

HUNTER BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB

NEWSLETTER No. 2/83 MARCH 1983 (Released monthly at Club nights)

President: Fred van Gessel  
Hon. Secretary: Kay Imrie, 25 Atherton Close, Rankin Park 2287  
Enquiries : Wilma Barden, 19 Carisbrooke Ave. Kotara. Phone: 573928

Annual Subscriptions : Family Rate \$6.00; Single \$5.00; School Student \$1.00  
(Due on 1st January each year)

Note: A RED CROSS at the head of this Newsletter indicates fees are due.

Club Badges: \$2.50 - available from the Treasurer.

Meetings: CLUB NIGHTS - 2nd Wednesday of each month (except January)  
at Garden Suburb School at 7.30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: First Monday of each month (Public holidays  
excepted) at Garden Suburb School at 8 p.m.

1. NOTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 1983 MEETING - Wednesday 9th February 1983.

a) Attendance - 35

A welcome was extended to two new members: Michael Noonan and Bill Reedman.

b) Annual Meeting

The first part of the evening was taken up with business  
pertaining to the Annual Meeting - principal aspects of which were:

i) The President's Annual Report - this was a concise summary of the year's  
activities and achievements. Membership had increased by over 53% and at  
the close of the year stood at 69; despite a heavy outlay on the purchase  
of Club B adges (\$253) income for the year exceeded expenditure and the  
opening balance for 1983 is \$183; during the year a Club Library was  
established and the Library catalogue lists some 18 volumes; the GOLDEN  
WHISTLER was selected as our Club emblem; Club badges bearing this emblem  
were purchased and to date over 50% of the initial order have been sold.

ii) The election of Officers and Committee members resulted as follows:

President : F.W.C. (Fred) van Gessel  
Vice President : J. W. (Jim) Perry  
Hon. Secretary : K.M. (Kay) Imrie  
Hon Treasurer : E.L. (Ed) Hamonet  
Committee Members : W.P. (Wilma) Barden; M.A. (Marion) Walker;  
W.J. (Bill) Cambridge; A. F. (Arthur) Williams  
Auditors : Messrs. R. Watson and H. Doherty

c) BIRD CALL OF THE EVENING - Sue Hamonet

The call of the beautiful Red-crowned Pigeon was the one chosen by Sue for the  
enlightenment of members - by contrast the call of the Purple-crowned Pigeon  
was also played but was not nearly as pleasant to listen to as the former.

d) BIRD OF THE EVENING - Bill Cambridge

The FRECKLED DUCK ( *Stictonetta naevosa*) being very much in the news of late,  
Bill thought it very appropriate to have it as the Bird of the Evening.

The meaning of the Scientific name is as follows: STICTOS = freckled;  
NETTA = duck; NAEVOSA = spotted.

Large numbers of these birds are currently inhabiting local wetland areas,  
due no doubt to the dry conditions west of the ranges. For identification  
purposes, the best guide is the unusual shape of the head and during the  
breeding season, the upper part of the bill of the male is a bright red.

A very good illustration of these ducks may be found in Peter Slater's book - 'Rare and Vanishing Australian Birds' - page 21. Look it up, the book is in our Club Library.

Thank you Bill for an interesting talk on the Freckled Duck.

e) Guest Speaker - MALCOLM McNAUGHTON.

Malcolm McNaughton served up for us a most enjoyable evening's entertainment - 'A glimpse at the art of Wildlife Illustration' - covering the aspects of Photograph and Painting.

His proven skills have been developed over many years and most of us would be familiar with Malcolm's work through published books and exhibitions of his paintings.

It was a well planned and perfectly executed manouvre and greatly appreciated by the large gathering of members present for this Annual Meeting night. Mouth-watering tidbits, to whet our appetites, tales and reminiscences and beautiful illustrations and colour slides.

Malcolm is not only a talented artist with both camera and brush, but has a very obvious love for his subjects and this sensitivity in approach clearly shows through in the finished article.

At the conclusion of his talk, our new Vice President, Jim Perry moved a vote of thanks and this was enthusiastically acclaimed by all present.

Sue Hamonet.

2. ANNUAL MIGRATION - 10th to 25th September 1983.

At a meeting held on 16/2/83 preliminary discussions were held and various sub committees were set up to consider certain aspects of the trip.

Current indications are that the tour will proceed across Western N.S.W. to Broken Hill and return via Mildura, Hattah Lakes (N.W. Victoria) and the Riverina area.

