



## Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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### THE AUGUST MEETING.

The August Clubnight was held on Wednesday the 14th August and the evening commenced with Bird Call, the Crescent Honeyeater presented by Sue Hamonet. The Bird of the Evening was the Little Corella, presented by John Cockerell. For the Main Feature Greg Little showed some of his excellent wildlife slides.

The following observations were recorded:-

The flock of white cockatoos mentioned in the June/July newsletter identified as Sulphur-crested Cockatoos.

39 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos at Ellalong, heading west.

3 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos at West Wallsend.

2 Spangled Drongos at Belmont.

The breeding behaviour of Masked Lapwings near Squids Ink at Belmont.

Female Rose Robin at Shortland Wetland Centre.

Southern Giant-Petrel off Seal Rocks, settled in the water and being fed on chopped-up mackerel by fishermen.

3 Bustards near Bourke.

Barn Owl at 8 a.m., apparently disorientated, near Stockton.

Rufous Whistlers returned to East Maitland.

Barn Owl at Edgeworth.

Striped Honeyeater at Newcastle University.

Reports of an increase in dead Tawny Frogmouths, apparently from lack of food. Any other similar occurrences observed please notify Sue Hamonet.

All birds appear to have left the Beresfield Wetlands, also the water hyacinth is dying. This was considered worth monitoring by members.

### The Local Environment.

John Moyse gave his initial impression of the Proposal for a Fluoride Facility on Kooragang Island, which he is investigating with a view to the HBOC sending a submission to the Committee of Enquiry.

### New Members.

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:-

Barren Grounds Bird Observatory

Doreen Bull

Susan Burgoyne

Max Blanch

David Ralston-Smith

Jan and Spencer Ross

Adrian Ryan and Philippa Hodgins

Jean Zweck

Jamberoo.

Warners Bay.

East Maitland.

Lemon Tree Passage.

Gloucester.

Newcastle.

Swansea.

Coal Point.

SHARPE'S CREEK 24/25th August, 1991.

The outing to Gloucester Tops took the form of a camp-out and thirteen members took advantage of the fine weather to visit this popular area. Six of us took the opportunity to have an extra day, and arrived at Sharpe's Creek on the Friday. This is always a pleasant camping site but we found it suffering sadly from the extremely dry Winter.

The days were sunny, windy and cool, and the nights very cold. On Friday night several light showers of rain fell, but not enough to be significant. An early morning reconnoitre to the Gloucester Tops on Saturday was interesting, not for the birds produced, for one could hardly imagine less avian activity. But the higher we climbed, the more like fairyland it became, with quite a good cover of snow clothing the forest. The tree ferns bent low, under the weight and looked as though somebody had been up all night decorating them with white icing. Here was a completely different world; the wind by this time had become quite strong, and it was so cold I found difficulty holding the binoculars steady. Hardly a twitter anywhere. Only the hardy types were abroad - Brown Thornbills, Scrubwrens and Fairy Wrens. We tried taped calls in several different locations, but it was evident that Rufous Scrub birds don't like snow.

Driving on we found a bushwalker's hut in which we met the occupants and warmed ourselves at their fire. And after leaving here, we retraced our steps back to the cars, with snow falling again, and coats and hats needed to be brushed off before embarking. All was not lost, however, for the drive back to camp produced a good sighting of a male Flame Robin and an Olive Whistler in mid-road - the only spot clear of snow.

The best place for birds proved to be the camp-site itself, with several species visiting the camps to pick at the crumbs. Yellow Robin, Yellow-throated Scrubwrens, Fairy Wrens, Firetails, etc. The resident Lyrebird scratched away unconcernedly in the dry leaf-litter in the forest edge and the Scrub Turkey paid an evening visit, along with the Brush-tailed Possum. In one tent a Bandicoot paid a nocturnal call.

By Sunday most of the snow had melted, except for small patches in shady corners, and our return trip produced at least two Rufous Scrub-birds in different localities, but in scrub too thick to be able to do much except wait hopefully.

