

CIRCULAR FROM THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB.

30

SPECIAL OUTING : 5th February, 1980.

On Tuesday next you are invited to meet at Windang Surf Club Parking area at 5-30pm from where we will walk over to the lake to have a look for waders etc. Please bring a sandwich and a drink to have while we sit down along the shore and observe.

Our Next meeting is to be held on Monday evening the 11th February, 1980 timed to start at 7-30pm sharp.

VENUE : PLEASE NOTE that we have a change in venue for this meeting only.

St Andrews Study Centre Princes Highway Corrimal. This centre is found several blocks south of our regular meeting place of St. Albans. As there is no off street parking we suggest you park in Collins Street.

GUEST SPEAKER : Jack Purwell who is a leading bird photographer.

FIELD OUTING : This outing is to Comerong Island which is reached by travelling East from Nowra and we will meet at the Comerong Island Point at 9am on Saturday the 16th February, 1980.

FEES FOR 1980 ARE NOW DUE \$8-00 per family, \$5-00 per person, or \$2-00 per student.

For further details ring Laurie Williams, 296637.

CIRCULAR FROM THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB.

On Monday evening the 10th March 1980 we will be holding our next meeting timed to start at 7-30pm.

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

SUBJECT: Members Night.

Tonight is the evening where members bring along some slides, or stories of last years outings and happenings, so please participate and we can have another enjoyable evening.

FIELD OUTING: Porters Creek Dam. Joint outing with the Canberra group Saturday 15th March meeting at 9am, at the dam.

As it is about a 2 hour trip we suggest you leave Wollongong no later than 7am. To reach the outing venue you travel down the coast and the turnoff is signposted on the Highway between Conjola and Lake Conjola.

Some members have decided to make the outing a camping weekend as such we will be camping at Lake Conjola or if some wished they could stay at a Motel at Milton. For further details of the day or weekend arrangements, please contact the writer.

REPORT ON OUTINGS.

Morton National Park, Bundanoon. Saturday 1st December, 1979.

Before the main party of 15 gathered at Gambells Rest camping area at the park entrance, a small group explored the track leading to the Erith Coal Mine in the morning. In this area; Yellow-throated Scrubwren with young; Black-faced Monarch with 2 young; Rock Warbler with 3 eggs; and Striated Pardalote taking food into a nesthole.

In very hot and windy conditions, which probably accounted for fewer sightings than on the previous month's reccy, the main afternoon walk covered a variety of habitats; through the wooded Fairy Bower to the falls; along the undulating Nicholas Pass, wet underfoot in places overlooking the valley of Bundanoon Creek, to Amphitheatre Lookout; and out of the park through paddock areas to the road. Only brief glimpses were had of the Crescent Honeyeater, and a Brown Thornbill was seen feeding its young.

After a barbeque, some members spent 1½ hours spotlighting, but only one Ringtailed Passer was sighted. The Boobook Owl was heard at night.

The next morning, a Brown Thornbill was seen feeding a young Bronzed Cuckoo twice in completely different places. There was at least one young Crimson Rosella in a hole. Rose Robin had young in the nest, and young Yellow Robins were being fed out of the nest.

The weekends tally; 52 (42 Passerines & 10 Non-Passerines)

On 18th November last, a reccy party of three visited this corner of Morton National Park initially in overcast weather, which cleared to produce a sunny afternoon. 47 species were recorded (38&9)

The two outings yielded 61 species (49 Passerines & 12 Non-Passerines)

WINDANG SURF CLUB; Berrwarra Point, Tuesday 5th February, 1980.

At 5-30pm a party of 27 gathered at the Windang Surf Club parking area and walked along the sandy flat bordering the entrance to Illawarra Lake at low tide. A stiff north-easterly breeze persisted but a sheltered spot was later found for a snack and observation of the waders against the setting sun behind Warrigal Hill.

Over 150 Little Terns, non-breeding visitors from the northern hemisphere, were estimated; some hovering and diving into the water.

First club sightings: Knot and, locally, Mongolian Dotterel. Two beach-washed Short-tailed Shearwaters were found in the sand off the point.

Tally; 21 species (18 Non-Passerines & 3 Passerines).

Bank balance as at 31-12-1979 is . . . which includes \$62-00 for 1980 subs.

SKIING over U.K. BIRDLIFE in the WILD and in CAPTIVITY.

BY Mike Morphett, part 1.

Now that Cass and I have been back in the Illawarra over a month, I've had time to reflect upon our U.K. Holiday with particular reference to the birdlife encountered and cull out from the hotchpotch the parts that may be of interest to other IBOC members. It all began on the 22nd April flight to London, when I came across an article in the Qantas magazine entitled 'The Monarch of the Ocean Skies' by Leonard Bickel and was thrilled to read of our own Doug Gibson and the Wandering Albatross off Bellambi Headland.

On a wet London Afternoon, we dived into the Natural History Museum and wandered round the bird section, listening to taped calls accompanying some of the specimens.

Our base in Tunbridge Wells gave us easy access to the Kent and Sussex countryside; the hop gardens, orchards, pastures, downs and woodlands. The House Sparrow, Starling, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Blue Tit, and Herring Gull were common sights. Other birds seen on various walks and car journeys were the Goldcrest, Grey Wagtail, Great Tit, Magpie, Hooded Crow, Rook, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Pheasant,

Partridge and Little Grebe. The prolonged severe winter delayed the Cuckoo's arrival; I first heard him on 4th May in a deer park near Mersham.

Only a hundred yards from our house was a footpath, which led into Birch Wood, a sloping pocket of birch, beech and chestnut trees that extended out of the conurbation into the fields. The 'kurruck' of the Moorhen advertised the presence of a pond, a favourite play area for children. Early one Sunday morning I met a local birdo conducting his regular survey of the area and he showed me things I might well have missed and helped me to distinguish the calls of the Green and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers. The Willow Warbler was mating whilst the Jackdaw and Starling had almost completed nestbuilding. The Nuthatch, Chiffchaff and Stock Dove were often to be seen whilst the Tawny Owl kept a low profile a short distance from a chimney-type nestbox in which its mate was sitting. Perhaps IBOC could establish its own nestbox scheme in a number of selected areas round Wollongong?

On May 5th we visited Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve; 400 acres of alluvial marshland on the south bank of the River Great Ouse east of Canterbury. It was established in 1968 to ensure the survival of rare and unusual species dependent upon marshes, which are increasingly being drained. In blustery cold conditions over shallow lagoons and extensive reedbeds, we saw the Marsh Harrier, Mute Swan, Bearded Tit, Sedge and Reed Warbler, and Reed Bunting.

A walk along the North Downs Way near the village of Patricbourne afforded us with sights of the Greenfinch, Fieldfare, and the flimsy nest of the Woodpigeon with two eggs. Over the new Brighton Marina circled the House Martin.

'The Stationary Ark' series on television spurred us into going to Gerald Durrell's zoo at Les Augres Manor, Trinity, on the Channel Island of Jersey, coincidentally on Union Day (9th May). In the 20 acres of parkland surrounding the 15th century manor house are gathered over 1000 of the world's rarest animals, which are now being helped by controlled breeding programmes. The Common Dodo symbol is prominently displayed to signify any endangered species and stress the need for protecting it when threatened with extinction. These headquarters of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust - £5 per annum membership - provide a sanctuary for such birds as; Flamingo, Waldrapp Ibis, Cape Barren Goose, Maller's Duck, Edwards and White Eared Pheasant, Thick-billed Parrot, Mauritius Pink Pigeon, and Rothschild's Mynah. Because of the design of the enclosures, all species of animal life can be easily seen, and the tiered series of pools makes a fine setting for the waterfowl.

The next day we drove round the island, and near the airport came upon St Ouen's Pond halfway down the west coastline. In and around the reeds flew the Stonechat, Meadow Pipit, Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gull, Reed Warbler and Duncock.

On 14th May we arrived in Scotland and from Dumfries motored on to Ayr, taking the car ferry to Arran Island. From Brodick to Lochranza, we covered 45 miles of coast road bordering the Firth of Clyde and Kilbrannan Sound. We had good views of the plummeting Gannet and the laughing Black-headed Gull. Ducks and waders were feeding at low tide along the sandy shores; the Red-breasted Merganser, Eider, Shelduck;

The Oystercatcher, Whimbrel & sandpiper. I had to stop the car for a venturesome Mistle Thrush fledgling and, against a background of rattling cries from a disconcerted parent, ushered it into the field behind the fence. Back on the mainland, we proceeded to Oban and east to Loch Ness and Inverness; en route we spotted Lapwing, Whinchat and Little Stint.

Richard Miller's parents, John and Grace, kindly hosted us at Bristol and accompanied us to Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust on 22nd May. Established in 1946, the Trust has built up an international reputation in its research programme. Other aims involve conservation, education and recreation. We walked through different pens, commencing with the Big Pen, where the birds are full-winged and fly freely. There are so many species to see that I can't record them all. Those that stand out in our minds and some of which we captured on camera are according to their pens:-

- Tundra: Ross's Goose, Andean and James's Flamingo;
- North American: Ruddy Duck, Canada Goose, Trumpeter Swan;
- South American: Chilean Flamingo, Black-necked Swan, Steamer Duck;
- Long Ground: Hawaiian Goose;
- Tropical House: African Pygmy Goose, Hummingbird, Sunbird, Quail;
- African: Screamer, Garganey, Pygmy Goose;
- Australian: Magpie Goose, Manded and Cape Barren Goose, Black Swan, Plumed Whistling Duck, Chestnut-breasted Teal;
- European: Barnacle Goose, dabblers - Pintail, Shoveler, divers- Tufted Duck, Pochard;
- Asian: Mandarin Duck;
- Rushy: Perching Duck, Bewick's Swan; and
- Hybrid: cross breeding between quite closely related species and between genera.

The restaurant afforded views of Caribbean Flamingos, and the Gazebo Tower looked out over the Decoy, a duck trap still in use since 1834. For £2 one can 'adopt a duck', knowing its species, sex, ring number, and date and place of ringing.
.....more next month.....

REPORT ON FEBRUARY OUTING.

Comerong Island, Saturday 16th February, 1980.

After meeting at the Berry's Canal punt, a party of 32 spent the day covering similar ground to the August 1977 excursion. Weather conditions were ideal: continuous sunshine and a gentle easterly wind, though the sea was heavy. During the morning, members meandered through the open, semi-wooded area to the sandflats to view the waders. A dead Crested Tern was found. After lunch, they drove onto the holiday cabins and walked through the woodland area, where the New Holland Honeyeater was abundant, and out along the Eastern shoreline.

Highlights: first club sighting of the Little Falcon - a clear view of it feeding in a tree on a small grey bird; a White-breasted Sea Eagle caught a fish at its second attempt; a 3rd-shouldered Doves near the swamp and cabins.

Breeding: Black Duck with 4 young; White-fronted Duck feeding 2 youngsters out of the nest; and House Sparrow taking food into nest in Coral Tree.

Tally: excluding the Java Sparrow, presumably an escapee, 66 species (35 Non-Passerines & 31 Passerines).

Shoalhave River, Watersliegh, Saturday 16th February, 1980.

After a day's visit to Comerong Island, a smaller party of 15 surveyed a property belonging to Shoalhaven Council for agistment purposes with a view to the October family weekend. This tranquil spot on the north bank of the Shoalhave River between Camp Koloona and the Scout Camp and 6 1/2 miles from the Illaroo Road turn-off, contained a variety of habitats and two derelict cottages.

During the hour's visit late in the afternoon, 21 species (17 passerines & 4 Non-Passerines) were recorded.

Highlights: a flock of Scarlet Honeyeaters high in the flowering Eucalyptus; 14 Black Duck on the opposite river bank; and good views of a pair of wailing Green Catbirds.

Pink Eared Ducks and Shovellers were seen on the small dam at Yallah on the way home and some members concluded the day's outing by seeing the Spectacled Monarch in Wal & Hazel Emery's garden at Balgownie.

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB

AGENDA FOR 1980

11th FEBRUARY - Monday	Jack Purnell
16th FEBRUARY - Saturday	Comerong Island
10th MARCH - Monday	Member's Night
15th MARCH - Saturday	Cancelled- Porters Creek Dam
14th APRIL - Monday	Arnold McGill
20th APRIL - Sunday	Camden district
12th MAY - Monday	Doug Howe
18th MAY - Sunday	Camping Weekend- Porters Creek Dam
31st MAY - Saturday	Bird Count
9th JUNE - Monday	Walter Boles
14th JUNE - Saturday	Escarpment Walk
14th JULY - Monday	Possums - Morn Robinson
26th JULY - Saturday	Boat trip
11th AUGUST - Monday	
17th AUGUST - Sunday	Bird Banding, Appin
8th SEPTEMBER - Monday	
13th SEPTEMBER - Saturday	Lake Bathurst
4-5-6th OCTOBER	Gondies Shoalhaven, Nowra.
25 & 26th OCTOBER	Inglebar State Forest, Mallee Country, Tamora.
1st NOVEMBER - Saturday	Bird count
10th NOVEMBER - Monday	
15th NOVEMBER - Saturday	Five Islands
6th DECEMBER - Saturday	Scout Camp
8th DECEMBER - Monday	Christmas Night

FOR INQUIRIES RING 296637.