A further meeting is to be held on Wednesday 16/3/83 at 7.30 p.m. at the Garden Suburb School and all interested members are invited to attend.

3. BIRD BOOK FOR SALE

Due to an order mix up we have one copy of Graham Pizzey's book - A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA - for sale at the discounted price of \$18.00 - anyone interested, please see Ed. Hamonet.

Errata: In the February Newsletter for 'THE WRENS & WARBLERS OF AUSTRALIA' a price of \$37.50 was quoted - should have been \$35.70.

4. OBSERVATION RECORD BOOKS

These are placed on the Library table at Club Nights. Please write in your observations, as these are required not only for Club records but also to pass on to State recorders. In the interests of economy we have decided to discontinue publishing these observations in the Newsletter.

5. FIELD DAY - GRAHAMSTOWN DAM - Sunday 20th February 1983.

Due to a breakdown in communications no report has been received about this Field Day but according to the grapevine, there was a good attendance of 18+ and a record number of species (109) was recorded for the day.

## 6. LIBRARY CATALOGUE

In addition to various Booklets, Pamphlets and Magazine, the following books are available in our Library:

Australian Birds - Robin Hill  
 Australian Bird Spotters Book - H. Frauca  
 Australian Native Gardens and Birds - B. Salter  
 Beautiful Birds - Australian Womens Weekly  
 Birds of N.S.W. and Where to find them - R. Wheeler  
 Birds of the Sun - M. Sharland  
 Birds of the World - Nine volumes with illustrations  
 Common Australian Birds of Towns and Gardens - G. Chapman  
 Feather Fashions - R. Doughty  
 Finches and other Seed eating Birds - R. Restall  
 Great Bird Stories of Australia and New Zealand - J. Pollard  
 Hawks in Focus - J. & L. Cupper  
 In the Shadow of the Falcon - E. Clarkson  
 The Love of Birds - John Burton  
 Migration and Survival of Birds of Asia - H. McLure  
 Ornithology - an Introduction - A. Rand  
 Rare and Vanishing Australian Birds - P. Slater  
 Sixty Camera Studies of Australian Birds - Trounson & Clampett  
 The Wrens and Warblers of Australia - National Photographic Index.

## 7. COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 16th March 1983 - Planning meeting for Annual Migration  
 7.30 p.m. Garden Suburb School.

19 - 20 March Week-end Camp at DOYLES CREEK

Route directions: At Jerrys Plains watch for the Doyle's Creek signboard; approximately 20 km from Jerrys Plains, the Doyle's Creek road leaves the Denman road. Watch for H.B.O.C. signs from this point.

Contact person : Wilma Barden.

1-2-3-4- April - EASTER CAMP at the VICKERY STATE FOREST.

Rendezvous point: Gunnedah Park at 9 a.m. Contact: Kay Imrie

Monday 11th April - Management Committee meeting at 8 p.m.

Wednesday 13th April - Club Night - Guest Speaker: Graeme Phipps.

## 8. SUMMER WADER COUNT.

The Summer Wader Count was held over the week-ends of 5/6 and 12/13 February and covered the area extending from Port Stephens to south of Swansea. All told 7119 birds were counted involving 27 species and our thanks are due to all the members who participated and in particular to Jim Perry who organised the counters and collated the results. Details are:

Pied Oystercatcher	2	Greenshank	100
Masked Plover	173	Marsh Sandpiper	24
Eastern Golden Plover	543	Terek Sandpiper	70
Red-kneed Dotterel	37	Japanese Snipe	35
Mongolian Dotterel	134	Black-tailed Godwit	400
Large-billed Dotterel	2	Bar-tailed Godwit	786
Red-capped Dotterel	101	Red Knot	20
Black-fronted Dotterel	30	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	737
Pied Stilt	256	Pectoral Sandpiper	2
Red-necked Avocet	103	Red-necked Stint	367
Turnstone	18	Curlew Sandpiper	2235
Eastern Curlew	822	Broad-billed Sandpiper	8
Whimbrel	67	Hudsonian Godwit	1
Grey-tailed Tattler	46	Total	<del>7119</del>
Freckled Duck	106.		8568

Bird Call

W. Barden : Blue-faced H/E    Myall Lakes    Widdien Valley  
                 Restless f/c    Seavann    Putty Rd.

Bird of The Evening

J. Imrie : Northern Scrub-Robin

" of the woods " " mark above the eye "

~~Noting~~ Spice Finches