocks where a good patch of birds were observed for some time. Notably, 5 species of Thornbills were identified in this area and several Dusky Woodswallows were seen flying overhead, and a pair of Scarlet Robins were well observed. The Wedge-tailed Eagle flew low over the IBOCers and each had a good look at the other.



N:25 P2

The party proceeded along a fire trail, up a very steep hill and onto the top where the plateau opened out and Battery Point could be observed to the west and the Wollondilly River seen in the gorge below.

After lunch the party followed an animal track in an attempt to reach the river, several Red-rumped Parrots were observed in this section of the walk. However, after following a stream for some distance, it was decided to abandon the river attempt due to lack of time, and make our way back to the cars.

The party walked up a southern spur through wooded bushland and back to the cars where a welcome cuppa was enjoyed.

The birds were patchy for the day due to a strong N/W wind blowing but the patches where the birds were seen, were most rewarding, one of the highlights for the day being the sighting of the different species of Robins.

The final observation for the early leavers was the sight of a pair of Spotted Quailthrush walking across the road.

The day's tally: 12 (46 Passerines & 15 Non-Passerines).

#### REPORT ON LAST MONTHS MEETING

Terry Lindsay gave a very interesting talk, & showed slides on the birds of North Queensland. In particular he spoke on the work being done on the new honeyeater named the Bungella Honeyeater which has been discovered just west of Mackay and had been wrongly identified as the Brindled Honeyeater.

He concluded his talk by showing slides of Iron Range in Cape York which created great interest as some members are considering the possibility of a trip to this area.

#### BLAEBUTT RESERVE

We are in the process of compiling details of the birds in this reserve for the next 12 months. Anyone with any spare time, it's a good venue and we would appreciate it if you could pass on a list of observations to the President.

#### SPECIAL NOTES.

Our Technical Officer has advised that the Ducks are moving into the area and it is a good time to make observations.

White Plumed Honeyeaters have been observed in the trees in Corrimal St near the W.E.A. by Gary Eskuale.

#### FOR SALE

Birds of the High Country \$3-50.

Birds of the County of Camden by Doug Gibson \$2-00.

IBOC Car Stickers 41-00 each.

Recording cards for the County of Camden 30c each.

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HAVE YOU FILLED IN YOUR SLIP FOR THE DINNER SHOW IN AUGUST?

OR FOR THREDBO?

OR FOR LORD HOWE ISLAND?

#### SPECIAL REQUEST

Are you any good at drawing birds in black & white line drawings? If so please enquire from the President.

Any inquiries please ring Laurie Williams, 29 6637.

CIRCULAR FROM WILLOWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB

On Monday evening the 11th of June, 1979, we will be holding our next meeting timed to start at 7.30 pm.

VENUE: St Albans Church of England Hall Pridges Highway, Car Cox's Lane Corrimal.

GUEST SPEAKER: Gladstone Weatherstone

SUBJECT: Nesting habits of the birds of the Dunning District.

FIELD OUTING: Sunday 24th of June 1979.

VENUE: Yellow Rock. Meeting time 8.30 a.m.

MEETING PLACE: We will meet outside the modern Catholic Church at the far end of the developed area on the Macquarie Pass Road at Albion Park.

FILM NIGHT: On Birds of Prey - Saturday evening 7th July 6pm and 8pm at 18 Achilles Avenue North Wollongong

After the visit to the museum on the 4th August, we will be going to the Speakeasy Theatre Restaurant at 167 Anzac Parade Kensington. The show is called Roots and Trees. Stars- Kate Fitzpatrick and Donald McDonald. The cost is \$15 per head for dinner and show. The dinner commences at 6pm and the show is from 9pm till 11pm and then there is dancing till 3am. if you have the stamina. The money for this show is to be paid by the July meeting.

SOME INFORMATION ON THE FIVE ISLANDS AND ITS BIRDS

The Five Islands (Big Island which counts as two, Martin, Bass and Flinders) support the largest population of nesting sea birds on the NSW coast. The educational, scientific and aesthetic values of such an asset are well recognised to the extent that they are dedicated as a nature reserve controlled by the state National Parks and Wildlife service.

SILVER GULL (LARUS NOVAGOROLLANDICUS)

Familiar as scavengers throughout the district, gulls have increased in parallel with human population growth, exploiting every food source available. Gulls previously nested on the smaller islands but Big Island (Rabbit Island) was first colonized by a few pairs in 1940. In 1962 a census was taken and recorded 18,000 nests-in November 1978 51,000 were recorded. Nesting is from September to February. Banding studies have shown a dispersal from this colony to Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania. One was even recovered near Alice Springs.

CRESTED TERN (STERNA BERGII)

A gull sized sea bird, differing from the former by its black cap, yellow bill, pointed wings, forked tail and its habit of plunging from a height on to small fish. It feeds exclusively at sea but may be seen resting in groups on beaches, estuarial and rock platforms. About 2500 pairs nest on Big Island from September to February in very compact colonies amongst the gulls. Banded birds have been recovered from as far as Queensland after post breeding dispersal.

At our May Meeting Doug Gibson spoke on "Feathers and Things" and it is astounding the number of people that have commented about this particular address. The How, When, Where and Why of Feathers was discussed at great length, which made us realize just what a fine piece of equipment is that thing they call a feather. The down to earth presentation of this address will remain in the minds of those present for a long time.

Please add the following to your Membership List:-

- To the Almond Family add Stuart and Pauline
- Please correct Mr Dave Burgin 60 Burke Way Berkeley and add 712250
- Mr Peter Cochrane, Mrs Robyn and Family 31 Bristol Parade Farmborough Heights Home Phone 71 6192 and Work 71 5416
- To the Dunlea Family add Mrs Regina, Christopher, Laura, Elise
- To the Elford Family add Glenn, Kerrie, Desley.
- To the Emery Family add David, Phillip
- Mr Ken Fraser Mrs Kath, Donald, Fiona, Kerrie 13 Cox's Ave Corrimal 84 6544 Add Ross Fieldings Home Phone 81 2973
- Alter the Gibson Family names Jackie and Terry
- Add Mr Bob Gray, Mrs Mary 60 Thomas St West Wollongong 28 5416
- Add Mr John Hobbs 87 Plunkett Street Nowra 044 20044
- Add Mr Alan Soften 19 Station Street Thirroul 67 1618
- Add Mr Leon Fuller 6 William Street Keiraville
- Add to McDonald Family, Stephen James Bruce.



JERVIS BAY TERRITORY Greenpatch - Scottish Rocks, Iluka, Telegraph Creek Nature Walk and Cape St George.

Saturday & Sunday 19th and 20th May, 1979

A varying number of members and their families either camped or spent a day in the area over the weekend.

1. GREENPATCH TO SCOTTISH ROCKS

30 people participated in the walk on Saturday morning. We departed the campsite at 9am in fine sunny weather, and followed the nature trail from Greenpatch through a small section of wet heathland and then eucalyptus forest, to Bristol Point, then along the beach to Scottish rocks and into the forest at the back of the beach for a short way, before walking back along the beach to the campsite for lunch. At Scottish Rocks a pair of Masked Plover were observed wandering along the reef out in the bay.

2. GREENPATCH TO ILUKA

After lunch the group walked along the road to Iluka picnic area and then proceeded through the heath to the edge of a lagoon where a lot of activity was observed on the other side of the water. There were a lot of Banksia Ericifolia in bloom and the New Holland Honeyeaters and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters as well as the Red and Little Wattlebirds were busy feeding. We then proceeded to the beach and watched several Australian Gannet over Jarvis Bay on our walk back to the campsite.

After tea one of the Rangers, Keith Butt, took the group spotlighting and 3 Ring-tailed Possums and 6 Greater Gliders were observed. 15 camped that night.

3. TELEGRAPH CREEK NATURE WALK

The Sunday morning walk was delayed until about 10am owing to a heavy shower of rain, but finally 21 people set out to walk along the Telegraph Creek Nature Walk on the southern side of the road. The activity of Honeyeaters was great over the swampland at the sides of the main road and as we proceeded into the forest area less birds were observed. As we moved into the woodland and heathland nearer the main road again several flocks of White-naped honeyeaters, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and New Holland Honeyeaters were observed as well as some White cheeked Honeyeaters. The highlight of these three walks was the sighting of the Male Superb Parrot by all members, a bird well out of its territory and considered to be a possible aviary escapee. It mingled with the Crimson Rosellas, possibly considering itself to be one of them.

4. CAPE ST GEORGE

After lunch 13 members drove out to Cape St George to the ruined lighthouse in the hopes of seeing the Eastern Bristlebird. These hopes were realized with everyone having an excellent view of at least 2 of these birds, a first club sighting. While there we were also privileged to watch the soaring flight of a pair of White-breasted sea eagles which displayed for most of the time, and also the Yellow-nosed Albatross was observed skimming over the ocean. Several Kangaroos, some with joeys were seen over the weekend.