LAURIE WILLIAMS.

CIRCULAR FROM THE ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB

On Monday evening the 14th of April, 1980, 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.

SUBJECT: Birds of the Camden Area.

GUEST SPEAKER: Arnold McGill.

FIELD OUTING: Sunday 20th April.

VENUE: Camden district - meeting outside the Camden Showground at 8.30 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Fees are now overdue and if they are not paid by 15th April, your name will be left off the Membership List, which will be circulated with your next notice in May.

SKIMMING OVER U.K. BIRDLIFE IN THE WILD AND IN CAPTIVITY.

BY Mike Morphett - Part 2 (Concluding Episode)

The last week in May we spent in Eskdale, Cumbria, and stayed at a farm cottage in the tiny village of Boot. The River Esk descends from the highest mountains to the sands of Ravenglass via craggy ridges, heath, and verdant woodlands and pastures. Near Birker Force (waterfall) was the aerie of the Peregrine Falcon, closely guarded by man and bird alike. Other Eskdale raptors were the Buzzard and Kestrel. A Chaffinch sat on four eggs in a nest that blended with the bark of a small tree at the water's edge; its mate uttered its 'pink' call nearby. In a fir plantation enclosing a man-made tarn, a pair of Long-tailed Tits betrayed their nest, an oval ball of moss covered with lichen with a small hole at the top, revealing anything up to twelve youngsters inside. A pair of Grey Wagtails busily brought insects to their young in a nest built in a rock crevice beside the cascading Dalegarth Force. This spot reminded us of some rainforest areas round Wollongong. Following the directions of the farmer's son, we found the cacophonous colony of Black-headed Gulls, nesting amid the reeds and bogbean of Siney Tarn. The large saucers of water-weeds contained three eggs and were situated tantalizingly out of my reach. Other birds seen in and around Eskdale were the Heron, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Wheatear, Yellow Hammer, Pied Flycatcher, and Blue Tit.

On 8th June we saw our last highlight: London Zoo at Regent's Park. It houses over 5000 animals in 36 acres and forms part of the Zoological Society of London, a scientific society founded in 1826. We made a beeline for the Snowdon Aviary, opened in 1965 and containing a wealth of different habitats: shingle, cliff face, grass, running water, trees and bushes. The cantilevered walk gave us a good view of the nesting Sacred Ibis and African Cattle Egrets. Herons had built huge nests in the angles of the struts. We then visited the following sections and again I've recorded the most memorable birds:-

Owls: the Tawny from Europe, Snowy from Arctic Tundra, Spectacled from South America, Kenya Eagle, Great Eagle from Europe, Asia and North Africa;

Stork and Ostrich House: White Stork, Demoiselle Crane, and representatives of many ratite (flightless) birds;

Penguins: feeding time for the Black-footed, Gentoo and Humboldt's; Southern Aviary: natural surroundings for birds associated with

water - Cormorant, Shag, Gannet, Heron, Ruff, Curley and Oystercatcher;
Bird Houses: originally built in 1883 as a Reptile House has fruit-eating birds of the tropics - Hartlaub's Turaco, Great Indian Hornbill and Toucan; seed-eating - Pinches; and invertebrate-eating - Scarlet Ibis;
Tropical Bird House: Hummingbirds;
Pheasantries: mostly originating in Asia;
Flamingo Pools: Caribbean, Greater and Lesser African, Chilean;
Three-Island Ponds: Hawaiian Goose, Mandarin Duck, Shoveler and Pintail;
Parrot House: Sulphur-crested Cockatoo;
British Crows Aviaries; and
Birds of Prey: feeding time for the Chilean, Imperial and Golden Eagles, Merlin, Lappet-faced Vulture, Andean Condor, and South American Caracara, a slow and lugubrious falcon which kept throwing its head back.

Somehow among all our baggage I found room for the reference books purchased on the holiday. They proved to be invaluable tools and are worthy of mention:-

Pocket Edition of The Oxford Book of Birds: it has a simple device to show which months of the year (a) the bird is seen in Britain with numbers 1 to 12, (b) eggs/young expected with numerals in bold type, and (c) song heard with numerals underlined. For example, the Swift, a typical summer visitor, is recorded thus: . . (3) 4 5 6 7 8 9 (10) . .

John Gooders' Birds: An Illustrated Survey of the Bird Families of the World.
A Coloured Key to the Wildfowl of the World by Peter Scott.
Wildfowl Trust Slimbridge Guide
Birds of the Channel Islands: A Jarrold Area Guide by Reg Jones.
Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust Guide.
London Zoo Guide.

Our binoculars, text and notebooks were ready signs to other bird observers wherever we ventured, and so contact and communication were quickly established. There were pleasant exchanges of information relating to birds in the locality and overseas. Bird study has brought a new dimension to our lives and made our U.K. trip that much more dynamic, colourful and musical. It was especially interesting for me to return to my native land and observe the behaviour of those indigenous birds I thought I knew so well. The knowledge I have gained through membership of IBOC has helped me discover the subtleties of birdlife, and so I was able to spot different species in the U.K. and locate their nests, which otherwise I probably would have missed. I am indeed indebted to IBOC and trust its knowledge and conviviality will steadily increase.

REPORT ON LORD HOWE ISLAND TRIP

by Barry Virtue

In late February eight Club Members visited Lord Howe Island for ten days where we were able to see at close quarters some of the South Pacific Sea Birds which come there to breed in such large numbers. Lord Howe Island is part of a volcanic upthrust 400 miles north east of Sydney, which apart from its magnificent scenery and significance as a breeding site for sea birds is also a wintering area for many Northern Hemisphere waders, a refuge for many migratory species and the home of many land birds which, although related to those of mainland Australia and New Zealand, have evolved through generations of isolation their own particular characteristics.

Historically all birds of the island have suffered from man's activities and there is an extensive list of at least thirteen extinct species and others whose existence is still threatened by introduced feral animals or other birds. Notable among these is the now famous Lord Howe Island woodhen which we were unfortunately unable to see at first hand and which now exists in very small numbers on the 3,000 feet high plateau of Mount Gower. Attempts are at present being made to breed these birds in captivity and elaborate pens were being constructed for this purpose while we were there.

Waders, notably Ruddy Turnstones and Golden Plovers, abounded on the low cleared parts of the island and the beaches and we were fortunate to see other visiting migratory species such as the Buff fronted Sandpiper, Tattlers, Mongolian and Double banded Dotterels and Whimbrels.

The spectacular display flights of nesting Red-tailed Tropic birds, viewed from the cliff tops, visits to colonies of masked Boobies, Black winged Petrels, Wedge Tailed and Fleshy footed Shearwaters were highlights of the trip. Breeding groups of Sooty and White terns and Common Noddies were dispersed around the island.

Lord Howe Island's own Silvereye, Golden Whistler, Sacred Kingfisher, Magpie Lark and Currawong abounded around the inhabited areas of the island with Green Winged Pigeons, Blackbirds and the European Song Thrush.

For those intending to visit the island, the time of year for birding and the weather, were excellent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT 296637.

LAURIE WILLIAMS.

On Page 4 is a Poem by Joy Appleby written at the time of the inaugural Ornithology Classes, which were led by Doug Gibson. This Poem was read by Doug at our Christmas 1979 Meeting.

BEGINNER'S ORNITHOLOGY.

Well, to we beginners, come saints or come sinners,
There just must be something we lack,
for alas, we sleep-inners just ain't got it in us
To get up at Dawn's early crack
to go hunting for Thrushes and peering round bushes,
Stumbling through each beaten track
Of forest and bush, through slime and through slush,
Sometimes to lie flat on our back.

Binoculars lifted, our sleepy eyes . . . lifted
First to the left then the right.
Where is he? I've got him. No. Perhaps someone shot him.
The demon, he's taken to flight
Before I could focus, damn hocus-pocus
No wonder that poor bird took fright,
At the motley of seekers and peepers and sneakers
We call our Ornithology Class.

You've seen them, you've met them, how can one forget them,
Slinking at Dawn's early light
The fat ones, the thin ones, the neatly tucked-in ones
The short ones, the tall ones, the hairy the bald ones,
Cor Blimey! We must look a sight.
The birds know we're coming, they've had the wires humming,
They squawk and they caw "There should be a law
'Gainst disturbing us birds on a Sunday.
We'll tell Reverend Rob, he'll do a good job
And tell em to come on a Monday.
So let's go on strike boys, come on let's take flight boys
We'll give em a run for their money.
To watch them all wriggle, through barbed-wire fence squiggle
Like Colditz escapees, snake-like on their bellies, just like on the
(telly
Ha! I'm in stitches, just hope that those breeches get caught
On the wire. Then We'll have a good sticky at them.

Yes, Ornithology. Sometimes they get ornery when caught in a corner
Over what bird they really did see
And Oh at the lectures, you should hear the conjectures
And of course we always think we are right.
We compare notes and share notes
And try to be fair notes but just like King Fisherman said,
One swore that a Seagull was really an eagul
And had taken a photo for proof.
But when sneered at and jeered at that poor boy got cranky
And boy, he sure did hit the roof.
"I tell you" he said "twas an eagle I took and we all know a camera
(don't lie

But after he looked it all up in the book
He finally said with a sigh.
He said " I was wrong, twas no eagle and so
I conclude it was only a USFO
And we all know bird watchers don't lie.

...Joy Appleby.

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

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

Guest Speaker - Doug Howarth,
Subject - Diversity of Water Birds on Lake Illawarra and Cordeau Dam.

FIELD OUTING - Sunday, 18th May, 1980.

VENUE - Porters Creek Dam, meeting at the Dam Wall at 9am. This is a joint outing with the Canberra Ornithologists Group.
For those interested, we will be camping Saturday evening at Lake Conjola.

PLEASE NOTE = An autumn bird count will be held on Saturday 31st May in the Illawarra area.
Anyone interested in participating, if even for only a couple of hours, who will not be at the May Meeting, please contact Laurie Williams.

Report on Camden Outing, at 'Vielun Park' owned by Mr Bronowski.
On Sunday 20th April, 1980, 33 members led by Jim Dixon, met outside Camden Showground to drive to a property on the Cut Hill Road. On the way a stop was made at the Water Pollution Control Plant to observe the birds on the dam there and also Zebra Finches were seen in the paddock opposite. Another stop was made at the Sydney University Farms Property to view the life on the dams and also in the surrounding paddocks.
At the Cut Hill Road Property the group walked along the Nepean River. Some time was spent watching 2 Azure Kingfishers on dead timber on the edge of the river, and also a Red Bellied Black Snake was seen swimming across the river hotly pursued by a Willy Wagtail hovering above it. There were a great number of honeyeaters in some of the tall eucalypts, especially Fuscous Honeyeaters which were constantly calling.
After lunch back at the cars, the group spent some time observing the water birds on the large property dam. Arnold McGill joined us at this time and a great deal of discussion was had regarding the possibility of a Blue billed Duck being there. The river was followed for a short way but very little bird life was observed except for Double barred and Zebra Finches.
On leaving the property a short trip was made to the end of Cut Hill Road, but what had been originally a fairly sunny day had turned into a very overcast afternoon and observation became difficult.

Days Tally, Non Passerine
 Passerine.

KANANGRA-BOYD NATIONAL PARK. 25th-28th April 1980.

Several IBOC members spent the Anzac Day long weekend camping in the Kanangra-Boyd N.P. The camp site was at the Boyd River crossing, 18km south of Jenolan Caves on the road to Kanangra Walls. The weather was dry, mainly sunny with cool nights.
The total of 36 species recorded was not high probably because of the limited number of habitat types within the area covered. Dry sclerophyll forest covers most of the plateau relieved by heathlands towards the exposed edges, thicker undergrowth along the (mostly dry) watercourses, some open areas of cleared grassland and swampland (also dry) and spectacular sandstone cliffs.
The dominant forest birds were the White-eared Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird, White-throated Eucreeper and Spotted Pardalote while the New Holland Honeyeater outnumbered all other heathland birds. Migrating

honeyeaters were the highlight of the weekend. At 0800 hrs on Friday 25th, a stop was made at Mitchell's Ridge at the top of Victoria Pass to experience this annual spectacle. Yellow-faced, White-naped, Brown-headed and Puscous Honeyeaters (in that order of abundance) together with Spotted Pardalotes and Silvereyes, all travelling in discrete flocks, were crossing Victoria Pass on their northward journey in numbers which, at their peak, were roughly estimated at 20,000 per hour. The movement apparently tapers off during the morning as none was observed during a lunch stop at the same place at 1330 hrs on 27th April.

