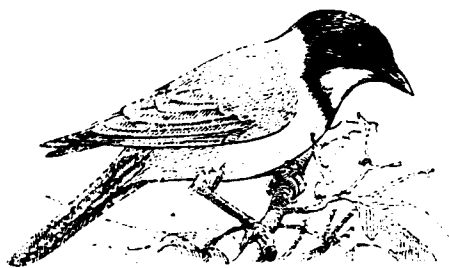


NEWSLETTER



Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

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

Telephone: (049) 52 8569

President:
Secretary:
Newsletter Editor:

Ann Lindsey
Peter Phillips
Tom Clarke

The aims of the club are:

To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat.

To encourage bird observing as a leisure time activity.

June Club Night

Trends in Bird Sightings of the Northumberland District.

Club Night was held on Wednesday 8th June 1994 and for the second month in a row we enjoyed a *Bird Call* segment presented by Barbara Kelly. Barbara had been deputised by good friend Rosemary Waymark to stand in for her as she was not able to attend.

Rosemary lives near a wetland of some description and has become familiar with the calls of various species of waterfowl. For the sake of comparison, three different calls were played and these proved to be Maned Duck, Pacific Black Duck and Australian Shelduck. The latter, it was suggested, would be a rare sighting in the Hunter.

Bird of the Evening was presented by Adrian Ryan whose choice was a favourite of many in our club, the Scarlet Honeyeater. The brilliant scarlet of the male bird's head, neck, breast and rump makes this honeyeater such a delight to observe.

The distribution of the Scarlet Honeyeater in Australia is generally the east coast from Townsville in the north to Victoria in the south. Its cousin, the Red-headed Honeyeater ranges across the northern coastline of Australia from Cape York to Derby in Western Australia. This makes the areas of distribution quite distinct and unique with no apparent overlapping.

Adrian completed his presentation with some sound recordings of this bird's calls; familiar to many in the summer months.

Main feature of the evening was a lively discussion on the fluctuating fortunes of various species in our region. This was delivered by well known ornithologist Allan Morris.

For the sake of this presentation the area in question was the Northumberland District. Bordered to the north by the Hunter River, south by the Hawksbury River, east by the Tasman Sea and west by Howes Valley and Macdonald River.

Allan had chosen twenty birds for discussion; ten of which had become more commonly observed over the past twenty or so years and ten which had become scarce. The particular birds selected were not particularly the ten best or worst. Allan pointed out that the availability of suitable slides had governed his choice.

Still, some interesting observations have been recorded. For instance, White-headed Pigeon were regarded as scarce during the seventies with only sightings of single birds around the Gosford area. It is suggested that the spread of fruit bearing exotics such as camphor laurel and privet has brought this bird back with large groups being observed regularly these days.

Also on the increase are Common Koel and Channel-billed Cuckoo. These birds, it is thought have appeared as a result of their respective hosts, Red Wattlebird and Pied Currawong, establishing themselves in the parks and gardens of the urban areas.

The Price of Progress on Kooragang Island.

As mentioned in the previous issue of our Newsletter, the Port Waratah Coal Services are moving to establish an artificial wetland within the boundary of their Kooragang site.

Curious as to what may be happening, a site visit was organised and a small group of four spent a couple of hours watching birds at Kooragang Coal Terminal. This outing took place on Sunday 5th June 1994 and the group consisted of Tom Clarke, Ann Lindsey, Peter Phillips and Alan Stuart.

Well we did find it interesting, and unusual; it would have to be the first time any of us have been required to wear hard hats to go birdwatching. Also the backdrop of massive stockpiles of coal and a giant mechanical monster called a Bucket Reclaimer is hardly a natural surrounding. Be that as it may a sizeable remnant of deep water and reeds exists between the stockpiles and the well planted grounds of the main office. Adjacent to this is another area which has been degraded due to it being used as a convenient refuse dump by the company in the past. It is this area that will be rejuvenated into a well thoughtout wetland complex.

