

Hunter Bird Observers Club



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1. NOTES FROM NOVEMBER MEETING.

a) ATTENDANCE: 34. Apologies from Paul & Irene Osborn, and Auriol Royds.

b) BIRD CALL presented by Greg Little. Golden Whistler: during Spring and early Summer the bush rings with the melodious calls of this bird. The typical song is a brisk, rising 'dee-dee-dee-ah-WHIT', this last note being a sharp cracking sound. The female Golden Whistler also sings during the breeding season.

c) BIRD OF THE EVENING presented by Bill Knight: Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*). This bird is neither cuckoo nor shrike, but superficially resembles some cuckoos in its slender physique and plumage, and shrikes in the sturdy, workmanlike bill. Cuckoo-shrikes are distributed throughout Australia, and almost always may be seen during a stroll in local parks and woodlands. It is a cheerful sight as it folds and refolds its wings upon alighting, a characteristic which gives rise to the common name 'Shufflewing'. Bill gave an account of observation he and Gillian made of a pair of Cuckoo-shrikes which nested at Beresfield recently. The pair used the previous year's shallow nest, about 12 ft. up in a Casuarina tree. Two chicks were hatched and the feeding process was carefully watched. In 14 days the chicks were well fledged, flapping their wings and making soft 'chirring' noises. One was fed with a 6 inch lizard, head first! Four days later the nest was deserted, which suggests that the young birds had been hatched and reared in 18 days.

d) MAIN FEATURE presented by Sue Hamonet.

Sue gave an interesting and detailed account of her recent trip in the arid regions bordering N.S.Wales, Victoria, Queensland and S. Australia. Good rainfall had resulted in the country being well covered with vegetation and wildflowers, which may or may not have made bird-spotting easier, in any case there were plenty of birds. Sue saw 204 species, 52 with nests, including spectacular sightings of Grasswrens, rare Chestnut-breasted Whiteface, Cinnamon Quail-thrush, Plains Wanderers, Mallee Fowl, and 15 species of birds of prey. It was indeed a memorable bird-watching trip, and, although I for one was consumed with envy, we enjoyed hearing about it.

e) OBSERVATIONS: Port Lincoln Parrot (escapee) at Fennell Bay, Bulbuls at various locations, 3 Pacific Bazaras at Rankin Park, White-winged Triller at Stockton, Banded Landrail at S.W. Centre, and Scarlet Honeyeater at Tyrrell St., City.

2. CAMP AT FERNDAL PARK 19/20 NOVEMBER.

Ferndale Park is situated on private property (Watsons') just downstream from Chichester Dam, in a partly cleared valley surrounded by heavily-wooded hills. A creek babbles over river stones, and cows graze on the pasture. Walking into the forested areas, along a leafy track for 10-15 minutes to the dam, or across the camping ground pasture enabled the 11 overnight campers and 5 day trippers (Sunday) to spot and/or hear 80 different bird species.

The Birds got their chance to witness some interesting behaviour from us this weekend. Apart from the innumerable cups of tea, binocular lifts and almost constant creek bathing, the birds could watch some nest building by the Ruthous Parker (helped by Kay and Fay) as she constructed a safari nest complete with new annex (no mean feat!) Ruth 'spied' back and took the prize by spotting 5 Glossy Black Cockatoos on Sunday morning as they fed on Casuarina nuts. Judy Smith then spied a Grey Fantail on it's nest, no annex here!

An Osprey was sighted by Paul and Irene Osborn; Yellow-throated Scrubwrens appeared silently fossicking in the leaf litter; Green Catbird, Satin and Regent Bowerbirds were also seen. Bell Miners chimed incessantly in many areas. Other glorious sights included Scarlet Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebills feeding on lush Jacaranda blossoms at the dam picnic area. The illusive Azure Kingfisher came into view just before we were about to leave, dipping in and out of the sun and water and fishing (or tadpolling.) What a finish to a very enjoyable weekend, in such a beautiful area, so close to home.

--- Fay Thomson.

CONGRATULATIONS to Gary Weber who has won photography honours. Gary has been ranked No 3 in the world for wildlife photography, on a listing recently published by the Photographic Society of America, based on successes in international exhibitions.

COMING EVENTS:

SUNDAY 22ND JANUARY

FIELD DAY TO DORA CREEK.
MEET: Coles Car Park Toronto
TIME: 6.30 a.m.
CONTACT: Rosemary Waymark 75181.

SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

FIELD DAY TO TEA GARDENS/HAWKS NEST
MEET: McDonalds Hexham (Car Park)
TIME: 6.30 a.m.
CONTACT: Kay Imrie 524524

SUNDAY 19th MARCH

FIELD DAY TO AWABA
MEET: Coles Car Park Toronto
TIME: 6.30 a.m.
CONTACT: Rosemary Waymark 751819

EASTER WEEKEND CAMP

24/25/26/27th MARCH

WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

CAMP AT PILLIGA (Private Property)
DETAILS: Kay Imrie 524524
CLUB NIGHT & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
(see below)
TIME: 7.30 p.m.
PLACE: Shortland Wetlands Centre

WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH

CLUBNIGHT at S.W.C. 7.30 p.m.
Special Guest Mr. Rex Buckingham,
President, Australian Section of
International Council for Bird
Preservation.

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At the Annual General Meeting voting will take place for the following Office Bearers:

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer,

on the basis of one vote per member or family member, and in accordance with Section 16. (1) of the Constitution. A form of appointment of proxy (overleaf) for those unable to attend the Annual General Meeting must be in the hands of the Secretary before the 9th February, 1989.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS

16. (1) Nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers of the Club or as ordinary members of the committee -
- (a) shall be made in writing, signed by 2 members of the Club and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and
 - (b) shall be delivered to the secretary of the Club not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.
- (2) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall be received at the annual general meeting.
 - (3) If insufficient further nominations are received any vacant positions remaining on the committee shall be deemed to be casual vacancies.
 - (4) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed to be elected.
 - (5) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot shall be held.
 - (6) The ballot for the election of office-bearers and ordinary members of the committee shall be conducted at the annual general meeting in such usual and proper manner as the committee may direct.

FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

HUNTER BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB INCORPORATED
(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984)

I,
(full name)

of
(address)

being a member of the Hunter Bird Observers Club Incorporated

hereby appoint
(full name of proxy)

of
(address)

being a member of that Club, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the general meeting of the Club (annual general meeting or special general meeting, as the case may be) to be held on the

..... Eighth day of February 19..89.....

and at any adjournment of that meeting.

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Signature of member ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Date