

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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

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President:

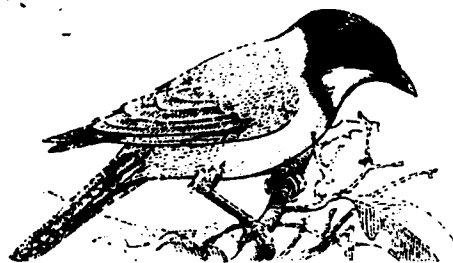
Secretary:

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 APRIL MEETING.

The April Clubnight was held on Wednesday the 14th. There was no Bird Call for the evening and Sue Hamonet opened proceedings with the Bird of the Evening - the Mistletoebird. The Main Feature was presented by Club member Allan Richardson, who showed a superb collection of his slides of flora and fauna from various parts of Australia.

Observation reports from April meeting

Ma	1	Australian Kestrel	2	Mayfield	T Clarke
	7	Marsh Harrier	1	"	"
	15	Brown Goshawk	1	"	"
	18	Australian Hobby	1	"	"
	13	Striped Honeyeater	2	S.W.C.	A. Lindsey
	27	White-breasted Woodswallow	10	Dora Creek	"
—	23	White-bellied Sea-eagle	2	Woodberry	J. Smith
	25	Australian Hobby	2	"	"
	24	Flame Robin	10	Barrington Tops	R. Parker
	27	Ruddy Turnstone	12	Bar Beach	B/C. Wibberley
	11	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Heatons Lookout	
Ap		White-bellied Sea-eagle	2	Ellalong Swamp	A. Lindsey
		Peregrine Falcon	2	Brightwaters	"
	1	Chestnut Teal	5	Carrington	T. Clarke
	4	Rose Robin	1	E. Maitland	P. McLauchlan
	7	Regent Honeyeater	2	Mt. Sugarloaf	B/C Wibberley
	10	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	6	New Lambton Hts	G. Allbrecht
	14	Spangled Drongo	1	" " "	"
	14	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Morisset Hosp.	
	14	Little Corella	200	New Lambton	A. Stuart
	28	Regent Bowerbird	6	Flaggy Creek	B/C Wibberley

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

June is the last month for paying membership fees for 1993.

Non financial - No newsletter.

Audio/Video Library.

There are 4 new CDs in the Library.

Birds of Australia - Helen Horton.

Dawn Chorus - John Hutchinson.

Gone Bush - Les Gilbert.

Sound Portrait of an Island - Montagu Island of Birds.

All of the above are also available in tape cassette format.

Easter Camp - Canberra. April 9th - 12th 1993.

Eleven adults and two children arrived for the Easter Campout.

The campsite was in a pleasant sheltered valley on a 450 acre property about 80 kms from Canberra, unstocked except for Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies and at least one Echidna. Property owner Reid welcomed us with a map of the property and Canberra Ornithologists Group members Malcolm and Phillip camped with us. Firewood was everywhere and made for bright campfires.

Saturday was organised as an outing to Canberra to view the honeyeater migration. Because of the distance involved some of us preferred to stay at the camp but four fronted up for the expedition and were squired by Malcolm in his people-mover. The honeyeaters failed to migrate that Saturday, although we did over the campout observe migrations back at camp. We lunched at Tidbinbilla amid Emus and Ducks - Freckled, Musk (displaying), Blue-billed, Hardhead, Australian Shelduck and Cape Barren Goose.

Back on the property, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, White-winged Choughs, Crimson Rosellas, Buff-rumped and Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Tree Martins and Dusky Woodswallows were in abundance. Otherwise the community of species had to be searched for and over the weekend we quartered most of the property. Each day the birds seemed to have abandoned yesterday's gully and were to be found in some new wooded gully. Open spaces and eucalypt-treed ridges were not favoured. Four good dams were not attractive to waterfowl in any numbers.

The final tally was 78 species. Highlights were Brown Quail, Painted Button-quail, (with three young in tow), Southern Boobook, Hooded Robin and Chestnut-rumped Hylacola. Australian Owlet-nightjars were heard every night at the camp-fire and finally seen by torchlight after a search. Four were sighted, very visible, very butterfly-like, poetry in motion.

The COG has yet to visit the property, so we hope our observations will interest them. Useful and fruitful discussion took place with COG representatives, further cementing our co-operative relationship.

Max Blanch.

Field Day - Swansea South. April 25th, 1993.