The birdwatching was enjoyable, especially in the reedy area. Good numbers of Golden-headed Cisticola and Superb Fairy-wren were found in amongst the reeds and other dense low cover about the margins. Also of interest were the Black Swan (four individuals were found sitting on nests) and Musk Duck. Of the latter, two males and a female were identified.

Initially, the Musk Duck were quietly going about their own business, each in their own corner of the pond with no apparent interest in the other. Later on though, the males engaged in some splashing displays and this culminated in one performing in view of the female. This display contained splashing and whistling with the throat pouch inflated and the tail fanned forward over its back.

During the morning several raptors were observed. An Australian Kestrel which liked the lofty structures of the Reclaimer found a good vantage point on top of the huge counterweight of

this machine. A Marsh Harrier flew up out of the reed bed opposite our group while White-bellied Sea Eagle and Whistling Kite patrolled far and wide but on occasion cast their shadow on this part of the world.

A total of thirty-eight species were recorded and a copy of our Sightings List has been presented to PWCS as encouragement to establish a Bird List for the site.

Despite the good birdwatching, the day was filled with mixed feelings. To the west of this are the existing artificial wetlands, previously well visited by birds and bird watchers is being filled in to create more solid ground for coal stockpile extensions.

This, of course, was always going to happen but this area has provided tremendous birdwatching opportunities for myself and I dare say many others over the last twenty odd years. No longer will I be able to search for Marsh Sandpiper or Greenshank in the "hidden pond" or gaze at 1000 plus Black Swan in the "deep pond". Not to mention the habitat lost to the many and varied species of birds I have come to enjoy in this area. It saddens me to think that it is all finished. I miss those days spent finding gems like Black-winged Stilt with young or the rafts of Red-necked Avocet.

I feel a grief that is consistent with the loss of a good friend. This place has been a part of me and my birdwatching. The rehabilitation of the Ash Island area takes on even more significance.

Tom Clarke

● New members

The HBOC extends a very warm welcome to the following new members:

Robert & Margaret Stewart of Merewether
Richard Yank of Eleebana

● Library Notes

New books for HBOC

The following publications have been recently added to our library stock:-

Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds

This volume deals principally with the Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds found in New Guinea. However, it also covers in some detail all the Bower Birds and Rifle Birds found in Australia.

The Author, Thomas Gilliard (now deceased) was recognised as a world authority on Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds and this book (published after his death) reflects his intense and formidable knowledge of these species.

Our thanks are due to Jenny Meynell who acquired this book for our Library.

BOCA - Birds and Gardens Survey - 1991

This survey, conducted by the Bird Observers Club of Australia, was implemented to determine the most important factors which attract birds into gardens. The report includes lists of plants used by insectivorous, nectar-eating and seed-eating birds.

E. Hamonet
31/05/94

● BOCA

Birds and Gardens Survey - 1991

This excellent report is best explained by its author Zoë Wilson. The following summary appears in the publication.

"The Survey design recorded the following garden parameters: garden dimensions and shape (including a plan showing buildings, lawn or groundcover areas, garden beds, and number and height of major shrubs and trees); participant assessment of the major plant types ('native' or 'exotic'); and location. Quarterly survey forms listed bird species observed, with an estimate of the frequency of their presence; response to water; and response to natural food or to any food provided. Participants were asked to report any interesting observations and asked to name plants from which birds were observed obtaining food.

Results were collated to list regular visitors to gardens; natural and provided foods selected by birds; plants used by birds to obtain different foods (insects, seed, nectar); numbers of species visiting different types of garden; and birds which include gardens within their foraging range.

It was concluded that the number of bird species visiting a garden was influenced by: presence of tall trees; presence of middle and ground-level shrubs; permanent supply of water; and suburban proximity to a patch of natural bushland within 3km. Garden size only had an effect when other factors were equal. Provision of food did not affect the number of species recorded per garden, but may have affected the total number of birds seen.