Saturday 50 species were seen, 31 Passerines, 19 Non Passerines.

Sunday morning 15 species were seen, 12 Passerines, 3 Non Passerines.

Sunday afternoon 14 species were seen, 8 Passerines, 6 Non Passerines.

Total species observed for the weekend:- 56  
34 Passerines  
22 Non Passerines.

First Club Sightings, Yellow nosed Albatross, Superb Parrot, Eastern Bristlebird.

Any inquiries please ring Laurie Williams 29 6637.

CIRCULAR FROM ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB :

On Monday evening the 9th of July 1979, we will be holding our next meeting timed to start at 7.30 p.m.

VENUE: St Albans Church of England Hall, Princes Highway, Corner Cox's Lane, Corrimal.

GUEST SPEAKER: John Disney

SUBJECT: Cuckoos and Plumages.

FIELD OUTING: 14th July. Birds of Prey outing.

VENUE: Meet at 50 Beltana Avenue Dapto from where Terry Outtrim will lead us - Please be at the venue no later than 8am.

DON'T FORGET Film Night on Birds of Prey Saturday evening the 7th July 6pm & 8pm.

PLEASE have your \$15 per head money available for Theatre Restaurant Night - 4th August. Payable at the Meeting.

PLEASE ADD to Membership List:-

Sean O'Malley 38 Rose Parade Mt Pleasant 84 8997

Len Westwood Lot 29 Tigway Avenue Figtree

PLEASE ALTER on our information on the Five Islands in the second paragraph on the Crested Tern. It states these birds are seen nesting in groups. This should be altered to RESTING.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE BIRDS OF THE FIVE ISLANDS

WEDGE-RAILED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus pacificus*). This species arrives in late August after spending the winter in tropical seas, probably in the region of the Philippines as indicated by recent band returns. They nest in burrows and lay their single egg in late November, the young one leaving in early May. An all dark, long-winged shearwater that can often be seen flying low near the islands. It feeds on small fish and cephalopods. Breeding numbers are probably declining because erosion on Big Island has reduced the area suitable for burrows.

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus tenuirostris*). The same species as the famous Bass Strait muttonbird, our birds also perform the tremendous annual migration which takes them on a clockwise circuit of the northern Pacific. The austral winter is spent in the region of the Arctic Ocean. About 100 pairs breed on Big Island where they follow a similar nesting timetable as *P. pacificus*. This species has only recently colonised Five Is. where it was first discovered in 1960. Differs from the Wedge-tail by having short tail, greyish underwings and darker legs.

We have a letter from the Zoology Department of Monash University, Victoria, giving details of a new Raptor Group to be formed. If you require information please contact Laurie Williams.

We received an interesting note from John Hobbs which we have inserted for your interest.

1. A Superb Parrot has been hanging around Illaroo Road, North Nowra for some years now, usually in company with Crimson Rosellas. It would almost certainly be the bird seen at Green Patch - on the coast for the winter!

2. Around the Lighthouse is probably the best place for Eastern Bristlebirds although there are many in the area. The Lighthouse is to be partly rebuilt and the surrounding area developed as a tourist attraction in the present scheme for the whole of the Bherwerre Peninsula. Public Comments were called for and I have sent a letter to the Dept Capital Territory in Canberra. The main gist was to keep development at a very low level with restricted vehicular and pedestrian access to heathland off the access road and carpark. (That is at the Lighthouse).

Other ornithological notes for past few months: Little Terns at Cowerong Island. Only three pairs but one successfully reared young after 2nd attempt. At Lake Wollumboola, about a dozen pairs nested with some success. Ground (or Swamp) Parrot located in heathlands near Beecroft Peninsula, Currarong. Seen feeding in

daylight on grass seeds growing in water and dried up blackberries. A Grey Currawong in same area a bit out of area although it is common around Sassafras Black Bittern at Lake Wadumbola on 20 Feb and 1 on Shoalhaven R. Nowra on 28 April. Marsh Sandpiper at Nunba on 3 March. Cattle Egrets very low this winter, only about 200 in district compared with over 1000 last year. Mangrove Heron on Comerong Is on 21 May. Masked Dove Comerong 21 May.

READERS DIGEST BIRD BOOKS - We will be taking orders at our August meeting.

THREEDO WEEKEND - November \$5 per person per night.  $\frac{1}{2}$  price for school children.

OCTOBER WEEKEND - is to "Gowong" property at Cayonleigh. We are in the process of making our own toilet and shower room, which will be ready for October.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 7.30 p.m. 17th July at the Dunlop's Home.

We have received price on going to Norfolk Island to compare with Lord Howe Island, at the end of February 1980.

LORD HOWE ISLAND:- 7 days \$481 adult      \$251 children  
10 days \$611 adult      \$321 children

Approximate price for 12 days to Norfolk Island -

\$555 adult      \$250 children

For your record book Molly and Cec Thomas reported that cattle egrets arrived at Calderwood on the 25th March 1979.

For those members who did not attend the June Meeting, we made mention that Ron Almond has reached the enviable position of now being retired from his position as Branch Manager of the ANZ Bank.

On Thursday the 31st May 1979 in bright sunshine at approximately 12 midday, Esme Gay sighted what she believes to be a purple crowned pigeon (*Ptilinopus Superbus*) in the cottoncreeper tree in her front yard at Kooraville eating the berries. Esme had the bird in her sight for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an hour and made field identification records which leave little doubt as to what bird she saw.

As this bird has not been recorded in the County of Camden since 1939 and we could not get anyone else to assist in the identification we have recorded the Purple Crown Pigeon as a probable sighting at Mt Keira on the 31st May 1979.

POSITION VACANT WANTED an Hour for Scarecrow

A human scarecrow is wanted by the Plant Breeding Institute, Traralgon, near Cambridge, to pace a ten-acre field of maize flapping his arms to scare away rooks. Local rooks follow the devil and pick out the maize seeds. The lucky applicant will be paid \$1.20 an hour and start at 4 a.m.  
(RICHARD THOUGHT SOMEBODY MIGHT BE INTERESTED.)

At our June Meeting Gladstone Weatherstone gave us a very rewarding talk on the Gunning District backed up with some interesting slides on a large variety of nests of particular interest was the comparison of the area before and then after the major fire in January 1979. The nests display supplied by Gladstone created a great deal of discussion as a lot of members had never before seen nests of this type. Special mention would have to be made of the steel nest made by the magpie which is an outstanding achievement for birds of any species.

YELLOW ROCK Lat 34° 30' S Long 150° 40' E  
Saturday 9th, Monday 12th, and Sunday 24th June 1979

This is a summary of the three outings made on the above dates. Two small reccy parties explored the creek area in Geoff Mayo's property, Parkvale, originally known as The Oaks, before the main day outing. The weather was generally fine and sunny, but the heavy rain in the evening prevented the main party from descending the creek down through the rainforest area, where Lowerbirds and the Lyrebird had been seen previously. Instead, the main body crossed the top paddocks - old nests of Redheads found here in the bushes - of Screech Mountain towards Yellow Rock Colliery and returned to the farm buildings via Yellow Rock Road. The ascent up the spur followed an Australian Post track through gums and lanterns. The abundance of Ravens was probably due to the decomposing horse offal in a bush trench. Pied Currawongs and Topknot Pigeons both numbered over fifty. A pair of King Parrots fed on mistletoe high up in the gums near another creek, where a pair of Black Duck was later flushed out.

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Down in the farm paddocks, there were large flocks of Silvereye, Redheads, and House Sparrows: the Brown Falcon was observed on all three occasions. On the third trip, 50 species were encountered (35 Passerines and 15 Non-Passerines). 56 species (38 Passerines and 18 Non-Passerines) were recorded in total.

FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT LAURIE WILLIAMS

296637

CIRCULAR FROM THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB

On Monday evening the 13th of August, 1979, we will be holding our next meeting timed to start at 7.30 p.m.

VENUE: St Albans Church of England Hall, Princes Highway, Cnr Cox's Lane, Corrimal.

GUEST SPEAKER: Naturalist Vincent Serventy

SUBJECT: Endangered Species.

FIELD OUTING: Sunday 19th August.

VENUE: Barren Grounds.

MEETING PLACE: We will be meeting at the entrance to Barren Grounds, which is located on the Jamberoo Mountain Road, between Jamberoo and Robertson at 8.30 a.m.

At the conclusion of this outing in the afternoon, for those who wish to stay, we will be having a barbeque meal and then after dark, we will spend an hour or so spotlighting.

SPECIAL OUTING: Museum visit 4th of August. We will be meeting at the College Street Foyer at 2pm on Saturday the 4th of August and the visit will finish at approximately 5.30 p.m. For the members who have booked, we will be leaving the museum at 5.45 p.m. and proceeding to the Speakeasy Restaurant which is located at 107 Anzac Parade between Todman and Duke Streets, Kensington.

