



Hunter Bird Observers Club

NEWSLETTER NO. 6/84. July 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 Jan. each year)

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

Car Stickers \$1.50

Handlist of the Birds in N.S.W.

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 JUNE MEETING - 13th June, 1984.

a) Attendance - 30 We welcome new members Alan Keating, Margaret Smith & Norm and Beth Mullard.

b) MAIN FEATURE - i) Foreign Objects in the nests of Terrestrial Nesting Birds. Hassan El Taher. The object of the experiments carried out by Hassan was to see if birds of the same species were able to accept dummy or foreign eggs.

A series of tests were carried out using the Black Swan and Dusky Moorhen as subjects, the former being the more co-operative of the two. The swan would accept any no. of eggs in her nest, as well as accepting all colours permanently. Further tests included large eggs - 6 times larger than the swan's egg. This was rejected as she was unable to balance herself. Perf rated eggs were also rejected where as wooden eggs of equal size and weight were accepted.

The Dusky Moorhen, the second bird subjected to Hassan's tests became quite agitated and abandoned the nest so further experiments were suspended. Many thanks to Hassan for an interesting talk.

MAIN FEATURE - ii) Audio Visual by Arthur Austin - GLENROCK RECREATION AREA.

For the second of our Main Features we were privileged to view another of Arthur's fine displays, this time on the proposed Glenrock Recreation Area.

Along with the many birds featured were slides of aboriginal rubbing marks, abandoned mine shaft, plant life, beetles, snakes, native plants and some beautiful fungi. Also shown were the different types of vegetation found in the area - altogether a very fine effort. I think we are very fortunate in our club to have the talents of people such as Arthur and this was acknowledged at the close of his presentation.

2. SWANSEA SOUTH. 24th June, 1984

Seventeen members attended the June outing, and it was nice to welcome Norm and Beth Mullard on their first field trip with the club. There was much cloud cover, but this kept the temperature fairly comfortable during the morning.

First stop was made at the Sclerophyll woodland area adjacent to the former rubbish dump, and from here we proceeded along the Lakefront to the Nesca Park area. Many birds were active during the early part of the morning, and good views were had of the Regent Bowerbird, various Honeyeaters, the Grey Goshawk (by Arthur), and sundry small species. At Nesca Park, along the bank of the creek we found the Southern Emu Wren in good numbers, Scarlet Honeyeaters, large parties of Variegated Wrens, and had very good viewing of three Topknot Pigeons. From here we drove to the coast at Swansea Heads, where the view overlooking Moon Island was rather unrewarding, with very little of interest about. Lunch was eaten at the Swansea Flats area, overlooking the sandspits in Lake Macquarie. Here we found Double-banded Dotterels, Godwits, Mangrove and Reef Herons, Mangrove Warbler (Rosemary), Pied Oystercatcher and Crested and Caspian Terns. In all 74 species were recorded for the day, before and icy North-East wind called a rather early halt to the day.

Sue Hamonet.

3. SAFARI. SEPTEMBER 1985.

There is an opportunity for the Annual Migration for 1985 to take the form of a fully escorted 4-wheel drive safari from Darwin to various parts of the Northern Territory from September 13th, 1985. The cost per person at present is quoted at \$800.00 for three weeks. Everything is supplied by the operator except your sleeping bag. The return super apex fare from Newcastle via Sydney to Darwin is \$508.70 (at present). So if you're interested please inform the Secretary. We need 10 starters to confirm our tentative booking. ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR BOOKING is 31ST, AUGUST, 1984!!! Deposit \$200.00.

4. A NEW HONEYEATER?

A Spangled Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) has been around our backyard for several weeks. It often sits out on an exposed branch of a eucalypt and then takes off to catch a passing insect. However, one morning about 11.30 am I observed it for some five minutes busily taking nectar from a Grevillia "Pink Surprise". After it had finished its "desert" it sat again on its favourite branch and spent a couple of minutes fastidiously cleaning its bill by scraping it on the branch. It then had a refreshing dip in the bird bath and headed off into the thicker trees beyond our yard. Close examination of the grevillia did not reveal any insects so the Drongo was the "Honeyeater of the Day." P.S. Pizzey does say "takes nectar from blossoms."

4. LIBRARY NEWS.

As our library is ever expanding it has become necessary for our Librarian, Eva, to take on an assistant. This will be Rosemary Waymark, whom along with Eva will be implementing new procedures. From now on it is necessary for Rosemary or Eva to books in and out, and as previously mentioned, a list of the books in the library has been compiled which will be left on the library table each club night. This has been brought about because it is now impossible to show our full range

of books. Any further enquiries please see Eva or Rosemary.

5. ANNUAL MIGRATION - NORTH COAST MIGRATION.

There will be a meeting for all interested parties at the close of the meeting tonight.

6. COMING EVENTS.

Sunday 22nd July - FIELD DAY to CESSNOCK STATE FOREST.

Meet: OAK at 7.30 a.m. Contact: Kay Imrie
524424 534

Sunday 19th August - FIELD DAY to MONKERAI

Meet: OAK at 7.00 a.m. Contact: Jim Perry 432496
Leader: Wilma Barden

Weekend 29-30 Sept & 1 Oct. CAMP at 'Carlton' GUNNEDAH

Meet: Gunnedah Park

Time: 11.00 a.m.

Contact: Sue & Ed Hamonet

Wednesday 8th August - CLUB NIGHT - Guest Speaker: COLIN DRISCOLL

Monday 6th August - COMMITTEE MEETING.
