



Hunter Bird Observers Club

NEWSLETTER No. 5/84. June 1984. (Released monthly at Club Nights.

President: Jim Perry

Hon. Secretary: Kay Imrie

Telephone Enquiries: Wilma Barden - 573928

Correspondence: Box 24 P.O. New Lambton, N.S.W. 2305.

Newsletter Editor: Bronwyn Taylor. 595692.

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 Jan) 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 MAY MEETING - 9th May, 1984.

a) Attendance - 25

b) BIRD CALL OF THE EVENING - Dot Bates. ROSE ROBIN (*Petroica rosea*)

The call has been described as a "sucession of low, weak piping notes" and Dot felt that the tone of this bird was difficult for some to hear.

c) BIRD OF THE EVENING. Arthur Williams. Once again Arthur entertained us with his vast knowledge of birds and their habits, this time his subject being the Southern Emu Wren (*stipiturus malachurus*). The Southern Emu Wren is a very shy bird, mainly seen in pairs or pairs and 3 young. Their numbers maybe more than documented because of their secretive nature. The tail, six feathered and emu-like, is unique and striking. The overall length is 150-170mm, 115mm of which is tail. Call is similar to blue wrens but much higher pitched. The nest is globular, made from bark and grass lined with fur, down and grass seeds. Breeding takes place in September with the female building the nest and incubating the eggs. The feeding is shared by both sexes.

d) MAIN FEATURE: CRAKES AND RAILS. The main feature of the evening was a "back to school night" with a study session on the Crakes and Rails excellently prepared and co-ordinated by Kay Imrie who co-erced a number of us into reading aloud the informative notes by torch-light with the accompaniment of slides from our expanding club slide library. The genus studied were the Crakes, Rails, Gallinules, Coot and Swamphen which covered fourteen species, ten of them from N.S.W. A creditable attempt was made to get our tongues around the latin names which were included in Kay's notes along with information on the distribution, appearance, characteristics, nesting and feeding habits of these birds which seldom venture far from water. I'm sure wee all came away better informed about these birds and thank Kay for her efforts.

Peter Nelson.

2. FIELD DAY to BULGA/BROKE - Sunday 20th May, 1984.

Fourteen members and one visitor journeyed to Bulga and Broke for a cool but pleasant day's birding.

Among the gathering we were pleased to welcome 'first time' Nancy Chopping

Numberwise the day was not a raging success but then this can be expected at this time of the year.

The more interesting sightings included, Rose, Scarlet and Red-capped Robins, the Striped Honeyeater and a pair of raucous Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. Total for the day was 74.

Thank you to Arthur Williams who led the expedition and even managed to ensure that we negotiated the entrance to the numerous vineyards without detouring to sample their wares.

Ed. Hamonet.

3. MUNGHORN GAP. Long Weekend 9-11 June 1984.

Thirteen members including 3 children attended the camp at Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve which is some 35 kms north east of Mudgee. This year unlike 1982 everyone found their way without any trouble. This weekend was originally planned for Myall Lakes but was changed because of poor road access.

The highlights were: Crested Bellbird (*Oreocica gutturalis*), Black-Chinned Honeyeater (*Melithreptus gularis*), Brown Quail (*Coturnix australis*) Spotted Quail-Thrush (*Cinelosoma punctatum*), Regent Honeyeaters (*Xanthomyza phrygia*), and numerous Yellow-Tufted and White-Plumed Honeyeaters.

The weather was mainly mild with a slight breeze during the day and during the night fairly cool with zephyrs blowing around our ears. On the way home most members drove through the Goulburn River National Park and Merriwa, which was much more relaxing than going on the other dusty bumpy dirt road.

Some 91 species were recorded with much help from the water and creeks which were mainly dry on the previous visit in 1982.

Mathew Stephenson Aged 10.

We congratulate Mathew on his fine effort of reporting.