These two outings are completely different so if you wish to visit the museum only, please come along as you will be very welcome.

PLEASE ADD to your Membership List:-

Denise Black 104 Charles Street Minnamurra

Dave Walsh C/- Mt Keira Scout Camp.

PLEASE ADD - In our July circular we gave details of the sighting of a Purple Crowned Pidgeon. We omitted to state that the Bird was a Female.

REPORT ON THE JULY GUEST SPEAKER

John Disney gave a detailed address supported by slides and specimen Skin Samples of the various stages of Plumages that can occur with Cuckoos.

Mt BROWN, MT KEIRA & COALCLIFF COLLIERY

REPORT ON THE JULY OUTING - Saturday 14th July, 1979

After having listened to a talk about Peregrine Falcons given by Terry Outtrim last February and having seen three films on raptors the preceding Saturday, club members gathered at 8 a.m. at Terry's home in Beltana Avenue, Dapto, to study Peregrine Falcons in three areas along the Illawarra coastline.

The party of 27 drove the short distance to the foot of the reservoir road leading to Mount Brown, where a clear view was had of the territory of a pair of falcons, whose aerie was situated on the face of the scarp behind Avondale Colliery. Terry indicated the birds' vantage points along Mount Brown: three dead trees. During that first hour, there was no sign of either bird; however, 22 other species (12 Passerines + 10 Non-Passerines) were seen in the paddocks, on the dams, and round the Dapto dwellings.

Back in Terry's back garden, members were shown an adult pair of Peregrine Falcons, breeding in captivity. In another enclosure was a juvenile female with an injured right wing, and a female Brown Goshawk separated the Peregrines. Terry arranged for the group to see a female Little Falcon with an injured left wing and a female Whistling Eagle minus her right eye.

The party then proceeded to Mount Keira Road and stopped at the former site of the Diggers' Rest Home. North-west almost below the Warra Lookout geodetic station on the Illawarra Range could be seen a female Peregrine Falcon at the entrance of a small cave. Its mate pursued a flock of homing pigeons. A Pelican flew over the area, and a flock of over a hundred Pied Currawongs gathered over the Mount itself. A Raven's nest was located a short distance from the ruins. Other additional Passerines seen or heard here were the Mistletoebird, Grey Shrike-thrush, White-throated Treecreeper, and Eastern Whipbird.

Lunch was taken at Coalcliff Colliery on the bank overlooking Stony or Judges Creek. A pair of Peregrine Falcons had their aerie in the scarp in a NNW direction. Visibility deteriorated to a haze as the sun moved round. The group saw first the male make an attack on a flock of Pigeons heading south, succeeding only to scatter them. Then shortly before 12.30 p.m. the female struck a victim just out to sea. Half an hour later the party disbanded as it was felt most of the Pigeons were taking a more westerly course over the escarpment out of view.

After the birds of prey outing in the morning, a smaller group numbering 12 followed in the footsteps of the party which visited Darke Forest on 16th July, 1977. Leaving their vehicles at 1.30 p.m. they walked beyond Dahlia Creek to the aboriginal rock carvings. Banksia and wattle were in flower, and generally there was more vegetation after the previous bushfires. The return walk was completed by 4 p.m.

First club sighting: Beautiful Firetail

Nest: New Holland Honeyeater with two eggs.

afternoon's tally: 20 (19 Passerines + 1 Non-Passerine).

OCTOBER WEEKEND TO COOWONG

Arrangements are well in hand for this weekend. The various walks have been completed and water and electricity will now be available at the site.

For those attending the weekend, we would be obliged if you would let us know approximately when you will be arriving, how many in your family or group and if you require transport. We will require this information sometime in August. Also please note that there are no shops available at the site or nearby so it will be necessary to take your complete weekend supplies with you.

WE WILL BE TAKING ORDERS at this Meeting for Readers Digest Complete Book of Birds at \$20 per copy and will be delivered in September.

SLATERS two Books are not yet available and are not expected to be available this year.

Doug Gibson has started on his Albatross banding and recording off the coast for 1979. We will see if we can get as many members as possible to assist over the next 6 to 8 weeks.

Wal Emery reports seeing a pair of Pied Oyster Catchers at Berkeley, just west of the Boatharbour on 25th July 1979.

Next Committee Meeting is on Tuesday evening the 21st of August at 7.30 p.m. at the Thompsons Family Home.

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"HAVE YOU BEEN ON YOUR BEACH WALK?"

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FINAL INFORMATION ON THE BIRDS OF THE FIVE ISLANDS.

LITTLE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*). Several hundred pairs breed on the islands. Big Island being the most favoured. Penguins lay two eggs in an excavated burrow or in the shelter of a bush or rock crevice. August/September are the peak egg-laying months. They come ashore in the evening and walk upright to their nests to feed the chick or change shift with the incubating parent. At sea they swim low in the water and dive for fish and squid.

WHITE-FACED STORMPETREL (*Pelagodroma marina*). A tiny, long-legged grey and white seabird, only occasionally seen at sea where it feeds on small surface plankton. Soil erosion and the pressure of increasing gull numbers has reduced the nesting population. Occupied burrows may be found on Flinders and Big Islands from October to February. Little is known of their migration except that they winter in tropical seas.

SOUTHERN BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*). Unknown in Australia before 1943, at least four pairs of this striking bird now nest on Bass Island where it is probably increasing. Much bigger than the Silver Gull, its black wings and yellow bill and legs are distinctive. Wollongong Harbour is a favourite haunt where it seeks fish scraps. Young birds are mottled brown with dark bills and the full adult plumage is not attained until four years old.

FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT LAURIE WILLIAMS  
296637.

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GUEST SPEAKER: Wayne Langmore.

SUBJECT: Birds of Kosciusko

FIELD OUTING: Sunday 16th September

VENUE: Natti

MEETING PLACE: T-intersection where the Oakdale Road meets the Burragorang Road at Oakdale at 8.30 a.m. To get to this venue we suggest you travel to Picton from Wollongong and when you meet the Hume Highway "turn" left, and then take the first "turn" on the right, which is the Oak Road. Proceed along this road to Mowbray Park where the Oaks Road "turns" right. DO NOT "turn" here. Continue straight on which is now the Oakdale Road and follow this road to the intersection. From the meeting place we will proceed towards the Burragorang Lookout but we will "turn" off at the Tumbledown Ridge Track - so if you arrive after 8.30 a.m. we will have gone, so please be on time.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO MEETING IN OCTOBER AND NO NOTICE.

OCTOBER WEEKEND: To "Coowong", Tugalong Road, Canyonlea.

For those who can't come for the full weekend, we suggest you call up for one of the days. To give everyone an idea of the program we have established:- Friday afternoon and Saturday morning we will be setting up camp. ~~Saturday afternoon we will be going on our first~~ walk to Bangadilly Creek. Saturday evening - Barbeque followed by a Film Night followed by spotlighting. Sunday morning will be free then on Sunday afternoon we will be walking to Batteries Point, then maybe films and spotlighting. Monday morning we will be walking to Rats Castle Creek. Monday afternoon we will pack up and head for home.

As there are no shops in the area it will be necessary to take all your requirements for the weekend. Water, electricity, toilet and shower facilities will be available on the site. There is also a large shed which will be available for a shelter. Please bring a chair and a blanket for the film nights. A camping fee of \$2 per person per night will apply. School children will be at no cost. For the more energetic ones, we will have a pre-breakfast walk heading off about 6.30 a.m. To prepare the eggs and bacon, we will be returning about 7.30 a.m. If you are really keen you can probably smell them cooking already. Except for our combined barbeque on Saturday evening, the rest of the meals will be casual as we suggest you spend as little time as possible preparing meals. The time can be better spent discussing the rare sightings of the day.

~~We are hoping that some members from the Mammal group will share parts~~ of the weekend with us.

THREDDO WEEKEND IN NOVEMBER

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SKIN PRESERVATION NIGHT

On Saturday evening 6th October, we are having a demonstration on "How a dead bird skin is treated for preservation". This will be held at the home of Doug Gibson at Thirroul commencing at 7.30 p.m. All welcome.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING is at Doug Gibson's home at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday the 18th of September.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 1980 will be held at our November Meeting so please think now as to who you wish to lead your Club next year. The three positions which have to be voted on are President, Secretary and Treasurer.

REPORT ON OUTINGS

COOWONG Lat 34°27' S Long 150°07' E  
Saturday 21st July 1979

A survey group of seven met at the Hume Highway crossing at 9.30a.m. and left their vehicles near the manager's residence at the Coowong property. Sites for the October camp and for shower and toilet were selected.

The party walked about ½ mile south into a small, but productive gully where the nest of a lyrebird with solitary egg was found; both nest and egg appeared 'active'. A small opening was also found (near above nest) with feathers, suggesting a kill, but there were no bones. A derelict Rock Warbler's nest was also found in the same vicinity.