The Field Day to Bargood was very rewarding for the six members who attended. The grounds provided an enjoyable environment for a considerable variety of bird life. Some that captured our interest and attention were the Red-browed Firetail, Variegated Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren and a pair of Tawny Frogmouths dozing in a nearby tree. Some of the party had the good fortune to sight an Azure Kingfisher.

Our stroll along the foreshore at Swansea Heads allowed us to see a pair of Sooty Oystercatchers and Crested Tern, but the great thrill was to see a magnificent White-bellied Sea-Eagle, complete with its seafood lunch. Pleasant company, favourable weather and a wide variety of our feathered friends, the sighting of 51 species all told, combined to give everyone a thoroughly enjoyable outing.

Audrey Mahaffey.

Field Day - Maitland Area. May 2nd, 1993.

On a crisp autumn morning 14 members and 3 visitors (environmentalists from the Maitland area) met to walk around bush near Four Mile Creek, Green Hills. This land has been temporarily zoned by Maitland Council for recreational use. Various areas of this reasonable expanse of land have different owners with no development planned at the moment - hopefully it can stay in it's natural state for quite some time. Highlights of bird life in the area were a Shining Bronze-cuckoo, 2 Fan-tailed Cuckoos, Rose Robin, Golden Whistler, Brown Falcon and Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters. Visitor Lachlan Anderson showed us aspects of vegetation in this area.

We then proceeded to Morpeth Water Works where a nice collection of water birds were seen on pond and around shoreline. Royal Spoonbill, Hoary-headed Grebe, among others and Ducks - Australasian Shovellers, Hardheads, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal and quite a few of those really neat little ducks - Pink-eared.

We lunched in warm sunshine at Morpeth Common, more popular with people than birds on this day. A Pacific Heron was standing in a pond, 3 Wedge-tailed Eagles flew high above and hundreds of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters flew in flocks high above during the day, heading North, thankfully these birds form into blocks of 10 for easier counting! Total of 69 species seen during a very pleasant day.

Fay Thomson.

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THE MAY MEETING.

The May Clubnight was held on Wednesday the 12th. Jim Imrie presented the Bird Call for the evening - the Spangled Drongo, for Bird of the Evening Adrian Ryan gave an illustrated talk on the White-bellied Sea-Eagle. The Main Feature was presented by Paddy Lightfoot of SGAP, "Planting Trees to attract Birds".

Observation reports from May meeting

May 7	Black-necked Stork	1	Cooranbong	A. Richardson
6	Regent Bowerbird	1	New Lambton Hts	P. Lightfoot
6	Scarlet Honeyeater	1	" " "	"
10	Spangled Drongo	1	" " "	"

Bird Records for the Hunter Region.

A special Management Committee meeting was held on the 21st April, 1993, for the purpose of discussing bird records and the possibility of producing an annual report of observations in the Hunter Region. Present were Wilma Barden, Tom Clarke, Sue Hamonet, Ann Lindsey, Peter McLauchlan, John Moyse, Graeme O'Connor, Jim Perry, Jeanette Stephenson and Alan Stuart. Apologies from Peter Phillips. Peter McLauchlan outlined reasons for the need to produce and publish an annual Bird Report, which would include data gathered within a designated Hunter region, by all members of the HBOC and other interested contributors. Alan Stuart stressed the need to collate the important information already accumulated over the lifetime of the Club. Conservation issues are now making regular requests for information from the HBOC. It was decided the Club produce an annual bird report which would commence in 1993.

EXTRACTS FROM THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, May 15, 1993

"Stone the currawongs, they're taking over" was the title of an article by Peter Smark in the SMH, May 15. He comments on two points of view on how to deal with the increasing Currawong population.

Quote: Putting the case for the currawong is a distinguished ornithologist, Allan Morris, of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. "Lots of people blame currawongs and cats alone for the loss of the small birds from their areas. But all they have on their blocks is lawn and a couple of gum trees. The small birds like honey-eaters, fairy wrens, redbrow finches and eastern silver-eyes need a dense under-storey of shrubs to survive. Most of the small birds were gone before the recent increase in currawong numbers."

So let's have a less reasonable voice, that of biologist and environmentalist Harry Recher of the University of New England, who 18 months ago told the Herald he thought we should be killing half a million currawongs a year because they were out of control. It hasn't happened and now Dr. Recher remains just as fiercely convinced a poisoning program should be implemented. Harry stresses he has nothing personal against the pied currawong, appreciates its singing ability and rather admires its toughness. But it's ethnically cleansed more than enough areas already, he feels.