Although the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo was not sighted it was most interesting to see areas where they had recently been at work extracting, in typical fashion, large wood-boring larvae from the centres of eucalypt saplings up to 20cms thick.

The area supports a large population of kangaroos, wallabies and wombats and a wild pig was also sighted.

A female Funnell Web spider was found at the camp sight and taken home for identification.

Weekend tally- 36 species, 6 non-passerines, 30 passerines.

Additional to this report, Dave & Betty Thomson spent some time at Mt Boyce on 5-5-1980 to watch the migration of honeyeaters. At 0830 hrs some flocks of about 30 birds were seen to fly through. The flocks consisted mainly of White-naped and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters with a few Puscous Honeyeaters, the former being the greater in number. The movement wained shortly after, but increased again around 1030 hrs.

AMESBURY PARK via Sandy Hollow, 2-4-1980 to 8-4-1980.

In October last year a small group from the club camped for a few days by a small creek on the property of Mr. E. Winberg, "Amesbury Park" Sandy Hollow - 76 species were observed and there were many breeding records. On a recent weekend, 2-8 th April, a small group again spent a few days at the same spot - 80 species were observed but only one indication of breeding. About a dozen of the birds observed in October were not seen in April but others substituted.

The country at "Amesbury Park" was extremely dry and the creek nothing but a sandy strip, except to the mammals which had learned that there was water to be had for a little digging. Despite the fairly hostile surrounds, there was much variety of species.

Some of the highlights were the Red Capped Robins, which have come to be the symbol of Sandy Hollow; the sighting of a low-flying Peregrine which returned to observe the observers; eight species of honeyeater; and the activity of several Diamond Firetails which had clearly not read the right books, nest-building in April when they're supposed to breed August to January (3 birds building one nest and a solitary bird carrying material to another.

The campsite is very close to the intersection of atlassing boundaries 32 20' / 150 30' and outings went into all 4 squares.

Tally - 19 Non-passerines, 61 Passerines.

For those that were unable to attend the Christmas meeting we have included a copy of the song that was performed by the IBOC trio of Norma & Yola accompanied by Betty Thomson to the tune of The Gendarmes Duet.

We are three members of the IBOC,
Observing birds is what were at,
We go on numerous excursions
Observing birds in habitat.
We notice every little detail,
Is it a female or a male?
We make a list, we make a list,
a careful list, a careful list
Of all the birds identified.

Now if we see the White backed Magpie
We're not in any doubt at all,
And if we hear the Fantail Cuckoo
We know it by it's plaintif call,
But when we see pink feathered Robin
Then it's confusion we are in,
I think it's pink - I think it's rose
I'm sure it's pink - No it's the rose
Pink feathers right down to it's toes!
That means it's pink - It's not the rose?
The book says pink, The Slater knows
Pink feathers right down to his toes.

Now sometimes we go off for weekends
We pack our sleeping bags and tents,
In sweet seclusion where the road bends
We are all peacefully content.
Some of our fellows, quite ingenious,
With bits of this and scraps of that,
They build a loo, they build a shower,
They boil the water every hour
So we stay clean inside and out,
They build a loo, well, you know who,
They build a shower with all manpower
So we stay clean inside and out.

While we're accumulating knowledge
We're having fellowship and fun,
There's nothing lacking in our courage
All obstacles are overcome.
When nesting birds choose high rise units
Undaunted, someone climbs the tree!
So rally round and join the fun
There's lots of friendships to be won
And more exciting things to do,
So rally round and join the fun
The Christmas seasons just begun
So HAPPY CHRISTMAS now to you.

CIRCULAR FROM ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB.

34

On Monday evening the 9th June, 1980, we will be holding our next meeting timed to start at 7-30pm.

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

GUEST SPEAKER - Walter Boles.

SUBJECT - Adaptation for Flight.

FIELD OUTING - Saturday 14th June, 1980 meeting at 8-30am.

VENUE - Escarpment walk, meeting at the top of Rixons Pass Road, Woomoolah.

On Sunday 16th March, 1980, a reccy party of 8 members drove to the Cram residence at the top of Rixons Pass Road, where the cars were parked for the day. The group proceeded to climb up the escarpment by a cattle track and then followed a fire trail to the top and finally walked along to Brokers Nose. There was beautiful sunshine all morning with fine views of the surrounding countryside and the ocean, in particular at Brokers Nose. There weren't a lot of birds seen during the morning, but a flock of Gang-gang Cockatoos were watched feeding in the top of the eucalyptus.

After leaving Brokers Nose and descending a short distance, the group took a break for lunch. They then continued to descend to the fire trail under the escarpment and followed it back to the starting point at Cram's property. In a patch of rainforest, a Logrunner was observed scratching through the undergrowth. The afternoon was very overcast, and a lot more activity among the birds was seen, especially groups of Silvereyes, Flycatchers and Spinebills.

Day's Tally : 37 (31 Passerines + 6 Non-Passerines)

Brown Pigeon, Wonga Pigeon, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Crimson Rosella, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Kookaburra, Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Spinetailed Logrunner, Eastern Whipbird, Superb Blue Wren, Mistletoebird, Spotted Pardalote, Silvereye, Lewin Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Brown Warbler, Brown Thornbill, White-browed Scrubwren, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Rose Robin, Yellow Robin, Leaden Flycatcher, Satin Flycatcher, Black-faced Monarch, Grey Fantail, Rufous Fantail, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Red-browed Finch, European Goldfinch, Pied Currawong, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Satin Bowerbird, Australian Raven.

FILM NIGHTS.

2 film nights are being prepared for Saturday evenings 12th July and 9th August.

Please add these two dates to your 1980 agenda.

Also the guest speaker for our November meeting will be Tony Salvadori.

WANTED

We are interested in appointing an editor to prepare the material for our circular ready for it to be duplicated. If you would like to assist the club please contact Laurie Williams.

Michael Gallen tells us he has been up in the Scout Camp and has witnessed a Lyre Bird performing its dance routine and singing its

Lake Conjola, 17-5-1980.

12 members camped at Lake Conjola on the eve of the club's main excursion to the Porters Creek Dam area. They recorded birds seen around the camping area, on the lake and on a walk through eucalyptus, banksias and wattles round Pattimores Lagoon, to a garbage tip, and back along the road past home gardens to the camping ground. Good views were had of the Red-browed Treecreeper, and a flock of 27 Black Swans flew over in formation. The group then went on to "Killarney" on Roberts Point to view the Nankeen Night Herons.

A journey was made in the afternoon along the 14km road to Porters Creek Dam and the Rotary Lookout; sightings have been included in Sunday's figures.

Tally 54 (34 Passerines + 20 Non Passerines).

Porters Creek Dam, 18-5-1980.

22 members combined with a group of 10 from the Canberra Bird Club under the leadership of Henry Nix and during the morning walked along the Mount Tianjara dirt road from the landing ground to Devil's Pinch. There lunch was taken with views west across Claydon's Creek Valley and east over Conjola Creek area and McDonald's State Forest toward Lake Conjola. In this ridge area of heathland and dry sclerophyll, flocks of Red Wattlebirds were very common and active. Other noticeable Honeyeaters were the New Holland and Eastern Spinebill whilst at the dam White-capped and Yellow-faced were more dominant. Near the landing ground, a Rock Warbler, feeding at the roadside, showed remarkable temerity in the presence of its onlookers.

In the afternoon, the IBOC group returned to Porters Creek Dam, which had earlier produced distinct reflections in the rising sun. On the way, the Beautiful Firetail was glimpsed again. From the dam wall, the party followed Porters Creek down to Ngadyoo Falls, now a trickle in contrast to what must have been a spectacular cascade. Near this spot overlooking the rainforest valley below, the presence of a Fan-tailed Cuckoo upset a group of Striated Thornbills. The swamp on the west bank of the dam was explored, but not one Ground Parrot was flushed out. A Rock Warbler was seen to probe the flowers of a banksia, but there was no clear indication if it was after nectar or insects.

Finally, a few members visited Rotary Lookout, offering a fine panorama of the South Coast from Jervis Bay to Tollgate Island. Among the eucalypts and flowering banksias, the Crescent Honeyeaters could be easily observed, although two fledglings kept lower and inside the banksia bushes.

Weekend's tally; 51 (35 Passerines + 15 Non-Passerines)

P.S. Doug H. warth's recent talk on his treatise on the diversity of water birds on Illawarra Lake and Coosaditchy Lagoon in contrast to that on Cordesaux Dams tied in neatly with IBOC'S survey of Lake Conjola and Pattimores Lagoon in contrast to Porters Creek Dam.

FOUR.

We are in the process of enquiring into the feasibility of arranging a camping trip by 4 wheel drive vehicles to Cape York for approximately 12 to 14 days in the early part of August, 1981.

If you are seriously interested would you please contact Laurie Williams as it will be necessary to have an approximate number wishing to participate before we can come up with details as to cost, time, dates, etc.

Since the formation of our group a lot of members have taken a greater interest in the habitats around their home base. This has benefited the club as they have been able to suggest, plan and lead excursions through their local haunts. At other times individual members have got together to make return visits or branch off onto new tracks.

Over the recent long weekend I took just such an opportunity and spent 3 very enjoyable days sharing with Jack Hyslop some of his local walks in and around the Royal and Heathcote National Parks.

Our first day dawned clear and bright with calm seas in over Stawell Beach. We drove to the parking area at Wattamolla for an early start before the holiday picnickers were about.

The sandstone heath was alive with quarrelling Little Wattlebirds perched in the banksias and many Yellow-winged Honeyeaters were calling and chasing each other amongst the flora. At one of the sandstone outcrops, forming spectacular cliffs on the eastern seaboard, Jack was able to recall that on a previous visit he approached to within a few yards of a pair of Nankeen Kestrels nestled close to each other on the cliff edge. Refreshed by a cool drink we had just set off again when a pair of Kestrels passed overhead at the same point. Movement on an open area of sandy heath brought to sight a strikingly marked fawn, brown and black bird, my first Tawny Crowned Honeyeater.

Going downhill towards the Little Marley Beach the heath gave way to an open grassy top and as Jack had predicted we soon had sight of a Richards Pipit, tall flicking as it explored amongst the tussocks. Then to Marley Beach, its high dunes and deep sand. We trudged inland to cross Marley Creek and under cover of the scrub approached the edge of Marley Lagoon. As we stopped amongst the trees a White browed Scrubwren seemingly unconcerned at our presence, came so close to our feet as it searched the leaf litter that our binoculars were no use. The lagoon is suffering from the effects of the drought and the large expanse of reed beds was dry. However this had the advantage of concentrating the bird life in the open water where we saw Coot, Swanphen, Black Duck, White-eyed Duck, White-faced Heron and Black Cormorant. We also saw a Little Grebe, or was it a Hoary-headed Grebe, beginners identification problems still! our original intention had been to continue up the shallow valley to explore Marley Swamp however the rough going along animal tracks and the likelihood that this area too would be dried out, deterred us and we retraced our steps. The long trudge, down the dry bed of Marley Creek and through the sand, sapped our reserves of energy so we had a slow walk back to Wattamolla.

Jack, unaware of my reputation for enjoying the comfort of a cosy bed to the cool morning air, suggested we could be up soon after 5 to catch the early train to Helensburgh on Saturday morning. This gave me the chance to follow the walk which had been one of last years club outings and I had missed by being overseas.

It seemed on this occasion that we were up before the birds. The first part of our walk from the station where the club had made good sightings at 9am was devoid of birdlife at 7am. The compensation was a lovely amble in the bush. The shrubs covered in droplets from an earlier shower glistened like fairy lights as the shafts of sunlight slowly filtered through the tree canopy. We had walked for an hour before we came to the first active spot, the bush suddenly alive with movement, White-eared Honeyeaters, Brown Thornbills, Superb Blue Wrens and more. A change in the species observed resulted from our passing the Helensburgh tip. Instead of fluttering bush birds, we saw White-faced Herons, Magpie larks, Spurwinged Plover, Black Duck and Starling. The morning peace was disturbed by the roar of trail bikes. Passing through a rainforest gully didn't produce any new sightings but a lunch stop at our crossing of the Port Hacking River was taken in the company of a flock of Red-browed Pinches and under the watchful eye of a curious Yellow Robin.