Probably the most interesting sighting was the abundance of Scaly Thrushes, most of them using the cleared camping area, but in large numbers on all the walking trails. Several Lyrebird sightings were rewarding, one of a bird in moult, with the lyrates furred in coils, obviously just about to unwind. Flame Robins were also plentiful on the higher ground, and one Crescent Honeyeater was sighted. In all a list of 62 species for the week-end was not too easily come by. The almost complete lack of Honeyeaters was remarkable - only the odd Lewin's, Yellow-faced and Spinebill. In all we concluded that we may just have been a little early this year - it will be interesting to see what differences can be seen when we get some much needed rain.

Sue Hamonet

# How plasticine eggs caught a rascally nest robbing rat

By MAX MADDOCK

I HAVE previously referred in this column to the destructive role of introduced rats in decimating populations of New Zealand native birds. The problem is not only confined to New Zealand. Norfolk Island, a relatively simple ecological system, has only a few species of small passerine (perching) birds, most of which are in serious decline.

Habitat destruction has been recognised as one of the key factors in the decline of Norfolk Island birds, but another has been loss of eggs and nestlings by predation.

The introduced rat was suspected as the culprit, but it was difficult to obtain clear evidence. Australian ornithologist Richard Major set about the task of solving the mystery and came up with a *Pete Smith Special* photographic system for the job.

He produced artificial nests by lining half tennis balls with nest materials and set them up in typical nesting positions. He constructed



ted dummy eggs from plasticine and put them in the nests.

The 'eggs' were placed on a delicate trigger mechanism connected to a camera focussed on the nest and equipped with flashlight. The set-up proved very successful and he was able to obtain many pictures of rats robbing nests of their plasticine eggs.

In addition, teeth marks were left on many eggs not connected to the camera system.

Major has since refined his system considerably and is in the process of gathering evidence of which predators are robbing the nests of passerines in Australia. He has also improved the making of the plasticine eggs, painting them to look quite realistic.

Nesting success of passerine birds in Australia seems to be very low compared with success overseas. The reasons have never been

fully established, although predation has been suspected as a key factor.

The relative roles of native and introduced species are as yet unknown but knowledge of them is critical for good wildlife management.

Major's analysis of published accounts of predation in the ornithological literature in Australia revealed that very few actual observations of nest predation had ever been made, although lists of suspected predators were often included.

Major's photographic work with predators revealed that nest robbers leave quite variable signs which cannot always be used to identify the robber.

Records of suspected predation are therefore often ambiguous and biased. It is important to gather actual records of a predator in the act of nest robbing and Major's work is extremely important in setting the record straight.

However, even amateur bird watchers can play a key role in improving understanding of predator role in the population control process. For example, amongst the members of the Hunter Bird Ob-

servers Club there must be a fund of important records of actual 'first-hand' observations of nest robbers at work.

Unfortunately, the majority of amateur observations never go beyond the memory.

A club like the Hunter bird observers has the potential to make a contribution to improving our knowledge of nest predation by maintaining records which could be summarised and reported in a journal such as the *Australian Bird Watcher*. It is important that all observations are reported — not just the unusual.

Amateur birdwatchers can also maximise their contribution toward building up knowledge for bird conservation by joining clubs such as the Hunter bird observers which meets regularly at the Shortland Wetlands Centre.

If you are interested you could ring secretary Peter Phillips on 528569. You may not be able to go as far as Richard Major's plasticine eggs and photographic system, but by joining a club and pooling your observations on nest robbers you could help fill a gap in our knowledge of birds.

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

*from John Moyle.*

In early September a Commission of Inquiry convened in Newcastle to consider the application by Chemplex to develop an Aluminium Fluoride plant on Kooragang Island.

The H.B.O.C. presented a submission to the Inquiry, raising several issues related to the impact of fluoride emissions on the vegetation in the Reserve adjacent to the plant, and expressing concerns about the possible effects of this fluoride passing up the food chain and having eventual effects on the waders using this area for feeding.

However, newspaper reports of the evidence presented to the inquiry by scientists appearing on behalf of Chemplex suggest that they have been able to obtain expert testimony to support the contention in the E.I.S. that fluoride levels will not cause any harm to the environment.