After lunch, a short walk was made to north-east of residence to the top of a steep descent into the glade visited on the previous outing. Here, a Scarlet Robin and a pair of Spotted Quail-thrush.

Noisy Miners were seen nest-building at the proposed campsite. After driving back to the road, the group walked behind Dr Hughes' residence to the edge of a deep gully, in which Lyrebirds could be heard. Yellow-rumped Thornbills were nest-building in a pine near the road.

The party then drove home, stopping after two miles to check out a likely piece of bush. A Hooded Robin made an appearance. Day's tally: 36 (28 Passerines + 8 Non-Passerines).

ALBATROSS BANDING

Sunday 12th August 1979

After two cancelled trips, the first excursion of the season was made at 8.30 a.m. from Wollongong Harbour north to Collins Flat Rock, Woonona, in Frank Doonan's sturdy boat. Three other men accompanied Doug Gibson. A stiff westerly intensified during the morning, but subsided by the time the party landed at 12.30 p.m. In all, 19 Wandering Albatrosses were caught, including 8 re-traps and of these, three were of particular interest:

-25065 U.S. Fishing & Wildlife Service; Bellambi in August 1958 and July 61; South Georgia (Scotia Sea/Atlantic Ocean) in January 63 and as an adult in January 64; Bellambi in August 64; Austinmer July 69; Wollongong July 76; and South Georgia in February 77.

-25094 female with black cap; Bellambi in August 1964; Malabar in June 70 and 71; Wollongong in August 76 and 77.

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After the numbers of old and new bands were recorded, details of the plumage of each of the birds were taken down according to the Gibson Code in respect of the head, back, wing and tail. Some cuttlebones were collected, bearing cracks and triangular indentations from the beaks of the albatrosses.

Other birds observed were the Black-browed Albatross; the immature Shy Albatross, with prominent grey head and probably of the New Zealand sub-species *Salvini* from Snares and Bounty Islands; the immature Giant Petrel, possibly of the Northern species; Silver and Dominican Gulls; and Pelicans and Black Cormorants in the harbour. A sealion, with flippers raised in the air and its body submerged, appeared like a dead albatross with stiffened wings, but it eluded the camera.

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Most of the 34 Wanderers (including 15 re-traps) were caught further offshore, particularly round two container ships. The birds exhibited an interesting range of plumage colouring: chocolate, mottled 'leopard' and snow-white. Lacerations and calluses on the webbed feet were not uncommon.

Of special interest was the identical history of two birds with numbers 25169 and 25193: Malabar in August 1959; Bellambi July 60 and 65; Austinmer July 69 and June 71; and Wollongong July 78. There were two birds with Oiseaux Musée tags:

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The Black-browed Albatross, much swifter on take-off than the Wanderer, was also more plentiful; 36 were counted in one group. An immature Southern Giant Petrel, with green tipped bill, was also caught. Other birds observed: Gannet, lone Tasmania-bound Welcome Swallow, and 40 Pelicans in the harbour. This time the sealion was captured on film.

BARREN GROUNDS Lat 34°40'30"S Long 150°43'E

Saturday 19th August 1979

Following on from the recy group's survey in early June, a gathering of 37 folk visited Barren Grounds in sunny conditions with at times a chilly westerly wind. A clockwise walk was made round the Griffiths Trail with a detour to the Illawarra Lookout and lunch stop at the ford of Natural Stone Bridge. The overall area is described as a hanging swamp, almost completely encircled by sheer cliffs; it is mainly covered with heath broken with gums and pockets of rain-forest. Banksia and boronia were in flower.

Highlights: glimpses of the Ground and Red-rumped Parrot; also of a group of vocal Pilotbirds in the acacia regrowth and fern under-cover. The Tawny-crowned Honeyeater and Eastern Bristlebird were heard. Brown Thornbills abounded as did Eastern Spinebills at Flying Fox Pass. The best view so far was had of the Southern Emu-wren at the corner of Griffiths Trail and Flying Fox track, where the Flame Robin looked resplendent as the descending sun shone on his breast as he flew from one blackboy to another. A furtive Water Rail was flushed out of the tussocks near Redbank Gully.

In the mid-afternoon, detours were made to Flying Fox Pass and Cook's Nose, but no additional sightings were had. However, at Cook's Nose a magnificent view was afforded over the confluence of the Groger's and Lamond's Creeks, and the Peregrine Falcon was again observed. 9 members remained at the picnic area for a barbeque. Although there were suggestions of sugar gliders in the area, spotlighting was abandoned after ¼ hour because of the cold and windy conditions. In all, 43 species of birds were seen or heard (32 Passerines + 11 Non-Passerines).

SWIFTS AND SWALLOWS

Two sorts of swift visit this district in summertime and their incredible capacities place them amongst the most remarkable birds on our list - indeed, in the world.

Identification: The Spine-tailed Swift (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) is 20 cm long, superficially swallow-like, all dark except for white throat and under tail coverts. The tail is square-cut. Though not normally seen, each tail feather projects in a short spine to assist in clinging to vertical cliffs when nesting.

The Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) differs in being slimmer, having a white rump patch (lower back), and having a longer tail, deeply forked. The forked-tail is only seen when it is spread during sharp manoeuvres.

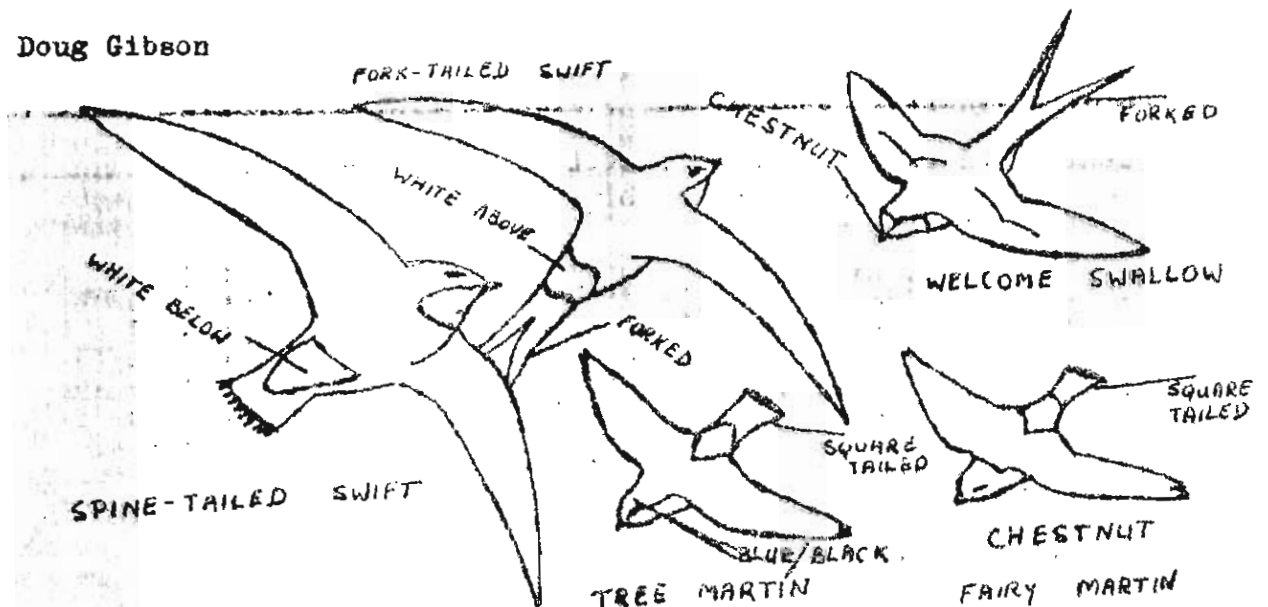
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Look for swifts between September and March on humid days when thunderstorm-activity is building up. They follow these conditions all over the country to snap up the beetles and termites etc. drawn up by the rising air. They may be racing low over the treetops or circling hundreds of metres up, always in loose flocks and alternating 8 or 10 rapid wingbeats with long glides. Look for them perched on your TV antenna, in which case you will become immediately-famous.

The familiar Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) is mainly sedentary in Illawarra though the numbers do build up somewhat in spring and summer. There is a southward migration in the latter part of August of passage birds heading towards Tasmania where they usually arrive about September 1. Some years this is quite spectacular as group follows group skimming low along the beaches and over the sea. Completely insectivorous, they build their mud-cup nests almost invariably on man-made structures.

The Fairy Martin (*Petrochelidon ariel*) and the Tree Martin (*P. nigriceps*) are both distinguished from the Swallow by a whitish patch on the lower back, smaller size, and tail not deeply forked; and from each other by the Fairy having the whole head chestnut brown and the Tree having a blue/black crown. The former builds bottle shaped mud nests under bridges and culverts, the latter nests in tree-hollows. Both migrate north in winter.

