



HUNTER BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB.

NEWSLETTER No. 5/82 June 1982 (Released monthly at Club Nights)

President: Fred van Gessel

Hon. Secretary: Kay Imrie

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Annual Subscription: Family \$6.00, Single \$5.00, School student \$1.00
Due on 1st January each year.

Meetings: Club Nights: 2nd Wednesday of each month (except January)
at the Garden Suburb School at 7.30 p.m.

Committee Meetings: 1st Monday of each month (public holidays
excepted) at Garden Suburb School at 8 p.m.

1. NOTES FROM THE MAY MEETING - 12th May 1982.

a) Attendance: 29 members and 5 visitors - a welcome was extended to the visitors and the new Junior member - Allan Raine.

b) BIRD OF THE EVENING. - Speaker - Arthur Williams.
Arthur dealt at some length on his subject of the Eastern Whipbird (*Psophodes olivaceus*) and in so doing demonstrated his wide knowledge of the bird, its habits, call, nest and eggs. Four colour slides were used to illustrate the talk. Many thanks, Arthur for a very comprehensive presentation.

c) SEA BIRD SLIDES - John O'Malley.
During the Cabbage Tree Island Sea Bird Trip in January, John took some excellent 'shots' of the Sea Birds which were seen. These included the Yellow-nosed and Shy Albatrosses; the Southern Great Petrel; the beautiful Gould Petrel and a variety of Shearwaters.

In thanking John for his contribution, our Chairman made mention of John's impending transfer to Sydney. John and his Wife, Sue have been very enthusiastic Club Members and have made no small contribution to our activities. They will be missed but we wish them all the best in their new sphere of activity.

d) OBSERVATIONS

Bill Cambridge: At Swansea, an almost black Kookaburra.

Jim Ralston: Black Swans nesting in the Tarro swamp, Jim also remarked on the number of road-killed Owls in the Lostock Dam area.

Tom Kendall: Silver Gulls on Blowering Dam at Tumut; behaviour of 18 Black-browed Albatrosses in the vicinity of a fishing trawler; a Wilson Storm Petrel; a Spangled Drongo on 1/5/82 at Rankin Park.

Sue Hamonet: Huge flocks of cormorants and many Silver Gulls on Keepit Dam; Chestnut-tailed Heathwren at Mt. Kaputar; 2 Black-browed Albatrosses off the beach at Redhead.

Fred van Gessel: Red-kneed Dotterel; White-headed Stilts and about 30 Avocets at Kooragang.

e) Main Feature - BUSH BIRDS by Greg Little.

Forty two slides were shown by Greg to illustrate his talk on some of the Australian bush birds. The area traversed covered both New South Wales and South Australia. For the most part the slides were excellent and served to demonstrate Greg's ability with his camera and his extensive knowledge of his subjects and their habits. Many thanks Greg for your absorbing and interesting offering.

2. FIELD DAY TO BOORAL/STROUD AREA, Sunday 23rd May 1982.

Thirteen personnel rolled up for this outing and although frost covered the ground as we started, the day developed into one of our perfect Hunter Valley autumn days.

The first stop was at the Grahamstown catchment area, with views of Musk Duck, Grey Teal, Shovelers, Pelicans, Swans and other water birds providing a good start to the day's Bird Watching. The next stop, at a dam where a large flock of Wood Duck had congregated, (Kay lost count after 140), afforded us with views also of Little Grebes, 2 Black Duck and along the edge, Masked Plovers and 2 Black-fronted Dotterels. A Whistling Kite and a Little Falcon were also observed overhead.

For the rest of the day, the birds stayed quiet and hard to find but despite this a pleasing total of 80 species was tallied at the end of the day. One of the highlights of the day was the sighting of a White-headed Pigeon (*Columba leucomela*) on the outskirts of Stroud.

Marion Walker.

3. ANNUAL DINNER

This year, the Annual Dinner is to be held on Friday 25th June at the Wallsend R.S.L. Club - commencing at 7 p.m.

Bookings are essential and may be made with Ed. Hamonet or Kay Imrie no later than Wednesday 23rd June. A deposit of \$2.00 per person is required to confirm the booking. Menu will be a la carte.

4. Notes from the Committee Meeting held on 7th June 1982. - held over til next Newsletter

5. COMING EVENTS

Week-end 12-14 June Flora and Fauna Camp at Kerrabee - details Don Morris 488629

Sunday 20th June - Field Day to Wentworth Swamp, Maitland, Morpeth
Meet at the OAK, Hexham at 9 a.m. Contact Kay Imrie: 524524

Friday 26th June - Annual Dinner - details above.

~~Sunday 4th~~
~~Saturday 3rd~~ July - Winter Wader Count - Details at June Meeting
Co-ordinator: Al Gillies. / *June Perry*

Monday 5th July - Management Committee meeting.

~~Sat~~
~~Sunday 10th~~ July - Second day of Winter Wader Count

Wednesday 14th July - Clubnight - Study night on PIGEONS and DOVES.

A Nostalgic Look Backwards

Did you know that the bathtub was invented in 1850, the telephone in 1875? Just think, if you had lived in 1850 you could have sat in the bath for 25 years without the phone ringing once.