To provide appropriate habitat for birds in gardens, it is recommended that gardens contain tall cover; patches of dense undercover; some open grass and Australian native plants for nectar, insects and shelter. Native or exotic fruit-bearing plants would provide temporary supplies of food in season. Water should be available permanently."

Society for Growing Australian Plants
Newcastle Group

Wildflower Spectacular 1994

The Shortland Wetlands Centre
Saturday and Sunday
8th & 9th October

Why don't you come along and enjoy
this very successful exhibition?

Themes will include native plant nurseries,
crafts, SGAP plant, cut flower and floral
arrangement sales as well as various native flora,
conservation and environmental group displays.
Look for the Hunter Bird Observers Club
display in the marquee.

Cameron's Camp (Mt Boss) June Long Weekend, 1994

Luxury indoor camping in twin rooms was a feature of the HBOC camp on the June weekend. We had the use of a kitchen and a generator provided plenty of electricity.

About twenty people including five younger people made the journey to Cameron's Camp in Mt. Boss State Forest approximately sixty kilometres north west of Wauchope. We were joined by Bob and Marie Langdowne and Berrice Dale from the Manning Valley Birdwatchers. Bob brought his projector and many people showed some most challenging slides. For me it was a special occasion in that I met up with Berrice again after twenty years and we had a lot of chatting to catch up on.

The weather was generous with warm, still, sunny days and cold, frosty nights. This was the Club's first camp in the area and much was learnt about the immediate environs. Wilson River Primitive Reserve is a small area of beautiful rainforest once full of Red Cedar felled during the 1880s. We visited Werrikimbe National Park, a short distance away. The camping area at Brushy Mountain has been badly burnt but is a must for enthusiastic campers in years to come. Plateau Beech Picnic Area has tall Negrohead or Antarctic Beech trees and a walking track through ancient rainforest to King Fern Falls.

We saw fifty-one species of birds including Topknot Pigeon, White-headed Pigeon and Brown Cuckoo-dove. An Olive Whistler and Eastern Yellow Robins kept us constant company in camp. The Superb Lyrebirds were calling beautifully and Logrunners were present but elusive. We had ample opportunity to practise our identification of Brown Thornbill, Brown Gerygone and Striated Thornbill.

On behalf of us all, I would like to thank Graeme O'Connor for organising this most successful camp.

Ann Lindsey.

A Great Day at Colliery Dam, Richmond Vale "and that's No Bull!"

A cool clear morning saw 19 keen birdos gather at Mulbring Sportsground and sign a *no-liability* form; "just a precaution" said Ann Lindsey and set off safari fashion to the dam which was on private land, owned by the colliery, running a few head of cattle and horses.

After negotiating the cattle holding-pen gate and the first barbed wire fence, we headed down to a lightly wooded area overlooking the water where a good variety of birdlife, including Black Swan, ducks and egrets were sighted.

Roving binoculars soon picked up two White-bell Sea Eagles, Royal Spoonbill and Musk Duck. The highlights for me were the Intermediate Egrets with their wedding veil like breeding plumage and the Comb-crested Jacana, a delightful bird that I had only seen once before at Kakadu in the Northern Territory.

Being a new recruit, this only my second field trip, I could identify the more distinctive birds, but when we moved to the end of the dam, smaller little brown feathered things were a different prospect.

Good clear sighting, with a large telescope, of Grey-crowned Babblers proved the worth of that piece of equipment being carried, especially to give fledgling birdwatchers a good close up, steady view of the subject. A few more barbed wire crossings, and in taller trees, Red-browed Firetail, Spotted Pardalote and Rose Robin were harder and often too quick for me to identify with any certainty. The seasoned veterans with their uncanny ears made it look easy. I hope time will grant me that experience.

