



NEWSLETTER No. 11/90, DECEMBER 1990.

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

President:	Peter M ^C Lauchlan
Secretary:	Peter Phillips
Correspondence:	P.O. Box 24 New Lambton 2305
Telephone enquiries:	Alan Stuart 528569
Newsletter Editor:	Paul Osborn 781151
	P.O. Box 83 Jesmond 2299

1. NOTES FROM NOVEMBER MEETING:

a) ATTENDANCE: 29. Apologies from Alan Stuart, Ian and Marta Hamilton, Peter Phillips and Ed Hamonet

b) OBSERVATIONS: Koels at Edgeworth, Crimson Rosellas at New Lambton Heights, a pair of Tawny Frogmouths with three young at the University and another family of four at Blackhill, a Painted Button-Quail near Cooranbong and a pair of Little Wattlebirds that built two nests in Bevan M^CGregor's yard have abandoned both after a recent storm. To continue our recent theme of unusual raptor sightings we had a report this month from Richard Evans who saw a Letter-winged Kite on November 10 at Shortland.

c) BIRD CALL: Branden Evans presented this month's bird call, one that had many members guessing. The collection of grunts, clicks and squawks belonged to the Little Pied Cormorant and Branden had to provide many clues before all present could identify the bird.

2. GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Peter Morris, U.R.G.E. Peter is Vice President of U.R.G.E., the United Residents Group for the Environment of Lake Macquarie. Peter gave a presentation on the proposed integrated foreshore park system for Lake Macquarie. At the moment, there is very little in the way of protected green space around the lake foreshore, the only reserve of any significance being Wangi Point (60 ha). U.R.G.E. is proposing that a foreshore park be created by the protection of seven pieces of lakeside land, incorporated into either a National Park or a State Recreation Area. These areas are Green Point, Awaba Bay, Wangi Point, Pulbah Island, Morisset Hospital land, Point Wolstoncroft and Crangan Bay. The great majority of this land is already in public hands and could be transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service at very little cost. Peter used slides of each of the seven areas to illustrate his presentation, and briefly discussed the merits and problems associated with each. With the addition of some minor reserves on the foreshore, this park could include a Lake Macquarie Walk, joined to the Great North Walk. The land comprises only fourteen percent of the lake's perimeter but, combined with green corridors would be an important wildlife habitat for the area, particularly for birds. Unless something is done soon to protect recreational areas around the lake then access will be the privilege of those few wealthy enough to afford to purchase (and pay the rates on) waterfront land.

3. DUCK STUDY PART IV: The final session in the duck study series was held with Sue telling us about the scientific names and playing the calls, and Peter and Kay presenting the video information. The three ducks involved in this session were the Freckled Duck and the two stiff tailed species, the Blue-billed and Musk Ducks. This has been an excellent series of exercises helping many members with the identification of ducks.

4. Tilligerry Creek Crawl. Sunday 25 November 1990

There were eight members who managed to be at our scheduled meeting place at 6AM and then proceeded to Marsh Rd. Bob's Farm. This road follows Tilligerry Creek and provided good birding in the adjacent mangroves and marsh grasses. The highlight of the morning was seeing two Banded Landrails which decided to cross the road while we were quite near. Willie Wagtails were very much in evidence, with three active nests being found. Good sightings were also made of several Southern Emu-Wrens and Striped Honeyeaters.

The second major stop on the Tilligerry Creek Crawl was at the creek, on private property off Cromarty Lane. Here, on the extensive mudflats, Curlews, Tattlers and Ibis were busy feeding and two Chestnut Teal were behaving like waders. A short walk through the marshy area behind the shore produced White-fronted Chats and a Pheasant Coucal. The wooded area nearby provided us with a Common Koel and Variegated Wrens.

The final creek crawl stop was at Fenningham's Island, Anna Bay, where, with Tilligerry Creek as foreshore, Brown-headed and Brown Honeyeaters and White-throated Treecreepers were added to the count to reach 80 species. A most enjoyable morning was had by all.

..... Kay Imrie.

5. COMING EVENTS

Sunday 20th January

Field Outing: Swansea/Belmont
Meet: Coles Carpark, Belmont, 6.30 AM
Contact: Sue Hamonet 581023

Wednesday 13th February

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Shortland Wetlands Centre. 7.30 PM

Sunday 24th February

Field Outing: Brunkerville
Meet: Freemans Waterholes Garage, 7AM
Contact: Ruth Parker 295569

Wednesday 13th March

Clubnight Shortland Wetlands Centre 7.30 PM

Sunday 17th March

Field Outing: Kooragang Island
Meet: Information Sign, Kooragang, 7AM
Contact: Kay Imrie 524524

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the AGM 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 (see overleaf) for those unable to attend the Annual General Meeting must be in the hands of the Secretary before the 6th of February, 1990

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

..... THIRTEENTH day of February 19.. 91

and at any adjournment of that meeting.

.....
Signature of member

Date

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewals are due next month and may be paid to the Treasurer. Fees for 1991 are \$2 for juniors, \$12 single or \$14 family.

Name(s)

Membership Family/Single/Junior (Please circle)