Another point that was raised in our submission was that if approval for the development is granted, there should be stringent and independent monitoring of fluoride levels to ensure that the approved maximum levels are not exceeded.

It is understood that the Commission of Inquiry may return to Newcastle in mid-October. We will make use of any opportunities at this time to reinforce the concerns already expressed.

## THE SEPTEMBER MEETING.

The September Clubnight was held on Wednesday the 11th, the Bird Call for the evening was the Brown Honeyeater and the Reed Warbler, presented by Kay Imrie. This was followed by the Bird of the Evening, the Reef Heron, which was presented by Diane Rogers.

For the Main Feature the guest speaker was Ann Hatton, who gave a most informative and interesting talk on a two week tour of Thailand, which had been organised by the RAOU.

The following observations were recorded:-

Yellow-nosed Albatross - up to 9 seen off Bar Beach, Redhead.

Plumed Whistling Duck at Blackbutt.

White-faced Heron wading up to its knees at Stockton breakwater.

Pied Oystercatchers at Kooragang.

3 Crested Hawks at Rankin Park.

Topknot Pigeon at Rankin Park.

Marsh Crakes - fairly common at the Shortland Wetland Centre.

Scaly Thrush - common at the Gloucester Tops camp.

12 White-headed Pigeons at Cardiff Heights.

4 Sooty Oystercatchers at Swansea Heads.

White-naped Honeyeater at Tyrrell St. Newcastle.

1 Striped Honeyeater at Newcastle University.

Many Scarlet Honeyeaters in the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie areas.

Golden Whistler at Beresfield.

Max Blanch spoke on the Stone-curlews at Lemon Tree Passage, indicating that their habitat is continually being threatened. Max later became the HBOC's newest member.

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## OUTING TO DORA CREEK.

22/9/91

After more than a week of gale force winds, 8 brave souls met at Coles Car Park at Toronto at 6.30am.

First stop was along the creek at Dora Creek, few birds were to be found maybe due to the winds of the last week. There was a large Eucalypt in full blossom, in which a small party of Rainbow Lorikeet and Little Lorikeet were feeding. Further down it was evident that the residents are bird observers in some form as there were a number of feeding trays which attracted Ducks, Ibis, and Teal. Looking across the creek we noticed a Mangrove Heron, a new bird for some. After a few more birds were added, we decided to have morning tea.

Next stop was Myuna Bay. This walk takes you along the shore of the lake and into a very pleasant area. The wind of the last few days must have driven all the birds of Lake Macquarie into this sheltered spot. Everywhere you looked there were birds, and it was hard to decide where to look first. The highlights were Southern Emu Wrens, White-throated Warblers and Scarlet Honeyeaters to name a few.

We had lunch on the shore of the lake and tallied the day's count, which came to 71 species. This venue would make a pleasant outing for another day.

Jeanette Stephenson

## BIRD NAMES by W M Sherrie

■ ■ ■  
 HOW will the \$50,000 raised from the book fair be spent? According to the president of the Friends of the University, Keith Barbour, one project will be the publication of a glossy, prestige book on the birdlife of the Newcastle campus. In the past funds have gone toward student accommodation needs, a computer room and a tapestry for the university's Great Hall.  
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The Newcastle Herald  
 9/8/91.

## Poem:

In the late 1920's Leonard Giblin then aged 18 was secretary of the first registered conservation organisation in Australia. Throughout his life he has maintained a strong personal commitment to the environment.

## THE EARTH

*I weep softly in anguish;  
 Torn and scarred,  
 By man's carelessness.  
 Stripped of my trees.  
 To make a dollar,  
 I weep silently,  
 Floundered and torn apart,  
 I lie in agony.  
 What has happened to the dollars,  
 Taken at my expense,  
 Did they offer recompense?  
 They strip me bare,  
 As bare as their own souls,  
 And wonder why,  
 There is no love for them.  
 They took all from me,  
 That will be there reward.  
 My body rises high in dust,  
 To choke the careless race,  
 That caused it.  
 Erosion, the answer,  
 To man's destruction of me,  
 My life blood, the rivers,  
 Are polluted,  
 As are the polluters of me,  
 The air that breaths life for me,  
 Is fouled.  
 Killing those who have caused it.  
 What have they done with the dollars?  
 Taken at my expense.  
 I am the giver of life,  
 Only by caring for me,  
 Can I care for all.  
 Deep in my anguish,  
 I could forgive,  
 And restore myself.  
 Will they let me go?  
 Or will they destroy me,  
 And in the process destroy themselves.*