I spotted a yellowish bird with black markings through its eye and felt an instant success when a Yellow-tufted Honeyeater was identified by Ann. The sighting of an Azure Kingfisher ended a worthwhile trek to that end of the dam. Most opted to head back to the cars and reassemble at the causeway but a few keen walkers strode out to do the 4-5 km round trip. Just about to our destination I realised why we had signed that liability form. Confronting us was a large, mean looking bull, chest high in the water and after eyeballing him with binoculars, Barbara and I decided to wait for the small party bringing up the rear, before running the gauntlet. By the time the reinforcements arrived (three adults and one small boy) the bull was out of the water and stood his ground as we passed through what was definitely "his territory". I didn't think a pleasurable day out looking for birds could give such an adrenalin rush.

In all, seventy one species were recorded and with the round trippers taking home a collection of tortoise shells, a good time was had by all.

Pat Pountney

● July club night

Don't Teach Your Currawongs to Suck Eggs.

The main feature at Club night on 13th July 1994, was a talk by Dr Richard Majors, Scientific Officer with the Australian Museum and coordinator of RAOU Nest Record Scheme, about the predation of bird nests. Recent research has been carried out on the subject including the well publicised Australian Museum Nest Test. Richard discussed some of the results from this experiment as well as its implications.

As evidenced in other bird surveys of late, an apparent decline in small-bird numbers, especially in our towns, may be a cause for concern. Well known species such as Willie Wagtail are being reported less by observers. On the other hand, large birds such as Pied Currawong are showing an increase in numbers.

One possible reason for small bird decline may be the use of pesticides. A garden containing fruit bearing plants but lacking in insects is still a poor habitat for small birds. Another reason put forward is that while many places are well planted with trees they still may not contain any dense understory. This would be just the habitat for small birds to nest in and feel secure.

The Currawong Factor cannot be overlooked either and these bird, it was felt, may have had an impact by way of nest predation. Other birds and animals, both native and introduced, are nest predators as well and so a project was devised to obtain data on this subject.

Richard described the methodology of his project which produced a fantastic response from the public. Around 2000 people took part from all over Australia and 90% actually returned their findings!

The results of these findings showed up some very interesting trends and relationships. It was found that 30% of the artificial nests used had been predated within the first two days of the project and after fourteen days had elapsed, that amount had increased to 64%. This suggests that predators are very active around human settlement when compared with a 42% predation rate on real nests recorded in an earlier study in National Parks.

Big birds were the most common predator of these test nests, accounting for 62% of all attempts. Small birds were involved in 30% with cats, rats and possums making up the remainder. Rats had accounted for 25% of predation in the previous experiment in the National Parks.

Of the observed predators, Currawongs were identified 50% of the time, Magpies 12% and Noisy Miner 10%.

Earlier in the evening, an excellent *Bird Call* presentation by Sue Hammonet dealt with the identification of White's Thrush.

The range of White's Thrush includes Siberia, eastern Europe, south-eastern Asia, New Guinea and Australia. Recent taxonomical work shows that White's Thrush in Australia is divisible into two separate species; Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata* and Russet-tailed Thrush *Z. heinei*. It was thought, that a neat division of the two species occurred along the Great Dividing Range but this is now being questioned and it would seem likely that both occur in our region..

The two species can be positively identified 'in the hand' but field observations alone make this task very difficult. However, the respective calls of these two birds can be used as a key to the species.

Sue played tape recordings of both and explained the differences. The call of the Bassian Thrush is a warbling song very much like that of a Blackbird while the Russet-tailed Thrush has a simpler two note call.

Another challenge for birdwatchers and more headaches for Record's Officers.

Our *Bird of the Evening* segment dealt with a common, but elegant bird, the White-faced Heron, and was presented by John Cockerell.

This bird is usually seen stalking about shallow water hunting for small fish, tadpoles, frogs and aquatic invertebrates. They frequent lakes, ocean shores and river banks and the frequency and persistence with which they also use farm dams and irrigated crops for feeding suggests that they have benefitted from agriculture.