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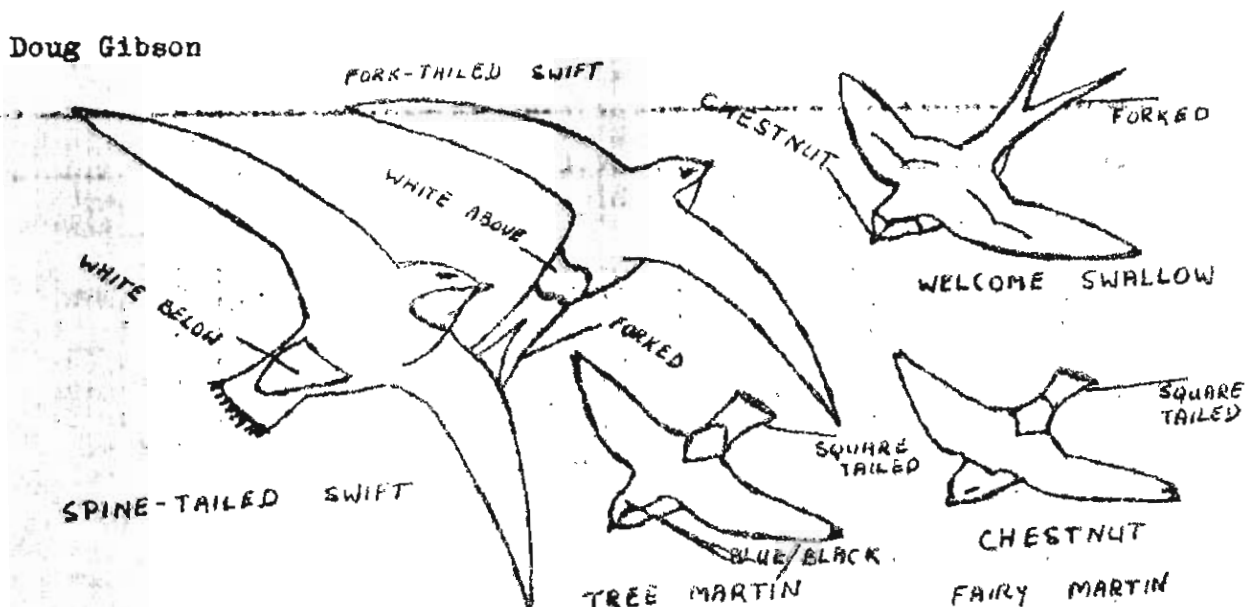
The maximum airspeed of birds in level flight is an arguable subject, authentic measurements being difficult to obtain, but the Spine-tailed Swift, at 120 km/hr is about the fastest thing in feathers after the Racing Pigeon (*Columba livia*) which can achieve 150 km/hr. But here is the most amazing thing. In the ornithological history of Australia nobody has ever seen swifts perched or resting. They are the most aerial of all birds and after leaving their nesting areas in Japan and eastern Siberia in August, apparently remain airborne until they return in May, eating, drinking, sleeping in the air. At home they gather nest material in flight by snapping off twigs with their feet, and even mate on the wing.

Look for swifts between September and March on humid days when thunderstorm activity is building up. They follow these conditions all over the country to snap up the beetles and termites etc. drawn up by the rising air. They may be racing low over the treetops or circling hundreds of metres up, always in loose flocks and alternating 8 or 10 rapid wingbeats with long glides. Look for them perched on your TV antenna, in which case you will become immediately famous.

The familiar Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) is mainly sedentary in Illawarra though the numbers do build up somewhat in spring and summer. There is a southward migration in the latter part of August of passage birds heading towards Tasmania where they usually arrive about September 1. Some years this is quite spectacular as group follows group skimming low along the beaches and over the sea. Completely insectivorous, they build their mud-cup nests almost invariably on man-made structures.

The Fairy Martin (*Petrochelidon ariel*) and the Tree Martin (*P. nigricans*) are both distinguished from the Swallow by a whitish patch on the lower back, smaller size, and tail not deeply forked; and from each other by the Fairy having the whole head chestnut brown and the Tree having a blue/black crown. The former builds bottle shaped mud nests under bridges and culverts, the latter nests in tree-hollows. Both migrate north in winter.

Doug Gibson



SKIN PRESERVATION NIGHT

On Saturday evening 6th October, we are having a demonstration on "How a dead bird skin is treated for preservation". This will be held at the home of Doug Gibson at Thirroul commencing at 7.30 p.m. All welcome.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING is at Doug Gibson's home at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday the 18th of September.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 1980 will be held at our November Meeting so please think now as to who you wish to lead your Club next year. The three positions which have to be voted on are President, Secretary and Treasurer.

REPORT ON OUTINGS

COOWONG Lat 34°27' S Long 150°07'E  
Saturday 21st July 1979

A survey group of seven met at the Hume Highway crossing at 9.30a.m. and left their vehicles near the manager's residence at the Coowong property. Sites for the October camp and for shower and toilet were selected.

The party walked about ½ mile south into a small, but productive gully where the nest of a lyrebird with solitary egg was found; both nest and egg appeared 'active'. A small opening was also found (near above nest) with feathers, suggesting a kill, but there were no bones. A derelict Rock Warbler's nest was also found in the same vicinity.

After lunch, a short walk was made to north-east of residence to the top of a steep descent into the glade visited on the previous outing. Here, a Scarlet Robin and a pair of Spotted Quail-thrush.

Noisy Miners were seen nest-building at the proposed campsite. After driving back to the road, the group walked behind Dr Hughes' residence to the edge of a deep gully, in which Lyrebirds could be heard. Yellow-rumped Thornbills were nest-building in a pine near the road.

The party then drove home, stopping after two miles to check out a likely piece of bush. A Hooded Robin made an appearance. Day's tally: 36 (28 Passerines + 8 Non-Passerines).

ALBATROSS BANDING

Sunday 12th August 1979

After two cancelled trips, the first excursion of the season was made at 8.30 a.m. from Wollongong Harbour north to Collins Flat Rock, Woonona, in Frank Doonan's sturdy boat. Three other men accompanied Doug Gibson. A stiff westerly intensified during the morning, but subsided by the time the party landed at 12.30 p.m. In all, 19 Wandering Albatrosses were caught, including 8 re-traps and of these, three were of particular interest:

-25065 U.S. Fishing & Wildlife Service; Bellambi in August 1958 and July 61; South Georgia (Scotia Sea/Atlantic Ocean) in January 63 and as an adult in January 64; Bellambi in August 64; Austinmer July 69; Wollongong July 76; and South Georgia in February 77.

-25094 female with black cap; Bellambi in August 1964; Malabar in June 70 and 71; Wollongong in August 76 and 77.

-BS 2606: number akin to series recovered from French archipelago, Crozet Islands, in Indian Ocean.

After the numbers of old and new bands were recorded, details of the plumage of each of the birds were taken down according to the Gibson Code in respect of the head, back, wing and tail. Some cuttlebones were collected, bearing cracks and triangular indentations from the beaks of the albatrosses.

CIRCULAR FROM THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB

On Monday evening the 12th of November 1979 we will be holding our next meeting timed to start at 7.30 p.m.

VENUE: St Albans Church of England Hall, Princes Highway Cnr Cox's Lane, Corrimal.

GUEST SPEAKER: Allan Rogers.

SUBJECT: Sea Birds of the World.

FIELD OUTING: Saturday 17th November.

VENUE: The southern end of the National Park.

MEETING PLACE: Bald Hill 8AM, - Where the Hang Gliders congregate; we will leave some cars near this spot and then drive some cars to Helensburgh Station, from where the walk will commence, heading back towards the coast. Please take a carry lunch. This excursion can be a half day walk for those who have a limited time as we could park your car at the bird time venue which is half way.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1980

At our November Meeting it will be necessary to elect the following three officers for 1980 - President, Secretary and Treasurer. The other committee positions are arranged by the elected three officers.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

Well, we are quickly drawing to the end of our third year of operation and by all the comments we have again enjoyed a most successful year. I would personally like to thank all those people who have contributed their time and effort to enable us to achieve the results that have made this year such a success. We have of course made some mistakes but we are endeavouring to rectify them so that we do not repeat them. A special thank you goes out to everyone who assisted in making the family weekend at Coowong such a success. As to the future, it has been my pleasure to act as the President of our Club since its formation. However, to enable us to continue in a progressive manner, I believe every member should be looking around, talking and discussing the way our group is going and who can lead the Club in the ensuing years. If a group like ours is to continue to grow in strength, it is necessary that new ideas and thoughts be developed and one way this can be achieved is by changing the structure of the leadership. I will be the first to congratulate the change that takes place in our leadership as if a new President is elected, it will allow me to contribute further to our group in other ways than that in which I am able to do so as President. However, if it is the wish of the majority of the members, it would give me great pride to lead such an active group of people for the next 12 months.

Laurie Williams.

