



Hunter Bird Observers Club

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1. NOTES FROM FEBRUARY MEETING:

a) ATTENDANCE: 38, including visitors Margaret and Phillip Slack and Tom Clark. Apologies from Jack Flanagan, Bill Cambridge, Paul and Irene Osborn and Peter Phillips.

b) ANNUAL MEETING:

The business of the evening began with the Secretary reading the minutes of the last AGM. After these were adopted, President Jim Perry read a well compiled summary of 1988's accomplishments and activities, along with the Treasurer's report. During the year the Club became incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, and this and other commitments left us with a rather slender bank balance. A copy of the years report was tabled for members' perusal, and remains available in the library.

Roger Heading then took the chair for the election of officers for 1989. The following members were elected to the positions stated, unopposed:

President:	Peter M ^C Lauchlan
Vice President:	Wilma Barden
Secretary:	Rosemary Waymark
Treasurer:	Alan Stuart

The Committee members elected by ballot from six nominations were:

Jim Perry
Graham O'Connor
Roger Heading
Fay Thompson

Other positions, and those who agreed to carry out these tasks which help to keep the Club running smoothly were:

Activities Officer:	Kay Imrie assisted by Ruth Parker
Atlas Recorder :	Matthew Stephenson
F.O.C. Recorder :	Wilma Barden
Librarian, Books :	Bevan M ^C Gregor and Ed Hamonet
" Slides :	Matthew Stephenson
" Audio :	Peter M ^C Lauchlan

Newsletter Editor:	Paul Osborn
" Printer:	Bevan M ^C Gregor
" Distributor:	Jim Imrie
Projects Officer :	Diane Rogers
P.R. Officer :	Alan Stuart
Surveys :	To be arranged
Supper :	Beth Mullard and Auriol Royds
Auditors :	Watson and Doherty

The new position of Public Officer which arose from the Club's incorporation will be taken on by the Secretary, Rosemary Waymark

The AGM was then declared closed and Peter M^CLauchlan took the President's chair, first expressing the Club's thanks to Jim Perry for his presidency over the past five years, and saying that he was looking forward to the next twelve months.

- c) Observations: White-faced Storm Petrel at Seal Rocks, early sighting of Spangled Drongo, Crested Hawk at Rankin Park, and Rock Warblers at Sugarloaf. Members are reminded that all unusual or uncommon sightings should be noted in the Observations Books always available on Club nights.
- d) Main Feature: We then adjourned to the theatrette and viewed the video "Bird Safari in Australia". This excellent video was photographed during Spring in the Mallee country of Victoria, and showed Honeyeaters, Woodswallows and Purple-crowned Lorikeets feeding on the abundant flowers. Bird watching made easy !

2. REPORT ON FIELD DAY AT DORA CREEK 23rd JANUARY.

A small convoy of members, led by Alan Stuart, left Coles carpark Toronto at 6.30 AM (!) bound for Avondale College Cooranbong. There we were met by Paul and Irene Osborn, Rosemary Waymark and others - making a party of 16.

The area near the cemetery was alive with birds, notably Crested Shrike-tits, Scarlet Honeyeaters, King Parrots and the ubiquitous Lewin's Honeyeater.

We entered the forest, led by Paul and Irene, and after some initial mud-sliding found the path along Dora Creek. By far the most numerous of flying creatures were the mosquitoes. There were also White-cheeked Honeyeaters, Golden Whistlers, Dollarbirds and both Superb Blue and Variegated Wrens. Some members were lucky enough to see an Eastern Whipbird on a perch in full view giving voice.

We retraced our steps to Avondale, where a pair of active, happy 88 year olds (Homo sapiens sapiens) led a discussion on retirement gardening.

After morning tea at the township of Dora Creek, we took the long pleasant walk along the creek up to the Point and back. Our bag included the bird of the day, a Striped Honeyeater, several pair of Pied Stilts and, in the distance on Lake Eraring, an estimated 500 Black Swans.

At lunch, a final 'call of the card' recorded 74 birds, including five heard. A pleasant day in good company.

Peter Phillips.

3. FIELD EXCURSION TO TEA GARDENS/HAWKS NEST 19th FEBRUARY

The Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest area of northern Port Stephens proved to be an excellent choice for the February outing as early morning mist & fog encountered en route presaged a hot day for the 19 members present.

The first stop at Tea Gardens provided two White-fronted Chats posing as waders, Azure and Sacred Kingfishers resplendent in the early morning sun, and a Striated Heron watching the boats go by. Some mud flats at the back of the main street gave us a flock of Eastern Curlews - our only waders for the day. An area of bush on the Hawks Nest side of the bridge was alive with Pardalotes, fantails (grey and rufous), numerous honeyeaters and nesting Red-browed Firetails. As the morning progressed and temperatures rose the birds went into hiding and we sought a shady spot for lunch. Cooling breezes from ocean and bay kept conditions pleasant but fishermen and boaters probably kept a lot of birds away.

Seven members (with great foresight) had added swimmers & towel with the picnic hamper and finished off the day in great style with a plunge in the surf at Hawks Nest beach.

All in all, an extremely enjoyable outing with a very creditable 76 species noted.

Nigel Walker.

4. PHIL MAHER'S INLAND BIRD TOURS 1989

Any members interested in these tours should contact Sue Hamonet.

5. NEWSLETTERS

Under certain circumstances Newsletters will be posted to those members unable to attend Club Nights, provided stamped, self-addressed envelopes are received by Jim Imrie.

6. COMING EVENTS.

Sunday 19th MARCH

Field Day to AWABA
MEET: Coles Car Park, Toronto
TIME: 6.30 a.m.
CONTACT: Rosemary Waymark 751819

EASTER CAMP

Pilliga - Private Property
Details and contact :
Kay Imrie 524524

Sunday 23rd APRIL

Field Day to POKOLBIN
MEET : Cessnock swimming pool
TIME : 7.30 a.m.
CONTACT : Kay Imrie 524524

Weekend 20/21 MAY

WATAGANS CAMP.
Details and contact :
Kay Imrie 524524

Sunday 21st MAY

Field outing to WATAGANS
MEET : Coles car park, Toronto
TIME : 6.30 a.m.
CONTACT : Alan Stuart 528569

Wednesday 12th APRIL

Clubnight, Shortland Wetlands Cntr.
7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 5th APRIL

Management Committee Meeting
Garden Suburb School 5.30 p.m.
Any member is welcome to attend.