Leaving the river our track passed a small orchard and at the main house we watched a Peaceful Dove pecking its way along a concrete path searching out what was to us invisible titbits. It was the first

time Jack had seen a Peaceful Dove in this area. The afternoon walk up to the coastal track was tiring in the warm sun and through knowing we had recorded such a small number of birds. We walked through to Werrong Point, chance to lookout over a coastal habitat but my binoculars weren't powerful enough to pick out any points of interest on the beach! I was thinking we might have to start recording the many coloured kites which we saw over Bald Hill in order to make our list for the day respectable, anything with wings was a candidate! Fortunately our sightings list was redeemed when, near Otford Lookout, at the edge of the Royal National Park we saw first a Peregrine streaming past the cliffs. Then a Rock Warbler crossed the track in front of us. A White breasted Sea Eagle glided effortlessly overhead and to finish our day a Fantail Cuckoo was seen perched silently in a dead tree bringing our days total to a passable 25.

Overnight a strong cold southerly blew up and as we set off to explore in the Heathcote National Park we had a job to keep warm in the early morning air. As we descended from Waterfall through a vigorous growth of sandstone flora we slowly came to the shelter of the valley of the Heathcote Creek. A White-eared Honeyeater alongside the track came so close to Jack as he stood motionless that he was in danger of losing a few more hairs to the bird known to have plucked hair from a sleeping kangaroo while nest building. At the first of a series of pools along the creek, Yellow Pool, the Yellow-winged Honeyeaters were creating quite a commotion amongst the banksia. The cause proved to be a Little Wattlebird sitting in the same tree. It seemed surprising that this particular bird was causing such an upset as on our previous walks we had seen the same two species living at peace with each other. Further ahead we were startled by the clatter of wings as we disturbed a Bronze winged Pigeon along the track. Kingfisher Pool failed to live up to its name and the other lagoons along the creek produced no definite sightings of kingfishers.

We were making good progress and decided to lengthen our walk rather than returning along the Harley Track as originally planned. A footpath clear and black on the map proved overgrown in places but we managed to force a way through with plans to head back up Arco Gully at the overhead powerlines two thirds of the way to Battery Causeway, the landmark signposted as 2.5km from the creek crossing. The walk was very unproductive birdwise apart from a pair of Rock Warblers hopping busily amongst the outcrops of sandstone above the creek. A feeling of weariness after our 3 days of walking started to show and we both watched anxiously around each corner for the overhead wires which would signal the point to leave the creek and head back towards the car. As we took a break a lone walker approached us from the opposite direction and as we asked him how much further to the powerline. He said he hadn't noticed them so we took out our 1:25,000 topographic map and pointed them out to him. Onward ever onward we went, more and more wearisome from pushing through the bush and scrambling over the boulders convinced us that this was the longest two thirds of 2.5kms we'd ever walked. One possible reason became obvious when up ahead we saw the Battery Causeway. We looked at each other and then again at the map. What a blow, where was the overhead powerline? Had the mythical D.T. removed it to annoy and deceive the IBOCers in their wanderings? Surely not, they may have proved useful to identify the edge of an atlas grid. How could we wearisome travellers have missed this landmark? If only we could follow a map! If only we had taken the club cartographer—stenographer along with us, someone who could read a map and save us from so much wasted efforts!

We were left with a long walk ahead of us to make up time which we only managed on our last legs just before the light started to fade. A lot of manpower expended for 18 species and a longed for soak in a hot bath back at Stanwell Park. The latter brought about a rejuvenation and the relaxation of a holiday enjoyed in exploring new tracks close to home in good friendship.

Anon.

P.S. Jack, The map user course starts at the Tech College on 28th May, see you there!

The following is the service conducted by the Rev Rob McDonald at the opening of the "Canyon Loo" at the Canyonleigh camp in October, 1979.

"Dearly beloved Birdo's,

Due to the frailty of our human nature, and the considerable needs and pressures we all have from time to time, it is necessary to set aside special places for special purposes.

Because of the high degree of skill and craftsmanship displayed in the construction of the edifices here established for our use and comfort this weekend, it is fitting that some words, perhaps suitable to the occasion, should be said.

Never in the field of human necessity has such elegance and luxury been provided for the many by the few - and we are grateful!

We shall be enthroned, as it were, in peace in the far house.

We shall enjoy the comfort of warm water to wash the dust of long walks from our limbs, at the nearer 'Distillery'.

And let no one, at any time, be embarrassed by his going in nor by his coming out.

The provision is excellent, and just before I declare the said establishment open for our use, may I tell you this story,

"Some years ago I was at a meeting of a building committee where a large amount of time was spent discussing the pros and cons of constructing a new toilet block.

One committeeman, tired of the timewasting, said, 'Would someone please pass a motion so we can get this business moving!'

It is my privilege and pleasure to declare the Canyon Loo and accessories open."

After the opening ceremony, but before everyone queued up to relieve the tension, a presentation was made to the Rev Rob, of a Len Klumpes prize winning photograph enlarged and mounted in a folder with the following inscription composed by Wal Emery,

The congregation rose for prayer,
But alas, the Rector wasn't there,
For though he knew it would prove tricky,
The Reverend Rob had taken a sickie.

To "Coowong" he drove his sleek Passatt,
And parked his Drifter on the flat,
But as darkness fell upon the camp,
He proved to be IBOC'S snoring champ!

Though soon you'll move to other parts,
You'll still remain within our hearts,
And to the Illawarra Birdo folk,
You'll always remain a real good bloke.

For any further details please contact Laurie Williams, 296637.

CIRCULAR FROM ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB.

On Monday evening the 14th of July, 1980 we will be holding our next meeting timed to start at 7-30pm.

VENUE - St Albans Church of England Hall, Princess Highway, our Cox's Lane, Corrimal.

GUEST SPEAKER - Norm Robinson.

SUBJECT - Possums.

PLEASE NOTE ALTERATIONS TO OUTING - READ CAREFULLY.

FIELD OUTING - Saturday 15th July, 1980.

VENUE - Rhododendron Park, Mount Pleasant.
meeting at 8-30am at the gateway to the park off Parrish Avenue, Mount Pleasant.

Please note - that we will be returning to the main area for lunch which will allow members to make use of the barbeque facilities, so for a change we will be spending more time at the lunch stop to allow members to cook lunch.

SPECIAL OUTING

On Saturday the 2nd August we have arranged for a boat to take 12 members on a trip to study the bird life at sea. If we have enough requests we will arrange for another trip approximately 2 weeks later. If you are interested please ring 296637 as it is being booked on a first come first served basis. The cost is \$10 per person for the day.

FILM NIGHT - On Saturday evening the 12th July at 18 Achilles Ave, North Wollongong.

Two showings, first showing at 6pm, second showing at 8pm. We do have a cuppa and a bite to eat at the end of each showing, so come along, bring a plate and join us!

For the members who have not attended a recent meeting, you would not be aware that the hall now has carpet on the floor which makes the meeting room very much warmer.

We are taking orders at this meeting for Readers Digest Bird Books at \$22 per copy, and also Peter Slater's Field Guide to Australian Birds, Passerines and Non Passerines which will be selling at \$11 per volume (Volume 1 and volume 2).

Tony (Antonio Salvadori's) new address is 20 New Mount Pleasant Rd, Mt Pleasant, home phone number is 831880.

Illawarra Range, Rixons Pass to Brokers Point.

Saturday 14th June, 1980.

Retracing the steps of the recy group of March 16th, a party of 13 spent 7 hours in sunny weather, walking through the different varieties of habitat along the escarpment from Rixons Pass to just beyond Brokers Nose. Red-bowed Finches and superb Blue Wrens were very common; the Firetails often moving ahead of the advancing party along the track. After a glimpse of a Grey Goshawk, a south-flying White-breasted Sea Eagle was watched, pursued by a single Raven.

The highlight was the good observation of the Brown Quail, last recorded 2 years ago at the Loutonville wildlife refuge. A covey of 6 furtively weaved in and out of the grass bordering the fire trail.

There was then a paucity of birdlife along the ridge until lunchtime after a stop to admire the view from Brokers Nose over the northern suburbs of Wollongong. A Superb Lyrebird provided a siesta serenade, mimicking cat-, bower-, whip-, and pilotbirds, thrush, treecreeper, currawong, and rosella. Numerous scratchings along the lower track were later found.

After the previous day's heavy rainfall, the party slithered its way down the very steep gradient of the old timber shute to the track below, clinging on to the crofton weed for anchorage. There the Large-billed Scrubwren and Brown Warblers were feeding in a giant stinging tree. Some were fortunate to spot a male Spine-tailed Logrunner in the vicinity of an incomplete nest, whilst others were heralded by a flock of 5 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. Although several dams were visited on the walk, none yielded any water fowl.

* Day's Tally: 40 (30 Passerines + 10 Non-Passerines).

THE BIRDOS OF WOLLONGONG.

At gatherings and on ramblings, the IBOCS
Talk about more sightings of the bird that mocks, ----
And, of this bird -- and that bird -- "Wow, about that tail?
Was it a Drongo? -- or Friarbird? -- Was it a male?"
The answers are there, (or so you hope) --
But there's always a friend to help you cope.
Comes the identifying of a claw, or a beak,
And if these things are what you would seek,
Well, fill your heart and soul with song
And join the birdos of Wollongong.

--Dora Lockery.

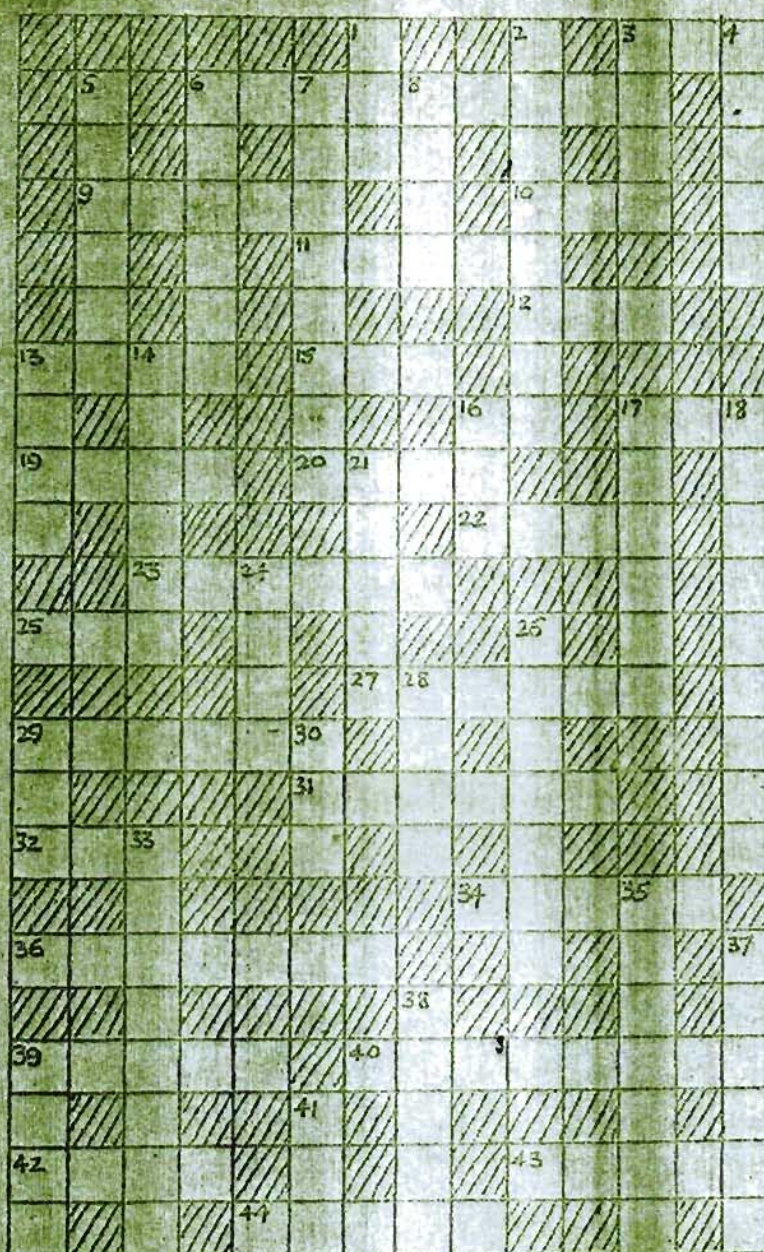
OTHER BIRDS.

You will, no doubt, be disturbed
to learn the dusky sea-side sparrow,
the rarest bird in the United States,
now numbers only 13. And his future is glum,
because all 13 are males.