Project Currawong: the Combined Bird Clubs Currawong Count

At a meeting of combined bird clubs at Shortlands Wetlands Centre on 6-7 March 1993, discussion centred around the feasibility of simple interactive projects between the various ornithological and natural history organisations within NSW and ACT.

In order to assess how YOU, the average birdo, can cope with potential future projects involving multi-club organisation, and the recording of simple data, it was unanimously decided to have a test run of a simple project that everyone can get involved with. The context of this project is to count numbers of Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* within a given area over a given period, the details of which are given below. The reason this species was chosen is because it is perceived to have increased in urban areas over the last decade, preys heavily on passerine chicks during the breeding season, has been implicated in the dispersal of unwanted seeds, and utters a beautiful melodious call. We have tried to keep this project as simple as possible, yet provide at least some useful data on the distribution, broad habitat preference, behaviour and relative abundance of this ubiquitous species. If successful more inter bird club projects of this kind will be organised in the near future.

YOUR assistance will help guide the future of ornithological conservation and research in south-eastern Australia -- please consider.

When is it: You can conduct your count(s) at any time and anywhere in NSW and ACT between Saturday 17 to Sunday 25 July 1993. You can count as many as 20 sites per person, but can't count the same site twice. No two sites should be closer than one kilometre to each other. Even if you only count 1 site, your data will help.

What to do: Simply select a site in an urban, rural or bushland area, and record how many Pied Currawongs you can see or hear within a radius of 100 metres over a period of no more than 20 minutes. Try not to count the same birds twice. Your back yard is just as valuable to this project as a natural area. Write the results down as set out below, and at the end of the census period, collate your sightings on to a single sheet of paper and give them to either your respective club (computer and Atlas) records officer John Duranti, or mail them to;

Chris J. Chafer
Department of Biological Sciences,
University of Wollongong,
Nothfields Ave., Wollongong. NSW. 2522.

Please make sure your data is returned to either of the above people no later than the second week of August.

Results of this joint venture between clubs will appear in this Newsletter in the first available edition after October 1, 1993.

Collate your data as follows, please be as precise as possible for location, the other variables are a broad measure only.

Variable Classes (try to pick best fitting class from list)

Location: place name, or distance and direction to nearest town
Habitat: urban (yard or park), rural (semi-cleared), natural bushland
Weather: fine, windy, rain, snow, overcast
Behaviour: perched, flying, eating, preening, chasing prey

EXAMPLE

Observer: Name, Address

Member of: Cumberland Bird Observers Club

Date	Location	Habitat	NUMBER IN CENSUS	Weather	Behaviour
18/7/93	Lake Heights	urban	2	fine	perched
19/7/93	Iluka NR	natural	6	rain	flying

THE ABC PROMOTES THE ABC!

Confused? Well, there is no need to be. The environmental programme A Question of Survival which goes to air nationally on ABC Television in June 1993 will feature a story on the RAOU Australian Bird Count (ABC). Filming for the story has already been completed with shots taken in the ABC Office, Rozelle Hospital Grounds (an inner city ABC site) and at Barren Grounds Bird Observatory.

Our story will be screened at 8 pm on 9 June, the first episode of the 'Survival' series. The program will also announce a special bird count in which the viewers will be invited to count birds once a week for eight weeks in their local bit of bushland or back garden. A bird count chart will appear in Sunday newspapers across the country to assist the viewers to systematically record their counts. These results will be made available to the Australian Bird Count and we will be responsible for analysing them. The results of the survey will be fed back to the viewers in the final episode of the 'Survival' series on 11 August 1993.

'Survival' has an estimated viewing audience of two million people. We are going to be inundated with count charts from program viewers at the end of the eight-week survey. If only 5% of the viewers respond to the survey, we can expect 10,000 count charts returned, most of which need to be processed and analysed in one and a half weeks so that the results can be presented in the final programme of the series. There will be some assistance from 'Survival' programme research staff in processing the results, but the bulk of the work will be done by the RAOU.

I am setting up a round-the-clock roster (i.e. 24-hour days) in the ABC Office for the period 28 July to 10 August inclusive to cope with the incoming results. I will need about 50 volunteers in addition to those I already have to help process these results. If you feel you can fit into this roster to help open the mail, check incoming results for errors, file away the data sheets or assist with computer storage, especially of an evening or over the weekend, then I would like to hear from you soon. You may be able to spend several days in the office or just a couple of hours - every little bit will help. The roster will be arranged so that there will always be an experienced person in the office who knows how to handle any problems that may arise and, ideally, we need a minimum of four people in the office at any one time.

