



Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

P.O. Box 24, New Lambton, N.S.W. 2305

Telephone: (049) 52 8569

President:
Secretary:
Newsletter Editor:

Peter McLauchlan
Peter Phillips
Rosemary Waymark

The aims of the Club are: To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat and to encourage bird observing as a leisure time activity.

THE OCTOBER MEETING.

At the October Clubnight held on Wednesday the 14th, Ian Hamilton presented the Pied Currawong for the Bird Call and Bird of the Evening, Ian also led the discussion, for the evening, on the Pied Currawong. Members contributed various observations on the behaviour of the Pied Currawong and the general consensus was that far fewer have been sighted this year, flocks of 10 and 14 when usually hundreds are observed. They used to arrive regularly in May, now their occurrence is more varied and they are still in the Newcastle area. The Main Feature - Rod Kavanagh, Wildlife Research Officer with the Forestry Department presented information on the Powerful, Masked and Sooty Owls. His work was on the prevalence of these species and their main prey and he drew some conclusions from that information on whether old growth or logged forests were essential for the survival of that particular species.

The following observations were recorded:-

Osprey	- Pt Macquarie	- J. Moyse
Black-shouldered Kite	- East Maitland	- R. Waymark
Brown Goshawk	- Avabakal	- T. Clarke
Peregrine Falcon	- Waratah	- "
Brown Falcon	- Kooragang Is.	- "
Beach Thick-knee	- Wooli	- J. Moyse
Ruddy Turnstone (36+)	- Carrington	- S. Owen
Ruddy Turnstone (12)	- N'cle. Baths	- R. Parker
White-head Pigeon (7)	- Blackbutt	- G. Albrecht
" " " (33)	- Dora Creek	- A. Lindsey
" " "	- Charlestown	- I. Hamilton
" " "	- Avabakal	- T. Clarke
Common Koel	- Buttaba	- R. Waymark
Channel-billed Cuckoo	- Buttaba & E. Maitland	- "
Sacred Kingfisher	- Buttaba	- "
Tawny Frogmouth (nest)	- Newcastle University	- D. Biddle
Sacred Kingfisher	- Mayfield	- T. Clarke

Gang-Gang Cockatoo - Anna Bay.
2 Gang-Gang Cockatoos - Tingira Heights (June).
2 Dollarbirds - Buttaba.

A general observation by members that the Sacred Kingfishers were late this year and in smaller numbers.

New flagging of waders - orange etc on left leg. Members asked to note colour and species and report to HBOC or BOCA.

NEW MEMBERS.

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

Maree Burgoyne	Highfields.
Margaret Clarke	Lorn.
David and Bev Kibble	Marmong Point.
Shirley Parnaby	Castlemaine, Victoria.

Howes Valley Camp. 3rd-5th October.

The Long Weekend Camp was held on private property and attended by 12 members. The camp site was high above the McDonald River among tall eucalypts. Firewood was in good supply and despite very dry conditions, campers were able to enjoy a pleasant evening around the fire on Saturday night.

Probably the most outstanding feature of this camp were the number of active nests which were discovered. These included Speckled Warbler, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Grey Butcherbird, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Hooded Robin and Double-barred Finch. The remains of an Oriema's nest were observed and, nearby the fledged youngsters.

A pleasant afternoon was spent "plodging" down the shallow, sandy based McDonald River with the children (and 3 adults) exploring.....

Unfortunately the heavy rain on Sunday afternoon caused participants to leave earlier than planned as there was some doubt about negotiating the farm track in the slippery conditions.

The property owner reported the possibility of Powerful Owls and finding earlier the remains of a Sugar Glider. Alas no sight nor sound of the owls. A small group set out spotlighting on the Saturday night without any success. However, those less energetic camp fire sitters heard a Tawny Frogmouth calling close by and were rewarded with an excellent view.

The bird count for the property was 79 species. Hopefully there will be another visit to the Howes Valley area in the future.

Kay Imrie.

Rock Warbler
(Oriema solitaria)

What an enigma
Is the Oriema.
Nobody can be sure
About the taxonomy
Of this anomaly.

The Bird Baths of Umbigumbi
Graham Alcorn.

From the Desk of the Secretary.

Currently I hold many pamphlets for birdwatching holidays and venues - for example:-

Eyre Bird Observatory, West.Aust; Barren Grounds Bird Observatory, NSW; Gipsy Point Lodge, Vic; Cassowary House, Kuranda, FNQ; Emu Tours (in assoc. with RAOU) -Australia and Overseas; Falcon Tours (WA); Peregrine Tours (Aust and Overseas) Ambua Lodge (PNG) Down to Earth Expeditions (North Aust.): Eungella Mountain Resort, Capertree Valley and Community Programs (Fred Van Gessel at Smiths Lake in January)

There is insufficient space for detail in the Newsletter. Copies of pamphlets are available from me at Club Nights or by telephoning 547118.

Field Outing to Wang Wauk State Forest.Sunday, 25th October.