L.P. GIBLIN

In reports and records of BIRD DAY celebrations in New South Wales one not uncommonly notices the use of names which are not only incorrect and undistinctive but are also confusing and misleading. In looking over some reports the other day, for instance, the writer came upon such names as "Woodpecker" and "Summer Bird". In this case by "Woodpecker" is presumably meant "Treecreeper", since there is no known representative of the woodpecker genus to be found on the Australian continent. If an Australian bird belongs to a family well-known in Europe, or other parts of the world, there is some reason for giving it the same name which distinguishes it elsewhere. Now, the woodpecker of other lands is simply not known to the ornithology of Australia. The bird which sometimes goes by that name in the casual and sporadic system of nomenclature, commonly given effect to in this country is *Climacteris picumna* (or Brown Treecreeper), a bird whose beautiful resonant and piping note may be heard ringing through the woods at all hours of the day, but which is particularly arresting about dusk or in the early hours of the morning.

There are three other species of this family - the White-throated Treecreeper (*C. sycandens*), the Red-browed Treecreeper (*C. erythrops*), and the White-browed Treecreeper (*C. superciliosa*). The whole of these birds have the same habits and the same methods of feeding, which is radically different from that of the true woodpecker. The treecreeper begins at the butt of a tree or stump and works up spirally, searching the bark and the wood for grubs and insects as it goes. The woodpecker, on the other hand, obtains its food by chiseling holes in the wood to get at the grubs upon which it chiefly subsists. Unlike the woodpecker, the Nuthatches of Europe and America are represented by somewhat closely allied forms in this country - forms which in habit, at least, have some resemblance to the treecreeper. These birds are the tree-runners. Both in form and colour the tree-runners are beautiful little birds. There are eight species of them in Australia and, like the treecreeper, hunt for their food along the trunks and limbs of trees. Instead of climbing spirally up, they work spirally down the trees in search of food. The family name (or genus) is *Sittidae*.

To return to the nomenclature of Australian birds, it may be urged that all those who are in any way officially connected with bird leagues and BIRD DAY celebrations and literature should make a sustained and consistent effort to use only such names as are distinctive, appropriate and warranted by the sanction of the ornithological authorities of the country. Many of the names of birds are at once ridiculously inappropriate, undistinctive, ungraceful, and confusing. The technical literature of the country is overburdened with cumbrous and inapt names and confusion is worse confounded by the medley of local names which are in use. Just think of the ineptness and the lack of euphony, to say nothing of the loss of time involved in the constant use and repetition of such names as the following - "Yellow-bellied Shrike-tit", "Chestnut-rumped Ground-wren", the "Warty-faced Honeyeater", "Sooty Oystercatcher", "Red-rumped Acanthiza", the "Rufous-breasted Thickhead", "White-shouldered Caterpillar Eater" and so on. Where is the art or commonsense in giving such a name as the last mentioned to a bird which, by reason of its grace of form, beauty of colouration, and gift of melody, takes rank as one of the most charming of the indigenous species of the continent.

It may be admitted that "summer bird" is a pretty enough name but it is entirely lacking in specific suggestion or significance. Indeed, it conveys no distinctive meaning at all. What is meant by "summer bird" is the wood swallow, the beautiful and melodious migrant which comes south in such large numbers in the spring and remains through the summer months. There are several species of these birds, but the two which are most commonly seen here are the wood swallow (*Artamus tenebrosus*) and the white-browed wood swallow (*A. superciliosis*), though in some parts of the country the white-rumped wood swallow (*A. leucogaster*) is also numerous. But there is no more reason for calling these welcome spring visitors "summer birds" than there is for calling a dozen or so of other migrants by the same name. There would just as much significance in calling the white-shouldered caterpillar-eater, the bee-eater, the cuckoo or the brown songlark a summer bird as the wood swallow, seeing that they all spend the summer in the south and go north in the autumn for the winter. One of the primary objects of the naming of birds should be that of securing distinction.