There was excitement in the Titusville marshes, Florida,
when bird-watchers thought they'd sighted a female.
But it was a gay male --
"exhibiting female behavior",
as they so delicately put it.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD for BIRDOS

Nº35 p3



ACROSS

- 3+25 across He drives off and dives for the tourist trophy.
- 6+5 down Juliet wanted a loud voice to lure back her tassel-gentle, Romeo.
- 9 Franks in the sand.
- 10 See 1 down.
- 11 Israelite bondage.
- 12 This apostle is a simpleton.
- 13 The plot of the legend of King Canute is great.
- 15+17 down Athletic lumberjack.
- 17 Siabab clings to its leg off to the diamond ravine.
- 19 Duck before it's too late.
- 20 A creamy dish for a goose or prion.
- 22 The clumsy fellow does a weed dance.
- 23 A divine sense of humour to tell a tale at the bar.
- 25 See 3 across.
- 27 He barks at the cobblers on stilts.
- 29 A slight case of micturition.
- 31 See 21 down.
- 32 By God, this difficult peddler must leave.
- 34 Riding on the merry-go-round is its favourite pastime.
- 36 His welcome retort about the bottle was easy to absorb.

- 39 Even the nun cursed when the tin tack struck her head.
- 40 Doing the spadework can be a stinker.
- 42 William will yearn and bleat to learn Japanese.
- 43 See 14 down.
- 44 Being kept short makes him red in the gills.

DOWN

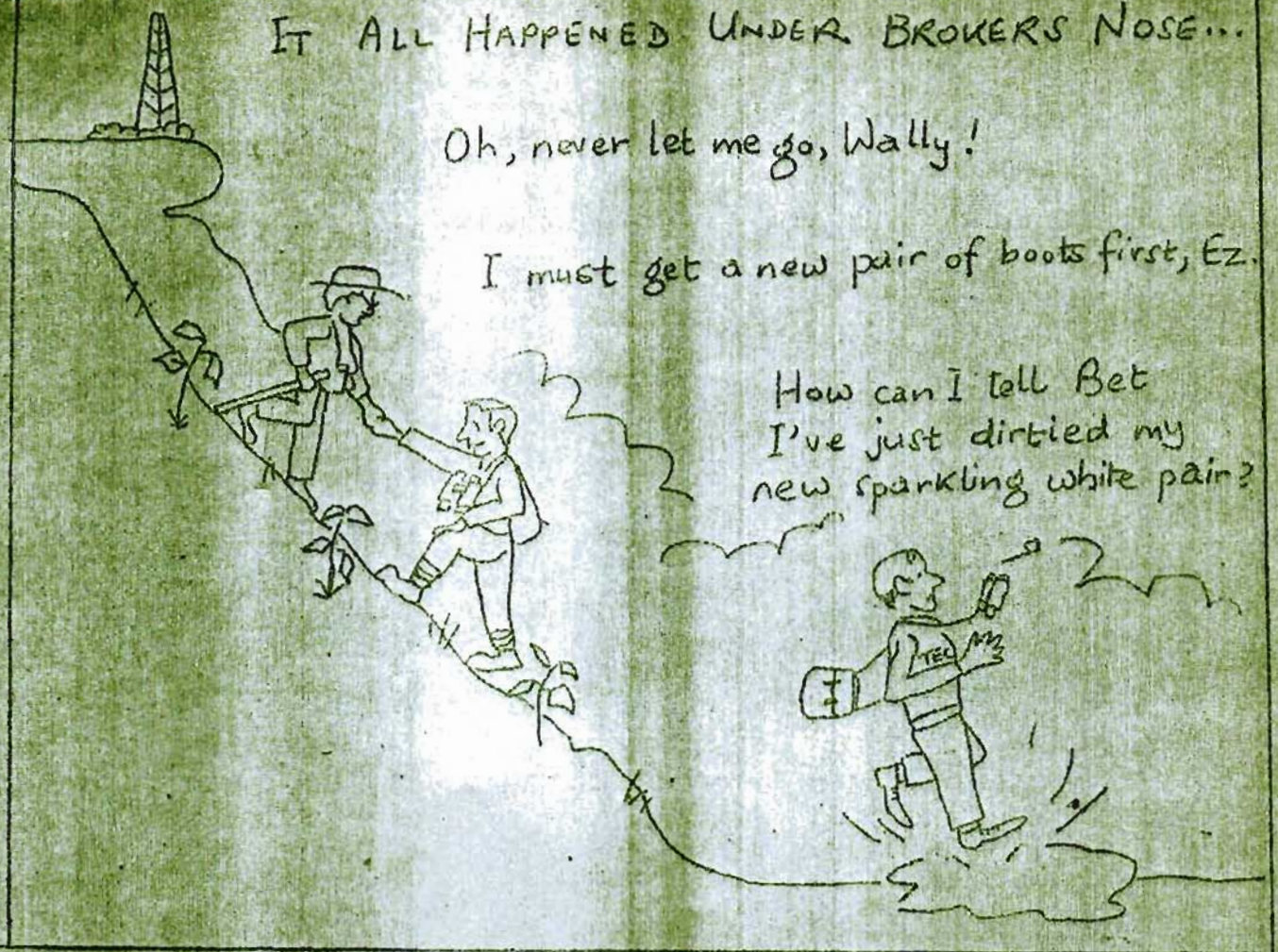
- 1+10 across The object of one's strutting about ostentatiously.
- 2 Drinks goat's milk? 3 Winning lotto numbers are everyone's fairy tale.
- 4 You are out of league with two under par. 5 See 6 across.
- 6 To repeat mechanically. 7 Stanley's being saucy and smatty made them white-checked. 8+37 down It's neither black nor white a throat disorder.
- 13 Experiment to gauge public opinion on the stringed toy.
- 14+43 across Gossips in the free state.

IT ALL HAPPENED UNDER BROKERS NOSE...

Oh, never let me go, Wally!

I must get a new pair of boots first, Ez.

How can I tell Bet
I've just dirtied my
new sparkling white pair?



DOWN (Continued)

- 16 Book for the late night train to Barking? I should think not!
- 17 See 15 across. 18 The ravenous little Oriental catches fish in the black of night. 21+31 across Rumblings at the pitface.
- 24 The laughing Indian is peaceful with the emerald or diamond.
- 26 Common dispute over the block of houses in Java. 28 See 29 down.
- 29+28 down A carrier of clay in the times of the swine is a person's business
- 30 Too late to rival this fast runner.
- 33 Astral heather perhaps?
- 35 British Rail extends its service to the red centre. 37 See 8 down.
- 38+39 down Scrub such a varied menu - your paying would only prick my conscience.
- 41 Tom's face went white when Leigh squeaked.

ANSWERS in our next newsletter.

The first correct entry received wins 2 weeks travel in NE Queensland in the Williams' 4WD.

The second wins 3 weeks!

NAME OF THE GAME.

Although I wasn't seeking fame,
To be a good Birdo became my aim,
So with past knowledge I'd accumulated,
I decided to find out how I rated.

When I cried out aloud, I can see a Blue Jay,
A tubby chap said, "It's going to be a lovely day",
"Though before we continue with our hike,
I really must correct you, it's a Quokoo Shrike."

Now though I'm not a learned bloke,
I was sure I was right when I cried out "Mopoke",
But a voice in the group with a bit of a scowl,
Said "You're wrong you know, it's a Spotted Owl".

Well, we all can be wrong, then I saw in a tree,
What I knew for a fact was an old PeeWee.
Another voice from the crowd came like a bark,
"You're wrong again, it's a Magpie Lark".

Undaunted I began to glow,
Pointing skyward I shouted, "There's a Crow".
Again came a reply, but with a finger wavin',
"Surely you can tell an Australian Raven".

Although frustrated, I wouldn't quit,
Look in that bush, it's gotta be a Tomtit,
But someone mumbled, "What a dill,
He can't even pick a Brown Thornbill".

Well here I go with another try,
Any fool can tell that's a Buck White Eye.
Then a lady spoke, and though the tone was sweeter,
The message came the same, it's a Lewin's Honeyeater.

It was one of those days when you just can't win,
At this point in time, I should have thrown the towel in,
But although my eyes were strained and sore, I focused even harder,
And I'm still sure there were feathers on that orange Cicada!

The walk has ended, all check your card,
I thought to myself, that won't be too hard,
Surprise and joy, "Hey I've got twenty seven,
Then a pipe smokin' gent said, "one hundred and eleven".

Now here's my advise to birdo's new,
Who think they may know a thing or two,
Don't try to name every species that you see from afar,
Or you may find the group staring at a BIG GALAH!

-- Wal Emery.

For any further details please ring Laurie Williams, 296637.

CIRCULAR FROM ILLABARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION (CATEGORY B)

The next Club Meeting will be held at St. Alban's Church of England Hall, Princes Highway, Cnr. Cox's Lane, Corrimal, on Monday 11th August, starting at 7.30 p.m.

The speaker will be Doug Gibson; His subject is yet to be advised.

Our next FIELD OUTING, Sunday 24 August, will be led by Allan Leischman, at Beulah (the name of the property), where we will be bird banding.

The outing will commence at 8.30 a.m. at the Property, 7 kilometers North of Appin, on the Campbelltown Road; it is on the left-hand or western side of the road.

A NEW BOOK ON TREES. The Club will take a bulk order for Leon Fuller's Book "WOLLONGONG NATIVE TREES", saving the cost of postage. The price is \$14 each. Please see the Secretary.

FILMS. There will be a film evening at the home of the Almonds, 2 Shoobert Crescent, Keiraville, to be held on Saturday, the 9th of August. There will be one session at 5 p.m. and another at 8 p.m.

The programme will include a tape, 'BIRDS, MAN AND THE ENVIRONMENT' and the following Films:

- a) THE ROBIN - A detailed study of this (English) bird and its relationship with man.
- b) THE GREAT ADVENTURE - A study of man and nature, filmed on a farm at the edge of a forest in Sweden.
- c) LIFE ON THE WESTERN MARSHES - A look at the way changing water-levels on the Canadian Prairies has destroyed food and nesting for thousands of migrating birds and how sportsmen and farmers have united to restore and control water levels.
- d) IT'S TOUGH TO BE A BIRD This film has been borrowed at great expense for all you Disney fans who felt let down at the last Film Night.

There will be a 'Cuppa' at the end of each session so come along and bring a plate.

R. MILLER

WATCH FOR THE FOLLOWING ARRIVALS IN YOUR AREA

<u>Arriving September:</u>	Black-Faced Monarch	Sept - May
	Rufous-tailed Bronze Cuckoo	Sept- Feb.
	Rufous Fantail	Sept.- April
	Leaden Flycatcher	Sept.- April
	Satin Flycatcher	Sept.- April
	White-throated Warbler	Sept.- March
	White-winged Triller	Sept.- Feb.
	Swifts	Sept.- March.
<u>Arriving October:</u>	Shining Bronze Cuckoo	Oct. - April
	Brush Cuckoo	Oct. - Feb.
	Dollar Bird	Oct. - Feb.
	Sacred King Fisher	Oct. - March
	Rufous Whistler	Oct. - May

L. Williams

TALK, PAPUA N.G. BIRDS - Following their A.G.M. at the Hallstrom Theatre, Australian Museum, Sydney, on Tuesday, 5th August, the N.S.W. Field Ornithologists will have a talk by Mr. Win Filwood. This will be about 'BIRDS OF KANUDI (PORT MORESBY); some members of I.O.O.C. will be sharing a car to Sydney for this talk. If you would like to join them, please contact Tony Salvadori, at home 83-1880 or at work 28-2050.

R. MILLER

TEMORA TRIP - This trip is to take place during the last week-end in October. There will be facilities for those wishing to camp, however, those wishing hotel or motel accommodation should contact the Secretary so that early booking can occur.

L. WILLIAMS

NIGHTY NIGHTS - Both Wilson's Petrels and Sooty Shearwaters make huge, annual migrations, equivalent to half-way round the world each Spring, and back again in Autumn. The Wilson's Petrels skim the surface of the sea. Assume that the sooty Shearwaters, on average, fly one foot higher and that the earth is a sphere, with a circumference 24,855 miles. How much farther than a Wilson's Petrel does a Sooty Shearwater fly in a year? Answer next month

R. MILLER

'THE MAGPIES'

Sean O'Malley

When Tom and Elizabeth took the farm
The bracken made their bed
And QUORLE OODLE ARDLE WARDLE BOODLE
The magpies said.

Tom's hand was strong to the plough
Elizabeth's lips were red
And Q.O.A.W.S.
The Magpies said.

Year in year out they toiled
While pines grew overhead
And Q.O.A.W.S.
The Magpies said

Elizabeth's dead now (It's years ago)
Old Tom went light in the head
And Q.O.A.W.S.
The Magpies said.

The farm's still there. Mortgage corporations
Couldn't give it away
And Q.O.A.W.S.
The Magpies said.

DENIS GLOVER

Because of difficulty of access, Glen Davis was rejected for an atlasing excursion, and instead a party of ten explored areas north and south of Putty, recording bird species in three atlasing squares in a variety of habitats: fern paddocks, creeks and dams, woodland and dry sclerophyll.