One piece of interesting behaviour by these birds is the method used to catch crustaceans. John described how White-faced herons stand in water for extended periods and from time to time stir the mud with their foot. This action reveals food items which the bird is then able to catch with a quick strike. John has witnessed this behaviour and proudly showed a slide depicting the event.

This waterbird, known by some as the Blue Crane (a name that John finds himself using at times) is always a pleasant sight but is not blessed with an attractive call. A recording of various guttural noises played by John attested to that.

● Observations

Reports from June/July meetings

May	6-27	Regent Honeyeater	152+	Howes Valley	A.Morris
	8	Turquoise Parrot	4	" "	"
	12	Australian Hobby	1	Mayfield	T.Clarke
	13	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	10	"	"
	13	European Goldfinch	4	"	"
	23	Australian Hobby	1	"	"
	23	Plumed Whistling-Duck	200	Singleton	R.Waymark
	25	Brahminy Kite	2	Hexham Bridge	P.Hughes
	26	Brown Cuckoo-dove	1	East Maitland	M.McLauchlan
	27	Pacific Baza	1	Minmi	A.Morris
	27	Little Eagle	1	Market Swamp	"
	29	White-winged Chough	20+	Green Hills	J.Smith
	30	Brahminy Kite	1	Hexham Bridge	P.Hughes
	30	Plumed Whistling-duck	200	Singleton	R.Waymark
June	1	Spangled Drongo	1	Swansea Heads	T.Clarke
	3	Tawny Frogmouth	1	Merewether Heights	M. & K.Woods
	4	Eastern Reef Egret	1	Stockton	J. & E.Moyse
	4	Little Friarbird	1	Brightwaters	A.Lindsey
	5	Australian Shoveller	25+	Stockton Borehole	"
	5	Australian Shoveller	15	Muddy Lake	"
	5	Pink-eared Duck	4	" "	"
	5	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	15	Kooragang Island	"
	5	Peregrine Falcon	1	" "	"
	5	Brown Falcon	1	" "	"
	5	Marsh Harrier	2	" "	"
	5	White-bellied Sea Eagle	1	" "	"
	5	Darter (female)	1	Kooragang Is. Nature Reserve	"
	5	Whimbrel	4	" "	"
	6	Figbird	14	Belmont	K.Laverick
	7	Figbird	22	Mayfield	T.Clarke
	15	Spangled Drongo	1	New Lambton Heights	F.Thomson
	15	Spangled Drongo	1	The Junction	M.Blanch
	18	Pacific Baza	1	Bright Waters	A.Lindsey
	19	Marsh Harrier	2	Cedar Hill Drive	"
	19	Australian Hobby	1	" " "	"
	25	Striped Honeyeater	2	Bob's Farm	M.Diemar
	25	Spangled Drongo	1	Soldier's Point	"
	28	Superb Parrot	1	Marmong Point	D. & B. Kibble
	29	Pacific Baza	2	Mirrabooka	G.McCulloch
July	1-13	Red-capped Parrot	2	Edgeworth	G.O'Connor
	5	Caspian Tern	2	Teralba	B. & D. Kibble
	5	Pacific Baza	1	Mirrabooka	G.McCulloch
	7	Spangled Drongo	1	Marmong Point	B. & D. Kibble
	9	Australian Hobby	1	East Maitland	P.McLauchlan
	11	Australian Hobby	1	" "	"

The Superb Parrot, Red-capped Parrot and Little Friarbird are all Category 3 birds, and so are subject to consideration.

Two interesting items of behaviour reported concerned;

a) Lewin's Honeyeater roosting in a fern basket on a verandah each night since early June at Paddy Lightfoot's house.

b) Interaction between Brown Goshawk and pale-coloured Grey Goshawk observed by Graeme O'Connor at Tomago. (see story opposite).

● Observations

Goshawks display at Tomago

Driving to work on 9th and 10th July, 1994, I saw a pale grey/white bird perched on the power lines at the intersection of Pacific Highway and Tomago Road. Further investigation (11th July) revealed a Grey Goshawk, possibly white phase. Looking around a bit more I observed a similar sized brown bird perched on power lines on the other side of the highway. Having no binoculars I crossed the road and identified the bird as a Brown Goshawk.

