



# Hunter Bird Observers Club

NEWSLETTER No. 7/8 - 83 August/September, 1983 (Released monthly at Club Nights)

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

Club Badges \$2.50 - available from Treasurer (Ed. Hamonet)

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

Management Committee: 1st Monday of each month (Public holidays  
excepted) at 7.30 p.m.

## 1. NOTES FROM THE JULY MEETING - Wednesday 13th July 1983.

a) Attendance - 26 - quite good for a chilly night.

b) BIRD CALL OF THE EVENING - Sue Hamonet

The Call played was that of the BROWN HONEYEATER (*Lichmera indistincta*). The powers of the song are considerable; the most frequently repeated note being remarkably shrill, rich, clear and distinct in tone resembling somewhat the Reed Warbler and the Jacky Winter.

c) BIRD OF THE EVENING - Wilma Barden

Wilma gave us an interesting and in depth talk about the SPOTTED CATBIRD (*Ailuroedus melanotis*) which is only found in the coastal region of the far north east coast of Queensland - no doubt our Iron Range tourists will be looking for this one. The bird is found in tropical and subtropical rainforests and its call is a distinctive nasal meow. Thank you Wilma for a comprehensive address on this less well known member of the Bowerbird family.

d) GUEST SPEAKER - Mr. W. R. (Bill) POPE.

The subject of Bill's talk was finches. Both Bill and his Father have been breeding finches for many years and as a result he was able to speak with confidence and authority about the habits of many of our native finches and especially the beautiful Gouldian Finch. To illustrate his comments, Bill brought along 12 live specimens for us to view and this helped to reinforce some of the points he had made in his talk. A viewing of some 30 slides, provided courtesy of the B.O.C. Slide Library also helped to enhance what we had seen and heard. Arthur Williams in moving a vote of thanks commended Bill for his presentation of a most interesting talk on those engaging little birds - our Australian Finches.

## 2. FIELD DAY to ELLALONG - Sunday 24th July 1983.

Eight hardy souls braved the almost zero temperature (at dawn) to participate in the field day to the Ellalong district. This was subsequently extended to also take in the Congewai Creek area.

Birdwise, the day proved to be very profitable as 86 species were recorded. This was 3 more than were seen in September 1976 but did not include 21 species which were seen in 1976 but not in 1983. Highlights were: White-breasted Sea-Eagle, Swamp Harrier, Wonga Pigeon, a pair of Azure Kingfishers, Rose Robin and some excellent viewings of a splendid male Scarlet Robin.

3. CLUB NOTES

a) NEWSLETTER

Due to the absence in North Queensland of the majority of our Management Committee during August, the September Newsletter has been combined with the August issue. For this reason there will be no issue of a Newsletter at the September meeting.

b) LIBRARY

Eva van De Werken, our Librarian will also be visiting Iron Range and Herma Reedman has kindly consented to look after the Library details until Eva returns.

c) SLIDE LIBRARY

Our Slide Library, we are pleased to report, is an established fact. The first donor with 115 slides was Wilma Barden - thank you Wilma. Per medium of Wilma we also received 37 slides from a recent American visitor - Bob Randall. We are therefore, off to a flying start and if any member has slides of birds, nests or habitat, which are surplus to your own requirements kindly hand same to Michael Noonan who has 'volunteered' to act as Slide Librarian.

4. HAVE YOU SEEN ANY CATTLE EGRETS WEARING WING TAGS ?

In an effort to learn more about their movements, WING TAGS are being attached to Cattle Egrets by Neil McKilligan of Toowoomba and by Darryl Reimer of Warwick. For the past three years, banders in south-east Queensland and north-east N.S.W. have been applying colour bands to the legs of Cattle Egret chicks. It is hoped that the use of WING TAGS will result in a greater number of sightings of marked birds than has been the case with colour bands.

Each Cattle Egret colony has been allocated its own tag colour and each tag bears a combinations of two letters or numbers. Persons sighting a tagged Cattle Egret are asked to notify David Purchase, Australian Bird-Banding Scheme P.O. Box 84 Lyneham A.C.T. 2602, supplying him with details of the place and date of the sighting, the tag colour and its inscription and the appearance of the bird (e.g. if in breeding plumage).

5. COMING EVENTS

Sunday 21st August - FIELD DAY to German Point, WATAGAN MOUNTAIN  
Meet at The Oak, FREEMANS WATERHOLE at 8 a.m.  
Contact: Tom Douglass - 548778

Saturday 10th September - Contingent leaves for the Annual Migration to Western New South Wales.

Sunday 11th September - HALF DAY - Hexham Swamp.  
Meet at The Oak, Hexham at 7 a.m.  
Contact: Tom Douglass, 548778

Sunday 25th September - TARONGA PARK ZOO  
Contact - Tom Douglass, 548778

Week-end 1/2/3/ October - Three day Camp in the WIDDEN VALLEY  
Contact - Wilma Barden, 573928

Monday 5th September - Management Committee meeting at 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 14th September - CLUB NIGHT - Study night on Parrots

Monday 10th October - Management Committee Meeting

Wednesday 12th October - CLUB NIGHT - Guest Speaker : Walter Boles from the Australian Museum.