



Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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1. NOTES FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

a) ATTENDANCE: 37. Apologies from Peter Phillips, Alan Stuart, Wilma Barden, Auriol Royds, Diane, Thelma and George Rogers, Barbara Kelly and Jim Imrie.

b) MINUTES: Rosemary Waymark read the minutes of the previous AGM and these were accepted by the meeting.

c) PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Peter M^CLauchlan presented the 9th annual report of the club, briefly discussing each aspect of the club's activities for the year 1989. Included were details of camps and outings held throughout the year as well as summaries of guest speakers and the status of the book, audio and slide libraries. Peter also incorporated the Treasurer's report in his speech and thanked all the committee members and voluntary office bearers for their contributions throughout the year.

d) ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Jim Perry took the chair whilst nominations were called for the position of President. Peter M^CLauchlan was the only nomination and was duly elected, whereupon he resumed the chair for the election of the remaining positions. In all cases, the number of nominations equalled the number of positions and no ballots were necessary. The following members were elected:

Vice President	Kay Imrie
Secretary	Peter Phillips
Treasurer	Alan Stuart
Committee	Jeanette Stephenson, Graeme O'Connor, Fay Thomson and Ruth Parker

Following these elections, the President called for volunteers to fill the many other positions necessary for the smooth working of the Club. The following people volunteered their services.

Public Relations	Alan Stuart
Librarians, Books	Ed Hamonet and Bevan M ^C Gregor
Audio	Peter M ^C Lauchlan
Slides	Mathew Stephenson
Atlas Officer	Mathew Stephenson
Projects Officer	Diane Rogers
Newsletter Editor	Paul and Irene Osborn
Newsletter Printer	Bevan M ^C Gregor
Newsletter Distributor	Jim Imrie
F.O.C. Recorder	Sue Hamonet
Public Officer	Rosemary Waymark
Supper	Beth Mullard & Sue Hamonet
Auditors	Watson and Doherty
Activities Officer	To be arranged, any volunteers ?

2. NOTES FROM GENERAL MEETING

a) OBSERVATIONS: Jim Perry's report of Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos at Garden Suburb elicited many responses of sightings of these birds from all corners of the city and surrounding areas, some from places where they have not been seen for many years. Jim also reported Satin and Regent Bowerbirds and Grey and Brown Goshawks from his area. Jack Flanagan reported a flock of about 100 Little Corellas from the Junction, making a nice change from Sparrows and Starlings etc. A Forest Kingfisher was sighted near Cooranbong and a Collared Sparrowhawk with three young was reported from the same locality. Reports of bird responses to the earthquake ranged from becoming quiet at Fay Thomson's to flying around in alarm at the Wetlands Centre. Sue Hamonet reported on her efforts to save a widowed Chestnut Teal.

b) ANNOUNCEMENTS: Members were once again encouraged to record their observations in the appropriate book on clubnights. - An advertisement from the Sydney Morning Herald was displayed which asked for volunteers to help save ducks from the guns of the hunters during the upcoming duck season. People able to fly aeroplanes to scare the ducks away from the hunters were particularly required. - The ABC is broadcasting a short program about birds on 2NC every Tuesday morning around 10.30. - Brochures advertising books on birds, birdwatching tours and courses have been received and can be obtained from the Secretary.

c) Guest Speaker- Mr. Trevor Hetherington
Our guest this month was a local photographer, Trevor Hetherington, whose work has appeared in the prestigious new journal Birds International. Trevor showed us some of his excellent bird slides, starting with ones taken in the Hunter Valley. These included shots of Yellow Robins, Fantails, Striated Pardalotes and Sacred Kingfishers, all shown at the nest with young. Trevor then displayed some of his slides of finches, including Beautiful and Painted Firetails and Pictorella Mannikins. He explained his part in studies of finches undertaken by local ornithologists, Ken and David Myers, some of which was reported in the abovementioned journal. Trevor then showed some of his work from further afield, challenging the audience to identify the nest of a Scaly Thrush and a Flame Robin. Interspersed in his presentation were some photographs of North American birds including Hummingbirds and a duck, cleverly thrown in to keep people on their toes. He finished his talk with a slide of a Crimson Chat of which he was justly proud.
The constant attention of clubmembers wishing to discuss the finer points of bird photography with him during supper were testimony to the amount of enthusiasm Trevor's presentation engendered. We thank him for an informative and entertaining talk.

**FIELD OUTING TO MORISSET
SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY 1990**

The Morisset Psychiatric Hospital is situated on the western shore of Lake Macquarie. It is surrounded by a large estate of crown reserve land that stretches virtually all the way back to the main northern line. This field outing concentrated on the main water course that runs through this estate to the lake. I have a map which names this as Pourmalong Creek and it enters the lake next to Duck Hole Lagoon.

The word must have been put around that a great day of bird watching was in store as nineteen birdo's turned up rearing to go. Our leader for the day, Anne Hatton, has a lot of local knowledge and was keen to 'show off' her patch.

A quick stop 2km down the road at a bridge didn't reveal too much as many birds were still only just waking up. However, by the time we reached our second port of call things had started to warm up.

This area was the site of an old gun club and is going through the process of regeneration. It is an open area full of heath and banksia surrounding a large dam. The higher country away from the stream is mainly open woodland containing eucalypts, angophoras and acacias. Much of the floor is covered in bracken. Around the dam of course are reeds and bull rushes.

This varied habitat is ideally suited for many small birds as well as water fowl and birds of prey.

Most abundant were the thornbills and honeyeaters. Of particular interest was the discovery of two immature Eastern Spinebills that sat fairly quietly in the low heath. Also, a pair of Jacky Winters and a small flock of Little Lorrikeets kept us ever alert till morning tea time.

A walk down stream revealed a Rufous Whistler, Yellow Robin, Shining-bronze Cuckoo and an Azure Kingfisher.

By now it was evident that young Andrew Zoneff was leading the way as he very keenly sought out some of the finds of the day. These included a Chestnut-rumped Heathwren and a Southern Emu Wren, both of which I was unfortunate enough to miss. A report of a Lewin's Rail (heard but not spotted) will give Anne renewed hope of seeing this elusive bird.

Our third stop saw us all down by the hospital grounds where the creek enters the lake. This area is mainly cleared farmland with a tree lined creek passing through.

Straight away we were calling out many common bird names but the variety was tremendous. A Dollar Bird sat motionless atop a large tree overlooking our frantic activity.

Once again it was Andrew that found the prize sighting of a small group of Varied Sittellas (orange winged form).

Relaxing by the lake for lunch and the birdwatching continued as we all admired a pair of White-breasted Sea Eagles. Variety is certainly the name of the game in this lovely area as our combined bird count came to seventy sightings with three more heard but not seen.

Tom Clarke

4. COMING EVENTS

Sunday 25th March

Field Outing Allworth
Meet: M^CDonalds, Hexham 6.30 AM
Contact: Alan Stuart, 528569

Wednesday 11th April

Clubnight, Shortland Wetlands Cntr.
7.30 PM

Easter Weekend 13-16 April

Camp, Widden Valley (pvte property)
Details: Kay Imrie 524524

Sunday 22nd April

Field Outing Swan Bay
Meet: M^CDonalds Hexham 7AM
Contact: Jim Imrie 524524

Wednesday 9th May

Clubnight, Shortland Wetlands Cntr.
7.30 PM

Sunday 20th May

Field Outing Mulbring area
Meet: Freemans Waterholes Service
Station, near roundabout. 7AM
Contact: Jim Perry 432496