HOMEWORK FOR CHRISTMAS MEETING

As a part of our Christmas Meeting, we are asking our members to recite a piece of Poetry about Birds. It can be an original or from a book - the main thing is to come to the Meeting prepared to join in the fun or seriousness, wherever the emphasis lies.

NEW GROUP A Wader Study Group has been formed in Victoria. If you require particulars, contact can be made through Julie Strudwick C/- RAOU 21 Gladstone Street Moonee Ponds Victoria 3039.

THE CUMBERLAND BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB has been formed to serve the Western Suburbs of Sydney. They meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at:- The Office of Arthur Websters Vaccine, 226 Windsor Road, Northmead (almost opposite McDonalds).



The 1979 I B O C camp for the long weekend in October was held at 'Coowong', the Canyonlea property of Dr and Mrs Hughes. Most of the birdwatching was done in dry sclerophyll forest, in which the shrubs and grass had been heavily grazed by stock, and in the damper gullies, which however held very little water after the unusually dry winter.

Around the camp were several pairs of nesting Noisy Miners and flocks of Eastern Rosellas. The nearby dam provided good sightings of the Black-fronted Dotterel, which successfully hatched three eggs during the camp, Japanese Snipe, Grey Teal, Wood Duck and an opportunity to distinguish between the Little and Hoary-headed Grebes. In the dry forest were Quail-thrush, Scarlet Robins and flocks of Buff-rumped Thornbills and the gullies were good birding for Lyrebirds, Whistlers, Rock Warblers, Scrub Wrens and many other small forest passerines. Many species were found to be nesting even though there were few wildflowers in bloom and the most common species of eucalypt was only just starting to blossom and there were (fortunately for the campers) very few insects.

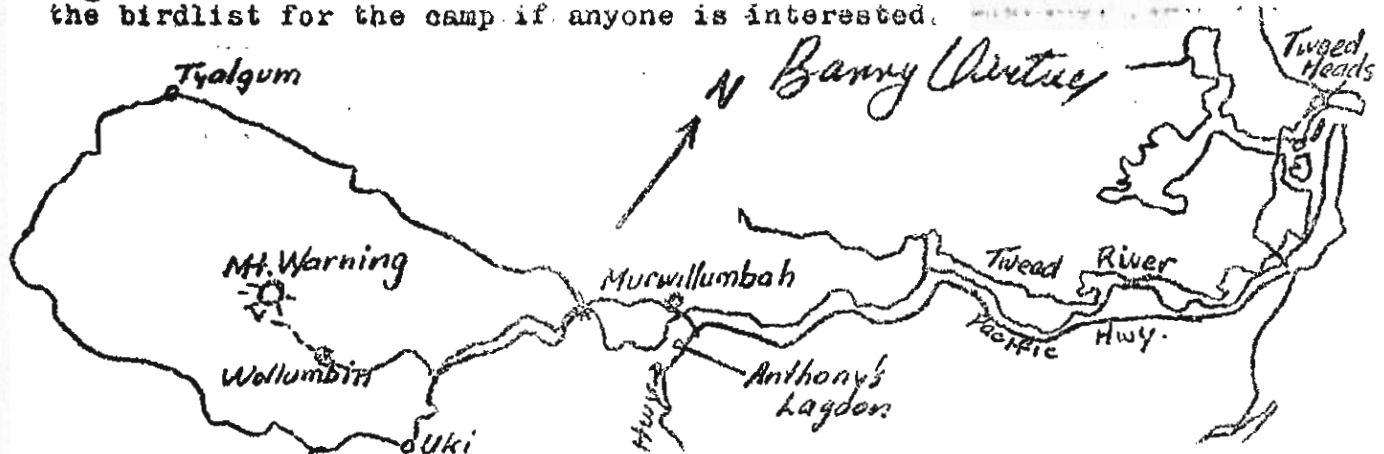
Marsupials seen during the day and spotlighting were grey kangaroos, echidna, sugar gliders, greater gliders and a ring-tail possum and there was evidence of a large population of wombats in the area.

The camp amenities, films, power and arrangements made by the committee and camp organisers were very successful and greatly appreciated by everybody. Two bird books and a china plate painted by Hazel Emery were presented to the owners of the property.

#### BIRDWATCHING AT WOLLUMBIN

During the recent school vacation my family and I went to the Gould League Bird Study camp held at Wollumbin Wildlife Refuge Caravan Park at the base of Mount Warning on the far north coast of N.S.W. As we were introduced to good birding in the district by knowledgeable locals I thought I would pass on our experiences for any members likely to spend time in the area. I have included a map showing the various habitats and places visited. The campers observed 175 species for the period of the camp.

Some of the most notable sightings for us were in a mangrove swamp at Ukeybah Island, Tweed Heads. These included a pair of nesting Ospreys and Mangrove Warblers, the Mangrove Kingfisher and Brahminy Kite. In the rain forest on Mt Warning we were able to watch Brush Turkeys, Noisy Pittas, Pale Yellow Robins, Rufous Shrike Thrush and at very close quarters several Spine-tailed Log Runners while we crouched in the forest one dawn recording the Albert Lyrebird. We also watched the Paradise Riflebird feeding and then display on a low horizontal limb. The feature of the Refuge itself, which had an excellent van park and marked forest trails with leaflets explaining the vegetation, was the number and variety of pigeons. Crested pigeons were very common and tame with several nests at Wollumbin. Red-crowned, Wompoo, Green-winged, Wonga and Common Bronzewing were seen throughout the area and large flocks of Topknot (up to 120 strong), white-headed and Bar-shouldered Doves were seen daily. Also around the camp we had good sightings of Forest Kingfisher, Bee-eaters, Varied Triller (quite common), Spectacled and White-eared Flycatchers and a Black-headed Pardalote nesting in the bank by our camp. On a visit to a freshwater lagoon on Doug Anthony's property near Murwillumbah we had a good look at Lotus Birds, Red Backed Wrens and Chestnut-breasted Mannikins. Mr Davidson, the proprietor of the camp, is a keen birder and feeds the Regent Bowerbirds which are the emblem of his reserve. I have a copy of the birdlist for the camp if anyone is interested.





OAKDALE: Tumbledown Ridge - Sunday 16th September 1979

Taking advantage of the greater rapport with the Water Board, 19 IBOC members visited this part of the Warragamba catchment area. Leaving their cars at the DCA radio beacons at 9.45 a.m., the party walked in continuous sunshine east of Tumbledown Mountain and had fine views across Nattai River towards the peak of Mount Jellore. After lunch back at the beacons, no suitable tracks could be found on the ridge: they were either overgrown or led to beehive clearings. The track down into Gillans Creek area was then explored, which yielded an abundance of birdlife in the wet sclerophyll. On the track in the sandy soil, burrowing small bees were discovered. Finally, six members checked the other access into the area from the Picton Road, Oakdale, as indicated by Arthur Bradley, Water Board ranger; it was felt that this part merited another visit.

Highlights: Brown Thornbill feeding young; Brown-headed Honeyeater feeding young and warding off Eastern Spinebills; Spotted Pardalote incubating; and Striated Thornbill and Yellow Robin nestbuilding. The double crack answer call of the female Eastern Whipbird. 45 species were seen or heard (36 Passerines + 9 Non-Passerines).

SPECIMEN OF THE COMMON DIVING-PETREL (Pelecanoides urinatrix)

A beach-washed specimen of the above was found by Terry Dunlea on MM Beach, Port Kembla, on September 20, 1979. It had been damaged, probably by Ravens, but eventually made up into quite a presentable study skin.

P. URINATRIX breeds on islands in Bass Strait and around Tasmania. Outside Australia it is found on several sub-antarctic and temperate islands of the southern oceans. Although a common beach derelict in Victoria, Terry's find probably represents the fourth specimen recorded from NSW. The first NSW specimen was found on Bellambi Point in August 1961. There have been subsequent sightings of Diving-petrels, mostly off the far South Coast, but the actual species cannot be accurately determined without the bird in the hand to allow close examination of the bill structure and dimensions. Diving-petrels are tiny, black and white, chunky-bodied petrels whose laboured flight consists of rapid wingbeats and short glides close to the water. As in flight they use their wings to "fly" underwater, often through the waves, to catch their prey of crustaceans, cephalopods etc.

Doug Gibson

ROYAL NATIONAL PARK: Helensburgh to Karingal

Lat 34° 07' 30" S Long 151° 10' 30" E

Wednesday 29th August 1979

After two days rainfall to break the winter drought, the sun reappeared for a reccy dyad to survey this south-west corner of the Park. They left the south side of Helensburgh railway station at 7.30 a.m. and walked along Tunnel Road into Parkes Street and turned off right on to a narrow bush track, which widens out and leads to the sanitary depot. This divides two atlassing squares. A pair of adult Black Duck with 3 young were seen at the nearby dam and a lone White Ibis high on a dead limb.