Despite the work done in recent years to establish some sort of uniformity in this direction, many of the local and other names of the indigenous birds of Australia are still utterly confusing and bewildering. In some cases the dissimilarity is so pronounced that people do not know what bird is referred to when they hear it named in some part of Australia with which they are not familiar.

# THE BIRDWATCHER'S CRAFT

*PETER SLATER takes  
us under his wing to  
explain the techniques  
of birdwatching.*

Much has been made of the need for camouflaged clothing for birdwatching. Stillness however, is probably much more critical and, if coupled with inconspicuous rather than camouflaged clothing, is sufficient to view most birds.

To break up the body outline, it is preferable to have upper clothing darker or lighter than lower.

In classical stalking, as employed by gillies and great white hunters, wind direction is all-important. However, birds have no sense of smell; so it is not necessary, as it is with big game, to creep upwind. In fact, because birds

perch facing into the wind, they present their least aesthetic aspect to an upwind approach. Best views, that is, sideways on, are obtained if birds are approached crosswind. A downwind approach is likely to flush them prematurely as they take off into the wind towards the stalker, as they feel threatened sooner than they do if able to take off away from intrusion. Unfortunately, there are some birds that cannot be approached closely no matter how carefully one moves, for example, some birds of prey and waders. They have a 'ring of confidence' about them, an imaginary circle marking the closest one can approach without frightening them. Once this line is crossed, they are off. The Wedge-tailed Eagle probably has the largest ring of confidence of any bird.

Some birds of prey, however, will follow humans through the bush, chasing birds or grasshoppers that are startled out. Occasionally, on regular routes, an association develops, enabling magnificent views - I have experienced such associations with wild raptors on a number of occasions with species including Brown Falcon, Collared Sparrowhawk, Little Falcon and Peregrine Falcon. The Peregrine Falcon, for example, followed me for a short portion of my daily routine over a period of eight months and became extraordinarily tame. Although he chased hundreds of birds in that time, he never killed one, seeming to enjoy just harassing them; his favourite trick was to flip ducks over in flight. Such an association is something to be cherished and too easily abused to be shared.

Waders, too, are difficult to approach on mudflats, as they usually occur where there is little cover. The colour of clothing here makes little difference. It is more productive just to sit comfortably and use a telescope. If you have to rely on binoculars, better wader-watching is obtained at places where one can get close, by moving up through mangroves or behind a bank, but the best is often at roosts where the birds congregate during high tide.

By arriving at low tide and setting up comfortably behind whatever cover is available or by erecting a hide, you merely have to wait for the water to rise. It is a magnificent experience to have hundreds or thousands of birds densely packed only metres away. To be fair to such birds, either wait until the tide recedes and they leave or have an exit route that does not necessitate disturbing the roost. Arrive with plenty of insect repellent, for the stay could be a long one.

## ATTRACTING BIRDS

There are ways of making birds come to you. The simplest method is to 'squeak' through pursed lips, 'kiss' the back of the hand. This will attract many small birds. More sophisticated are 'squeakers', which are wooden gates that make a loud squeaking sound when rotated (available from the Bird Observers' Club). A small bottle of water with a cork is a cheap alternative; wet the cork, then rub it on the glass. As well as shivers up the spine, it will produce thornbills, warblers, wrens and others.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

**Sound**

Often the best indication of a bird's presence is a call or song. To locate the direction of the call, try using both ears, moving the head slightly to the left or right until it appears that the song is directly ahead. Distance is harder to judge, being influenced by wind, calls from cicadas and by the quality of the song itself - making some calls seem closer than they are (e.g. cuckoos) and some farther away (e.g. Brown Thornbill.) Some birds, too, are ventriloquial and therefore very hard to pinpoint, for example, the Crested Bellbird. It is often difficult to gauge the height from which the call is being made, but with growing experience it becomes easier to trisect direction, distance and height to give a rough indication as to where the bird might be. Raise the binoculars to just below the eyes, then watch for movement, trying to take in as much as possible of the area where you believe the bird to be. When a movement is detected, raise the binoculars to the eyes; now is the time to appreciate the practice in the backyard. If you cannot locate the bird, revert to the naked eye - searching around through binoculars is usually non-productive.