Arriving at work (about 2km away) and having changed into working gear, I heard a raptor like cackle overhead. Looking up I saw the two goshawks seen previous at approximately 50 to 100m above the ground.

The darker bird had an object in its talons, the paler bird flew up towards it and just before impact, inverted itself and took the object from the talons of the darker bird. Resuming normal flight, the pale bird then dropped the object. The dark bird then swooped down catching the object before it hit the ground and then flew up to the pale bird again to repeat the performance another three times before flying off to a patch of thick scrub.

Since that time a few workmates have asked what sort of birds they were as some of them had seen similar antics at later dates.

Graeme O'Connor.

A very well documented account of the interbreeding of Grey and Brown Goshawks, which occurred in 1975 near Orbost, can be read by HBOC members. It appears in an excellent book called *HAWKS IN FOCUS* by Jack & Lindsay Cupper and is available in the Club's Library.

Strange birds of Edgeworth

Since the bushfires in early January 1994, there has been an increase in the number of parrots feeding at my next door neighbour's seed trays. The trays are suspended between 2m and 4m above the ground in Silky Oak trees.

Eastern Rosellas, Galahs and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos are prolific. Some interesting

sightings amongst the "usuals" are Crimson Rosellas (of the yellow form) and Green Rosellas. Mallee Ringnecks number about six individuals and two Red-capped Parrots arrive every couple of days.

With the advent of cooler weather and the possibility of little natural food these birds have become dependent on this food and are quite approachable (about 4m).

In my humble opinion, these birds have either escaped and bred up or they have been let go as a breeder or aviculturist has not had the breeding or hybridising effect they desired as most of the birds are of the ringneck family.

Even though these birds are semi-dependent on humans they still provide interesting observing.

Graeme O'Connor.

Blackbirds reach Barrington Tops

News of Blackbirds in our region has, in the past, been of single observations only, mostly unconfirmed and of short duration. Earlier this year though, reports of Blackbirds actually establishing themselves has been proven and documented.

Published in *Australian Bird Watcher Vol.15(6)* an account of observations made in the Polblue Swamp area by J.M.B. Smith from the University of New England, points to a successful invasion. The observations suggest that at least four (perhaps eight) male Blackbirds with an unknown number of females now occupy territories in the area.

The climate of the area is cool and moist throughout the year, furthermore, the habitat may have been rendered even more suitable by the impact of another invading European species, the shrub Scotch Broom.

There are many native birds of the ground and shrub layers in the Broom-infested vegetation but of these, only the Eastern Whipbird seems likely to compete for food with Blackbirds. Closely related White's Thrush (take your pick between Bassian and Russet-tailed) is another possible competitor but is less common in the area.

Barren Grounds.....a well kept secret!

Barren Grounds is a Nature Reserve of over 2000 ha, situated some 20 kms west of Kiama, on the South Coast, and offers magnificent facilities for the bushwalker and those interested in nature. At about 600m above sea level, on the eastern edge of the 'Hawkesbury Sandstone' plateau of 'The Southern Highlands', it is surrounded on its eastern, southern and much of its western extremities, by vertical cliffs of the escarpment, offering wonderful views over the coastal plain, from Wollongong down to Nowra and Jervis Bay, and over the upper reaches of Kangaroo Valley to the south and west.

Most of the vegetation is heathland, but there are significant areas of woodland and rainforest. The sandstone rock beneath holds rainwater for long periods, such that even in the driest weather there are wet areas - in fact the heath is termed a 'hanging swamp'. This variety of habitats give rise to a great diversity of flora and fauna, and Barren Grounds can boast a plant list of over 500 species and over 150 species of bird have been seen in the area.