The track re-enters dry sclerophyll along the sandstone ridge crossing over the railway line. There were good sightings here of a pair of Rock Warblers and a lone male Spotted Quail-thrush, giving its contact call from the lower gum branches. Along the gradual descent to the wet sclerophyll and rainforest, the Lyre-bird was observed, scratching beside the track, and closeby a group of Pilotbirds musically pursuing each other through the undergrowth. Because of its narrowness, the Burgh Track was avoided. Beyond Hacking River ford, high in the gums bordering Lady Wakehurst Drive, a flock of 10 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos fed wailingly and then flew over Karingal Picnic Area, the reccy group's destination at 11am.

During the morning, 55 different species were seen or heard (26 Passerines + 9 Non-Passerines). Birds recorded in the first (Helensburgh) square are marked + and those in both squares = .

ARDEI FORMES

c White-faced Heron  
mc White Ibis

ANSERIFORMES

c Black Duck

COLUMBIFORMES

mc Wonga Pigeon (h)

PSITTACIFORMES

uc Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo  
uc Sulphur-crested Cockatoo =  
c Crimson Rosella =

CUCULIFORMES

c Fan-tailed Cuckoo =

CORACIIFORMES

vc Kookaburra =

PASSERIFORMES

mc Superb Lyrebird  
vc Welcome Swallow =  
vc Magpie Lark +  
uc Spotted Quail-thrush  
c Eastern Whipbird (h) =  
c Grey Shrike-thrush =  
c White-throated Treecreeper  
c Spotted Pardalote =  
vc silvereye  
vc Lewin Honeyeater =  
vc Yellow-faced Honeyeater  
vc Eastern Spinebill =  
mc Brown Warbler  
mc Rock Warbler  
uc Pilotbird  
vc Brown Thornbill =  
c Yellow-rumped Thornbill =  
vc Grey Fantail  
mc Golden Whistler  
vc Little Wattlebird +  
vc Red-browed Finch  
vc Pied Currawong =  
mc Grey Butcherbird =  
vc Australian Magpie =  
c Satin Bowerbird  
vc Australian Raven =

SANDY HOLLOW REPORT by Dave Thompson

Over the weekend of 13-14th October 1979, a small group camped beside Worondi Rivulet at "Amesbury Park", cattle property of Mr Ed Winberg, near Sandy Hollow. The area proved very rich in birds with quite a few breeding. The area was alive with Rufous Whistlers and there were quite a few Scarlet Honeyeaters and Painted Honeyeaters - the last a new bird to the group, with distinctive calls Georgie and see-saw. Surprisingly noisy performance of Willie Wagtails during the nights, calling loudly while sitting on nests.

Brief spotlighting excursion showed no sign of possums, though rabbits, kangaroos and a wombat were seen. On day trips, several sizeable goannas were seen.

Birds most common over the weekend were Rufous Whistler, Scarlet Honeyeater, Painted Honeyeater, Peaceful Dove, Rainbow Bee Eater, Willie Wagtail, Dusky Woodswallow, Fairy Martin.

Probably most interesting experiences of the weekend were the sighting of the Painted Honeyeater and the Pied Butcher Bird; watching the Red-Capped Robin, one pair at nest with the male in immature plumage; Striped Honeyeater nest again near that of a Butcher-bird; sighting of Pallid and Brush Cuckoos and hearing those and Fantailed.

For the academically minded (like some atlassers) the camp was about 100 metres south of one atlassing border and about 600 metres east of another.

BIRDS RECORDED AT SANDY HOLLOW

White-Necked Heron	Red-Capped Robin (n)
White-Faced Heron	Hooded Robin
Straw-Necked Ibis	Eastern Yellow Robin (n)
Black Duck	Crested Shrike Tit
Wedge-Tailed Eagle	Rufous Whistler (n)
Little Eagle	Grey Shrike-Thrush (n)
Mankeen Kestrel	Jacky Winter
Masked Plover (n)	Restless Flycatcher
Peaceful Dove	Grey Fantail
Bar-Shouldered Dove	Willie Wagtail (n)
Common Bronzewing	Grey-Crowned Babbler
Crested Pigeon	White Browed Babbler (n)
Galah	Superb Blue Wren
Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo	Speckled Warbler (n)
Eastern Rosella (n)	White Throated Warbler
Red-Rumped Parrot (n)	Brown Thornbill
Pallid Cuckoo	Buff-Rumped Thornbill (n)
Brush Cuckoo	Yellow-Rumped Thornbill
Fan-Tailed Cuckoo	Yellow Thornbill
Kookaburra	Striated Thornbill
Sacred Kingfisher	Varied Sitella
Rainbow Bee-Eater (n)	White-Throated Treecreeper
Welcome Swallow	Brown Treecreeper
Fairy Martin (n)	Striped Honeyeater (n)
Richards Pipit	Noisy Friarbird (n)
Black-Faced Cuckoo Shrike	Noisy Miner
White-Winged Triller (n)	Yellow Faced Honeyeater
White Plumed Honeyeater (n)	Double-Barred Finch
Brown-Headed Honeyeater	Common Starling
Painted Honeyeater (n)	Olive-Backed Oriole
Eastern Spinebill	White-Winged Clough
Scarlet Honeyeater	Maggie Lark
Mistletoe Bird (n)	Dusky Woodswallow (n)
Spotted Pardalote (n)	Grey Butcherbird
Striated Pardalote (n)	Pied Butcherbird (n)
Silvereye	Australian Magpie
Red Browed Firetail	Pied Currawong
Diamond Firetail	Australian Raven

**FOR SALE:** We have 1 copy left of the tape on Lyre Birds by Dr Paul White available at \$5.20.

**READERS DIGEST BIRD BOOK** - We will be taking orders at our November meeting for these books to be delivered during November at \$2. each.

#### COLOUR-MARKED RAPTORS

A research project involving the individual marking of Swamp Harriers, Brown Falcons and Brown Goshawks with coloured wing tags is currently in progress on the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works farm at Werribee. I would appreciate information on any sightings. Birds may have only one or both wings tagged and some colours are more obvious than others. Some tags have a black lateral stripe through them.

Information required is: date, location, colour of wing tag or tags, the presence or absence of a black lateral stripe on the tags and the wing the tag is on. Please write to: Mr David Baker-Gabb, Zoology Department, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria. 3168.

#### ALBATROSS BANDING - Saturday 18th August, 1979

The second outing, from Wollongong Harbour to Austinmer between 7.45 a.m. and 12 noon, was made in calm, cloudy conditions with breezes veering from north to north-east. Beneath the surface of the water could be seen plankton and bluebottles.

Most of the 34 Wanderers (including 15 re-traps) were caught further offshore, particularly round two container ships. The birds exhibited an interesting range of plumage colouring: chocolate, mottled 'leopard' and snow-white. Lacerations and calluses on the webbed feet were not uncommon.

Of special interest was the identical history of two birds with numbers 25169 and 25193: Malabar in August 1959; Bellambi July 60 and 65; Austinmer July 69 and June 71; and Wollongong July 78. There were two birds with Oiseaux Musée tags:

- BS 0462: Possession Island (Crozets) in March 1968 and Wollongong July 77;

- BS 1114: Malabar in August 1968; Crozets February 69; Austinmer July 70; Crozets January 71; Austinmer July 71; and Wollongong August 76.

The Black-browed Albatross, much swifter on take-off than the Wanderer, was also more plentiful; 36 were counted in one group. An immature Southern Giant Petrel, with green tipped bill, was also caught. Other birds observed: Gannet, lone Tasmania-bound Welcome Swallow, and 40 Pelicans in the harbour. This time the sealion was captured on film.

#### Saturday 8th September 1979

This trip was made in Harry Badham's boat from Bellambi Point, where the Whimbrel was sighted. The party of four was kept busy throughout the morning as 61 Wanderers were caught (inc. 6 re-takes and 23 re-traps). Two were of the Auckland Island series. One bird had an interesting history: Bellambi Aug 1958; South Georgia Dec 58, Jan 61, Dec 62 and Nov 71; Wollongong Aug 75; South Georgia Feb 76 and Jan 77.

Other species observed were the Black-browed and Shy Albatross, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, and 23 Black Swans well out to sea.

#### Saturday 15th September 1979

The final excursion, again from Bellambi Point, yielded 29 Wanderers (inc. 1 re-take and 13 re-traps). Only five were caught during the last hour owing to the freshening north-east wind, which made take-off for the birds much easier. Two Wedge-tailed Shearwaters accompanied one group, and there were much fewer Black-browed Albatrosses seen.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT LAURIE WILLIAMS 29 6637.

IBOC'S ITS TERN



TO WISH YOU  
 A HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
 AND A BRIGHT  
 AND PROSPEROUS

Next Saturday 1st December 1979, we will be having our last excursion for the year.

VENUE: Morton National Park, Bundanoon.