**Movement**

Watching for movement is the name of the game and is really the hardest aspect of birdwatching to master. The good birdwatchers register the twitch of a tail, the flirt of a wing, the flick of a beak. Such fine-tuning of vision can be learnt, but only by experience...

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## Protecting a Spot for the Forty Spot

by Dr Sally Bryant

The forty-spotted pardalote is one of five species of pardalote commonly called "diamond birds" because of their tiny jewel-like appearance.

This rare and diminutive was once found in pockets down the east coast of Tasmania, including Flinders and King Island but today populations have declined to a few thousand birds confined to outlying islands and coastal peninsulas. To preserve these remaining birds, WWF is funding a project which involves the rehabilitation and protection of their habitat.

Both the past and present distribution of the forty-spot is inextricably linked to the occurrence of White or Manna Gum, *Eucalyptus viminalis*, its preferred feeding and refuge tree. This Eucalypt provides the main food source, manna, during the summer months and loss of it means the loss of forty-spots. Combined with the invasion of aggressive birds like the noisy miner, this loss is usually permanent.

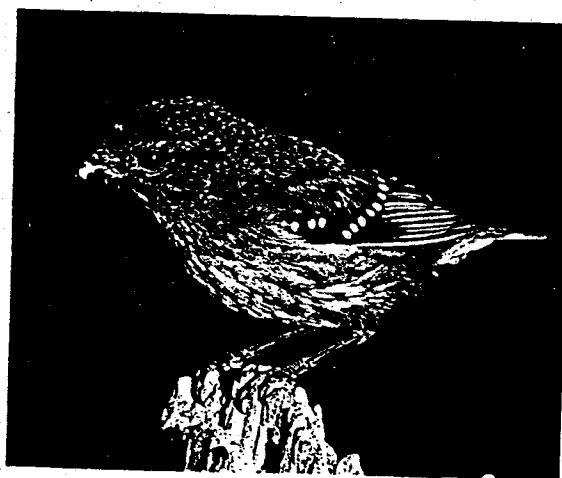
At present, over half the total population of forty-spot-

ted pardalotes occur on Bruny Island off the south-east coast of Tasmania. Much of their habitat on Bruny is on private land which is mainly used for grazing and agriculture.

Land-clearing which leads to the loss of the manna gum is the biggest threat to the survival of the forty-spot. The project aims at implementing a programme which will help protect existing habitat on Bruny Island and to plant trees for the future. Already the programme has increased the awareness of the species throughout the whole state.

There has been considerable progress. Under the guidance of Mr Andrew Smith, education officer with the Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, volunteers are tending manna gum seedlings, grown from seed collected on the island. These trees will be used in annual replanting programmes on farms, smaller holdings and other land where they originally grew.

Major landowners have all agreed to conserve manna gum and most are either



replanting the species as boundary trees or to form wind rows. Hydro, telecom and council workers are conserving manna gum during road maintenance and in the future will be planting them along roadsides as part of their beautification project.

The Forestry Commission have designated pardalote colonies occurring in the State Forest as "Wildlife Priority Areas" protecting them from future disturbance. In addition the Forestry Commission in conjunction with the Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage are designing a walking trail and viewing plat-

form near nesting trees to enable visitors to view this beautiful species at canopy level.

Children at the Bruny Island District School have adopted the bird and are

planting trees in the school grounds and growing trees in their glasshouse facility.

While it is still early days yet, the programme has created a real community spirit and is achieving positive results. It is heartening to know there are so many people willing to play their part in saving an endangered species, particularly when it is one that is difficult to see and hear.

Dr Sally Bryant is the WWF Project Officer for P157 and is a project officer with the Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, Tasmania.

When out in the bush with Wongan Aborigines, I noticed how they could virtually disappear into the landscape by standing or squatting in the shade next to a bush or tree and maintaining utter stillness. I used the techniques they taught me for creeping up on wild kangaroos and, on one occasion, got to within 3 metres of a group of red kangaroos. Few birds are as wary as wild kangaroos, so it is possible to sneak up on most birds.