BOOK RELEASE! Oxford University Press have written to advise us that they are publishing in facsimile form "NORTH'S NESTS & EGGS OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS" originally published in 1901. They are offering this book to members for the month of June only at the special price of \$65.00. An extra discount of \$5.00 per copy will be deducted from this offer on quantity orders of five copies or more, ie at \$60.00 per copy. See Noticeboard for more information.

4. COMING EVENTS

Sunday 24 June - FIELD DAY TO SWANSEA STH.

Meet: 7.30 A.M. Coles Car Park - BELMONT. Contact: R. Waymark
751819

Leader: S. Hamonet.

Weekend (39) June/1 July - WINTER WADER COUNT
Newcastle Area.

Weekend 7/8 July - WINTER WADER COUNT
Port Stephens area.

Sunday 22nd July - Trip to Australian Museum cancelled due to
unforeseen circumstances.
FIELD DAY TO CESSNOCK AREA. Meet at Oak 7.30 a.m.
Contact: Kay Imrie. 524524.

Sunday 19th August - FIELD DAY TO MONKERAI. Meet at Oak. 7.30 a.m.

Wednesday 11th July - CLUB NIGHT. Main Feature, PELICANS.

Monday 2nd July - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Meeting at 7.30 p.m.

Oct 20th - Nov 3rd. ANNUAL MIGRATION COUNT
Northern N.S.W. - Southern Qld.
Meeting at end of Club Night.

5. LIBRARY NEWS.

New addition to the library - SKETCHBOOK OF BIRDS.

STOP PRESS! BILL LANE- FELLOW of the ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS
UNION. - At the Annual Meeting of the R.A.O.U. in May 1983,
the Council's recommendation that MR. S.G. LANE be
elected a Fellow was unanimously accepted.
Members of the H.B.O.C. will wish to express to Bill our
very warmest congratulations on this important occasion.
We who have had the pleasure of banding with Bill and
Lorraine know the great value of the contribution both
have made in this field.
Bill has always impressed us with his vast knowledge and
and his readiness to share the knowledge with others.
His tremendous enthusiasm for birds and the gentle and
caring way he goes about his banding tell of his abiding
interest in ornithology.
We know the honour is very well deserved.

6. BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB, Victoria - We recently received a letter
from the B.O.C.(following page). Please read carefully. The committee
looks to the members for suggestions.

6. NEWSFLASH! How do you get close to a unique bird?

You "neek" up on it!

Post Office Box 185
Nunawading, Vic. 3131
Australia

Telephone: (03) 877 5342



BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB

183 Springvale Road, Nunawading, Victoria 3131

25th May, 1984.

Dear Sir, Madam,

You will no doubt have read in the April issue of the Bird Observer that the Council of the Bird Observers Club have established the AUSTRALIAN BIRD ENVIRONMENT FUND (ABEF) with the following objectives.

To protect native birds by ensuring the continued presence of habitat appropriate to their needs.

To provide financial aid to support projects of the following types:

- * ensuring permanence of habitat for native birds.
- * preventing disappearance of habitat occupied by native birds.
- * promoting the construction and extension of suitable habitat for native birds.
- * providing better facilities for birds in their habitats e.g. establishment of dams and watering points, shelter belts, nest boxes and nesting holes, protection of breeding colonies, provision of food plants and feeding stations.
- * supporting management of habitat requirements for native birds.
- * supporting education programmes leading towards better public understanding of birds and their needs from the environment.

It would be appreciated if you could advise any interested members of your organisation that these funds are available. Special application forms have been designed and these are available from the ABEF Secretary at 54 Dempster Avenue, North Balwyn or from the BOC at its headquarters in Nunawading.

Funds will be distributed twice yearly. Closing date for applications is 30th June, 1984 and 31st October, 1984. All persons making application for funding will be advised of results following the assessment in the first weeks of July and again in November.

We look forward to hearing from some of your members in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara J. Longmuir, Secretary
Australian Bird Environment Fund.

Secretary,
54 Dempster Avenue,
NORTH BALWYN. 3104.

We care about birds.