Mr Stan Pierce kindly allowed the group to camp on his property Roswell (incorrectly marked Roswill on the map) near the area known as Square Place. Despite cold blustery westerly winds, which caused havoc in the Blue Mountains, the party was gladdened by the sight of so many birds. In abundance were the Grey Shrike-thrush, Jacky Wren, Welcome Swallow, and Speckled Warbler. Remnants of several nests of the Rock Warbler and Fairy Martin were found.

Mr Arthur Grundy welcomed the group on to his property Clearview Park, and by spotlight his mystery was solved of the droppings on the track near his front gate: about 30 feet up were huddled 7 Kookaburras in a row on a branch. Spot lighting also revealed a ringtailed and 3 brushtailed possums, but no ~~possums~~ despite evident recent excavations. A pair of Wood Duck was also seen roosting 60 feet up in a tree. Periodically through the nights called the Wood Duck and Masked Plover.

Late Saturday afternoon, the party took shelter in the shooter's cave from the rain. He had earlier spoken of dingoes and wild dogs killing stock, but none was seen during the long weekend.

On Sunday afternoon, the Putty Creek valley was followed north, and then the Rylstone road took to the ridge through dry sclerophyll to Baxter Junction and Kindarun Mountain; however, bird numbers were light there.

In all, 67 species were recorded: 50 passerines and 17 non-passerines.

ANSWERS to last month's CRITIC CROSSWORD for BIRDS

1	E	A	G	L	E			10	E	O	R	M	O	R	A	Z	T			17	T	H	R	J	S	H		
2	E																			18	Y			E	T			
3	T	E	R	N	Y			11	R	J	N	Z	E	R						19	B	R	O	L	G	A	S	
4	N	I	G	H	T	A														20	B	R	O	L	G	A	S	
5	P	R	I	G	H	T	A													21	H	O	W					
6	G	R	E	P	T	A			12	O	W	L	S	P	A	R	S			22	H	O	W					
7	P	E	A	G	L	E			13	O	W	L	S	P	A	R	S			23	H	O	W					
8	R	O	S	E	L	A			14	N	O	I	S	Y	O	N	S			24	S	H	O	R	T			
9	P	E	A	K	E	L	A		15	S	W	S	Y	E	M	U				25	W							
10	P	A	R	O	T	A			16	S	W	S	Y	E	M	U				26	W							
11	P	A	R	O	T	A			17	S	W	S	Y	E	M	U				27	W							
12	F	A	L	C	O	N			18	T	R	A	L	G	E	E				28	S	T	A	R	L	I	N	G
13	F	A	L	C	O	N			19	T	R	A	L	G	E	E				29	S	T	A	R	L	I	N	G
14	K	I	T	E					20	E										30	S	T	A	R	L	I	N	G
15	K	I	T	E					21	E										31	S	T	A	R	L	I	N	G
16	K	I	T	E					22	E										32	S	T	A	R	L	I	N	G

TREES AND SHRUBS TO ATTRACT BIRDS TO LOCAL GARDENS.

Compiled by Kevin Rigby, Wollongong Teachers College.

Only plants that have some chance of surviving in the soil and climate conditions of Wollongong are included in the following lists. The heavy clay of local soils is the most limiting factor. Most of the plants listed will only succeed if certain requirements regarding drainage, sun, shade, shelter are met. Two good references for these requirements are:

A.E. Brooks: Australian Native Plants for Home Gardens (Lothian)

E.E. Lord: Shrubs and Trees for Australian Gardens (Lothian)

Forest Native Nursery: Australian Native Plants for Sydney Gardens.

Native Plants For Honey-eaters.

The so-called honey-eating birds may have a diet up to 70% insects, which in turn are attracted by the honey or pollen of the following plants.

1. *Acacia* spp.

The wattle phyllodes ("leaves") exude a sweet juice to attract insects, and produce incidental pollination.

- A. *baileyana* (Cootamundra Wattle)
- A. *drummondii*
- A. *longifolia* (Sydney Golden Wattle)
- A. *pycnantha* (nectar June to Sept)
- A. *podalyriaefolia* (Qld. Wattle)
- A. *spectabilis* (Mudgee Wattle)

2. *Angophora* spp. (Native Apple)

- A. *cordifolia*, A. *floribunda*, A. *hispida*.

3. *Anigozanthos* spp. (Kangaroo Paw)

- A. *flavida*, A. *viridis*.

4. *Banksia* spp.

- B. *collina*, B. *ericifolia*, B. *intergrifolia*, B. *serrata*

5. *Brachychiton acerisifolium*. (Illawarra Flame)6. *Brachysema lanceolatum* (Swan River Pea)7. *Brassia* (syn. *Schleffera*) *actinophylla* (Qld. Umbrella Tree)8. *Callistemon* spp. (Bottlebrush)

- C. *citrinus*, C. *pallidus*, C. *pinifolius*, C. *speciosus*, C. *viminialis*, C. *violaceus*.

9. *Calothamnus* spp. (net-bush) Long flowering periods, including winter

- C. *chrysantheros*, C. *gilesi*, C. *quadrifidus*, C. *sanguineus*, C. *villosus*.

10. *Castanospermum australe* (Qld. Black Bean Tree)11. *Cassia artemisioides* (Silver Cassia)12. *Correa alba*, C. *bauerlani*, C. *backhousiana*, C. *decumbens*, C. *glabra*, C. *manni*, C. *pulchella*, C. *lawrenciana*, C. *reflexa*, C. *schlechterdel*13. *Chamaelaucium uncinatum* (Geraldton Wax)14. *Darwinia fascicularis*.15. *Epacris impressa* (Victorian Heath) E. *longiflora* (Fuchsia Heath)16. *Eucalyptus* spp.

- E. *caesia*, E. *ficifolia* (W.A. Flowering Gum) E. *globulus*, (Tas. Blue Gum), E. *lehmanni* (Bushy Yate), E. *leucoxylon rosea* (Pink flowering Yellow Gum), E. *melliodora* (Yellow Box), E. *melliodora rosea* (Pink flowering Yellow Box), E. *nicholi* (Peppermint Gum), E. *sideroxylon rosea* (Pink flowering Ironbark), E. *torquata* (Cor.1 Gum).

Spotted Pardalotes feed on a scale growing on gum trees, especially the local *E. pilularis* (Blackbutt).

17. *Grevillea* spp. (Spider Flower). Some have a few flowers almost all the time. Most are dense growing, and thus also good for shelter.
G. acanthifolia, *G. aquifolium*, *G. asplenifolia*, *G. arenaria*,
G. bipinnatifida, *G. acanthifolia*, *G. barklyana*, *G. baueri*, *G. caleyi*,
G. chrysophaea, *G. confertifolia*, *G. dallachiana*, *G. banksi forsteri*,
G. dimorpha, *G. ilicifolia*, *G. laurifolia*, *G. lavandulacea*, *G. punicea*,
G. sericea, *G. thelemanniana*, *G. trinervis*, *G. victoriae*, *G. Firebird*,
G. Pink Pearl, *G. Poorinda Constance*, *G. Poorinda Leane*, *G. Robyn Gordon*
18. *Hakea laurina* (Pin-cushion Hakea).
19. *Hibiscus huegeli*.
20. *Lomatia silaifolia* (Native Parsley).
21. *Kunzea ambigua*, *K. baxleri*.
22. *Leptospermum* spp. (Tea Tree) *L. flavescens*, *L. petersoni*,
L. persiciflorum.
23. *Melaleuca* spp. (Honey myrtle or Paper bark). Most of the
Melaleucas are also good for shelter.
M. hypericifolia, *M. lateritia*, *M. nesophila*, *M. Steedmani*, *M. wilsoni*.
24. *Stenocarpus sinatus* (Qld, Firewheel Tree)
25. *Syncarpia glomerulifera* (Turpentine).
26. *Tristania conferta* (Brush Box), *T. laurina* (Water Box).

Natives for seed and fruit eaters.

1. *Acacia* spp.
2. *Archontophoenix* (Cabbage Tree Palm),
3. *Banksia* spp.
4. *Brassaia actinophylla* (Qld Umbrella Tree).
5. *Eucalyptus* spp.
E. bicostata, *E. globulus*, *E. sideroxylon rosea*.
6. *Eugenia* (syn *Acmena* or *Syzygium*) *australis* (Brush Cherry) - crimson
pear-shaped fruit.
E. smithi (Lilly-Pilly) - fruit white with mauve blotch; *E. luehmanni* -
(small-leaf Lilly - Pilly).
7. *Casuarina* spp (She-oak).
8. *Hakea* spp.
9. *Leptospermum* spp.
10. *Melia azedarach* (White Cedar).
11. *Pittosporum rhombifolium* (best), *P. undulatum*, *P. phyllaeroides*,
P. revolutum.
12. Wild raspberry, wild tobacco, ink-berry.
13. Native reeds and bullrushes around water also provide a good
supply of hiding insects.

Exotics for seed and fruit eaters.

1. *Cotoneaster* spp.
2. *Pyracantha* spp (Firethorn).
3. *Crataegus* (Deciduous Hawthorn).
4. *Ceratonia siliqua* (Carob Bean) edible pods.
5. Figs - purple and brown edible varieties.

- 6. Flowering peach - winter and spring varieties.
- 7. Psoralea pinnata.
- 8. Mesembryanthemum (Pig-face).

ALSO (a) Many self-sowing annuals, particularly Cosmos.

- (b) Don't mow the lawn frequently in winter, let chickweed, winter grass, carpet grass, and clover go to seed.
- (c) Milk-thistle, groundsel and Nasturtium have foliage birds like.

Natives for shelter.

- 1. Banksia spp, particularly B. ericifolia. Some birds collect the velvety down from cones to line their nests.
- 2. Eucalyptus leucorlyn rosea - a favourite for nesting honey-eaters.
- 3. Grevillia spp, particularly G. juniperina and G. rosmarinifolia.
- 4. Hakea spp, H. salicifolia (Saligna), H. sericea, H. suaveolens, H. teritifolia.

Exotics for Honey-eaters.

- 1. Abelia.
- 2. Abutilon spp (Chinese Lantern) Heavy flowering in autumn, and continue through winter.
- 3. Beloperone gutta (Shrimp Plant). B. guttata lutea.
- 4. Brunfelsia.
- 5. Camellia spp. C. sasanqua varieties, autumn, C. japonica varieties, winter. Choose only those which have their stamens showing.
- 6. Cassia bicapsularis.
- 7. Cydonia japonica (Flowering Quince) - winter.
- 8. Erythrina spp E. indica (Indian Coral Tree), E. cristata-galli (Cockscomb Coral Tree).
- 9. Fuschia.
- 10. Gordonia.
- 11. Hibiscus.
- 12. Jasminum polyanthum - sprawling, winter.
- 13. Knopfia (red Hot Poker).
- 14. Lagerstroemia (Crepe Myrtle).
- 15. Luculia gratissima, L. tsetensis.
- 16. Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary).
- 17. Streptosolen (Orange Browallia).
- 18. Weigela.

Creepers.

Most dense creepers are good for shelter and for nesting. Some also produce honey and/or seeds.

(a) Native.

- 1. Clematis aristata (Traveller's Joy)- fluff for nests.
- 2. Kennedya spp (Running Postman) - ground creeper.
- 3. Marianthus bigoniaceus.
- 4. Pandorea (Wonga Vine)

5. *Sollya heterophylla* (Native Bluebell) Will grow up a support, or can be treated as a sprawling prostrate shrub.

(b) Exotic.

1. *Jasminum*.
2. *Gelsemium* (Carolina Jessamine) = winter.
3. *Lonicera* (Honeysuckle).
4. *Aristolochia* (Dutchman's Pipe) - honey and seeds.
5. *Leptospermum* spp. particularly *laevigatum* (Coastal Tea Tree).
6. *Melaleuca* spp, are excellent, particularly *M. armillaris*, *M. diosmaefolia*, *M. halaturorum*, *M. incana*, *M. linariifolia* and *M. quinquerivis*.
7. Also, some birds build nests in the tree- fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*)

Exotics for shelter.

1. *Abelia*.
2. *Abutilons* - especially if pruned often.
3. Citrus trees.
4. Nectarine and Apricot trees - nests.
5. Japanese maples, nesting favourites for Blue Wrens.

"MR PRESIDENT - 1979"

Many meetings how you've topped in vain,
To get those chatterers to refrain,
But now we're sure, with one big hit,
You'll get the magpies all to quit.

On outings, as the sun climbs higher,
There will always be a few who tire,
Now those who fail to 'move it out',
Can all be dealt a gentle clout.