I am happy to organise billeting for any member from outside Sydney who goes to the trouble of helping with this worthwhile exercise.

Please give Stephen Ambrose a ring as soon as possible on (02) 3398183 at work or (02) 8173816 at home if you think you can offer help.

Stephen Ambrose

CHEMICAL DEFENSE IN BIRDS?

A variety of organisms are known to produce or sequester noxious compounds that can be used for defense purposes. Until recently, no examples of chemical defense were known among birds, although there are many examples in all other vertebrate classes. In 1990 it was discovered that the Hooded Pitohui [Pitohui dichrous], a small passerine, endemic to the New Guinea subregion contained in its feathers and muscle tissue a toxic substance that could function as a defensive chemical. The toxin caused numbness, burning and sneezing on contact with human buccal and nasal tissues during collection and preparation of specimens. Local New Guineans referred to the bird as a "rubbish bird" that should not be eaten unless it was skinned and specially prepared. Since that time tissue of three species of the genus have been collected and the toxin identified as a steroidal alkaloid. Feathers, skin, striated muscle, uropygial gland, heart-liver [combined] and stomach with contents from individual Hooded Pitohuis, Variable Pitohuis, and Rusty Pitohuis have been tested. The assays have shown that in all three species the skin and feathers of the birds were most toxic, the striated muscle much less toxic and the other organs were least toxic, and of the three species the Hooded Pitohui was most toxic.

Tests revealed that the toxin closely resembles homobatrachotoxin, previously known only from a genus of poison-dart frogs. This genus contains the three toxic Colombian dart-frogs whose skins are used for poisoning blow-gun darts. The toxin induced hind-limb paralysis, marked locomotor difficulties, and then profound prostration in low dosage when tested on laboratory mice, higher dosages caused death in 18 to 19 minutes.

In nature poisonous animals are often conspicuous, and it has been argued that this educates predators, since conspicuous colour patterns startle or cause hesitation in predators. Both Hooded and Variable Pitohuis emit a strong, sour odour and are brightly coloured. The wings, tail and head of the Hooded and some races of the Variable are black, and the remaining portions of the body are a sharply contrasting orange-brown.

**From an article published in SCIENCE magazine, of November, 1992, and with appreciation to the Australian Museum. Skins of the Hooded Pitohui are held in the Museum skin collection.

THE ADAPTABLE HOUSE SPARROW

(Extracted from Australian Natural History Vol.24 No.4 p.12)

The House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is one of nature's greatest opportunists. Two biologists were recent witnesses to a display of the sparrow's uncanny ability to adapt its behaviour to suit the situation. One December morning, they were waiting at an intercity bus station in Hamilton N.Z. when they noticed sparrows flying back and forth through a pair of automatic sliding glass doors into the station cafe. They appeared to deliberately open the doors, by flying slowly past the infra-red sensor, hovering in front of it or landing on top of the control box and leaning forward. The birds would then fly through the open doorway, scavenging crumbs and scraps from the cafe, and fly back outside when they had finished.

The biologists watched male sparrows open the doors at least 16 times in the morning and several more times when they returned that afternoon. Female sparrows, on the other hand, tended to wait for people to activate the doors and then flew through behind them. According to the traffic supervisor, the sparrows had learned to open the doors very quickly after they had been installed.

LIBRARY REPORT - March 1993

The following publications have been added to the Library:-

No. 231/92 Naturae - THE GOULDS IN THE HUNTER REGION

by Glenn and Jillian Albrecht.

John Gould and his wife spent some time in the Hunter Region in 1839-1840. This publication deals with the birds recorded by Gould whilst travelling through the region and emphasises the importance of the Hunter in Gould's famous work THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 232/93 - WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN NORTH EAST QUEENSLAND by Jo. Wieneke.

Any members contemplating a trip to this area which is one of the richest ornithological regions in Australia, would be well advised to take this book with them.

No. 233/93 CANBERRA BIRD NOTES

Our birdo friends in Canberra have produced a booklet for their Annual Bird Report which summarises all records of species that occurred in the Canberra Region between July 1989 and June 1990.

No. 234/93 OPTICS FOR BIRDING

This document sets out advice for the selection of binoculars and telescopes. The prices quoted are more relevant to U.S.A. birdwatchers.

No. 235/93 KOOKABURRAS by Veronica Parry.