Eleven members took advantage of fine weather to make the hour long drive to Wang Wauk State Forest, just north of Bulahdelah. Assembling at the turn-off gave us an opportunity to observe a pair of Channel-billed Cuckoos, a new bird for some.

A long leisurely walk along a forest road was rewarded with views of Variegated Fairy-wrens, a Brush Cuckoo, Golden and Rufous Whistlers and an Eastern Whipbird. A Brown Gerygone was observed making repeated forays from its nest dangling from a branch. Despite heralding its presence with its call, a Green Catbird escaped visual detection.

Shorty's Camp picnic area was a pleasant venue for morning tea. Then followed a steep uphill climb into territory eschewed by birds of more discriminating taste. Suffice to say that those who laboured under the impression that powerful owls lay ahead in such numbers as to make the exertion worthwhile (only one would have done!) were, alas, sadly mistaken. The Crested Shrike-tit back at the camp was but poor consolation.

A tramp in a different direction revealed a White-throated Treecreeper and a Rufous Fantail.

Lunch was had at the picnic area near the old trestle bridge, now very much in disrepair, Goannas and Scarlet Honeyeaters provided company.

A total of 53 species was recorded for the day.

Adrian Ryan.

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THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

The November Clubnight was held on Wednesday the 11th.

The Black-faced Monarch was featured in all the opening segments of the evening. Barbara Kelly presented the Bird Call, Ann Lindsay the Bird of the Evening, then followed a discussion with members contributing their various observations of the Black-faced Monarch.

Unfortunately the Main Feature on Seabirds had to be cancelled and this was substituted by a video, a film by David Suzuki on the life of artist and birdwatcher - Roger Tory Peterson.

The following observations were recorded:-

Eastern Curlew	- Carrington	- T. Clarke
Bar-tailed Godwit	- Carrington	- "
Striated Heron	- Carrington	- "
Painted Button Quail	- Rankin Park	- J. Imrie
Blackbird	- Shortland Wetlands	- D. Kibble
Common Koel	- Harming Poing	- D. Kibble
Channel-billed Cuckoo	- Newcastle City	- J. Gardner
Channel-billed Cuckoo	- Lambton	- R. Waymark
Red-backed Fairy-wren	- Dungog	- B. Dowling
Speckled Warbler		
[feeding Bronze-cuckoo]	Kurri Kurri	- A. Zoneff
Levin's Honeyeater (Nest)	New Lambton	- P. Lightfoot
Spotted Pardalote (Nest)	" "	- "
Spangled Drongo (2)	" "	- "
Dusky Woodswallow	- Avabakal	- T. Clarke
Pied Butcherbird	- Morisset Hospital	- A. Lindsey

Interesting to note the observation of the introduced Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) from the Shortland Wetlands site. The latest "invader" from the South?

Bill Dowling reported a party of 20 Red-backed Fairy-wrens (including 3 males in full plumage) from Lantana/blady grass thickets near Dungog. First record for this regular observer in the Dungog area since 1958. Two Spangled Drongos at New Lambton were a late sighting for this species on 14/10/92. The birds were seen feeding in a Callistemon - possibly on insects.

Pleasing to see the growing list of species for the Throsby Creek site.

Bell Miners appearing in areas where not previously seen.

Southern Emu-wrens on saltmarsh flats at Port Stephens.

Painted Button Quail was found dead, possibly attacked by Magpie.

Request from new member, Shirley Parnaby, regarding Topknot Pigeons.

Regular visitors to Lake Macquarie, Mr. and Mrs. Parnaby recently spent a day at the Shortland Wetland Centre, where they found information on the HBOC and subsequently Mrs. Parnaby became a member. A favourite haunt is Myall Lakes and this year, in July, they did not find one Topknot Pigeon in the Cabbage Tree Palms at Mungo Brush, inspite of an abundance of fruit. In past years they have observed about 10 - 15 in this area. Mrs. Parnaby would welcome any news or suggestions as to why they were absent this year, she wonders if their migration is affected by their dwindling habitat.

Anyone wishing to write to Mrs. Parnaby, her address is:- 61, Hunter St, Castlemaine, Victoria, 3450. Or please pass on any information to Peter Phillips.

Annual General Meeting.

Notice is given of the Annual General Meeting of Hunter Bird Observers Club Incorporated to be held at the Shortland Wetlands Centre on 10th February 1993 commencing 7.30pm.

Business of the Meeting.

Confirmation of minutes of 1992 AGM
Annual Report (Inc. Financial Report)
Election of Office Bearers (see
separate notice)
Filling of other positions.
General Business

The AGM will be followed by the February Club Night.

Peter Phillips. Public Officer

Nominations are called for the following positions for 1993:

President.
Vice President.
Secretary
Treasurer.
Four (4) Ordinary members of the management committee.

Nominations shall be made in writing and signed by two members of the Club and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate, Nominations shall be delivered to the Secretary by 3/2/93.

If insufficient nominations are received the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected. Further nominations shall then be received at the AGM.

Peter Phillips. Public Officer.