MEETING PLACE: From Bundanoon Station you travel south past the Post Office on your right and continue straight on down the hill through the entrance gates to the park. On your left you will see seating and barbeque facilities. This is where we will meet at approximately 1.30 p.m. ready to leave on the afternoon walk at 2.00 p.m. and returning for a barbeque at 6.30 p.m. For those who are interested, we will be going spotlighting from approximately 9.00 to 10.00 p.m. There are facilities adjacent to the meeting place to camp on Saturday night if you so desire.

We also suggest that you may wish to travel up to the area during the morning and have lunch at the park before proceeding on the walk at 2.00 p.m.

The afternoon walk takes you through a variety of habitats into Fairy Lower with a look at the falls then on to the amphitheatre then back to the barbeque.

The special birds likely to be seen are: - Orange Winged Sittela, Wood Duck with young, Tree Martins, Red Browed Finch, Pilot Birds, Bower Birds, Sacred Kingfisher, Lewin Honeyeater, Crescent Honeyeater, Olive-backed Oriole, White Naped Honeyeater, Black faced Monarch, Red Browed Tree Creeper, plus many others.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday evening 10th December, 1979, timed to start at 7.30 p.m.

VENUE: St Albans Church of England Hall, Princes Highway, Car Cox's Lane, Corrimal.

PROGRAM FOR THE CHRISTMAS MEETING:

Introduction and welcome from the President

"Coowong" 1979

Wollongong Twittering Nightingales

Musical interlude

Poetic Injustice

Film

Supper

REPORT ON KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK: Thredbo

Lat 36° 30'S Long 148° 19'E

Weekend 2nd - 4th November, 1979

27 adults and children stayed at the Kiama Ski Lodge in Thredbo Alpine Village and enjoyed ideal weather conditions. In the village nests of the Little Raven were observed. Under one building, a Flame Robin's nest with 3 eggs was found on a concrete pier six feet off the ground. A White-backed Magpie's nest twelve feet up in a snow gum was spotted, but the Pink Robin's could not be located in the area of the trim track. Striated Pardalotes were observed taking nest material into a hole in the bank by the main road.



Most members used the free Saturday morning to ride on the Merrit's chairlift to walk towards the Ram's Head Range and feel the snow. It was interesting to watch ladybirds, centipedes and ants crawling on the surface. In Bright sunshine, the party made two major walks on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning into two different atlassing squares.

The weekend's tally: 47 (34 Passerines + 13 Non-Passerines). Those species seen only at Thredbo Village and along the Tin Mine Huts track are marked +, whilst those only on the Bullocks Nature Track are marked ".

Tin Mine Huts Track from Dead Horse Gap along the Crackenback or Thredbo River. There were not many sightings in this area, hilly at first and then after the dry sclerophyll, wide open scrubland. A Little Raven guarded its only youngster in the nest against a pair of marauding Pied Currawongs, who eventually gave up and flew away.

Bullocks Nature Track from Rutledge's Nut (Lat 36° 28'S, Long 148° 26'E) on a circular route along the same river through thicker vegetation, dry sclerophyll and paddocks. Kangaroos were seen and a spiny-backed skink was caught; Striated Pardalotes incessantly called from the treetops. A Striated Thornbill was feeding its young flown from the nest. In the stables at the back of the Bullocks Hut, a Welcome Swallow's Nest was found with 3 eggs: later thirty feet up in the cavity of a dead limb, 2 or 3 young Flame Robins were being fed by their parents. Further on, at a lagoon were gathered a flock of Wood Duck, a pair of Black Duck and 4 Grey Teal.

First Club Sightings: Olive Whistler, White-backed Magpie, and Little Raven.

Spotlighting: On Saturday night a group of four saw some very active wildlife: 3 ring-tailed possums, 1 brush-tailed possum, a wombat, rabbits, a bat and a Red Wattlebird.

#### REPORT ON ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

##### Helensburgh Railway Station to Otford Lookout

Saturday 17th November 1979

Having gathered at the Lawrence Hargrave monument, the party of 16 left Helensburgh at 8.45 a.m. and followed the route taken on the August reccy. Lunch was taken at Karingal Picnic Area, where an abundance of blue plastic straws and bottle tops indicated the local bower was still very active. The group then ascended up the Lilyvale Track and detoured to Werrong Point, where a ring-tailed possum with young was found in a nest. The walk finished at 4.15 p.m. at Otford Lookout, just when the rain, which had threatened all day, began to set in.

Along the route, glimpses were had of the migratory birds, Black-faced Monarch, Cicadabird, and Dollarbird.

In the Helensburgh atlassing square, two young Pied Currawongs out of the nest were being fed by a parent. Breeding records for the Otford square were: Nest of Yellow Robin with 3 eggs; nest of Yellow-throated Scrubwren with at least 2 young; nest of White-browed Scrubwren on the ground with 2 eggs; Brown Warbler taking food to the nest; and adult Raven feeding fledgling. The Brown-headed Honeyeater and New Holland Honeyeater were seen only in the first square.

Total species seen or heard: 52 (39 Passerines + 13 Non-Passerines). During the August and November outings, a combined total of 60 species were recorded (42 Passerines + 18 Non-Passerines).

COMMENT FROM RON IMBIDES

During September Ron saw 58 Cattle Egrets near Hayes Park School in Kanahooka Road.

BIRD ATLAS OF AUSTRALIA REPORT

The field atlassing started on 1.1.77 and finishes 5 years later on 31.12.81 - we're half-way through.

Records of sightings are coming in well, particularly for the two "squares" for which we are responsible. Breeding records however are not so good - we need more effort in looking for eggs or dependent young.

Our principal "square" is that centred on 34°30' South/150°30' East and has very roughly the same boundaries as the County of Camden. Mr Doug Gibson published in 1977 "Birds of the County of Camden" and the information in that publication shows what birds have been known to breed in the County and therefore those which we may (?) expect to breed in our "Square". Of those birds, the species so far (up to 30.6.79) not reported in atlassing as breeding are:

Hoary Headed Grebe	Peaceful Dove
Short-Tailed Shearwater	Emerald Dove
White-Necked Heron	Wonga Pigeon
Reef Heron	Glossy Black Cockatoo
Mangrove Heron	Little Lorikeet
Nankeen Night Heron	Swamp Parrot
Black Bittern	Spine-Tailed Chowchilla
Musk Duck	Little Grassbird
Channel-Billed Cuckoo	Golden Headed Cisticola
Barn Owl	Brown Songlark
Masked Owl	Southern Emu-Wren
White-Throated Nightjar	Eastern Bristlebird
White-Backed Swallow	Pilotbird
Cicada Bird	Large-Billed Scrub-Wren
Black Faced Monarch	Speckled Warbler
Rufous Fantail	Weebill
Sparrowhawk	Little Friarbird
Little Eagle	Regent Honeyeater
Swamp Harrier	White-Eared Honeyeater
Little Falcon	Black-Chinned Honeyeater
Stubble Quail	White-Naped Honeyeater
Water Rail	White-Cheeked Honeyeater
Bush Stone-Curlew	Tawny-Crowned Honeyeater
Pied Stilt	Scarlet Honeyeater
Wompoo Pigeon	Green Figbird
Domestic Pigeon	Green Catbird
Brown Pigeon	Masked Woodswallow
	Australian Raven

OFFICERS FOR 1980

President	Laurie Williams
Secretary	Terry Dunlea
Treasurer	Ron Almond
Technical Officer	Doug Gibson
Atlassing Officer	Dave Thompson
Librarian	Hazel Emery
Room Supervisor	Wal Emery
Recorder	Mike Morfett
Supper Supervisor	Still to be arranged

OBSERVATIONS OF PIED CURRAWONGS BY JACK HYSLOP

If you read Readers Digest they say it is very unusual to see Pied Currawongs breeding. Jack has been fortunate enough to make the following observations:-

Over the last 2 years I have observed 2 lots of Pied Currawongs breeding.

1st Observation: East Minto on banks of Georges River - 30 metres from daughter's house - observed carrying nesting material to site last year. This year nest in same tree, old nest still there. Observed them incubating then about 2 weeks later - 3 young almost fully fledged being fed by adult young perched very precariously on rim of nest. Watched for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour - adult took food 3 times.

2nd Observation: Last year at Stanwell Creek where old railway line crosses Lawrence Hargrave Drive - 30 metres from road, same distance from a house, they were seen building a nest. Observed incubating over a long period and then saw young being fed on branch in same tree.

This year at the same creek but a tree 5 metres from the road, 30 metres from the same house, they were seen incubating. Yesterday in a tree 10 metres from the original tree on other side of the creek, adult was observed trying to entice 2 young higher up the tree, - succeeded in moving them in short hops, - other parent bringing food.

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Thank you for your support during the past year and may you have a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The first Meeting for 1980 will be held on Monday evening 11th February, 1980.

For further details, please contact 29 6637.

Laurie Wallase.