Kookaburras was first published in 1970 and is now out of print. We are therefore fortunate to obtain a copy which is in very good condition. We are all familiar with our old friend 'Laughing Jack' but few would realise that he has evolved social behavior patterns that enable him to adapt to his environment. The book deals with the way of life of this unique member of our avian world.

No. 236/93 THE BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WADERS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

This is a species management report (NO.9) issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of N.S.W.

Waders are birds of the suborder Charadri and 63 species are dealt with in this report. Wetlands are the main habitats of these species and Kooragang is one of the two N.S.W. wetlands which are of prime importance because of their large wader populations.

No. 237/93 Hunter Bird Observers Club - Record of Club Outings 1992

Prepared by Alan Stuart

That man Stuart has been at it again and has compiled a very comprehensive record of all Club Outings undertaken in 1992. A list compiled in 1986 shows that 400 species had been recorded in the Hunter region in the preceding 10 years and it is of interest to note that over 200 were recorded for 1992.

No. 102/ 87 WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This book 'disappeared' at the December 1991 Club night and we are pleased to report - thanks to Graeme Brown - that another copy is now in our library stock.

In the February Newsletter we listed the Newsletters which the Club receives from other ornithological groups. A welcome addition to our 'collection' has been received from the Illawarra Bird Observers Club. The layout is similar to our own newsletter and should be of interest to members as this club concentrates its activities in the areas north and south of the city of Wollongong.

Species Distribution in the Hunter Region

Which are the most common bird species in the Hunter region? It's very difficult to say which are the most abundant, since most of the available records only indicate that a bird was present or absent and don't indicate abundance. However, it is possible to get some idea about species distribution from such records.

For the period 1988-92, the HBOC had 63 outings and camps within what we define as the Hunter region. These have covered all the different habitat types that make up the region, in a fairly uniform fashion. Therefore, it is very interesting to note the species that have been recorded most frequently from those outings and camps.

A total of 277 bird species have been recorded within the 5-year period — some only occasionally, others more frequently. Those species recorded most often are listed below. It should be noted that a list of the most abundant species would no doubt look somewhat different given the variations in flock size and territorial area that occur for different species.

Alan Stuart

Rank	Species	Times Recorded	Freq (%)
1	Superb Fairy-wren	61	97
1	Australian Magpie	61	97
3	Australian Raven	59	94
4	Grey Fantail	58	92
5	Laughing Kookaburra	57	90
6	Eastern Rosella	56	89
6	Welcome Swallow	56	89
8	Australian Magpie-lark	55	87
9	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	54	86
10	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	53	84
11	Red-browed Firetail	52	82
12	Brown Thornbill	50	79
12	Grey Butcherbird	50	79
14	White-throated Treecreeper	49	78
14	Pied Currawong	49	78
16	Eastern Yellow Robin	48	76
16	Yellow Thornbill	48	76
16	Silvereye	48	76
19	Maned Duck	46	73
19	White-browed Scrub-wren	46	73
19	Eastern Spinebill	46	73

Rank	Species	Times Recorded	Freq (%)
22	Noisy Miner	45	71
23	Masked Lapwing	44	70
23	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	44	70
23	Eastern Whipbird	44	70
26	Variegated Wren	42	67
26	Lewin's Honeyeater	42	67
26	Spotted Pardalote	42	67
29	White-faced Heron	41	65
30	Galah	40	63
31	Little Pied Cormorant	39	62
31	Pacific Black Duck	39	62
31	Crested Pigeon	39	62
34	Striated Thornbill	37	59
34	Noisy Friarbird	37	59
36	Common Starling	35	56
36	Pied Butcherbird	35	56
38	Australian King Parrot	33	52
39	Whistling Kite	32	51
40	Sacred Kingfisher	31	49
40	Red Wattlebird	31	49
40	Mistletoebird	31	49



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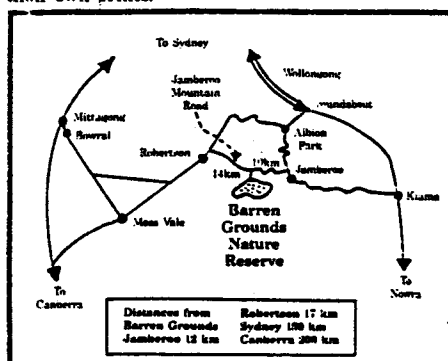
Caves and Culture

Leaders: Cedric Rutledge & Jim Derbyshire

Dates: 4-6 June

Cost: \$140 (RAOU \$130)

Come and explore the history of Barren Grounds and its remote and beautiful valleys and gisens. Cedric, a local expert, will take you to view some of the paintings and engravings of the Aboriginal people of the Illawarra. Jim will extend our knowledge of developments in more recent years and also provide a rare opportunity for some black-&-white photography. Enthusiasts will be able to develop and make their own prints.