WAL EMERY

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

The next meeting of the Club will be held at St. Alban's Church of England Hall, Cnr. Princes Highway and Cox's Lane, Corriwal, starting 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 8th September.

There will be no October Meeting or outing.

The September Meeting will be addressed by Molly O'Neill, her topic, 'The Goulburn District, with particular reference to Lake Bathurst.'

This has obvious importance to our next excursion, to Lake Bathurst, on Saturday 13th of September. Those wishing to attend are asked to rendezvous at 9.00 a.m. at the Inverloch Bridge, about 20 km. out of Goulburn on the Braidwood Road. The assessed running-time from Wallongong to Goulburn is 2 1/2 hours.

Membership: Eddie and Rowena Errington have moved to 27 Dymock Street, Balgownie and Jim Derhyshire, 42 Loftus Drive, Barrack Heights, is a new member of the Club.

Please amend your membership list.

Condie's Excursion: The Club now has verbal approval of the proposed trip to Condie's; final confirmation by the Shoalhaven Council is anticipated. The trip is to be held on the long week-end in October.

Those intending to go, should take a container of drinking water for the week-end and since there are no shops nearby, all other supplies.

The Camp will be held Friday to Monday, inclusive; there will be a charge of \$2 per adult per day by the Club, to cover costs. There will be no charge for children. Some may consider arriving on site on Friday evening. Day visitors are also welcome. It is intended to take the first walk on Saturday at 1 p.m. Registration and settling in, will occupy Saturday morning. On Sunday morning there will be horse riding for those interested - arranged by Sally Virtue. Other walks are planned for: Sunday - 1.30 p.m. and Monday 8.30 a.m. - with a return for late lunch.

(A short list of birds likely to be seen, appears in 'the Circular' of 16th of February, of this year.)

Of course - there will be spotlighting and pre-breakfast walks. See Laurie for further details.

The Camp will break up on Monday p.m.

Condie's is on the North Bank of the Shoalhaven, to the West of Prince's Highway, about 6 kms. from the Illeroo turnoff.

See Laurie, to give your name and to receive map and directions.

NIGHTY MIGRATIONS: Both Wilson's Petrels and Sooty Shearwaters make huge annual migrations -----

SOLUTION: 6 feet 3 inches. The Circumference of the earth is irrelevant.

If R is the radius of the Earth, the difference between the Petrel's and the Shearwater's Journey is

$$2\pi(R+1) - 2\pi r = 2\pi \text{ Feet} = 2 \times \frac{22}{7} = 6 \frac{2}{7} \text{ feet.}$$

DISTRIBUTION OF 'THE CIRCULAR' of the Illawarra Bird Observers Club is to be by post. The Circular has been registered for posting as a Publication; it is to be posted each calendar month with the exceptions of October and January.

THE TEMORA WEEKEND: Inglebah State Forest -25th and 26th October. Members will be camping in the forest, some will be in a hotel outside Temora, on the road to the Forest. People will arrive at the forest on Friday evening, with a Saturday and a Sunday Morning Walk. For details - see Laurie.

BIRDWEEK, 7-14th December 1980: There is to hand a circular on this event, there will be field days on Heron and other Islands and formal lectures by four men of extensive experience. See Laurie for details.

AUSTRALASIAN RAPTOR ASSOCIATION.

The broad objective of the association is to promote raptor research, conservation and management in Australasia. The initial emphasis will be to:-

- a) maintain a list of people within Australasia interested in raptors, to discover the nature of their current interests and activities, and to make those people known to one another.
- b) promote research on species which are considered endangered or whose status is not satisfactorily known.
- c) Assist in the conservation and management of Australasian raptors.
- d) assemble and maintain information on the numbers and species of birds in captivity, and on skins and eggs in collections.

The Association operates as a semi-autonomous body sponsored by the Field Investigations Committee of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union. Membership is open to all, upon payment of the current annual subscription of three dollars(\$3). Cheques and money orders should be made payable to the Australasian Raptor Association, and sent to David Baker-Gabb, C/o Zoology Dept. Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, 3168.

N.S.W. Representative:- Graham Blackwell,
60, Backhouse St.,
Wentworth Falls 2782.

BOAT TRIP INTO THE TASMAN SEA: Saturday August 2nd.

A party of 11 keen seabird watchers gathered at Belmore Basin at 7.30 a.m.; a motley selection of 'Birdos', ready to face the long journey out to the continental shelf in search of the elusive seabirds that occur there, 25 miles straight out, off Wollongong. At 7.45 a.m., after a certain gentleman turned up 15 minutes late, we were all set to go.

Some members seemed to be in a quandary as about 20 kilos of fatty meat scraps (suet) were loaded, along with a 5 gallon bucket of 'popcorn', supplied by Toni Salvadori.

The weather was perfect and the swell almost non-existent as we headed out in our boat, which incidentally didn't live up to its name, 'Ruffie'. It was quite a pleasant journey out, on which we had good views of albatrosses which were lured to the boat by the suet and popcorn which was dropped over the side as we travelled out.

The species seen were as follows:-

Wandering Albatross, Shy Albatross, Yellow-nosed Albatross, two forms of the Black-browed Albatross and a southern Skua.

On arrival on the shelf we stopped for about 30-40 minutes and lured the birds to the side of the boat. Here more birds arrived; they included Giant Petrel, Cape Petrel, White-fronted Tern, as well as the species of Albatross mentioned previously.

Excellent views of most birds were obtained, showing the variations of plumage between young and older birds, for which identification we must thank Harry Sattam and Doug Gibson.

I think that most members who went along will now be able to identify some of our Albatrosses more confidently. I know that I certainly will, and I am looking forward to the next trip.

On the way back, several species were seen; these included white-faced Storm-petrel, Dominican Gull, Silver Gull and Crested Tern.

In the harbour Black Cormorants and over 60 Pelicans were observed.

L. Smith

ODD BLUEMENTS

The contemplated shift to our first own home at Thirroux was sealed last October by the sight of a pair of Satin birds scudding over the garden into the tall gums by the side of the lane. I felt sure that the bush behind the house in the old Excelsior No. 2 Colliery area must yield for me plenty of nature study material. However, it took me ten months of walking the various tracks to locate a bower of *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*. Amazingly, it had been constructed a mere five yards from a path well abused by trail-bike riders on the north side of Flanigan's Creek. I was amused to discover such a variety of blue decorations, largely the remnants of man's disposable products, which for me epitomize man's throw-away mentality. My inventory comprised the following:-

14 straws, 15 clothes pegs (both depress and push types), plastic strips, a Fabulon aerosol cap, a thin container cap, nylon cord, plastic-coated wire, the top of a nylon lace bag with metal fastener, part of the handle of a toy pistol made in Hong Kong, a plastic toy motor cycle minus its wheels, a plastic toy jet, and the only naturally made product - three feathers of the Crimson Rosella.

The next day I glimpsed the male pick up a feather and a few minutes later the Fabulon cap and convey them to another location. There, ten yards away in a more secluded setting in a lantana clearing, was another bower, again erected in a north-south direction. There was another store of fascinating blue bric-a-brac:-

shredded plastic packing paper, adhesive tape, 4" wool cord, 6" tubular covering for wire, crushed Fabulon cap, fragment of ice-cream container, more straws and clothes pegs, plastic semi-circular frame of 2" diameter broken off a toy model, a triangular piece of a toy construction kit, and the fragment of a toy helicopter cabin.

Afterwards, I rock-hopped my way up Flanigan's Creek and became very much aware of more blue bits and pieces, scattered and entangled in times of flooding after initially being dumped at the edge of the woodland. I wondered how many of these items would eventually find their way into the courting ground of the Satin birds to become objects of captivation instead of the present eyesore.

Mike Morphet
13th August, 1980.

3rd WOLLONGONG BIRD COUNT

Total Species: (56 sp 50 p) 106

Total Sightings: 11,205

Weekend 31st May & 1st June, 1980.

	Total	N	NW	S	W	SW	E
Hoary-headed-Grebe	3			2		1	
Little Grebe	11					11	
Australian Pelican	106			84			22
Pied Cormorant	3			3			
Little Pied Cormorant	27	2		17		3	5
Black Cormorant	22	10		1		1	10
Little Black Cormorant	2				2		
Australian Gannet	4						4
White-necked Heron	8					8	
White-faced Heron	68	1	12	19	2	32	2
Cattle Egret	79				10	57	12
Large Egret	4			3		1	
Little Egret	3			3			
Plumed Egret	1					1	
White Ibis	125					125	
Straw-necked Ibis	106					106	
Royal Spoonbill	18			17		1	
Black Swan	1326			1324		2	
Black Duck	76			21		49	6
White-eyed Duck	7			6		1	
Wood Duck	40		1			39	
Musk Duck	1				1		
Mallard	21			1		20	
Grey Teal	1473			1449		24	
Chestnut Teal	3						3
Blue-winged Shoveler	3			3			
Black-shouldered Kite	3			1		2	
Swamp Harrier	1			1			
Little Falcon	1					1	
Nankeen Kestrel	5	2		2			1
Swamphen	39			5		34	
Dusky Moorhen	33			3		27	3
Coot	170			100		70	
Pied Oystercatcher	2			2			
Masked Plover	33		1	10		16	6
Double-banded Dotterel	3			3			
Red-capped Dotterel	47			47			
Black-fronted Dotterel	2			2			

3rd MOLLONGONG BIRD COUNT

WEEKEND 31st. May & 1st June, 1960.

	Total	N	NE	S	W	SW	E
Pied Stilt.	4			4			
Eastern Curlew	2			2			
Ber-tailed Godwit	48			48			
Red-necked Stint	10			10			
Silver Gull	3048	278	6	2834		136	594
Dominican Gull	3			2			1
Crested Tern	1			1			
<hr/>							
Domestic Pigeon	429	408		3			26
Spotted Dove	15	2		3		10	
<hr/>							
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	95	22	2			71	
Galah	51			13		26	12
Little Lorikeet	10		10				
King Parrot	8		2		6		
Crimson Rosella	36	7	17		12		
Eastern Rosella	43	5				38	
<hr/>							
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	1					
<hr/>							
Spine-tailed Swift	20					20	
<hr/>							
Kookaburra	26	8	5			13	
<hr/>							
	6529	739	56	6048	33	946	707
<hr/>							
Superb Lyrebird	1	1					
Welcome Swallow	271	1		55		214	1
Richard's Pipit	10					7	3
Maggie Lark	63	3	4	8		45	3
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	9	2		2		5	
Red-whiskered Bulbul	54	1	4	20			29
Eastern Whipbird	4	3				1	
Superb Blue Wren	70		10	5	1	17	37
Golden-headed Cisticola	18			8		5	5
Grey Shrike-thrush	8		4		1	3	
White-throated Treecreeper	7		4		2	1	
Mistletoebird	1					1	
Spotted Pardalote	23		7			16	
Striated Pardalote	19					19	
Yellow-tipped Pardalote	25					25	
Silvereye	153	4	28	12	6	43	60

Weekend 31st May & 1st June, 1980.

	Total	N	NW	S	W	SW	E
Lewin Honeyeater,	39	16	8		2	12	1
Fuscous Honeyeater	10					10	
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	20	3	8		1	8	
White-plumed Honeyeater	4						4
New Holland Honeyeater	77		26				51
Eastern Spinebill	35	2	19		2	2	10
Brown Warbler	11		6			4	1
Striated Thornbill	21		8			13	
Yellow Thornbill	31			9	2	3	17
Brown Thornbill	16	3	3		5	5	
Buff-rumped Thornbill	1					1	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	8					8	
White-browed Scrubwren	14	5	6	1	1		1
Scarlet Robin	2					2	
Rose Robin	3				1	2	
Yellow Robin	11		3		6		2
Jacky Winter	3					3	
Restless Flycatcher	2					2	
Grey Fantail	17	3	6		1	7	
Willie Wagtail	30		3	5		22	
Golden Whistler	2					2	
Noisy Miner	28					28	
Little Wattlebird	25	7	10				
Red Wattlebird	17		17				
Red-browed Finch	83	8	24		19	32	
European Goldfinch	58					23	35
House Sparrow	219	16	5	76		111	11
Common Starling	766	48		108		588	22
Indian Myna	47	17		2		28	
Pied Currawong	59	7	32			20	
Grey Butcherbird	3	1				2	
Australian Magpie	63	7	16	3	3	34	
Satin Bowerbird	4	1	3				
Australian Raven	211	10	21	100	2	74	4
	2676	169	293	414	55	1448	297

N.B. In the SW sector, the surprise recording of the Pink Robin was made; this species has been included as an extra sighting to the normal list. We did try on two special extra trips to confirm this species but without success.

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

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The President and the committee extend best wishes to the membership, for the coming festive season and wish them happiness in the coming year.