Barren Grounds is a Nature Reserve, and as such, it was set up to protect the environment, but it is also maintained for research and educational purposes. Two resident Wardens, employed by the RAOU monitor the research done there. They also nurture visitor's understanding of the environment, and thus their appreciation and enjoyment of it, by offering guided tours and courses. Volunteers are also very welcome to help out as well as learn and they are offered free board and lodging for their labours, as well as a rewarding experience.

For more information on

- Weekend Courses
- Day Courses
- Wardens Walks
- Accommodation

at Barren Grounds look for the various leaflets on display at HBOC Club Nights or contact the Wardens at the Wardens House, on (042) 360195, or write to Barren Grounds Bird Observatory & Field Studies Centre, PO Box 3 JAMBEROO. NSW 2533.



The Puddle

There were no takers for my 9 o'clock 'Warden's Walk', so, as it was a lovely day, I decided to stroll out onto the Reserve to do some birding, instead of returning immediately to 'the madhouse'. I thought I'd stroll to the 'Cook's Nose' turn-off, and then return to pay my penance!

It was a mild day with sunshine filtering through a sheet of cirrus being blown in by a strong westerly wind. Ah! I spotted an Australian Kestrel over the rainfall station - a good start as we don't often see them here.

I came across a shallow puddle fed by seepage through the underlying Hawkesbury sandstone, and as it had been very dry lately, I decided to sit down for ten minutes to see what was going on.

Needless to say the ubiquitous New Holland Honeyeaters appeared first and they seemed to think they 'owned' the puddle. There was much trilling and fro-ing, but there was always one keeping an eye on things. They often flew up, gyrated in mid-air to catch an insect and the sound of their mandibles snapping shut was clearly audible (they'd then often wash down the morsel with a drink from 'their' puddle).

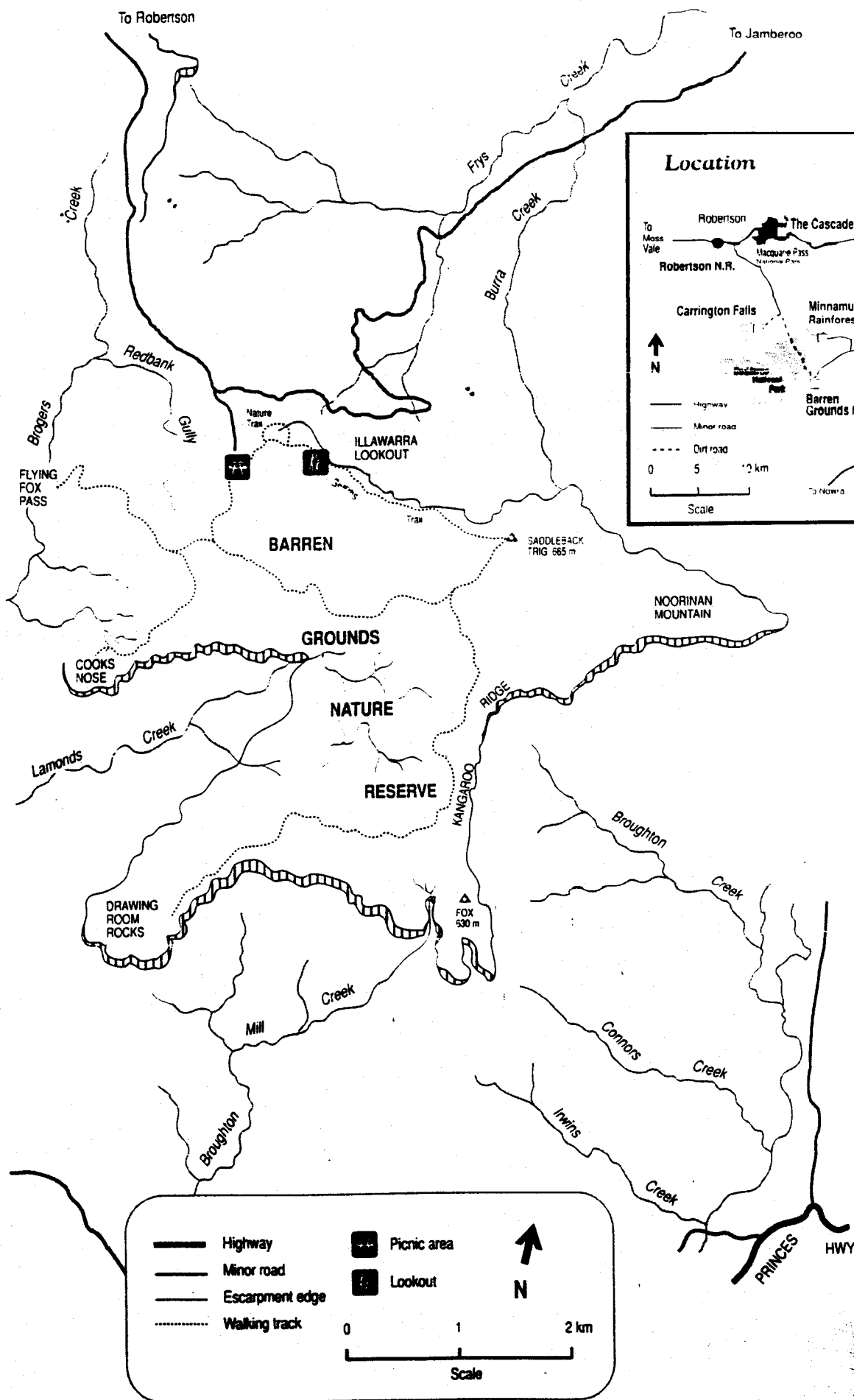
Out of the corner of my eye a Grey Shrike-thrush hopped into view across the bare sandstone surface; it was subsequently joined by two others. They were catching large hairy caterpillars about 5cm long, and very delicately, but nevertheless, effectively, 'tenderising' them on the rocks, before swallowing them!

