



Hunter Bird Observers Club

NEWSLETTER No. 2 -84 March 1984 (Released monthly at Club Nights)

President: Jim Perry

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Annual Subscriptions: Family rate, \$6.00; Single, \$5.00; School Student \$
(due on 1st January each year)

Club Badges)
Car Stickers) Available from Club Treasurer
Handlist of the Birds in N.S.W. \$5.25)

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 FEBRUARY MEETING - 8th February 1984

If February's meeting was any indication of what is in store, then it would appear that 1984 has potential for a highly successful year.

a) ANNUAL MEETING

Very deftly, Jim Perry chaired the meeting and commenced by extending a welcome to all before proceeding with the business of the A.G.M.

b) ATTENDANCE: 34. A welcome is extended to the following new members: Jean Chambers, Peter Hicks, Pauline Rodgers-Lee and Allan Richards.

c) ANNUAL REPORT

In the absence of Fred van Gessel, Jim Perry read the well compiled summary of 1983's accomplishments, activities and miscellaneous business. The report included:

Membership Seventy eight members including twenty new members.

Lecturers Various visiting guests.

Camps and Outings Including accompanying information on attendance,
Bird totals, Human migration etc.

Library Books purchased and donated.

Slide Library Well established with 318 colour slides including 259 species.

Finance Major items of Income were : subscriptions \$280 and proceeds from the Sea Bird trip, \$150. Expenditure included \$139.60 for Car Stickers and \$157.88 for the Slide Projector. All told the expenditure exceeded income by \$53 but the credit balance brought forward from 1982 enabled the Club to commence 1984 with a credit balance of \$145.

d) Election of Officers:

The following Officers were elected for 1984:

Election of Officers:

PRESIDENT	J.W. (Jim) PERRY
VICE PRESIDENT	W.P. (Wilma) BARDEN
Hon. SECRETARY	K.M. (Kay) IMRIE
Hon. TREASURER	E.L. (Ed.) HAMONET

Committee Members (in addition to the above): W.J.(Bill) Cambridge, M.A. (Marion) Walker, A.F. (Arthur) Williams and Rosemary Waymark.

In addition to the foregoing the following appointments were confirmed by the Management Committee:

Librarian	E.C (Eva) Van De Werken
Slide Librarian	G.M. (Michael) Noonan
Club Projector Operator	Arthur Williams
Enquiries Officer	Wilma Barden
Newsletter Editor	Ed. Hamonet
Newsletter D istributor	J.D. (Jim) Imrie
Gear Steward	Jim Perry

e) BIRD CALL OF THE EVENING Jim Perry. The BARKING OWL (*Ninox connivens*)

A repetitive barking call (not to be confused with the Boobook Owl. The Barking Owl can produce a high vacillating scream, hence the name sometimes referring to it - 'screaming woman' bird.

f) BIRD OF THE EVENING - Marion Walker - PIED CURRAWONG (*Strepera fuliginosa*)

Marion chose what she felt was a bird very often overlooked, perhaps considered by many a nuisance.

With a hint of a warmly sentimental theme regarding her old home environment and the ever present Currawong, the information unfolded with attention drawn to the melodious variants of the appealing calls of the bird. The Grey Currawong (*Strepera versicolor*) was also referred to.

g) MAIN FEATURE - Slides and accompanying recording of the IBIS of AUSTRALIA.

This fascinating bird was depicted during ancient Egyptian civilization. It is reported to be extinct in Egypt today.

A distinguishing feature of the Ibis is the decurved mandible used skilfully in probing exercises in search of food in the 'shallows' and mud flats. One slide in the collection focussed exclusively on a mandible. The male mandible is usually longer than the female. Ibis are often recorded in large flocks; breed in little colonies; generally lay three to six eggs on a nest, best described as a platform of sticks. With apparent ease they are able to soar to great heights.

Attention: To assist research:

Should any ornithologist have close enough sightings of Ibis to notice whether or not the birds are banded, the following should occur:- Endeavour to observe and record

- a. location
- b. Colour of bands
- c. Which leg the bands were placed

and forward the information to our Club Secretary.

Notes by Jan Hunter.

2. DILGRY RIVER CAMP - 24/25 February 1984.

Twenty five persons including Judy and Jim Cook from the Manning River Club attended the above week-end. Having experienced the soaking at Woko, we found the inclement weather not to our liking but bearable. The road through Copeland was something of a nightmare but otherwise the road conditions were acceptable.

Dilgry Camp (Cont)

Camp was set up in ideal surroundings in the Cobark Forest Park. The camp shelter kindly donated by Wilma B arden proved to be very acceptable for our get together in the rain on Saturday evening. Our thanks to Jim Perry and Bill Cambridge for the transportation of same.

All told 79 species were recorded - in view of the state of the weather, this was considered to be a reasonable effort. Probably the most interesting sightings were: a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles, a Brown Falcon, a Topknot Pigeon, a Scaly Thrush, many good sightings of Lyrebirds and perhaps the most pleasing the Flame, Rose and Scarlet Robins which were most evident throughout the week-end.

3. NOTICE BOARD

The Management Committee has decided to accept Kay Imrie's suggestion that a NOTICE BOARD be utilised on Club Nights to display items which would take up too much space in the Newsletter.

The attention of members attending Club nights is drawn to this innovation and are urged to consult same - you may find something of interest.

4. ORIENTAL CUCKOO (*Cuculus saturatus*) - Report on sighting.

Observed by Jeanette Stephenson and Rosemary Waymark on 30/1/84.

Location: approximately 3 Kms east of Woko National Park Camp site.

Site: In a lower branch of a small cedar tree on the south side of the Manning River.

Points noted: Slate grey head; pale grey throat; heavily barred on breast; white on top of wings; yellow feet.

Behaviour: Observed sitting very still for about 5 minutes, then proceeded to preen itself, moved lower down the branch and appeared to be taking grubs or insects from the underside of the bark. Observed for 15 - 20 minutes and still in the same position on the tree when left.

5. COMING EVENTS

Sunday 25th March - Field day to STANHOPE CREEK

Meet at the OAK, Hexham at 7 a.m.. Leader & Contact: Jim Perry 432496

Easter Week-end 20-23 April * Coopernock.

Thanks to our friends of the Manning River Club, our Easter Camp is now to be held at the COOPERNOOK FOREST PARK - final details will be in the April Newsletter but the contact person will be Kay Imrie.

Sunday 20 May - Field day to BROKE/BULGA

Meet at the OAK, Hexham at 7 a.m. Contact Sue Hamonet, 581023

Week-end 9/10/11 June. Camp in Myall Lakes area.

Location yet to be finalised.

Sunday 24 June - Field Day to Swansea South

Wednesday 11th April Club Night.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Max Maddock who will talk about the Egret colony in the Shortland Swamp.

Monday 2nd April - Management Committee Meeting.

6. REMINDER

Annual Subs are now due - a red cross on your Newsletter may indicate that you have overlooked this matter.