The secrets as explained to me by the Wongaiis, are:

1. Conceal the movement of legs and feet as much as possible.

2. If in the open, zig-zag so you are not at any stage moving directly towards the subject nor appearing to look at it.

3. If in timber, keep some bush between yourself and the subject.

4. Move slowly, avoiding sticks and twigs that might snap.

5. If it looks as if the subject is about to leave, do not stop suddenly but ease to a stop. Similarly, do not start suddenly.

## COMING EVENTS.

Weekend 19/20 October.

or

Field Day 20 October.

Camp:

Singleton Army Base.

Contact:

Kay Imrie - 524524 or Graeme O'Connor

Contact:

Alan Stuart - 528569. 531304.

Meet:

McDonalds, Hexham - 6 a.m.

Wednesday, 13th November.

Clubnight:

Shortland Wetland Centre, 7.30 p.m.

Main Feature: Alan Morris (NSW FOC) Birds of Kakadu.

Weekend 23/24 November.

or

Field Day 24 November.

Camp:

Ferndale Park near Chichester Dam.

Contact:

Kay Imrie - 524524.

Contact:

Alan Stuart - 528569.

Meet:

McDonalds, Hexham - 6 a.m.

Wednesday, 11 December.

Clubnight:

Shortland Wetland Centre, 7.30 p.m.

Main Feature: Member's slides and Christmas supper.

Sunday, 8 December.

Field Day:

Grahamstown Dam.

Meet:

McDonalds, Hexham - 6 a.m.

Contact:

Jeanette Stephenson - 575255.

The above information whilst as accurate as possible should be checked nearer to Field Days etc., with the contact person.

On Clubnights where newsletters are not issued, an update of activities will be given.

Deadline for your contributions to the December/January '92 newsletter - 25 Nov

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## BINOCLULARS.

Wanted - Richard Evans - 518150 requires a second-hand pair of binoculars preferably 8 x 40 wide angle.

Repairs - DAW Optical Services Pty., Ltd., as from the 12th August, 1991 have moved to Suite 1, Level 1, 10a Henley Road, Homebush West, 2140. Telephone number is the same (02) 764 3476.

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## Editor's Notes.

1. Extract from the Sydney Morning Herald, 11th November 1916 submitted by Kay Imrie.
2. The poem "The Earth" by L.P. Giblin was taken from the Sept/Nov 1991 edition of the Wildlife News.
3. The article "The Birdwatcher's Craft" by Peter Slater was taken from the Winter 1991 edition of Coo-ee, magazine of the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation.
4. Protecting a Spot for the Forty Spot taken from the June/August 1991 edition of the Wildlife News.

When I approached the World Wide Fund for Nature, Australia (formerly World Wildlife Fund Australia) asking permission to reproduce articles from their newsletters, I was asked to mention their Threatened Species funding and 008 number for anyone interested in either joining or donating to the preservation and conservation of such birds as the Forty-spotted Pardalote and the Gouldian Finch, as well as other threatened wildlife.

World Wide Fund for Nature, Australia,  
Level 10, 8-12 Bridge Street,  
Sydney, NSW 2000.  
Phone: (02) 247 6300 or (008) 251 573.

WWFA is part of the 28 WWF organisations throughout the world including affiliated organisations, there are over 4 million supporters.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick appropriate box:-

- ☐ Family      \$15  
☐ Single      \$13  
☐ Junior      \$3

Fees are due on the 1st January, 1992 and may be paid at Club nights or by mail to the Hon. Treasurer, P.O. Box 24, New Lambton, N.S.W. 2305.

Please return this completed form with your renewal whether renewing in person or by mail.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

A reminder that the AGM will be held at the Clubnight on Wednesday, 12th February, 1992.

Any member unable to attend and wishing to nominate a proxy to vote on their behalf may do so by notifying the Hon. Secretary in writing, proxy to reach Secretary at least one week before the AGM.

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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 to be held on the 12th February, 1992 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

Signature of member \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_