An Eastern Bristlebird emerged nervous from the bush on my right, carefully skirted the puddle away from me, before bolting across the trail into the bush the other side. They've been very secretive lately - perhaps they're moulting.

An Eastern Spinebill popped in to see what was going on, but was quickly seen-off by the 'guardians' of the puddle; a White-eared Honeyeater made a brief appearance and a pair of White-browed Scrubwrens passed by, unconcernedly, within three metres of me. In the distance I could just about hear Red Wattlebirds scolding, above the noise of the wind.

I looked at my watch - it was 11:15, blimey, I've been here for an hour and a half! The return journey started slowly as I got my numbed joints moving again, and there flying over 'The Lodge'.....a Wedge-tailed Eagle! Honest!

Barren Grounds Nature Reserve



Coming Events

Please check with the contact person for each outing in case of changed details or suitability of site for the camp or field day.

Wednesday 14th September	Clubnight: Main feature:	Shortland Wetlands Centre 7:30pm Australian Woodland Birds (Geo Magazine Video)
Sunday 25th September	Field Day: Meet: Contact:	Pokolbin McDonald's Cessnock 8:00am Tom Clarke 671396
Labour Day Long Weekend 1st-3rd October	Campout: Contact:	'Badger Ground' - Rylstone (private property) Alan Stuart 528569
Wednesday 12th October	Clubnight: Main Feature:	Shortland Wetlands Centre 7:30pm Pied Oystercatchers by Mike Newman
Sunday 23rd October	Field Day: Meet: Contact:	Warkworth McDonald's Cessnock 7:30am Alan Stuart 528569

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

COMMITTEE MEETING

is held on the first Wednesday of each month
starting at 6:30pm

Venue - Garden Suburb Public School

All members are welcome to attend.

WANTED

Articles for our Newsletter
Closing date for the next issue is
29th September, 1994

Mail to : Tom Clarke
24 Ackerson St, Mayfield 2304
Phone : 671396 (h)
Fax : 686390

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