Our thoughts go out, too, to the country and interstate members, and to others of the club whom we are rarely able to meet socially.

The club's next outing will be to the Scouts Camp, on Saturday, 6th December; we will meet at the Camp parking area at 2 p.m., take a walk during the afternoon, then have a barbecue tea.

After tea, there will be spotlighting for those interested.

The CHRISTMAS MEETING of the club will be held on the following Monday, 8th December, at St. Alban's Church of England Hall, corner of Princes Highway and Cox's Lane, Corrimal, starting at 7.30 p.m.

This will be a social occasion; the activities will include:-

- (1) Antics of the 'Lord Howe Island Safari' - slides and discussion of the trip to that island.
- (2) 'How to improve your face' - a competition for the best face mask. It is hoped that the winning mask will bear a recognisable likeness to a bird and will also project some aspects of the wearer's personality.
- (3) 'A trip to Northern Australia', a set of slides of the Northern Territory. It is hoped that these may include some of Cape York.

The availability of these slides is subject to confirmation.

- (4) 'Impromptu Acts'. We will accept entrants to this event, up to the time of performance.
- (5) 'Items to be announced' - Guess what?

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - At the November Meeting, the following members were elected to the positions of:-

<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	Mr. Laurie Williams
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Mrs Rowena Errington
<u>TREASURER:</u>	Mr Ron Almond

Other co-opted members of the Committee are:-

Mr David Thomson, - Atleaser
 Mrs. Hazel Emery - Librarian
 Mr Mal Emery - Hall Supervisor
 Mr Doug Gibson - Recorder and Technical Historian
 Mrs Dulcie Rose
 & co-opted member - Supper Supervisors
 Mr Tom Barnes and
 Mrs Joyce Barnes - Joint Editors of the Circular

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BURRUNGURROOLONG: MULWAREE RIVER: Goulburn

Long $149^{\circ}41$ E. Lat. $34^{\circ}47$ 30 S

Saturday, 13th September, 1980.

At 9 a.m. members gathered at Thornes Bridge on the Braidwood Road, 1½ miles out of Goulburn and then visited the northern end of Andrew Gibson's property Burrungurroolong, bordering Thornleigh property. Because of the drought, the level of Mulwaree River was much lower than when some club members visited this spot on 2nd November, 1979.

Tally: 30 species with equal proportion of passerines and non-passerines.

En route for Lake Bathurst, a brief stop was made just south of Turrenville to inspect a nest situated about 20 feet up an old tree. It contained two eggs, and after some deliberation, club members concluded the nest was that of the Little rather than the Australian Raven. The Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike and Striated Pardalote was also seen here.

M.J.M.

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LAKE BATHURST

Lat. $35^{\circ}03$ S. Long. $149^{\circ}40$ E.

Saturday, 13th September, 1980.

At about 11.30 a.m. IBDC members were joined by Molly O'Neill, who gave the September talk, and walked south along the west side of the lake in line with the two islands, before lunch, and then north and east in the afternoon.

The wind was bracing and sky overcast; after the prolonged drought, the ground was very dry and vegetation pale. The lake looked beautiful despite the several carcasses of cattle, sheep, black swans, pelicans and grebes dotted round the edge.

On the water, the Black Swan was by far the most predominant bird whilst on the land, the smaller varieties of birds were confined to the greener gullies. The party was

able to appreciate the differences between the Tree and Fairy Martin as both species sat perched in the smallish gums bordering the lake. A nest of the Yellow-rumped Thornbill was discovered, but out of reach to record breeding data. The highlight was the aerial territorial battle between a charging Whistling Kite and a dodging Black Falcon.

Tally: 38 species (22 non-passerines and 16 passerines).*

After lunch, the party split up: one half left for their week's trip north-west to Tilpa, whilst the other half stayed on at the lake and later returned to Mollongong via Tarago, Cullula, O'Allen Ford (a refreshment stop) and Nerriga. A number of stops were made for further bird observations.

* As a result of the outing, IBOC was able to augment Molly O'Neill's list of 43 species for Lake Bathurst by a further 18.

CONDIES: Shoalhaven River

Lat. 34° 51 S Long. 150° 32 E.

Saturday, 27th September, 1980

Following on from the initial visit to this spot in Bangelee last February, a reccy party of nine prepared the campsite for the family weekend in October and surveyed three walks: east and west along the Shoalhaven River and north along the ridge. Owing to the difficult terrain, paucity of sightings, and a bushfire, it was decided that the north walk be dispensed with.

In good weather conditions, there were 59 species recorded: 43 passerines + 16 non-passerines.

Little wattlebirds and eastern spinebills were very active in the coral trees near the derelict buildings. Excellent sightings were had of redheads, silvereyes, fantails, and various honey-eaters at the edge of a small swamp as they gathered to drink and bathe in the only source of freshwater that could be traced in the area after the prolonged drought.

A raven carried a large twig high towards a nest-site, and there were several signs of bark having been chewed by yellow-tailed black cockatoos, though this species wasn't seen or heard. Along the dirt road to Camp Kolonna was found the nest of the Brown Thornbill with two eggs, and a pair of Spotted Pardalote kept close to a nesthole in the bark.

Other wildlife observed were a wombat, wallaby, arteater, goanna, and two red-bellied black snakes.

M.J.M.

CONDIES: Shoalhaven River

Lat. 34° 51 S. Long. 150° 32 E.

Friday 3rd to Monday, 6th October, 1980.

For the family long weekend, in excess of 40 people enjoyed good weather, camping or visiting for a day the Shoalhaven Council property on the north bank of the river. Although statistics are not of paramount importance for the club, it was interesting to note yet again how a longer stay in a particular area produces a much greater number of different bird species and breeding birds. The tally was 81 (53 passerines + 28 non-passerines) in comparison with the two previous records of 22 and 59.

By the campsite, a Yellow Robin's nest had 3 eggs while another further east alongside the cliff-face had 2 eggs. Near the swamp, the Grey Fantail had not yet laid in a nest 20 ft up. Welcome Swallows were feeding their young in nests; the Willie Wagtail had a nest near the river; and Magpie Larks were observed nestbuilding. A young Superb Lyrebird was heard calling for its parent. Regrettably, the Brown Thornbill's nest found the previous Saturday was destroyed along with the two chicks during the process of back-burning. Additional sightings to the previous visit included the migrants: Sacred Kingfisher, Dollarbird, Leaden Flycatcher and Rufous Fantail.

As surveyed before, walks were conducted east and west along the Shoalhaven River and part of the ridge. Of particular historical interest was the graveyard of the 'Pioneers of this District' of Bengally, the original spelling.

One night's spotlighting yielded only four greater gliders in a small pocket of gums near the driveway entrance plus four rabbits. Although Boobooks were heard in the area, none was close enough to be seen. Other wildlife observed were several black snakes, two spiny anteaters, and a brand new calf at a suck.

Sunday's walk through Red Rocks Nature Reserve is recorded in a separate report.

M.J.M.

RED ROCKS NATURE RESERVE: Cambewarra Range

Lat. 34 47 30 S. Long. 150 32 30 E.

Sunday, 5th October, 1980

As a variation to the habitat round Condies, the IBGC group visited the Red Rocks Nature Reserve north of Cambewarra in a different straggling square. A separate record was therefore made of bird sightings in this region along the ridge from the Cambewarra Lookout turn-off west and south-west towards Brown's Mountain trig point 625. A pair of Brown Falcon hovered over the paddocks on the party's climb up to the swamp, now

dried up after the drought. Here walking through the reeds was made easy, and a few Southern Emu-wrens were flushed out.

In the middle of the track a short distance from the trig point, an echidna immediately retreated into a ball. From the top of the range, fine views were had, across Condie and the Shoalhaven, with bushfire smoke imposing.

Tally: 32 species (27 passerines + 5 non-passerines).

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M.J.M.

THE FIVE ISLANDS

Lat. $34^{\circ} 29' S.$ Long. $150^{\circ} 55' 30'' E.$

Saturday, 15th November, 1980.

23 ISOC members were taken to Big Island by members of the Volunteer Coastal Patrol at 9 a.m. and picked up from the island at 3 p.m. Harry Batten, Bill and Lorraine Lane, Alan Leishman and three others were also there, banding young fairy penguins.

Although it appeared to be overcast on shore, it was sunny with a south-east breeze blowing on the island, which made for a pleasant day.

The first wave of silver gull breeding would have commenced at the end of August, and the young birds (runners) were almost independent. The second wave of nesting had begun with eggs being laid now.

The crested tern young were mainly runners with a few adults still sitting on eggs. A dead short-tailed shearwater was seen on the island. There were several fairy penguins nesting with young at varying sizes, ranging from very tiny to some losing their down. Large flocks of gulls and shearwaters were flying off-shore, mainly silver gulls and wedge-tailed shearwaters with a few fluttering shearwaters mixed in. Dominican gulls with some immatures were also seen.

On Martin Islet, a sealion was observed sunbaking. A White-faced Heron and three Whimbrels were also seen on this island.

An Arctic and pomarine skua* were seen harassing silver gulls in Port Kembla Harbour, and some Pied Oystercatchers flew over.

Total species: 17 non-passerines.

* First club sightings

N.W. & J.O.G.

Suggest you trim this & paste it
 into the front cover of State. Vol 1.
 J. H. Thomson

ILLINOIS BIRD CONSERVATION PLAN

BIRD ATLAS OF ILLINOIS

This was published in 1977 in list of "The Birds of the Royal National Park" prepared by E.S. Hopkins from the records of the late K.A. Hilsound. This list shows birds recorded over the years as having bred in the Park. We would expect that most of these would still be breeding there but attempting in this square as far has recorded breeding for some only. These birds not attested (at 14.7.80) as breeding are:

(30/30/15/30)

Atlas No.	Species	Atlas No.	Species
196	Black Bittern	472	Brown Thornbill
207	Mountain Duck	484	B-rump Thornbill
222	Sparrowhawk	471	Yellow Thornbill
224	Wedge Tail Eagle	589	Varied Sitella
227	Paragrine Falcon	558	White-throated T-creeper
229	Brown Falcon	560	B. Brow. T-creeper
240	Masked Kestrel	637	Little Wattlebird
014	Paint Brn. Quail	654	Sulphur Miner
027	Tophat Pigeon	605	Leah's Honeyeater
320	White-throated Nighthawk	614	Yellow-face Honeyeater
326	Sacred Kingfisher	617	White-ear. Honeyeater
429	Cicada Bird	619	Yellow-tuft. Honeyeater
416	Strike Tit	583	Bl. Headed Honeyeater
409	Grey Sh. Thrush	378	White-rump. Honeyeater
365	Leadon Flycatcher	620	Crescent Honeyeater
421	Eastern Whistlingbird	393	Tawny Cr. Honeyeater
426	Spotted Q. Thrush	364	Mistletoebird
322	Superb Bl. Wren	662	B. Brow. Firetail
306	Platibird	671	Olive S. Oriole
494	Large-bill. Scrub Wren	676	Green Catbird

J. H. Thomson
 D. H. THOMPSON,
 SUB-ED.

6.9.80.

The field atlasing started on 1.1.77 and finished 3 years later on 31.12.81.

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 30°30' South/150°30' East and has very roughly the same boundaries as the County of Canada. Mr. Doug Gibson published in 1977 "Birds of the County of Canada" 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 these birds the species so far (up to 14.7.80) not reported in atlasing as breeding are:

Atlas No.	Species	Atlas No.	Species
062	Hoary-headed Grebe	250	Mottled Owl
071	Short-tailed Shearwater	270	White-throated Nighthawk
189	White-necked Heron	358	White-necked Swallow
191	Beef Heron	409	Cicada Bird
193	Mangrove Heron	362	Rufous Fantail
192	Sandwich Night Heron	322	Little Grassbird
106	Black Bittern	563	Brown Songlark
222	Sparrowhawk	526	Southern Emu-wren
219	Swamp Sparrow	519	Eastern Wattlebird
235	Little Falcon	506	Platibird
045	Water Rail	494	Large-billed Scrub-Wren
176	Dusky Stomach-Curlew	501	Spotted Warbler
146	Tied Sillit	664	Verbill
025	Wompoo Pigeon	646	Little Friarbird
957	Dominant Pigeon	603	Rufous Honeyeater
029	Brown Pigeon	617	White-eared Honeyeater
030	Peaceful Dove	580	Black-necked Honeyeater
033	Emerald Dove	578	White-rumped Honeyeater
064	Wonga Pigeon	632	White-necked Honeyeater
265	Glossy Black Cuckoo	586	Scarlet Honeyeater
260	Little Lorikeet	432	Green Flybird
311	Swamp Parrot	676	Green Catbird
348	Channel-billed Cuckoo	544	Masked Woodswallow
249	Barn Owl		