



birds

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EDITORIAL.

The new Editor of "Birds" is the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Peter Roberts, who pioneered the first four issues of the bulletin, has found it necessary to retire. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Roberts for having done a splendid job. Your new Editor hopes to keep "Birds" up to the standard already set and that the bulletin will continue to publish articles and field-notes of interest to bird-watchers at all levels.

WARWICK FARM EXCURSION

The Warwick Farm excursion was held on January 22nd, 1967 the Leader being Mr. Athel Colemane who has recorded 120 species of birds in the area. The country is flat, through which the Georges River flows with some very good trees along its banks. The swamps were a disappointment, being completely overgrown with water-hyacinth. The timber is mainly eucalyptus, acacias, casuarinas and apple-gums (*Angophora intermedia*). Although the day was extremely hot, 13 birdwatchers arrived on the scene and 42 species were observed. Included in this number were the Dollar-bird, Eastern Shrike-tit, Pipit, Jacky Winter, Mistletoe-bird, Rufous Whistler, Reed Warbler, Sacred Kingfisher, Straw-necked Ibis, White Ibis, Tailor-bird and the Little Marshbird. Mr. Colemane gave all members a complete list of the birds of the area. We all hope that another visit will be made in cooler weather, when some of the birds missed on our first visit may be found.

Mrs. S. Rumsay.

HOMEBUSH BAY EXCURSION

This was a half day outing held on Saturday, 18th February, 1967. Forty-six birdwatchers were present and, though rain threatened at first none fell, and there were several periods of bright sunshine during the afternoon.

The birds were viewed from three different parts of Homebush Bay. At the first spot we walked through long grass (where a couple of hares were spotted and Fairy Martins darted above us) to a vantage point from which we were able to see, some distance away, White Ibis, Royal Spoonbills, Eastern Swamp-hens, Dusky Moorhens, White-faced Herons and Spurwing Plovers. Amongst these birds was a Wood Duck, which appeared to be a large bird with a rather thick neck. Black Ducks were also observed, as well as Chestnut Teal, White-headed Stilts, White-fronted Chats, and Japanese Snipe. The Tailor-bird was also recorded.

Mr. Haines, our leader, was very pleased to record a solitary Wood Sandpiper, a rare wader. Curlew Sandpipers and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were also seen.

In the salt-pan areas adjoining the mangroves Red-capped Dotterels, Red-necked Stints and Snipe occurred, while in the shallows White-headed Stilts waded.

Finally, in the late afternoon, we wandered along a track beside a wide expanse of water until the light began to fade and a cold breeze to blow. The Pipit was heard and a single Red-kneed Dotterel was watched as it moved along the edge of the water feeding. Fairy Martins and Welcome Swallows darted about hunting insects, while in the sedges a family of Blue Wrens was seen.

Most beautiful of all, I thought, were the White-headed Stilts, sharply black and white, moving gracefully about on their long pink legs, against a background of grey water.

Thank you, Mr. Haines, for a very pleasant afternoon.

PAM GREEN.

FIELD NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

White-tailed Tropic-bird. Mr. P. Cohen, of Church Point, found a tropic-bird sitting beside the Pittwater Road, Bayview, at 11 p.m. on 26th January. The bird, which was in an exhausted condition, was taken to the Australian Museum where it was identified as an immature White-tailed Tropic-bird, a species rarely found near Sydney. Earlier records for the Sydney district are two beach-washed specimens and a sight record.

Green-winged Pigeon. On 5th February last an immature of this species flew into the sun-porch window of Mr. P. Colligan's home at Newport, killing itself instantly. Mr. Colligan very kindly brought the specimen to me for identification. The Green-winged Pigeon is a rare bird near Sydney and is seldom observed.

Partial albino Willy Wagtail. While passing the Manly-Waringah golf links on February 10th, 1967, I observed a partially albinistic wagtail. The bird had a white "saddle" across its back, and it was feeding in the company of a normal-plumaged wagtail.

Jacky Winter. It is pleasing to report the sighting of a Jacky Winter in the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, on February 10th, last, by Mr. R. Lossin of the Australian Museum. The Jacky Winter, at one time reasonably common in Sydney gardens and parks, has, in recent years, become exceedingly rare due, it is thought by some authorities, to the use of toxic garden chemicals.

The Editor would welcome from members any Jacky Winter observations made within the County of Cumberland.

L. C. HAINES.

The following observations were made by Mr. A. Coleman and Mrs. Rumsey on the 4th February last.

Sacred Kingfisher nesting in creek bank, Banks Road, Castle Hill; Peaceful Dove, Bell-miner at Murphy's Bridge, Cattai Creek; Leaden Flycatcher, Golden Whistler and Orange-winged Sittella at Blue Gum Creek; Turquoise Parrot at Dural and the White-breasted Sea-Eagle at Granville.

RAOU - RZS MONTHLY MEETINGS

MARCH 16: The guest speaker will be Mr. Norman Chaffer, who is world famous as a photographer and in great demand as a speaker on ornithological subjects. He has just returned from a trip to Lord Howe Island, and we look forward to an evening that will be both

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informative and entertaining.

Bird of the Month: Jacky Winter or Brown Flycatcher. Photographers, please note!

APRIL 20: Members' night, at which members and visitors are cordially invited to show bird slides, deliver short lecturettes, or initiate discussions. If you have a major topic (i. e., more than a dozen slides, or longer than 20 minutes) please notify the Chairman at 47-9240 some days beforehand.

Please note that our meetings are now held in the Hallstrom Theatre, just inside the main College St. entrance to the Australian Museum, and they start at 7.45 p.m.

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FIELD EXCURSIONS

Saturday, April 29

Davidson Park, St. Ives.

Leader: Mr. S.G. Lane.

A bird-banding demonstration, using birds captured in mist-nets. Bill Lane pioneered this technique in Australia, and expects to band many honeyeaters. From Mona Vale Road, drive along Douglas St. East past Acron Road, and down a dirt track (start walking when it looks too rough) that continues in the same general direction to Middle Harbour Creek, about 1.1 miles from Mona Vale Road, near the junction with French's Creek (6E, Map 29 in UBD Directory; sorry, it's not in Gregory's). Meet at 9 a.m. and bring lunch if you want to stay on, because there's plenty of good birdwatching country here.