Lyrebirds

Leader: Iain Paterson

Dates: 25-27 June

Cost: \$140 (RAOU \$130)

Would you like to know more about one of the truly great wonders of Australian birdlife? Through the use of hides Iain will help you to observe lyrebirds displaying and to experience their remarkable mimicry. This will also be a golden opportunity for sound recording and photography.

Yulefest and Feathers

Leaders: Jenni Martin & Patrick Tap

Dates: 9-11 July

Cost: \$140 (RAOU \$130)

Escape from the winter and enjoy a weekend of good fun and good food in cosy surroundings. Participate in a variety of activities including bushwalking and bird watching. On Saturday evening Santa will be arriving and we will be serving a traditional Christmas dinner. Come along and be pampered in true Barren Grounds style.

Landscaping with Nature

Leader: Patrick Tap

Dates: 23-25 July

Cost: \$140 (RAOU \$130)

A well planned garden is an asset to any home, but it need not be expensive. Patrick will use the relationships between the trees, shrubs, rocks, water and ground litter of Barren Grounds to illustrate how you can transform your garden (be it large or small) into an interesting and functional landscape, without the exorbitant price tag.

COMING EVENTS.

<u>Weekend 12-14 June.</u> ^{at}	<u>Camp:</u> <u>Contact:</u>	Murrumbidgee Station (Private Property, Graeme O'Connor - 531304.
<u>Sunday 20 June.</u>	<u>Field Day:</u> <u>Meet:</u> <u>Contact:</u>	Wetlands Day. Shortland Wetland Centre. 8 am. Ann Lindsey. 733519.
<u>July.</u>	<u>Atlas Outing:</u> <u>Contact:</u>	Singleton area. Graeme O'Connor. 531304.
<u>Wednesday 14 July.</u>	<u>Clubnight:</u> <u>Main Feature:</u>	Shortland Wetland Centre. 7.30 pm. Jim Scanlan - Talk and Slides on "Bird Vocalisation".
<u>Sunday 25 July.</u>	<u>Field Day:</u> <u>Meet:</u> <u>Contact:</u>	Wollembi. To be advised.
<u>Wednesday 11 August.</u>	<u>Clubnight:</u> <u>Main Feature:</u>	Shortland Wetland Centre. 7.30 pm. David Geering - Researcher SWC Exciting new results from Proj. c Egret Watch.
<u>Sunday 22 August.</u>	<u>Field Day:</u> <u>Meet:</u> <u>Contact:</u>	Buchanan area. To be advised.
<u>Wednesday 8 September.</u>	<u>Clubnight:</u> <u>Main Feature:</u>	Shortland Wetland Centre. 7.30 pm. Ian Hutton - Birds of Lord Howe Island. Author of three books on Lord Howe Island.
<u>Sunday 19 September.</u>	<u>Field Day:</u> Further information in next newsletter.	Hawks Nest (with National Parks Group)

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

Contributions from members of the HBOC to the newsletter are welcome and the deadline for the August/September newsletter is 28th July.

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

Editor.

STOP PRESS — GARDEN BIRD CHARTS

The 1992/93 charts are due to be replaced on July 1, when the new year of observations starts. We realise that, for many people, it may be some time after that date before they would normally have the opportunity to hand in their old chart and receive a new one. Therefore, for those people who do intend to hand in a 92/93 chart and start one for 93/94, we offer a choice of the following arrangements:

- Receive a new chart at the June club night, and submit the old chart after the end of June (e.g. at the July 14 club night).
- Swap an old chart for new at the July 14 meeting, having kept a separate record of the early July sightings to transfer to the new chart.
- Contact Peter McLauchlan (333 224) or Alan Stuart (528 569) to see if it is possible to make some other arrangement (e.g. where we post you the new chart and you post or otherwise arrange to deliver the old one to us).

Many members took charts for non-member friends, who will not receive this newsletter. If you did this, please assist those people to whom you gave charts to return their 92/93 chart and receive a replacement. Please note that, because of financial constraints, we are reluctant to undertake postage of charts to non-members.