ATLAS OUTING TO UPPER BOWMAN

7/8th November, 1992.

Our efforts to get Atlas outings up and running this year have not met with outstanding success, due to many unforeseen circumstances. This outing to Upper Bowman was no exception - only two starters on a doubtful-looking morning, heavily overcast, following overnight rain. However, we did manage to take a look at this formerly low-scoring grid, and dodging in and out of some quite heavy showers, we were able to add some 65 species to the list.

Because of the sloppy road conditions we aborted the quest in the early afternoon, without reaching the end of the grid, and opted to overnight at Woko National Park, where the rain pursued us. However, Sunday dawned fine and extremely warm, and a further 59 species were added for this area.

Bue Hamonet.

Field Day and Barbecue at Mount Vincent - Sunday, 22nd November, 1992.

After a night of storms, Sunday dawned fine and sunny, 14 members, some with offspring attached, arrived in dribs and drabs at Mount Vincent. Some wandered off in all directions to do a bit of birding. While sipping on a cuppa, others were just content to sit and talk of experiences past.

We were treated to an aerial display by Peregrine Falcons during most of the afternoon with their chattering giving positions away.

Barbies were fired up, meat, sausages, fish etc., were extracted from various chilled locations, tables were repossessed!! and all sat down to their own particular feast.

In all 38 species were sighted and jaw muscles well exercised and the day ended with "we'll have to do it again" or "we'll have to do it more often".

Graeme O'Connor.

COMING EVENTS.

Sunday 24 January.

Field Day:

Kooragang Island.

Meet:

Information sign across the
Tourle Street Bridge. 7.30am.

Contact:

Graeme O'Connor - 531304.

February.

Atlas Outing.

Mulbring area.

Contact:

Ann Lindsay - 733519 - for
date and details.

See note on 1993 programme re Atlas outings.

Wednesday 10 February.

Annual General Meeting followed by Clubnight.

Shortland Wetland Centre - 7.30 pm.

Main Feature - Jim & Kay Imrie - Canning Stock
Route Safari, slides and talk.

The above information whilst as accurate as possible should be checked nearer to Field Days etc., with the contact person. An update of activities will be given at Clubnights.

Contributions from members of the HBOC to the newsletter are welcome and the deadline for the February/March 1993 newsletter is 20th January.

The statements and opinions expressed in this newsletter are the responsibility of the authors concerned. The HBOC relies on the reputation of advertisers and their integrity for quality and nature of their products and services.

Editor.

BIRDS 2. Jack Meagher, of Glebe, is calling on the nurturing skills of the residents of a block of flats at 2 Stewart Street, Glebe. Mr Meagher lives across the road and has noticed a pair of spurring plovers and their two chicks, ground-nesting birds, take up residence on the gravel-covered roof of the three-storey building. He is worried that there is no food for the grass-eating birds, and the parents appear to spend their day protecting the chicks from marauding currawongs.

Sydney Morning Herald 19.10.92

Eventual change

SIR: Ernest B. Phillips (Letters, November 4) wishes to know why kookaburras laugh.

I was assured by a good friend some years ago that their laughter always heralded a change in the weather.

At first I did not believe this but careful observation over a long period shows it to be true.

The longest time I have had to wait for the change is three weeks.

Peter Spencer,
Dundas.

November 4

OUTINGS AND CAMPS PROGRAM 1993

January 24th.	Kooragang Island	Field Day
February	Mulbring	Atlas*
February 21st	Barrington Guest House Area	Field Day
March	Warkworth	Atlas*
March 21st	Milbrodale (Private Property)	Camp
April 9-12th	Canberra (with CBOG)	Camp
April 25th	Swansea South	BBQ/Field Day
May 2-3	Four Mile Creek (Maitland)	Field Day
June 12-14th	Murrumbo Stn (Private Property)	Camp
June 20th	Wetlands Day	Field Day
July	Singleton	Atlas*
July 25th	Wollembi	Field Day
August 22nd	Buchanan	Field Day
September	Sharpes Creek	Atlas*
September 19th	Hawks Nest	Field Day
October 2-4th	Widden Valley (Priv. Property)	Camp
October	Scone-Gloucester Road	Atlas*
October 24th	Cooranbong	Field Day
November 21st	Port Stephens	Field Day
December 5th	Stanhope Creek.	Field Day.

SPECIFIC DETAILS for field days and camps will be provided in the Club newsletter and at Club nights.

* Atlas Outings are most suitable for experienced birdwatchers. Dates and other details available from the contact person. Subject to cancellation or alteration.

CAMP FEES. A fee of \$1 per member per camp with \$3 being the maximum for a family will generally be levied. Non members will be charged the current annual membership fee. Occasionally private property owners have their own charges.

MEMBERSHIP FEES Fees are due 1st January 1993 -See membership renewal form for details.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Please tick appropriate box:-

- Family \$15.
 Single \$13.
 Junior \$2.

Fees are due on the 1st January, 1993 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.

Cut here.

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 10th February, 1993 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

Signature of member _____

Date _____