



Hunter Bird Observers Club

NEWSLETTER No. 3/84 April 1984 (Released monthly at Club Nights)

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

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

Car Stickers \$ 1.50

Handlist of the Birds in N.S.W.) Available from Club Treasurer.

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 MARCH MEETING - 14th March 1984.

a) Attendance - 30

b) BIRD CALL OF THE EVENING - Sue Hamonet - Chiming Wedgebill (*Psophodes occidentalis*) (*Psophodes* = noisy; *occidentalis* = western)

Perhaps campanologists from famous Abbeys have been inspired by the call of the western race of the Wedgebill, aptly named the Chiming Wedgebill. Both sexes have similar calls which consist of a bar of four to six descending notes. Constant repetition of the call can become monotonous.

c) BIRD OF THE EVENING - QUIRK OF THE EVENING ! Librarian - Eva Van De Werken

When next covering our valuable ornithological books I'm sure we will think of Eva. Covering books well requires certain skills as Eva displayed. To assist, a few of her important and useful hints follow: remember:-

heavy duty three gauge plastic - book to be kept in closed position
approximately 2" (5cm) lap - working on to the cover
the slant to hinge - removing bulk from corners
vinyl based sticky tape (10 pieces)

d) MAIN FEATURE - Jim Perry - ORNITHOLOGISTS' ARM-CHAIR SAFARI !

President, Jim Perry, entertainingly retraced steps of a holiday he and three other enthusiastic members enjoyed approximately six months ago. Members of the group were Wilma Barden, Rosemary Waymark, Bill Cambridge and Jim Perry and the location chosen included territory in western New South Wales; Mallee Cliffs, Menindee, Kinchega National Park and Wilcannia.

Aided by anecdotes and numerous B.O.C. slides, examples of sightings were screened. A grand total of 187 birds was recorded, quite an achievement. A highly abridged list follows: Blue-faced honeyeater (*Entomyzon cyanotis*); Spotted bowerbird (*Chlamydera maculata*); Red-necked avocet (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*); Blue-billed duck (*Oxyura australis*); Blue bonnet (*Northiella haematogaster*); Red-backed kingfisher (*Halcyon pyrrhopygia*); White-winged wren (*Malurus leucopterus*)

Jan Hunter.

2. STANHOPE CREEK OUTING - Sunday 25th March.

Perhaps members' spirits had been completely dampened by the rain of the preceding days. Sunday 25th also looked doubtful at 6.15 a.m. with a heavy fog and overcast skies. However, six 'braves' met at the Oak and set forth. We were rewarded with a magnificent day - if anything - too hot and humid.

Stanhope creek was at its best with waterfalls thundering down. Of course, we weren't able to go up the creek as easily as on previous visits but did manage to reach the first fall by some intrepid rock-hopping.

Most observations were made from the high level track which climbs up the side of the valley. Right at the top, in a large dead eucalypt, were Dusky Woodswallows, Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows. All were busy 'hawking' insects.

Some 63 species were recorded and highlights were a pair of Wood Duck with twelve ducklings, about half grown, and a Lewin's Honeyeater trying to hover like an Eastern Spinebill while making several attempts before finally succeeding to snatch a large spider from its web. Kay Imrie.

3. The 1984 SUMMER WADER COUNT 4/5 and 11/12 February

The thanks of the R.A.O.U. Wader Studies Co-ordinator, Brett Lane and Alan Morris as Co-ordinator for N.S.W. were extended to the 78 plus people, including 14 members of the H.B.O.C who helped with the February Wader Count. Certainly the count was the best effort yet for N.S.W. with only one major estuary being missed (Macleay). The exceptionally wet summer however meant that all the inland lakes were brimming over and hence had no exposed mud for waders to feed, and despite the increased coverage therefore inland, fewer birds were found.

Many coastal lakes and swamps were similarly affected and for those who worked so hard for so few birds we can only express our thanks and our regret. H.B.O.C. members counted 7002 waders, the largest counts being as follows:

	Kooragang	Pt. Stephens	Shortland Swamp.
Bar-tailed Godwit	1720		
Eastern Curlew	653	363	
Black-tailed Godwit	600		
Lesser Golden Plover	500		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		406	
Greenshank	177		
Japanese Snipe			67
Marsh Sandpiper	50		
Whimbrel	37	37	

4. LIBRARY NEWS.

Our Librarian advises that the following books have been added to our collections:

WATERFOWL IN AUSTRALIA - H.J. Frith
 BIRD LIFE - Ian Rowley
 BIRDS FOR BEGINNERS (How Birds Live and Behave)
 by J.D. Macdonald.
 BIRDS of MAN's WORLD - Derek Goodwin
 TASMANIAN BIRD ATLAS.

In addition the Management Committee has decided to purchase for the Library a copy of THE ATLAS OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS - due for release in June.

5. BIRD CLUB S/ ASSOCIATIONS.

We have been requested to supply the addresses of other Bird Clubs and related organisations - the list (not exhaustive) is as follows:

The BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB
183 Springvale Road, NUNAWADING
P.O. Box 185 Nunawading Vic. 3131

The ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION
21 Gladstone Street,
MOONEE PONDS VIC. 3039

ILLAWARRA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB
18 Achilles Avenue
NORTH WOLLONGONG 2500

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
C/- The South Australian Museum
North Terrace
Adelaide S.A. 5000

Manning Valley BIRDWATCHERS CLUB
51 George Street,
CUNDLETOWN 2430
(Hon. Sec - Marie Langdown)

SUNRAYSIA BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB
P.O. Box 1722
Mildura Vic. 3500

N.S.W. FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CLUB
P.O. Box C436 Clarence St.
SYDNEY 2000
(Hon. Sec. Norma Max well)

• COMING EVENTS

EASTER CAMP 20-23 April in the COOPERNOOK FOREST PARK

Members intending to participate in this camp are advised to obtain an information sheet setting out relevant details from Ed. Hamonet.

Sunday 20th May - FIELD DAY to the Broke/Bulga Area.
Meet at the Oak, Hexham at 7 a.m. Contact: Sue Hamonet

Week-end 9/10/11. ^{June} The camp scheduled for the Myall Lakes area will be dependent on accessibility - should this prove a NO NO an alternative site will be arranged - further details in the May Newsletter.

WINTER WADER COUNT - Two week-ends: 30 June/1st July and 7/8 July

Sunday 22nd July - A visit to the Australian Museum in Sydney to view the Museum's collection of thousands of Bird 'Skins'.

To preserve these specimens, naphthalene is the principal agent used. Odours from this chemical are prevalent in the storage area and on a previous visit some members found these fumes overpowering.

Wednesday 9th May - CLUB NIGHT.

The main feature will be a study of CRAKES and RAILS - bring along your Bird book(s) and try and do some homework before the meeting.

Monday 30th April - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING.

NOTE: Because of the School Holidays this meeting has been brought forward by 1 week.

7 NEW EDITOR.

This is my last effort (after six years) as Editor of the Club's Newsletter and I would like to thank all who have submitted copy and assisted in any way with the publication of our News sheet.

The New Editor, is Bronwyn Taylor; I wish her success in her new venture and trust that members will give her their fullest support and co-operation.

Ed. Hamonet

8. STOP PRESS and URGENT. The Tasmanian Shore Bird Group has colour-banded RED-NECKED STINTS and CURLEW SANDPIPERS. (Yellow on breast and green underwing) Please keep a look-out for these birds as they move North and report any sightings to our Secretary.